

RESOLUTIONS FOR CONVENTION 2023

Attached you will find the resolutions for this year's Provincial Convention. We have three resolutions coming forward for discussion this year. The resolutions appear below.

Thank you to the branches who proposed these motions. And thank you, also, to those branches who seconded the motion. There is a lot of thought, research and discussion that goes into forming a resolution and kudos to those members and branches who took the necessary time and effort to present these for Convention.

Please take some time in your upcoming branch meetings to go over the resolutions and discuss them with your branch members. Your branch delegate will then be able to bring your branch's views forward to Convention where there will be further opportunity for discussion.

As you go through the resolutions and think about them, some other thoughts may come to you regarding resolutions for next year's Convention. Please take the time to note down those thoughts to work on for next year.

RESOLUTION 1

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Women's Institutes urge the Government of Canada to remove the "gold-digger clause," Section 31(1), from the Canadian Forces Superannuation Act to allow the spouse of a Canadian Armed Forces retiree marrying after 60 to be eligible for Survivor's benefits without reducing the amount of superannuation payment to the retiree.

Moved by: Darwell WI

Seconded by: Duffield WI

Background:

Canadian Forces Superannuation Act Section 31 (1) Marriage after sixty years of age

- 31(1) Subject to section 25.1 but notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the survivor of a contributor is not entitled to an annual allowance in respect of the contributor under this Part if at the time the contributor married the survivor or began to cohabit with the survivor in a relationship of a conjugal nature, the contributor had attained the age of sixty years unless, after that time, the contributor became or continued to be a contributor.

According to the Canadian Forces Superannuation Act a retired veteran who gets married after 60 must forego up to half their pension if they want to guarantee payments to their spouse once they have passed on. Veterans aged 59 or under do not. This legislation dates to 1901 and was inspired by the number of deathbed marriages following the American Civil War (1861-1865 and is very, very outdated.

According to the Legion Magazine (September/October 2022), a retired naval commander was asked to give up \$903.00 of the \$2,250 monthly pension to provide \$761 survivor pension to his wife. Surviving spouses also lose their medical and dental benefits.

In 2015 the Liberals made an election promise to remove this clause but have not. Several private members bills have been made with o success.

Information from:

Government of Canada, Justice Laws Website, Canadian Forces Superannuation Act

Legion Magazine, Editorial September/October 2022

Esprit de corps (Canadian Military Magazine) articles by Brian Forbes, Chair of the National Council of Veterans Associations May 20, 2022, and February 21, 2023.

RESOLUTION 2

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Women's Institutes petition the Alberta Government, and in particular, the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General, and Alberta Premier, to maintain support of the 62 Victim Support Units currently in the province, and any future local units.

Moved by: Ridgewood Women's Institute

Seconded by: District 3 Event

Background:

Former Minister Tyler Shandro put into motion a movement toward disbanding the local Victim Support Services Units and creating regional boards. These boards were to represent, East, West and Central areas of the province. The plan is to have 131 case workers to serve all future victims of violence across the province. Leduc is the likely town for the Innisfail area to be run from. The proposed start time was April 1, 2024.

Currently, units such as Innisfail, work in collaboration with the local RCMP detachment as well as many local social service agencies. Advocates receive close to 100 hours of training. In an interview, Innisfail's Executive Director said their office has 2 full time employees and 6 to 8 volunteer Advocates. In 2022 they handled more than 150 files, including domestic violence, sexual assault, mental health calls, sudden death, and next of kin notifications.

Victims are one of the most vulnerable parts of our population Right now they have contact with people whom they can call and know they will have immediate support. What will happen with this new model? Will they now get lost in the cracks? Will they no longer have a voice?

It is our understanding that an emergent resolution was to be brought forward by the Town of Canmore and the Town of Tofield to the Alberta Government asking that the government listen to our communities.

RESOLUTION 3

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Women's institutes urge the Alberta government to reinstate cursive writing into the Department of Education curriculum for grades 3-5.

Moved: Duffield WI

Seconded: Darwell WI

Background:

Kids today can Skype, build a blog and tag a friend, but how many of these modern young people can read and write cursively? The topic of the need for teaching cursive writing in school was brought to our attention when the high school graduate grandson of one of our members could not sign his name for his driver's license, nor could he read handwriting! Many hours of searching on many internet sites provided us with the supportive arguments for the need to have cursive writing taught in the elementary school curriculum. Not to require this might be viewed as education abuse. Our local school division has cursive writing taught at the will of the teacher and those students fortunate enough to have an older teacher who knows its value should consider themselves very fortunate.

Tony Schulken, a child occupational therapist dedicated to increasing writing literacy, said handwriting is 50% of literacy. Children are seeing less and less handwriting instruction. From Lifestyle 2018 – cursive writing builds important muscles in ages 7 and 8, research shows cursive writing increases brain function and is helpful for dyslexic students. It has been found that people with dyslexia benefit from cursive writing and printing skills. Reducing dyslexic tendencies can raise the level of confidence in the student.

Another study suggest cursive writing develops fine motor skills by using different hand muscles than printing which activates a different part of the brain, resulting in reinforcement of learning by giving a clearer understanding of how letters are formed. It may also improve printing skills.

From another study we found further reinforcement for our arguments supporting the teaching of cursive writing. It improves writing speed and conserves cognitive resources and helps improve memory and comprehension and stimulates the brain in ways using a keyboard can't. Thinking, memory and language parts of the brain are stimulated with the finger movement of writing. Children learning cursive writing score higher in spelling and reading because entire words are reinforced as they are written and can stimulate interest in other academic skills.

Working with legal documents usually requires a cursive signature and forging a printed signature is much easier than forging a cursive one. And younger generations could read what their grandparents wrote.