

This resolution was NOT ADOPTED at national level. No action can be directed to the federal level. This resolution has a provincial component that can be acted on as a private citizen; you may state you are a CWL member but you cannot state you are writing on behalf of a CWL council, nor can you write to government using League letterhead.

Community Life
Winnipeg/St. Viators

Resolution 2013.02 Efficient/Effective Modes of Transportation of Supplies to Northern/Remote Communities

- Whereas,** Transporting supplies to northern/remote communities in Canada is prohibitive due to winter roads, distance, and unpredictability of weather and ground conditions; and
- Whereas,** Despite subsidy programs, the high cost of healthy food items impact the health of northern/remote residents; and
- Whereas,** Airship transportation currently being developed enables moving large indivisible loads on a year-round basis with potentially lower operating costs relative to conventional operations; therefore, be it
- Resolved,** That the Manitoba Provincial Council in 2013 annual convention assembled, through the national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, urge the federal government to invest in efficient/effective modes of transportation of supplies to northern/ remote communities; and be it
- Resolved,** That the Manitoba Provincial Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in 2013 annual convention assembled, urge the Manitoba provincial government to invest in efficient/effective modes of transportation of supplies to northern/remote communities in Manitoba; and be it further
- Resolved,** That this resolution be forwarded to the national council, of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, for consideration at the 2013 annual national convention.

BRIEF Efficient/Effective Modes of Transportation of Supplies to Northern/Remote Communities

Transporting supplies to northern/remote communities in Canada is prohibitive due to winter roads (ice roads), distance, and unpredictability of weather and ground conditions. Many communities in Canada rely on winter roads to receive their annual basic supplies during the winter months.

"Winter roads are temporary byways carved through bush and across frozen muskeg, lakes, rivers and creeks to temporarily connect those remote regions with the rest of the province. They enable trucks to haul in a year's worth of supplies such as food, fuel and construction materials during the weeks they are open - unless mild conditions, a late freeze-up or an early thaw shorten that time ..." (CBC News) Winter roads costs are: higher than "southern" trucking costs, have an unpredictable season length, are vulnerable to climate change and are necessary for heavy roads. (Prentice 13) "Whenever roads are proposed in the North there are always environmental concerns." (Prentice 21)

"Not all Canadians have equal access to the foods necessary to maintain a healthy diet." (Heart and Stroke) The Heart and Stroke Foundation defines "food security" as the situation when "all people at all

times have the economic and physical access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food necessary to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. "Aboriginal communities and other Canadians in remote locations face very high rates of food insecurity due to the high price, low quality and limited availability of fresh, healthy and nutritious foods." (ibid) "A lack of food security due to economic and geographic barriers is a significant determinant of health ..." (ibid) Northern politicians have complained to Ottawa that foods have spiralled in many communities despite subsidy programs. (CBC News) Subsidies through the Nutrition North Canada program is transferred to retailers and suppliers, and those businesses are accountable for passing on the subsidy to the consumers. (Nutrition North Canada)

Air cargo (transport planes) to the north is affected by: very high costs, limited to landing strips and restricted by freight dimensions ... (Prentice 11) "The better utilization of existing technology and the timely introduction of new technology have the potential for moderating what would otherwise be extremely high costs for infrastructure development...one example of new technology is ... airships that are capable of carrying cargo loads in excess of 40 tonnes..." (Reichl) "Airship transportation currently being developed enables moving large indivisible loads on a year-round basis with potentially lower operating costs relative to conventional operations." (Exner-Pirot) "Airships can fly anywhere and operate without ground infrastructure. Airships could lower the costs of building all-weather roads by relocating heavy equipment and eliminating bridge sections. Once the road opens the airship can serve as a feeder system to augment the traffic on the road." (Prentice)

The federal government is urged to invest in efficient/effective modes of transportation of supplies to northern/remote communities. The Manitoba provincial government is urged to invest in efficient/effective modes of transportation for providing supplies to northern/remote communities. It is hoped that with such measures, the transport of supplies and healthy food to northern/remote communities will be improved and that the communities will experience food security and an increase in their standard of living.

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ACTION PLAN Efficient/Effective Modes of Transportation for Supplies to Northern/ Remote Communities

1. Write letters to the prime minister, members of parliament urging the federal government to invest in efficient/effective modes of transportation, such as airships, for the shipping of supplies to northern/remote communities.
2. Write letters to the premier and MLAs to invest in efficient and effective modes of transportation for supplies to northern/remote communities in Manitoba.
3. Sponsor educational opportunities for members to be informed about the need for efficient/effective modes of transportation for northern/remote communities.
4. Monitor the government's plan of action in response to the request contained in the resolution.