

1998 Circulated proposed resolutions for Jean Chretien's on New Years

I PROPOSED and circulated RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADDED TO PRIME MINISTER CHRETIEN'S NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS LIST

RESOLUTION 1

I Resolve to uphold the rule of international law in recognition of the year 1999 being the culmination of the decade devoted to the furtherance of international law

(i) I resolve to adhere to the United Nations Charter and work to prevent the scourge of war, and I thus resolve not to support the US in its disregard for international law in the bombing of Iraq and I am willing to take the US to the international Court of Justice to prevent this unilateral action from continuing

(ii) I resolve to discharge obligations under the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Arms treaty by ending the sale of CANDU reactors around the world because I am prepared to acknowledge that the sale of nuclear technology was linked to the development of nuclear arms in India and Pakistan. In addition, I resolve to phase out the mining of uranium acknowledging continued contribution by Canada to the development of nuclear weapons, and I resolve to immediately ban all circulating and berthing of nuclear powered and nuclear armed vessels from Canadian waters

(iii) I resolve to fully implement the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights and thus to do the following:

a. to support a judicial inquiry into APEC and will respect any summons issued to me.

b. to support a judicial inquiry into Gustafson Lake c. to stop arresting citizens who attempt to enforce international agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity by protesting the destruction of significant ecosystems such as old growth forests

(iv) I resolve to fully discharge obligations under the International Covenant of Social, Economic and Cultural Rights by ensuring all citizens' right to adequate, safe and affordable shelter, and food, and the for equal pay for work of equal value

(v) I resolve to discharge obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and thus identify conserve biodiversity, and implement the precautionary principle in order to prevent the loss or reduction of biodiversity, I therefore undertake to:

Including the following:

a. Protect Endangered species

b Ban the introduction of non native species c. Place a moratorium on salmon aquaculture d. Avoid and minimize the threat to biodiversity by banning all ecologically unsound practices.

e. Restructure the current environmental assessment review process so that it becomes a legitimate environmental assessment and less a project review mechanism.

f. Ban the export of water

(vi) I resolve to uphold the Food and Drug act, and to implement the precautionary principle in areas such as those related to blood products, breast implants, drugs, human implantation devices, and to hold the Health Protection Branch responsible for years of negligence

(vii) I resolve to discharge Canada's obligations under the Framework Convention on Climate Change by conserving carbon sinks and by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20% from 1990 levels by the year 2000 through the following actions:

a. to conserve carbon sinks by preventing all logging in old growth forests b. to discontinue all subsidies to the fossil fuel industries and redirect federal funding to the promotion of environmentally sound renewable energy c. to initiate a nation-wide campaign to move away from car dependency, and to redirect federal funding to the promotion of public transit

(viii) I resolve to discharge Canada's obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of the Production and Consumption of Ozone-depleting substances by phasing out the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances.

(ix) I resolve to ratify the Law of the Seas because Canada was one of its chief proponents and one of the most influential voices in its formulation and Canada, and Canada has benefited from the agreement and it is unconscionable not to recognize the rights of other nations under the Law of the Seas

(ix) I resolve to sign and ratify the Convention on the Rights of Migrant workers and their Families

(x) I resolve to no longer undermine Convention on the Rights of Indigenous peoples, and work towards strengthening the Convention

(xi) I resolve to extend the term "other status" in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to include, in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the following grounds: sexual orientation, sexual identity, form of family

(xi) I resolve to act on the commitment at UNCED to support the development and use of environmentally sound energy by immediately ceasing all subsidies to the fossil fuel and nuclear industries, and transfer those funds into the development and use environmentally sound energy

(xii) I resolve to act on the commitment from the Rio Declaration to prevent the transfer to other States of substances or activities that are harmful to human health or the environment

(xiii) I resolve to implement the commitment made At the United Nations conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) 1992, to promote a "culture of safety" by preventing disasters. This commitment was reaffirmed at Habitat II (1996) when Canada undertook "to ensure adequate regulatory and other measures to avoid the occurrence of disasters..."

(xiv) I resolve to fulfill an expectation created through a 1981 General Assembly resolution to reduce the military budget and transfer the savings into social programs

RESOLUTION 2

I resolve to act on the commitment made at the UN conference on Women and the Habitat II conference to ensure that corporations including transnationals comply with international law including international environmental law. In addition, I resolve to discontinue all my corporate junkets where I am often flaunting Canadian industry that most countries do not need, and to seriously address the issues of human rights violations

RESOLUTION 3

I resolve to act upon a commitment in recent UN Conferences to move away from the overconsumptive model of development, reduce the ecological footprint and reject the notion that economic growth will solve the urgency of the global situation.

RESOLUTION 4

I resolve to implement the politics of Public Trust by undertaking to do the following: (i). to Promote and fully guarantee respect for human rights including labour

rights, the right to adequate food, shelter and health care, and social justice;

(ii). to Enable socially equitable and environmentally sound development; (iii). to Achieve a state of peace, justice and security; (iv). to Create a global structure that respects the rule of law; and (v). to Ensure the preservation and protection of the environment, respect

the inherent worth of nature beyond human purpose, reduce the ecological footprint and move away from the current model of over-consumptive development;

RESOLUTION 5

I resolve to revoke charters of corporations that violate human rights, cause environmental degradation, deny social justice and labour rights or contribute to conflict or war, and I resolve to abrogate NAFTA and oppose the MAI and other similar agreements that exalt economic interests of most Canadians, and that undermine the principles of Public Trust international Law by transferring power from democratically elected government to corporations and “investors”. In addition, I resolve to ensure that corporations operate within the parameters of public principles rather than merely by the pursuit of the greatest profit. Principle and rule must drive corporations rather than being overruled by corporations

RESOLUTION 6

I resolve to move away from using the Gross Domestic Product as a measure of economic health and to recognize that it can give a grossly distorted picture of the Economic and social health of the nation unless used in conjunction with broader indicators such as Genuine Progress Indicators or the Criteria of Public Trust

RESOLUTION 7

I resolve to redirect budget allocations away from socially inequitable and environmentally unsound practices towards socially equitable and environmentally sound practices. In addition, I resolve to relocate the military budget to increase funding for health care and education.

RESOLUTION 8

I resolve to establish a policy across Canada to undertake the following: (i) to prevent agribusiness and pharmaceutical companies, along with other corporations involved with biotechnology, and with environmentally unsound practices from sponsoring and

influencing the direction of research at University, hospitals and other research facilities (ii) to support the efforts of organic and ecological agriculture associations in establishing organic/ecological farm practice codes, standards and certification processes, and in the preservation of seed diversity (iii) to phase out Agriculture Canada and other federal research support for large-scale agribusiness chemical, pesticide and genetic and other bioengineering practices and refocus support on the development of family and community scale ecological agriculture models, principles and practices such as biological soil and pest management approaches such as soil rebuilding crop rotations, companion planting, inter-cropping, and perennial poly-cultures. (iv) to phase-out federal support for college and agency agribusiness educational programmes and refocus supports on family farm and community scale Eco-agriculture workshops, distance education, undergraduate and graduate and diploma. vi) to increase funding to the CBC so that there will be sufficient funds to do in depth investigative reporting even though it may expose serious problems with government administration

RESOLUTION 9

I resolve to stop the production in Canada of military armaments and the international sale by Canadians of arms or major components of weapons systems. In addition, I resolve to phase out sunset industries while establishing a fair and just job transition program

RESOLUTION 10

I resolve to embark upon a “socially equitable and environmentally sound” investment campaign that supports the adherence to socially equitable and environmentally sound principles, and that promotes preventive technology i.e. doing it right the first time, ecologically as well as financially and which discourages investment in any company that does not comply with the principles in all aspects of its operation.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 1

Joan Russow PhD

Federal leader of the Green Party of Canada