

Ottawa 2012 – Liberal Biennial Convention
Priority Policy Resolutions

Original Priority Resolutions

- 1. Agriculture and Food Policy (PEI)
- 16. Comprehensive Integrated Rail Transportation System (ON)
- 26. Lake Winnipeg and the Lake Winnipeg Watershed (MB)
- 36. Post-Secondary Education (AB)
- 46. National Housing Strategy (BC, Caucus)
- 56. Northern Economic Vulnerability (YK, Caucus)
- 58. Reaffirming Women’s Right to Reproductive Health Services (NWLC)
- 68. Homecare, Long-term Care and Palliative Care (Caucus)
- 73. Supporting Canada’s Aboriginal People (SK, APC)
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Additional Priority Resolutions (results from online voting)

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Original Priority Resolutions

1. Agriculture and Food Policy

WHEREAS we enter the 21st century, agricultural issues in Canada have moved toward issues of trade promotion, market development and international competitiveness and away from domestic food policy;

WHEREAS both federal and provincial governments share jurisdiction for agriculture and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada continues to be the central ministry for Agri-food issues;

WHEREAS government has centered its focus on industry matters and not on consumers interests in having a sustainable Canadian food industry for Canadians;

WHEREAS the family farm remains in peril because of indebtedness, and many farmers, including young farmers have exited the industry;

WHEREAS the inadequateness of measures taken to negotiate between farmers and lending institutions and the rural transition programs to keep farmers in the industry;

WHEREAS programs intended to retain employment in rural areas have not proven successful;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal Government create a partnership between Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture to develop a national food strategy for Canada that will address food supply, sustainable farm income for farmers, agricultural employment, environmental sustainability and a secure food supply for Canadians.

Liberal Party of Prince Edward Island

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16. Comprehensive Integrated Rail Transportation System

WHEREAS the key to maintain Canada’s economic growth in the 21st century will be through investment in environmentally friendly and sustainable technology otherwise known as “Green” technology. The investment for a HSR and a sustainable rail transportation system of goods and services and passengers along north-south and east-west corridors provides a dual approach by means of expanding economic growth and environmental protections;

WHEREAS multiple studies (1991, 1995, 2008) have recommended implementation of high speed rail (HSR) along the Windsor-Quebec corridor;

WHEREAS high speed rail transit is a proven technology in use throughout the G-8 countries;

WHEREAS there is strong support amongst surveyed Canadian citizen’s “organizations, policy analysts, economists, and politicians for investment in a Canadian HSR”¹;

WHEREAS Canadian companies are acknowledged leaders in transit engineering and manufacturing technology;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada support the development of a comprehensive, environmentally sustainable, rail transportation system that would include construction of a high-speed rail system through the Quebec City-Windsor and Edmonton-Calgary corridors and other jurisdictions where appropriate with improved and integrated access to local transit, cargo and passenger lines throughout the country;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to that end, that the Government of Canada ensure that the development of a comprehensive integrated transportation system, under the joint management of a public-private board, would remain fiscally healthy, ensure job creations as the program expands, while keeping it secure and affordable for the public.

¹ EKOS poll 2009; and <http://www.canada.com/travel/vast>

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)

26. Lake Winnipeg and the Lake Winnipeg Watershed

Background:

As noted in the Report of the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development (fall 2010) *“the federal and provincial governments share responsibility for fresh water management. The provinces have authority to legislate with respect to various aspects of water supply and use, pollution control, hydroelectric and non-nuclear power development, irrigation and recreation within their borders. The federal government has jurisdiction over aspects of fresh water regulation, including fisheries, navigation, boundary and trans-boundary waters shared with the United States and federal lands”*.

The Report stated that *“Section 44 of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 requires the federal Minister of the Environment to establish, operate, and maintain a system for monitoring environmental quality. According to the Act, environment means the components of the earth and includes water, while the definition of environmental quality includes the health of ecosystems. Section 5 of the Canada Water Act empowers the Minister of the Environment to enter into intergovernmental arrangements to:*

- *establish and maintain an inventory of any waters where there is a significant national interest in the management of such water resources (such as Lake Winnipeg); and*
- *collect, process, and provide data on the quality, quantity, distribution, and use of those waters.”*

The excessive nutrient (primarily phosphorus and nitrogen) loading of Lake Winnipeg from point and nonpoint pollution sources is of primary concern. The excessive nutrients are responsible for the growth of blue-green algae that produce harmful toxins, out competes beneficial algae, and can cause 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 within Manitoba borders. Agriculture, industry, and municipal waste management practices all influence the nutrient loading of Lake Winnipeg.

The Lake Winnipeg Basin Initiative (LWBI), a four-year project, has been developed in response to the shared responsibilities of the Province of Manitoba and Federal Ministry of the Environment. The Initiative is currently in year three, and yet there has been no commitment by the federal government to fund it past the four-year period.

The primary focus of the LWBI is focused on six key science objectives to be achieved over the four-year period of time. In addition, the LWBI supports trans-boundary watershed governance and community stewardship efforts. The LWBI has received \$17.7 million in funding. The majority of the funding, \$12.1 million is being dedicated to the scientific objectives of the plan; portions of which encompass activities that should be carried out by Environment Canada. In addition, the boundary/trans-boundary (International Boundary Water Treaty Act) is an ongoing responsibility of Environment Canada and its funding of \$1.9 million is being categorized as a cost of the LWBI.

The Community Stewardship program portion of the LWBI is being funded at \$3.7 million over the four-year period.

The Liberal Party of Canada, while still in government, committed \$120 million in federal funding to cleanup of Lake Winnipeg. The funding was to be allocated over a 10-year period of time.

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Action Required:

The federal government must commit to:

- Environment Canada carrying out Canada's regulatory and fiduciary responsibilities as mandated to them under a variety of federal acts and regulations, and more specifically those prescribed in; the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, the Canada Water Act, and the International Boundary Waters Treaty Act.
- Funding the LWBI and other initiatives in a sufficient manner that would result in the remediation of Lake Winnipeg being completed by 2020.

Policy Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Liberal Party of Canada, in general, supports the continuation and extension of the Lake Winnipeg Basin Initiative, and more specifically increase funding as it pertains to the Community Stewardship fund for nonpoint source pollution projects. It is further recommended that the Liberal Party of Canada support municipal infrastructure (wastewater treatment) and other point source pollution projects that would assist in the remediation of Lake Winnipeg by 2020.

It is recommended that the Liberal Party of Canada supports increases to project and staff budgetary levels to ensure that Environment Canada has the capacity to carry out its regulatory and fiduciary responsibilities as it pertains to Lake Winnipeg and the Lake Winnipeg watershed and the goal of remediation of Lake Winnipeg by 2020.

What is point and nonpoint source pollution?

The term "point source" means any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation, or vessel or other floating craft, from which pollutants are or may be discharged. This term does not include agricultural storm water discharges and return flows from irrigated agriculture.

Nonpoint source pollution generally results from land runoff, precipitation, atmospheric deposition, drainage, seepage or hydrologic modification. Unlike pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants, nonpoint source (NPS) pollution comes from many diffuse sources. NPS pollution is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters and ground waters.

The federal government, in 2008, committed \$30 million to clean up similar problems in Lake Simcoe, a lake with a surface area of 744 km² vs. Lake Winnipeg with a surface area of 24,514 km².

Reference Material:

http://www.ec.gc.ca/doc/eau-water/winnipeg_e.html

http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/parl_cesd_201012_02_e_34425.html

Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)

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36. Post-Secondary Education

WHEREAS Canada's economy of the future needs highly educated and skilled individuals to remain competitive on a global scale;

WHEREAS students need greater financial support to complete increasingly expensive programs;

WHEREAS there is a need for increased incentives for students to apply their education to the Canadian workforce;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the government of Canada to offer current and future students opportunities to access education at any point in their career, including trades; payment of first and last year tuition for undergraduates; and a work forgiveness program which would allow students to pay off their loans in exchange for work in designated communities, industries, and public initiatives.

Liberal Party of Canada (Alberta)

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46. National Housing Strategy

WHEREAS every Canadian deserves a home;

WHEREAS provincial jurisdiction over housing has created a fractious system that promotes an environment in which some provinces and cities work hard to combat homelessness and to create affordable housing while others do little or nothing;

WHEREAS there is a correlation between homelessness, mental health and addictions, and homelessness is not limited to large or medium sized communities, it is an issue in all communities across Canada;

WHEREAS tens of thousands of people are homeless and families are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population;

BE IT RESOLVED that a comprehensive national housing strategy be developed that includes social housing, low-income rental housing, co-op housing, and middle- income housing in partnership with other levels of government service providers and business. This national housing strategy should employ federal tax policy to encourage the building and maintaining of long-term affordable rental and co-op housing;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that specific measures be included in the national housing strategy to prevent and address homelessness.

Liberal Party of Canada (British Columbia)
Northern and Western Caucus

56. Northern Economic Vulnerability

WHEREAS northern communities are dependent on the import of a wide range of products necessary to build and maintain northern communities and to feed, house and clothe northern residents;

WHEREAS all products brought into the territories rely on transportation fuelled with hydrocarbons, including diesel used by many communities to generate electricity;

WHEREAS it is anticipated that the cost of hydrocarbon-based fuel will rise exorbitantly over the next 10 to 20 years due to demand, declining supply in a "post-peak oil" era and increased political instability in many regions of the world that produce oil;

WHEREAS non-renewable resource demands world-wide will mean increasing interest and development of mining, oil and gas, and related activities throughout the north;

WHEREAS with the warming of the Arctic Ocean combined with technological advancements, the mineral and oil and gas wealth of the Arctic Ocean can be increasingly exploited;

WHEREAS new sources of energy like gas hydrates, a product found in abundance locked up in northern ice, will eventually be economic in an increasingly energy-hungry world;

WHEREAS there are fragile ecosystems both on and off-shore already profoundly affected by climate change meaning that development must be very carefully planned and managed;

WHEREAS communications infrastructure is fundamentally important to the health of northern economies and societies;

BE IT RESOLVED that a National Liberal Government will lead a dialogue among northern residents and provide substantial financial contributions on ways to support diversification of the northern economy, utilizing northern resources that can reduce vulnerability to fuel price increases;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a National Liberal Government will fund infrastructure development that will support reduced reliance on external fuel supply, specifically through developing territorial oil and gas supplies for northern markets, and especially to support the anticipated massive energy demands of mining activities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a National Liberal Government will support the territorial governments' efforts to develop infrastructure that will result in the availability of more renewable energy such as tying Yukon to the North American energy grid, investing in biomass energy production, and exploring avenues to increase energy efficiency in the local marketplace throughout northern communities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a National liberal Government will invest heavily in R&D that would support environmentally safe development of northern resources, and R&D that will assist in reducing northern dependency by working with territorial governments on the creation of a northern University with a strong focus on northern R&D and associated research in the social sciences;

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a National liberal Government will invest in the development of communications broad band infrastructure so that there are redundancies capable of maintaining connection with the outside world if there are disruptions in the single pathways in place today;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a National liberal Government will initiate a national dialogue with the academic, private and public research communities to design the most relevant and effective research program and approach to generate understanding of the impact of climate change on the north;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a National liberal Government will triple Canada's investment in northern scientific research to collect information that will support understanding of the impacts of climate change on northern environment, economy and society.

*Yukon Federal Liberal Association
Northern and Western Caucus*

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58. Reaffirming Women’s Right to Reproductive Health Services

WHEREAS access to reproductive health services, including legal abortion, is guaranteed under the Canada Health Act;

WHEREAS complete access to reproductive health services saves women's lives and protects their health, thereby making these services an integral part of women's overall health care;

WHEREAS many publicly funded health institutions refuse to perform abortions and other reproductive health procedures and may offer women misleading information as to the availability of such services in other health institutions;

WHEREAS in certain areas of the country women’s access to reproductive health services is limited, being eroded or non-existent, in direct opposition to the guarantees of the Canada Health Act, forcing women to travel long distances at their own expense to obtain these services;

WHEREAS many provinces list abortion on their “excluded services list” for reciprocal billing under Medicare, which means that an abortion obtained outside a woman’s home province may not be covered, even if no provider exists in the area in which she resides;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to enforce the provisions of the Canada Health Act to guarantee women’s access to timely and effective reproductive health services, including reciprocal billing for out-of-province services;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada financially penalize provinces that fail to abide by the provisions of the Canada Health Act with respect to i) ensuring complete access to these services, and/or ii) covering costs related to their provision.

National Women’s Liberal Commission

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68. Homecare, Long-term Care and Palliative Care

WHEREAS a large proportion of our most expensive acute care beds in Canada's health care system are unavoidably occupied by chronic care patients;

WHEREAS this situation will intensify as the baby-boomer generation retires in larger numbers, resulting in extra costs and an increasing shortage of space and services in acute care facilities;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada should offer to partner with provinces, territories and municipal governments, as appropriate, in the expansion of homecare, long-term (chronic) and palliative care facilities and services across Canada, to achieve a more effective and efficient allocation of available health care resources.

National Liberal Caucus

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73. Supporting Canada's Aboriginal People

WHEREAS the Aboriginal population (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) is increasing in Canada, comprising 3.8% of Canada's population (15% in Manitoba and Saskatchewan) and has grown by 45% in the last decade;

WHEREAS a large segment of this population has been shut out of the economic benefits accruing to most Canadians;

WHEREAS the Kelowna Accord negotiated by the Liberal government, provinces/territories and Aboriginal groups was cancelled by the current government;

WHEREAS Canada was one of only four countries to vote against the UN Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada support the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People and endorses the principles in the Kelowna Accord;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada provide resources for Aboriginal people to establish a preferred future for themselves by strengthening their identity, governance relationships, and accountability among themselves and others;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada take immediate steps to provide clean drinking water on reserves;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada improve housing for Aboriginal peoples both on and off reserves;

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;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada work with Aboriginal peoples to devise and provide education programs that include cultural, lifestyle, employment and academic components;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada work with Aboriginal peoples to create economic development.

Liberal Party of Canada (Saskatchewan)
Aboriginal People's Commission

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83. Pensions and Seniors Income

WHEREAS financial security is important for all Canadians and particularly so for seniors who must depend for their wellbeing upon pensions and other assets which they have built up during their working years;

WHEREAS pension reform is needed if Canadian seniors are to have a dignified, secure and healthy retirement;

WHEREAS adequate pension reform must include those members of our society not traditionally considered to be a part of the formal workforce including, but not limited to, stay at home parents, homemakers who were dependent on their husbands' income;

WHEREAS these people have made a valuable contribution to their communities as volunteers, it seems unfair that they are forced to exist in restrained financial circumstances;

WHEREAS the financial burden of taxpayers in such circumstances could be eased by income splitting between dual wage earners in a family, or forward averaging for a sole taxpayer;

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada Expert Working Group on Retirement Income Security in its White Paper entitled, *Canadian Pension Security, Adequacy and Coverage; Public Policy Challenges and the Baby Boom Generation*, has made a number of recommendations for the reform of Canada's pension system, one of which is described as a *Supplemental Canada Pension Plan*, (SCPP);

WHEREAS this SCPP appears to offer the most optimum benefits to seniors while, at the same time featuring simple and efficient implementation;

WHEREAS the basic Old Age Security pension is deemed to be not sufficient to allow seniors to live in dignity even when coupled with the Guaranteed Income Supplement;

WHEREAS the clawback practice has resulted in some injustices to certain groups of pensioners;

WHEREAS financial literacy is a skill that is not being offered to Canadians at large in a way that provides the skills for the general public to invest well;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that a Liberal Government will undertake to implement the *Supplemental Canada Pension Plan* without undue delay;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal Government will give consideration to the other recommendations in the White Paper with the intent to bring about their early implementation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal Government adjust the basic monthly Old Age Security pension to not less than \$600.00 per month with Consumer Price Index adjustments in subsequent years;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the clawback practice be discontinued;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal Government introduce changes to the *Income Tax Act* to allow that provisions for income splitting between dual income earners in a family, or forward averaging of

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income, from employment and self employment, be available to caregivers and their related family members, upon defined conditions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal Government undertake, in consultation and cooperation with the provinces and territories, the promotion and support of the concept of financial literacy within the regular educational system and such other human resource development programs with which it may, from time to time, be involved.

Senior Liberals' Commission

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93. Overrepresentation of Aboriginal People in Canada’s Correctional System

WHEREAS Canada’s Aboriginal population comprises approximately seventeen (17) percent of all federal inmates but same is only four (4) percent of Canada’s total population;

WHEREAS Aboriginal women account for approximately twenty five (25) percent of federal female inmates;

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada is committed to a correctional system that is just and fair;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada is committed to the principles enunciated by the Supreme Court of Canada’s decision in *R v. Gladue* as enshrined in 718.2(e) of the *Criminal Code*;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada will petition the Government of Canada to take meaningful steps in order to reduce the gross overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in Canada’s correctional system including, but not limited to, rehabilitation, reintegration, and poverty reduction strategies.

Liberal Party of Canada (Nunavut)
Aboriginal People’s Commission

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95. Reinstatement of the Millennium Excellence Award Program

WHEREAS in its 2008 Budget, Stephen Harper's Conservative government announced its intention of not renewing the mandate of the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation. In January 2010, the Foundation ceased to distribute bursaries to the students;

WHEREAS the creation of the Millennium Bursaries go back to 1997, where the Counsel of Education Ministers of Canada asked the federal government to adopt measures that would remedy the financial problems of students;

WHEREAS in 10 years, this bursary program allowed for more than 150,000 bursaries distributed, research on student indebtedness was published and public meetings and conferences on education were held;

BE IT RESOLVED that the government reinstate the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation, while ensuring that the budget proposed to the provinces is entirely dedicated to the Millennium Award Program;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the selection process be taken over entirely by the Millennium Award Program, based on the criteria of excellence of academic results, social involvement, leadership and innovation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada negotiate with Quebec and Nunavut a framework agreement in order to add this program to the financial aid structures available to students already found in this province and territory.

Liberal Party of Canada (Quebec)

Additional Priority Resolutions (results from online voting)

Agriculture & Rural

39. Canadian Wheat Board

WHEREAS The Canadian Wheat Board was given statutory monopoly marketing authority for wheat, durum and barley produced in western Canada for export and for domestic human consumption;

WHEREAS various studies of international sales data by reputable university economists, have estimated that the added value to Western Canada of single-desk marketing of wheat and barley is approximately \$500 million annually which gives western farmers control of 10% of the world marketing exports;

WHEREAS the Canadian Wheat Board is a transparent grain marketing agency that provides producers access to the Auditor General's Report, the CWB annual reports, regular Directors meetings and reports, and additional information through "Grain Matter News" and other forms of media;

WHEREAS farmers have consistently demonstrated strong support for single desk marketing;

WHEREAS according to the Canadian Wheat Board Act changes to the Canadian Wheat Board must be made in consultation with the Canadian Wheat Board of Directors or through direct consultation with farmers through a plebiscite;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada supports the right of farmers to determine the future of the CWB's single desk marketing system through a transparent, democratic process independent of government interference;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to consult with the 10-producer elected directors prior to making federal appointments to the CWB's board of directors;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to protect the CWB in the current round of WTO negotiations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to support and implement the principles of the CWB business plan call "Harvesting Opportunities" as presented in 2006, or future marketing strategies created by the CWB;

Liberal Party of Canada (Saskatchewan)

Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)

Liberal Party of Canada (Alberta)

Broad Issues

53. Comprehensive Plan for Post-Secondary Education

WHEREAS Canada's economy of the future needs highly educated and skilled individuals to remain competitive on a global scale;

WHEREAS upfront grants remove price barriers to post secondary education more effectively than retroactive grants;

WHEREAS Government stipends for training and education in fields that the public service or crown corporations require would provide an additional source of funding for deserving students;

WHEREAS these stipends would also provide trained personnel in areas determined to be lacking, thereby supporting the maintenance of government services;

WHEREAS corporate buy-in options for the stipend program would allow the private sector to support the education of students, who would then become employees of the company;

WHEREAS the support of post secondary education through increased subsidization is a worthwhile goal of the Government of Canada;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the government of Canada to adopt a comprehensive post secondary education funding plan, complete with the instatement of upfront grants and a national stipend program aimed at supporting the education of deserving students;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the government of Canada to offer current and future students opportunities to access education at any point in their career, including trades; and a work forgiveness program which would allow students to pay off their loans in exchange for work in designated communities, industries, and public initiatives.

Liberal Party of Canada (British Columbia)

Liberal Party of Canada (Alberta)

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Canada and the World

96. Canada's International Standing

WHEREAS since 1945, Canada has acquired international standing conferring upon it political and moral authority largely surpassing the size of its population and the importance of its economy;

WHEREAS Canada has always supported legitimate military intervention causes;

WHEREAS since 1945, Canada has multiplied its peace-keeping missions and its help to countries, areas and people that were in need;

WHEREAS Canada has initiated or taken part in a vast majority of the great measures taken to improve the fate of humanity and the planet's environment;

WHEREAS for five years, the Conservative government has revoked for all intents and purposes our commitments relating to the Kyoto Protocol;

WHEREAS Canada lost its seat at the United Nations Security Council because of a foreign policy that is a marked departure from our tradition acquired over time;

WHEREAS Canada, under the current government, is on the way to losing its international standing to become a provider of primary resources in light and according to the trade interests involved, losing in the process its internationally respected reputation;

BE IT RESOLVED that a future Liberal government implement policies and treaties in order for Canada to regain its international standing as an intermediate power, peacekeeping and respected.

Liberal Party of Canada (Quebec)

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Economy 1

12. Science and Policy

WHEREAS the stature of Canada is declining in the international scientific community because government policy is made with little regard to scientific knowledge;

WHEREAS scientific knowledge is critical to address many issues confronting Canadians, ranging from resource and environmental issues to food safety and supply;

WHEREAS the physical and economic health and the hopes of Canadians are intimately tied to future scientific discoveries;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada urges the government to re-institute the position of a “national science advisor” who will provide advice to the Prime Minister on science and policy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Party work towards the institution of an appropriately-funded independent “Parliamentary Science Officer” who will report directly to Parliament on the degree to which scientific knowledge has been taken into consideration in government policy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Party urges the government to work with provincial governments to promote scientific literacy of Canadians through development of appropriate educational programs from preschool through post-secondary schools;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Party urges the government to increase funding of the CIHR, NSERC, and SSHRC to internationally-competitive levels, and that they maintain their arms’ length relationship to the government;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Party urges the government to appropriately fund science research undertaken by federal departments and agencies to support the management and sustainable development of Canada’s resources and economy and ensure that this research is fully communicated.

Liberal Party of Nova Scotia

Economy 2

31. Fiscal Responsibility

Background:

In 2006, the Conservative government inherited the strongest economy of the recent history of Canada. The projection of \$100 billion of federal financial flexibility to the end of the decade existed to further reduce debt, decrease income taxes, to invest in social programs and provide financial capabilities for unexpected events or natural catastrophes.

In May 2006, the budget figures indicated that there would have been a \$17.4 billion surplus if the Conservatives had not intervened.

In 2006, the Conservative government reduced the GST to 6%, while spending has increased by \$40 billion in just over 2 years. Presently, Canada's debt has increased by \$56 billion making Mr. Harper the "biggest" spending Prime Minister in Canada's history.

Fluctuating world interest rates expose the Canadian government and Canada's economic stability to substantial risk.

The Conservative fiscal update of November 2006 claimed they would repay the debt in 15 years yet the national debt continues to increase.

Action Required:

That the Liberal Party of Canada commit to a strategy to reduce the national debt over a calculated timeframe.

Policy Recommendation:

That the Liberal Party of Canada continues with the Liberal record of fiscal responsibility.

Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)

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Energy

99. Accelerated Development of Clean, Renewable, and of conservation and energy efficiency in Canada

WHEREAS the non-exploited potential of clean, renewable, conservation and efficient energy is of utmost importance (wind energy, solar, biomass, energy conservation, energy efficiency, etc.);

WHEREAS the development of this potential is a means of creating collective wealth all the while respecting the environment and the principles of sustainable development;

WHEREAS the development of this potential will encourage innovation, technological and industrial development and high value-added job creation. Moreover, it will mobilize all Canadian citizens in the fight against pollution, climate change and create long-term prosperity;

WHEREAS the development of this potential falls in line with the development of Canada's Northern Territories, the implementation of industrial poles in remote areas, as well as the participation of First Nations;

WHEREAS M. Ignatieff's declaration "Canada is falling behind in the new renewable energy economy. The U.S. is set to invest eight times more per capita in renewable energy and energy efficiency than Canada. This must change – and the Liberal Party will lead that change." (Michael Ignatieff on July 15, 2010) ;

BE IT RESOLVED that the LPC ask the government of Canada to quickly implement a vast and robust development programme of clean, renewable, of conservation and efficient energy, including provisions for the development of small and medium-scale clean energy projects and matching grants to encourage the use of passive and active solar energy, water use reducing devices, wind power where applicable, and geo-thermal technology to help construct sustainable communities.

Liberal Party of Canada (Quebec)

Liberal Party of Canada (Saskatchewan)

Environment

44. Oil Sands Environmental Impact

WHEREAS Northern Alberta's bituminous sands represent the most significant oil field in Canada and, in the aggregate, one of the world's largest energy projects;

WHEREAS it is anticipated that future growth in the production of this resource will continue to be an important economic driver, both in Alberta and in Canada, as a whole;

WHEREAS it is extremely important to develop this resource in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner, so that the interests of present and future generations are not sacrificed needlessly for short term gain;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the government of Canada to undertake a comprehensive public assessment of the environmental, economic and social impacts of the oil sands developments immediately;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this assessment be focused on establishing base line data that would provide governments and the oil industry with the necessary information to allow for improvements in the sustainability of this critical but finite resource;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this assessment include specific research into the issues of the aggregate effects of these projects on the quality and quantity of water in the local area, the plans for reclamation and elimination of the tailings ponds, and the reduction of CO2 emissions.

Liberal Party of Canada (Alberta)

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Governance

79. Preferential Balloting System

WHEREAS it is recognized that first past the post voting systems do not properly reflect the will of the people in a multiparty country;

WHEREAS the current system does not produce clear electoral victors (candidates seldom win with more than 50 percent);

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada already uses a preferential balloting system in its own leadership and riding nomination contests;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada implement a preferential ballot for all future national elections.

Liberal Party of Canada (Saskatchewan)

Health 1

11. Mental Health as a National Health Priority

WHEREAS mental disorders affect 20 percent of Canada's population, create the largest single contribution to the burden of disease in our country, lead to significant morbidity and early mortality (through suicide and their impact on the development of multiple other medical illnesses) and substantively contribute to negative social, civic and economic outcomes for Canadians;

WHEREAS most mental health issues are treatable and many mental health service consumers are fully capable of successfully functioning in society when treated;

WHEREAS mental disorders have not been adequately or appropriately addressed historically, with the current Tory government focusing on building jails rather than addressing mental illness as one of the root causes of crime;

WHEREAS the upcoming renegotiation of the Health Accord provides an opportunity for the federal government to ensure that individuals and families living with mental illness receive the care and support that they need to become active and productive citizens;

WHEREAS only 5.5% of the healthcare budget in Canada is spent on mental health services, despite the recommendations of the World Health Organization to allocate 10%;

BE IT RESOLVED the Liberal Party of Canada publicly announces its support for putting mental health care as a national health priority by placing into its election and policy platforms the following:

- 1 – When elected: ensuring that mental health care is a priority focus of discussion in the upcoming Health Accord
- 2 – When elected: creating an office of a national mental health ombudsman who will provide to parliament an annual report on the status of mental health and mental health care in Canada
- 3 – When elected: will ensure that federal funding for mental health care is identified within social/health transfers to the provinces and that funding shall only be used for the purposes of improving mental health care
- 4 – Following the World Health Organization's recommendation, that an increase of funding for mental health services is allocated to 8-10% of the national healthcare budget and that the services covered shall include, but not be limited to, professional counseling and access to prescribed medication;
- 5 – When elected: will create a national mental health human resources development capacity that will work with Provinces, Territories, Professional Organizations; Educational Institutions and others to create and deliver innovative mental health human resources to meet mental health care needs of Canadians
- 6 – When elected: will assign priority to mental health and mental health care in Aboriginal, First Nations and Inuit health initiatives

*Liberal Party of Nova Scotia
Young Liberals of Canada*

Ottawa 2012 – Liberal Biennial Convention
Priority Policy Resolutions

Health 2

40. Medical Isotopes in Canada

WHEREAS Canada has been a leading producer of medical isotopes and has had an excellent world-wide reputation concerning the development and generation of medical isotopes used in the diagnosis and treatment of varied patient health problems;

WHEREAS in normal times Canadian physicians perform approximately 30 000 diagnostic scan procedures as well as administering about 300 therapeutic doses weekly;

WHEREAS Canada should not be put in the position of being dependent upon uncertain foreign sources for its important supply of medical isotopes;

WHEREAS Liberals are concerned for the welfare, health, safety and security of Canadians;

WHEREAS it is the responsibility of the Government of Canada to provide for and ensure the health, safety and security of Canadians;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada, on behalf of Canadians, in response to the isotope crisis, requests the Government of Canada to act responsibly, and state its support for the resumption of production of medical isotopes in Canada using the latest technologies available;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada, as a matter of health urgency, commits to the renewed and long-term production of medical isotopes in Canada for the long-term health benefits of Canadians, and to commit to continued financial support of research and development of medical isotopes in Canada.

Liberal Party of Canada (Alberta)

Infrastructure

30. The Infrastructure Deficit

Background:

The infrastructure supporting essential services in Canadian cities and 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. Winnipeg, being only one of those cities, is currently facing a \$3B infrastructure deficit.

Infrastructure Canada's program *Building Canada – Modern Infrastructure for a Strong Canada* is 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.

Required Action:

Canada's federal government has to recognize the growing infrastructure deficit that exists in Canadian communities and take appropriate action to revamp and properly fund federal programs to be more effective, predictable and financially feasible in the future.

Policy Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Liberal Party of Canada:

- Develop a funding strategy to deal with the infrastructure deficit that Canadian communities are facing; and
- Collaborate with municipal governments and local governments to revise the infrastructure programs.

References:

Infrastructure Canada-Building Canada-Modern Infrastructure for a Strong Canada
www.buildingcanada-chantierscanada.gc.ca/plandocs/booklet-livret/booklet-livret09-eng.html

Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)

Ottawa 2012 – Liberal Biennial Convention
Priority Policy Resolutions

Justice

117. Legalize and Regulate Marijuana

WHEREAS, despite almost a century of prohibition, millions of Canadians today regularly consume marijuana and other cannabis products;

WHEREAS the failed prohibition of marijuana has exhausted countless billions of dollars spent on ineffective or incomplete enforcement and has resulted in unnecessarily dangerous and expensive congestion in our judicial system;

WHEREAS various marijuana decriminalization or legalization policy prescriptions have been recommended by the 1969-72 Commission of Enquiry into the Non-Medical Use of Drugs, the 2002 Canadian Senate Special Committee on Illegal Drugs, and the 2002 House of Commons Special Committee on the Non-Medical Use of Drugs;

WHEREAS the legal status quo for the criminal regulation of marijuana continues to endanger Canadians by generating significant resources for gang-related violent criminal activity and weapons smuggling – a reality which could be very easily confronted by the regulation and legitimization of Canada’s marijuana industry;

BE IT RESOLVED that a new Liberal government will legalize marijuana and ensure the regulation and taxation of its production, distribution, and use, while enacting strict penalties for illegal trafficking, illegal importation and exportation, and impaired driving;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a new Liberal government will invest significant resources in prevention and education programs designed to promote awareness of the health risks and consequences of marijuana use and dependency, especially amongst youth;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a new Liberal government will extend amnesty to all Canadians previously convicted of simple and minimal marijuana possession, and ensure the elimination of all criminal records related thereto;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a new Liberal government will work with the provinces and local governments of Canada on a coordinated regulatory approach to marijuana which maintains significant federal responsibility for marijuana control while respecting provincial health jurisdiction and particular regional concerns and practices.

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

Ottawa 2012 – Liberal Biennial Convention
Priority Policy Resolutions

LPC Governance

18. Democratic Renewal

WHEREAS historically The Liberal Party of Canada has proudly and successfully reformed itself to ensure the full participation of its membership;

WHEREAS the last full and thorough reform process with broad membership engagement occurred over 25 years ago in the early 1980's with the Reform Commission created by former Liberal Party President, Iona Campagnolo during the leadership tenure of the late Rt. Hon. Pierre Elliott Trudeau;

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada remains committed to the full democratic participation of its membership in all internal party processes and practices;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a Renewal Commission be immediately created and that this Commission be charged with the responsibility to engage all Party members in a review and assessment of the current degree of democratic participation practiced within the Party and recommend changes to the Constitution of the Liberal Party of Canada that would ensure the Party deepen its commitment to internal democracy by maximizing the democratic participation of its membership;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that two members from each province and territory be elected by the full membership of their respective provincial and territorial Liberal associations within one year of the national Biennial Convention in 2011, and that these members elect a Chair from among themselves;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that once all commissioners have been elected that this Commission be given up to two years to complete its mandate and present constitutional amendments to the first national convention following this two year period and that said convention vote to adopt or reject all constitutional amendments presented by this Commission for approval.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)

Senior Specific Economy

72. Canadian Pension Security

WHEREAS Statistics Canada has indicated that Canada's population over the age of 65 is anticipated to reach 10.9 million by the year 2036;

WHEREAS experts have identified serious demographic challenge, systemic shortcomings and regulatory inadequacies in the current public and private pension structures of the country which can hinder the overall financial security of Canadian seniors;

WHEREAS poverty and instances of inadequate retirement income, in the population over the age of 65, is statistically most profound among females and certain marginalized communities;

WHEREAS experts generally agree that pension security, coverage and adequacy can be enhanced through public and private measures aimed at promoting savings opportunities, financial literacy, regulatory modernization and systemic improvement and fairness;

WHEREAS the general membership and the Parliamentary Caucus of the Liberal Party of Canada has repeatedly underscored a desire to work for the betterment of all Canadian seniors and the Liberal Party of Canada has a long and proud history of developing and delivering measure to enhance pension security, coverage and adequacy;

WHEREAS pension reform must include those not traditionally considered during these discussions including, but not limited to, stay at home parents.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada hereby endorses the October 2010 White Paper, entitled *Canadian Pension Security, Adequacy and Coverage; Public Policy Challenges and the Baby Boom Generation*, authored by the Official Opposition Critic for Seniors and Pensions and the Liberal Party of Canada's Expert Working Group on Retirement Income Security;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada calls upon the Government of Canada to likewise endorse the said White Paper and to immediately take the necessary steps to explore and implement the 28 policy recommendations contained within the White Paper and the Annex.

*National Liberal Caucus
Liberal Party of Prince Edward Island
New Brunswick Liberal Association*

Senior Specific Health

84. Home Care

WHEREAS it is well established that, wherever feasible, seniors and others with disabilities are happier and more content in a home setting than in an institution;

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada has proposed to provide compensation for the families of seniors and others requiring home care;

WHEREAS a study commissioned by Veterans Affairs Canada¹ has indicated that the provision of home support services can significantly reduce the rate of hospital admission and, in doing so, significantly reduce overall health care costs;

WHEREAS a strategy developed by the Province of Ontario entitled *Aging at Home Strategy* has demonstrated that the provision of support services in the home can significantly reduce the rate of admission to hospital or nursing home and thus significantly reduce costs to the point where it has been reported that, if the program keeps ten seniors a year out of a nursing home, it will pay for itself;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that a Liberal Government, in addition to those aspects of Home Care already proposed, undertake discussions with the provinces and territories to cost share home support services within the context of the Canada Health Act in order to reduce the rate of admissions to acute care hospitals and long term care facilities in order to reduce costs and enhance the comfort and wellbeing of seniors and others with disabilities.

Senior Liberals' Commission

Specific Demographics

47. Early Childhood Development and Child Care

WHEREAS the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) released a report that ranked Canada last among developed countries in terms of access to early learning and child care spaces, and last in terms of public investment;

WHEREAS Canada lags behind many of its OECD counterparts in relation to early childhood development programs, both in terms of the proportion of GDP spent on public funding of early childhood education and care, and in terms of enrollment of children in preschool education;

WHEREAS nearly 30% of children entering kindergarten lack basic skills and knowledge necessary to function successfully;

WHEREAS numerous studies and most research confirm the influence learning has from age zero to six on a child's subsequent performance and achievement;

WHEREAS Canadian children are the future of Canada and we must invest in them to maintain and efficient and competitive economy as the growing shortage of skilled workers in Canada will result in more pressure being put on parents to participate in the workforce;

WHEREAS Canadians who live in rural, northern, or remote locations have inadequate access to regulated childcare spaces;

WHEREAS the federal government holds the necessary resources and negotiating power required to implement a national childcare plan for all Canadians;

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

- make federal funding available to provide better quality early childhood care, education and development
- invest in a comprehensive early childhood learning program (ECLP)
- establish a National Child Care Program in accordance with best practices;
- integrate child care with kindergarten and improve the training and recruitment of child care workers
- set specific targets to increase access to quality, regulated childcare spaces to Canadians living in rural, northern, or remote regions

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a system of early learning and child care would include honoring the bilateral agreements that the previous liberal government signed with the provinces and the territories; increasing federal funding for child care to one percent of the Gross Domestic Product; re-investing the \$1,200 per year from the Universal Child Care Benefit into the Canadian Child Tax Benefit and directing the value of the Spousal Credit to the spouse who remains at home;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada commit to the development of a funding schedule with benchmarks and accountability mechanisms for provincial and territorial transfers that will achieve quality, universal childcare services, which will in turn provide significant social and economic returns for Canadians.

Ottawa 2012 – Liberal Biennial Convention
Priority Policy Resolutions

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

Water

20. National Water Policy

WHEREAS freshwater is a natural resource essential for the life of Canadians and for the economic and social development of Canada;

WHEREAS safe, secure clean freshwater is a legacy we must pass on to our future generations;

WHEREAS freshwater has become a more and more rare and polluted resource and in certain regions of the Globe a source of international disputes and even armed conflicts;

WHEREAS interpretation of the status of freshwater in the various international agreements is not judicially established and for some people freshwater is a commercial good subject to the rules of the World Trade Organization;

WHEREAS in Canada the exact situation of the surface freshwater and the underground freshwater is not precisely known and an inventory does not exist;

WHEREAS from time to time provincial governments and private companies consider selling freshwater in bulk;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada's next platform will contain the commitment to establish a National Water Policy including particularly the declaration of bulk freshwater as a national non-commercial common good, an inventory of the resource, an evaluation of the degree of pollution of the resource, the obligation to keep freshwater and groundwater in its national watersheds, the modernization of the Canada Water Act (30 years old), the adoption of a Water Efficiency and Innovation Act, the firm commitment to ensure safe drinking water and effective waste-water treatment for all Canadians and research concerning the impact of emerging pollutants in water on human and aquatic ecosystem health is carried out.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)