

CANADIAN HOME AND SCHOOL FEDERATION
STATEMENT OF POLICY
Revised 2010

I. INTRODUCTION

Statement of Policy of the Canadian Home and School Federation

The basic statement of policy was adopted at the 1963 Annual Meeting. Additions and amendments to this statement are indicated.

The Policies of the Canadian Home and School Federation have been formed in harmony with the Federation's objectives, and are based on resolutions adopted at Annual General Meetings.

The prime concern of the Canadian Home and School Federation is the development of literate, emotionally mature, socially responsible, and economically efficient citizens through education in the home, the public school system and the community, at all levels.

Canadian Home and School Federation policy in areas of special interest is listed in the following pages. (Revised 2010)

II. CITIZENSHIP

The Federation endorses:

- 2.1.1 Convenient access to all public buildings for persons with physical challenges. (1969, 1998, 2004, Revised 2009)
- 2.1.2 Entrenchment of the right to use both official languages throughout Canada as guaranteed in the Constitution. (1991, 2004, Revised 2009)

III. EDUCATION

3.1 TEACHING

The Federation endorses:

- 3.1.1 (a) That personal and character qualities of teachers are of vital importance along with academic qualifications. (1969, 2004, Reaffirmed 2009)

- (b) That teachers' salaries are adequate to attract, train, support and retain competent, qualified teachers. (2004, Revised 2009)
 - (c) That adequate scholarships, bursaries and loans be available so that any teacher candidate meeting the admission requirements is assured acceptance, and the opportunity to complete his/her training. (2004, Revised 2009)
 - (d) That teachers be represented on those boards that determine teacher qualification and certification. (2004, Revised 2009)
- 3.1.2
- (a) That the requirement for qualification for a teachers certificate reflect an increased minimum standard of course work in understanding the learning disabilities of children. (1974, 1998, 2005, Reaffirmed 2009)
 - (b) All practicing teachers are provided with the necessary education to recognize learning disabilities in order to better assist and manage their students. (1974, 1998, 2005, Reaffirmed 2009)
 - (c) That all teacher assistants must have education and training in the learning needs of the individual student(s) they are currently assigned. (1974, 1998, 2005, Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.1.3 The use of reasonable physical force to; restrain and/or protect a child from doing harm to self; restrain and/or protect a child from doing harm to or being harmed by another student; restrain a child from doing harm to a teacher, any staff member, volunteer, or others in the school. (1994, 2001, 2005, Revised 2009)

3.2 SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Federation endorses:

- 3.2.1 The Federation promotes equality of educational opportunity so that every child may develop to his or her full potential. (Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.2.2 Encouragement of the use of distinctly Canadian resources. (1981, 2004, Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.2.3 Promotion of the teaching of French or English as a second language beginning in the primary grades. (2004, Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.2.4 Establishment of a library in every public (elementary and secondary) school, staffed with teacher-librarian(s) based on standards for school libraries as established by the Canadian School Library Association/Association for Teacher-Librarianship in Canada, stocked with sufficient curriculum and non-curriculum based print and non-print resources acquired through standards for student funding, and open for student use during the entire school day. (2006, Reaffirmed 2009)

- 3.2.5 Provision of Vocational Guidance and Counseling Services by trained and skilled personnel. (2004, Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.2.6 Continuation of technical and vocational courses into the high school curriculum. (2004, Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.2.7 Courses in environmental education, human ecology and conservation within the curriculum, and incorporation of environmental concepts throughout the curricula. (1972, 2004, Revised 2009)
- 3.2.8 Adult volunteering in the school is to be carried out in consultation with school administrator's and/or staff and in keeping with current provincial education acts. (2004, Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.2.9 Teaching of peace education as a priority within designated courses in the curriculum. (1974, 1990, 2002, 2004, Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.2.10 (a) Career Guidance in elementary and secondary schools to prepare all students for any occupational fields, according to their individual interests and aptitudes. (2004, Revised 2009)
(b) Textbooks portraying women as well as men in diversified roles and occupations. (1976, 2005, Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.2.11 The encouragement of technology in education in conjunction with a comprehensive training program for teachers in its use as a classroom aid. (1976, 2004, Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.2.12 The encouragement and support of formal values clarification programs in all Canadian schools, in consultation with parents, and as teachers become available who are qualified in Values Clarification techniques. (1976, Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.2.13 Development and implementation of policies promoting healthy nutrition. (1977, 1990, 2005, Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.2.14 Development of K-12 nutrition programs as part of the health curriculum by Departments/Ministries of Education. (2005, Revised 2009)
- 3.2.15 Promotion of Canadian tours first for students as an alternative to overseas tours and tours of foreign countries. (1978, 2002, Revised 2009)
- 3.2.16 Availability of Federal grants to provinces and school boards for the implementation of programs of daily physical education and the development of a range of physical activities with/for the school. (1978, 2005, Revised 2009)

- 3.2.17 Enrichment programs for gifted and talented students. (1982, 2005, Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.2.18 Support of family life education. (1987, Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.2.19 Mandatory health and physical education courses which, include components on human sexuality from the primary level to the final year of secondary, and including a component dealing with child abuse (including sexual abuse) in the health curriculum at the elementary level, and date rape at the secondary level. (1990, 2005, Revised 2009)
- 3.2.20 Provision of emergency and long-term aid to undernourished students. (1991, 2005, Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.2.21 School-based strategies to prevent and deal with student aggressive behavior. (1992, 2005, Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.2.22 School-based child-abuse prevention programs to be evaluated as to their delivery, content and degree of parent involvement. (1993. 2005, Revised 2009)
- 3.2.23 Critical thinking skills and media literacy skills within the curriculum for all grades. (1993, 2005, Revised 2009)
- 3.2.24 Opposing views and perspectives will be provided to students when controversial issues are introduced in the classrooms. Parents will be consulted prior to implementation. (1993, 2006, Revised 2009)
- 3.2.25 The teaching of Science from an early elementary level. (1994, 2006, Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.2.26 Secondary school graduation certificates for completion of the required number of credits within the students chosen program of study. (1994, Revised 2009)
- 3.2.27 Technical/vocational programs to be made available to all students, which include the acquisition of quality literacy and numeracy skills. (1994, 2006, Revised 2009)
- 3.2.28 The continued role of music and fine arts education as a fundamental part of public schooling and as a right for every child. (1996, 2006, Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.2.29 A minimum national standard for education. (2001, 2005, Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.2.30 The establishment of a Federal department to implement and oversee a national standard for education. (2001, 2005, Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.2.31 The implementation and support of a bullying prevention program for all school age children by all Provincial and Territorial Departments/Ministries of

Education. (2002, 2006, Revised 2009)

3.3 ORGANIZATION

The Federation endorses:

- 3.3.1 Standardized university entrance requirements throughout Canada. (2006, Revised 2009)
- 3.3.2 Availability of Education in both the English and French languages, where numbers permit, so parents may choose the language of instruction for their children. (1969, 1974, 1998, 2006, Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.3.3 The confidentiality of scholars' records within the schools and Departments of Education; these to be made available to parents on request and given out only with the express permission of the parents, guardian or adult student. (1975, 2006, Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.3.4 Definition of nation-wide goals for Canadian public education by the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada. (1977, 2006, Revised 2009)
- 3.3.5 The right of the disabled to equal access to educational opportunities. (1982, 2006, Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.3.6 The availability of Canadian university and college facilities and programs for deaf Canadian students interested in participating in post-secondary education. (1984, 2006, Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.3.7 The administration of compulsory exams at the high school level to allow special accommodation for students with learning disabilities. (1992, 2006, Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.3.8 Restrictions to and monitoring of corporate activities and advertising in schools. (1993, 2006, Revised 2009)
- 3.3.9 The maintenance, retention and development of schools in rural areas. (1999, 2006, Revised 2009)

3.4 FUNDING

The Federation endorses:

- 3.4.1 Federal aid to education through grants, scholarship loans and bursaries, and funds for educational research. (2006, Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.4.2 Exemption from income tax on his or her own earnings for students in full-

time attendance at a school or university. (2006, Reaffirmed 2009)

- 3.4.3 Exemption from the taxable income of parents or guardian of fees paid for tuition at an institution of learning beyond secondary school on behalf of dependant children. (1966, 1971, 2006, Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.4.4 Increased grants by the Federal Government for French-language instruction in elementary grades. (1998, Archive 2009)
- 3.4.5 Availability of Federal grants for French, English and locally approved minority languages approved as a second language, which extends The Federation's previous policy of support for the availability of minority language education. (1974, 1975, 2006, Revised 2009)
- 3.4.6 Increased Federal funding to the provinces for education. (1974, 2006, Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.4.7 Continued Federal Government funding to enable the continuation of French and English immersion programs. (1977, Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.4.8 Federal Government funding of the teaching of an Official Language to immigrant children. (1977, Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.4.9 Accountability of provinces for Federal grants in support of Minority and Second Language education as a condition of funding. (1981,1998, 2006, Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.4.10 Exemption of Canadian published newspapers, magazines, books and other forms of printed literature from the Goods and Services Tax. (1991,1999, 2006, Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.4.11 The cost of screening school volunteers and employees who have direct contact with children to be, free or to be covered by the provincial or territorial governments. (2002, 2006, Reaffirmed 2009)

3.5 RESEARCH

The Federation endorses:

- 3.5.1 Greatly increased emphasis on research in education at all levels. (2006, Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.5.2 Research into teaching and learning styles, taking into consideration both cognitive and effective learning. (1977, 2006, Reaffirmed 2009)
- 3.5.3 The further use of School Achievement Indicators Programs. (1995, 2006, Reaffirmed

2009)

3.6 FIRST NATION EDUCATION

The Federation endorses:

- 3.6.1 Opportunities for First Nation People in academic, trade and professional training equitable to that of other children and adults in Canada. (2007, Revised 2009)
- 3.6.2 Special training in the history, culture and issues of First Nation people for teachers. (2007, Revised 2009)
- 3.6.3 That in dealing with First Nation people, the Government of Canada shall adhere to the principles of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to this end, it shall evaluate all Acts and Regulations pertaining directly to the First Nation's people, making such revisions as are necessary in order to bring these Acts and Regulations into harmony with the Universal Declaration. (1998, 2007, Revised 2009)
- 3.6.4 Development of curricula and resource materials in consultation with First Nation people reflecting First Nation heritage, and inclusion of the study of First Nation as a mandatory component of the curricula in schools. (1992, 2007, Revised 2009)
- 3.6.5 Recruitment and training of teachers and counselors of First Nation descent and provision of training in First Nation languages to help implement First Nation second language courses. (1992, 2007, Revised 2009)
- 3.6.6 Ensuring assessment and placement practices sensitive to language, culture and values unique to First Nation students. (1992, 2007, Revised 2009)
- 3.6.7 Promotion of First Nation languages as second language programs. (1992, Revised 2009)

IV HEALTH

The Federation endorses:

- 4.1.1 Basic Cardiac Life Support training for school personnel. (1982, 2007, Revised 2010)
- 4.1.2 Promotion of healthy eating habits and regular physical activities for children and their families. (1983, 2007, 2009)
- 4.1.3 The development and/or dissemination of an educational program on the treatment and prevention of Pediculosis (head lice). (1998, 2007, 2009)

- 4.1.4 Publicly funded voluntary immunization for Meningococcal Disease for all infants over two months, children, adolescents and young adults up to age twenty-four. (2002, 2007, 2009)
- 4.1.5 That energy drinks should not be available for purchase by persons under the legal age of majority. (New 2010)

4.2 SAFETY

The Federation endorses:

- 4.2.1 Legislation for the prevention of the sale of realistic toy firearms in Canada (? , 2008, 2010)
- 4.2.2 Legislation for rigid gun control of the sale, purchase, transfer and possession of air rifles and air pistols. (1965, 2008, 2010)
- 4.2.3 Banning the manufacture, importation, and sale of highly flammable materials. (1971, 1999, 2007, 2010 Archived)
- 4.2.4 Enforcement of the National Building Code as it relates to standards for persons with disabilities. (1972, Revised 2008, 2010)
- 4.2.5 Banning the import of articles made from acrylic fur and other highly flammable materials. (1972, 1999, 2007, 2009)
- 4.2.6 Elimination of sharp edges on single serving food cans. (1974, 2007, 2008, 2010)
- 4.2.7 Mandatory use of bicycle helmets for all cyclists regardless of age, and passengers transported in bicycle-mounted child carriers. (1991, 1994, 2007, 2009)
- 4.2.8 Legislation re: Canada Safety Standards for the manufacture and sale of all bicycle helmets so they meet current CSA standards. (1991, 2007, Revised 2009)
- 4.2.9 Enforcement of gun control legislation for the protection of children, families and communities from a preventable societal risk to their health and safety. (1991, 2007, 2009)
- 4.2.10 Guidelines regulating the minimum distance between fire hydrants and the placement of school playground equipment. (1998, 2007, Revised 2010)
- 4.2.11 The continued dissemination on information regarding the harmful effects of toxic moulds in all enclosed spaces. (1998, 2007, Revised 2010)

- 4.2.12 The requirement that Workplace Safety Training and Workplace Legal Rights training be part of the mandatory curriculum for all Secondary School students in Canada. (2000, 2008, 2010)
- 4.2.13 The establishment of national standards and guidelines for emergency response in all buildings where children and youth are registered in attendance. (2001, 2007, Revised 2009)

4.3 SMOKING

The Federation endorses:

- 4.3.1 Designation of all school grounds, school buildings, school buses, etc. as smoke free spaces. (1977, 1990, 1991, 2007, 2010)
- 4.3.2 Smoking cessation education for all age groups. (1981, 2007, Revised 2009)
- 4.3.3 Amendment of the Tobacco Restraint Act to greatly increase penalties for those convicted of knowingly selling tobacco products to minors. (1990, 1999, Revised 2008, 2010)

4.4 ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

The Federation endorses:

- 4.4.1 Provision of ongoing drug education programs beginning in the elementary school health curriculum, with consultation from parents prior to presentation. (1971, 2001, Revised 2008, 2010)
- 4.4.2 The continued designation of marijuana as a controlled substance. (1980, 2001, 2007, 2010)
- 4.4.3 Distribution of a portion of forfeited proceeds re (Bill C-6i 1988) to CHSF to promote drug and alcohol abuse prevention programs. (1992, 2001, 2008, 2010)
- 4.4.4 Development of national standards regarding the advertising of products deemed harmful to children and youth with restrictions on the timing of such advertising. (Revised 2008, 2010)

V WELFARE

The Federation endorses:

- 5.1.1 Availability of professional counseling services as a family service. (2007, 2010)
- 5.1.2 Provision of effective detention and psychiatric treatment of dangerous sex offenders. (2007, 2010)
- 5.1.3 Adequate provision for re-education and rehabilitation of young offenders. (1972, 2007, 2010)
- 5.1.4 Repeal of the section of the Criminal Code permitting corporal punishment of children; existing provincial child protection legislation to apply instead. (1975, 1999, Archived 2010)
- 5.1.5 The Block Parent program. (1981, 2007, 2010)
- 5.1.6 The laying of criminal charges in stances of spousal abuse as with any other case of assault. (1984, 2007, 2010)
- 5.1.7 Establishment of a Federal ministry to deal solely with children and youth issues. (1990, 1991, 2007, 2010)
- 5.1.8 Resolution of social and economic issues that create conditions of poverty for children as a Federal Government priority. (1990, 2007, 2010)
- 5.1.9 Changes to the Young Offenders Act that will permit the courts to inform school principals of the presence in his/her school of a young offender serving a sentence or on probation where the risk to the school community outweighs confidentiality of this information. (1991, Revised 2008, 2010)
- 5.1.10 Broadening of the definition of "serious harm" to include psychological harm. (1993, 2010)
- 5.1.11 Conditions and practices of confinement of young offenders in secure custody to fully comply with the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child. (1997, 2007, 2010)
- 5.1.12 Involvement in a "Verbal Abuse Prevention Week" by all Provincial Departments of Education. (2001, 2007, 2010)
- 5.1.13 That child pornography is a heinous activity and that the production, distribution, possession or accessing of child pornography is a serious offence. (2008, 2010)
- 5.1.14 The establishment of a Commissioner for Canada's Children to:
 - (1) Monitor Canada's progress in ensuring that Federal laws conform to the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

- (2) Take part in the process of developing Canada's periodic country report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. (2001, 2007, 2010)

5.2 BENEFITS

The Federation endorses:

- 5.2.1 Increased financing by Federal and Provincial agencies to provide for additional child-care facilities, which would make such facilities more accessible to low-income families. (1977, 2007, 2010 - Back to committee)

VI MEDIA

The Federation endorses:

- 6.1.1 Research into the effects of television on children. (1963, 1974, 2007)
- 6.1.2 Production of children's educational programs by the CBC. (1972, 2007)
- 6.1.3 Television programs with less violence, with humor without vulgarity, instruction in creative arts and hobbies, and support for the family unit. (1974, 2007)
- 6.1.4 Positive programs to assist parents to guide children's exposure to the media. (1974, 2007)
- 6.1.5 A higher standard of television programming in general, and particularly during child viewing hours, in consultation with an advisory committee of parents, teachers and child psychologists. (1976, 2007)
- 6.1.6 The production of films and multi-media products by national agencies such as the National Film Board, National Museums, and National Archives to be made available to educational and community groups to permit a better understanding and appreciation of this country as a whole by regional, cultural and linguistic groups. (1977, 2007)
- 6.1.7 Increased production of television programs based on Canadian history and literature by the CBC. (1977, 2007)
- 6.1.8 Development of television programs and adult education that will aid those with low levels of literacy. (1977, 2007)

- 6.1.9 Provision of more movies for family viewing with subject contents such as history, biography, mysteries, adventure, musicals, romance, comedy and accounts of people and events which contribute to the culture of society and inspired humanity. (1977, 2007)
- 6.1.10 The development and/or promotion of an Internet Safety Advertising campaign aimed to inform parents and youth of the dangers of Internet usage. (2002, 2007)

6.2 REGULATIONS

The Federation endorses:

- 6.2.1 Legislation for the prevention of the importation, publication and distribution of obscene material.
- 6.2.2 The regulation, of unethical advertising aimed at children. (1972, 2007)
- 6.2.3 The inclusion of parents' views on television advertising to appropriate sources. (1974, 2007)
- 6.2.4 Inclusion of the Federation in the policy-making of the CRTC, the CBC and the NFB. (1975, 2007)
- 6.2.5 Canada Council for the Arts' support based on cultural, as well as financial, needs for organizations specializing in children's theatre. (1975, 2007)
- 6.2.6 The elimination of commercial advertising directed to children. (1976, 2007)
- 6.2.7 Allocation of appropriate funds by television stations and cable television companies for the development of high-quality Canadian produced programs. (1977, 2007)
- 6.2.8 Monitoring of television by the CRTC to reduce scenes of vehicle violence. (1980, 2007)
- 6.2.9 Support for education and awareness as to harmful effects of pornography, and positive action to deal with this as a community problem. (1990, Revised 2008)
- 6.2.10 The Federal Government to complete work on the Phase 2 educational amendments which protect the educational community with respect to the Copyright Act, including:
 - (a) Representation of the educational community in negotiations.
 - (b) Spontaneous use clause.

(c) Dropping the public performance fee for schools and allowing off-air taping under guidelines. (1991,1993, 1995, 2007)

6.2.11 Opposition to the introduction of Youth News Network (YNN) and any other similar corporate ventures in our Nation's classrooms that force students to participate. (1999, 2007)

VII TRAFFIC SAFETY

The Federation endorses:

7.1.1 Mandatory instruction (including First Aid), examination and periodic re-examination for school bus drivers. (1974, 2007)

7.1.2 Defensive driving courses as a requirement for all persons prior to qualifying for a provincial driver's license. (1977, 2007)

7.1.3 Support for driver education courses for youth. (1980, 2007)

7.1.4 A system of graduated licensing and co-operation between Federal and Provincial authorities to increase awareness of road safety. (1994, 2007)

VIII THE ENVIRONMENT

The Federation endorses:

8.1.1 Decreasing pollution through research and control of phosphates, nitrates and other pollutants in detergents and water softeners. (1971, 2007)

8.1.2 Formation of student environmental clubs. (1972, Revised 2008)

8.1.3 Zero discharge of persistent toxic chemicals into Great Lakes Basin. (1990, 2007)

8.1.4 Phasing out of production and use of organochlorines and banning discharge of new substances into the Great Lakes ecosystem. (1990, 2007)

IX INTERNATIONAL

The Federation endorses:

- 9.1.1 Efforts of the United Nations to maintain world peace and approves the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (1948, 2007)
- (a) "Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms."
 - (b) "It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace."
- 9.1.2 Continuation of the work of the Disarmament Commission, research into radioactive fall-out, the urging of all governments to adhere to a ban on the testing of nuclear weapons. (1999, 2007)
- 9.1.3 Promotion of school based programs for the financial support and education of children in developing countries, through recognized international agencies. (1969, 1999, 2007)
- 9.1.4 Sponsorship by families for children of developing countries through recognized international agencies. (1981, 2007)