

RESOLUTIONS FOR GENERAL MEETING

SEPT. 5th, 1973

(Burnard NDP)

Resolutions 1-16  
carried as amended

Submitted by Mental Patients Association :

1. The NDP <sup>gov't</sup> support the immediate establishment of neighbourhood crisis hostels to provide short-stay accommodations to persons undergoing intense emotional crisis.
2. The NDP support a program whereby patients being discharged from psychiatric facilities, and who are eligible for welfare, receive welfare checks at the hospital upon discharge. <sup>prev. gov't initiative</sup>
3. The NDP support the provision of free, six-month bus passes to all mental patients being discharged from psychiatric facilities and to all persons enrolled in out-patient psychiatric programs such as day hospitals and night hospital programs. <sup>prev. provide</sup>
4. The NDP support the establishment of child care programs for children of psychiatric patients; that such child care services be provided when requested as part of the psychiatric treatment program of the parent; and that such child care programs not threaten the parent with legal removal of the child from the guardianship of the parent. <sup>custody</sup>
5. The NDP oppose the wider powers given police by Order-in-Council to apprehend suspected mentally disordered persons on the basis of second-hand evidence relayed by a third party. <sup>prohibit</sup>
6. The NDP oppose the involuntary confinement of persons in psychiatric facilities except in cases where demonstrable physical dangerousness to self or others can be clearly established.
7. The NDP support the immediate and unconditional abolition of psychosurgery. <sup>by</sup>
8. The NDP support the principle that voluntary mental patients be accorded the full civil liberties of any citizens, including the right to refuse any and all psychiatric treatments. <sup>prohibit</sup>
9. The NDP amend the Human Rights Act such as to prevent discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, or on the grounds of psychiatric history.
10. The NDP support the principle that the community mental health teams now being established be legally operated under community and client control. <sup>ensure</sup>
11. The NDP support the principle that the basis for hiring personnel to the community mental health teams be ability and not exclusively professional credentials, i.e. that para-professionals be considered. <sup>ensure</sup>
12. The NDP support the principle that all Boards established to review the cases of mental patients be comprised not exclusively of professionals, but of a representative cross-section of citizens, including ex-mental patients. <sup>ensure</sup>
13. The NDP support the principle that, to as great a degree as possible, mental patients in all psychiatric programs participate in the decisions which affect the course of their treatment. <sup>ensure</sup>
14. The NDP establish job re-training programs for ex-mental patients.
15. The NDP support the principle that all work by patients in psychiatric programs be voluntary and that payment for such work be given according to existing wage scales. <sup>introduce legislation whereby</sup>
16. The NDP support the establishment of community residences in residential neighbourhoods for ex-mental patients and that legislation be changed such as to permit easy licensing procedures for these residences. <sup>change legislation to permit</sup>

Submitted to the Secretary

1. WHEREAS the B.C. Chiropractic Association renders a recognized and responsible primary health care service administering to over 120,000 people under medicare each year. WHEREAS the arbitrary limits of \$50.00 per person or \$100.00 per family Chiropractic care per year bears no relationship to the health needs of the patient. AND WHEREAS these restrictive limits impose a very real hardship on those British Columbians least able to pay for such services, such as pensioners, limited income persons and welfare recipients. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the restrictive limits on Chiropractic care be removed, and that British Columbians be entitled to such Chiropractic care as they require.

2. WHEREAS the Doctor of Chiropractic is qualified to utilize the results of many services presently provided in tax supported diagnostic facilities.  
 AND WHEREAS British Columbians who attend Chiropractors should be entitled to diagnostic services equally with those who attend other members of the healing arts.  
 AND WHEREAS citizens of Saskatchewan, who attend Chiropractors are entitled to the services provided by tax supported diagnostic facilities.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the services provided by tax supported diagnostic facilities be made available to British Columbians attending Doctors of Chiropractic.

Submitted by B. Mares.

- I. WHEREAS the policy of this party is to make government-funded community-controlled childcare available to all.  
 AND WHEREAS the present licensing act gives almost unlimited discretion to the licensing authorities under the authority of the Minister of Health.  
 AND WHEREAS parents trying to set up and operate centres are confronted by numerous unnecessary and in some cases absurd regulations, and by civil servants with wide discretionary powers in funding and especially in licensing.  
 AND WHEREAS it is reasonable to trust parents to bring up their children, and other legislation exists to protect children from parental neglect  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we instruct the Ministers of Human Resources and Health to bring down legislation which would ensure the right of parent-controlled childcare societies to licensing and adequate funding  
AND FURTHER we direct the Ministers of Human Resources and Health to abolish the discretionary powers of civil servants to deny licensing and funding; to abolish regulations except for:
1. city bylaws dealing with zoning, sanitation, soundness of buildings and fire safety, and
  2. standards to ensure that the centre is in fact parent-controlled (it should be specified that the majority but not necessarily all members of a society operating a childcare centre are to be parents of children at the centre); and to revise the present regulations in consultation with consumers of childcare and with childcare workers, and offer them as guidelines.

- II. WHEREAS we believe in community control  
 AND WHEREAS there is inadequate consultation of consumer groups in decision-making about childcare, especially licensing,  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we instruct the Minister of Human Resources and the Minister of Health to negotiate with organizations of consumers (e.g. boards of childcare societies) in all matters of policy, regulations, government personnel dealing with childcare, and the education of this personnel and of childcare workers.  
AND FURTHER that we ask the government to apply the same principles for other services offered by government.

- III. WHEREAS the Department of Human Resources has hired civil servants to help parents organize childcare centres  
 AND WHEREAS the Minister of Human Resources has refused at least one group's request for funds to hire its own organizer, and hired a civil servant instead  
 AND WHEREAS we believe in community control  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we instruct the Minister of Human Resources to provide funds for all parent-controlled childcare societies that wish to hire organizers on contract, responsible to them.  
AND FURTHER we declare it our policy that all community organizers should be responsible to the communities they are serving.

Submitted by Henry Arthur

- Education - Class sizes. WHEREAS there is clear evidence that the quality of education is improved when class sizes are reduced.  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government act to reduce class sizes in B.C. in accordance with the available evidence, and that it give priority in such reductions to primary and elementary school classes, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial government negotiate with the B.C. Teachers' Federation methods by which such reductions in class size can be contractually tied to improved teaching and learning performances.

Education - Institutional Democracy WHEREAS NDP policy has consistently supported the concept of shared management of educational institutions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government introduce legislation as soon as possible that would :

1. establish governing councils for each of the post-secondary institutions in the province, the councils to be made up of three equal sets of representatives democratically elected respectively by the students and the employees of the institution, and by the citizens of the geographical community that each institution serves, with the provision that the community representatives of provincial institutions like the universities and the B.C. Institute of Technology be appointed on some fair and equitable basis by the provincial government.
2. permit and encourage the formation of governing councils for each secondary school in the province, the councils to be made up of three equal sets of representatives democratically elected respectively by the students and the employees of the high school, and by the citizens of the local neighbourhood served by the school.
3. permit and encourage methods of governance that could be implemented in each elementary school in the province, the methods to be designed to give equal weight to the respective needs and wishes of the students of the school, the employees of the school, and the citizens of the neighbourhood served by the school, with the clear provision that extensive research and experimentation be done to discover and implement democratic methods of governance which most effectively represent the needs and wishes of elementary age students.

Education - and jobs WHEREAS school is an ineffective (and expensive) place to try to learn job skills, and WHEREAS very few jobs offer much in the way of educational and training opportunities related to the work being done

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government immediately organize and fund a commission or conference to study the relationship between job training and education, with the clear aim of making relevant job experience and on-the-job training more available to people who attend school (including post-secondary) and of making relevant educational and training programmes more available to people who work, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the government act as quickly as possible to implement the recommendations of such a commission or conference.

Education - teacher training WHEREAS teacher training in B.C. as in the rest of the world is generally conceded to be inadequate to meet the needs of people who sincerely want to become good teachers

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government set in motion a process to completely overhaul teacher training programmes offered in B.C. so that :

1. they emphasize on-the-job training, with student teachers actively participating in actual classroom teaching for relatively long periods of time, supported and guided by excellent practising teachers.
2. practising teachers have far more of a role than at present in the design and implementation of teacher training programmes.
3. there is more help and encouragement available to experienced teachers to improve their teaching methods, with teachers in general being given considerable responsibility for making such help and encouragement work effectively.
4. first and second year teachers be given appropriately lighter teaching loads than usual, and more access to useful, non-evaluative assistance if they want or need it.

Education - administrators WHEREAS a great deal of the power and authority in the educational system is held by department heads, principals, deans, and other administrators, and such power and authority is far too often used to discourage rather than to encourage effective educational change, and WHEREAS many educational administrators are appointed, usually by other administrators, for indefinite periods of time, sometimes at relatively inflated salaries

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government pass legislation so that the principle of electing persons on appropriate rotating basis to carry out administrative tasks be firmly established in the B.C. educational system, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such legislation ensure that the power and authority presently held by educational administrators be decentralized to elected school governing councils or to elected staff committees or their equivalents whenever that is possible.

Education - opening school records

BE IT RESOLVED that all school records relating to individual students be open to the parents of the students, or to the students themselves when they reach an appropriate age.

Education - no aid to independent schools WHEREAS official NDP party policy is not clear on the issue of aid to independent schools, and WHEREAS public money should be used only for public purposes, and WHEREAS independent schools often serve to drain off the energies of people interested in educational change, and to divert public attention and pressures away from the clear need to reform and revitalize the public school system, which serves the vast majority of children in the province

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NDP party policy be clearly stated as follows:

1. there be no government financial aid to independent schools
2. independent schools be given access to public school facilities on the same basis as other community groups.
3. independent school students be treated fairly and equitably in matters of course credit, transfer etc.
4. independent schools which are adequately meeting the educational needs of their students be allowed to operate without harassment from local or provincial school authorities.
5. the provincial government actively encourage with legal, moral, financial and other support the provision of genuine alternative learning arrangements within the public school system
6. the provincial government make arrangements so that independent schools that provide sound educational alternatives and that can be clearly defined as public can become part of the public school system.

Submitted by David Jaffe

Housing - WHEREAS there is so little housing for low-income people in B.C. and especially for senior citizens, and WHEREAS these people and others are now living in crowded and unsafe conditions, and WHEREAS all types of housing built by private developers, be it condominiums, co-ops, single - detached dwelling units, cannot be afforded by low-income people, and WHEREAS the British Columbia Housing Management Commission has built very little public housing and most of that of poor quality and little or none outside the city of Vancouver

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government set up immediately a B.C. Provincial Housing Corporation and that this corporation build all the public housing needed in this province, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that public housing be built not only on tracts of raw (unserviced) land but that the B.C. Provincial Housing Corporation be empowered to buy up lots inside municipalities when these lots come up for sale, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this public corporation be empowered to buy up rooming houses when these rooming houses come up for sale, in order to preserve neighbourhoods, improve the rooming houses, give tenants of the rooming houses security of tenure, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the cost of renting or leasing these publicly built or owned housing units be subsidized by the B.C. Housing Corporation to whatever extent is necessary in order to make them available to people with low incomes.

LATE RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY Marian Gilroy

WHEREAS public libraries are essential to provide the fundamental materials for people of all ages for education, information, and recreation, and WHEREAS some communities in British Columbia are without free public library service, and WHEREAS the best of our public libraries have inadequate funds to provide needed staff and books and other library materials

BE IT RESOLVED that the province of British Columbia increase its grants to public libraries so that they can meet adequate standards and so that provincial support will at least equal that provided for many years in Saskatchewan.