

THE COUNCIL OF CANADIANS RESOLUTIONS TOWN HALL

Saturday, June 3, 2023 – By Zoom

1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time

The Town Hall is to clarify and seek information about the proposed resolutions. Debate (pros and cons) will not occur here, but rather at the **Saturday, June 17, AMM.**

At the Town Hall, each resolution will receive about 5 minutes of discussion.

- A member of the Resolutions Committee will read the “Therefore, be it resolved” clause;
- A representative of the submitters will be invited to describe the resolution’s purpose and intent;
- Town Hall participants will have an opportunity to ask questions, but not debate.

Please note that all resolutions have been accepted by the Resolutions Committee as being in compliance with the submission requirements. The Committee has also added a comment to each resolution to indicate resource, cost or other implications.

Between **June 7-13**, all Council members will be invited to rank the submissions within the four groupings. This ranking will determine the order of presentation at the June 17 AMM.

Town Hall Agenda

- A. Welcome & Territorial Acknowledgement
- B. Introduction to the Town Hall, Resolutions Committee, and Process
- C. **Policy Resolutions**
 1. Renewable Energy Project Evaluation
 2. Code of Conduct for Members
 3. Conflict – Accountability
- D. **Action Resolution**
 4. Wireless Electromagnetic Radiation (EMR)
 7. Independent, Accountable Nuclear Industry “Crown” Regulator
- E. **Campaign Resolutions**
 5. Pharmacare Campaign
 6. Stop Healthcare Privatization
- F. **Bylaws and Governance Amendments**

8. Code of Conduct for Members of the Council of Canadians
 9. Board Term Limits
- G. Conclusion / Information on ranking and AMM

Resolutions Committee members:

- Joey Hartman, Committee Chair and Board member
- Dave Szollosy, Ontario-based member
- Leo Cheverie, PEI Chapter Member
- David Condon, Prairies-NWT Regional Representative to the Board and Medicine Hat Chapter member
- Deedee Slye, At-Large Board Member and Member of the HRM Chapter
- Angela Giles, Council Staff



RESOLUTIONS in FULL

Please note: Variations from previously circulated documents reflect corrections identified by submitters.

POLICY

POLICY Resolutions	
•	Purpose: to expand and deepen the Council's policy framework to address ongoing issues and to provide staff, chapters, and members with a clear guidance as to the Council's policy positions
•	What it is: A policy position statement
•	How they're used: These statements will serve as a background to the Council's policy and campaigning work, will inform decisions for signing on to letters when requested or drafting our own letters. They will inform any future relevant campaigning.
•	Deadline for action: Posted within 2 months of the AMM.

1. Renewable Energy Project Evaluation

Submitted by Avalon (NL) Chapter /North Shore Chapter

Whereas the Council of Canadians recognizes the urgent need for a rapid transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy; and

Whereas the Council of Canadians is committed to a just transition to a green and climate-neutral economy; and

Whereas it is essential that renewable energy projects strengthen, not undermine, Canada's commitment on climate change, biodiversity and reconciliation,

Therefore be it resolved that the Council and Chapters, when acting on concerns related to energy, including wind and solar projects and rare earth mineral extraction, consider the following:

- a) Has there been a full federal (and where necessary provincial) government assessment of the environmental impacts of projects on waterways, air, protected habitats, Species at Risk and conservation areas?
- b) Has full cost accounting ("true cost") been made of long term social and environmental impacts of the project, including costs of development to local communities, municipalities and provinces e.g. road-building and repair, appropriation of land, camps of construction workers, government subsidies to companies?
- c) Does the project uphold the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to Free, Prior and Informed Consent?
- d) Is there meaningful consultation with affected communities including a cost benefit analysis by community members?
- e) Is it part of a comprehensive plan for energy self sufficiency or corporate profit? Does it support opportunities for local community development and ownership? Is the energy for domestic use or export?



f) Are there adequate setbacks? Is the scale of the project appropriate?

g) Are there alternatives to intensive resource extraction?

Resolution Committee Comments: Minimal resources or cost to inform Chapters of policy to use as an assessment screen, and to apply questions to National efforts.

2. Code of Conduct for Members

Submitted by Three Individuals: Richard Goodbrand, Tara Seucharan, Marilyn Keddy

Whereas the Council of Canadians believes in facilitating positive interactions and relationships and ensuring a safe space for everyone interested in being part of our organization by treating everyone with respect, compassion, and dignity and maintaining and upholding the name and reputation of the Council through positive interactions and representation,

Therefore be it resolved that this 2023 Annual Meeting recommends to the Board that the following be our Code of Conduct for members:

- Members listen to each other with the intention to understand each other and approach interactions with people in our Chapters, in our local communities and the Council community with curiosity and an interest in building common understanding, open communication, good faith, honesty, transparency and openness;
- Members refrain from harassment, discrimination, intimidation, exploitation or abuse of chapter members, supporters, members, and staff. These behaviours are unacceptable and will not be tolerated;
- Members are to take responsibility for their actions and words. We expect that people will behave respectfully toward each other even when conflict is present;
- Members are to refrain from remarks, actions, and behaviours that replicate systems of sexism, racism, homophobia, transphobia, ageism, ableism, and all other systems of oppression and exclusion;
- Members are to avoid conflicts of interest by abiding by any and all conflict of interest rules;
- Members must protect any information that might be deemed confidential, including contact information of members or other personal information;
- Members must clearly articulate the Council of Canadians chapter they represent as appropriate.

Resolution Committee Comments: Minimal resources or cost for Board to consider and adopt as code guidelines, noting that #3 asks that the Board assign the process development to the Governance Committee. Implementation could be resource intensive in difficult situations, depending on the process design and nature of the conduct issue.



3. Conflict - Accountability

Submitted by Three Individuals: Richard Goodbrand, Tara Seucharan, Marilyn Keddy

Whereas the Chapter Handbook Section K speaks to Conflict Resolution and the sub-section — Avenues to address conflicts with the national organization — speaks to ‘hold another person within the organization accountable as needed;

Therefore be It resolved that this Annual Meeting requests that the Board of Directors direct the Governance Committee to develop a clear governance policy process (which clearly does not impact any negotiated agreement between the Board and our staff or management) by which such accountability is to be determined and decided.

Resolution Committee Comments: Minimal resources or cost to assign to the Governance Committee to develop a process. Implementation could be resource intensive and/or costly depending on process design and nature of the conflict issue.

ACTION

ACTION Resolutions

- **Purpose:** To commit the Council to intervene in a political process before the next AMM. These resolutions speak to issues that are timely and deserve input from the Council of Canadians but are not core campaigns that require sustained, long-term resources. They may be accomplished by anything from one action to a smaller number of actions, over a defined period of up to four months.
- **What it is:** Directing Council members in a single action or single arc of actions in support of an issue or cause.
- **How they’re used:** Examples of follow-up actions might include (but are not limited to) drafting and sending a petition, sign-on letter, online action, hosting a webinar or speakers event, creating a public education resource, etc.
- **Deadline for action:** This will be implemented before the following AMM, with a meeting with drafters within 2 months after the AMM. At this meeting, part of what will be determined is a SMARTIE goal (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound,

4. Wireless Electromagnetic Radiation (EMR) on Human Health and the Environment

Submitted by Four Individuals: Barbara McElgunn, Sheila Pratt, Teri Hitch and Sherry Ridout

Whereas in 2017 180 international scientists and physicians demanded a moratorium the installation of cell towers and antennas needed for fifth-generation (5G) “until potential hazards for human health and the environment have been fully investigated by scientists independent from industry”.
<https://www.5gappeal.eu/>; and

Whereas Canada’s exposure guideline, Safety Code 6, and later guidelines , are based on the outdated 1996 WHO guideline that considers tissue heating as the only health end-point of concern; and disregards hundreds of peer reviewed studies showing biological effects from EMR; and

Whereas Ambient air levels of EMR (electro-smog) around the 1 GHZ frequency band have increased exponentially, 10¹⁸ in some areas, compared to natural levels;
[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196\(18\)30221-3/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(18)30221-3/fulltext); and



Whereas The world’s largest cell phone EMR study, using 2G and 3G (US National Toxicology Program) found a significant increase in the incidence of brain and heart cancer, and DNA changes in the brains of exposed rodents, but not in the controls;

https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/whatwestudy/topics/cellphones/index.html?utm_source=direct&utm_medium= and

Whereas Fibre optics is a safe and equally fast, wired alternative,

Therefore be it resolved that the Council of Canadians (COC) share information about electromagnetic radiation; and

Be it further resolved that the COC engage the federal government, especially the ministries of Industry, Science and Economic Development, Health Canada, and Environment Canada to:

- Enact a moratorium on new 5G installations until an updated risk assessment can be completed by an independent and multidisciplinary panel
- Require Health Canada’s Radiation Protection Bureau to monitor and publish ambient levels of EMR , especially in cities, towns and areas with many cell towers and antennas, close to populations
- Provide easily- accessed public information on safety tips to reduce exposures, especially to children and pregnant people.
- Amend regulations to permit local ordinances that provide residents with pre-installation information, and a greater say in the siting of cell network antennas, as in this Appeal to the government of Canada, signed by more than 20,000 Canadians:
<http://c4st.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Suspend-5G-Canada-Appeal.FINAL.ENG-2.pdf>
- Prioritize safe and fast fibre optics

Resolution Committee Comments: Moderate resources or cost to adopt as policy with initial communication to federal ministries. Council does not currently have staff expertise. Further action could be resource intensive and/or costly depending on the degree of follow up.

7. Independent, Accountable Nuclear Industry “Crown” Regulator

Submitted by Six Chapters: Kitchissippi-Ottawa Valley (ON) / The Avalon Chapter (NL) / Ottawa Chapter (ON) / Guelph Chapter (ON) / Kitchener-Waterloo Chapter (ON) / Victoria (BC)

Whereas this resolution fully accords with the Council’s *Strategic Plan 2023* “Vision”, “Unique Role”, “Trends”, and four of five identified “Priorities”; and

Whereas the Council previously adopted resolutions that federal and provincial governments must:

- ELIMINATE: nuclear energy generation (2022, 2017, 2008), nuclear industry public/private partnerships (2022), and public funding for next-generation nuclear reactors and spent (irradiated) fuel reprocessing (2021);
- REFUSE: any role in nuclear weapons manufacture or proliferation (2016, 2011, 2003, 1998)



- BAN: all uranium exploration and mining including disturbance or uncovering of uranium deposits (2007), and transportation or importation of high-level radioactive materials anywhere in Canada by storing nuclear waste where it is generated (2011);
- REJECT: Nuclear Waste Management Organization's proposal for a centralized site for high level nuclear waste disposal (2011)
- PROHIBIT: commerce in uranium, depleted uranium and any radioactively contaminated weaponry globally, especially regarding the USA (2007, 2003, 1998).
- REMOVE: *Nuclear Liability Act* limits on corporate liability (2006); and

Whereas, in 2022, Council staff, chapters and thousands of supporters advocated the draft federal *Modernized Policy for Radioactive Waste and Decommissioning* address:

- Radioactive waste requires perpetual care and monitoring;
- Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous Canadians are entitled to open, transparent management of this toxic waste;
- Forbid importation, reprocessing and plutonium extraction;
- Nuclear energy not being a viable solution to the climate crisis;
- The Crown regulatory agency, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, fails in its mandate to foremost consider the Common Good in its radioactive waste management, decommissioning, licensing applications, and public engagement; and

Whereas the final federal policy (2023) does not address the issues above,

Therefore be it resolved the Council establish an action plan to win establishment of an independent nuclear industry regulatory agency that is truly arms-length from government and industry.

Resolution Committee Comments: Minimal to moderate resources and cost to continue and complement current actions.



CAMPAIGN

CAMPAIGN Resolutions

- **Purpose:** To mobilize Council staff, chapters and members toward a strong political goal over a longer period of time. This may include a new campaign under one of the Council's stated areas of concerns or suggesting a new area of concern. Fulfilling these resolutions requires substantive resources and, therefore, requires substantive planning and deliberation with attention to the full organization's strategic and operational plans.
- **What it is:** To commit the Council to considering a campaign that will entail the use of its resources and focus its staff and chapters on a specific issue.
- **How they're used:** Campaign suggestions will be considered as part of the next scheduled strategic or operational planning process.
- **Deadline for action:** initial conversation with drafters and impacted staff within two months of the AMM.
- **Resources & staff time required:** Substantive. There may be more than one staff person assigned to lead the project, over a year or more, with a full budget.

5. Pharmacare Campaign

Submitted by National Board of Directors

Whereas public universal pharmacare system as outlined in the Hoskins Report would improve the lives of millions of Canadians and dramatically reduce the cost of health services; and

Whereas with the March 2022 confidence and supply agreement with the NDP, the Liberal government committed to passing a Canada Pharmacare Act by the end of 2023., but Big Pharma and its insurance industry allies are working to undermine this commitment; and

Whereas there is a unique opportunity for the Council of Canadians to work with labour, community and healthcare organizations across the country to finally achieve this long overdue social program,

Therefore be it resolved that the Council of Canadians mobilize around the demand for a public universal pharmacare program, working with the Canadian Health Coalition and allies in every community and across generations to build the political pressure needed to win this vital program.

Resolution Committee Comments: Minimal additional resources or cost as already a priority campaign.

6. Stop Healthcare Privatization

Submitted by National Board of Directors

Whereas the impact of the COVID pandemic, burnout of frontline workers and systemic underfunding and has created a crisis for healthcare delivery across Canada, and opened the door for new attempts to introduce privatization of services; and

Whereas conservative provincial governments have been driving this privatization agenda, particularly in Ontario where billions of dollars are being used to set up private surgery clinics in competition with public hospitals; and

Whereas the Council of Canadians is involved in Healthcare Coalitions across the country,



Therefore be it resolved that the Council of Canadians mobilize members, supporters and Chapters to work with Health Coalitions and allies in every community to defeat any attempt to privatize our public healthcare system, and to demand that the Federal government put strict requirements for funding to ensure public accountability and delivery of healthcare in Canada.

Resolution Committee Comments: Level of additional resources or cost would depend on adjustment or expansion of this ongoing priority campaign in response to changing circumstances.

BYLAW & GOVERNANCE (require 2/3 vote)

BYLAW & GOVERNANCE Resolutions

- **Purpose:** To change the Council's governance policies or practices by amending existing bylaws or introducing new bylaws.
- **What it is:** These address areas of the Council's governance including bylaws, constitution or financial oversight.
- **How they're used:** Direct changes to the Council bylaws.

8. Code of Conduct for Members of the Council of Canadians - S. 2.07

Submitted by Three Individuals: Richard Goodbrand, Tara Seucharan, Marilyn Keddy

Whereas the Council of Canadians believes we all do better when we: Ensure everyone lives with dignity, respect, and equitable treatment and care regardless of who they are or where they live,

Therefore be it resolved that By-Laws of the Council of Canadians, Section 2.07 Governance Policies be amended by addition of "and members" immediately following "code of conduct of board members"

Resolution Committee Comments: Minimal resources or cost to amend bylaw change. Section 2.07 reads "Board may adopt, amend.... such governance policies... to such matters as ... code of conduct of board members (insert) and conflict of interest." Ties to Resolution #2 and #3 for policy and implementation process.

9. Board Term Limits S. 5.06

Submitted by National Board of Directors

Whereas Directors who are appointed or elected in a by-election pursuant to Article 5.07 will initially serve only a partial term; and

Whereas the maximum of three consecutive terms is assumed to approximate an aggregate of six (6) years; and

Whereas the current by-laws restrict these Directors to fewer than six (6) years, and potentially just over four (4) years; and

Whereas the transitional language in 5.06 (2) is no longer necessary,

Therefore Be It Resolved that Article 5.06 (2) be amended to delete the transitional period and also to allow a partial term of under twelve (12) months to be disregarded as a "Term" for the purposes of a maximum three (3) consecutive terms, as follows:



5.06 Terms and Maximum Commitment of Board

- (1) Directors shall be elected, in rotation, to hold office for a term of two (2) years.
- (2) ~~Effective the 2021 annual meeting, a~~ All directors at large and regional directors are subject to the following maximum commitments:
 - a) **a director may be elected for up to three (3) consecutive terms, with the exception of directors elected in a by-election or appointed to the board pursuant to Article 5.07, whose first term shall not be counted towards this maximum if served for twelve (12) months or less; and**
 - b) upon concluding three (3) consecutive terms, a director may not serve on the board for a period of two (2) years, following which the director may be elected up to three (3) consecutive terms.
- (3) The number of non-consecutive terms to which a member may be elected as a director is not limited.

5.07 Board Vacancies and Appointment

- (1) If a regional representative director position becomes vacant for any reason on the board, the vacancy shall be filled by a by-election within the applicable region.
- (2) A regional representative director position is deemed vacant if that director discontinues their membership in a chapter or if their chapter becomes inactive. *(Also see 5.03 (1)(d))*
- (3) If a director at large position becomes vacant for any reason or the maximum number of directors are not elected by the members, the sitting directors may appoint director(s) to fill such vacancy by majority vote.
 - a) Directors appointed in this manner shall serve until the next annual meeting of the members.
 - b) The board may only be composed of up to one-third (1/3) of the directors appointed in this manner at any time.

Resolution Committee Comments: Minimal resources or cost to amend and implement bylaw change.

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