

2022 RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #1: Be it resolved that the Alberta Women's Institutes request the Canadian government to look into requiring improvement of the construction of the poles that hold the netting around trampolines so that they are strong enough to hold up in strong winds rather than falling inward or breaking, and so posing a risk to people using the trampoline.

Moved by: Hogadone WI

Seconded: Ridgewood WI

Background:

These poles are supposed to be a safety feature to keep persons from falling off. With poles so weak that they break or fall inward in strong winds, they may not protect anyone that falls against the netting. The poles could hit someone on the head causing a significant injury. When users are jumping on the trampoline, if they fall against the netting, the already weakened poles could give way. One should not have to check the poles before every use. Children, in particular, are not going to think to check the poles before every use, especially if they had used it already the same day, nor should they have to do so. The netting gives a false sense of security because not everyone is aware of this fault.

Resolution #2: Be it resolved that the Alberta Women's Institutes request that the Alberta government encourage grocery stores in all locations to offer a discount on perishable products close to their best before date or donate them to the food bank, rather than throwing them in the dumpster.

Moved by: Hogadone WI

Seconded: Ridgewood WI

Background:

There is a need for bargain bins (areas) in all grocery stores. Rather than waste food by throwing it out, does it not make sense to discount food that can help those in need? Many have need but don't always have the money to pay full price. With many people not working these last 2 years, this could make all the difference between eating and going hungry. Not everyone wishes to go to the food bank.

In small towns there is usually only one grocery store and there is no option to find cheaper food. While many stores across Alberta are already offering this beneficial practice of discounting perishables, some stores, particularly in those smaller towns with only one grocery store, do not make this opportunity available and throw out perishable products. Requiring that *all* stores offer this discount would give lower-income earners greater food options and significantly reduce food waste.

Resolution #3: Be it resolved that the Alberta Women's Institutes request the Canadian government to look into the poor quality of household appliances as many do not seem to have a work life of more than 3 or 4 years.

Moved: Hogadone WI

Seconded: Ridgewood WI

Background:

Many persons purchase a new house and put in new appliances. Buying a house is a major expense and the new appliances are expected to last a number of years, The cost of appliances is significant also. When 4 or 5 out of 6 new appliances don't last more than 3-1/2 years, something is wrong. For many years household appliances lasted 10 to 20 years. People paying for their house do not expect their appliances to break down so soon.

The cost of repairing the appliances should be at the companies' expense, not the purchaser's. The appliances were bought in good faith and that it would not be a major expense so very soon.

The landfills are full of appliances that are not that old. Why should they be tossed out? Most only need some parts and the biggest expense is to find an electrician or appliance repair person. Appliance companies should pay full cost for the parts and electricians' expenses up until 10 years old; it gets expensive if you have to pay for time and travel. Furthermore, this should not have to be a company's own qualified person; any appliance repair person should be able to do this work.

Companies don't want to hear people's problems with their product and customer service gives customers the runaround. Fridges are necessary so most people just go buy a new one. Extended warranties are a cash cow and seldom of any use.

Resolution #4: Be it resolved that the Alberta Women's Institutes urge the federal government to remove the carbon tax and federal fuel tax.

Moved: Wild Rose Go Getters WI

Seconded: Ridgewood WI

Background:

The carbon tax and federal fuel tax disproportionately affect certain groups, such as low-income households, northern and remote communities, indigenous peoples, and rural dwellers.

Living in northern, remote, or rural area, in general, requires travelling greater distances to buy groceries, access health care and other services, and to carry out activities that other Canadians take for granted. There are fewer or no options to switch to low-carbon forms of travel, such as buses or electrical vehicles, which are less available or non-existent in those communities or cannot travel the distance required without recharging. Of necessity, these people must travel further and therefore incur greater carbon tax and federal fuel tax. As these households are often lower-income, they are disproportionately affected by the carbon tax and federal fuel tax. The small amount reimbursed by the federal Climate Action Incentive payment barely scratches the surface of the additional costs.

Another area in which the carbon tax is excessively burdensome on low-income, rural, northern and remote communities is home heating. Home heating in Canada is not a luxury; it is a necessity. In communities where the temperature remains below -30C, in some areas below -50C, for weeks at a time, it is inhumane to require carbon tax be paid on these costs. Some people have to choose between heating their homes and buying food for their families. This needs to change.

Resolution #5: Be it resolved that the Alberta Women's Institutes urge the Alberta Ministry of Health and Alberta Health Services to require mandatory training for all those providing personal services such as esthetics, salon and spa services providers.

Moved: Stony Plain WI

Seconded: Darwell WI

Background:

Some personal services such as hairstyling do have minimum training requirements as they are part of the Apprenticeship and Industry Training Act and are not part of the Personal Services Regulations. However, training is not currently required in Alberta for estheticians, manicurists the pedicurists, though they must follow the requirements outlined by the Regulation and Standards for Personal Services.

Training is available at beauty schools for manicurists and pedicurists with four to six week courses for each which emphasize health issues and recognizing problems which they cannot diagnose, but can recommend the client consult a health professional to have it checked out. A certificate is issued following these courses and can either be displayed in the business or be available to show to anyone making a request to see it.

There is a two year course for estheticians, at the person's expense, which goes into much more detail on training, recognizing potential health issues and a certificate is also issued at the end of the course.

In all cases, these certificates must be shown to be able to purchase supplies such as tools, lotions, etc. at stores that stock these items.

Personal service facilities should be inspected once a year on a routine basis, but due to limited resources that may not happen unless a complaint is received, when an inspection will be made. Unlike some other provinces, the Personal Services Regulations and accompanying Standards do have the force of law and any requirements laid out in the legislation is enforceable as they are part of the Public Health Act.

At the moment it appears that there is no check list for inspectors to follow such as there is for restaurants, hair salons and other such places. One Region in Ontario publishes on line the latest inspection reports of such facilities in their area so people can check them out before visiting there.

For further information the Alberta Health Services Salon and Spa Guide and Alberta Health Services Opening a Personal Services Business can be found on line.