SSW 122 Women, equity, and care work Policy Proposal

Team Name: Sprinkles

Policy Proposal Title: Care Skills for All – Care Courses Implemented into Education Systems.

Photo to accompany policy proposal:

Introductory paragraph:

Care work is recognized as an important contributing factor to a well-functioning society, and yet our current education system is lacking in this regard. We propose to introduce an age-appropriate curriculum in Canadian schools that includes teaching skills of infant, child, peer, elder, and self-care.

Real impact quotes from Team members:

 "Schools have turned too much focus on academics and getting good grades to the point it stopped teaching important life skills. This discrepancy has led to adults going into life and having no idea how to care for their children, elderly parents and those around them who need extra care. It also leads to a strong disconnect for people who struggle with mental health. Bringing back these life skills could bring back a sense of community which has been lost over time." -Isabelle Doyon (this student requested their name stay on the exemplar)

"I believe my own experience of caregiving for my children would have been improved if my husband had received skills training in this regard in school, as it was not readily taught to him as a male member of a traditional western nuclear family." -Student

"I as a child has experienced that I was taken care by my mother my whole life, while my father was working full time to provide for the family" -Student

"Teaching how to care, and foster relationships through developmental years in children, will help create a more understanding and supportive community, and possibly world. Care of both selves, and others will help to prepare youths in a way never done before." - Student

Name of proposed policy: Age-appropriate care curriculum to be implemented into education system Canada wide.

How it would work:

Continuous learning throughout school about having a self-care aspect and how to care for others. Opens conversations for some taboo topics such as sex ed and mental health as well as how to provide support to those who may need care due to disability, age, and mental health.

Benefits:

reduce risk of isolation from mental health? A better understanding of how to care for each other as well as oneself. Creates a good foundation for self-care too. When citizens find themselves in a position of needing to provide care.

Risks:

Some individuals may feel that this curriculum crosses the line of what should be taught by families as opposed to the province.

Arguments may arise over what constitutes appropriate child or elder care across varying cultures.

Potential Impact:

- More supportive communities
- Increase in care work
- More care/support for elders in communities
- Less bullying in schools
- Dis-gendering care work/support work
- Create a more human centered world