

2022-02 CHEMICAL POLLUTION IN THE GREAT LAKES

Whereas #1 a family of over 4700 toxic chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) are found in all parts of the environment including the Great Lakes; and

Whereas #2 PFASs are used in many products including baby products, outdoor clothing, bed linens, carpets, footwear, non-stick pots and pans and personal care products; and

Whereas #3 these chemicals pose a risk to human and animal health including cancers, impacts to the immune system and to metabolism; and

Whereas #4 most wastewater treatment systems do not remove harmful chemicals; therefore, be it

Resolved #1 that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy that harmful chemicals found in the Great Lakes, regardless of their source, be reduced and eventually eliminated; and be it further

Resolved #2 that NCWC urge the Government of Canada in conjunction with the United States Government through a bi-national agreement to address harmful chemicals found in the Great Lakes by:

- a) regulating PFASs as a class as opposed to a chemical-by-chemical approach
- b) phasing out all uses of the chemicals with the goal of eliminating them
- c) encouraging research on the use of greener chemicals that are not harmful and can break down quickly
- d) overhauling wastewater treatment systems so they can remove toxic chemicals