



## WI RESOLUTIONS: OUR VOICE FOR FUTURE CHANGE

Resolutions are an integral part of parliamentary procedure and one of our main methods of influencing change. Resolutions are simply formal motions which have been researched and include explanations for the need to change.

### **TO FORMULATE A RESOLUTION:**

There must be a definite need. The group must be sure that they know the topic and have done some research on the matter. It's embarrassing, for example, to request that a certain law be enacted only to find it is on the statute books now. Perhaps the first rule regarding resolutions is - "know the facts."

These are the main steps in writing a resolution:

**Step 1:** The reasons for the request are called the Preamble and usually begin with the word "Whereas."

**Step 2:** After the reasons are stated, the resolution (the substance or point of the request) is written in sentence form beginning with "Be it resolved."

**Step 3:** The resolution is signed by the President and Secretary of the branch proposing the resolution.

### **WHAT TYPE OF RESOLUTION IS IT?**

**LOCAL** - Resolutions may be prepared on matters of local concern. e.g. If the concern is one within the community, a resolution may be prepared and passed at a branch meeting. It does not go to District Convention or Provincial Convention.

**AREA** - For problems of wider concern, a branch may prepare and pass a resolution to be considered by a District Convention. The branch is responsible to present the reasons for the resolution to the District Convention by having a representative to speak to it when it is introduced by the Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee.

**PROVINCIAL** - Problems or issues of concern to the general population of the province may begin at a local branch. Following adoption at the branch, a resolution must go to the District Convention and proceed as an area issue. If passed by the District Convention, it is to be forwarded to the Chairperson of Resolutions for the Provincial Board (W.I. Office, 40 Enman Crescent, Charlottetown, C1E 1E6). The District is responsible to designate a speaker for the resolution when it is introduced at Provincial Convention.

**NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL** - The procedure is the same as for Provincial issues. The Provincial Board is responsible for forwarding resolutions to the appropriate National Chairperson.

### **EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS:**

An emergency resolution, formulated because of unusual necessity or urgency, may be presented to a District or Provincial Convention. An emergency resolution is not just a late arrival! It must deal with a problem which has developed since the deadline for receiving resolutions and must be researched, written, and signed in the proper manner.

# RESOLUTIONS AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL

*Resolutions at the District level may apply to the District, Provincial, or National levels*

- A local WI identifies a concern that they would like to see supported by other WIs in their District. After the Resolution is discussed and formalized at the local level, it is written out, signed by the President and the Secretary of the local branch, and forwarded to the Resolutions Chair of the District Convention. This needs to be done 5 (five) weeks before the Convention so that the Resolutions Chair has time to make sure everything is in order, and has time to get it copied and sent to all the WIs in the District for them to consider at their monthly meeting prior to the Convention.
- At the Convention, the Resolutions Chair reads the resolution, moves it, and a voting delegate at the Convention seconds it. The WI that brought forward the resolution then has someone speak to the resolution (it does not need to be the President or Secretary). If there is no one to speak to the resolution, it dies.
- After the resolution is read, moved, seconded, and spoken to, the floor is open for discussion. All present can take part in the discussion, but only voting delegates can vote when the vote is taken.
- If the resolution is passed at the District level, it is signed by the presiding President, the Secretary, the mover, and seconder, as well as the President and Secretary of the local WI, and dealt with according to the nature of the resolution. For instance, if it is a District concern regarding the local rink, it is forwarded to the appropriate person. If it is a concern for the province, it is forwarded to the Provincial Board. Resolutions are presented to the Provincial members every 2 years only.

**Whereas** soil erosion is currently an issue of concern to all Prince Edward Islanders and there is no present legislation or government policy addressing the erosion of soil from adjacent fields across roadway and highway shoulders and into roadway and highway ditches, and

**Whereas** the loss of soil reduces the fertility of aforementioned fields that lie adjacent to roadways and highways and the erosion of roadway shoulders into washed-out gullies can cause difficulty for pedestrians walking along said roadway shoulders and the run-off from said fields finds its way into streams, brooks, and rivers, thereby polluting our waterways and destroying trout and shellfish habitat.

**Therefore, be it resolved** that farmers, when cultivating fields adjacent to Island highways and roadways, be encouraged by all concerned to leave a buffer strip parallel to aforementioned highways and roadways.

**Be it further resolved** that the Board of Directors of the Federated Women's Institute of Prince Edward Island direct their Environment Convener to prepare an educational kit for the members and all other interested parties which address this particular aspect of the timely and important issue of soil erosion.

**Be it further resolved** that the Board of Directors of the Federated Women's Institute of Prince Edward Island be requested to make presentation to the appropriate levels of the Provincial Government.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Springtime WI

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Springtime WI

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_, Area # \_\_\_\_\_ District Convention

Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, Area # \_\_\_\_\_ District Convention

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Area # \_\_\_\_\_  
District Convention

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Area # \_\_\_\_\_  
District Convention

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, year \_\_\_\_\_.