



Party members have spent the last several months developing policy resolutions touching important priorities like investments in infrastructure, telecommuting solutions, youth employment, post-secondary education, and restoring trust in democracy.

These are just a few of the ideas delegates will be debating at the Convention — and we want you to be part of the discussions.

Here are the policy resolutions submitted to the Montreal 2014 – Liberal Biennial Convention.

Compiled by Colin Percival by scraping the convention.liberal.ca website. Accuracy is not guaranteed.

Priority Resolutions

1. Priority Resolution: National Transportation Strategy

WHEREAS traffic delays in Canada result in a loss of over \$5 billion per year;

WHEREAS municipalities, provinces and territories do not have sufficient funds to build modern transit systems while continuing to provide other essential services;

WHEREAS many cities and towns across Canada, large and small, are facing funding shortfalls to fund their major public transit projects. Some examples include \$6.2 billion for Toronto’s downtown relief line, \$1 billion for York Region transit, \$200 million per year for ten years in Calgary, \$515 million for Edmonton’s southeast LRT and Montreal’s \$3.1 billion extension to the West Island;

WHEREAS VIA rail funding has been declining and is currently at the discretion of cabinet, thus being neither predictable nor subject to public scrutiny or input;

WHEREAS Canada is the only G7 country without a national transit strategy;

WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities has called on the national government to implement a national transportation strategy;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada consult with provinces, territories and municipalities and propose an integrated, intermodal national transportation strategy, that serves large and small communities, within two years of taking office;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal Government develop a predictable and reliable

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transportation funding commitment for at least 10 years, with the allocation of funds to be determined by the population and predicted growth of the population.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)

11. Priority Resolution: Equalizing On-Reserve Education

WHEREAS one-third of First Nations students on-reserve attend First Nations schools;

WHEREAS Aboriginal people have a higher financial rate of return to education than non-Aboriginal Canadians because, with education, the gap in earnings closes and largely catches up to non-Aboriginal earnings;

WHEREAS presently, nearly 40 per cent of Aboriginal students do not finish high school;

WHEREAS over the next 10 years, aboriginal young people will make up a significant portion of new entrants in the labour market;

WHEREAS funding for schools on reserve lags that of other schools by roughly 30 per cent;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada supports First Nations rights to education and commits to funding First Nations schools equal to that of the Provincial funding allocations for Provincial operated schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada is committed to closing this education gap within its first term in government.

Liberal Party of Canada (Saskatchewan)

21. Acknowledging the Past in Order to Move Forward: A Resolution to Officially Reject The 1969 White Paper

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada introduced 'The White Paper' in 1969 that sought to abolish the *Indian Act*, the legal relationship and nation-to-nation relationship between the Indigenous nations and Canada;

WHEREAS 'The White Paper' was not agreed to by the Indigenous nations who agreed to share with Canada the lands and resources that are within its borders;

WHEREAS the introduction of 'The White Paper,' in 1969, despite abandonment by the Liberal Party of Canada, has continued to undermine the Liberal Party of Canada's relationships with Indigenous peoples due to little or no recognition by the of the impact such a policy could have;

WHEREAS Indigenous philosophies require the past be recognized and accounted for in order to foster better relationships and a path forward;

WHEREAS public acknowledgement by the Liberal Party of Canada that 'The White Paper' was a serious mistake will help build strong relationships and assist both sides of the Treaty relationship to move forward;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada, through its membership, national board, and elected representatives, at the 2014 Biennial Convention openly and with regret acknowledge that 'The White Paper' of 1969 was a serious mistake for the Party to consider and officially renounce what it stands for;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada will not repeat the mistakes of the past and strive for meaningful consultation when considering legislation and policy that

31. Priority Resolution: Restoring Trust in Canada's Democracy*

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party pursue political reforms which promote:

- Open, democratic nominations of candidates;
- Fewer “whipped” votes in Parliament and more “free” votes requiring individual MPs to assume full responsibility for their decisions;
- Stronger Parliamentary control over public finances, including an annual deadline for the budget; accounting consistency among the Estimates and the Public Accounts; more clarity in voting on Estimates; a costing analysis for each government Bill; and a requirement that government borrowing plans must get Parliament's pre-approval;
- A truly independent, properly resourced Parliamentary Budget Officer;
- A more effective Access-to-Information regime with stronger safeguards against political interference;
- An impartial system to identify and eliminate the waste of tax-dollars on partisan advertising;
- Careful limitations on secret Committee proceedings, Omnibus Bills and Prorogation to avoid their misuse for the short-term partisan convenience of the government;
- Adequate funding, investigative powers and enforcement authority to ensure Elections Canada can root out electoral fraud;
- Pro-active disclosure of parliamentarians' expenses, a more transparent Board of Internal Economy and better audit rules;
- A truly independent Senate not based upon partisanship or patronage;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT immediately after the next election, an all-Party process be instituted, involving expert assistance and citizen participation, to report to Parliament within 12 months with recommendations for electoral reforms including, without limitation, a preferential ballot and/or a form of proportional representation, to represent Canadians more fairly and serve Canada better.

Liberal Caucus

(*) The democratic reform agenda described in this resolution represents a compilation of ideas developed by the Leader and the Caucus over the past year. Canadians want their Members of Parliament to be effective voices for their communities in Ottawa, and not merely mouthpieces in their communities for an all-too-powerful Prime Minister. Our goal must be greater transparency, accountability and participation in Canada's political system, and fewer abuses which undermine the confidence of citizens and voters in the quality of their democracy.

50. Priority Resolution: National Energy Strategy

WHEREAS energy production and consumption is vital to Canadians well-being and standard of living;

WHEREAS achieving energy self-sufficiency is possible and valuable;

WHEREAS it is important for Canada to maintain and diversify its markets for energy products and services;

WHEREAS the scientific consensus is that climate change is a serious environmental threat requiring rapid action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada will, in consultation with Canadians, develop and implement a National Energy Strategy that will transition our energy system to a low-carbon system in line with our international commitments to reduce greenhouse gas

emissions while enhancing our economic success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NES will:

- ensure the transition increases overall employment;
- utilize market mechanisms to reduce pollution and enhance competition for innovation in low-carbon technologies;
- Eliminate subsidies hindering the low-carbon transition;
- define and seek to eliminate energy poverty in Canada;
- Refine the application process to be more effective by assessing the full costs and benefits through the life-cycle of a proposed energy project;
- evaluate and eliminate interprovincial trade barriers;
- enhance access and diversity of markets for energy products and services;
- take actions to maximize the efficient utilization and conservation of energy resources;
- establish meaningful consultative, Constitutional processes with First Nations/Inuit/Metis prior to development of energy and/or natural resource programs;
- support construction and effective maintenance of pipeline and railway networks across Canada with effective regulation and inspection;
- establish a multi-sectoral National Roundtable on Energy to advise and monitor progress towards achieving the goals and objectives of the NES.

Liberal Party of Canada (Alberta)

51. Priority Resolution: National Framework for Mental Health

WHEREAS mental illness affects one in five Canadians;

WHEREAS mental illness is the largest single contributor to the burden of disease, leads to significant morbidity and early mortality (through suicide and impact on other medical illnesses) and substantively contributes to negative social, civic and economic outcomes for Canadians;

WHEREAS most mental illness is preventable and treatable;

WHEREAS only 5.5% of Canada's health care budget is allocated to mental health services, despite the recommendations of the World Health Organization to allocate 10%;

WHEREAS the current Conservative government has announced plans to cut the rate of increases to health care spending by half starting in 2013;

WHEREAS delegates to the LPC January 2012 convention unanimously approved a motion to develop a national housing strategy that includes measures to address homelessness and recognized that there is a correlation between homelessness and mental health/addiction;

BE IT RESOLVED that a new Liberal government will implement and fund the Mental Health Commission of Canada's report: "Changing Directions, Changing Lives: A Mental Health Strategy for Canada"

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a new Liberal government will increase funding for mental health services to 8-10% of the national healthcare budget

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a new Liberal government will create an office of a national mental health ombudsperson who will issue an annual report for parliament on the status of mental health and mental health care in Canada

Liberal Party of Canada (British Columbia)

61. Priority Resolution: Aboriginal Issues

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Liberal Party of Canada:

- Develop a process for an accelerated consultation with full participation of First Nation Communities to rewrite existing legislation with the intention of encouraging and supporting the development of sustainable First Nation communities;
- Introduce an Educational Program for all Canadians, through media or other means to provide all Canadians with an understanding of the history and background leading to the issues currently confronting Aboriginal Peoples and Canadians;
- Develop a national strategy to deal with Aboriginal land claims and duties to consult within a reasonable timeframe;
- Create a process for First Nation Peoples participation in natural resource issues in order for First Nation Peoples to share in revenues that are generated from the resources on First Nation lands.

RATIONALE:

It is imperative that all Canadians understand the Rights asserted in the Proclamation of 1763, the Treaties entered into with First Nation Peoples, and the damage created by the Indian Act and Residential School Policies. Canadians must work with First Nation Peoples in the spirit of cooperation and mutual respect to modernize these Treaties and legislation. Where applicable, all new legislation must be the result of a fully collaborative and consultative process with full participation of Aboriginal Peoples governing authorities. It must be aimed at building self-reliant communities that are economically sustainable and reflect the true intent of the treaties, allowing First Nation communities to participate in the economic future of Canada, while maintaining their cultural heritage and dignity.

Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)

71. Priority Resolution: Canadian Pension Plan (CPP) Enhancements

WHEREAS approximately 65 percent of private sector workers in Canada have no workplace pension plan to supplement their CPP;

WHEREAS retired workers relying on the CPP annual income often fall significantly below the poverty line (approximately 266,000 seniors);

WHEREAS the CPP maximum contributions only provide approximately 25 percent of income up to a maximum of \$12,000 a year;

WHEREAS the C.D. Howe Institute determined that a minimum of 60 percent contribution of the average Canadian income is needed to bring a retirement income to \$24,000 per year;

WHEREAS it is estimated that only 1 in every 4 Canadians qualify for Registered Retirement Saving Plans (RRSP) and for those who do qualify, it is often difficult to build meaningful retirement funds;

WHEREAS responsibility for the CPP is a shared responsibility between two levels of government;

BE IT RESOLVED the Liberal Party of Canada adopt a policy in support of CPP enhancements and expansion as a means of providing an adequate standard of living for retired workers;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Liberal Party of Canada use all leverage possible to harmonize its position with all other provinces, which are in support of CPP enhancements that provide a retirement income for seniors who should be able to retire with dignity and not have to worry about falling below the poverty line in their most vulnerable years.

Liberal Party of Canada (Newfoundland and Labrador)

90. Priority Resolution: Medically-Assisted Death

WHEREAS both ordinary and prominent Canadians, as well as national media, and national bodies such as the Royal Society of Canada and the Senate of Canada, have recognized that end-of-life decision-making is a critically important public policy issue;

WHEREAS attempted suicide was removed from the Criminal Code of Canada in 1972;

WHEREAS Quebec has recently made the argument that medical aid in dying constitutes good end-of-life care;

WHEREAS numerous polls show that most Canadians support the decriminalization of voluntary euthanasia and assisted suicide;

WHEREAS the evidence from jurisdictions which allow some form of voluntary euthanasia or assisted suicide demonstrates that the vulnerable can be protected;

BE IT RESOLVED that voluntary euthanasia and assisted suicide be permitted under the Criminal Code of Canada after a public consultation process designed to make recommendations to Parliament with respect to the criteria for access and the appropriate oversight system for medically-assisted death.

National Women's Liberal Commission

100. Priority Resolution: Creating a Basic Annual Income to be Designed and Implemented for a Fair Economy

WHEREAS changes to the seasonal workers benefits under Employment Insurance are no longer assured as provinces find their social assistance funds stretched to the limit as they cope with hunger, housing and security;

WHEREAS many children, seniors and individuals with disabilities also face income insecurity across the country;

WHEREAS pension security is at risk;

WHEREAS the federal government has not kept pace with local needs;

WHEREAS many explicit and invisible signs of income insecurity exist in Canadian rural and urban settings, both presenting unique circumstances in the Provinces and Territories;

WHEREAS Provinces and Territories require greater flexibility in designing and administering programs which specifically fit their respective jurisdictions;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Federal Liberal Government work with the provinces and territories to design and implement a Basic Annual Income in such a way that differences are taken into consideration under the existing Canada Social Transfer System.

Liberal Party of Canada (Prince Edward Island)

111. Priority Resolution: Resilient Communities in Canada's North

WHEREAS northern Canada is a unique and special place;

WHEREAS northern Canada has unique, special and significant contributions to all of Canada;

WHEREAS northern Canada includes the three territories and northern regions of the provinces;

WHEREAS northern communities have strong social and cultural capital which has enabled

them to be resilient and manage risk;

WHEREAS there are a number of extreme challenges facing northern communities – such as climate change, lack of community infrastructure and quality housing, remoteness, isolation, affordable connectivity, resource development, the legacies of past federal government policies and socio-economic challenges;

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada supports northern security and economic development as referenced in the Northern Economic Vulnerability Policy;

WHEREAS these extreme challenges threaten the security and resiliency of our northern communities;

WHEREAS community resilience in the north is established from the bottom up and relies on social and cultural capital;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a Liberal Government will work with northern communities, northern leaders, policy makers and professionals to build on the inherent resiliency of northern communities to increase local capacity to adapt and thrive in the context of Canada's changing north.

Liberal Party of Canada (Yukon)

113. Priority Resolution: National Action Plan on Dementia

WHEREAS Dementia currently affects more than 35 million people worldwide and has been called a “global crisis” and a “ticking time-bomb” by G8 Ministers of Health, with predictions that those numbers will double every two decades (1); and

WHEREAS is a disease clearly associated with advancing age, affecting 1 person in 10 over the age of 65 in Canada, and 1 person in 3 over the age of 85; and

WHEREAS it is predicted that dementia will affect 1.4 million Canadians by 2040; and

WHEREAS the G8 Ministers of Health have called for action in every country to find an effective treatment or cure for dementia by 2025; and

WHEREAS Canada is the only G8 countries with no national strategy to address the dementia epidemic;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada, working in partnership with mental health specialists, provinces and territories, and groups such as the Alzheimer Society of Canada, forthwith establish a comprehensive National Action Plan on Dementia.

Liberal Party of Canada (New Brunswick)

1. “G8 countries pledge to find cure or treatment for dementia by 2025.” CTV News. Report from CTV Medical Specialist Avis Favaro and producer Elizabeth St. Philip. Posted 11 Dec. 2013. <http://www.ctvnews.ca/health/g8-countries-pledge-to-find-cure-or-treatment-for-dementia-by-2025-1.1586206>.

123. Priority Resolution: Health Care

WHEREAS past federal payments to provinces/territories under the Canada Health Act have been the result of federal/provincial/territorial negotiation;

WHEREAS the proposed federal funding after 2018 will be determined on a provincial/territorial per capita basis but does not recognize costs related to demographic factors including age(1*);

WHEREAS quality standards are not adequately defined(2*);

WHEREAS the level of access to health care throughout rural Canada is increasingly difficult to maintain(3*);

WHEREAS improving cost efficiencies is essential to ensuring the financial sustainability of health care(4*);

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal Government will amend the Canada Health Act to provide that the annual payment to provinces/territories be subject to consultation between the federal/provincial/territorial governments;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal Government recognize, in setting funding levels, that health care costs vary with all demographic factors, and provincial/territorial payments must reflect such factors;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal Government join the ongoing provincial/territorial “Innovative Health Care Initiative”(5*,6*,7*) which has already begun to achieve improvements in quality standards, delivery standards and cost efficiencies as well as ways to improve health care access for rural residents.

Senior Liberals’ Commission

Word count: 183

(1*) http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2011/12/19/health-transfer-payments-flaherty_n_1158072.html

(2*) <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hcs-sss/pubs/qual/2000-qual/index-eng.php>

(3*) <http://publications.gc.ca/Collection-R/LoPBdP/BP/prb0245-e.htm>

(4*) <http://gis.emro.who.int/healthsystemobservatory/Workshops/QatarConference/PPT>

(5*) <http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2012/exec/0117n02.htm>

(6*) <http://www.theguardian.pe.ca/News/Local/2012-06-04/article-2995720/Ghiz-Wall-looking-to-standardize-health-services/1>

(7*) <http://policymonitor.ca/premiers-release-health-care-innovation-working-group-report>

133. Priority: Respecting Aboriginal Rights

WHEREAS aboriginal peoples have been living for at least ten thousand years on land that is now Canada, and some of this territory is the subject of land claims which have yet to be settled;

WHEREAS many aboriginal communities in Canada lack sufficient housing and basic amenities, and this situation has been a subject of concern in United Nations reports;

WHEREAS these living conditions contribute to high levels of substance abuse, suicide, infant mortality, child neglect, and violence — particularly domestic and sexual abuse of aboriginal women and children;

WHEREAS aboriginal women face systematic and institutional stereotyping and discrimination that prevent their access to empowering services and programs;

WHEREAS recommendations of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (1996) remain to be implemented;

WHEREAS the Kelowna Accord to improve the education, employment and living condition of Aboriginal peoples has not been implemented;

WHEREAS Canada adheres to, but has not yet implemented, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the next Liberal government of

Canada to:

- settle, within a time-bound framework, all outstanding aboriginal land claims;
- implement the recommendations of i) the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (1996), especially those highlighted in the Assembly of First Nations' ten-year Report Card, and ii) relevant United Nations reports;
- reinstate the Aboriginal languages programme and implement all provisions of the Kelowna accord;
- implement, emphasizing Aboriginal women's and children's rights, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Liberal Party of Canada (Quebec)

143. Priority Resolution: Death With Dignity: End-of-life Physician Assisted Death

WHEREAS, the choice to take one's life when terminally ill is extremely personal and patients suffering from a terminal disease should reserve the right to decide when their life ends and when their suffering ends;

WHEREAS an individual should be granted the right to end their own suffering in a clean setting and through a respectable method, thus limiting trauma to the family and/or anyone else to find them;

WHEREAS the health care professionals, doctors, family of the patient and the patient himself would be better protected by a regulatory framework that validates consent, rather than by the absence of any legal framework;

WHEREAS, on June 2, 2013, Quebec introduced Bill 52 which if passed would legalize end-of-life physician-assisted death for some cases;

WHEREAS Oregon, Washington, Vermont, and Montana have all legalized some form of doctor-assisted death in North America;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada commits to working with the Canadian Medical Association in a collaborative effort with the assistance of all relevant Stakeholders to establish professional protocols in relation to adopting a stance in favour of legalizing physician-assisted end to life;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada would develop a framework for determining the validity of the consent.

Young Liberals of Canada

153. Priority Resolution: Funding for Health Care

WHEREAS Canadians value the principles of Medicare, and health care costs have historically and consistently risen at higher rates than CPI;

WHEREAS Provinces differ in their needs for health care funding because of their population's health, levels of disability and age;

WHEREAS Canada's ranking in health and health care outcomes lag behind those of many developed countries;

WHEREAS the demands of an 'acute care' model are increasingly difficult to fund;

WHEREAS there is a costing crisis imminent to care for an aging population;

WHEREAS the epidemic in obesity and diabetes places an escalating financial burden on our system;

WHEREAS Veterans have fought to preserve our freedom and democracy, and that many of them have job-related health care needs;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government will maintain a single-payer, publicly-funded health care system, that is fair for all Canadians, through an equitable and adequate funding formula under the Canada Health Act tailored to meet Provincial and Territorial needs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government will take leadership in the development of an effective health and health care system for all Canadians to achieve and maintain health, by creating funding initiatives for:

- A national model for health promotion;
- A national strategy and standards for the care of the elderly;
- A national Pharmacare program;
- A national strategy and standards for combating obesity and diabetes;
- Addressing and accommodating the health needs of Veterans.

Liberal Party of Canada (Nova Scotia)

159: Priority Resolution: Fracking

WHEREAS fracking continues to occur throughout our country with each proposal creating controversy where many of the same issues are brought forward without resolution;

WHEREAS the fracking discourse is rarely grounded in factual or objective assessment, and many members of the public believe that a situation has developed where an entire industry has been given special consideration when it comes to secretly contaminating Canada's freshwater supply;

WHEREAS the chemicals used are not assessed due to arguments of proprietary or trade secrets;

WHEREAS residents in the Northwest Territories have the right to know what the best practices are and what the industry is allowed to put in the ground to assist with the shale gas production;

WHEREAS residents in the Northwest Territories have the right to protect the environment and the public trust;

WHEREAS decision makers throughout the entire country at all levels must be able to take economic, social and environmental considerations into account in order to support economic development and the environment for future generations;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada propose a National Environmental Assessment of Fracking that will:

- optimize positive environmental effects and minimize or mitigate negative environmental effects;
- consider potential cumulative environmental effects;
- implement a Sustainable Development Strategy;
- save time and money by drawing attention to potential liabilities for environmental clean-up and other unforeseen concerns;
- streamline project-level environmental assessment;
- promote accountability and credibility among the general public and stakeholders; and
- contribute to broader environmental policy commitments and obligations.

Liberal Party of Canada (Northwest Territories)

The Economic Advantage of Effective Care

145. Tackling Inequality: An Evidence-Based Proposal Undoing the Ban on Gay Blood/Organ Donations

WHEREAS Canadian Blood Services/Héma-Québec have removed the lifetime ban on males offering to donate blood if they have had sexual relations with men, replacing that ban with a 5-year abstinence period;

WHEREAS the new Canadian Blood Services/Héma-Québec policy remains discriminatory and is not evidence-based;

WHEREAS jurisdictions (such as Mexico, Spain, Italy, Chile and Portugal) have no ban based on sexual orientation;

WHEREAS evidence shows that in those jurisdictions there is no higher chance of contracting AIDS, because they require a rigorous testing of blood/organs and an extensive questionnaire on a donor's medical history and sexual habits

WHEREAS this country only has four days' worth of blood if all donations were to stop and thus ensuring a new source of donations in the best interests of those who require donated blood; wellbeing of Canadians;

WHEREAS the original lifetime ban was put into place during the 80's when Red Cross Canada was importing contaminated blood from suspect foreign sources (including American prisons) during the height of the AIDS crisis and had very poor screening practices;

BE IT RESOLVED that LPC urges Health Canada to remove its policy imposing a 5 year donation abstinence requirement on any male who has had any sexual contact whatsoever with another man;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LPC supports the replacement of that policy with a framework of behaviour-based screening for every blood or organ donor (regardless of sexual-orientation), so as to provide an evidentiary-based method of ensuring that donors are safe and eligible.

Young Liberals of Canada

43. Eldercare

WHEREAS the Canadian population is aging, indicating an increased number of working Canadians will be required to care for elderly relatives in the coming years;

WHEREAS the 2001 National Work, Family and Lifestyle Study has shown that one in four (27.8%) of Canadians in the workforce also have elder care responsibilities for family members or close friends;

WHEREAS research has shown that although both men and women balance careers and elder care responsibilities, statistically this burden more often falls to women;

WHEREAS caregivers reduce the burden on the Canadian tax system by providing support and services that would otherwise fall to the community and the government;

WHEREAS caregivers may experience stress, isolation, or financial difficulties as a direct result of the elder care services that they provide;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a Liberal Government will acknowledge the immense contribution that Canadians with elder care responsibilities provide to this country;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a Liberal Government will support elder care providers by offering support services in the form of counselling, financial planning, and legal advice;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a Liberal Government will support elder care providers by mandating employers to allow 26 weeks elder care leave which will be subsidized by Employment Insurance (EI), which would be aggregated over one lifetime.

Word count: 214

39. Supporting our seniors

WHEREAS many seniors wish to live at home for as long as they safely can and to contribute to society for as long as possible,

WHEREAS aging at home provides seniors with freedom and independence, and is far more affordable for society than the alternative of institutional care;

WHEREAS there are insufficient community and government supports to help seniors who wish to remain in their homes, and many Canadians provide care to elderly spouses and family members, often to the detriment of their own health, jobs, and financial stability;

WHEREAS the number of seniors needing support will continue to increase in the coming years as the number of Canadians over the age of 65 will double from five million in 2011 to 10 million in 2036, and Canadians over the age of 90 are the fastest growing demographic;

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada recognizes the value of caregiving and the needs and rights of caregivers and care-receivers and wishes to support Canadians who are providing paid and unpaid care to elders living at home;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federal Government will modify existing tax and Employment Insurance systems to support caregivers helping seniors living at home, and to help seniors themselves to be able to afford to stay in their own homes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Federal Government will implement policies allowing for greater labour force flexibility for family caregivers helping seniors live independently;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Federal Government will improve its own programmes and social benefit systems to remove barriers and provide greater support for paid and unpaid care-givers to seniors in their homes.

Liberal Caucus

For more information

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/130910/dq130910a-eng.pdf>

http://www.vanierinstitute.ca/research_topics_caregiving

85. Investing in Child Care and Early Childhood Development: A National Priority

WHEREAS more than two-thirds of Canadian women with children under the age of five are in the labour force and investment in early childhood development has been demonstrated to bring substantial benefits to society;

WHEREAS the Tory's taxable Universal Child Care Benefit of \$100 a month is not effective in helping parents find affordable and safe care for their children and does not address other well established and effective child development needs;

BE IT RESOLVED that the new Liberal government work with the provinces and territories to develop comprehensive child-care strategies and other evidence established interventions that are sensitive to provincial/territorial needs to improve outcomes for all of Canada's children.

Liberal Party of Canada (Nova Scotia)

55. Child Care

WHEREAS Canadians no longer have consistent access to affordable child care;

WHEREAS this lack of affordable child care keeps parents at home during the day instead of at work;

WHEREAS this keeps Canadian parents from fulfilling their career potential, and therefore the maximum amount they can invest in our economy;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada pursue all available options to encourage the Government of Canada to create a universally available and affordable childhood care and education plan;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the rate of payment by the user families be affordable to all Canadian families;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this plan be drafted into law in coordination and cooperation with all Provinces and Territories in Canada.

Liberal Party of Canada (British Columbia)

79. National Strategy and Standards for Childhood Development Assessment and Therapy

WHEREAS autism spectrum, attention deficit and other developmental disorders are increasing in prevalence, and delays in assessment, diagnosis and necessary intervention has long-term negative consequences for individual children and families;

WHEREAS delays in assessment of hearing, speech, auditory learning disorders and other learning and development problems may also have long-lasting negative effects;

WHEREAS delays of many months or years in assessment and therapy for children with these disorders and problems are commonplace in Canada and cause great concern for parents;

BE IT RESOLVED the Liberal Party calls for a comprehensive Canada-wide review of wait times for assessment and therapy of children with possible developmental, hearing, speech, auditory learning and other learning and development problems;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Liberal Party calls for the Government of Canada to use its authority to ensure all wait times for these assessments and therapies are available to parents in every Province and Territory;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED a Liberal Government use the authority of the Government of Canada to establish national standards with a goal of ensuring that the maximum wait time for assessment and commencement of therapy for these disorders will not exceed 6 months.

Liberal Party of Canada (Newfoundland and Labrador)

Word count: 195

3. A National Strategy for a Universal Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Program to Support Canadian Families in Honouring the Rights of Children to Achieve their Full Potential

WHEREAS the 2010 workforce participation rate of mothers was greater than 68% while families accessing licensed Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) was 17%, resulting

in long wait lists and the use of alternate, sometimes harmful, childcare arrangements;

WHEREAS the health, wellbeing and academic attainment of children are improved through high quality ECEC which addresses issues of child poverty, equity of opportunity, physical and emotional harm;

WHEREAS an investment in ECEC results in a healthier and more competitive workforce, generating net profits to government through increased tax revenues and lower transfer payments;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal Government institute a Universal ECEC Program with national standards and monitoring mechanisms, by restoring the bilateral agreements of the previous Liberal Government with the provinces and the territories; increasing federal funding for ECEC to 1% of GDP; re-investing the \$1,200 per year from the Universal Child Care Benefit into the Canadian Child Tax Benefit and directing the credit to the parent who remains at home;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that tax incentives be arranged to develop workplace ECEC; and funding provided to expand post-secondary ECEC training, thereby ensuring high level quality care through competent program staff;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no child be excluded from ECEC because of disability, access, or the cost of service, and that all children be provided with care that fosters cognitive, linguistic, emotional, social and physical development, linked to other family-oriented community services like hearing and vision care, parental support and mental health.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)

41. Resolution for the Creation of a National Child Care and Early Learning Strategy

WHEREAS Canadian Families struggle to find affordable, safe, quality child care that meets their needs;

WHEREAS lack of access to adequate child care has historically been a barrier to women's participation in the workforce;

WHEREAS access to child care has been shown to increase the participation of parents with young children in the workforce, thus contributing to Canada's economy and tax base, while increasing individual parents' independence and well-being;

WHEREAS the Universal Child Care Benefit does not improve accessibility to child care, the creation of child care spaces, or training for child care workers;

WHEREAS an early learning and child care program depends on a strong policy framework which includes legislation, administration, financing and evaluation to enable planning and development of the system and should clearly set out principles, objectives, priorities and targets for service;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada, in conjunction with the provincial and territorial governments to create and implement a national child care and early learning strategy that will improve accessibility and include national standards for child care spaces and labour force training;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the national child care and early learning strategy address the creation of national guidelines based on the principles of quality, universality, accessibility and development;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on-going funding be provided to support the national child care and early learning strategy.

Liberal Party of Canada (Alberta)

40. A National Autism Action Plan

WHEREAS autism numbers show a worsening situation, with one in 88 Canadian children having an ASD – up from the previous rate of one in 110 – and thousands of families and caregivers experiencing enormous pressures coping with ASD symptoms and difficulties acquiring services and resources;

WHEREAS, annually, 4,900 autistic Canadians turn 18, the cut-off age for pediatric care and publicly funded therapies, and the age many autistic people and their aging parents first confront the scarcity of appropriate training, employment and housing;

WHEREAS because ASD services fall outside the Canada Health Act, disparities exist among provinces/territories in autism funding, policies and programs;

WHEREAS the 2007 Senate of Canada report, Pay Now or Pay Later: Autism Families in Crisis, recommends federal leadership in creating a national ASD strategy, public awareness campaign, knowledge exchange center, and research network;

WHEREAS key stakeholders endorse these recommendations and advocate above all for a national ASD strategy;

WHEREAS the federal government has failed to show leadership except on a few autism initiatives like a national surveillance system currently in development;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government initiate federal-provincial/territorial government and stakeholder discussions toward creating a national ASD strategy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government ensure this strategy outlines policies and programs that are nationally consistent and meet the evolving needs of autistic Canadians throughout their lives, and that will pave the way for strategic responses to other developmental disorders.

Liberal Caucus

For more information

<http://www.cdc.gov/features/countingautism>

<http://publications.cpa-apc.org/media.php?%20mid=1290>

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/health/Autism+social+barriers/7971249/story.html>

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/SEN/Committee/391/soci/rep/repfinmar07-e.pdf>

125. To Improve the Effectiveness and Efficiency of Canadian Health Care

WHEREAS the needs of Canada's most vulnerable citizens require health-related services that are not within the present scope of the Canada Health Act—specifically long-term care, homecare, mental health services, particularly for dementia, as well as comprehensive pharmaceutical and wellness programs;

WHEREAS these needs are exacerbated by the requirements of Canada's aging population, and pressure on provincial governments to cut services and rely on "for-profit" healthcare providers^{1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10};

WHEREAS the delivery of these programs is neither universal nor consistent in its quality across Canada^{11,12,13};

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada craft new legislation to implement universal, affordable and accountable publicly funded national programs, complementary to the Canada Health Act, for long-term care, homecare, mental health services particularly for dementia, and comprehensive pharmaceutical and wellness programs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada make innovation in healthcare

delivery a priority, with serious consideration given to the successful Canadian cooperatives model and to the most effective experiences of progressive European nations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada join and support the ongoing provincial and territorial “Innovative Health Care Initiative” which is currently considering feasibility of such national programs, while ensuring that all programs and services, both new and continuing, be made subject to a full cost accounting process^{14,15,16};

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada enact enforcement legislation to ensure compliance to the measurable standards of quality care.^{17,18,19}

Senior Liberals’ Commission

1 The Health of Canadians: The Federal Role,

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/SEN/Committee/371/soci/rep/repjan01vol2-e.htm>

2 An Evidence-Based Policy Prescription for an Aging Population

<http://www.longwoods.com/content/22246>

3 Economic and Fiscal Implications of Canada’s Aging

Population <http://www.fin.gc.ca/pub/eficap-rebvpc/report-rapport-eng.asp>

4 Addressing the challenges and opportunities of ageing in

Canada <http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/seniors/reports/aging.shtml>

5 Health Care in Canada, 2011—A Focus on Seniors and Aging

https://secure.cih.ca/free_products/HCIC_2011_seniors_report_en.pdf

6 The Health of the Canadian Elderly <http://publications.gc.ca/Collection-R/LoPBdP/BP/bp351-e.htm>

7 Ontario’s Action Plan For Health Care

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/ms/ecfa/healthy_change/docs/rep_healthychange.pdf

8 Open letter to Canada’s premiers

<http://www.peifl.ca/open%20letter%20to%20Canada%27s%20premiers.pdf>

9 An Ounce of Prevention: Strengthening the Balance in Health Care Reform, CPHA Issue Paper, May 2000

http://www.cpha.ca/uploads/policy/ounce_e.pdf

10 Private For-Profit Health Clinics Eroding Public Health Care, 89 Suspected Violations of the Canada Health

<http://www.ofcmhap.on.ca/content/private-profit-health-clinics-eroding-public-health-care-89-suspected-violations-canada-heal>

11 National consistency and provincial diversity in delivery of long term care in Canada

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12216364>

12 CLHIA Report On Long-Term Care Policy: Improving The Accessibility, Quality And Sustainability Of Long-Term Care In Canada

[http://www.clhia.ca/domino/html/clhia/CLHIA_LP4W_LND_Webstation.nsf/resources/Content_PDFs/\\$file/LTC_Policy_Paper.pdf](http://www.clhia.ca/domino/html/clhia/CLHIA_LP4W_LND_Webstation.nsf/resources/Content_PDFs/$file/LTC_Policy_Paper.pdf)

13 From Bad to Worse: Residential elder care in Alberta, Parkland Institute Research Report

by Shannon Stunden Bower, [David Campanella](#), November 06, 2013

http://parklandinstitute.ca/research/summary/from_bad_to_worse

14 Premiers Announce Health Care Innovation Working Group

<https://qwa.queensu.ca/owa/redir.aspx?C=5njg5XXD6kCmZiwuMSTEMZuLa13k4NAIpe-be2KsJHPRd14gxeDMfjEtN6beh8YcpRQq5pS8vE0.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.releases.gov.nl.ca%2freleases%2f2012%2fexec%2f0117n02.htm>

15 Ghiz, Wall looking to standardize health services <https://qwa.queensu.ca/owa/redir.aspx?C=5njg5XXD6kCmZiwuMSTEMZuLa13k4NAIpe-be2KsJHPRd14gxeDMfjEtN6beh8YcpROq5pS8vE0.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.theguardian.pe.ca%2fNews%2fLocal%2f2012-06-04%2farticle-2995720%2fGhiz-Wall-looking-to-standardize-health-services%2f1>

16 Premier's Release Health Care Innovation Working Group Report
<https://qwa.queensu.ca/owa/redir.aspx?C=5njg5XXD6kCmZiwuMSTEMZuLa13k4NAIpe-be2KsJHPRd14gxeDMfjEtN6beh8YcpROq5pS8vE0.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fpolicymonitor.ca%2fpremiers-release-health-care-innovation-working-group-report>

17 Premiers Announce Health Care Innovation Working Group
<https://qwa.queensu.ca/owa/redir.aspx?C=5njg5XXD6kCmZiwuMSTEMZuLa13k4NAIpe-be2KsJHPRd14gxeDMfjEtN6beh8YcpROq5pS8vE0.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.releases.gov.nl.ca%2freleases%2f2012%2fexec%2f0117n02.htm>

18 Ghiz, Wall looking to standardize health services <https://qwa.queensu.ca/owa/redir.aspx?C=5njg5XXD6kCmZiwuMSTEMZuLa13k4NAIpe-be2KsJHPRd14gxeDMfjEtN6beh8YcpROq5pS8vE0.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.theguardian.pe.ca%2fNews%2fLocal%2f2012-06-04%2farticle-2995720%2fGhiz-Wall-looking-to-standardize-health-services%2f1>

19 Premier's Release Health Care Innovation Working Group Report
<https://qwa.queensu.ca/owa/redir.aspx?C=5njg5XXD6kCmZiwuMSTEMZuLa13k4NAIpe-be2KsJHPRd14gxeDMfjEtN6beh8YcpROq5pS8vE0.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fpolicymonitor.ca%2fpremiers-release-health-care-innovation-working-group-report>

66. Health and Wellness

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Liberal Party of Canada:

Clearly define the role of the federal government in supporting the standardization of health care in Canada. As part of this process, a federal Liberal government will examine and promote cost effective solutions to improve health care for all Canadians.

RATIONALE:

Although health care is a provincial issue, the federal government has an important role to ensure that health care services are consistent throughout the country. Through Canada Health Accord and Healthcare financial transfer agreements, the federal government has the opportunity to influence the provision of health care by the provinces and assist them in implementing programs and systems utilizing the most efficient practices consistent throughout the country. These influences may include supporting the establishment of integrated health care clinics or palliative health guidelines.

Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)

115. Resolution on the Canada Health and Social Transfers

WHEREAS the 1977 Federal-Provincial Agreement on cost-shared health and social programs provided for the use of cash transfers as well as areas of taxation ceded by the Government of Canada to the Provinces;

WHEREAS the cash portion of the Canada Health and Social Transfers has declined in relation to the areas of taxation ceded by the Government of Canada;

WHEREAS, while provincial jurisdiction must be respected, national cost-shared programs require the maintenance of national standards;

WHEREAS the Provinces who deliver these programs have fixed administrative costs regardless of their size or fiscal capacity;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal Government ensure that a uniform cash portion for

administration and program delivery costs be provided to all Provinces under the Canada Health and Social Transfer.

Liberal Party of Canada (New Brunswick)

Submitted in memory of
The Hon. Andy Scott, PC

38. A New Deal on Health Care

WHEREAS Canadians place great value on Canada's public health care system;

WHEREAS the 2004 Health Accord between the federal Liberal government and provinces and territories provided the system with stable and predictable funding for a decade.

WHEREAS the Accord created joint jurisdictional responsibility to develop goals and benchmarks for transformative change, in nine areas.

WHEREAS the Harper government walked away from those joint responsibilities and refused to meet with First Ministers, on Health, since 2006.

WHEREAS, as a result of this abdication of federal leadership, systemic reform of the health care system was unable to progress according to plan and remains primarily focused on acute hospital and physician care.

WHEREAS as a result of this abdication of federal leadership, the shift to multidisciplinary/continuing care, home care and health promotion, electronic health records, national pharmacare and disease prevention was also unable to progress according to plan.

WHEREAS this led to a continuation of systemic inefficiencies that increased costs, blocked access, and threatens the sustainability of Medicare.

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government shall:

- Renegotiate a new health care agreement with provinces and territories as full partners, which would provide the jurisdictional flexibility to ensure the transformative changes needed to sustain Medicare are achieved.
- Ensure that accountability of results in this new agreement will focus on measurable outcomes including cost-effectiveness, efficiency and timely access to care.

Liberal Caucus

77. Healthcare Accountability and Reform

WHEREAS healthcare comprises the largest challenge and expenditure category for Provincial and Territorial Governments, and approximately 11.6% of GDP;

WHEREAS healthcare has a direct effect on the day-to-day lives of Canadians and is consistently an important concerns of voters;

WHEREAS accountability directly to people who use the healthcare system is essential to ensure appropriate, timely, cost-effective provision of high quality care but seldom occurs in Canada at present, and

WHEREAS healthcare costs are related to demographics and disease prevalence.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada will commence a dialogue with Canadians on potential reforms to the Canada Health Act to guarantee access to detailed accreditation and performance information and direct accountability to Canadians;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that innovative accountability mechanisms to consider should include: independent expert commissions; meaningful internal or external competition providing choices to Canadians; online hospital performance data; patient associations;

volunteer elected community Health Councils able to question health authorities; elected committees of residents and families members for long-term care facilities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal Government will implement a requirement for direct accountability, through reforms of the Canada Health Act, following broad public consultation and negotiations with Provincial and Territorial governments as a means to reduce wait times and improve quality and cost-effectiveness;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal Government will consult on improved federal funding, appropriateness of considering demographics and disease prevalence, and how best to promote other innovations that can improve Canada's healthcare system.

Liberal Party of Canada (Newfoundland and Labrador)

Word count: 246

78. Reducing the Impact of Diabetes

WHEREAS diabetes reduces life expectancy by 5 – 15 years, is a leading cause of limb amputations, vision loss, kidney failure, neuropathy, heart disease and stroke;

WHEREAS diabetes prevalence is increasing due to obesity, sedentary lifestyles, unhealthy diets and aging populations;

WHEREAS diabetes more than doubles healthcare costs but Type 2 diabetes may be prevented or delayed by healthier diets and exercise and that improving diabetic control and care reduces complications;

WHEREAS the Canadian Institute for Health Information has reported a large gap between recommended care and that received by Canadians;

BE IT RESOLVED the Liberal Party supports the development and implementation, in cooperation with Provinces and Territories, of a comprehensive program for the prevention and effective management of diabetes in order to reduce the prevalence and health impacts, including a special emphasis on assisting vulnerable and high risk groups such as aboriginal peoples;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Liberal Party calls for enhanced incentives to promote earlier detection, healthier diets and regular exercise;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Liberal Party calls for programs for improved diabetic control by better access to monitoring of blood glucose, insulin pumps, pancreatic transplant and other innovative treatments and improved management of complications such as wounds and vascular disease;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Liberal Party calls for a sustained federal plan aimed at eliminating the care gap identified by CIHI in order to ensure all Canadians have access to necessary diabetes prevention, detection and care.

Liberal Party of Canada (Newfoundland and Labrador)

Word count: 240

95. National Action Plan on Disability

WHEREAS Canadians with disabilities are almost twice as likely to live in poverty as other Canadians, and over two million adults with disabilities lack one or more of the supports they need to learn, work, and participate fully in their community;

WHEREAS the federal government has a role and responsibility to promote the inclusion in Canadian society of people with disabilities and their families;

WHEREAS promoting accessibility by enhancing disability supports is known to increase labour force participation, alleviate poverty, and promote social inclusion;

WHEREAS services such as home mail delivery are in the process of being removed without consultation with the disability community;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada, working in partnership with the disability community, provinces, and territories, forthwith establish a comprehensive National Action Plan on Disability;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada commit to the full implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in a timely manner and through consultation with the disability community.

National Women's Liberal Commission

91. Royal Commission on the Environment and Health

WHEREAS during the past seventy years, tens of thousands of chemicals, many of which are cancer-causing, have been used in industrial processes and the production of consumer goods;

WHEREAS some of these chemicals now contaminate our air, water and food, and may be linked to increases in autism, childhood asthma and developmental delays, posing a threat to the wellbeing of future generations;

WHEREAS over the last 10-15 years, new technologies, such as those that create genetically modified organisms and nanoparticles, have developed rapidly, and are being used in the production of consumer goods;

WHEREAS recently developed technologies create new life forms, designed to function autonomously in the environment, which may be difficult to control or contain;

WHEREAS there have been few independent, peer-reviewed studies and no transparent, inclusive, in-depth discussion on possible environmental and health impacts of these substances and technologies;

WHEREAS protection of human health and the environment requires rigorous application of the Precautionary Principle;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the next Liberal government of Canada to conduct a Royal Commission on the Environment and Health to examine and make recommendations regarding:

- all aspects of the environmental and health impacts of industrial activity in Canada;
- the application of the Precautionary Principle, which protects public health and the environment from uncertain risk, to the regulation of both industrial processes and the production, distribution and availability of consumer goods in Canada.

National Women's Liberal Commission
Liberal Party of Canada (Quebec)

81. Environmental Safety in Day Cares and Schools

WHEREAS young children in daycare and schools are particularly vulnerable to adverse environmental conditions including toxins, molds, allergens, pesticides, dust, water damage, infectious diseases and inadequate ventilation;

WHEREAS such exposures may contribute to asthma, neurodevelopmental and neurodevelopmental disorders, cancers, endocrine disruption;

WHEREAS adverse environmental conditions may create immediate and long-term threats to the lives and health of children;

BE IT RESOLVED the Liberal Party calls for the introduction of national environmental standards to help protect young children in daycare and schools in cooperation with Provinces, Territories and other organizations such as the Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and Environment;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Liberal Party calls for programs of health surveillance for children in daycare and schools to detect increases in the incidence of hospitalization, infectious diseases and other health concerns;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Liberal Party calls for daycares and schools be required to conduct periodic environmental assessment and air quality analysis a right of access to results for parents;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Liberal Party calls for the training of daycare staff to include environmental risks and provision of initial responses to emergency situations for example by use of an "epipen", inhalers and other interventions.

Liberal Party of Canada (Newfoundland and Labrador)

Word count: 200

161:Telecommuting Options to Increase Work Flexibility

WHEREAS many Canadian parents believe that personally caring for their young children is a critical part of parenting; and many families with young children have difficulty finding an appropriate work-life balance;

WHEREAS having to choose between employment and raising young children due to a lack of affordable, quality child care in Canada, many women decide to exit the workforce, thereby contributing to a gender-based earnings inequality and placing financial strain on middle-class families;

WHEREAS having flexible work arrangement policies helps companies attract and retain talent; Telecommuting will help more Canadians join and remain in the workforce – in rural, remote, northern and urban Canada – including seniors and Canadians with disabilities, which has positive benefit for these Canadians as well as businesses looking to mobilize their human capital;

WHEREAS telecommuting can help reduce traffic on already congested roads, which will speed up commute times, help shipped goods reach markets in a timely way, and reduce GHG emissions from passenger vehicles;

BE IT RESOLVED that a new Liberal government would introduce new tax credits for employers, and amend federal labour laws, to expand telecommute work options, particularly for parents of children 5 years and under;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a new Liberal government would also advance concrete actions and multi-sector, collaborative solutions that will expand and improve connectivity infrastructure in all regions of the country, particularly in rural, remote, and northern Canada.

Liberal Party of Canada (Northwest Territories)

A Stronger Middle Class for a Stronger Economy

98. EI Coverage for Political Campaign Leave

WHEREAS many people, especially women, cite as a major barrier to seeking the nomination as candidate in elections, whether federal or provincial, is the financial penalty of having to leave paid employment, either voluntarily or as required by their employer, to campaign;

WHEREAS the Liberal Party is committed to removing barriers that continue to limit women's numbers amongst Liberal candidates and elected representatives;

WHEREAS candidates seeking election are actively looking for work as elected representatives;

BE IT RESOLVED that EI coverage be extended to workers who take a leave (voluntarily or as required by their employer) to enter a political campaign as candidates of recognized political parties in Canada, for both provincial and federal elections;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that "Political Campaign Leave" coverage begin the day after the dropping of the writ and extend to the day after the election, or longer if the employer refuses to rehire an unsuccessful candidate at the same level and on the same terms as before.

National Women's Liberal Commission

101. Linking Corporate Tax Advantages to Employment of Canadians

WHEREAS employment remains a significant concern in Canada, and in particular in certain areas of Canada;

WHEREAS Canada's corporate tax rate at 15% is one of the world's most advantageous corporate tax regimes;

WHEREAS Canadians would be better served if this advantageous tax position were linked to the number of Canadians the company employs;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada will maintain the current rate of corporate tax for corporations which employ a number of Canadians equal to or greater than the average for their industry, based on company size.

Liberal Party of Canada (Prince Edward Island)

76. Social Enterprises Support

WHEREAS social enterprises have developed, regionally, nationally and internationally, into a structured approach to community social and economic development;

WHEREAS social enterprises have significant collaboration and partnership outreach that contributes significantly towards the needs of rural areas of Canada;

WHEREAS social enterprises provides innovative revenue generating solutions from the marketplace for community social and economic activities;

WHEREAS social enterprises have capacity to build revenue generation in a not-for-profit environment;

WHEREAS social enterprises often provide solution to social and economic needs in the community or region where no private option exist or where essential community services can be better served by a social enterprise;

WHEREAS there is currently a benchmark of social enterprise best practices in most regions of Canada;

BE IT RESOLVED the Liberal Party of Canada adopt a policy that provides for enabling

strategies and financial investment to support social enterprise activity through education, facilitation and start-up seed funds.

Liberal Party of Canada (Newfoundland and Labrador)

Word count: 150

130. Stable, Well-Paying Jobs in Support of Middle Income Families

WHEREAS the Leader of the LPC has indicated a strong interest in addressing the needs of middle income Canadians during the next election campaign;

WHEREAS many educated and skilled Canadians are finding it increasingly difficult to find stable well-paying jobs that can support a middle income lifestyle;

WHEREAS during the 1950 and 60s Canada developed a strong middle income under a mixed market-driven economy marked by collaboration among government, industry and unions;

WHEREAS beginning in the 1980s, new economic models based on private sector responsibility for economic growth combined with an increased emphasis on cost competitiveness resulting from international trends in globalization, Canada began to lose its industrial base and associated "middle income" jobs, a trend which continues to the present;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada, as a major component of the 2015 election platform, commit to developing, a new Canadian industrial strategy tailored to the challenges of the 21st Century, built on the principles of fairness and a shared responsibility among government, industry and labour that will create a greater number of more stable, well-paying jobs thereby strengthening the Canadian economy, the middle income and the well-being of all Canadians;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada creates a working group with representation from governments, industry and private-sector trade unions to consider the options and make recommendations on what elements should be incorporated into such a strategy.

Senior Liberals' Commission

97. Basic Income Supplement: Testing a Dignified Approach to Income Security for Working-age Canadians

WHEREAS one in eleven Canadians lives in poverty (as measured by LICO), despite the array of income security and social assistance programs provided by federal and provincial governments;

WHEREAS income security programs such as the National Child Benefit and the Guaranteed Income Supplement provide an income-tested base benefit to low income children and seniors, but not working age adults;

WHEREAS there are perverse disincentives to exiting from social assistance systems, often referred to as the "welfare wall";

WHEREAS the idea of a basic income supplement for working age adults was recently endorsed by the Canadian Medical Association as a means of improving the health of low income Canadians;

WHEREAS there was an encouraging pilot project of a basic income supplement for working age adults conducted jointly by the Government of Manitoba and the Government of Canada in Dauphin, Manitoba in the 1970s;

WHEREAS the Senate of Canada, in its 2008 report on poverty, "In from the Margins," called for a study on the costs and benefits of a basic income supplement;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada advocate for a federal pilot of a basic income supplement in at least one Canadian town or city, in cooperation with the appropriate provincial and municipal government(s).

National Women's Liberal Commission

Jesse Helmer <jesse.helmer@gmail.com>

Petition : <http://www.basicincomepilot.ca/>

68. Economic Development and Poverty Reduction

BE IT RESOLVED:

The Liberal Party of Canada:

Undertake tax reform and ensure a guaranteed minimum income program to enable all residents of Canada to participate fully in Canada's economic development.

RATIONALE:

Such a policy will give lower income Canadians more opportunity to contribute to the economy, which, in turn, will reduce poverty, improve health, reduce crime and decrease the need for income support. The Senate report "In From the Margins: A Call to Action on Poverty, Housing and Homelessness" (starting on page 275 of the report) lists 74 Recommendations dealing with Poverty, Housing and Homelessness that should be taken into consideration when formulating a policy on Poverty Reduction.

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/SEN/Committee/402/c_citi/rep/rep02dec09-e.pdf>

Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)

156. Youth Employment

WHEREAS financial worries are the biggest concern for most Canadian students;

WHEREAS students that have work-force experience are more likely to be granted entry-level employment;

WHEREAS persistently high youth underemployment has a long-lasting impact on the career prospects of young Canadians by denying them meaningful job experience;

WHEREAS young Canadians are being pressured into taking unpaid work in order to gain that job experience;

WHEREAS the Financial subsidization by parents of youth who are underemployed is contributing to record high household debt among middle class Canadians;

WHEREAS an aging population necessitates strong business succession planning to replace Canadians retiring from the workforce;

WHEREAS the federal government has failed to provide significant leadership by developing and funding youth skills training and job programs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the next Liberal government would implement a National Youth Jobs strategy, with the goal of ensuring increased youth employment. This strategy would:

- provide incentives for business to hire youth, be it through tax credits or tax deductions,
- offer greater protection for vulnerable Canadians who are being pressured into taking

- unpaid work,
- implement a comprehensive national apprenticeship training strategy that equips young Canadians with in-demand technical skills, while providing recruitment capability to replace retiring Canadian Forces skilled personnel;
- provide federal leadership in developing a renewed national youth program to allow young Canadians to gain work experiences through community building, volunteerism, entrepreneurship training and social enterprise-building.
- create a joint federal-provincial skills training program that reflects the needs and priorities of provinces, employers and workers.

Liberal Party of Canada (Nova Scotia)
Liberal Party of Canada (British Columbia)
Young Liberals of Canada

148. Post-Secondary Education as a Driver of Economic Prosperity

WHEREAS a high quality education is the foundation of equality of opportunity, and a driver of economic success and the security and prosperity of the middle class in Canada;

WHEREAS an ever-growing share of careers in Canada require a college, university, or skilled trade credential as a basic condition for entry;

WHEREAS Canadians will change careers more times over the course their working lives than any previous generation;

WHEREAS it is in our best interest to invest in the skills, talent and ingenuity of Canadians, and to increase the rate of post-secondary education attainment in our country;

WHEREAS access to university, college, and skilled trades training remains out of reach for many Canadians;

WHEREAS with the cost of a post-secondary education, and the student debt that often comes with it have grown significantly, at a time when middle-class incomes have stalled;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the next Liberal government will make increasing access to an affordable, high-quality post-secondary education and lifelong learning a key economic priority for the country.

Young Liberals of Canada

154. Employment Insurance, Seasonal Employment, Job Development & Skills Training

WHEREAS changes in Employment Insurance (EI) limit/deny benefits to repeat recipients, largely employees in seasonal industries such as forestry, agriculture, fishing, food processing and tourism which are essential to the Canadian economy and the well-being of all Canadians;

WHEREAS Canadian communities require a healthy job market with full-time employment opportunities to remain viable and a high percentage of rural and smaller urban communities are currently dependent upon a combination of seasonal employment and EI for their continued existence (1*);

WHEREAS limited full-time employment opportunities together with restrictive EI Regulations are forcing unprecedented out-migration of numerous workers from such communities, particularly young Canadians, thus stripping these communities of their life-blood and their work force, thereby turning many communities into ghost towns (2*,3*,4*);

WHEREAS focused, aggressive federal government investment is required in job creation

and skills training to strengthen the viability of communities currently dependent on seasonal work;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal Government restore full EI benefits to employees in seasonal industries to sustain the livelihood and viability of their communities and accord full respect and support to them and to seasonal industries which they both so justly deserve;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government establishes an Employment Development Strategy with related Programs focused on developing full-time employment opportunities throughout Canada in communities dependent upon seasonal employment;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government financially participates with provincial/territorial governments to establish related skills training programs.

Senior Liberals' Commission and
The Liberal Party Canada (Prince Edward Island)

(*1) <http://www.capebretonpost.com/Opinion/Letters-to-the-Editor/2013-03-18/article-3201243/Employment-insurance-supportsseasonal-workers-vital-to-the-economy/1>>

(*2) <http://www.trurodaily.com/Opinion/Editorials/2013-11-28/article-3517825/Finger-pointing-will-not-solve-out-migration/1>>

(*3) <http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/opinion/analysis/ei-reforms-work-against-tories-on-east-coast-234188401.html>

(*4) <http://www.manitoulin.ca/2012/05/30/ei%E2%80%88changes-will-hit-the-north-hard/>
<<http://www.manitoulin.ca/2012/05/30/ei?changes-will-hit-the-north-hard/>>

82. Employment Insurance Reforms

WHEREAS Central Nova is a predominantly rural riding with a long history of a diminishing industrial employment base, with consequent and increased dependency on fishing, farming, and forestry, with the consequent effect of seasonal employment, the recent changes in EI policies, the lack of concern regarding inter provincial labour standards and training ;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that EI policies be reformed with the intention of taking into account the local labour realities and sensitivities.

Liberal Party of Canada (Nova Scotia)

58. Student Debt Management and Financial Assistance

WHEREAS the cost of post-secondary education is consistently being raised and Canadian students often struggle to pay tuition;

WHEREAS the high cost of education serves as a deterrent to young Canadians from low income families towards achieving their academic and career goals;

WHEREAS low income students wishing to attend post-secondary institutions eligible for the Canadian Student Loan Program (CSLP) can be granted loans at interest rates higher than prime, with accrual commencing immediately after graduation;

WHEREAS the CSLP is under stress and Canadian Student debt is at an all-time high;

WHEREAS Canada's economy needs educated and skilled individuals to remain globally competitive;

WHEREAS advanced doctoral degrees are crucial to Canada's competitiveness and advancing our contribution to science, medicine, business, social sciences and the arts;

WHEREAS under the CSLP, full-time students enrolled in doctoral studies are currently eligible to receive student financial assistance for a maximum of only 400 weeks;

BE IT RESOLVED that any student loan granted and funded by the federal government is given an interest rate no higher than the prime rate;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the current 6 month grace period before payments begin become interest free;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that LPC support the establishment of a 30% tuition rebate for Canadian students from low and middle income families;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that LPC urges the federal government to extend financial assistance under the CSLP to a maximum of 520 weeks for full-time students enrolled in doctoral studies.

Liberal Party of Canada (British Columbia)

104. Canada Pension Plan Modernization

WHEREAS the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) is available to almost every working Canadian;

WHEREAS relying on the CPP is an insufficient retirement income financial plan;

WHEREAS there is currently a limit to contributions made by employees and employers in any calendar year;

WHEREAS many parents with young children and those providing care to elders drop out of the workforce and cannot make contributions during that time;

WHEREAS women and men who devote years of their working careers to child rearing experience career disruption that reduces their ultimate CPP benefit, even when the years out of the workforce are excluded from the calculation;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Federal Liberal Government will modernize the Canada Pension Plan to allow for greater contributions from individuals and employers to enable seniors to have an adequate retirement pension based on the value of their paid and unpaid work;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that individuals and businesses without corporate pension plans may be able to make increased contributions to employees' pensions through the Canada Pension Plan, and these contributions should be portable between employers;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that couples should be permitted to supplement to maximum levels the child-rearer's pension contributions in years when career disruption has resulted in a reduction in contributions.

Liberal Party of Canada (Prince Edward Island)

37. Improve Pensions

WHEREAS the Conservative plan to raise the age for OAS from 65 to 67 will create great hardship for the most vulnerable Canadians

WHEREAS Canada's Chief Actuary and Parliamentary Budget Officer have both stated that the current system, with an eligible age of 65, is sustainable

WHEREAS a report by the Canadian Institute of Actuaries found that two thirds of Canadian households hoping to retire by 2030 are not saving enough for retirement.

WHEREAS Canadians are only setting aside 5.5 % of their earnings, which is much lower than the 20% Canadians saved in the 1980s. And only 40% of working Canadians have a work place pension.

WHEREAS the Canadian Pension Plan (CPP) is a well-managed, low cost and a responsible

retirement vehicle for Canadians.

WHEREAS recent UK experience points to considerable success in implementing a publicly managed, low cost pension plan that is voluntary but subject to auto-enrolment by both employers and employees

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government will restore the eligible age for OAS to 65

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government would enhance the ability of Canadians to save for their retirement through measures such as a moderate expansion of the CPP for the adoption of a supplementary CPP.

Liberal Caucus

10. Pensions: Old Age Security & Canada Pension Plan

WHEREAS 60% of working Canadians in the 21st century do not have an employer-sponsored retirement income pension plan, and Canada Pension Plan is a critical source of retirement income;

WHEREAS the Canada Pension Plan is presently structured to provide a maximum of 25% up to the Year's Maximum Pensionable Earnings of the average working Canadian upon retiring at age 65;

WHEREAS youth employment and career opportunity is a continuing economic public policy issue and full time employment opportunities for young adults are increasingly limited in today's employment market;

WHEREAS the qualifying age for eligibility for old age security benefits was raised to age 67 from age 65 thereby creating a domino effect impacting on the above economic and social objectives;

WHEREAS voluntary retirement savings are subject to excessive management and administration fees that could be avoided through voluntary supplementary CPP contributions;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Old Age Security Benefits eligibility revert to age 65 to facilitate the voluntary exit of older Canadians from this market into alternative part time employment and or retirement;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada in partnership with the Provincial and Territorial Governments adopt and implement legislation to enhance retirement benefits under the Canada Pension Plan to 50% for workers earning between \$30,000 and \$80,000 per year upon retirement at age 65;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CPP be amended to accept voluntary supplementary contributions which would be subject to the RRSP contribution limits.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)

34. Fairer, Simpler and More Competitive Tax System

WHEREAS there has not been a comprehensive review of Canada's income tax system since the Carter Commission in 1971;

WHEREAS the Canadian and global economies have undergone remarkable transformations since 1971;

WHEREAS Canada's Income Tax Act has grown from 423 pages in 1970 to 3,191 pages in 2013;

WHEREAS the current government has complicated the Income Tax Act by introducing non-refundable tax credits that render it less progressive;

WHEREAS Canada's middle class is financially struggling and would benefit from a reduced tax burden;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Government of Canada establish a royal commission or expert panel with a mandate to conduct a comprehensive review of the Canadian income tax system and present recommendations to reform the Income Tax Act in order to create a simpler, fairer, and more globally competitive Canadian tax system with a reduced tax burden on middle class Canadians.

Liberal Caucus

48. Reform and Simplification of Canada's Tax System

WHEREAS Canada's Income Tax Act has grown from a relatively simple 11 page document into a lengthy and complex Act of over 2800 pages, including regulations and commentary;

WHEREAS the time, effort and expense of complying with a complex and inefficient tax system is unnecessarily costly and burdensome to Canadian taxpayers and businesses, resulting in billions of dollars a year being spent on tax compliance that could otherwise be saved or invested in the economy;

WHEREAS in a recent survey, over 62% of Canadians agreed on the importance of having a simple tax system;¹

WHEREAS other countries have already taken steps to simplify their tax systems to make them more efficient and competitive. The Office of Tax Simplification in the UK, and Australia's Future Tax System Review, were created to provide recommendations and independent advice to the government on reforms to their tax systems to meet the challenges of the future;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal Government will create a non-partisan independent commission to review Canada's tax system and make recommendations for changes that will result in a system that is simpler, fairer, more efficient and more competitive.

Liberal Party of Canada (Alberta)

1. <http://www.nanosresearch.com/library/polls/POLNAT-F12-T549E.pdf>

35. Fairness in the Credit Card System: Setting Reasonable Limits on Credit Card Fees and Interest Rates

WHEREAS Canadian merchants pay interchange fees in excess of 3% of the transaction amount, some of the highest fees in the world;

WHEREAS Interchange fees are also charged to governments, charities, and educational institutions, meaning taxpayer and charitable money is being diverted from the intended purposes;

WHEREAS Jurisdictions around the world, including Australia, New Zealand, and the European Commission, have taken or are in the process of taking action on interchange fees;

WHEREAS Interchange fees are paid by all consumers, regardless of their own method of payment, through increased prices and decreased services and do not accurately reflect the cost of service delivery;

WHEREAS Interest rates on credit cards, paid by consumers can reach over 30% and interest on late utility payments can reach over 40%;

WHEREAS Canadian consumer debt has reached historic levels and this is not just a problem for individual Canadians but for our economy as a whole, costing the Canadian economy over \$ 5 billion annually;

WHEREAS Canadians least able to pay are most likely to have the highest rate;

WHEREAS Canadian banks, credit card companies, and big utilities are making record profits;

WHEREAS use of credit cards increases every year, further increasing costs to merchants;

WHEREAS high interest rates build more debt on top of existing debt;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government will introduce legislation to limit interest rates charged to consumers to a reasonable level for individuals and households;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government will introduce legislation to place a limit on interchange fees charged to merchants.

Liberal Caucus

Canada as a Leader in Governance

15. Increase the Share of Gas Tax to Municipal Governments

WHEREAS municipal governments in Canada own the critical infrastructure needed to sustain and grow our economy and support safe, healthy communities;

WHEREAS municipal governments are struggling to finance the rehabilitation of current infrastructure and build new infrastructure to address growth demands;

WHEREAS the federal government has a significant interest in critical municipal infrastructure in this country;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada support a legislative change to increase the transfer from 50 per cent to 100 per cent of all revenue collected from the federal excise tax on gasoline to municipal governments, distributed on a per capita basis, as per the current gas tax agreements with the provinces and territories.

Liberal Party of Canada (Saskatchewan)

160: RCMP Oversight

WHEREAS the RCMP hold a unique and iconic role within the Canadian psyche; and

WHEREAS sexual harassment and bullying has been documented and ongoing issue within the RCMP; and

WHEREAS the evidence indicates that the Bill C-42 will not address the root causes of harassment and bullying within the culture of the RCMP; and

WHEREAS systemic harassment and bullying within major municipal police forces has been consistently and effectively combatted through the use of arms-length public police commissions and dispute resolution mechanisms;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada establish an independent police commission made of up qualified members of the public, 50% of whom are women;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVES that this body be given the task of establishing the policies and procedures necessary to launch and operate an arms-length dispute resolution mechanism with a mandate of combatting sexual harassment and bullying within the RCMP and that this mandate include the establishment of specific hearing and disciplinary measures designed to punish offenders found to be guilty of sexual harassment and bullying;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body and process exist outside of the formal RCMP chain of command and that the body should be answerable to an appropriate authority other than the Commissioner or any other person under the authority of the Commissioner of the RCMP.

Liberal Party of Canada (Northwest Territories)

94. Gender Parity on Corporate Boards

WHEREAS women are actively involved in the corporate community as business owners, shareholders, executives, managers and employees and play an equally important role in the marketplace as consumers, and they should have equal representation on boards of directors;

WHEREAS according to the research organization Catalyst, women constituted 47% of the Canadian labour force but only 14% of board seats among the 500 largest Canadian companies surveyed in 2010 by the Financial Post, and organizations that have higher representation of women on their board of directors have stronger financial performance;

WHEREAS many industrialized countries have enacted legislation to achieve gender parity in the corporate world: Switzerland, Norway and Spain having passed laws requiring women's representation on boards to reach 40% within six years;

WHEREAS in 2009, Quebec passed a law requiring its Crown corporations to have 50% female representation on their boards by 2011;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to enact and implement Bill S-206, An Act to establish gender parity on the board of directors of certain corporations, financial institutions, and parent Crown corporations.

National Women's Liberal Commission

96. Restoration of Funding to Women's Groups for Advocacy

WHEREAS the Conservative Government under Prime Minister Stephen Harper has cut funding for advocacy purposes to women's NGO's operating both in Canada and internationally to advance women's equality and better their living conditions;

WHEREAS the gap between rich and poor in Canada, and the gender gap between men and women specifically has been widening in recent years;

WHEREAS Canada now ranks only 20th on the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2013;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal Government will restore funding for advocacy to women's groups who work to improve the status of women in Canada and internationally;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funding will not be withheld from groups otherwise eligible because of their advocacy for or provision of a full range of reproductive services.

National Women's Liberal Commission

46. Empowering Elections Canada

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada has historically been the party of democratic and governmental reform;

WHEREAS a democracy is only as good as its processes and systems, and can fail if such foundational institutions are not empowered, protected, and supported;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a Liberal government would consult with Elections Canada on reforms to the law and to the process to better the running of elections in Canada;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT as per recommendations by the Chief Electoral Office to have all parties and individuals keep copies of records and contracts with telemarketing companies employed by them to be provided access to Elections Canada as required;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a Liberal government would put into law effective and proper mechanisms for timely investigations by election commissioners, such as the power to compel witnesses who have relevant information about casework.

Liberal Party of Canada (Alberta)

127. Renewing Canadian Democracy

WHEREAS the practices of the current federal government have resulted in Canadians becoming concerned about erosion of Canadian parliamentary democracy;

WHEREAS the Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada has recognised this concern and has suggested that one focus of the next Liberal election platform should be an emphasis on renewing Canadian democracy;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada support the Leader's proposal to include renewing Canadian democracy as a focus of the next election campaign;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada encourage our Leader to state clearly, prior to the next election campaign, the changes a Liberal government would make;

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Policy and Election Platform Committee prepare a document, listing options for inclusion by the leader in this statement. Elements might include: governance principles; transparency; the role and responsibilities of MPs as representatives of their constituencies; and the restoration of the role of the Senate as an independent and non-partisan component of the Canadian Parliament.

Senior Liberals' Commission

13. Democratic Reform of the House of Commons

WHEREAS the House of Commons (HoC) is the national chamber for rational debate where the business of the country is both done and seen to be done, and it and its committees are not meant to be subsumed by the tyranny of the majority;

WHEREAS representatives are elected to the HoC with the expectation that the interests of their constituents will be given priority rather than the interests of a particular party or party leader or unelected office;

WHEREAS the committee structure is meant to support the work of the HoC and provide the opportunity to further study legislation and issues of national concern;

WHEREAS leaders of parties, including the Prime Minister, play a unique role in ensuring that the rules and traditions of the HoC are both observed and respected;

BE IT RESOLVED that the LPC is committed to reviewing and renewing the rules and practices of the HoC by ensuring:

- the elimination of omnibus legislation except in exceptional circumstances;
- that all votes except confidence matters be unwhipped;
- that the power of the Speaker to call members to account be enhanced;
- that the business of committees be in public except for exceptional circumstances;
- that the committee structure be revised to permit members to have greater input into committee work;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a weekly Prime Minister's Question Period be established, where all elected members, as selected by the Speaker, may ask questions of the Prime Minister, or his or her designate, on any topic of interest.

Liberal Party of Canada (Saskatchewan)

63. Canada's Parliamentary and Electoral System

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Liberal Party of Canada:

Commit to a meaningful study and consultation on:

- Parliamentary and Senate reform that includes mandatory audits;
- disclosure of expenses;
- the restoration of previous Prime Minister Office accountability regulations;
- an accountable process for the appointments of Senators.

RATIONALE:

Canada and the world has changed significantly since it became a nation and instituted a parliamentary process based on the British model. Canadians are questioning whether the current parliamentary and electoral system is appropriate for Canada in the 21st century. Many Canadians have voiced the need for a Parliamentary process that is more transparent to ensure that the democratic will of Canadians is being clearly enacted in an ethical and accountable manner.

Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)

92. Redressing the "democratic deficit" for women in Parliament

WHEREAS the World Economic Forums' Global Gender Gap Report 2013,¹ an index which benchmarks national gender gaps on economic, political, education and health-based criteria, and provides country rankings, currently relegates Canada to 20th position overall;

WHEREAS on the "political empowerment" component, based on percentage of women in Parliament, women in ministerial positions, and years with a female head of state, the Global Gender Gap Report 2013 ranks Canada a lowly 42nd;

WHEREAS women in Canada constitute slightly more than half the population, participate in the paid labour force, according to Statistic Canada, at a rate increasingly close to that of men (58.3% for women compared to 65.2% for men in 2009),² but still represent slightly less than one-quarter of Members of Parliament;

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada remains committed to the full democratic participation of citizens of all races, creeds, and genders, and is committed to "exploring Parliamentary and Electoral reform in order to realign our institutions with democratic principles and to ensure more meaningful and effective representation";

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada, offering to work together with the provinces and territories, and learning from the experience of the Nordic countries and others that have achieved much fairer gender representation, address Canada's democratic deficit as a top priority.

National Women's Liberal Commission

¹ <http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2013/>

² <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-503-x/2010001/article/11387-eng.htm#a17>

³ <http://www.liberal.ca/meaningful-representation-parl-elect-reform/>

141. Improving the Method of Selecting Senators

WHEREAS Canadians are rightly concerned by the recent misconduct of a number of Senators, and the confidence of Canadians in the method of selecting Senators has been undermined as a result;

WHEREAS drastic changes to the method of selecting Senators, even though such changes may be desirable, would likely necessitate protracted federal-provincial negotiations, and a constitutionally and legally sanctioned agreement in order to amend the Constitution of Canada,

WHEREAS previous attempts to amend the Constitution of Canada have been acrimonious and divisive and have often distracted federal and provincial governments from addressing the social and economic challenges facing Canadians;

WHEREAS Senators regularly make valuable contributions to Canadian public policy while respecting significant limitations on the Senate's broad constitutional powers; and

WHEREAS the current method of selecting appointees to the Senate can be improved by Parliament acting alone;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada asks a future Liberal government to:

- implement procedural changes according to the current method of selecting Senators
- establish a non-partisan Senate appointments advisory panel to conduct thorough consultations within the relevant province, specifically the members of provincial legislative assemblies and civil society organizations and advise Cabinet on prospective appointees;
- establish a non-partisan committee to conduct a public hearing in order to engage a Senator-designate in discussion on his/her competencies in various public policy issues.

Liberal Party of Canada (Quebec)

152. Arctic Policy

WHEREAS the current government has failed to live up to its promises to promote Canadian sovereignty in the Arctic,

WHEREAS actions by other governments in the area of promoting their Arctic sovereignty have left Canada behind,

WHEREAS the people of the Arctic should have the ability to maintain their cultural heritage and use the resources they have available to them to better their economic standing in Canada,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party will work with the people and governments of Canada's north to improve their living standards and economic opportunities through such

things as increased federal funding for infrastructure development and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party will expand the presence of the Canadian Coast Guard in the Arctic to increase scientific discovery, monitor the increasing effects of climate change, and provide better search and rescue support in the region and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party will establish a permanent military presence in the Arctic with the resources required to protect and preserve Canadian sovereignty in the North including, but not limited to, sub-surface vessels that can maintain long-range patrols in Arctic waters and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party will educate Canadians about the North and its people

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party will place a greater importance on negotiations with Canada's Arctic neighbours and partners through bilateral agreements and greater cooperation in organisations such as the Arctic Council.

Young Liberals of Canada

157. Access to Information

WHEREAS healthy democracy depends upon an informed and engaged electorate;

WHEREAS access to government information is critical to ensuring citizens are well-informed, and have the data on which to form opinions and positions based on full knowledge of the issues;

WHEREAS in 2006, the Conservatives put forward a more retrograde and dangerous set of proposals to restrict Canadian citizen's access to information than any previous government since the *Access to Information Act* came into force.^{[1], [2]}

WHEREAS in 2012–2013 the Office of the Information Commissioner received 42 percent more complaints about administrative delays, time extensions, fees and other such matters, than it had the year before;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal Government will fully comply with the *Access to Information Act*;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal Government will consult with the Information Commissioner and Canadians to devise and implement legislation to support broad access to information, based on the principles and best practices of transparency and accountability, and that such changes will be supported by increased funding and resources to handle access requests.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal Government will also evaluate the possibility of extending the Act to cover Parliamentarians.

Liberal Party of Canada (Quebec)
Liberal Party of Canada (Nova Scotia)

[1] Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada: Response to the Government's

Action Plan for Reform of the *Access to Information Act* (Including the reform elements contained in the proposed *Federal Accountability Act* and in the Discussion Paper of April 11, 2006: "Strengthening the *Access to Information Act*")

http://www.humanrightsinitiative.org/programs/ai/rti/international/laws_papers/canada/info_comm_response_to_reform_plans_canada.pdf

[2] "Significant Deterioration in the Federal Access to Information System" http://www.oic-ci.gc.ca/eng/media-room-salle-media_news-releases-communiqués-de-presse_2013_7.aspx

150. Third Gender Documentation

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada (LPC) values have historically promoted progressive inclusivity;

WHEREAS current government identification and official documentation forces intersex and trans-identified people to be officially documented by a sex which may not accurately reflect their gender;

WHEREAS people may exhibit intersex characteristics and/or identify differently from the traditionally defined genders of female and male;

WHEREAS countries like Germany, Australia, New Zealand, Nepal, India, Bangladesh, have taken steps to include a third gender option on government documentation, and official identification;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the LPC adopt a policy of gender inclusivity by adding a third category to all government documentation and official identification requiring or requesting identification of a gender;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT parents will be able to register their children as being of an indeterminate sex if their babies show intersex characteristics;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the LPC as government work with Provincial Governments to include a third gender option to all provincial government documentation and official identification, such as, but not limited to: birth certificates, ID cards, driving licenses;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT as government, the LPC will table to the Parliament of Canada a bill to change the relevant laws and acts necessary to have a third gender option included on government documentation and official identification;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the LPC will add a third gender option to all LPC forms and documents (such as membership forms, contact forms, etc) that require the documentation of one's sex and/or gender.

Young Liberals of Canada

99. Dividing DFATD (Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development)

WHEREAS the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) was created by Pierre Trudeau in 1968 with the purpose of promoting the reduction of poverty and sustainable development, and creating a more equitable and peaceful world;

WHEREAS Canada has not met the goal set by Lester Pearson that 0.7% GDP be committed to official development assistance (ODA) as recommended for all developed countries by the Commission on International Development in 1969, agreed upon in UN Resolution 2626, and committed to in the Parliament of Canada in 1970;

WHEREAS the current government has frozen foreign aid and is set to cut it over the next three (3) years;

WHEREAS the purpose of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) was to promote the commercial and political interests of Canada abroad;

WHEREAS the merger of CIDA and the Department of Foreign Affairs, Defense, and International Trade (DFAIT) in 2013 into the new Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development (DFATD) has created the potential for conflict, real or perceived, in Canadian aid decisions as domestic interests compete with international ones;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (DFATD) be divided into separate departments to best carry out their responsibilities independently and be accountable to their respective stakeholders.

National Women's Liberal Commission

155. Foreign Policy

WHEREAS Canada played a leading role during the creation and formative years of the United Nations and have made an invaluable contribution to various United Nations initiatives, including humanitarian responses, peacekeeping and peacemaking missions, and these have been a source of pride for Canada;

WHEREAS Canada has also played an important role in the Commonwealth of Nations and the Francophonie;

WHEREAS the current government continues to make policy decisions that diminish Canada's influence on world events;

BE IT RESOLVED that the LPC a Liberal government should supports a foreign policy that would ensure that Canada is leading internationally to ensure that universal human rights are respected, that peoples of different nations have a voice on the world stage regardless of military might or economic influence and that all respond generously to world humanitarian crises;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government should supports a general policy of engagement in world affairs and that this include the goal of seeking and supporting to advance the economic, social and political progress of all peoples;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government should supports a military policy where international or national disputes are resolved through the United Nations and other world bodies, including, in the cases where there is a humanitarian crisis or cases of strife, military action, so that peace can be achieved and maintained;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government would restore the promotion of Canadian culture abroad and value the role played by Canadian diplomats.

Liberal Party of Canada (Saskatchewan)
Liberal party of Canada (Alberta)

137. Canadian Corporate Responsibility Outside Canada

WHEREAS Canadian companies are not required to meet the same human rights, labour and environmental standards in their operations outside Canada, as they are required to meet in Canada;

WHEREAS Canadian companies have been implicated in human rights violations and environmentally destructive practices in other countries;

WHEREAS notwithstanding these practices, Canadian companies operating outside Canada receive support from the Government of Canada in many ways, such as:

- Financing through Export Development Canada (EDC) loans and guarantees;
- Indirect insurance through Canada's status as a member of and shareholder in the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency;
- Diplomatic and/or financial support through embassies, including intervention in legal cases;
- Technical and financial support of efforts to weaken mining codes in foreign countries (e.g. Columbia), diminishing their existing environmental and social safeguards;
- Government support of provisions in regional trade agreements that undermine legislation protecting the environment and public well-being;
- Inclusion in Canadian trade missions;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the next Liberal government of Canada to enact legislation requiring Canadian companies that receive any form of support

from the Government of Canada to meet the same human rights, labour and environmental standards in their operations outside Canada as those established and adopted by the United Nations in the ten principles of the *United Nations Global Compact*, and as those they are required to meet within Canada.

Liberal Party of Canada (Quebec)

116. Resolution on Equalization

WHEREAS Section 36. (2) of The Constitution Act 1982 states that the “Parliament and the government of Canada are committed to the principle of making equalization payments to ensure that provincial governments have sufficient revenues to provide reasonably comparable levels of public services at reasonably comparable levels of taxation,” and;

WHEREAS mobility and equality rights are also enshrined in The Constitution Act 1982, and;

WHEREAS the funding provided to provinces under the Equalization program is a right of Canadian citizenship rather than a government-to-government transfer, and;

WHEREAS the renegotiation of the Equalization Program will commence in 2014;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a Liberal Government ensures that sufficient Equalization funding be provided to each Province, according to fiscal capacity and need, so that they can provide reasonably comparable levels of public services at reasonably comparable levels of provincial taxation, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the renegotiation of the Equalization program include a uniform block of base funding to assist Provinces with the fixed costs of administration and program delivery as well as a per capita component.

Liberal Party of Canada (New Brunswick)

Submitted in memory of
The Hon. Andy Scott, PC

Working in Partnership with Indigenous Peoples

12. Additions to Reserves

WHEREAS First Nations did not receive the amount of land agreed upon in signed Treaties with Her Majesty the Queen of Canada;

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has entered into more than 70 Treaty Land Entitlement agreements and Specific Claim Settlements with First Nations and has a legal obligation to add to reserve land selected and purchased by First Nations pursuant to these agreements;

WHEREAS additional land provides First Nations with economic development opportunities and additional residential and agricultural land base;

WHEREAS First Nations currently have more than 1500 outstanding land selections identified for additions to reserves representing more than 1.25 million acres;

WHEREAS the Auditor General of Canada identified in 2005 and 2009 that the processing time for additions to reserves should be reduced to two years and the average age of outstanding addition to reserve selections is approximately 10 years;

WHEREAS the Government of Canada only added to reserve 11,000 acres of land in 2012, and 8,700 in the first three quarters of 2013;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada commits to reduce processing times for additions to reserves to two years.

Liberal Party of Canada (Saskatchewan)

147. Aboriginal Governance

WHEREAS the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada have been subjected to discriminatory and unjust policies throughout our country's history, which have led to the destruction of languages, histories, and ways of life;

WHEREAS it is beneficial to all Canadians to eliminate the discriminatory and regressive policies of previous and current governments, and give impoverished communities the tools necessary to create self-governed solutions for their communities and constituents;

WHEREAS building the infrastructure and housing necessary for this provides employment, training, and opportunities currently not readily available to all Aboriginal peoples, and provides employment for many Canadians;

BE IT RESOLVED that LPC use any and all means to encourage the federal government to negotiate a plan with each individual Aboriginal Nation to implement their own form of self-governance, if the Nation chooses to do so

BE IT RESOLVED that this process include a comprehensive plan based on negotiated funding with each individual Nation to upgrade fundamental services, including but not limited to: health care, education, housing, and infrastructure

BE IT RESOLVED that negotiations between Government of Canada and each individual Aboriginal Nation occur with the goal of constructing a model of self-governance specific to each individual Nation, adhering to the articulations stated in the UN Declarations of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

BE IT RESOLVED that these individual Nations have the opportunity to create a national coalition to have a collective voice, along with their individual relations with the government of Canada

BE IT RESOLVED that roundtable and town hall discussions are held with Aboriginal peoples before the next biennial convention

Young Liberals of Canada
Liberal Party of Canada (British Columbia)

22. A Resolution for a New Approach to Urban Indigenous Policy

WHEREAS increasing numbers of Indigenous peoples are living outside of their traditional communities, usually in large urban centers;

WHEREAS there is an urgent need to respond to the pressing issues facing Indigenous peoples, who face higher levels of unemployment than non-Indigenous peoples;

WHEREAS it is crucial to achieve integration of Indigenous peoples into the urban fabric without causing their cultural assimilation;

WHEREAS The Liberal Party of Canada is committed to stable funding of the existing urban Indigenous strategy and coordinating with the provinces and municipalities to improve life skills, promote job training, skills and entrepreneurship, as well as support Indigenous women, children and families;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Liberal Party of Canada support a nation-to-nation discussion aimed at replacing the *Indian Act* and in those discussions encourage consideration of forms of self-government and self-determination appropriate for Indigenous peoples outside of their traditional communities and living within an urban reality;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT The Liberal Party of Canada examine existing arrangements already in place to provide coordination of Indigenous services in urban areas and encourage best practices that produce culturally appropriate and effective service delivery.

Aboriginal Peoples' Commission

110. A Resolution for Action for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

WHEREAS the effects of colonization, discrimination, stigmatization and remaining silent and inactive on the missing and murdered Indigenous women issue has contributed to the issue itself;

WHEREAS the missing and murdered Indigenous women issue has received international attention via United Nations, with a United Nations Special Rapporteur spending nine days touring Canada and speaking with Indigenous individuals and organizations;

WHEREAS the Conservative Party of Canada has eliminated funding to the Sisters in Spirit Research Project and have dismissed calls from Premiers across Canada for a national inquiry on missing murdered and Indigenous women;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada, within its first term as government, begin working with pertinent Indigenous advocacy organizations, Indigenous communities, and Indigenous families of those missing and murdered on the issue of the missing and murdered Indigenous women to allow the project to be relevant to the unique issues facing Indigenous women and girls;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada reinstates research funding under the heading of Sisters in Spirit to allow appropriate documentation and analysis of this on-going human rights issue and support current Indigenous organizations research and documentation on missing and murdered Indigenous women;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada support current Indigenous advocacy organizations to continue their work in advocating for the families and friends of the missing and murdered Indigenous women.

Liberal Party of Canada (Yukon)

93. Preventing Violence against Aboriginal Women

WHEREAS Aboriginal women are subject to the highest rates of domestic and sexual violence in Canada;

WHEREAS Aboriginal women face widespread systemic and institutional stereotyping and discrimination that present a barrier to access services and programs to improve their lives;

WHEREAS a lack of access to housing is a major challenge for Aboriginal women, as it places them, and particularly women fleeing violence, in a situation of not being able to care for their children;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to make it a priority to create preventative and restorative solutions that would empower Aboriginal women and provide tools such as literacy, education and housing as well as access to services to allow them to enjoy lives free from violence;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada provide programs and services to improve living conditions by addressing substance abuse and violence in particular.

National Women's Liberal Commission

23. Equal Opportunity: A Resolution for Equal Indigenous Access to Education, Funding for Education, and Extra-Curricular Activities

WHEREAS current proposals on Indigenous education, such as the First Nations Education Act, are unilateral and paternalistic;

WHEREAS Indigenous students continue to face financial discrepancies of up to 30 per cent in funding of elementary, secondary, and post-secondary education;

WHEREAS Indigenous youth consistently face little to no funding of extra-curricular activities for on-reserve/in-community schools;

WHEREAS education policy that reflects Indigenous peoples, must include traditional understandings of importance to their respective Indigenous nation;

WHEREAS the treaty relationships throughout most of Canada highlights federal/Indigenous jurisdiction for Indigenous education;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada will, within its first term as government, implement equal and stable funding for Indigenous youth at approximate equivalent of funding to that of non-Indigenous youth in provincially controlled elementary, secondary, and post-secondary education;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada will work with Indigenous peoples, on a nation-to-nation basis, to implement equal and adequate funding for extra curricular activities, such as but not limited to sports and art, for Indigenous youth;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED *That* the Liberal Party of Canada will work with Indigenous peoples in order to properly implement such a policy in order for Indigenous languages, traditions, and culture to be included;

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED *That* the Liberal Party of Canada will respect the differences that exist amongst Indigenous peoples and their respective histories when moving forward on education.

Aboriginal Peoples' Commission

24. A Resolution for Assisting Post-Secondary and Secondary Indigenous Students with Child Care

WHEREAS access to affordable childcare in Canada is a difficult task, especially for Indigenous peoples who are currently attending secondary or post-secondary institutions;

WHEREAS Indigenous peoples currently have the highest birth rate, whether under or above the age of 18;

WHEREAS the growing Indigenous populations mean that there will be a significant percentage of young people declaring Indigenous ancestries;

WHEREAS the needs for accessible and affordable child care for Indigenous students is important for many to succeed in obtaining their certificates, diplomas, or degrees;

WHEREAS accessible and affordable child care will allow Indigenous peoples with children to complete their education and become members of their community's and/or the Canadian workforce;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada acknowledges the need for assisting First Nations post-secondary and secondary students with children through cost-effective and accessible childcare in order to assist individuals with children in completing their schooling.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Liberal Party of Canada will convene a study, within its first term as government, that includes Indigenous organizations and communities, on how best to move forward on child care services that properly reflect First Nations cultures and languages.

Aboriginal Peoples' Commission

25. A Resolution for Continued Support of Intergenerational Healing of the Canadian/Indigenous Relationships

WHEREAS the current Truth and Reconciliation Commission is in its last year of collecting information in relation to the colonial implications of the Residential School process;

WHEREAS the need to address the impact of the Residential School process must be acknowledged, understood, and healed;

WHEREAS the Government of Canada needs to ensure the implementation and support of a broad based healing initiative that is representative of residential school survivors and their family relations;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada support and ensure the continuation of the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada also support any other reasoned healing initiatives coming from Indigenous nations, communities, and organizations.

Aboriginal Peoples' Commission

26. A Resolution for Further Inclusion to the Liberal Party of Canada: Recognizing the Concept of Two-Spiritedness

WHEREAS colonization and discriminatory practices had outlawed Two-Spirited culture that was historically rich, accepted and eventually relegated to the closet;

WHEREAS the creation of the term two-spirited is attributed to Albert McLeod who proposed the term at the Third Annual Inter-tribal Native American, First Nations, Gay and Lesbian American Conference (1990) and is translated from the Anishinaabemowin term *niizh manidoowag*;

WHEREAS two-spirited refers to a person who has both a masculine and a feminine spirit, and is used by some First Nations people to describe their sexual, gender and/or spiritual identity;

WHEREAS two-spirited may be used as an umbrella term it may encompass same-sex attraction and a wide variety of gender variance, including people who might be described in Canadian culture as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual, transgender, gender queer, cross-dressers or who have multiple gender identities;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada recognize the concept of two-spirited

culture in relation to the LGBT community in order to foster a more inclusive relationship with Indigenous peoples.

Aboriginal Peoples' Commission

27. A Resolution to Negotiate and Implement a Joint-Understanding of Consultation between the Canadian state and Indigenous Nations

WHEREAS current understanding of consultation processes between Canada and Indigenous nations has consistently been met with distrust, concern, confusion, and apprehension;

WHEREAS the issue of consultation must highlight and express the importance of partnership between Canada and the Indigenous nations;

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada itself has dealt with contention over consultative processes in the past, such as the *First Nations Governance Act* (2003);

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada has practiced thorough consultative processes in respect of the nation-to-nation relationship, such as the Kelowna Accord (2005);

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada seek to develop a consultative process that is agreed to be Canada and the Indigenous nations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada, in pursuing a respectful consultative process, will work with Indigenous governments, organizations, and peoples to establish an agreement on consultation with a minimum of three (3) of outreach and discussion.

Aboriginal Peoples' Commission

28. A Resolution to Denounce Spying on Indigenous Peoples/Organizations

WHEREAS the Conservative Party of Canada created a vast surveillance network to monitor First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (Indigenous) peoples;

WHEREAS the Federal Government of Canada currently spends millions (how much) of taxpayers dollars annually on these surveillance networks straining the taxpayer;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada support the immediate end to discriminatory surveillance practices against Indigenous peoples.

Aboriginal Peoples' Commission

30. Drinking Water and Sanitation in First Nations Communities

WHEREAS water and sanitation have been recognized by all of the major international rights organizations as basic human rights;

WHEREAS unsafe drinking water and sanitation have been identified as the second leading cause of death among children;

WHEREAS the average duration of boil-water advisories in First Nation communities is almost 30 times the average of non-Indigenous communities;

WHEREAS a recent study by the federal government of Canada concluded that hundreds of water systems on reserves represent a high risk to the health of those using these systems;

WHEREAS the study by the federal government of Canada also found that remedying the water situation in First Nations communities would cost approximately \$5 billion over 10 years, with an immediate cost to bringing water and sanitation systems in First Nations communities, to that of provincial standards, of \$1 billion;

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the federal government's study, the Conservative government claims to have invested only \$330 million and refuses to provide details as to the nature of that investment;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada commit to bringing drinking water and sanitation systems in First Nations communities up to provincial standards within two years of taking office.

Aboriginal Peoples' Commission

119. Modern Treaty-Making and Land Claims

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada is committed to the inherent right to self-government by Aboriginal Peoples;

WHEREAS there are also many outstanding aboriginal land claims that are yet to be resolved;

WHEREAS there are many benefits that would accrue to Aboriginal Peoples and Canadians in general by resolving outstanding land claims;

BE IT RESOLVED that a new Liberal Government would commit to a swift resolution of outstanding land claims;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada reaffirms the recognized and inherent rights of Aboriginal Peoples and that nothing in the resolution of land claims can diminish these rights in any way.

Liberal Party of Canada (New Brunswick)

4. Honouring Our Commitments: The Kelowna Accord, Restructuring of the Indian Act and Aboriginal Renewal

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada has taken a leadership role towards closing the education, employment and health gaps between Canada's Indigenous population and the Canadian National Average through its commitment to the Kelowna Accord;

WHEREAS the Kelowna Accord had the consensus support of five National Canadian Aboriginal Organizations, the First Ministers of All Ten Canadian Provinces and All Three Canadian Territories, a first in Canadian history for any Canadian Federal Government;

WHEREAS the Indian Act is an outdated, poorly executed and poorly conceived piece of legislation that has required amendment due to violations of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and may continue to be challenged under the Charter;

WHEREAS on 21 March, 2007, Bill C-292 passed with the support of the Liberal Party of Canada, the Bloc Quebecois and the NDP, while the opposing Conservatives utilized section 54 of the Constitution Act which stipulates a private members' Bill cannot spend public funds;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada work co-operatively with Aboriginal communities on policy development according to the principles of mutual recognition, respect, benefit and responsibility as contained in the agreements of the Kelowna Accord, using the provisions of the Accord as a fundamental road map in establishing new agreements with Canada's Aboriginal people;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to restructure the Indian Act by 2020 and replace it with new legislation developed in the spirit of the Kelowna Accord.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)

29. Implementing the Kelowna Accord

WHEREAS a historical meeting took place in Kelowna British Columbia between the provincial and federal government of Canada and representatives of the Indigenous peoples;

WHEREAS the agreements reached in Kelowna became known as 'The Kelowna Accord;'

WHEREAS The Kelowna Accord heralded a new era of co-operation between Canada and Indigenous peoples;

WHEREAS The Kelowna Accord represented hope for Indigenous peoples that a time had come for a mutual and respectful nation-to-nation relationship;

WHEREAS the Conservative government of Canada scrapped and refused to recognize the agreements of The Kelowna Accord;

WHEREAS The Liberal Party of Canada is desirous of forging a new relationship with the Indigenous nations;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada commit to implementing the agreements set out in the Kelowna Accord within its first term as government and dutiful consideration of changes in costs and inflation.

Aboriginal Peoples' Commission

Sustainable Resource Development

54. The Health of Canada's Environment and the Related Well-being of the Fisheries Resources of Our Country (Omnibus Budget Bill C-38)

WHEREAS fishery resources are vital to the way of life of countless Canadians, serve as the economic foundation of coastal communities in British Columbia and the Atlantic Provinces, as well as First Nations communities nation-wide;

WHEREAS a strong and effective Fisheries Act, supported by robust scientific research and enforcement personnel, has been critical to maintaining healthy fish stocks;

WHEREAS many experts strongly believe that legislation passed by the Conservative Government weakens the habitat protection provisions of the Fisheries Act and streamlines the federal environmental assessment process without a careful, extensive and factual examination in the context of a comprehensive consultation process;

WHEREAS Canadians need and want a Government that fights for the protection and enhancement of Canada's aquatic biodiversity;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal Government will:

- Within the first 90 days of its election, issue a White Paper reviewing the results to

changes in habitat protection and environmental preservation (including the environmental assessment process) under the new Fisheries Act (2012);

- Early in the 1st Session, refer such White Paper to a Special Joint Senate-Commons Committee for close examination leading to recommendations on necessary action within one calendar year. This referral will include a sufficient budget for research support as well as enable the Committee to travel and receive testimony from provincial governments, industry, Aboriginal representatives, academic experts, and personnel of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, amongst others;
- Within that 1st parliamentary session, introduce and pass amendments to the Fisheries Act (2012) designed to implement the recommendations of the Joint Committee.

Liberal Party of Canada (British Columbia)

75. Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) Fisheries Management Boards

WHEREAS the fishery represents major social and economic consequence for many provinces of Canada;

WHEREAS the division of mandates and jurisdictions in fish processing, harvesting, marketing, conservation and science between the federal and provincial governments represents a disjointed and dysfunctional approach to realizing the full benefits and potential of the fishing industry;

WHEREAS functional designs have been demonstrated in decision making and sharing of offshore oil resources between the federal and provincial governments through the existence of boards such as the Canada Newfoundland & Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board and the Canada Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board;

WHEREAS some provinces and its federal counterpart are both engaged in fishery research and science in a separate independent fashion;

WHEREAS harmonization and collaboration lends itself to maximum benefits for research and science programs;

WHEREAS fishery research and science is fundamentally a federal responsibility both in terms of legal jurisdiction and a functional mandate;

BE IT RESOLVED the Liberal Party of Canada adopt a policy that provides for the establishment of FPT Fisheries Management Boards with designs for equal representation on decisions related to the conservation, science, marketing, harvesting and processing of fishery resources;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Liberal Party of Canada seek a collaborative approach to fisheries research and science through the process of a formal MOU with provinces and territories of Canada, which establishes a legal basis for the province to undertake science programs as well as a federal/provincial sharing of work-plans and database.

Liberal Party of Canada (Newfoundland and Labrador)

Word count: 243

74. Maritime Safety and Environmental Mitigation Infrastructure

WHEREAS Marine Communications and Traffic Services (MCTS) Centres (MCTS), Kitsalino Coast Guard Base, Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) Fleet Vessels such as the CCGS Sir Wilfred Grenfell and other public safety infrastructure are being taken out of service;

WHEREAS scheduled MCTS closures such as Vancouver, Tofino, Comox, Thunder Bay, Inuvik, Saint John, St Anthony, St. John's, Riviere au Renard and Montreal represent significant reductions in capabilities for distress communications, oil tanker and other vessel safety through active marine traffic control;

WHEREAS CCG fleet vessels, which represent primary SAR platforms and multi-purpose vessels, designed for fishery patrol and environmental mitigation, are being taken out of service indefinitely;

WHEREAS these downgrades of essential lifesaving and environmental services affect all provinces and territories with high levels of fishing, offshore oil and gas, recreational boating activities, tanker traffic, liquefied natural gas carriers and trans-ocean shipping adjacent to Canada's coasts;

BE IT RESOLVED the Liberal Party of Canada adopt a policy in support of full restoration of maritime safety infrastructure in Canada;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Liberal Party of Canada calls for the Government of Canada to restore the services of the Kitsalino Coast Guard Base and to immediately reverse the decisions to downgrade SAR infrastructure of MCTS centres and Lay-up of primary SAR vessels.

Liberal Party of Canada (Newfoundland and Labrador)

Word count: 210

107. Support for a Study by the House of Commons Environment Committee on the Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on the Environment, Especially Regarding our Water Resources and on the Health of Canadians

WHEREAS the use of hydraulic fracturing is resulting in the increased production of natural gas and other fossil fuels, which implies economic incentives for its use;

WHEREAS this practice is relatively new and its impacts are not yet fully understood including the possibility of different impacts in different areas of the country;

WHEREAS hydraulic fracturing for natural gas and other fossil fuels often involves the injection of toxic chemicals and large amounts of water into the ground;

WHEREAS there have been documented cases of water contamination near hydraulic fracturing sites in the United States;

WHEREAS more study is needed on the impact of hydraulic fracturing on localized air pollution which also can have adverse health effects;

WHEREAS resource development is primarily under provincial jurisdiction, while environmental considerations can be federal in nature;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada support the House of Commons Environment Committee in studying the impact of hydraulic fracturing on the environment and the health of Canadians.

Liberal Party of Canada (Prince Edward Island)

109. The Reinstatement and Strengthening of Environmental Assessments

WHEREAS a healthy economy is based on a healthy environment;

WHEREAS the recent changes to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act have weakened the role of the federal government regarding environmental assessments and the lack of review or concern for environmental impact is putting our economy and ecosystems at risk;

WHEREAS, increased greenhouse gases through human activities is resulting in climate change;

WHEREAS, impacts from climate change through floods, soil erosion, invasive species, and increased storms is costing our country billions;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Liberal Party of Canada support reinstating federal environmental assessments and strengthen them by including greenhouse gas emission levels over the lifetime of a project.

Liberal Party of Canada (Prince Edward Island)

126. Department of Climate Change

WHEREAS Canadians are experiencing an apparent increase in extreme weather events and natural disasters and reacting to them on an individual basis;

WHEREAS there is a growing international consensus that changes in the global climate is a contributing factor to such events;

WHEREAS analyzing these events to determine if there are common causes that shed light on methods of mitigation or ways to avoid these extreme weather events;

WHEREAS research and data-gathering on climate change is ongoing in numerous government agencies and departments and in various universities and other public and private institutions, there is no central repository and the lessons learned are not being appropriately analyzed or addressed;

WHEREAS aggressively attacking climate change will lead to new technologies and new jobs;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government create a Department of Climate Change to focus Canada's efforts toward understanding and addressing the potential impacts of climate change, including extreme weather events and to promote municipal, regional, provincial and industrial opportunities that will arise therefrom.

Senior Liberals' Commission

65. Canada's Environmental Challenges

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Liberal Party of Canada:

Develop, continuously update and communicate, a policy on the environment which balances environmental protection and associated concerns with the need for economic development and the financial well being of all Canadians. This policy should include short and long term goals.

RATIONALE:

A majority of Canadians indicate that global environmental well being of Canada is a priority. Canadians want to practice good environmental stewardship which ensures the well being of this planet for future generations. Most Canadians appreciate that there is a cost to maintaining a healthy environment. Therefore, it is essential to develop a sustainable environmental policy that is aligned with economic considerations and realities.

This policy and associated regulations should be monitored and enforced with clearly defined and communicated consequences.

Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)

6. Climate Change Action

WHEREAS an overwhelming scientific consensus confirms that the Earth's climate system is unequivocally warming as a result of human activities that increase atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases;

WHEREAS the resulting climate change has well-documented severe environmental, economic and social costs, and already contributes to 400,000 deaths a year globally;

WHEREAS environmental protection and economic growth are not mutually exclusive;

BE IT RESOLVED that Canada urgently create a national environmental strategy that embraces scientific evidence and accepts the reality of human-caused climate change, champions mandatory international agreements to keep the Earth's atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations below the level that would increase global temperatures by 2 degrees Celsius, sets firm annual targets for Canada's fair share of emission reductions, takes appropriate action to ensure they are met and publishes independently-validated annual progress reports;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this strategy be comprehensive and developed in consultation with all levels of government and other stakeholders and place a realistic and fair price on carbon while supporting regulatory and innovative approaches to sustainable development;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these strategies be evidence-based and support the investments needed to make them economically advantageous to implement;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these strategies include investment in research and development into ways to reduce costs of green energy technologies.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)

108. Greenhouse Gas Policy

WHEREAS increased greenhouse gases through human activities is resulting in climate change, which has the potential to put at risk Canadian lives and lifestyles;

WHEREAS Canadians share a desire to reduce the production of greenhouse gases from all sources;

WHEREAS Canada has to date been unable to identify and implement a mechanism to do so;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal Government will commit to establish a balanced assembly of scientists, industry leaders and non-governmental organizations, and to set a meaningful timetable, for the development of a pricing or other mechanism which will encourage reduction of greenhouse gases to sustainable levels.

Liberal Party of Canada (Prince Edward Island)

2. The “Bees and Farming” Resolution: Moratorium on Neonicotinoids in Canada

WHEREAS managed hives, wild bees and native pollinators are integral and irreplaceable as pollinators in agriculture and in the natural environment;

WHEREAS the economic health of crop and livestock agriculture – which contributes 8% of Canada's total GDP – ultimately relies upon a healthy population of pollinators;

WHEREAS neonicotinoid-based insecticides have been subject to moratoriums in other jurisdictions due to the conclusive links to bee deaths;

WHEREAS the systemic mode of action of neonicotinoids means that conventional risk mitigation measures – including causing farmers to modify seeding machinery and planting practices – may impose additional costs on farmers while not protecting pollinators from harm;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada call for the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) to suspend immediately its registration of all neonicotinoid-based compounds, resulting in an immediate moratorium on the sale and use of this class of technology in Canada;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pollinator health – including test methodologies to more accurately assess the impact of systemic insecticides – become a more prominent criterion of subsequent registration reviews for new agricultural pesticides;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal Government contribute scientific leadership in securing the future global vitality of pollinators in collaboration with other countries and the UN-Agricultural Development and Food Security Organization to support the research and monitoring that are needed to improve information on the status of pollinators and establish a framework for conservation and restoration of pollinator species within two years.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)

69. Western Canada Agriculture Issues

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Liberal Party of Canada:

- Develop and articulate a vision for rural Canada. Agriculture being the primary focus of this vision;
- In partnership with producers and their representatives undertake a complete review of all Agriculture and Agri-Food Programs that have been: eliminated, altered, replaced, and which have remain unchanged, in order to rebuild Agriculture and Agri-Food support programs with producer input. Agriculture and Agri-Food policies and programs must be developed on the principle of:
 - o consumer safety;
 - o food security;
 - o producer needs; and
 - o economic viability.
- Agree to producers' rights to consultation on Supply Management programs;
- Promote a strategy to effectively deal with the issue of Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) without placing a financial burden on Canadian consumers and businesses not being affected by this dispute;
- Develop a scientific position on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs); and
- Demand that the government immediately undertake the promised Railway Grain Transportation Costing Review.

RATIONALE:

There has been a wholesale dismantling of government funded agriculture institutions and programs. In most cases, these institutions or programs have been dismantled in a manner which does not allow them to be recreated or reactivated.

The Business Risk Management Programs (BRMs) have undergone changes, and funding has been drastically reduced. Producers have complained that these programs are "Ottawa down driven" and do not address the issues producers are facing.

Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)

158. Thorium Policy

WHEREAS Canada is a net exporter of energy products and possesses a greater proportion of thorium to uranium;

WHEREAS alternative forms of energy are quickly gaining traction in the world's energy economy;

WHEREAS Canadian governments have a responsibility to provide safe and clean energy solutions for Canadians;

WHEREAS nuclear experts, such as Hans Blix of the International Atomic Energy Agency, has stated that thorium based reactors are safer, almost impossible to weaponize, and are a critical element in combating our climate crisis;

WHEREAS there are less long-lived waste products (only 400-500 years rather than thousands) and thorium reactors can be easily shut down without chain reactions like those that took place in Fukushima in 2011;

WHEREAS scientists at the United Kingdom's National Nuclear Laboratory (NNL) have encouraged their government to support thorium reactors;

WHEREAS before switching to plutonium Canada had invested decades into thorium research;

WHEREAS the existing model for CANDU reactors can be modified for thorium fuel;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal Government would direct the Council of Canadian Academies to study the utility of thorium-fuelled reactors;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government would direct, based on the conclusions and recommendations of the Council of Canadian Academies, investment appropriately in thorium reactors in concert with all other levels of government as part of a comprehensive plan to further develop sustainable energy solutions for Canada.

Liberal Party of Canada (Alberta)
Liberal Party of Canada (British Columbia)

138. National Water Policy and Secretary of State for Water

WHEREAS federal jurisdiction for water in Canada is institutionally fragmented, involving some 20 departments and agencies that each has some degree of responsibility for water;

WHEREAS sustainable development requires a holistic approach to environmental management that allows for coordination among related policy issues;

WHEREAS the federal cabinet environment portfolio is highly diffuse, involving responsibility for a variety of issues ranging from climate change, biodiversity, chemicals management, national parks, and endangered species, thus preventing a dedicated focus on water policy;

WHEREAS the federal water policy has not been updated since 1987;

WHEREAS on July 28, 2010 the United Nations adopted a resolution that recognizes access to clean water and sanitation as a human right;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the next Liberal government of Canada to:

- develop a National Water Policy, based on sustainable development, and
- appoint a junior minister for water (i.e. secretary of state), reporting to the environment minister, whose responsibilities would include:
 - pulling together the many strands of federal water policy;
 - conducting research on the state of Canada's water resources and possible threats to its integrity (including climate change);

- working with provincial, territorial, First Nations, and municipal governments in Canada to advance water policy as a national priority;
- engaging governments in the United States and in the broader international community on water issues;
- implement the United Nations resolution on access to clean water and sanitation through national and foreign policy.

Liberal Party of Canada (Quebec)

42. Water

WHEREAS water will be one of the most important resources of the 21st century;

WHEREAS water policies should take into account the needs and interests of all parties;

WHEREAS it is recognized that economic development is not without costs, often placing pressures upon the water system and those who rely upon it;

WHEREAS water usage is of particular concern for all Canadians, including Aboriginal peoples who rely upon water for their livelihoods and traditional usages, and are stewards of the land, playing an important role in safeguarding water for current and future generations;

WHEREAS responsible water policies seek an appropriate balance between economic objectives, the protection of water as a finite resource, and the assurance of public health and safety;

WHEREAS industry, rural and urban communities have responsibility to maintain the natural character of aquifers, rivers and other bodies of water;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada develop and implement a National Water Strategy centred on evidence-based reasoning for the responsible use of water including:

- Water Conservation and Protection
- Measureable and enforceable Regulations
- Development of International Standards
- Specific and enforceable limitations and penalties for abuse of water systems
- Adequate, transparent and timely monitoring and reporting systems
- Public consultation as the Canadian people have a vested interest in preserving and protecting natural environments that impact water systems
- Understanding of the effects on Water of resource extraction
- with the above objectives to be pursued in consultation with the provinces where provincial jurisdiction is engaged

Liberal Party of Canada (Alberta)

Word count: 245

19. Residential Energy and Water Conservation – Retrofit Program

WHEREAS Canadian per capita residential energy and water consumption exceeds that of most OECD countries;

WHEREAS Canada lacks a national program for improvement of residential energy and water efficiency;

WHEREAS the cost of energy and water represent a disproportionate burden to Canada's working poor and middle class;

WHEREAS working poor and middle class citizens have limited ability to access energy and water efficient technologies;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada implement a long term residential infrastructure retrofit grant in aid of reducing inefficient energy and water consumption in

Canadian homes.

Liberal Party of Canada (Saskatchewan)

Background Information and Source

" ... Canada ranks 26th out of 29 OECD nations for total energy use, with only the United States, Germany and Japan using more energy. ... Between 1980 and 1997, total Canadian energy consumption grew by 20.3%, slightly higher than the average OECD increase of 18%. ..."

Canada vs. The OECD: An Environmental Comparison Author: David Richard Boyd (2001)

<http://www.environmentalindicators.com/htdocs/indicators/8ener.htm>

" ... Residential home retrofitting appears to have great potential for energy saving and hence for GHG emission reduction. In Canada, it has been estimated that about 46% of the emission reductions requirements of the residential sector under the Kyoto Accord can be achieved through retrofitting shell and furnace improvements. This reflects the fact that some 70% of the current Canadian housing stock was constructed prior to 1980, when many of the energy conservation programs started, and that houses of this vintage are about 25-40% less energy efficient than those that meet the R2000 standard ... "

Utilization of Residential Energy-Saving Retrofit Programs in Canada: Who, What, and Why? Samuel Gamtessa and David L. Ryan – April 2007

" ... According to the OECD, for residential purposes, each Canadian used about 335 litres of water each day in 2001. That doesn't seem too bad when you compare that with the Americans, who used around 380 litres of water for residential purposes each day. But the average Italian uses about 25 percent less water than the average Canadian, the average Swede uses 40 percent less water, and the average person in France uses 55 percent less water. ..."

www.safewater.org/PDFS/resourcesknowthefacts/WaterConsumption.pdf

" ... More than half of municipal water is used by the residential sector. As a consequence, the residential sector represents a logical target for demand management activities. Depending on the nature of the water efficiency program developed, each household can reduce water use by 40% or more. ..."

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/eau-water/default.asp?lang=En&n=F25C70EC-1#i2>

67. Experimental Lakes Area

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Liberal Party of Canada:

Demand that the present government study the current financial and operational arrangements for the Experimental Lakes Area and ensure its sustainability and autonomy through unrestricted revenue and programming ; further; all scientific information generated remain in the public realm.

RATIONALE:

The ELA is a series of 58 lakes which have been the site of environmental research for over 40 years. It has served as an invaluable natural laboratory where scientists have been able to study issues such as acid rain, climate change ,and fish farming.

The international science community has used the ELA to assist in the development of safe water policies throughout the world. The federal government, through its omnibus 2012 Budget Bill, has withdrawn all operational and academic research funding to the ELA, with the stated intent of offloading responsibility for scientific study to Canadian universities, already straining under dwindling financial resources and declining enrollments.

The change in funding sources for the ELA jeopardizes global access to abundant and safe potable water.

Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)

62. Lake Winnipeg and the Lake Winnipeg Watershed

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Liberal Party of Canada:

Demand that the current government deals with the environmental issues affecting the health of Lake Winnipeg in a manner that would result in its remediation by 2024.

RATIONALE:

Excessive nutrient loading of Lake Winnipeg continues to be responsible for the growth of blue-green algae that produces harmful toxins, out competes beneficial algae, and causes hypoxic or anoxic conditions (low or no dissolved oxygen levels) when large mats die and decompose. It has been estimated that half of the nutrient load originates from outside Manitoba borders.

To mitigate the environmental issues affecting Lake Winnipeg the Federal Government must, at a minimum:

- ensure Environment Canada carries out Canada's regulatory and fiduciary responsibilities as mandated under numerous federal acts and regulations including but not restricted to the: Canada Water Act, the International Boundary Waters Treaty Act and Regulations, and the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999;
- proactively deal with other jurisdictions regarding the environmental problems that originate outside Manitoba Borders;
- support the funding of Phase II of the Lake Winnipeg Basin Initiative and ensure that funding, as it pertains to the Community Stewardship program and other projects, is being allocated on a salient incremental basis, in a timely manner; and
- fund the LWBI and other initiatives (infrastructure) in a sufficient manner that would result in the remediation of Lake Winnipeg being completed by 2024.

Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)

A Fair and Compassionate Society

20. Sensible Justice System

WHEREAS between 2002 and 2012 the national crime rate reached its lowest point in 30 years, with Canadian police services reporting a 17% decline in crime, the third consecutive such annual decrease;^[3]

WHEREAS within this period the violent crime rate fell by 3%, reaching its lowest point since 1989;^[4]

WHEREAS within this period the property crime rate dropped by 8%, reaching its lowest point since 1969;^[5]

WHEREAS the youth crime rate dropped by 2% in 2007, following a 3% increase in 2006, and whereas violent crimes committed by youth remained stable while declines were seen in most non-violent offences;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada would support an evidence-based approach the justice system that reflects the falling crime rate;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to address the mismatch between a reduction in crime rates and an increase in incarceration rates and prison sentences.

Liberal Party of Canada (Saskatchewan)

[3] http://www.vcn.bc.ca/august10/politics/facts_stats.html

[4] Following increases in most serious violent crimes over the past two years, the 2007 rates of homicide, attempted murder, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, assault with a weapon, forcible confinement and abduction declined or remained stable.

[5] Break and enters were at their lowest level in 40 years, dropping by 9% in 2007. Likewise, motor vehicle thefts declined by 9%.

149. Access to Justice

WHEREAS several non-partisan luminaries, such as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, have spoken to the importance of Access to Justice,

WHEREAS Access to Justice is a problem that hurts those in positions of low economic standing and Aboriginal peoples' disproportionately,

WHEREAS the Criminal Code and other similar annually updated statutes are inaccessible due to their density brought on by a lack of editing and removal of outdated and invalidated provisions,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party will increase funds transferred to the provinces for legal aid based on uniform standards to create common standards and practices across the country and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party will offer better funding and support to Aboriginal peoples in terms of legal education and representation and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party will re-establish the Law Reform Commission of Canada with a mandate to truncate and update the Criminal Code and other similar statutes that are modified annually and will commit to ensuring such statutes are edited every year.

Young Liberals of Canada

136. Promoting a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has a constitutional responsibility for "peace, order and good government" (British North America Act, 1867, Article 91), making the federal government's pursuit of peace an obligation, not an option;

WHEREAS Canada is a member of the United Nations (UN), which was founded "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war" (Charter of the United Nations, preamble);

WHEREAS peace can prevail and endure only if we create institutions dedicated to promoting "a culture of peace and non-violence" (UNESCO, Manifesto 2000) in a society determined to use force only as an absolutely last resort;

WHEREAS this process of institutionalizing peace could include the establishment of peace committees, departments and programmes at all levels of government;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the next Liberal government of Canada to establish a governmental institution for peace with a mandate that includes the creation of a permanent Canadian Civilian Service of professionally trained men and women working for i) the prevention of violent conflict and war, and ii) the non-violent resolution of conflict at every level of society, both within Canada and overseas, through such means as:

- detection of early warning signs

- structured mediation
- non-violent intervention
- protection of human rights
- humanitarian and development assistance
- citizen diplomacy.

Liberal Party of Canada (Quebec)

151. Fewer Guns, Less Violence

WHEREAS evidence demonstrates a clear relationship between the number of firearms in a society and the number of firearm-related homicides and suicides;

WHEREAS gun violence in our urban and suburban centres remains a significant threat to public safety;

WHEREAS incidents of firearm-related crimes, deaths and injuries decrease when access to firearms is combined with effective policies that keep firearms out of the hands of those who would use them to for such purposes;

WHEREAS the Australian Conservative government of John Howard successfully reduced the number of firearms in that country through proactive initiatives such as gun buybacks which led to decreases in the rates of firearm-related crimes, homicides and suicides;

BE IT RESOLVED that the primary objective of a Liberal government firearms policy shall be reducing the number of firearms in Canada through initiatives inspired by the Australian model.

Young Liberals of Canada

89. Veterans' Affairs

WHEREAS veterans fought for us to preserve our democracy and give us the freedoms that are cherished by all Canadians;

WHEREAS the after-effects of conflicts are serious and our older veterans as well as those who have represented Canada in recent missions both on and off this continent, suffer from physical and mental health challenges such as amputation and post-traumatic stress disorder;

WHEREAS and our veterans deserve one-on-one counselors with tailored service considering the veterans' service to Canada;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a Liberal government will maintain service to veterans at Veterans Affairs Offices throughout Canada

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a Liberal government will try to re-establish facilities conducive to the needs of all veterans.

Liberal Party of Canada (Nova Scotia)

56. Disabled Veterans Strategy

WHEREAS the New Veterans Charter (2006) provides an earnings loss benefit, financial award and allowances to veterans who have been assessed with a service-related disability;

WHEREAS the New Veterans Charter contains a capped amount and provides a one-time lump-sum disability award which can be a reduction from the monthly tax-free pension for life and survivor benefit originally provided through the Canada Pension Act;

WHEREAS the "Enhanced New Veterans Charter Act", provides only Regular Force Veterans a guaranteed minimum of \$40,000/year in pre-tax income only when they are in a Rehabilitation Program or until age 65 or \$58,000 only when severely disabled;

WHEREAS every disabled Canadian Forces veteran deserves to be treated on a basis equal to private sector and other public sector workers and who have a diagnosed medical condition or disability related to their service;

WHEREAS the New Veterans Charter provides awards that primarily consist of a one-time payment with benefits that are significantly less than those benefits provided by the previous Veteran Affairs Canada Pension Act or other compensation programs throughout Canada;

WHEREAS the difference in benefits is contrary to the spirit of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and is disrespectful of the services provided by Canadian Forces personnel;

BE IT RESOLVED that Disabled Canadian Forces disability benefits be provided on a basis at least equitable to those provided under the previous Pension Act and consistent with disability benefits available to other federal and provincial government employees and/or benefits under federal and provincial workers compensation plans.

Liberal Party of Canada (British Columbia)

117. Resolution on Fair & Compassionate Treatment of Injured Canadian Forces Personnel

WHEREAS the people of Canada are proud of and grateful of the men and women who serve in the Canadian Forces;

WHEREAS some injured Canadian Forces personnel are being forced out of the service prior to obtaining the ten years of duty required to be eligible for their pensions;

WHEREAS men & women in the Canadian Forces may suffer from both physical and psychological injuries;

WHEREAS these injured Canadian Forces personnel may still serve their country;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada condemn this practice by the Conservative Government;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a new Liberal Government immediately cease this practice and ensure the fair and compassionate treatment of all current and former Canadian Forces personnel.

Liberal Party of Canada (New Brunswick)

33. A Social Covenant with Canadian Veterans

WHEREAS, successive generations of Canadians have served their country honourably as members of the Canadian Armed Forces;

WHEREAS, service in the Canadian Armed Forces requires members to make a personal commitment to put their lives on the line on behalf of their fellow citizens, and to risk their lives anywhere in the world that the nation deems it appropriate that they do so;

WHEREAS, the burden associated with military service is not only borne by those in the Canadian military, but also by their families, who make untold sacrifices to help ensure the success of Canadian Armed Forces missions;

WHEREAS, the Conservative government's approach to veterans' policy demonstrates an utter disregard for our country's social covenant with those who serve in the military, particularly through its aggressive funding cuts to the supports and services that veterans need;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a future Liberal government will uphold the principles of this social covenant in its defence and veterans policies, and will live up to our country's sacred obligation to care for veterans and their families throughout their lives by allowing them to maintain a quality of life that is worthy of the sacrifices that they have made for Canada;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a future Liberal government will introduce legislation to strengthen the New Veterans Charter to reflect this commitment.

Liberal Caucus

45. Support for Military Personnel and Their Families

WHEREAS Canadian military personnel protect and support the way of life and values of all Canadians, and the sovereignty of Canada, domestically and internationally;

WHEREAS the support provided by the military to all Canadians frequently results in significant personal cost to individual members of the military and their families;

WHEREAS recent changes in compensation programs to military personnel have resulted in impoverished living standards for many, particularly for wounded personnel and their families;

WHEREAS Canada has an obligation to ensure that members of the military are treated fairly during their military service and afterwards;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to review compensation for active military personnel to ensure that the pay received is equitable, and is attractive to those considering a military career;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to create programs to assist military personnel and their families in their transition into the community following assignments overseas;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to improve medical and psychiatric care available to military personnel who have been injured while in military service;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to create compensation for injured military personnel that fairly reflects the sacrifice and injury that such personnel have endured, and which includes training for meaningful employment for the remainder of their military service and afterwards.

Liberal Party of Canada (Alberta)

162. Affordable National Housing Strategy

WHEREAS Canada does not have a long-term national plan for housing;

WHEREAS the LPC at its 2012 convention adopted a priority resolution calling for development of a comprehensive national housing strategy;

WHEREAS access to affordable quality housing is a first step in reducing poverty, hunger and homelessness, especially among vulnerable populations including low income seniors, new immigrants, Aboriginal peoples and persons with disabilities and illness;

WHEREAS affordable housing for young families is an important step to commence a middle income life style with improved health and wellness and which allows children to more fully benefit from the education system;

WHEREAS affordable housing has many different interpretations, any meaningful definition

must reflect local community needs ranging from accessible social housing through rental apartments and houses to low-income and middle-income family homes;

BE IT RESOLVED that a national housing commission be struck to work in conjunction with all levels of government and social housing and private sector housing providers to create a national housing action plan that would produce affordable, safe housing for Canadians at all income levels;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the objectives of the national housing action plan be the elimination of waiting lists for affordable housing; the reduction of the cost of housing for middle and lower income earners; and the stabilization of the economy with job-creating investment in housing infrastructure;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this plan will provide sustainable and predictable tax measures to support the development of market rental housing and that governments ensure existing affordable housing and homelessness investments are permanent.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)

Liberal Party of Canada (Prince Edward Island)

Senior Liberals' Commission

131. CMHC Loans to Home-Owning Seniors

WHEREAS research shows that many seniors quality of life is best served by maintaining independence and remaining in their own home for as long as feasible;

WHEREAS seniors' income is generally reduced upon retirement, and their property-related taxes continue to increase;

WHEREAS property-related taxes, therefore, constitute an increasing percentage of the expenses of seniors who own their home, and may force them to sell that home before they would otherwise choose to do so;

WHEREAS progressive jurisdictions (e.g. British Columbia, Denmark) have adopted programs that allow home-owning seniors to defer payment of property related taxes through a program of mortgaged-backed government loans;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government consider adoption of a program whereby the government, through CMHC, pay property related taxes on behalf of home-owning seniors through a mortgage agreement; such mortgage plus simple, non-compounding interest to be reimbursed when they vacate or sell their home.

Senior Liberals' Commission
National Women's Liberal Commission

146. National Homelessness Action Plan

WHEREAS it is estimated that between 150,000 and 300,000 people in Canada experience homelessness every year, including approximately 65,000 youth;

WHEREAS the cost of homelessness to Canadian taxpayers is estimated between 4.5 and 6 Billion annually;

WHEREAS Canada lacks both a formal definition of homelessness and a formal process of measuring the demographics of the homeless population, and is therefore unable to deliver statistics or data on the current situation;

WHEREAS no single minister or agency is responsible for dealing with homelessness in Canada, and there is no way to hold the Government of Canada accountable for the homeless;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government would develop a National Homelessness Action

Plan that supports reinsertion and rehabilitation programs for the homeless, as well as the necessary ancillary support services

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government would implement data collection strategies that target vulnerable Canadians who are homeless or at risk of being homeless;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government would create a National Homeless Commissioner to represent the homeless, provide regular reports to Parliament on the state of homelessness in Canada, and act as an intergovernmental liaison to establish funding priorities, objectives, deliverables and timelines to combat homelessness;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government would examine, promote and support programs and organizations that: help the homeless with labour force reintegration, education and skills training as well as those who provide health and mental health services to the homeless.

Young Liberals of Canada

72. Maritime Search and Rescue Coordination in Canada

WHEREAS the Marine Rescue Sub-Centres (MRSCs) in St John's and Quebec City, was formally established in 1978 as a means of saving lives through the application of local knowledge, language, dialect, geography and meteorological uniqueness;

WHEREAS the MRSCs were established as a result of maritime tragedies such as the fishing vessel Barracudina in 1978 and Cape Royal in 1977 as well as subsequent validations through inquiries from tragedies such as the Ocean Ranger in 1982 and departmental needs analysis starting in 1998;

WHEREAS the decision to close both MRSCs were taken without study, analysis or public consultation with key stakeholders;

WHEREAS the decision to close MRSC Quebec has been formally reversed because the coordinate of bilingual Search and Rescue (SAR) events related to local maritime incidents could not administered by Joint Rescue Coordination Centres outside of Quebec;

WHEREAS Newfoundland and Labrador has the largest fishing vessel activity and offshore oil industry in Canada as well as the largest international transatlantic shipping route transits, in addition to major ferry operations, growing recreational activities and large vessel cruise ships;

WHEREAS the closure of the MRSC St. John's has created a serious shortfall in (SAR) coordination capacity and impairs the ability to develop SAR contingency plans for major marine disasters;

BE IT RESOLVED the Liberal Party of Canada adopt a policy in support of the establishment and full restoration of the MRSC in St. John's.

Liberal Party of Canada (Newfoundland and Labrador)

Word count: 233

73. Ground Search and Rescue (SAR) Inquiry

WHEREAS the circumstances surrounding the Burton Winters SAR incident (Makkovik, Labrador) in January of 2012 raises doubt about the level of due diligence in decision making, gaps, miscommunications and questions of full disclosure of facts as well as people involved in decision making in ground SAR in Canada;

WHEREAS cut-backs, closures and consolidation of SAR coordination are occurring against a backdrop of questionable response and confusion in communications, protocols and decision making such as that evidenced in the Burton Winters incident;

WHEREAS significant shortfalls in primary SAR resources necessary to execute effective and timely SAR operations at strategic locations in Canada has been raised as a result of the Burton Winters tragedy, and

WHEREAS there does not exist adequate oversight for transparent and accountable investigations into SAR incidents in Canada.

BE IT RESOLVED the Liberal Party of Canada supports a judicial inquiry into circumstances surrounding the death of Burton Winters within the context of needs related to the coordination and execution of SAR protocols and deployment of resources in ground SAR in all provinces and territories of Canada.

Liberal Party of Canada (Newfoundland and Labrador)

Word count: 178

80. Bullying and Harassment

WHEREAS bullying and harassment at school, in the workplace, elsewhere and online impedes learning, productivity and may result in profound distress and suicide;

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has proposed legislation to criminalize non-consensual distribution of intimate photographs but has bundled this with other far-reaching provisions to extend police authority that have previously been widely rejected;

WHEREAS existing human rights legislation applies only to protected grounds and these do not include personal harassment;

BE IT RESOLVED the Liberal Party supports the right of all Canadians to live without the fear and pain of bullying or harassment, whether it is physical, psychological, direct, indirect or on-line;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Liberal Party supports legislation to criminalize non-consensual distribution of intimate photographs, video or audio recordings but opposes attaching major extensions to police powers without judicial oversight;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED a Liberal Government should consider changes to Human Rights and Privacy legislation and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to recognize the right of all persons to be free from all forms of bullying and harassment, including expanding grounds to include personal harassment and that based upon sexual orientation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Liberal Party supports enhancing the rights of victims, meaningful deterrents to help prevent bullying and harassment, and measures to make schools, employer's community and other organizations accountable for impartially investigating all concerns about bullying and harassment.

Liberal Party of Canada (Newfoundland and Labrador)

Word count: 230

59. Protecting Our Youngest Citizens

WHEREAS our children have the fundamental right to live in a safe world;

WHEREAS Canadian children are being sexually, physically, mentally, and emotionally abused in shocking numbers that have reached epidemic proportions;

WHEREAS the jurisdiction for child protection is provincial and the criminal investigation lies with the police, often resulting in lack of coordinated responses to reports of child abuse;

WHEREAS child protection services differ from city to city as well as province to province depending on location, training, and politics;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Federal Government develop consistent legislation and support the establishment of child advocacy centers across the country ensuring that the protection services are of the highest quality and consistently so throughout Canada;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED there be a federal campaign to create an awareness of every adult's responsibility to know the signs of child abuse, bullying and the need to report any suspicious of this horrific crime;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Federal Government develop a national strategy for foster children to better serve immediate and future needs.

Liberal Party of Canada (British Columbia)

132. Elder Abuse

WHEREAS seniors are a fast growing segment of the Canadian population;

WHEREAS Seniors are often subjected to emotional, physical and financial abuse and discrimination;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada develop a national strategic plan to address elder abuse, be it excessive or improper medication, financial, physical, psychological, emotional or sexual abuse and thereby end elder abuse and discrimination.

Senior Liberals' Commission

44. Ending Violence Against Women

WHEREAS violence against women is a persistent and widespread social problem affecting thousands of Canadian women and their children;

WHEREAS in 2011, police data shows 173,600 women were the victims of violent crime, a rate of 1207 for every 100,000 Canadian women;

WHEREAS, each year, over 40,000 arrests result from domestic violence;

WHEREAS on any day of the year more than 3000 women along with their children (approximately 2500 children) are living in emergency shelters to escape domestic violence;

WHEREAS each year over 40,000 arrests result from domestic violence, and since only 22% of abuse is reported the statistics should be even higher;

WHEREAS the combined cost of adult sexual assault and intimate partner violence is \$9 billion, or \$334 per person a year, according to a report from the Canadian Centre of Policy Alternatives (July 2013);

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada support non-profit programs aimed at promoting healthy relationships and preventing domestic abuse and all other violence against women;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada requests the federal government to partner with provincial and municipal governments so that these issues are addressed and victim support services in every part of the country receive the funding they require.

Liberal Party of Canada (Alberta)

128. Pension Reform

WHEREAS Canadians need to better plan and provide for their post-retirement financial security;

WHEREAS the current Canadian government unilaterally raised the eligibility age for OAS from 65 to 67 without consultation based on its claim that the O.A.S. program was no longer financially sustainable even though subsequent analysis by the Parliamentary Budget Officer and the Auditor General does not agree with this conclusion;

WHEREAS many kinds of work and work situations (physically demanding work) challenge and undermine the health of the person, such that even 65 is too late for some;

WHEREAS CPP is a well-run and financially viable pension fund;

WHEREAS mandatory increases in CPP will increase the financial burden on employers;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada recommend to the next Liberal government that it reinstate the OAS eligibility age to 65;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government create a Canada Pension Plan Supplement (CPPS) to which all Canadians can elect to make independent supplemental contributions on their own behalf thus more effectively providing for their retirement.

Senior Liberals' Commission

Building a More Competitive Economy

5. New Jobs for New Times – Securing Canada's Future Through Innovation

WHEREAS a key to prosperity in the 21st Century is innovation based on on-going research and development (R&D), a strong ethic that respects basic and independent research and experimentation, and leveraging of Canada's comparative advantages;

WHEREAS recent studies warn that Canada underperforms in this area, harming its trading competitiveness;

WHEREAS science and innovation require government support in the form of stable funding, science advisors, subject experts and modern infrastructure within a culture of limited government interference;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada develop, as a cornerstone of its economic program, a science-based Innovation Strategy to address economic and social needs as part of its efforts to support middle-class job creation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this strategy reaffirm Canada's commitment to basic research based on independence from government interference and freedom of communication; be guided by peer-reviewed evidence and global best practices; be inclusive, including strategies for small and medium-sized businesses, remote communities and resource extraction industries; and be environmentally sustainable;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this strategy adopts an integrated, long-term approach that employs experts from academia, government and business; engages the social innovation community; and works with the educational system to develop high-quality researchers and effective entrepreneurs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the strategy aggressively capitalize on innovation gains by pursuing the negotiation of new trade agreements to facilitate innovation.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)

17. National Grid Strategy

WHEREAS the provision of safe, secure, and sustainable electrical energy is an essential element of Canada's infrastructure;

WHEREAS opportunities to distribute electricity from regions with excess supply (now stranded) to those with increasing demand, and to meet time dependent peak loads are limited;

WHEREAS inter-utility transmission of non, or reduced, green house gas (GHG) produced electricity has not been optimized;

WHEREAS Canada lags in GHG emission reductions which may limit our export potential;

WHEREAS the probability and extent of major regional outages can be reduced through nationally coordinated planning of the electrical grid;

WHEREAS effective and efficient coordination of a National Grid Strategy would redress these issues and create a sustainable competitive advantage for Canada;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Government of Canada, in partnership with the provinces, territories, municipalities and First Nations, develop and fund a Canadian electrical strategy that provides access to an efficient, sustainable and reliable, national electrical grid.

Liberal Party of Canada (Saskatchewan)

Background Information and Source

The Canadian Academy of Engineering

Electricity: Interconnecting Canada A Strategic Advantage

Report of the Canada Power Grid Task Force Volume I – Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations (2009)

"...Canada at present has more electrical connections with the U.S. than it has among all the provinces (34 to the U.S. compared to 31 among provinces). The interprovincial connections tend to have small transfer capabilities whereas many of the connections to the U.S. can transfer quantities equivalent to the output from major hydro or nuclear plants. ... "

"...There is a commonality of goals across the country, such as increasing the use of low-GHG emission technologies, ensuring reliable and secure energy supplies, maintaining consistency with North American transmission standards, and expanding renewable sources of electricity. With so many players, this increases the importance of having a national strategy that is more than the sum of regional projects... "

"... As an Immediate Infrastructure Project, fund on a cost-shared basis with provinces and possibly the private sector, new electrical grid interconnections between two or more provinces based on cost-benefit analyses of the longer-term national strategic value of achieving some of the following goals: a) reduced GHG emissions through improved access by renewables such as large hydro and wind, b) enhanced energy storage capability, c) reduced energy costs by the receiving province(s), d) new markets for stranded or new power generation, and e) the strategic security advantages of developing a high capacity trans-Canada transmission backbone. ... "

"...As a Long Term Plan, establish and fund a Cross-Sectoral Management Entity to prepare a technology and business framework for the electrical industry investments needed over the next 25 years to capture wealth generation opportunities and to address GHG issues. ... "

18. Prevention of Muzzling and Political Interference of Federal Scientists

WHEREAS nine out of 10 federal scientists do not feel that they can speak freely to the media about the work they do and 86% do not believe they could share their concerns with the public or media without censure or retaliation from their department;^[1]

WHEREAS over one-third of federal scientists report they were prevented from responding to questions from the public and media by public relations staff or management over the past five years;¹

WHEREAS half of federal scientists report being aware of actual cases in which the health

and safety of Canadians or environmental sustainability has been compromised because of political interference with their scientific work;¹

WHEREAS 48% of federal scientists are aware of actual cases in which their department or agency suppressed information, leading to incomplete, inaccurate, or misleading impressions by the public, regulated industry, the media and/or government officials;¹

WHEREAS the international community has taken note of the muzzling and political interference with federal scientists and has condemned it;^[2]

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada will significantly strengthen whistleblower legislation to protect the freedom of federal scientists to communicate publicly funded science;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada will ensure the protection of evidence based science and policy decisions from political interference.

Liberal Party of Canada (Saskatchewan)

[1] <http://www.pipsc.ca/bigchill>

[2] <http://www.nature.com/news/2010/100929/full/467501a.html>

7. Canada: A Knowledge-based Society

WHEREAS unbiased and reliable data and basic, curiosity-driven scientific research are essential for a deeper understanding of the world in which we live, for guiding the development of humane and sustainable public policy and for fostering economic growth;^{1,2}

WHEREAS the current government has interfered with a fulsome scientific agenda by eliminating the mandatory, long-form census, by reducing stable funding to basic research, by introducing partisan control over the projects undertaken, and by restricting the freedom of federal scientists to discuss their work;

WHEREAS these interventions have rendered our societal information unreliable, interfered with our scientific progress, and diminished our international reputation;^{3,4}

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal Government reaffirm the centrality of knowledge as a basis of Canadian society by reinstating the mandatory long-form census and strengthening the institutional autonomy of Statistics Canada;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal Government reaffirm the importance of scientific discovery by increasing funding for basic research to a percentage of GDP of at least the average of that of other developed countries, by encouraging federal scientists to engage in peer-reviewed research and collaboration that is unencumbered by political or ideologically motivated directives, and by allowing them to speak freely to the media and public about their work and its implications so as to enrich public understanding and to serve as a guide to enlightened public policy.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)

1. Leshner, A. I. (May 19, 2013). Starve science, starve growth. The Toronto Star. [Alan Leshner is the chief executive officer of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and executive publisher of the journal Science.]

http://www.thestar.com/opinion/commentary/2013/05/19/cutbacks_to_basic_science_threaten_future_innovation.html

2. Polanyi, J. (February 5, 1998). Shackling research suffocates creativity and commerce. The Toronto Star. [John Polanyi is a Nobel laureate and internationally-renowned professor of chemistry at the University of Toronto].

http://www.utoronto.ca/jpolanyi/public_affairs/public_affairs5d.html

3. Editorial (March 2012) Frozen out: Canada's government should free its scientists to speak to the press, as its US counterpart has. Nature, Vol. 483, p. 6.

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v483/n7387/pdf/483006a.pdf>

4. Democracy Watch Open Government Report. January 21, 2013. [Complaint filed with federal information commissioner calling for a full investigation regarding freedom of federal government scientists to speak with the public and journalists.]

<http://democracywatch.ca/wp-content/uploads/OpenGovReportJan2113.pdf>

88. Funding Science Research

WHEREAS the present Conservative government of Canada has abandoned its obligation to act as stewards of this nation's biosphere and has become known as a rogue state on the world stage;

WHEREAS the government of Canada has committed itself to a war on science and on those who would protect Mother Earth, such as environment and First Nations peoples by citing them as terrorists, and enemies of the state;

WHEREAS the government of Canada has slashed the budget of pure science and environmental service with a shift of science & technology to that which best provides business advantage.

BE IT RESOLVED that the LPC commits to implement a culture and funding level, promote media, to restoring its scientific protection and resume a leadership position with regard to Canadian and world environment concerns.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal Government will restore research and evidence as the basis of public policy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal Government will ensure media access to promote debate and decision making;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal Government will provide funding for vital research to ensure sharing of results to be used as the basis for action, and thereby restoring Canada's reputation as a global leader in environmental science.

Liberal Party of Canada (Nova Scotia)

105. Establish an Office of the National Science Advisor

WHEREAS a Federal Liberal Government should make evidence based decisions;

WHEREAS the best available science provides the best evidence on which to base decisions;

WHEREAS an unbiased source of scientific information is invaluable to the decision making process;

WHEREAS a strong culture of science, technology, and innovation in Canada will lead to positive national outcomes;

WHEREAS communication between scientists and cabinet will increase confidence in the political process;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal Government will establish an Office of the National Science Advisor.

Liberal Party of Canada (Prince Edward Island)

64. Science and Technology Research

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Liberal Party of Canada:

Create a Science and Technology Research Policy that unambiguously explains the role and focus of research supported by the Federal government. This comprehensive policy will consider basic and applied research activities supported by the federal government for the good of all Canadians, as well as research within academia, private industry, and the attendant knowledge transfer requirements to support economic growth.

The policy will recognize that publicly funded research is owned by all Canadians and will therefore be properly and completely disseminated into the public realm.

RATIONALE:

Under the present government there exist numerous gaps in the area of support for scientific and technical research which are vital to the continued economic and social development of Canadians and our global neighbours. The current federal government has reduced funding with the expectation that industry in Canada will increase its research activities. In addition, the government appears to be funding more short-term research activities focused on market applications. Basic long and short-term scientific research is the core to new thought and discovery and does not always come with market end products. Experience shows that basic research has resulted in numerous developments which have significantly improved both the health and economic well being of Canadians. Long-term basic research studies, in particular, are generally not undertaken by the private sector, since they do not provide immediate returns on investment.

Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)

140. Restoring the Independence of Government Departments and Institutions and the Communication of Evidence-Based Information to Canadians

WHEREAS the current Conservative government took the wrong decision to eliminate the long census form, replacing it with a shorter form and by abolishing its obligatory nature, causing an unparalleled loss of high-quality information and diminishing the value of resulting statistical data.

WHEREAS census results provide indispensable information about Canada's population, incomes, families, education, immigration, aboriginal people and smaller communities and regions;

WHEREAS the current Conservative government has made policy choices based on partisan, ideological dogma that promotes a short-term self-interested vision, rather than science-based evidence; and has directly interfered in the workings of government departments such as Statistics Canada and Elections Canada, thereby hindering their objectivity;

WHEREAS the current Conservative government has prevented the disclosure of information from these departments to the media and to Canadians, thereby impeding access to information and transparency;

WHEREAS most countries have crafted national visions for their human capital, society, economy and the environment through evidence-based policy, leaving Canada behind.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada urges the next Liberal government of Canada to:

- restore impartiality and independence to Statistics Canada, Environment Canada and other government departments by providing them the means of self-protection from future attempts of political interference that distort their objectivity;
- allow these departments to transmit evidence-based information to citizens and the media;
- re-establish the prevalence of evidence-based government policy, and create effective,

non-partisan, and visionary objectives to guide and direct Canada for the benefit of current and future generations.

- restore the long-form census and its obligatory character.

Liberal Party of Canada (Quebec)

134. Development of a Reliable and Affordable Intercity Rail Transportation Network

WHEREAS efficient, reliable and affordable intercity transportation is essential to the economic strength of Canada;

WHEREAS rail transportation is an ecologically responsible form of intercity transportation;

WHEREAS many of Canada's major cities are not serviced or are poorly serviced by the intercity rail service provided by Via Rail;

WHEREAS the development of a high speed rail network is a costly endeavour.

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal Government will:

- Re-affirm its commitment to the implementation of high-speed rail in the Quebec City – Windsor corridor adopted at the 2011 biennial convention;
- undertake a feasibility study with regards to rail transportation in other major Canadian transportation corridors, such as Calgary – Edmonton, Halifax – Moncton – Fredericton and Saskatoon – Regina;
- negotiate with provincial governments in regards to the use of extra rail capacity created by above-mentioned projects for commuter rail;
- evaluate the costs of developing these projects the use of public private partnerships and ensure that the infrastructure is eventually transferred to Via Rail;
- ensure that any private partner for the aforementioned projects and VIA Rail maintain a harmonized ticketing system to ensure seamless integration for travellers on the Canadian intercity railway network.
- adopt a global plan for the electrification of rail transportation while also taking into consideration the unique geographical challenge of Canada.

Liberal Party of Canada (Quebec)

139. Clean Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, and the Electrification of Transport

WHEREAS the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference, Cancun, Mexico, December 2010 urged developed nations "to implement quantified economy-wide emission reduction" targets and commitments;

WHEREAS 40% of CO₂ emissions are generated by petroleum-fuelled transportation;

since natural gas and petroleum resources are limited and in declining supply, it behooves us to reduce our reliance on them;

WHEREAS the development of the potential in Canada for clean renewable energy, energy conservation and energy efficiency would create wealth while respecting the environment and principles of sustainability;

WHEREAS Canada has not yet joined the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA);

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the next Liberal government of Canada to i) join the IRENA, and ii) reduce CO₂ emissions in Canada by working with provincial, territorial and municipal governments, as well as civil society organizations, to develop and implement programs to:

- maximize energy efficiency and energy conservation
- optimize sustainable production of clean renewable energy from solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, small-scale hydro, tidal, etc.

- protect (and retrain for equivalent employment) redundant energy sector workers
- minimize reliance on the use of liquid petroleum for transportation
- expedite the electrification of transportation systems, especially in urban areas
- create Urban Transportation Corridors (UTC), and integrated regional transportation plans
- promote Transport Oriented Development in UTCs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a future Liberal government:

- implement the principle of “Polluter Pays” for greenhouse gas emissions and recognize the need to establish a carbon tax
- restore Canada’s international reputation by engaging positively in negotiations on climate.

Liberal Party of Canada (Quebec)

106. National Transportation Strategy

WHEREAS effective and efficient transportation, the movement of people and goods, is an essential component of any economic endeavor;

WHEREAS the process of Confederation itself was in many respects an exercise in railroad building, joining our nation together as one;

WHEREAS the geography of Canada requires an extensive and effective transportation system;

WHEREAS an effective transportation system has several components including freight and passenger rail services, a network of efficient and safe highways, air services, and ferry services;

WHEREAS both the transportation services industry and the construction industry which is engaged in the development of transportation infrastructure are major employers;

WHEREAS there are major deficiencies in our transportation system in many parts of Canada;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal Government will commit to the development and implementation of a National Transportation Strategy, to include, but not limited to:

- the development of an National Highway Strategy including reconvening negotiations with the provinces and territories in order to develop a national highway strategy which would provide a modern highway system to regions of Canada not currently served, and
- incremental improvement of rail passenger services in order to improve the efficiency and encourage the utilization of such services, while continuing to investigate the feasibility of high speed rail services in high density corridors, and
- Provision of support to coastal ferry systems in their role of providing important transportation services on our East and West Coasts.

Liberal Party of Canada (Prince Edward Island)

70. Community Infrastructure

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Liberal Party of Canada:

Encourage the federal government to recognize the growing infrastructure deficit that exists in Canadian communities and take appropriate action to revise federal programs to be more effective, predictable and financially feasible.

It is recommended that the Liberal Party of Canada:

- Develop a funding/financial strategy to deal with the infrastructure deficit that Canadian

communities are facing;

- Collaborate with provincial, municipal governments and local governments to revise the infrastructure programs, allocation of funds and funding levels;
- Develop a strategy to facilitate high-speed internet and wireless capabilities in rural Canada.

RATIONALE:

The infrastructure supporting essential services in Canadian cities and rural communities is aging. Local governments' ability to maintain or repair this infrastructure is becoming increasingly difficult because of the dramatic increase in costs. The infrastructure deficits grow larger each year.

Infrastructure Canada's programs are inadequate to tackle the enormity of the crisis being faced by the majority of Canadian cities, towns and smaller communities. Failing to take immediate action will only result in an exponential increase in the infrastructure deficit, a burden for future generations.

The federal government is placing a greater reliance on high-speed internet and wireless access as a means of providing services but has failed to ensure that all residents of Canada have equal and affordable access to this technology. There are still large areas of Canada that remain un-serviced or under serviced.

Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)

36. Sustainable and Transformative Canadian Infrastructure Investment

WHEREAS infrastructure investment is the foundation of economic growth, job creation and a healthier environment;

WHEREAS the Government of Canada is in a strong fiscal position relative to the provinces and middle-class households and has access to capital at low interest rates;

WHEREAS the Government of Canada must play a leadership role in unlocking untapped sources of non-government investment, including from pension funds and public-private partnerships;

WHEREAS Canada's economic growth and job creation continue to be well below our potential, and crumbling infrastructure in communities as diverse as the City of Montreal or on First Nations Reserves is an increasingly acute drag on our economic prospects and our environmental sustainability;

WHEREAS existing infrastructure funding is inadequate to address our aging population, a changing climate, and ensuring our economic competitiveness;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- A Liberal Government should commit to a Transformative Canadian Infrastructure Investment plan that would significantly expand the funds invested or facilitated by the Government of Canada for infrastructure to a level up to 1pct of GDP per year;
- This plan would invest in projects that have met an integrity test and that have been determined by rigorous and independent expert analysis to contribute to objectives such as robust job creation, world-class public transit systems, increased energy efficiency and sustainable water systems;
- A Liberal Government would provide a full disclosure of public debt and associated debt charges incurred to fund infrastructure separately from other public debt and associated charges in the accounts of the Government of Canada.

Liberal Caucus

83. VIA and Rail Infrastructure

WHEREAS the creation of the transcontinental railway helped unite Canada;

WHEREAS the divestment in national railways has led to the deterioration of our rail infrastructure;

WHEREAS deteriorating railways jeopardize our natural environment and the health and safety of all Canadians;

WHEREAS trains connect rural communities with urban centers;

WHEREAS cuts to rail service isolate rural communities and inconvenience the traveling public;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT a Liberal government reverse budget cuts to VIA Rail and re-invest in Canadian railway infrastructure and passenger rail service to provide Canadians with efficient, safe, affordable, and accessible rail services.

Liberal Party of Canada (Nova Scotia)

32. Strengthening Canada's Immigration System

WHEREAS long and uncertain wait times for family class reunification impose great pain and hardship on many new Canadians;

WHEREAS these waiting times have almost tripled under the Conservatives, rising from an average of 13 months in 2007 to 34 months in 2012;

WHEREAS many individuals from visa requiring countries have been denied entry into Canada to attend important family events, such as weddings and funerals;

WHEREAS the Canadian economy stands to benefit from increased tourism and a responsive and predictable visa system makes Canada a more attractive destination for tourists; and

WHEREAS all of Canada's net labour force growth currently comes from immigration and it is estimated that 20 years from now all of Canada's net population growth will likely come from immigration;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government will take all measures necessary to reduce family class waiting times to reasonable levels in its first term in office and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government would make the temporary visa process more responsive to needs of family members and tourists from visa requiring countries.

Liberal Caucus

86. Immigration

WHEREAS the Canadian standard of living is dependent on economic growth;

WHEREAS Canada's Provinces and Territories need to grow their work forces;

WHEREAS the current immigrant processing times impede the recruitment of immigrants;

WHEREAS the current system does not effectively communicate with potential immigrants regarding the acceptance of their credentials, and whether or not their credentials will be recognized in Canada;

WHEREAS the Provinces and Territories have expressed the need to increase the number of immigrants to fill labour and workforce deficits;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government will promote immigration for the purpose of expanding economic development across Canada by:

- increasing information available to potential immigrants;
- improving communication to potential immigrants regarding the current employment market, and the necessary steps to having their credentials recognized.

Liberal Party of Canada (Nova Scotia)

8. A National Manufacturing Strategy for Canada

WHEREAS a prosperous and competitive Canada now needs a world-class innovative manufacturing strategy to develop products for global demand and provide well-paying, long-term jobs in successful businesses;

WHEREAS this strategy should provide all new and existing manufacturers with predictable government support that spans years and enables them to adapt to regional differences without the need for selective grants based upon effective tax policies, clear eligibility criteria, simplified auditing, and enforceable reporting;

WHEREAS competitive manufacturing requires high quality, high-yield products, designed with innovative Research Development; minimum manufacturing steps, advanced assembly processes, optimal materials and the lowest supply chain costs; thus, this strategy must focus upon the best global manufacturing and supply chain practices;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal Government establish a long-term, predictable planning policy creating the world's most modern manufacturing facilities, a unique global Manufacturing Secondment Program and university-based National Centres of Advanced Manufacturing;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal Government make Research and Development central to the renewal of Canadian manufacturing and minimize business costs while protecting taxpayers' money through transparent processes using the Canada Revenue Agency to ensure tax credit compliance;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal Government create the world's best manufacturing workforce by coordinating skills development with all levels of government, streamlining apprenticeships and skills training, and simplifying foreign professional and skills/trades qualification to be assessed quickly prior to immigration or effectively upgraded in Canada.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)

The background paper with the full proposal is available at our website under <http://cambridge.liberal.ca> A National Manufacturing Strategy for Canada.

16. Intergenerational Farm Transfers

WHEREAS between 2003 and 2013 it is estimated that over 120,000 Canadian farmers turned age 65, and that an estimated \$50 billion in farm capital is expected to change hands in the near future;

WHEREAS the family farm was a critical component in the development of Canada's rural economy and remains a vital element of rural sustainability;

WHEREAS many families want to achieve a transfer of the family farm to a new generation, but often require both assistance and resources to accomplish this goal;

WHEREAS the Farm Credit Corporation has for many years recognized the importance of planning for a successful family farm transfer, and has provided workshops and resources on this issue across Canada;

WHEREAS financing the transfer of the family farm is often a stumbling block as the transferee may be unlikely to qualify under existing loan programs;

BE IT RESOLVED that when in government the Liberal Party of Canada will provide further resources to farm families to ensure that more intergenerational transfers of the family farm

are possible;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government will review and revise Canadian tax legislation to ensure that family farm transfers receive the most generous treatment possible;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada supports the development of a loan program that would assist in financing inter-generational transfers of farm assets.

Liberal Party of Canada (Saskatchewan)

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Please note that some resolutions are not finalized and may be subject to minor edits.

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