Resolutions – 1962 – 1985 – Population and World Hunger, A Summary

The Canadian Unitarian Council adopted five resolutions between 1962 and 1985 having to do with issues of increasing world population and hunger. In all of these resolutions, some connection was made between a rapidly increasing world population and pressure on the food supply, as well as on other necessities of life.

The Council urged the Canadian government:

- to support international efforts to slow population increase, including provision of financial and scientific research support, direct assistance to developing countries in making contraceptive techniques available, and in 1975, to encourage ethical, non-coercive action through voluntary means toward population stabilization.
- to provide technical aid, and assist areas facing long term hunger in working out long term solutions by way of establishing infrastructure, market facilities, technical skills and agricultural methods suitable to their needs.

It urged its member societies and individuals:

• to encourage the purchase of grass finished beef as opposed to grain finished beef, the use of fertilizer for essential purposes only, and the lessening of food wastage.

These resolutions would allow the Canadian Unitarian Council to oppose restrictions on international aid supporting family planning services for religious reasons, and to support programs which make education on family planning available, and to encourage technical aid which assists people to become self-sufficient. (Collaborative projects with the Unitarian Service Committee (USC), for example their Seeds for Survival programs, might fall into this category.) Some attention would need to be paid in developing statements to make sure that language and recommendations were not coercive or heavy-handed.

The resolution which is directed to member societies and individuals might be a starting point for programs or campaigns directed at reducing consumerism, and to encourage such programs as Second Harvest, which distributes excess food from restaurants and banquets to shelters and other social organizations.

This summary has been developed from resolutions adopted in 1962, 1966, 1969, 1975, 1985.

CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL - CONSEIL UNITARIEN DU CANADA



Growing Vital Unitarian Communities @ Centre for Social Innovation | 215 Spadina Ave | Suite 400 | Toronto ON M5T 2C7 cuc.ca – 1.888.568.5723