

2019 Provincial Convention Oral Report

Madam President,

If we are truly serious about Caring for OUR Common HOME, WE must make a conscious effort to control the physical factors in our environment that are harming our development, health, and/or survival.

It is clear that our children are developing very differently than the older generation. As an example, young girls are reaching puberty at an earlier age. Much of this is due to pesticides and fertilizers, which are contaminating our water, and antibiotics that are being used to enhance the growth of the foods that we consume. In addition, the food and vegetables that we import from abroad during the winter, particularly in the north, are often treated with preservatives to prevent spoilage.

Physical factors in the environment are also clearly affecting both our physical and mental health. Carbon dioxide emissions from our vehicles are polluting the air we breathe. Scented candles and oils used in our homes, as well as bug repellents used on the skin and in the air to make us feel more comfortable outdoors are also detrimental. Smoke stack emissions from our industries such as our paper mill are big contributors to air pollution while the sludge, which has been dumped into our river, has contaminated it. Both have contributed to respiratory and other diseases in humans, fish, and wildlife. In addition, not unlike cottage owners everywhere in our great country, grey water and sewage is being dumped into our lakes due to inefficient or non-existent septic systems. These environmental factors and others affect not only our physical well-being but also our mental **health**.

Our **survival** and that of our children and grandchildren are ultimately our responsibility and our organization has taken it seriously! To ensure proper development and health, we as an organization now attempt to buy from local farmers who we know are not using harmful pesticides, and, when available, we buy organic products often at great expense. We use non-toxic products for our gardens and lawns as well as phosphate-free detergents and shampoos at our cottages to protect our water system and naturally scented candles to protect the air we breathe. Although, local governments have indicated they will be monitoring faulty septic systems, there is no indication they have fulfilled this promise. Therefore, we are thinking if our organization lobbies them in this area, we could help bring these promises to reality.

Although trucks and other large, high-powered vehicles are a norm in the north, we are encouraging members to walk and or cycle rather than driving.

We are very proud of the strides that our small organization has made in attempt to improve the sanitation of our air and water and consequently improving the care for Our Common Home.

In future, we will step up our lobbying efforts with local, provincial, and federal governments to alleviate problems which I have touched on in this report.

In addition, we are equally proud of our continued attempt to reduce homelessness in our community, but ultimately, I think our only avenue in attempting to reduce homelessness is through lobbying governments to take action in this area.

Madam President, this ends my report

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