

What Happens to your Resolutions?

The Provincial or National Resolution Chair forms a committee to review all resolutions to determine whether they are within the BPW mandate, whether they are within the correct jurisdiction, (i.e. provincial issues coming to the provincial organization to deal with), whether a sufficient background page has been submitted, etc. All resolutions accepted by the committee are then packaged and circulated to all clubs prior to the Provincial Conference/National Convention.

The Local Club....

The Club Resolution Chair co-ordinates a meeting for members to review this package of resolutions. Club members discuss, debate and pass or defeat the resolutions. This gives direction to their delegates on how they wish their views to be represented at conference or convention/AGM. Sometimes the resolution is not clear enough for members to make a decision, so delegates are given discretion to use their own judgment on how to vote at conference or convention/AGM, based on new information that may be made available during the debate. The resolutions may be amended at conference or convention/AGM, or emergency resolutions may be presented to the Delegates which will not be seen by the club membership. Once again, the delegates will be required to use their own judgment on how to best represent their club during the vote.

At Conference/Convention...

Often a resolution workshop is held at conference or convention/AGM before the commencement of the business sessions. This is where "wordsmithing" is done and friendly amendments/changes are made for clarity purposes only. This working session is not the arena for debate of the resolution.

All resolutions are debated and voted upon at the conference or convention/AGM unless they are formally withdrawn or tabled for latter consideration according to our rules of parliamentary procedure.

The Brief & Consultation...

Those resolutions that are carried/passed are compiled into a written brief and presented in whole or in part to the governments of the day (provincial and national). The "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED" sections of all resolutions carried/passed are compiled into the brief. Relevant and supporting background information and/or "WHEREAS" statements are summarized by the Resolution Chair/Committee in paragraph form to provide the rationale for BPW's position on the issue.

We can be proud that the Provincial and Federal governments frequently request consultation with BPW on issues contained within our Briefs/Index of Resolutions and Policy Manual. It is through this process that BPW members have greater influence into the decision-making processes that shape our daily lives.

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Resolutions: The Solution "Giving Women the Power of Voice"



5 - Single Point Lesson

The Solution: Therefore Be It Resolved Statements

Therefore Be It Resolved statements clearly state what it is that you are proposing as the solution to the problem described in your Whereas Statements. The Therefore Be It Resolved statements also indicate the jurisdiction of the BPW body (Provincial/National) to which your resolution is being presented and clearly suggests the specific action required by the appropriate corresponding (Provincial/National) level of government .

How do I determine the correct level of government ?

Jurisdiction Activity:

In each of the spaces provided below indicate which level of government you think the topics listed on the right are most directly aligned.

- Education – Tuition Assistance _____
- Equal Pay For Work of Equal Value _____
- Health & Safety _____
- Pension Plans _____
- Participation of Women in the Peace Process _____

Jurisdiction Activity Feedback:

Education – Tuition Assistance – Usually a provincial issue. You would ask the BPW Clubs of your province to urge the government of your province to...

Equal Pay For Work of Equal Value (or Pay Equity) – Could be provincial or national, but most likely provincial. Most workplaces are governed by provincial workplace legislation. However, some companies are federally-regulated, such as the banks, telecommunications industry, etc. There is Pay Equity legislation at the federal level covering federally-regulated employers and the government's own work force. You would need to determine whether your resolution is dealing with a specific piece of legislation (either provincial or federal). However, if what you are requesting could be applicable to both, then you would prepare two separate resolutions – one to your provincial organization and one to your national organization, with appropriate modifications to the background page and resolution wording to better suit each jurisdiction.

Health & Safety - Probably provincial, but could be both or either. (as described above)

"Through our collective energy, well researched, written and presented resolutions can bring us closer to equality for all women"

Jurisdiction Activity continued...

Pension Plans – The Canada Pension Plan is federal, but most provinces also have pension legislation and a governing body – e.g. the Pension Commission of Ontario. Your background information and “WHEREAS” statements of the current situation will help you determine which government has the jurisdiction to take action.

Participation of Women in the Peace Process – Most likely an international issue. Your resolution would be directed to your national BPW organization – asking BPW Canada to urge a particular government or possibly BPW International to do something. Once approved by delegates at the national convention, this resolution would then be forwarded by the national organization (not the club) to BPW International for discussion and debate at the next BPW International Congress.

NOTE: Suggest you review the government websites to help determine whether the issue is within a provincial or national jurisdiction and to obtain the correct ministry titles as there are frequent cabinet shuffles that result in ministry jurisdiction changes and even ministry name changes. (i.e. Ministry of Health, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care...)

Tips on Writing: Therefore It Be Resolved Statements

- Must state the level of BPW and governmental jurisdiction i.e. (*Therefore Be It Resolved the BPW Canada urges the government of Canada to...*).
- Specify **who** exactly is being asked to take **what** action.
- Must be specific as to what action you want taken, and by when, don't assume that they will know what to do and will act in a timely manner.
- Must be written as stand-a-lone statements, only the Therefore Be It Resolves statements are recorded in BPW's Index of Resolution/Policy Manual
- Once approved the Therefore Be It Resolved statements become the official BPW policy and the wording cannot be changed.

Note: Sometimes an additional AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED statement is needed e.g. if a THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED statement urges the Government to establish a compulsory training course a FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED could spell out exactly what kind of training is needed.

Exercise: Writing Therefore It Be Resolved Statements

Using the background information provided in the #3 Single Point Lesson on “**Investing in Ontario Nurses**” and the example Whereas Statements noted in the SPL # 4, in the space provided below write what action your might recommended keeping in mind the appropriate jurisdiction in a Therefore Be it Resolved format?

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: _____

Example Therefore It Be Resolved Statements - 2003 Resolution *Investing in Ontario's Nurses*

BPW Bracebridge proposed the following remedy in their 2003 provincial resolution on “Investing in Ontario's Nurses”. Note: Although the Romanow report referred to (“Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada – final report 2002”) is a federal document and because health care is primarily under provincial jurisdiction the slightly modified remedy (for the purpose of this learning module) is directed to both the Provincial BPW organization and the National BPW organization

“THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BPW Ontario urges the Government of Ontario, and specifically the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, to invest in Ontario's nurses by placing priority on the areas outlined in the following recommendations from the Romanow report (*Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada - final report 2002*) that address the supply, quality of working life and scope of practice for nurses:

Recommendation # 15

A portion of the proposed Rural and Remote Access Fund, the Diagnostic Services Fund, the Primary Health Care Transfer and the Home Care Transfer should be used to improve the supply and distribution of health care providers, encourage changes to their scopes and patterns of practice, and ensure that the best use is made of the mix of skills of different health care providers. “

A similar resolution, using the same report, background, etc. could also be directed to the BPW national organization and the Government of Canada, proposing these remedies:

“THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BPW Canada urges the Government of Canada, and specifically the Ministry of Health, to invest in Canada's nurses by placing priority on the specific areas outlined in the following recommendations from the Romanow report (*Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada - final report 2002*) that address the supply, quality of working life and scope of practice for nurses:

Recommendation # 16

The Health Council of Canada should systematically collect, analyze and regularly report on relevant and necessary information about the Canadian health workforce, including critical issues related to recruitment, distribution and remuneration of health care providers.

Recommendation # 17

The Health Council of Canada should review existing education and training programs and provide recommendations to the provinces and territories on more integrated education programs for preparing health care providers, particularly for primary health care settings.”