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Resolutions – 1967 – 1988 – Environment, A Summary

The CUC adopted twelve resolutions on the environment and related issues between 1967 and 1988.

Most of these related to pollution of water, air and soil by human and industrial waste. There was particular concern about the delicate ecological balance in the Arctic and Antarctic regions, oceans and Canada's territorial waters.

Almost without exception the action recommended was to urge the federal government to establish pollution control policies and standards, as well as to work with other countries and the United Nations to bring about international action and standards.

In particular, several resolutions encourage the government to support the two hundred mile limit on territorial waters, and to work through the United Nations to establish the principle of UN governance of the international areas of the world such as oceans and Antarctic regions, assuring orderly use and development, and protection of wild life.

There were also resolutions on the need to preserve reserves of fresh water, oil, gas and other minerals for the use of present and future generations of Canadians. The resolutions urged the government to structure its tax laws to maintain ownership of such resources. Another resolution recommended increased funding to research alternative sources of energy which are non-destructive to the environment.

A resolution in 1971 opposed transportation of oil by tanker until the government assured Canadians that the risk of ecological damage was minimal and less than other alternatives. There were two very strong resolutions in 1973 and 1974 against the James Bay Development, urging delay until ecological studies and studies of the human and economic costs of the development were known. Another resolution supported the Nishga Tribal Council's condemnation of the dumping of mine tailings into Alice Arm, British Columbia.

A related activity was the study of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (the Brundtland Study) during 1989-90. Although this did not result in any resolutions (perhaps because it was so broad), many congregations participated. The Brundtland Study was the theme of the Annual Meeting in 1990, and we know that there was follow-up on this theme for some time in a number of congregations.

The written policies would allow us to continue to advocate a federal role in pollution control and energy conservation. We know that there has been concern by our congregations and many members about the individual's role in preserving the environment, but this is not reflected in the



policies. There is nothing directed to individuals or congregations, on, for example, practices to reduce, recycle or reuse materials, conservation of energy, or simpler living.

Developed from resolutions adopted in 1967, 1970 (2 resolutions), 1971, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1988