



12th Constitutional Convention

Port Elgin, Ontario

June 24 - 26, 2015

Resolutions Adopted

A. Constitution

1. Officers' Report Committee

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article VI Section 1 drops the words "through the Officers' Reports Committee".

2. Deadline for Resolutions

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the deadline for resolutions be extended from 60 to 75 days by amending Article VII Section 9 and Article IX with the new number.

3. Conventions

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article VII – Section 2 be amended to read:

A Convention shall be held every third year at a place decided upon by the Executive Committee which shall give at least one hundred and twenty (120) calendar days' notice

B. OCTOBER 1 AND FEDERAL ELECTIONS

1. October 1, 2015

BE IT RESOLVED THAT all CURC affiliated chapters and members shall collaborate with their provincial federation of union retirees and their area council where such exist to hold an event in their community on October 1 to raise the four issue areas of pensions, health care, housing and income inequality.

2. Federal NDP

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada, support the NDP in the 2015 Federal Election.

3. Proportional Representation

BE IT RESOLVED THAT CURC lobby all political parties to commit to enacting legislation to affect a system of proportional representation once in power; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT CURC encourage all area councils and federations to lobby to the same end.

C. HEALTH

1. Physician Assisted Death

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT CURC advocate for federal legislation supportive of the Supreme Court's ruling on physician-assisted death, including safeguards against abuse, that would allow for physician-assisted death for a competent adult person who [1] clearly consents to the termination of life and [2] has a grievous and irremediable medical condition [including an illness, disease or disability] that causes enduring suffering that is intolerable to the individual in the circumstances of his or her condition; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT children under the age of eighteen will not be deemed appropriate to receive physician-assisted death; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT only willing physicians will be permitted to offer physician-assisted death to appropriate competent adult patients who have made the choice to die without pressure from others.

2. Patient's Rights

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT it is the position of CURC that a patient's right for medical treatment and advice supersedes a doctors' and other medical professionals' religious faith, beliefs

and ethical reasons for denying medical treatment and advice;
and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT in medical cases regarding abortion and physician-assisted death be left to the conscience of individual doctors and medical professionals while obligating them to refer patients who require these medical services to doctors and medical professionals who are willing to provide them in a timely manner; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT CURC inform the CMA that doctors and other medical professionals have a responsibility to help prevent disease and promote safety and allowing them to deny treatment and advice based upon their religious faith, beliefs and ethical reasons flies in the face of good medicine.

3. LGBTQ Seniors

Be It Resolved that the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC) support LGBTQ seniors, the challenges they face and attempt to assist them to address the differing needs of diverse aging LGBTQ communities.

4. Palliative and End-of-Life Care

BE IT RESOLVED THAT CURC will lobby for and promote a strong federal role in public health care that improves palliative and end-of-life care for Canadians

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this would include a national palliative care and end-of-life strategy that provides support for individuals and families who are making this difficult transition.

D. ANTI-PRIVATIZATION

1. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Congress of Union Retirees will:

- i. Educate its members and the public about the increased costs and risks involved with the privatization of public services.
- ii. Expose government and corporate attempts to frame privatization as a cost-saving endeavour.
- iii. Support provincial and local governments who resist federal and corporate pressure to contract out and privatize public services.
- iv. Oppose all forms of contracting out of public services, the development of so-called public-private partnerships and the overall commercialization of public services.
- v. Oppose the use of charitable donations to publicly funded institutions such as hospitals, colleges and universities in exchange for providing large donors with decision-making capabilities.

2. BE IT RESOLVED THAT CURC will support government investment in maintaining and improving public services and oppose all attempts to replace public funding with social financing, including Social Impact Bonds.

3. BE IT RESOLVED THAT CURC will lobby all levels of governments to follow a five-step process before considering privatization of public services:

- i. A public service will not be privatized or contracted to the private sector without public consultation and without demonstrable evidence that privatization will lead to improved services.

- ii. A decision to privatize or contract out a service will not be made without a full and open review by an independent and mutually agreed upon Review Agency or individual, who will ensure full cost/benefit analyses and comprehensive social and economic impact studies are conducted.
- iii. Public sector workers, their representatives and other interested parties shall have standing in the review process.
- iv. The reviewing agency or individual will issue a final report and recommendation and will table the report and all studies or analyses to the appropriate government.
- v. In the event that a specific privatization is recommended and found to be in the best interest of citizens, employees will have the ability to move to the new employer with all existing rights, benefits and entitlements.

E. OTHER

1. Bill C-51

BE IT RESOLVED THAT CURC petition the federal government to revoke Bill C-51 on the grounds that the legislation is xenophobic; has made CSIS a secret police force and has violated Canadians' civil rights.

2. Canada Post

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT CURC call upon the federal government to instruct Canada Post to revoke its decision to terminate home mail delivery and immediately restore and expand home mail delivery to all residents who have been forced to use community mailboxes.

3. Champion Public Broadcasting

BE IT RESOLVED THAT CURC participate fully in the Canadian Media Guild campaign Champion Public Broadcasting to inform friends, neighbours and relatives in our communities of the devastating impact cuts to CBC are having on local news and programming across the country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT CURC, its provincial bodies and Area Councils actively call on the Government of Canada to restore recent budget cuts to the CBC and guarantee stable, adequate multi-year financing to allow our public broadcaster to live up to its mandate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT CURC, its provincial bodies and Area Councils lobby politicians at all three levels of government on the importance of maintaining a strong public broadcaster for all Canadians.

4. Stop the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC) will publicly oppose the TPP, encourage its members to do the same, and lobby the federal government to abandon the deal.

5. Affordable Housing

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT CURC will request that:

- i. Federal and Provincial governments maintain existing rent-geared-to-income and subsidy programs for low income people living in co-ops and non-profit housing;
- ii. Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments, in consultation with affordable housing advocacy groups,

- develop comprehensive housing policies which will assure a sufficient supply of affordable housing;
- iii. Affordable housing projects be included as part of mixed-income housing developments;
 - iv. Governments use surplus land and underutilized buildings (including air rights) for developing mixed-income housing;
 - v. Provincial governments assure that there is a sufficient supply of affordable assisted living residences and nursing homes.

6. Income Inequality

BE IT RESOLVED THAT CURC will work with affiliates and allies to promote a national strategy to eliminate income inequality that focuses on the social determinants of health, specifically:

- i. Income and income distribution
- ii. Education
- iii. Unemployment and job security
- iv. Employment and working conditions
- v. Early Childhood development
- vi. Food insecurity
- vii. Housing
- viii. Social exclusion
- ix. Social safety network
- x. Health services
- xi. Aboriginal status
- xii. Gender
- xiii. Race
- xiv. Disability

7. Line 9

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT we call upon the Federal Government to insist that Enbridge replace all existing pipes and fittings and install more safety valves at each water crossing before any oil is allowed to be shipped.

8. Canadian Museum of History

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT CURC request the Canadian Museum of History that the exhibit devoted to the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike be restored in the renovated museum as soon as possible.

9. Target Benefit Pension Plans

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT it is the policy of CURC that all forms of Target Benefit Pension Plans be opposed and that Defined Benefit Pension Plans be the preferred form of pension plan for all employees.

10. Bank of Canada

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT CURC call upon the Federal Government and Opposition Parties to revive the powers of the Bank of Canada to provide funding to all levels of government, largely with low or interest free loans, as was done between 1935 and 1975.

11. MEXICO

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT CURC request the following of Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Citizenship and Immigration Minister Chris Alexander:

- Remove Mexico from the list of safe countries or “Designated Countries of Origin” and to offer Mexican refugees the fullest consideration under Canadian asylum law
- Put pressure on the Mexican government to allow an international fully independent investigation into the heinous crimes against students from Ayotzinapa exercising their

democratic right to free speech, and to fulfill the protective measures issued by the inter-American Court of Human Rights for the students' parents and schoolmates.

- Ask the Mexican government to guarantee the safety of ALL of its citizens, regardless of their political engagements.

12. Representation of Area Councils at Labour Councils

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT our National CURC lobby the CLC to allow CURC retirees regional Councils to affiliate with Labour Councils with voice and vote.

13. Retired Women

BE IT RESOLVED THAT CURC call upon governments to improve the situation of women in retirement by these measures:

- Increase the pension from 25% to 50% of career earnings.
- Increase the maximum pensionable earnings of \$53,000 to \$70,000 in 2015.
- Increase the exemption of contributions of \$3,500 to \$7,000.
- Increase the Guaranteed Income Supplement by 15%.