

Update on Climate Crisis Resolutions

AGM 2019 Resolution Adopted by Membership.

A RESOLUTION OF MEMBERSHIP to adopt action on Climate Crisis

WHEREAS, every day the fossil fuel industry further threatens the possibility of sustained life for more and more of Earth's species, and this unimaginably destructive industry is inseparable from other major causes of the current catastrophe, such as factory farming, and ongoing deforestation.

WHEREAS, Humanity, with ever spiraling cancer rates, infertility, food and water shortages, displacements and deaths due to increasing natural disasters (including floods, fires, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, tornados, and earthquakes) is very much included on the extinction list.

WHEREAS, the recent "doomsday report" of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, October 8 2018), including 6000 scientific references, 90 authors from 40 countries, and the involvement of thousands of experts in response to the Paris agreement of December 2015, gives us only 12 years at our current rates of global warming before we are at the tipping point of planetary destruction.

WHEREAS, global movements like the Extinction Rebellion (XR) Movement, and the student Strike for Climate, are utilizing non-violent resistance strategies in order to avert climate breakdown, and have grown in leaps and bounds, including our own Nova Scotia chapter and events. XR Nova Scotia, in addition to hosting rallies, have supported protests of Alton Gas and recent clear-cuts on the South Shore, and are holding educational talks all around the province.

WHEREAS, mainstream media and political leadership are essentially ignoring the dire situation of the climate crisis, and these protests, and our elected governments are racing ahead to deforest our province, to provide incentives for ongoing investment in coal burning, fracking, offshore drilling, and gold extraction, to use tax dollars to buy up pipelines, and to ignore Indigenous hereditary rights to unceded lands, all in the name of furthering economic growth for the few.

WHEREAS, Social Work as a profession is committed to standing against systems based on domination and exploitation, and supporting the emergence of truly just, life-sustaining alternatives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY MEMBERSHIP OF THE COLLEGE that Council of the College help end the silence by publicly declaring a Climate Crisis, and strike a Working Committee to explore the knowledge, resources and training needed to address the current climate crisis at socio-political levels, and to support social workers to address the suffering arising from social/physical/and mental health crisis related to the climate crisis, including Eco anxiety, ecoparalysis, ecogrief and solastalgia

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- In the fall of 2019, interested social workers began to craft a term of reference for a climate change committee.
- At the time no staff support was available to support the committee.
- In the winter of 2020 Executive Director/Registrar, completed deliverables with the social policy committee, freeing up staff capacity to support climate justice committee
- March of 2020 -global pandemic- no new committees were added.
- March of 2020- NSCSW and CCPA_NS launch Social Policy Framework with clear Climate section.
- In June of 2020 CASW releases core paper CASW: Climate Change and Social Work
- Summer of 2020 – Black Lives Matters movement accelerates calls for racial justice.
- Capacity for new committee changes as energy and attentions placed in leading work regarding Anti-racist regulatory practice.

Council and ED/R are committed to including climate justice in all policy statements utilizing social policy framework and working to ensure that as Clinical committee achieving its mandate that attention is paid to competencies regarding to address including Eco anxiety, ecoparalysis, ecogrief and solastalgia