

# **PLENARY AGENDA**

18<sup>th</sup> Annual National General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students  
Wednesday, November 24, 1999 to Sunday, November 28, 1999

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## **Opening Plenary – 19:00, Wednesday, November 24**

### **1. Attendance Roll Call**

A roll call of the membership will be taken to determine that quorum – the minimum number of member locals required to conduct business – is present.

### **2. Welcoming Remarks and Guest Speaker**

National Chairperson Michael Conlon will provide welcoming remarks for the meeting. In addition, the Federation is pleased to welcome National Action Committee on the Status of Women President Joan Grant-Cummings as a guest speaker.

### **3. Ratification of Plenary Speaker**

The National Executive is recommending that Sylvia Sioufi be ratified as the Plenary Speaker. Sylvia has a long history of involvement with the Federation. She served as the Ontario Representative on the National Executive for the 1987-88 year. From fall 1989 to fall 1991 she worked as a Researcher in the National Office. Sylvia has chaired Federation national general meetings on five previous occasions.

### **4. Announcement of Proxies**

The Plenary Speaker will announce all proxies that conform to Bylaw II, 7. b. - Proxy Votes.

### **5. Adoption of Plenary Agenda**

The plenary will consider the plenary agenda prepared by the National Executive. Changes or additions to the agenda may be proposed at this time.

### **6. Adoption of National General Meeting Agenda**

The plenary will consider the general meeting agenda prepared by the National Executive. Changes or additions to the agenda may be proposed at this time.

### **7. Adoption of the May 1999 National General Meeting Minutes**

The plenary will consider the minutes of the May 1999 national general meeting.

### **8. Consideration of Membership Applications**

#### **a. Applications for Full Membership**

As per Bylaw I, 4 c. the plenary will consider at this time an application for full membership from Grenfell College Students' Union.

## **PAGE 2 — PLENARY AGENDA**

18<sup>th</sup> Annual National General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students  
Wednesday, November 24, 1999 to Sunday, November 28, 1999

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### **b. Applications for Prospective Membership**

As per Bylaw 1. 2 b.i. the plenary will consider at this time applications for prospective membership from:

- Queen's University Society of Graduate and Professional Students; and
- University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association.

## **9. Presentation by Staff Relations Officer**

Joey Hansen, Staff Relations Officer for the Federation, will make a brief presentation on the collective agreement between the Federation and its employees as it pertains to the rights and responsibilities of the employees at national general meetings.

## **10. Introduction of Harassment Advisor**

The Federation strives to create an environment at its national general meetings that is free of harassment. At each national general meeting the Federation employs a harassment advisor who is available on a 24 hour basis to assist delegates.

At this time, Harassment Advisor Tara Connolly will provide a brief orientation to the Federation's harassment policy which is contained in the policy manual.

## **11. Adoption of Standing Plenary Sub-Committee Agendas**

As per Standing Resolution 1.1, the following sub-committees of the plenary are automatically struck:

- Budget Committee;
- Campaigns and Government Relations Committee;
- National Education and Student Rights Committee; and
- Organisational and Membership Development Committee.

The plenary will consider the plenary sub-committee agendas prepared by the National Executive. Changes or additions to the agenda may be proposed at this time.

## **12. Preparation for Elections**

### **a. Introduction of Chief Returning Officer(s)**

In accordance with Bylaw 6.7, the National Executive has appointed Michael Gardiner, British Columbia Organiser, and Ashkon Hashemi, Ontario Component Researcher, as the Chief Returning Officers for the elections to be conducted at this meeting.

### **b. Overview of Election Schedule and Procedures**

The Chief Returning Officers will provide an overview of the election schedule and procedures at this time.

## **13. Consideration of Motions Served with Due Notice**

### **a. Motions Postponed or Referred by the Previous National General Meeting**

As per Standing Resolution 1.6, Distribution and Presentation of Outstanding Reports, the plenary will consider motions prior to the adjournment of the previous national general meeting.

**b. New Motions**

The plenary will consider motions having been served with due notice. The National Executive will make recommendations on the course of action to be taken with each motion that the plenary will consider.

**14. Presentation of the Report of the National Executive**

As per Bylaw V 2 f, the National Executive will present a report to the plenary detailing the work of the Federation undertaken since the previous national general meeting.

**15. National Executive Question and Answer Period**

The plenary will have the opportunity to ask the National Executive questions on the contents of its report and other activities undertaken since the previous general meeting.

**16. Other Business**

**17. Recess**

**Closing Plenary – 15:30, Saturday, November 27**

**1. Attendance Roll Call**

The Plenary Speaker will call the roll of the membership to determine that quorum is present.

**2. Business Tabled from Opening Plenary**

Business carried forward from opening plenary will be dealt with at this time.

**3. Presentation of the National Education & Student Rights Committee Report**

The National Education & Student Rights Committee will present its report for consideration by the plenary.

**4. Presentation of the Organisational Development Committee Report**

The Organisational Development Committee will present its report for consideration by the plenary.

**5. Presentation of the Campaigns & Government Relations Committee Report**

The Campaigns and Government Relations Committee will present its report for consideration by the plenary.

**6. Presentation of the Budget Committee Report**

The Budget Committee will present its report for consideration by the plenary.

**PAGE 4 — PLENARY AGENDA**

18<sup>th</sup> Annual National General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students  
Wednesday, November 24, 1999 to Sunday, November 28, 1999

---

**7. Presentation of the Electoral Committee Report**

The Electoral Committee will present its report for consideration by the plenary.

**8. Presentation of Reports by Caucuses and Constituency Groups**

**a. Caucuses**

**b. Constituency Groups**

**9. Other Business**

**10. Adjournment**



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
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07 October 1999

Michael Conlon  
National Chairperson  
Canadian Federation of Students  
500 - 170 Metcalfe Street  
Ottawa, ON  
K2P 1P3

Dear Michael Conlon:

I am pleased to inform you that the Queen's Society of Graduate and Professional Students' Council passed the following motion at their September 15, 1999 meeting:

Moved **Greene/Benjamin BIRT** the SGPS seek prospective membership with the National Graduate Council of the Canadian Federation of Students.

The Society of Graduate and Professional Students (SGPS) represents approximately 2400 graduate, law and theology students at Queen's University. It is my understanding that our application for prospective membership will be reviewed by the National Executive and put forward for ratification at the November general meeting in Hull, PQ.

The SGPS is locally and democratically controlled, is autonomous from other organizations, and represents students at only one post-secondary institution. I therefore trust that the SGPS meets the requirements for membership in the Canadian Federation of Students.

We look forward to attending the meeting and becoming active in the National Graduate Council of the Canadian Federation of Students.

In solidarity,

Michael Rusek  
President  
SGPS

MR/js



**Graduate Students' Association**

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Ed Janzen, President

Tami Kowal-Denisenko, Vice President

Douglas Lee, Vice President

Brandy Usick, Treasurer

Michael Conlon, National Chairperson  
Canadian Federation of Students  
Suite 500 Metcalfe Street  
Ottawa, ON K2P 1P3

Dear Mr. Conlon,

I am pleased to inform you that the following motion was carried by an overwhelming majority at the Council Meeting of Wednesday, September 29, 1999, of the University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association:

Be it resolved that the University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association apply for prospective membership in the Canadian Federation of Students, with all the rights, benefits and responsibilities appertaining thereto.

The University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association represents approximately 2,400 graduate students on the Fort Garry and Health Sciences campuses of the University of Manitoba. It is my understanding that our prospective membership application will be reviewed by the Executive and put forward for ratification at the November general meeting in Ottawa. The Association is locally and democratically controlled, represents students at only one post-secondary institution, is campus-wide and is the recognized graduate students' association on the campus. I therefore trust that the Association meets each of the requirements for membership in the Canadian Federation of Students.

We look forward to attending the meeting and becoming active in the Canadian Federation of Students.

In Solidarity,

Ed Janzen  
President





# Grenfell College Student Union

Sir Wilfred Grenfell College

Memorial University of Newfoundland

University Drive, Corner Brook  
Newfoundland A2H 6P9

OCT 20 1999

Student Union Office: (709) 637-6200 ext. 6230

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October 8, 1999

National Executive  
Canadian Federation of Students  
600-170 Metcalfe Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K2P 1P3

To whom it may concern:

Please accept this as our application for full membership in the Canadian Federation of Students. On September 29 & 30, 1999, students at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College voted overwhelmingly in favor of becoming full members. The result of the vote was 477 in favor, 19 opposed, and 1 spoiled ballot.

The Grenfell College Student Union is the association which represents the students at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College. We look forward to participating as full members of the Canadian Federation of Students and the applicable component according to the Bylaws of the Federations.

In solidarity,

*Nadia Pike*

Nadia Pike  
President  
Grenfell College Students Union





# **MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

## **18<sup>th</sup> Annual National General Meeting Canadian Federation of Students**

**Wednesday, November 24 to Sunday, November 28, 1999  
Hull, Quebec**



# Motions for Consideration

18<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students  
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This document contains motions which are submitted, with due notice, for consideration at this general meeting. The National Executive's recommendations for action will be presented during the opening plenary session.

## 1. MOTIONS SERVED AS NOTICE AT THE PREVIOUS NAT'L GENERAL MEETING

This section contains motions which were submitted at the previous national general meeting, for consideration at this general meeting.

### a. Proposal to Delete Policy under "Students with Disabilities"

#### 99/11:N01 MOTION TO AMEND POLICY

Local 33/Local 44

Be it resolved that the policy under the heading 'Students with Disabilities' in the Issues Policy Manual be deleted.

### b. Proposal to Support Autonomous Aboriginal Student Organisation

#### 99/05:011 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY

Local 34/Local 61

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

The Federation supports the establishment of an autonomous "national" aboriginal student organisation fully independent of the Federation.

## 2. MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBER LOCALS

This section contains motions which are submitted with due notice for consideration at this general meeting. Those motions which do not currently have seconders will require them during the opening plenary.

### a. Policy Proposal on Freedom to Choose Full or Part-Time Status

#### 99/11:N02 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY

Local 84/

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

##### Freedom to Choose Full or Part-Time Status

The Federation recognises that the elimination of post-residency fees and the creation of continuous enrolment schemes significantly increase the cost of obtaining post-secondary education.

The Federation condemns any post-secondary institutional policies which have the effect of lowering of taking away a student's freedom to choose full or part-time status.

### b. Proposal to Amend the Declaration of Students' Rights

#### 99/11:N03 MOTION TO AMEND POLICY

Local 44/

Be it resolved that the Declaration of Students' Rights be repealed and replaced with the following:

The following are declared as undeniable rights of all students globally:

##### The Right to an Education

The right to an accessible, high quality education that is free of all barriers.

The Right to Organise

## **PAGE 2 - MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

18<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students  
Wednesday, November 24 to Sunday, November 28, 1999

---

The right to incorporate unions free of the institution's administration including the right to have fees collected and remitted by the administration when properly authorised by the student organisation, the right to participate in political actions without fear of recrimination, and the rights to sufficient on-campus office space free of charge.

### **The Right to Employment**

All students have the right to employment at a fair and equitable wage including the right to equal pay for work of equal value, the right to education leave with job security, and the right to be paid for labour which is performed as part of their studies.

### **The Right to Justice in Educational Community**

All student have the right to participate as full voting members in all levels of all academic decision making bodies, to be informed of the evaluation procedures and criteria to redress all grievances, to copyright to all original work produced by the students, to participate in the formulation of objective course and instructor evaluations, to transfer credits of equal status from one post-secondary institution to another regardless of province or territory, and to a safe and healthy environment free of harassment.

### **The Rights of Cultural and Linguistic Minorities**

Cultural and linguistic minority student groups have the right to immersion programmes in their native languages and one of the official languages, to have their language(s) taught at post-secondary institutions, and to have programmes, clubs, and organisations specific to cultural and linguistic minorities.

### **The Right to Services**

All students are entitled to fundamental services including the right: to affordable housing; to free, accessible, quality child care facilities; to adequate health, dental, and counselling services; to control of their own body; to safe, reliable, birth control and family planning information; to free, accessible public transportation; and the right to take part in the development and management of student services.

## **c. Policy Proposal on Governance of Post-Secondary Institutions**

### **99/11:N04 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Local 91/

Whereas the Federation currently has policy calling for the democratisation of the governing structure of post-secondary education institutions;

Whereas most student do not know that the governance structures of their institutions are and have no idea what democratising them would mean; and

Whereas public outreach on this issue will be facilitated by a policy that is easy to understand and make intuitive sense; therefore

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

#### **Governance of Post-Secondary Institutions**

Representatives in the governing structures of post-secondary institutions should be elected by the students and workers in their respective communities in the following ratios: 1/3 students, 1/3 professors and 1/3 support staff.

## **d. Proposal to Eliminate the Use of "National"**

### **99/11:N05 MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS, STANDING RESOLUTIONS AND POLICY**

Local 91/

Whereas the Canadian state rules over many nations including but not limited to several First Nations, the nation of Québec and a primarily English-speaking Canadian nation; and

Whereas the Federation's use of the term "national" to describe its executive, its committees, its staff et cetera, implies the existence of only one single and indivisible national unit called "Canada"; therefore

Be it resolved that with the exception of Standing Resolutions #17 and #18 which must be discussed by the National Aboriginal Caucus and the National Graduate Council, the term

"national" be replaced in all bylaws, standing resolution, issues policy and operational policy with the term "federal"; and

Be it further resolved that the extensive consultation procedure required as per Bylaw XV be undertaken at the provincial and federal levels with the aim of amending the preamble of the policy manual so that its terminology will be consistent with that of its Bylaws, Standing resolutions, Issues policy and Operational policy.

**e. Proposal to Amend Federation Membership Fees**

**99/11:N06      MOTION TO AMEND BYLAWS**

Local 91/

Whereas high school and Collèges d'enseignement générale et professionnel students have much less disposable income than college and university students;

Whereas high school and Collèges d'enseignement générale et professionnel students are not disposed to spend as much on membership dues as college and university students because there are very few user fees associated with studying at these institutions (which makes Federation membership fees appear more burdensome);

Whereas high school and Collèges d'enseignement générale et professionnel students are less likely to benefit from International Student Identity Card discounts because they travel less than college and university students;

Whereas the current fee structure in Bylaw I constitutes a barrier to bringing high school and Collèges d'enseignement générale et professionnel students into the Federation as full members; therefore

Be it resolved that Bylaw I, Section 2 a iii, be amended to read as follows:

Notwithstanding Section 2.a.iv of Bylaw I, the fees for full member local associations shall be:

- a. \$3.00 per semester, or \$6.00 per academic year, per local college and university association individual member of the Canadian Federation of Students/Canadian Federation of Students-Services, pro-rated as per the policy of the member locals association;
- b. \$1.50 per semester, or \$3.00 per academic year, per local Collèges d'enseignement générale et professionnel and high school association individual member of the Canadian Federation of Students/Canadian Federation of Students-Services, pro-rated as per the policy of the member local association; and all full member must also pay the applicable provincial component fee.

**f. Proposal to Allocate Additional Resources to Strike 2000**

**99/11:N07      MOTION**

Local 91/

Whereas the amount of money currently being spent on what ought to be one of the largest student actions in Canadian history is pitiful and embarrassing; therefore

Be it resolved that \$30,000 in new funding be devoted to the production of campaign materials;

Be it further resolved that \$12,000 be spent on the hiring of two campaign workers on a temporary basis to mobilise for Strike 2000 in the months ahead; therefore

Be it further resolved that \$20,000 be distributed to provincial and local strike funds and legal defense funds; and

Be it further resolved that \$20,000 be put into a transportation fund that can be drawn upon by member locals to rent vans and buses to get protestors and placards together for the first day of the strike.

## **PAGE 4 - MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

18<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students  
Wednesday, November 24 to Sunday, November 28, 1999

---

### **g. Proposal to Contribute Resources to Access 2000 Organising**

#### **99/11:N08 MOTION**

Local 91/

Whereas all campaigns on education and education policy have an extremely significant provincial component because provincial governments have primary responsibility for education spending and education policy;

Whereas provincial concerns cannot all be addressed in campaign materials done at the national level; and

Whereas many of the smaller provincial components of the Federation lack the resources needed to provide the provincial-specific campaign materials that are required; therefore

Be it resolved that all of the budget line items for the production and distribution of campaign materials be divided into two equal parts. One half of the money will be for the production and distribution of national campaign materials. The other half of the money will be remitted to the provincial components for the production and distribution of province-specific campaign materials. Money remitted to the provincial components will be divided between the provincial components on the basis of the number of full members in each province.

### **h. Proposal to Censure Members of the National Executive**

#### **99/11:N09 MOTION**

Local 91/

Whereas the November 1998 national general meeting directed the National Executive to implement a campaign to mobilise students for a Canada-wide strike in February 2000;

Whereas student strikes (such as the Mexican student strike that after 5 months is still ongoing at the time this motion is being drafted) are a way for students to organise and manage their own campuses, education and daily activity in a democratic and grassroots manner that contrasts directly with the normal undemocratic organisation of our educational institutions, economy, and society in general;

Whereas this push to encourage local grassroots actions coordinated at the Canada-wide level constitutes an attempt to bear the power of wide-spread self-organised resistance to reductions in accessibility of education;

Whereas this kind of self-organised resistance is the only thing that makes the lobbying efforts of our federal and provincial representatives anything more than mere public posturing;

Whereas the National Executive has largely focussed its efforts on an Access 2000 campaign in lieu of a Strike 2000 campaign;

Whereas the Access 2000 campaign has focused largely on the production of materials that publicise the Federation's lobbying proposals without offering any information, suggestions (i.e. forming a strike committee or organising strike votes on your campus) or concrete support of local efforts to organise for such laudable goals; therefore

Be it resolved that the National Executive be formally censured by the general assembly for its failure to move forward in mobilising for Strike 2000; and

Be it further resolved that the Strike 2000 campaign be fundamentally re-oriented to encourage local organising and mobilising efforts that build in a concrete way for a Canada-wide student strike in February 2000. These efforts should include but not be limited to the immediate mass production and distribution of posters, leaflets, buttons, stickers, and other campaign materials that prominently feature the fact that the Federation is mobilising for a strike in February 2000. These materials should be distributed to Federation locals and other interested parties by no later than December 20<sup>th</sup>, 1999. There must be a minimum of two full time campaign workers occupied exclusively with mobilising for Strike 2000 in the months ahead.



### **3. MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY PROVINCIAL COMPONENTS**

This section contains motions which are submitted, with due notice, for consideration at this general meeting by the Ontario Component. They will require a mover and seconder in the opening plenary.

#### **a. Policy Proposal on Aboriginal Student Issues**

##### **99/11:N10 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

###### **Aboriginal Student Issues**

The Federation denounces the federal funding policy entitled the Post-Secondary Student Support Programme. The Federation views this document as a governmental social policy that is sexist, racist, inaccessible and exclusionary.

The Federation supports the creation and maintenance of Aboriginal resource centres and Aboriginal student services, that are by, and for, Aboriginal people.

#### **b. Policy Proposal on Civil Liberties and Human Rights**

##### **99/11:N11 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

###### **Civil Liberties and Human Rights**

The Federation supports Amnesty International and other campaigns and organisations whose mandate is to fight for the release of political prisoners.

#### **c. Policy Proposal on College Issues**

##### **99/11:N12 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

###### **College Issues**

The Federation recognises the value of private sector training as a complement to post-secondary education, however strongly opposes it as a replacement for training in colleges.

#### **d. Policy Proposal on Democracy in Post-Secondary Education**

##### **99/11:N13 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

###### **Democracy in Post-Secondary Education**

The Federation supports member associations working towards assuming complete control of the electoral process that elects students to committees at all levels in post-secondary institutions.

#### **e. Proposal to Adopt Economic Policy**

##### **99/11:N14 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

###### **Economic Policy**

The Federation opposes military funding for research that has military use as its only practical purpose.

#### **f. Policy Proposal on Francophone Issues**

##### **99/11:N15 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

###### **Francophone Issues**

The Federation supports the establishment of infrastructures which foster quality education in Francophone colleges.

## **PAGE 6 - MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

18<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students  
Wednesday, November 24 to Sunday, November 28, 1999

---

### **g. Policy Proposal on Housing**

#### **99/11:N16 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

##### **Housing**

The Federation strongly opposes discriminatory zoning by-laws which limit student access to housing and municipal lodging by-laws whose measures do not clearly reflect the reality of student housing preconditions.

### **h. Policy Proposal on International Issues**

#### **99/11:N17 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

##### **International Issues**

- i. The Federation condemns all forms of apartheid, and supports all students in their struggle for democracy and a free and just society;
- ii. The Federation condemns any actions of torture afflicted upon students and any attempt to infringe their human rights in China and elsewhere;
- iii. The Federation condemns the illegal military government in Burma and enjoins all parties to discontinue any association with that government;
- iv. The Federation recognises that rights of self-governance for the people of East Timor and strongly condemns the continuing repression of student and other East Timorese by the Indonesian government.

### **i. Policy Proposal on International Students' Issues**

#### **99/11:N18 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

##### **International Students' Issues**

The Federation supports the right of international students to be employed in post-secondary institutions, including student government organisations and that this right be upheld.

### **j. Policy Proposal on Labour and Working Conditions**

#### **99/11:N19 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

##### **Labour and Working Conditions**

The Federation supports policies, procedures and implementation strategies that promote equal pay for work of equal value.

The Federation supports the concept of paid educational leave as outlined in the relevant Canadian Labour Congress policy.

### **k. Policy Proposal on Transgendered, Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Issues**

#### **99/11:N20 MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

##### **Transgendered, Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Issues**

The Federation reaffirms support for the inclusion of same-sex couples within the legal definition of "family" and calls for the extension of all benefits including the right to adopt to same sex couples. The Federation supports the right of same sex couples to adopt their partner's children. The Federation believes that both parents should have equal rights, obligations and responsibilities to their children.

**l. Policy Proposal on Media**

**99/11:N21      MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

**Media**

The Federation supports the autonomy of campus radio stations from administrative and student union control in so far as they comply with the national community radio associations and the Canadian Radio and Television-Telecommunications Commission guidelines.

**m. Policy Proposal on Part-Time and Mature Students**

**99/11:N22      MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

**Part-Time and Mature Students**

The Federation shall work to advance the right of universal accessibility to teaching materials and faculty for distance education students.

**n. Policy Proposal on Services**

**99/11:N23      MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

**Services**

The Federation supports the establishments of accessible and affordable municipal and inter-municipal transportation services.

**o. Policy Proposal on Women's Issues**

**99/11:N24      MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY**

Be it resolved that the following policy be adopted:

**Women's Issues**

The Federation call for an end to the vocational streaming of students, according to gender, at high school and post-secondary education levels.

The Federation supports, in principle that, as a condition of their broadcast licenses, both corporate and community radio stations and broadcast networks must comply with the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) Task Force on Sex Stereotyping recommendations and guidelines.

The Federation supports the maintenance and establishment of Women's, Gender and Queer Studies programmes and courses on university and college campuses.

