

1. REDUCING THE OUTSOURCING OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Whereas #1 in 2015, the Federal Government pledged to reduce outsourcing/contracting of programs and services while increasing the requirements for outsourcing/contracting; and

Whereas #2 since 2011, the cost for outsourcing has risen by 13.5% per year resulting in the Federal government spending a record \$17.8 billion for such services in 2024; and

Whereas #3 Government outsourcing has created a shadow public service of consultants and temporary staff operating alongside the government workforce that has resulted in higher costs, lower quality services, less transparency, and less accountability for Canadian citizens, along with the loss of institutional knowledge and skills; and

Whereas #4 Government contracting becomes a self-perpetuating system in that it creates an amount of dependence on the contractors who design and develop the programs as they ultimately not only control the system but only they have the knowledge to operate it or fix complex problems when they arise; and

Whereas #5 the Government's outsourced programs and services are not subject to the Employment Equity Act and the Public Services Employment Act and therefore, are not required to provide equal opportunities for marginalized groups, such as women, Indigenous people, persons with disabilities and racialized people, nor promote merit, accountability, transparency and representation based on language, region and gender; and

Whereas #6 contracting out programs or services raises certain risks for privacy as the *Privacy Act*, the law that covers the personal information-handling practices of federal government departments and agencies, was enacted more than 30 years ago and was not designed for the current digital age that allows for the rapid and easy movement of information around the globe; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) adopt as policy that the Federal Government substantially reduce the outsourcing of services and programs with the goal of creating a public service that protects national security, is financially prudent, more transparent, accountable, fair, equitable, and representative of Canadian society, and be it further

Resolved #2 that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to substantially reduce the outsourcing of services and programs by actively recruiting personnel with specialized knowledge and skills into the public service and creating development and training opportunities inside the public service.

2. CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY AND ECONOMIC SECURITY

Whereas #1 the United Nations Charter, Article 2(4) states that “All members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state...”; and

Whereas #2 interprovincial trade barriers including infrastructure such as rail, roads and energy transmission lines constrain the growth of the Canadian economy; and

Whereas #3 diversifying international trade partnerships makes Canada more resilient to changes in the economic market; and

Whereas #4 our regulatory approach will determine if Canada will attract capital and be competitive; and

Whereas #5 when Canadians buy Canadian products it strengthens our economy; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy that Canada ensure its sovereignty and economic security; and be it further

Resolved #2 that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to ensure Canada’s sovereignty and economic security by:

- a) removing interprovincial trade barriers, where feasible, by working with the provinces and territories to expand our internal trade and by improving infrastructure such as rail, roads and energy transmission lines
- b) diversifying international trade partnerships
- c) ensuring that our regulatory approach allows Canada to attract capital and make us competitive
- d) scaling up industries and services to produce more Canadian products
- e) developing a Buy Canada Policy that encourages Canadians to buy Canadian products to support Canadian businesses.

3. ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY BUILDINGS

Whereas #1 buildings account for 18% of Canada's emissions and is the third largest emitting sector after the oil and gas sector and the transportation sector, with most of the emissions coming from the use of equipment that runs on fossil fuels and the rest of the emissions from the construction materials used; and

Whereas #2 the Canada Green Buildings Strategy is intended to achieve a 37 percent cut below 2005 levels in direct building emissions by the end of 2030, reaching net-zero in 2050, but the strategy contains neither mandatory performance standards nor public investments needed to achieve net-zero emissions; and

Whereas #3 the Clean Electricity Regulations allow for natural gas plants to provide energy during peak demand periods instead of relying on methods of reducing demand; and

Whereas #4 more than 96 per cent of buildings' emissions come from space and water heating powered by fossil fuels but there is no policy to address natural gas in new buildings; and

Whereas #5 installing heat pumps instead of air conditioners and fossil fuel heating in new homes, and using environmentally friendly building materials such as recycled steel, reclaimed wood, bamboo, cellulose insulation, industrial hemp and solar panels will reduce carbon emissions and reduce electricity use; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy that buildings be environmentally friendly; and be it further

Resolved #2 that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to ensure that buildings are environmentally friendly where feasible by:

- a) including mandatory performance standards and public investments needed to achieve net-zero emissions in the Canada Green Buildings Strategy
- b) during peak demand periods of electricity, relying on methods of reducing demand instead of using natural gas
- c) reducing fossil fuel use for space and water heating in new buildings
- d) promoting the installation of heat pumps and the use of environmentally friendly building materials in new buildings.

Emerging Issue Resolution

HOUSE OF COMMONS RECOMMENDATION TO REMOVE ADVANCEMENT OF RELIGION AS A CHARITABLE PURPOSE

Whereas #1 the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance released Report 21, Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of the 2025 Budget, containing Recommendation #430 to amend the Income Tax Act to provide a definition of charity that would remove the advancement of religion as a charitable purpose; and

Whereas #2 more than 30,000 charitable organizations fall under the advancement of religion, comprising roughly 42% of the charitable sector; and

Whereas #3 religious charities provide essential support to Canadian society, fostering purpose, social cohesion, community support, and local volunteerism; and

Whereas #4 in these uncertain times, the Government of Canada should encourage the presence and participation of religious charities that foster hope, mutual support, and a sense of belonging, rather than taking steps to destabilize them; and

Whereas #5 in 2002, the National Council of Women of Canada urged the Government of Canada to amend the Income Tax Act to permit charities to advocate on behalf of society and its welfare, allowing up to 80% of their budgets for advocacy purposes to better promote a precautionary approach to public policy, encouraging the voluntary sector to advocate for preventative change without being unduly restricted from democratic public debate; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy that in the “Income Tax Act, the Advancement of Religion” remain as a charitable purpose and organizations retain their charitable status for recognized religions; and be it further

Resolved #2 that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to amend the definition of charity in the Income Tax Act by retaining the Advancement of Religion as a charitable purpose.