

**resolutions**

**For Review and Suggested Amendments - Deadline November 7, 2024**



**October 7, 2024**

**National Council of women of canada**

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Please send suggested amendments to Mary Potter, Resolutions Chair

[jmpotter068@gmail.com](mailto:jmpotter068@gmail.com) by November 7, 2024.

Emerging Issue resolutions should be sent no later than November 15, 2024.

The Fall General Meeting will be held on November 30, 2024.

1. **Call to Ratify the Optional Protocol**

**on a Communication Procedure for Children**

*Proposed by Penny Rankin NCWC VP Children and Youth*

**Whereas #1** The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), ratified by Canada in 1991, recognizes that children have the right to express their views freely in all matters affecting them, and emphasizes the importance of listening to children’s voices; and

**Whereas** **#2** The Optional Protocol on a Communication Procedure for Children which came into force in April 2014, establishes a mechanism for children to bring complaints regarding violations of their rights directly to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, empowering them to seek justice and accountability; and

**Whereas** **#3** Currently, many vulnerable children including but not limited to Indigenous children in Canada face barriers to accessing justice and may lack the means to address grievances regarding violations of their rights, thereby limiting their ability to influence decisions that impact them; and

**Whereas** **#4** signing would align Canada with international best practices and demonstrate leadership in prioritizing children's voices, ensuring their perspectives are included in policy-making processes thereby empowering children and fostering a culture of respect for their rights, encouraging their active participation in society, and promoting their overall well-being; therefore be it

**Resolved #1** The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) adopt as policy that the Optional Protocol on a Communication Procedure for Children be ratified without delay; and be it further

**Resolved #2** The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) urge the Government of Canada to:

a. ratify the Optional Protocol on a Communication Procedure for Children without delay

b. implement and promote awareness and understanding of the Optional Protocol among children, families, and communities to ensure that children know their rights and how to exercise them;

c. work collaboratively with provincial, territorial, and Indigenous governments to create an inclusive framework that supports children's participation in decision-making processes;

d. establish mechanisms that ensure children’s voices are consistently integrated into policies and programs affecting their lives.

**Background:**

**The** [**full text of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure on the OHCHR  can be accessed here.**](https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/optional-protocol-convention-rights-child-communications)

**UNICEF CANADA** is also calling on the Canadian government to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications protocol to enhance child rights governance in Canada. [https://rightsofchildren.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/UNICEF-Canada\_CRC\_Alt\_Report\_2020\_EN.pdf](https://rightsofchildren.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/UNICEF-Canada_CRC_Alt_Report_2020_EN.pdf#:~:text=That%20Canada%20ratify%20the%20Optional%20Protocol%20to%20the%20Convention%20on)

**CHILD RIGHTS CONNECT**, an independent, non-profit network made up of 119 national, regional and international organisations sites this report on the Protocol : [OPIC | OPIC - Optional Protocol on a Communications Procedure (childrightsconnect.org)](https://opic.childrightsconnect.org/)

**SAVE THE CHILDREN RESOURCE CENTRE:**Has prepared a comprehensive resource TOOLKIT can be accessed here: [Ratification Toolkit: Optional Protocol to the CRC on a Communications Procedure (OPIC) | Save the Children’s Resource Centre](https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/pdf/Optional-Protocol-to-the-Convention-on-the-Rights-of-the-Child-on-a-Communications-Procedure-OPIC.pdf/)

The Optional Protocol on a Communications Procedure (OPIC) would particularly benefit vulnerable populations of children in Canada, strengthening the protection and realization of rights for these vulnerable groups, ensuring their voices are heard and their issues addressed more effectively:

**Indigenous Children**: They often face systemic discrimination and barriers to accessing justice. [The OPIC would provide an additional avenue for them to seek redress for rights violations1](http://opic.childrightsconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/OPIC_info-pack_2020_English.pdf).

**Children in Care**: Those in the child welfare system may experience neglect or abuse. [The protocol would offer a mechanism to address grievances that are not adequately resolved at the national level](https://opic.childrightsconnect.org/) or regional level[2](https://opic.childrightsconnect.org/).

**Children with Disabilities**: They are at a higher risk of rights violations and often lack accessible means to report these issues. [The OPIC ensures their voices can be heard on an international platform2](https://opic.childrightsconnect.org/).

**Migrant and Refugee Children**: These children may face challenges related to their legal status and access to services. [The protocol would help in addressing their specific rights violations](http://opic.childrightsconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/OPIC_info-pack_2020_English.pdf)[2](https://opic.childrightsconnect.org/).

**Children from Low-Income Families**: Economic hardship can limit their access to justice and support services. [The OPIC provides an additional layer of protection and recourse](http://opic.childrightsconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/OPIC_info-pack_2020_English.pdf)[2](https://opic.childrightsconnect.org/).

**ACTION PLAN SUGGESTIONS:**

* Send letter to the Government from the NCWC cc all key MPs and Members of the Opposition
* Move to partner with other organizations focused on Children's Rights
* Reengage with Senator Moodie on Children's Commissioner and include the call for the Protocol to be ratified.

1. **Prioritizing Proactive Legislation to Address Online Harm**

*Proposed by Penny Rankin NCWC VP Communications*

**Whereas #1** the rapid advancement of digital technology presents new and evolving risks to the safety and well-being of Canadian citizens online; and

**Whereas #2** online harms, including online hate speech, misinformation, the sexual exploitation of children and non consenting adults, cyber-harassment and bullying and incitement to violence all pose significant threats to individuals and society as a whole; and

**Whereas #3** the Government of Canada has not legislated that social media platforms ensure user safety and transparency in handling harmful content; and

**Whereas #4** the Government of Canada has not integrated protection measures nor addressed the possible harm posed by AI technology into the framework of any proposed legislation to protect Canadians from encountering harm online; therefore be it   
  
**Resolved #1** that the National Council of Women adopt as policy that the Government of Canada prioritize and expedite the development and implementation of proactive legislation to address current, new, and developing online platforms and technologies; and be it further

**Resolved #2** that the National Council of Women urge the Government of Canada to:

1. prioritize the development and implementation of proactive legislation to address current, new, and developing online platforms and technologies;
2. ensure that any legislation include clear definitions of harmful content, establish accountability measures for online platforms, and provide resources for enforcement and oversight;
3. engage with stakeholders, including civil society and technology experts, to refine and implement effective measures within the legislation including input from affected communities to ensure comprehensive and inclusive policy development;
4. adopt protection directives as outlined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child
5. establish ongoing monitoring mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of online harm legislation;
6. extend the monitoring to include alerting the government to emerging online threats not addressed by existing legislation; and be it further

**Resolved #3** that the National Council of Women urge its membership to engage and amplify these calls with their respective local and regional jurisdictions as well as civil society.

**Background:**

Canada currently lacks robust legislation specifically targeting online harms, leaving gaps in regulation around issues such as misinformation, cyberbullying, hate speech, and digital privacy violations. Despite discussions around proposals like the BILL C-63, the[**Online Harms Bill**](https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/44-1/bill/C-63/first-reading#:~:text=BILL%20C-63.%20An%20Act%20to%20enact%20the%20Online%20Harms%20Act,)**,** which was introduced in 2024 to address harmful content on platforms, the bill is unlikely to pass due to concerns over freedom of speech as well as the lack of time for it to complete the legislative process before an election is called. This leaves Canada behind other jurisdictions, such as the EU, which have more comprehensive frameworks like the [**Digital Services Act**](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age/digital-services-act_en).

Canada also currently lacks specific, comprehensive legislation directly addressing the regulation of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies and associated online harms. While the government has introduced **Bill C-27**, which includes the [**Artificial Intelligence and Data Act (AIDA)**](https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/innovation-better-canada/en/artificial-intelligence-and-data-act) aimed at regulating AI systems, it is still in the early stages of legislative review and has not been fully enacted. It too is unlikely to survive an election call. The bill proposes a framework to mitigate risks associated with high-impact AI systems, but it does not yet provide clear enforcement mechanisms or detailed guidelines on handling AI-driven online harms such as misinformation, discrimination, or privacy. The absence of dedicated laws on AI highlights a growing gap in how Canada addresses emerging digital risks.

**Action Plan Suggestions**

Ultimately it will be calling on members to raise their concerns about a lack of progress in getting legislation in place and raising the need to engage with experts in technology and mental health experts as well as legislators to identify concerns related to emerging technology such as AI and its potential negative impact on children's development and safety.

1. **Enhancing Canada's Compliance with International Treaty Obligations**

*Proposed by Penny Rankin VP Communications, Heritage, Children & Youth*

**Whereas #1** Canada has ratified and acceded to a broad range of international treaties, conventions and protocols herewith referenced as contracts; and

**Whereas #2** adherences to the obligations inherent in each international contract is essential not only for their fulfillment but also for fostering international cooperation, respect, and trust, thereby ensuring Canada’s recognition as a responsible global actor; and

**Whereas** #**3** by acceding to the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (VCLT) on October 14, 1970, Canada committed to upholding international law and recognized that invoking internal law as a justification for non-compliance is inadmissible, as outlined in Articles 26 and 27; and

**Whereas #4** as of 2024, Canada has yet to fulfill all its obligations under various conventions, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was signed in 1991; therefore be it

**Resolved #1** that the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) adopt as policy that all ratified and acceded to international contracts are fulfilled by Canada; and be it further

**Resolved #2** that the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) urge the Government of Canada to address these shortcomings and ensure full compliance with all ratified international contracts by taking immediate measures to fulfill these obligations; and be it further

**Resolved #3** that the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) urge the Government of Canada to:

a. Task a non-partisan committee with the comprehensive and transparent analysis of Canada’s obligations under all ratified international contracts; and

b. Require the committee to provide regular reports to the government as evidence of non-compliance is identified; and

c. Publicly share progress made in fulfilling international commitments, including challenges faced and strategies to overcome them; and

d. Engage with relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations and Indigenous communities, to ensure comprehensive implementation of international agreements moving forward; and

e. Ensure the ongoing alignment of domestic legislation with its international commitments, ensuring consistent application of treaty obligations across all levels of government.

**PROPOSED ACTION PLAN:** If adopted, advocates within our membership can make use of this policy to address concerns related to non-compliance by citing the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, thereby strengthening arguments and holding the Government of Canada accountable for its commitments under international law.

**BACKGROUND**

[**The Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (VCLT)**](https://legal.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/english/conventions/1_1_1969.pdf) is an international agreement that provides a comprehensive framework for the creation, interpretation, and enforcement of treaties between states. Adopted on May 23, 1969, and entering into force on January 27, 1980, it codifies existing customary international law regarding treaties. The convention outlines rules for treaty formation, amendment, interpretation, and termination. It emphasizes principles such as free consent, good faith, and \*pacta sunt servanda\* (agreements must be kept). Additionally, it includes provisions for resolving disputes and addresses issues like invalidity and termination of treaties [1][2].

* Article 26 “Pacta sunt servanda” Every treaty in force is binding upon the parties to it and must be performed by them in good faith.
* Article 27 Internal law and observance of treaties: A party may not invoke the provisions of its internal law as justification for its failure to perform a treaty. This rule is without prejudice to article 46.

Citations:

[1] https://www.britannica.com/topic/Vienna-Convention-on-the-Law-of-Treaties

[2] https://www.oas.org/legal/english/docs/Vienna%20Convention%20Treaties.htm

**Terminology:**

When a nation **ratifies** an international agreement, such as a UN convention or protocol, it commits to legally binding obligations under international law. These obligations include implementing the treaty's provisions within its domestic legal system and ensuring that national laws and policies align with the treaty's requirements. The nation must refrain from actions that would defeat the treaty's purpose, even before it is fully ratified. Additionally, ratified treaties often require nations to report on compliance and may involve international oversight or dispute resolution mechanisms to ensure adherence.

**Accession** is the act whereby a state accepts the offer or the opportunity to become a party to a treaty already negotiated and signed by other states. It has the same legal effect as ratification. Accession usually occurs after the treaty has entered into force. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, in his function as depositary, has also accepted accessions to some conventions before their entry into force. The conditions under which accession may occur and the procedure involved depend on the provisions of the treaty. A treaty might provide for the accession of all other states or for a limited and defined number of states. In the absence of such a provision, accession can only occur where the negotiating states were agreed or subsequently agree on it in the case of the state in question.

**Non-Binding Instruments**, such as **Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)** cannot be used to avoid meeting obligations under a ratified UN agreement. Once Canada ratifies or accedes to a treaty, it is legally bound to comply with its terms under international law, as outlined in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. MOUs are non-binding and create only moral or political commitments, not legal ones. Therefore, they cannot be used as a substitute for fulfilling legally binding treaty obligations.

An example of other resources can be found on this website: [Government of Canada Publications - Canada.ca](https://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/home.html#:~:text=Browse%20Government%20of%20Canada%20publications.%20Select%20from%20a%20range%20of) as well as [Canada Treaty Series - Canada.ca (treaty-accord.gc.ca)](https://www.treaty-accord.gc.ca/cts-rtc.aspx?lang=eng)

Lists of conventions, protocols and treaties Canada has already committed to can be found here:

International Human Rights Treaties to which Canada is a Party <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/abt-apd/icg-gci/ihrl-didp/tcp.html>

Human rights treaties - Canada.ca <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/canada-united-nations-system/treaties.html>

Canada & The UN: Conventions And Treaties - CCLA <https://ccla.org/get-informed/talk-rights/canada-the-un-conventions-and-treaties/>

[Policy on Tabling of Treaties in Parliament - Canada.ca (treaty-accord.gc.ca)](https://www.treaty-accord.gc.ca/procedures.aspx?lang=eng)

Other areas you can research

* [**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**](https://www.fao.org/home/en)
* [**Geneva Conventions**](https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/)
* [**Hague Conventions**](https://www.hcch.net/en/home)
* [**International Civil Aviation Organization**](http://www.icao.int/)
* [**International Criminal Court**](http://www.icc-cpi.int/)
* [**International Labour Organization**](https://www.ilo.org/global/lang--en/index.htm)
* [**International Maritime Organization**](https://www.imo.org/)
* [**Organization of American States**](http://www.oas.org/en/)
* [**United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/)
* [**United Nations Environment Programme**](http://www.unep.org/)
* [**World Intellectual Property Organization**](http://www.wipo.int/treaties/)
* [**World Trade Organization**](http://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/final_e.htm)

1. **Affordable Housing, Transparency and Accountability**

*Proposed By Vancouver Council of Women and the Provincial Council of Women of BC*

**Whereas #1** less than 5% of new housing is affordable for 70% of the Canadian population; and

**Whereas #2** Canadians in the greatest need of accessible accommodation are the Indigenous, those with disabilities, seniors, veterans, single women with children and gender diverse; and

**Whereas #3** homeless encampments are present in all major Canadian cities; therefore be it

Resolved #1that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy that new housing be safe, affordable, accessible and equitable; and be it further

**Resolved #2** that the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) urge the Government of Canada to:

1. ensure that new housing in communities is safe and affordable by developing comprehensive guidelines that manage accountable projects
2. work with the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation to increase insurance and housing benefits in defence of inflation and to prevent foreclosure; and be it further

**Resolved #3** that NCWC urge all Governments to:

1. review housing applications and ensure they are accessible, equitable and comply with safe building codes
2. invest and allocate funds for renovations that increases the habitability of existing community social and co-operative housing.

**BACKGROUND**

Access to appropriate housing is a human right. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (United Nations 1948) Article 25.1 states: “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or lack of livelihood.”

The Canadian National Housing Strategy Act was passed in November 2017 and a Federal Housing Advocate, Marie-Josee Houle was appointed in February 2022. Her first annual report recommended that Federal Ministers work together to target citizens with the greatest needs including Indigenous, immigrants, seniors, veterans, people with disabilities, single parent families, those of colour and gender diverse.

Less than 5% of housing units currently being produced are affordable so that the majority of Canadians pay more that 30% of their income on rent.

**REFERENCES:**

1. Annual Report, National Housing Advocate, Marie-Josee Houle; Feb. 2022
2. Second Annual Report, National Housing Advocate, July 2023
3. National Housing Strategy Act, 2017
4. BC Housing Action Plan 2022 – 2025
5. **Degradation of Canada’s Forests**

*Proposed by Mary Potter, VP Environment*

**Whereas #1** forests help regulate global climate by absorbing carbon, provide habitat for many plants and animals, protect watersheds, prevent erosion and flooding, and supply oxygen; and

**Whereas #2** industrial logging is not ecologically sustainable with deceasing old growth forests, creating roads that fragment forests, degrading of forest habitats and threatening species such as caribou; and

**Whereas #3** logging accounts for more than 10 percent of Canada’s annual carbon emissions; and

**Whereas #4** a group of environmental organizations has reported that the federal government fails to provide information on the cumulative impacts of industrial logging on Canada’s forests; and

**Whereas #5** Canada has committed to protecting climate and biodiversity by halting and reversing forest degradation and loss by 2030; therefore be it

**Resolved #1** that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy that Canada’s forests and their ecosystems be maintained and preserved in order to prevent their degradation; and be it further

**Resolved #2** that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to maintain and preserve Canada’s forests in order to prevent their degradation by:

1. transparently reporting all effects of industrial logging including emissions
2. maintaining old growth forest
3. lowering logging rates
4. ensuring viable wildlife habitat is maintained

**Background**

1. Letter to Canadian Council of Forest Ministers Re: Definition of ‘forest degradation’. Wildlife Conservation Society, September 8, 2023.

<https://wcscanada.org/site/assets/files/4306/wcs_canada_comments_-_forest_degradation_-_20230908.pdf>

“Our comments relate to our overarching concern that the definition of forest degradation and the proposed indicators for degradation are too limited to be useful for their stated purpose at this point…the definition is still focused solely on ‘direct anthropogenic’ impacts…[it] continues to overlook ecological integrity as a benchmark and corollary of forest degradation…socioeconomic indicators for forest productivity are not appropriate measures of forest integrity and degradation…the total amount of carbon stored within a forest is not a good indicator of the ecological integrity of a forest…key indictors for industrial human disturbance [is] missing from the list…the revised draft definition and suggested indicators are still viewed almost exclusively from a lens of forest management.”

2. What no one’s talking about: forest degradation and how to fix it. David Suzuki, January 25, 2024.

<https://davidsuzuki.org/story/what-no-ones-talking-about-forest-degradation-and-how-to-fixit/#:~:text=Logging%20practices%20can%20be%20updated,more%20on%2Dsite%20biomass%20after>

“Forests are critical for all life. They help to regulate the planet’s climate, provide habitat for a rich abundance of diverse plants and animals, give sustenance to people, protect and maintain watersheds, prevent erosion and flooding – even supply oxygen. Industrial development is putting all of that at risk, which puts us at risk”

“Industrial logging decreases natural levels of large old growth and creates roads that fragment forests…In British Columbia, a study found that more than 97 percent of old-growth forests have been logged”

3. Canaries in a Coalmine: Birds and Forest Degradation in Canada. Natural Resources Defense Council, March 14, 2024.

<https://www.nrdc.org/bio/julee-boan/canaries-coalmine-birds-and-forest-degradation-canada#:~:text=all%20News%20%26%20Commentary-,Canaries%20in%20a%20Coalmine%3A%20Birds%20and%20Forest%20Degradation%20in%20Canada,and%20land%20degradation%20by%202030.&text=This%20blog%20focuses%20on%20how,and%20its%20impacts%20on%20birds>.

“…scientists say forest harvesting and regeneration practices can ‘simplify forest structure, reduce tree species diversity and truncate old-forest age classes’; this is known as forest degradation. It diminishes the ecological value and services of forests…degradation has exacerbated climate change and contributed to biodiversity loss…Recent research shows that forest degradation led to habitat declines for the majority of forest bird species, with negative consequences for bird populations, particularly species associated with older forests.”

4. Forest Degradation increases community vulnerability to extreme floods. Natural Resources Defense Council, May 9, 2024.

<https://www.nrdc.org/bio/julee-boan/forest-degradation-clearcutting-and-floods#:~:text=Clearcut%20logging%20can%20degrade%20forest,or%20more%20frequent%20precipitation%20events>.

“Forests, particularly older, more complex forest ecosystems, act as natural ‘managers’ of rainwater and snowmelt, helping to slow the pace of water movement and reduce the risk of extreme flooding events…In addition to affecting human lives, extreme flood events can also have significant negative impacts on water bodies – by increasing sediment loads, eroding river banks…and leading to more landslides.”

5. The State of the Forest in Canada: Seeing Through the Spin. Produced by David Suzuki Foundation, Natural Resource Defense Council, Stand.earth, Nature Canada, Wilderness Committee, Sierra Club Canada, Sierra Club B.C., Canopy, January 2024.

<https://davidsuzuki.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/State-of-the-Forest-in-Canada-FINAL.pdf>

“Many logging companies are running out of easy-to-access timber, and the most ecologically and economically valuable types of forest are being rapidly depleted. In this same period, key species such as caribou have experienced a sharp decline due to logging and other human activity. Meanwhile, societal expectations have increased regarding the diversity of forest values that need to be maintained, including biodiversity and carbon stores…Yet the official government account issued by Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) each year of how forests in Canada are faring – *The State of Canada’s Forests Annual Report –* fails to provide Canadians with a transparent and credible synopsis of this basic information. By using highly selective statistics and distorting or excluding essential information, the report portrays Canada’s forestry industry as a sector with a minimal footprint and an unimpeachable record of environmental stewardship that negligibly impacts forest biodiversity, the climate, and ecosystem services.”

Some of the gaps not addressed by the *State of Canada’s Forests Annual Report* include forest ecosystem integrity, forest degradation, deforestation due to impacts of logging infrastructure, biodiversity and carbon/climate impacts… “Until the Canadian government reports on these key indicators, decision makers…are placing Canada’s policies and economies increasingly out of alignment with global commitments to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and degradation of forest ecosystems and to stave off the worst impacts of climate change.”

**Proposed Action Plan**

This policy can be used to write letters to the government on the degradation of Canada’s forests which impacts biodiversity and climate change.

1. **Universal Heat Pump Program for Canadians**

*Proposed by Mary Potter, VP Environment*

**Whereas #1** heating in buildings is responsible for 4 gigatonnes of CO2 emissions annually, which is 10% of global emissions; and

**Whereas #2** heat pumpsprovide higher efficiency in heating compared to furnaces, boilers and electric baseboards which translates into significant energy use reductions; and

**Whereas #3** heat pumps provide both heating and cooling and result in long-term savings, but the high upfront costs of purchasing and installing heat pumps are a deterrent to consumer adoption; and

**Whereas #4** the refrigerants in heat pumps are currently not environmentally friendly; and

**Whereas #5** there are government subsidies for heat pumps in 2025, but only for those on low incomes; therefore be it

**Resolved #1** that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy that the Government of Canada support the purchase and installation of heat pumps for all homes in Canada; and be it further

**Resolved #2** that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to:

1. establish a universal heat pump program to provide heat pumps for all homes in Canada
2. ensure that refrigerants in heat pumps are environmentally safe
3. increase the number of qualified installers
4. obtain the revenue required by ending subsidies to oil companies and implementing progressive taxation on billionaires and fossil fuel companies.

**Background**

1. Canada Greener Homes Initiative. Government of Canada, August 30, 2024.

<https://natural-resources.canada.ca/energy-efficiency/homes/canada-greener-homes-initiative/24831>

“The Government of Canada is now initiating discussions with provincial/territorial governments toward program development and launch of the new Canada Greener Homes Affordability Program in early 2025. To better deliver the benefits of retrofits (such as insulation and heat pumps) for low-to median-income households, programs in each jurisdiction will take on the planning and coordination of retrofits, including the payment of contractors.”

2. Heat Pump Surge Faces Hurdles with New Refrigerants, Lack of Technicians. The Energy Mix, September 18, 2024.

<https://www.theenergymix.com/heat-pump-surge-faces-hurdles-with-new-refrigerants-lack-of-technicians/>

“R401A is now widely used in heat pumps because it is extremely efficient. But it …is a climate killer, with a global warming potential (GWP) of 2,088, meaning it is over 2,000 times more effective at trapping heat than carbon dioxide. [It is] scheduled to be banned in new residential and light commercial air conditioning and heat pump systems next year.”

“So starting next year, air conditioners sold in Canada – but not, as yet, heat pumps – will need to use the R454B refrigerant…Air conditioning units containing R-454B will cost 10 to 20% more than their current counterparts…”

3. The Future of Heat Pumps – Executive Summary. International Energy Agency, November 30, 2022.

<https://www.iea.org/reports/the-future-of-heat-pumps/executive-summary>

“Heat pumps currently available on the market are three-to-five times more energy efficient than natural gas boilers…Many heat pumps can provide cooling too, which eliminates the need for a separate air conditioner… Heating in buildings is responsible for 4 gigatonnes (Gt) of CO2 emissions annually – 10% of global emissions. Installing heat pumps instead of fossil-fuel-based boilers significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions in all major heating markets, even with the current electricity generation mix – an advantage that will increase further as electricity systems decarbonize.”

“The accelerated deployment of heat pumps brings a range of benefits:

Over their lifetime, heat pumps can save consumers money and shield them from price shocks

Switching to heat pumps cuts emissions of greenhouse gases and helps to improve air quality

The expansion of heat pump manufacturing and installations to meet rising demand would create more jobs”

Barriers to the adoption of heat pumps include the higher upfront cost of buying and installing the devices relative to other heating options, manufacturing constraints and potential shortages of qualified installers

4. Heat Pumps For All. 350.0rg., sourced on September 15, 2024.

<https://350.org/hp4a/>

The organization 350.org is advocating for a “Universal Heat Pump Program, overseen by a new publicly-owned entity that produces, distributes, and installs heat pumps in homes across the country. With built-in tenant protections, this program would save lives, cut our bills and protect the planet.”

“Government spending to ensure that every household has a heat pump would cut costs for regular people, while saving lives, increasing our resilience to climate change, and helping reduce carbon emissions in the long term…The feds could and should divert the billions that they are wasting on military spending and unjustifiable subsidies to Big Oil, and implement progressive taxation on the billionaire class and the fossil fuel companies who created this crisis. The resources are there – it’s a question of political will.”

**Proposed Action Plan**

This policy can hopefully be used to convince the government that a universal heat pump program is an effective way to reduce carbon in the atmosphere.

1. **Federal Prisoner Access to Contemporary Internet Educational Supports**

*Proposed by Niagara District Council of Women*

**Whereas #1** Correctional Services of Canada must ensure the delivery of programs, including correctional, educational, vocational training, social and volunteer programs, with a view to promoting rehabilitation and reintegration; and

**Whereas #2** Correctional Services Canada (CSC) research shows that effective practical training and academic education in prison is associated with better outcomes when prisoners are released, as well as fewer problems and less violence inside prisons; and

**Whereas #3** the most recent report from Canada’s Correctional Investigator documents the poor state of education and training in prisons; and

**Whereas #4** several countries allow controlled as-of-right online access to online technology without jeopardising public safety, but CSC security rules prevent prisoner access to contemporary remote learning technology which is critical for educational, vocational, cultural, rehabilitative, and reintegrative purposes in other parts of life; therefore be it

**Resolved #1** that NCWC adopt as policy that Canada’s practical and academic educational penal policies and processes allow controlled as-of-right prisoner access to computers and the internet for educational, vocational, cultural, rehabilitative, reintegrative and personal needs and expectations of prisoners; and be it further

**Resolved #2** that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to act immediately through amendments to the 2021 Federal Framework to Reduce Recidivism to ensure Correctional Services introduce policies and practices that meet the educational, vocational, cultural, reintegrative, rehabilitative, personal needs and expectations of prisoners through:

1. provision of controlled as-of-right access to computers and the internet for educational, vocational, cultural, rehabilitative, reintegrative and personal needs and expectations of prisoners
2. continued CSC advancement of pilot projects and examination of ways to modernize its educational infrastructure
3. comprehensive and significant investments in updated educational materials and on-site equipment and qualified staff.

**Background**

**1 Public Safety Canada Federal Reduction of Recidivism Framework Act June 29,2021**

The *Reduction of Recidivism Framework Act* [Footnote1](https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrcs/pblctns/2022-fdrl-frmwrk-rdc-rcdvsm/index-en.aspx#fn01) (the Act), which received Royal Assent on June 29, 2021, requires the federal government to develop a Federal Framework to Reduce Recidivism that would include the following measures:

1. initiate pilot projects and develop standardized and evidence-based programs aimed at reducing recidivism;
2. promote the reintegration of people who have been incarcerated back into the community through access to adequate and ongoing resources as well as employment opportunities in order to lessen the likelihood of their reoffending;
3. support faith-based and communal initiatives that aim to rehabilitate people who have been incarcerated;
4. review and implement international best practices related to the reduction of recidivism; and,
5. evaluate and improve risk assessment instruments and procedures to address racial and cultural biases and ensure that all people who are incarcerated have access to appropriate programs that will help reduce recidivism.

2. John Howard news December 7th 2020 “Lack Education and Training in Canadian Prisons”.

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://johnhoward.ca/blog/lack-of-education-and-training-in-canadian-prisons/&ved=2ahUKEwiqrpSXzO6IAxV_nYkEHZEvKTkQFnoECBUQAQ&usg=AOvVaw0HTjUzTMgQINWW7eC4jn4x>

One of the clearest findings about imprisoned people in Canada is that the vast majority have serious deficits in their education that make it harder for them to find work and support themselves, thus staying out of difficulty with the law.  Yet the [most recent report of Canada’s Correctional Investigator](https://www.oci-bec.gc.ca/index-eng.aspx)  documents the poor state of education and training. Offenders with low levels of education often find themselves with limited economic opportunities upon their release, leaving them more vulnerable to committing criminal acts rather than re-integrating into society. CSC reported in 2018 that 72% of incarcerated individuals have some need for education/employment, with 46.1% of the offender population indicating a grade 10 tograde 12 education.

**Report identifies main problems**

The main problems identified in prison education by this review include:

1. The education provided is far too narrow, being confined to adult basic education, high school completion, and very low-level vocational programs.  While these areas are important, CSC policies should “…*have a focus on moving individuals beyond the most basic requirements to ensure they are well prepared to return to the community.”*
2. There is an utter lack of contemporary technology.  Prisoners have no access to current computer technology or to the internet, yet familiarity with both of these is now critical in most jobs, let alone in other parts of life (such as receiving services).  The same is true in regard to vocational training, where *“… many prison shops visited for this investigation require offenders to work on obsolete machines no longer used in the community.”*
3. *“Federal corrections maintain environments that are information-depriving, often using security concerns as a basis for maintaining the status quo. There appears to be little motivation to improve…”*  For more than two decades, the report notes, the system has remained ‘*steadfast and impervious’* to any effort to improve this situation, as shown by the lack of response to previous recommendations every year for the past decade by the Correctional Investigator.

**Not enough places, supports**

1. CORCAN is the CSC unit that provides employment for prisoners while ostensibly training in skills as well.  However, the report notes that most of the skills taught at CORCAN are not really relevant in today’s labour market.  As well, CORCAN jobs *“…were physically demanding, provided limited skills and were paid the same amount that a range cleaner makes, a position that requires far less investment in time or motivation*.”  Also, because CORCAN has contractual obligations, the need to meet contract obligations can get in the way of effective training.  Overall, “*the majority of offenders who were interviewed for this investigation working in CORCAN, were learning very few skills that would benefit them in obtaining a job in the community.”*

**Conclusions**

1. The report concludes: *According to the Corrections and Conditional Release Act, one of the main purposes of CSC is 3(b) “assisting the rehabilitation of offenders and their reintegration into the community as law-abiding citizens through the provision of programs in penitentiaries and in the community”… the current complement of learning opportunities does not and cannot provide effective rehabilitation or reintegration, particularly given the current lack of focus, outmoded technological capacity and limited resource allocation.”*
2. <https://goldblattpartners.com> Goldblatt Partners Supreme Court of Canada case re: Internet ban in Canadian prisons is unconstitutional August 2024 *“The Toronto Star reports this week on a new lawsuit we have launched with co-counsel, Paul Quick, on behalf of the John Howard Society of Canada and an inmate serving time at an Ontario correctional facility. The lawsuit alleges that denying inmates access to computers and the internet for educational, vocational, cultural, rehabilitative, and reintegrative purposes and purposes related to legal proceedings (subject to such controls as are necessary to protect institutional and public safety and security) is a breach of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.*
3. *As the Toronto Star reports: Noting how colleges and universities that once offered paper correspondence programs have shifted almost entirely online, the lawsuit by the John Howard Society and a prisoner serving a life sentence argues that the Correctional Service of Canada’s internet ban — and “woefully inadequate” access to computers in general — infringes prisoners’ “fundamental right to freedom of expression,” which includes the right to receive information.*
4. *It also argues that the internet ban and overall technological deprivation behind bars undermines the correctional service’s mandate to prepare prisoners to successfully reintegrate in society. The Star notes that taking courses has a dramatic impact on recidivism: Earlier this year,*[***a Star investigation showed***](https://www.thestar.com/news/investigations/getting-an-education-lowers-a-prisoner-s-likelihood-of-reoffending-so-why-does-canada-make/article_d0905434-e15d-11ee-a32d-53af6349b8b2.html)*how the lack of internet access in Canadian prisons has made it nearly impossible for prisoners to pursue college or university programs behind bars,*[***despite significant evidence***](https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrcs/pblctns/2022-fdrl-frmwrk-rdc-rcdvsm/index-en.aspx)*that taking post-secondary courses while incarcerated dramatically reduces the likelihood that the prisoner will reoffend.*
5. The intent of punishment in Norway is solely the restriction of liberty; **no other rights are taken away**. An offender in prison has the same rights as an ordinary citizen, including the right to vote. Prison authorities try to place offenders in the lowest security regime commensurate with the inmate's needs. (Wikipedia)
6. **Responsible, Secure Management of Nuclear Products and Waste**

*Proposed by Council of Women of Winnipeg*

**Whereas #1**    the agency mandated by Atomic Energy Canada Ltd to manage nuclear waste in Canada, the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) has approved, in January 2024, a permit to construct a Near Surface nuclear waste disposal site on the property of Chalk River

Laboratories, located 1.1 km from the Ottawa River, 200 kms upstream from Canada's capital city, Ottawa, and Gatineau, Quebec - a permit which is in effect until November 2028, with the intention to process Low Level nuclear waste near the Ottawa River watershed, (1),(2) a project to which the National Council of Women of Canada and Provincial  Council of Women of Ontario have responded as concerned interveners (February 2024) (April 2024) respectively (5) (6); and

**Whereas #2**   NWMO is currently in discussion with two other rural Western Ontario communities to process Canada's High Level nuclear waste, the Township of Ignace (Revell area) in Northwest Ontario and South Bruce, in

southwest Ontario, Canada's largest nuclear producing station, considering their respective projects for (DGR) Deep Geological Repository in a watershed going westerly into Manitoba to the Hudson's Bay, anticipating a formal decision by the end of October 2024 (1) (10) (11); and

**Whereas #3**    transporting Canada's nuclear waste over thousands of kilometers via the Trans-Canada highway to be treated (3) and buried in the Deep Geological Repository (DGR) projects from the nine existing (4) and any future nuclear plants puts at serious risk contamination of air, soil and water, fauna, flora, people and animals, and is contrary to NCWC's policy of Rolling Stewardship; and

**Whereas #4**    numerous scientists, ecological organizations and community groups are rising to oppose NWMO's authorization to process, transport and eventually bury the high-level nuclear waste accumulated over decades from Canada's numerous nuclear plants peppering the Canadian landscape (1) (3) (8) (10); and

**Whereas #5**    there has never been a long-term proven example of successful storage of high- level nuclear waste in DGR since atomic energy is a relatively new source of energy, having only been discovered and exploited since the end of World War II (1946) (1); and

**Whereas #6**    as statistics demonstrate, trucks are increasingly involved in highway accidents due to numerous factors including fatigue, in spite of government laws limiting the maximum hours allowed at the wheel in a 24-hr period, and the additional risks associated with the icy, snowy conditions of Canadian highways for an average of six months annually (7); therefore be it

**Resolved #1**    that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy that a transparent, consultative, open process be undertaken about the management of nuclear waste - from the location and security of the sites in relation to proximity to environmentally vulnerable watersheds, to communities, to fragile eco-systems, including consideration of the distances to be travelled, modes of transportation, and the types of nuclear waste levels from Low-Level, Intermediate-Level and of High-Level radioactive waste; and be it further

**Resolved #2**   that NCWC reiterate its concerns to the Government of Canada, Atomic Energy Canada Ltd and to the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) about the unproven, hypothetical outcomes of burying high-level radio-active waste deep in the Canadian Shield; and be it further

**Resolved #3**   that NCWC network with local, provincial and international Councils of Women, allies and international institutions mandated with maintaining security from radio-active contamination, including the UN Atomic Energy Commission to denounce the opaque process that Canada has undertaken in an attempt to dispose of its accumulation of high-level radio-active waste (12), (13); and be it further

**Resolved #4**   that NCWC urge its federates to raise their concerns with their respective jurisdictional governments about the risks of transporting high level nuclear waste across the country, including radioactive contamination on fellow travellers from following, crossing, or passing the transport trucks, the truck drivers and other staff; about the contamination of air, soil and water in case of accidents, rollovers, as well as contamination of fauna, flora, agriculture, domestic and farm animals, and the hundreds of thousands of residents living along the truck routes.

**Background**

1. [An update on nuclear waste at Chalk River - Ottawa Riverkeeper | Garde-rivière des Outaouais](https://ottawariverkeeper.ca/an-update-on-nuclear-waste-at-chalk-river/#:~:text=There%20are%20several%20Waste%20Management,the%20region%20to%20this%20day.)
2. [Construction of the NSDF at Chalk River is approved: what does this mean? (ottawariverkeeper.ca)](https://ottawariverkeeper.ca/construction-of-the-nsdf-at-chalk-river-is-approved-what-does-this-mean/)
3. Gordon Edwards, PhD, Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Security Response to CNSC Technical Assessment Report

<http://ccnr.org/CCNR_CNSC_HEUNL_2015.pdf>

1. [List of nuclear waste storage facilities in Canada - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_nuclear_waste_storage_facilities_in_Canada)
2. NCWC Letter to  Prime Minister Trudeau February 2024 <https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fncwcanada.com%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2FNuclear-Waste-Letter-to-PM-Feb-2024.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>
3. PCWO Intervener Letter dated April 2022  <https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fncwcanada.com%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2FCNCS-22-H7.141-attachment-to-Nuclear-Waste-Letter.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>
4. Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission:

<https://www.cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca/eng/>

On May 31, 2000, the Nuclear Safety and Control Act replaced the Atomic Energy and Control Act and the [Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission](http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/about-us/)(CNSC) was established. The new act provided the CNSC with the authority to regulate the development, production and use of nuclear energy and the production, possession and use of nuclear substances, prescribed equipment and prescribed information in Canada.

8.  <https://wethenuclearfreenorth.ca/nuclear-waste-abandonment/#dangers-of-transportation>  Providing Ignace, Ont. a 50 year permit would mean 3 trucks per day, travelling every day, for some 50 years to the remote site in Revell, Ontario, 45 kms northwest of Ignace, which happens to be in a different watershed that flows down into Northwest Ontario and into Manitoba through Shoal Lake (Winnipeg's water source since 1919), Lake of the Woods, Interlake Region, Lake Winnipeg and northward into the Hudson's Bay, the watershed impacts numerous urban and rural communities and First Nations concerned communities;

9. [First Nations and allies resist proposed radioactive waste repository – Canadian Dimension](https://canadiandimension.com/articles/view/nuclear-waste-in-northwestern-ontario)

10. Council of Canadians "Buried Secrets and Untold Secrets"

<https://canadians.org/analysis/buried-secrets-and-unheard-voices/>

11.CCPA-MB   Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives-Manitoba (Aug. 2, 2024)

<https://policyalternatives.ca/publications/commentary/manitoba-willing-accept-nuclear-waste-risks>

(March 24, 2022) <https://policyalternatives.ca/publications/commentary/fast-fast-siting-nuclear-waste-repository-nw-ontario-who-decides>

12. [Canada's National Reports to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management (cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)](https://www.cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca/eng/resources/publications/reports/jointconvention/)

13. <https://www.iaea.org/topics/nuclear-safety-conventions/joint-convention-safety-spent-fuel-management-and-safety-radioactive-waste>

1. **Comprehensive Canadian National Literacy Program**

*Proposed by Patricia Leson and Carol Schweitzer*

***“Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope. It is a tool for daily life in modern society. It is a bulwark against poverty, and a building block of development…. Literacy is a platform for democratisation, and a vehicle for the promotion of cultural and national identity….For everyone, everywhere, literacy is, along with education in general, a basic human right…. Literacy is, finally, the road to human progress and the means through which every man, woman and child can realise his or her full potential.” ~*** [***Kofi Annan***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kofi_Annan)***, 7th Secretary-General of the United Nations, recipient of the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize***

**Whereas #1** literacy involves being able to understand, evaluate, use, and engage with written texts thus enhancing communication with friends and family, securing and being successful in career choices, and having active involvement in civic affairs, and

**Whereas #2** research shows that those with inadequate literacy skills are more likely to have poorer overall health, lower salaries, and lower levels of participation in their community, and

**Whereas #3** 48% of adult Canadians have literacy skills that fall below a high school level, and 17% function at the lowest level where they may be unable to read the dosage instructions on a medicine bottle, and

**Whereas #4** third grade signifies the [shift](https://www.readingrockets.org/article/literacy-accomplishments-grade-3) from learning to read to reading to learn, when children must apply their reading skills to other subjects like math, science, and history, and

**Whereas #5** students who cannot read proficiently at their grade level by the end of 3rd grade are [four times more likely](https://www.ncsl.org/research/education/pre-kindergarten-third-grade-literacy.aspx) than their proficient counterparts to drop out of high school and are more likely to experience long-term [behavioral and mental health issues](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27465209/), therefore be it

**Resolved #1** that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy the goal that 90 percent of students will read at or above grade level by the end of third grade, ensuring students in kindergarten, first, second, and third grades master basic literacy skills, thus improving the likelihood they will reach their full potential in learning, work, and life, and be it further resolved

**Resolved #2** the National Council of Women of Canada strongly urge the Government of Canada to ensure 90% of students will read at or above grade level by the end of the third grade by developing and implementing a comprehensive national literacy program with an emphasis on support for students, teachers, and families of those in pre-school, kindergarten, first, second, and third, grades so they can master basic literacy skills, thus ensuring they reach their full potential in learning, work, and life, and be it further resolved

**Resolved #3** that the Provincial and Local Councils of Women strongly urge their respective Governments to ensure 90% of students will read at or above grade level by the end of the third grade by implementing the national literacy program with an emphasis on support for students, teachers, and families of those in pre-school, kindergarten, first, second, and third, grades so they can master basic literacy skills, thus ensuring they reach their full potential in learning, work and life.

***Note from the authors of the resolution***: While the provinces and territories deliver literacy programming, the federal government has a vital role to play in setting a national framework and honouring Canada’s international commitments. The federal government can support coordination across government and with other orders of government and stakeholders to ensure we make the most of everyone’s potential.

Federal funding for literacy will foster innovation, the sharing of best practices, and also support accessible and affordable literacy programming with a special focus on early learning. The current federal government has taken steps by negotiating with the provinces and territories to provide literacy and essential skills training to the employed and unemployed. But much more can be done to enhance literacy levels in the family, in our schools, and in the communities particularly for Indigenous peoples, those living in poverty, people living in Official Language minority communities, and those new to Canada.

The Government of Canada must also be urged to implement Canada’s international commitments on education including UNESCO’s Education 2030 Framework for Action (2015), Recommendation on the Development of Adult Education (2015) and Bélem Framework for Action (2009)

Workplace literacy programs, family literacy activities, community-based programs, school supports, early childhood interventions along with financial and social supports will give everyone the opportunity to learn.

**Background Material**

1. Great Schools![*www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/importance-third-grade-reading/*](http://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/importance-third-grade-reading/)
2. Children move from learning to read to reading to learn in third grade, and if they can’t read well, they will fall behind in other subjects.
3. Third grade reading focuses on teaching kids how to think and talk about what they read in deeper and more detailed ways.
4. A child’s ability to read at grade level by third grade is the single greatest predictor of future success. The likelihood of graduating high school, enrolling in a college and ultimately experiencing a higher overall quality of life are dramatically improved for students who are reading at or above grade level by the time they leave third grade
5. Grade Power *www.Learning gradepowerlearning.com/resources/reading-tutoring/the-importance-of-third-grade-reading-skills/*
6. The National Research Council finds that a third grader that is struggling with reading is unlikely to graduate high school. Reading and literacy skills allow students to obtain vital life and developmental skills to improve their knowledge and explore their imagination.
7. Third grade is a turning point in the academic journey for all students.
8. EdNC *www.ednc.org/third-grade-reading-proficiency-matters/*
   1. The nationwide campaign to improve third-grade literacy is about providing the support systems that help kids learn, in particular, school readiness, attendance, and summer learning.
   2. “Once they get into fourth grade, everything a student might be doing, whether it’s in history or in math, involves a certain level of reading to learn all of the new material,” said Lisa Finaldi, Community Engagement Leader at NC Early Childhood Foundation. “Grade-level reading by the end of third grade is a huge indicator of life success.”
   3. Learning to read and using literacy skills at a young age, when the brain is highly malleable, is crucial to childhood development. Finaldi said. “The zero to eight (years-old) period is really when your brain is doing most of its building.”
9. Sylvan Learning [*www.sylvanlearning.com/free-learning-resources/why-3rd-grade-plays-a-critical-role-in-your-childs-long-term-success*](http://www.sylvanlearning.com/free-learning-resources/why-3rd-grade-plays-a-critical-role-in-your-childs-long-term-success)
   1. “If kids are still trying to decode words in 3rd grade, they don’t have enough brainpower left to comprehend what’s being read,” explains Ronda Arking, Director of Language Arts at Sylvan.
   2. A study shared through the American Educational Research Association says: “*A student who can’t read on grade level by 3rd grade is*4x less likely to graduate*by age 19 than a child who does read proficiently by that time.”*
   3. A pivotal year for writing is 3rd grade. There’s a relationship between your child’s ability to read and their ability to write. Children can’t write beyond the ability that they have for reading.
   4. In 3rd grade math, the focus changes to “automatic recall.” “Think about your drive into work this morning,” explains Cortnee Berrill, Manager of Mathematics at Sylvan. “You adjusted your seat and mirrors, buckled your seatbelt and checked your surroundings. There was a lot you did *before you even started the car.* Once you started driving, you were concentrating on everything you did. When you get in the car, it’s like being on autopilot. These things are automatic to you. Math facts need to be as automatic to children as driving into work is for us.”
10. Canadian Children’s Literacy Foundation *www.childrensliteracy.ca/Literacy-Matters*
    1. Building literacy skills in children is the most effective way to ensure they can reach their full potential in school and throughout life as it opens doors to empathy, understanding, critical thinking, and the capacity for life long learning.
    2. Through literacy, children learn communication skills and build social and emotional resistance.
    3. Lower levels of literacy are linked to lower civic participation, community engagement, higher levels of incarceration, and dependence on welfare.
    4. More than one million children in Canada are estimated to have below grade level reading skills. (Source: Deloitte LLP. An Economic Overview of Children's Literacy in Canada)
    5. 27% of kids start Grade 1 without some of the early developmental skills they need to be able to learn to read. (Source: Early Development Instrument) Children in low socioeconomic communities are almost 2X as likely to be behind in early development skills as high socioeconomic peers. (Source: Pan-Canadian Public Health Network)
    6. A 1% increase in adult literacy would create an economic benefit of $67 billion gross domestic product for Canada per year. (Source: Deloitte LLP. An Economic Overview of Children's Literacy in Canada)
    7. Investing in pre-school education has a much higher rate of return than investments made in later years of a child’s education or in adulthood. (Source: Deloitte LLP. An Economic Overview of Children's Literacy in Canada)
    8. Approximately 25% of Grade 3 students in Canada are not reading at grade level. (Source: Deloitte analysis using EQAO and PISA data) Pandemic disruptions in children’s learning are forecast to cause a 30% increase in socioeconomic skills gaps. (Source: Research Group on Human Capital and Department of Economics, School of Management, Université du Québec à Montréal)
    9. 13% of Canadian Grade 10 students do not have the baseline level of reading skills needed to navigate in our society according to a recent international study from the OECD. (Source: PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment))
11. ABC Life Literacy Canada *www.abclifeliteracy.ca*
    1. The [Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies](https://www.oecd.org/skills/piaac/publications/) (PIACC) found that almost half of adult Canadians can’t complete ordinary tasks, like finishing a job application or sending an email.
    2. Canada is below average compared to other Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries regarding adult literacy and numeracy skills.
12. Literacy Nova Scotia *www*.*literacyns.ca/docs/ILD/The-State-of-Literacy-in-Canada-version-9--.pdf*
    1. Canada has the most polarized distribution of proficiency in digital problem-solving compared to other OECD countries. More than twice as many Canadians are at the lowest level of digital problem-solving compared to the highest level.
    2. Overall, the proportion of adults at the lowest levels of proficiency has increased slightly since the last version of the international survey
    3. Trends such as globalization, digitalization and demographic change are transforming jobs and the way societies function and people interact. In this environment literacy skills matter.
    4. Literacy skills enable people to access and analyse information, to problem solve and think critically. In technology-rich environments, the challenges facing those with lower proficiency in literacy and numeracy contribute to the “digital divide”.
    5. When people have low literacy skills, they are more likely to experience unemployment and precarious work, lower incomes, poorer health, and poverty. They are less likely to trust others and to be engaged in their community and society.
    6. Some may experience additional barriers: new Canadians, single parents, people living with disabilities, seniors, Indigenous peoples, women, or people with criminal records.
    7. Strong literacy and essential skills lead to a strong economy, civic engagement, and a healthy population.
    8. Human Rights: Literacy is a human right recognized by international declarations signed by Canada. Civic Engagement: People’s belief that they can engage in, understand and influence political affairs rises with increased education and skills. Among Canadians with less than a high school diploma, just 32% report this belief, compared to 60% of people who have obtained a bachelor’s degree or higher.
    9. Economy: High literacy in Canada helps build an educated and skilled workforce which contributes to the country’s economic growth.
    10. Work: Canadians with low literacy skills are twice as likely to be unemployed than those with higher level literacy skills. Approximately 45% of Canadians in precarious or “no contract” work have not attained an educational credential beyond a high-school diploma and struggle with job security. Digitalization: The digital problem-solving gap and increasing numbers of Canadians with low literacy are serious concerns as more services, jobs, and learning opportunities are provided online. Health: Canadians with the lowest levels of literacy are more than twice as likely to be in poor health compared to Canadians with higher literacy skills.
    11. Poverty: In Canada, 46% of adults at the lowest literacy levels live in low-income households. Only 8% of adults at the highest literacy levels live in low-income households.
13. Additional References:
    1. [Kids & Family Reading Report by Scholastic](https://scholastic.com/kids-family-reading-report) [*www.scholastic.com/...kidsandfamilyreadingreport*](http://www.scholastic.com/...kidsandfamilyreadingreport)
    2. Family literacy [*The Effect of Family Literacy Interventions On Children’s Acquisition of Reading: From Kindergarten to Grade 3*](https://lincs.ed.gov/publications/pdf/lit_interventions.pdf)*– Conducted by Monique Sénéchal for the National Center for Family Literacy, 2006*
    3. [*The Case for Investment in Adult Basic Education*](https://www.proliteracy.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Case-for-Investment-Reder.pdf)*– Kevin Morgan, Dr. Peter Waite, Michele Diecuch, 2017*
    4. [*Impact and Implementation of Family Literacy Programmes: Review and Recommendations*](https://www.nala.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Impact-and-implementation-fo-family-literacy-programmes-review-and-recommendations-2016-1.pdf)*– National Adult Literacy Agency (Ireland), 2018*