

Resolutions

POLICY

1. A Policy Regarding the Reprocessing of High Level Nuclear Waste/Irradiated Fuel in Canada
2. Canada's withdrawal from NATO
3. A policy regarding public funding and government support for next-generation nuclear reactors, including small modular nuclear reactors (SMRs)

ACTION

4. Advocate for a National Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform
5. Keep up the fight for Pharmacare
6. Resolution on the proposed LNG project for Goldboro, NS

CAMPAIGN

7. Create '7000 Generations Safe Nuclear Waste' Intersectional Coalition
8. Poverty and Wealth Gap Reduction
9. Guaranteed annual income to maintain a fair and equitable standard of living for all Canadians
10. Shut Down Coal
11. Green New Deal Communities
12. Resolution for Green New Deal for public transit
13. Water Protection from Open Pit Goldmining Campaign

Policy Resolution

1. A Policy Regarding the Reprocessing of High Level Nuclear Waste/Irradiated Fuel in Canada

Submitted by: Saint John Chapter and Fredericton Chapter, NB

Whereas the Government of Canada has provided \$50 Million to Moltex Canada to fund the development of Small Modular Reactor technology, with priority given to extraction of plutonium (for SMR fuel) from CANDU reactor spent fuel waste, using the facilities of Canadian National Laboratories at Chalk River ON and the resources of University of New Brunswick and Point Lepreau CANDU reactor site in NB,

Whereas this will involve 'pyro-processing' which has been experimented with for 25 years in the Department of Energy facilities in the USA, at a cost of billions of dollars, resulting in a failed outcome, i.e., unable to convert any but a tiny fraction of nuclear waste as proposed, and, in the process, generating a mixed waste stream that is even more challenging to manage than the original nuclear waste,

Whereas, the USA nuclear weapons laboratories have confirmed that the process generates a form of plutonium accessible for use in nuclear weapons and hence considered a security risk,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council of Canadians opposes any technologies and methods of spent (irradiated) fuel reprocessing, as well as commerce in, and transport or use of, spent fuel and extracted fissile materials, in Canada.

Policy Resolution

2. Canada's withdrawal from NATO

Submitted by: Josephine Singh, Corinne Benson, Robert Wilde, Richard Merry

Whereas NATO members spend one trillion annually on their militaries which is more than 50% of global military spending.

Whereas within NATO countries it is the military that is the largest institutional consumer of oil and largest emitter of green house gases.

Whereas in Canada like in other NATO members the armed forces are exempted from reducing emissions from their military vehicles and operations.

Whereas one estimate calculates the total cost of shifting our electricity to 100% renewable energy over 10 years at 4.5 trillion, that is still less than the 6 trillion that we've spent on almost two decades of endless wars waged since 9/11.

Whereas 90% of Canada's Military effort has gone to NATO.

Whereas a rapid reduction of greenhouse gases and a robust green new deal are not possible with rising military emissions and expenditures.

Therefore, be it resolved that in the interests of the true threat of climate change to our security the Council of Canadians adopt the policy of Canada's withdrawal from NATO.

Policy Resolution

3. A policy regarding public funding and government support for next-generation nuclear reactors, including small modular nuclear reactors (SMRs)

Submitted by: Saint John Chapter and Fredericton Chapter, NB

Whereas governments are currently supporting the development of next-generation nuclear reactors which, if built, would include designs that “burn” fuel made by extracting plutonium from used nuclear fuel; produce new forms of toxic radioactive waste which will remain hazardous to the environment and all living things for hundreds of thousands of years; increase the risk of nuclear accidents and weapons proliferation; and be targeted at remote and Indigenous communities with no clear provisions for safe waste management or decommissioning;

And whereas ending public funding of the development of next generation nuclear reactors and applying that money to implement immediately-available renewable energy sources would accelerate the transition to cheaper, cleaner energy that could start reducing carbon emissions in one or two building seasons.

And whereas the cost of electricity from next-generation nuclear reactors, in particular SMRs, could be up to ten times higher than power from wind and solar, because SMRs lack economies of scale, will likely experience construction delays and cost overruns expected of unproven designs; and would produce wastes that will be difficult and extremely expensive to manage;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council of Canadians oppose all public funding and government support for next-generation nuclear reactors, including SMRs, and instead support investment in clean, sustainable renewable energy, efficiency and storage.

Be it further resolved that the Council of Canadians work with grassroots organizations to pressure governments to cease all public funding and government support for next-generation nuclear reactors and instead invest in renewable energy, efficiency and storage.

Action Resolution

4. Advocate for a National Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform

This resolution was submitted by three separate groups: London Chapter, ON; Kitchener-Waterloo Chapter, ON; and a third group of 20 individual members representing chapters across each of the four regions.

Whereas proportional representation is an issue of importance to its members, Council of Canadians has shown longstanding support, and a 2020 Leger poll has shown there is 80% support across party lines for a National Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform; and

Whereas, over the last 100 years there have been many committees and commissions at the Federal and Provincial levels including the Task Force on Canadian Unity (1979) and the Law Commission of Canada (2004) which have recommended proportional representation and the great majority of presenters and 88% of the experts to the Federal Government's own electoral reform committee (2016) recommended proportional representation; and

Whereas those countries with a proportional electoral system perform better on social, income equality and environmental issues with less policy lurch and disruption than those without and enjoy greater citizen engagement and truly diverse and meaningful representation of women and their country's population in a proportional electoral system,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council of Canadians actively support Fair Vote Canada's campaign for proportional representation in the next federal election and into the succeeding Parliament, including a call for a National Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform; and

Be it further resolved that this will be achieved by promoting the issue to our members, urging them in turn to raise this with candidates and Members of Parliament, and to take any and all appropriate action to push electoral reform back into the public spotlight.

Action Resolution

5. Keep up the fight for Pharmacare

Submitted by: the Board of Directors

Whereas: Despite many promises, the federal government has failed to introduce pharmacare legislation and the majority of provinces are actively opposing a national pharmacare program, and

Whereas pharmaceutical corporations continue to lobby the federal government in the interest of their own profit and federal leverage, including using the COVID pandemic as justification for deepening their access to federal legislators, and

Whereas a publicly run national program would save billions of dollars in expenses,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council continue to mobilize alongside partners to push for a national public pharmacare program.

Action Resolution

6. Resolution on the proposed LNG project for Goldboro, NS

Submitted by: Halifax Chapter, NS

Whereas the International Energy Agency says there can be no new fossil fuel development if we are to achieve net zero emissions and keep global warming below 1.5C by the end of the century

Whereas the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project proposed by Pieridae Energy for Goldboro, Guysborough County, would increase Nova Scotia's greenhouse gas emissions by 33% from 2005 levels. This is a fossil fuel development project which contradicts the advice of the International Energy Agency and a multitude of environmental groups

Whereas other environmental concerns with the proposed Goldboro LNG plant and terminal include the construction and/or enhancement of pipelines across Canada and into the U.S. and the importation to Nova Scotia of fracked natural gas

Whereas economic concerns with the proposed \$12 billion Goldboro LNG project include a request by Pieridae Energy for the Government of Canada to provide \$925 million in grants, loans and loan guarantees. This funding, if approved, could leave Canadian taxpayers in debt for a stranded asset as international investment and activity move away from fossil fuels

Whereas other economic concerns with the Goldboro LNG project focus on the ability of Pieridae Energy to successfully bring a project to fruition. Pieridae Energy of Calgary, Alberta, is currently valued at \$29 million and its stocks on the New York Stock Exchange have decreased in value by 99% since 2010.

Whereas Mi'kmaq women representing the 13 indigenous reserves in Nova Scotia have expressed social concerns about this project, specifically with regard to the proposed 5000 person "man camp" where indigenous people would provide catering services. Their concern can be summed up with the words, 'our women are worth more than a few token jobs.' The culture of these camps has been proven to be a direct risk to women.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council of Canadians put resources into ending the proposal for an LNG plant/terminal for Goldboro NS including: by working to prevent it from receiving the requested public funding; by insisting, along with allies, that a Federal Impact Assessment take place; by educating the general public about the many weaknesses of this proposal; and by using any other strategy that may be effective to stop the proposed Goldboro LNG plant and terminal.

Campaign Resolution

7. Create '7000 Generations Safe Nuclear Waste' Intersectional Coalition

Submitted by: Ken Collier, David Greenfield, Lin Grist, Marilyn Hay, Mary Love, Ann Pohl and Gail Wylie

Whereas, [decades ago](#), the federal government abrogated responsibility for the common good and has allowed Canada's nuclear industry to self-regulate and self-monitor, resulting in the temporary storage of radioactive waste on Indigenous territories and/or beside major waterways in facilities [known to leak](#), posing unfathomable biospheric hazards to the next [7000 Generations](#);

Whereas due to international pressure *and* to make new reactors more publicly acceptable, Natural Resources Canada is developing a [Radioactive Waste Management Policy](#) (RWMP) that fully intersects Council of Canadians' [strategic priorities](#). However, our members and allies are frustrated by the apparent *proforma* process: NRCan contracted an [industry conglomerate to develop the RWM Strategy](#) *prior to* this "public engagement."

Whereas, *before resolving the radioactive waste crisis*, Canada's government is "greenwashing" new reactors as a corner-stone [climate action strategy](#) *and* positioning our nuclear industry (which includes transnational nuclear weapons manufacturers) to facilitate pandemic [economic recovery](#);

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council of Canadians initiate a broad united "[7000 Generations Safe Nuclear Waste](#)" coalition to amplify concerns, perspectives and knowledge of Indigenous and Canadian allies in First Nations, groups, organizations, and grassroots communities. This coalition will influence development of a robust federal [Radioactive Waste Management Policy](#) not limited to but [including a mandated independent oversight body](#) responsible for:

- categorization and minimization of "levels" of waste;
- safe site-to-storage waste transportation;
- public consultation and final approvals for waste storage designs and decommissioning plans *before* licensing and construction;
- ongoing monitoring, in perpetuity, of nuclear waste facilities and decommissioned reactors;
- fiduciary reporting on public money, accident preparedness and liabilities;
- providing transparency to local communities to address historical environmental racism and achieve maximal security and safety for all life.

Immediate action is crucial: the RWMP is midstream in development *and* we seek to intercept new long term corporate contracts.

Campaign Resolution

8. Poverty and Wealth Gap Reduction “Allyship Resolution”

Submitted by: Anti-poverty/Wealth Gap Working Group

Avril Torrence (Medicine Hat), Wes Kmet (Kelowna), Marilyn Hay (Kitchener-Waterloo),
Jeff Hanks (London)

Whereas the top 1% of the population own 25% of all wealth in Canada while the bottom 40% own 1.2%(1), 53% of Canadians are “two hundred dollars or less” away from insolvency(2); and during the COVID-19 pandemic, billionaires in Canada made \$78 billion more in 2020 than in past years(3);

Whereas this worsening wealth gap is a fundamental structural problem(4) perpetuated and expanded by individual and corporate tax laws and loopholes, and labour market and employment regulations that increase corporate capture and favour the wealthy;

Whereas poverty is one of the foremost social determinants of health and a primary driver of health inequity(5), and poverty is experienced disproportionately by Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour, LGBTQ2S+ people, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups(6);

Therefore, be it resolved that in line with our *Strategic Plan* and the *Green New Deal Guide*(7), the Council of Canadians, at the national, regional, chapter, and working group levels, will establish a campaign to support poverty reduction allyship work, including but not limited to 1) a Universal Basic Income that will not deplete or replace any social safety nets already functioning in the provinces and territories, 2) fair, equitable taxation including taxes specific to the ultra-wealthy, and 3) monetary reform such as returning to the Bank of Canada for interest-free loans to finance long term government investments. This work will be aimed at dismantling structural inequities that create and maintain the wealth gap, educating the public, and ultimately regulating extreme wealth accumulation to steward more equitable distribution of wealth.

References

1. [Broadbent Institute, *Wealth Inequality in Canada* \(video\)](#)
2. [Sean Simpson, \(8 April 2021\) *Ispos*](#)
3. [Alex Hemmingway, \(21 Apr., 2021\) *Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives*](#)
4. [Kate Donald, Center for Economic and Social Rights and Jens Martens, *Global Policy Forum*](#)
See also [United Nations' 2030 Agenda](#)
5. [From the Canadian Public Health Association](#)
6. [Diana Duong, *Canadian Living*](#)
7. [The Council of Canadians, *Green New Deal Guide*](#)

Campaign Resolution

9. Guaranteed annual income to maintain a fair and equitable standard of living for all Canadians

Submitted by: Ron East, Lin Grist and Jason Blokhuis

Many support programs have been eroded during the last few decades, with federal, provincial and territorial income assistance and disability support systems consistently failing to provide economic dignity or meet basic human needs. Canada is at a crossroads.

The government can continue to look the other way, allowing our youth and our most vulnerable to fall through the cracks of a systemically broken social safety net while perpetuating economic insecurity, anxiety, fear and rampant inequality.

We can take this opportunity to bring about much-needed change and make a meaningful difference that will lead to a brighter future.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council of Canadians undertake to actively support, promote and engage in a campaign for a guaranteed annual income to maintain a fair and equitable standard of living for all Canadians.

Campaign Resolution

10. Shut Down Coal

Submitted by: the Board of Directors

Whereas: coal-powered electricity generation in four provinces is one of the key contributors to CO2 emissions in Canada, while the shutdown of coal stations in Ontario resulted in the largest single reduction in greenhouse gas in decades, and

Whereas Canada has committed to phasing out thermal coal mines by 2030, and

Whereas the Just Transition Task Force on Coal offers lessons for how to support workers and communities while transitioning away from thermal coal power, and

Whereas chapters and allies in Alberta are leading a broad mobilization to stop 8 proposed coal mines in that province, and

Whereas the impact of coal mining on watersheds crosses provincial boundaries and increases federal emissions,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council learn from the successful Alberta Beyond Coal initiative and also address thermal coal operations and exports by campaigning across Canada to shut down all coal-powered electricity generating operations.

Campaign Resolution

11. Green New Deal Communities

Submitted by: the Board of Directors

Whereas the climate crisis worsens and inequality grows across the world while there is no national coordinated demand that effectively addresses these intersecting crisis and

Whereas experts continue to emphasize that Canada must reduce emissions by 60 percent domestically and support a reduction in international emissions equivalent to 80 per cent of Canada's domestic emissions and

Whereas responses to climate, economic, and social inequality must create a just and sustainable economy with dignified and safe employment opportunities, that addresses racism, that centers Indigenous sovereignty, and that challenges the overwhelming push for profit that drives inequality.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council of Canadians continue to build and support a locally-led network of communities fighting for local and regional policies that shift systems of extraction, profit, and inequality to those that creatively meet the needs of all impacted peoples and communities, boldly reduce emissions, and strengthen the commons, and

Be it resolved that this network be supported through strategic campaign support, collective skill and capacity building, storytelling, network building, and facilitated national actions.

Campaign Resolution

12. Resolution on Green New Deal for public transit

Submitted by: the Board of Directors

Whereas existing transportation systems account for a quarter of Greenhouse Gas emissions in Canada.

Whereas the pandemic and privatization have put transit in crisis. Municipal transit systems are struggling to fund operational costs and intercity bus services have been shutting down, first in the West and more recently across Canada.

Whereas transit justice will be an integral part of any just transition, including climate jobs, greening manufacturing, shifting away from private automobiles, green and affordable public housing, Indigenous rights, racial justice and more.

Whereas millions of workers including front line workers, seniors, low-income populations, people with disabilities, and newcomers need access to reliable and affordable transit to get to work and access services.

Be it resolved that the Council of Canadians will organize, alongside allies like the Keep Transit Moving coalition, for a just recovery and a Green New Deal for transit that includes: operational funding for public transit systems, public intercity bus service and rail, and a federal transit justice strategy that ensures green, affordable, accessible, safe, public transit for all.

Be it resolved that the Council of Canadians will continue to reject transit privatization and Public Private Partnerships (P3s) and campaign for aspects of transit that are currently private to become publicly owned and operated, such as intercity bus service.

Campaign Resolution

13. Water Protection from Open Pit Goldmining Campaign

Submitted by: Halifax Chapter, NS

Whereas clean drinking water is essential to life, and hence is a basic human need, as well as being essential to healthy ecosystems,

Whereas gold mining threatens freshwater supplies wherever it occurs across Canada by using vast quantities of water drawn from fresh water lakes and rivers, thereby lowering the water table,

Whereas gold mining further threatens freshwater resources by leaching toxic chemicals, such as sodium cyanide, into the groundwater, thereby posing a significant risk to human health and wildlife,

Whereas gold mining further threatens freshwater resources by leaching heavy metals, such as arsenic, mercury, and antimony, into the groundwater, thereby posing another significant risk to human health and wildlife,

Whereas gold mining further threatens freshwater resources by leaching acids into lakes and rivers in a process known as 'acid rock drainage', which lowers the pH of these water bodies, thereby posing a significant risk to aquatic life, especially fish,

Whereas gold mining further threatens freshwater resources by leaching nitrates and ammonia into surrounding lakes, causing the lakes to become atrophic, thereby posing another risk to aquatic life, especially fish,

Whereas gold mining is a non-essential industry given the vast oversupply of gold already in existence, its limited range of uses, and the ease with which it can be recycled from discarded electronics in our landfill sites,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council of Canadians work with the HRM Chapter to develop and implement a public awareness campaign to educate the public regarding the threat to Nova Scotia's freshwater resources by current and proposed gold mining activity around HRM and throughout the province.