



LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA

POLICY WORKSHOPS TO THE 2006 LEADERSHIP AND BIENNIAL CONVENTION

NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 3, 2006

MONTREAL, QUEBEC

.....
CHOICES
THAT COUNT
.....

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

1) EMBASSY IN BEIRUT

WHEREAS presently the Canadian Embassy Office in Lebanon operates as a Satellite Office only providing services for visitors', students' and workers' visa applications and services for landed immigration visa application must be filled only at the Canadian Embassy in Syria; and

WHEREAS there are reports of at least 50,000 Canadians in Lebanon at one time; and

WHEREAS realizing the risks involved for Canadians to travel to Syria for processing their landed immigrant applications and the escalating tensions between Lebanon and Syria being that Syria has been reported to harbor and support terrorist groups;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal Government urgently recommend changes to the Canadian Embassy Services in Beirut, Lebanon, from a Satellite Office to a Regional Program Centre, providing full immigration services.

Liberal Party of Prince Edward Island

2) MEETING THE 0.7% GDP/ODA RATIO

WHEREAS the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are the global yardstick against which the world can measure progress in key areas; and

WHEREAS these goals include eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, achieving basic education for all, reducing child poverty, improving maternal health, and forming global partnerships for development; and

WHEREAS Canada is committed to the Millennium Development Goals; and

WHEREAS Canada's International Assistance Envelope increased under the Liberals by 8 percent annually since 2002-2003; and

WHEREAS our goal was to maintain increases beyond 2010 and accelerate the projected rate of growth in international assistance as our fiscal position continued to improve; and

WHEREAS it is in our own self interest to provide hope to the poor, voiceless and desperate masses of humanity, who provide fertile ground for an ideology of hatred and terror as the means for social change;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada strongly urge the Government of Canada to honor its international commitment to the Millennium Development Goals by providing Official Development Assistance at the level of 0.5 % of GNP by 2010 and 0.7% of G.D.P. by 2015.

*Liberal Party of Canada in Alberta
National Liberal Caucus
Seniors Liberal Commission*

3) NORTHERN SOVEREIGNTY

WHEREAS the United States has been issuing oil and gas leases in areas under dispute which are off-shore of northern Yukon; and

WHEREAS a number of foreign nations do not recognize Canada's sovereignty over the Northwest Passage; and

WHEREAS Canada's registry for ships using the Northwest Passage is not mandatory; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada actively and aggressively asserts our northern sovereignty by enforcing our territorial rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada require all foreign ships to register in advance of plying northern Canadian waters, including the Northwest Passage.

Liberal Party of Canada – Yukon

4) LEADING PEACE OPERATIONS ABROAD

WHEREAS no price can be put on a human life; and

WHEREAS approximately 90% of all casualties in armed conflicts are civilians and more than half of these are children; and

WHEREAS Canada historically has been a significant contributor in personnel for UN peacekeeping missions and has developed a reputation as a peacekeeping nation; and

WHEREAS Canada currently is ranked 49th of the UN member states in terms of the number of military and police personnel contributions to UN operations; and

WHEREAS several developing nations are ranked in the top five of contributors of personnel;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to take a leadership position in actively preventing intrastate and interstate conflicts from taking place; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to focus on building relationships and partnerships with like minded member states of the UN; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to actively seek ways to implement the Responsibility to Protect Doctrine; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to take an active leadership role and increases the number of personnel for UN peace operation missions to once again become a top ten contributor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to contribute a diplomatic corps to resolve situations as much as possible, before military involvement is needed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to provide better funding and general support systems to peace operations, training, and research facilities.

Young Liberals of Canada

5) CHALLENGING COMPLACENCY: FIGHTING POVERTY GLOBALLY

WHEREAS levels of global poverty, particularly in the developing world have reached unprecedented levels; and

WHEREAS these high levels of poverty endanger the security and overall prosperity of the world; and

WHEREAS every child deserves equal access to the resources necessary to succeed in life; and

WHEREAS Canada, as an economically strong and prosperous nation has the economic resources to make a substantial difference in eliminating global poverty; and

WHEREAS Canada is well below reaching the 0.7% of GNI being dedicated to foreign aid; and

WHEREAS child poverty in Canada is unacceptable and should be fixed immediately;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to meet its commitment to the Millennium Development Goals to meet minimum targets to reduce poverty; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to commit now to the UN minimum target of pledging 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) to foreign aid by 2015; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to commit to devote 1% of the GST revenue, if necessary, to achieve the target; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to promote the cancellation of multilateral and bilateral debt owed by the 20 poorest countries by 2015; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to push for fairer international trade laws that will work towards ending global poverty.

Young Liberals of Canada

6) ACCELERATE ACTION ON INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOCUSED ON POVERTY ERADICATION

WHEREAS, Prime Minister, Paul Martin clearly stated that “ending poverty, the aspiration of the UN Millennium Development Goals, is the overriding development objective of the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, the plight of the 1.2 billion people in developing countries living on less than a dollar a day requires no less than a global response making full use of all the financial, intellectual and organizational resources that we can muster; and

WHEREAS, Canada has begun to reinvest in foreign aid with 8% annual increases until aid doubles at the end of this decade; and

WHEREAS, this is a good start, the total amount of our annual Gross National Income (GNI) and the pace established is not fast enough to allow Canada to meet the UN goals of 0.7% of our GNI to Official Development Assistance (ODA) by 2015;

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

1. Honour its commitment to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by committing to a timetable to achieve the UN target of 0.7% of Canada's Gross National Income on Overseas Development Assistance by 2015;
2. Strike a measured balance in Canada's international co-operation priorities between:
 - i) its allocation of resources for crises and international security and
 - ii) its commitment to devote increases in resources to long-term sustainable development focused on the eradication of poverty;
3. Ensure a periodic and participatory evaluation of aid and trade programs to ensure they have a positive impact on empowering communities of the poor in developing countries.

National Women's Liberal Commission

7) SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS PROLIFERATION

WHEREAS the unhindered global trade of small arms and light weapons (SALW), and their munitions has been recognized as having disrupting effects on economic, social and political development, as well as security at all levels; and

WHEREAS the unhindered global trade SALW and munitions helps fuel permanent war-time economies which are linked to both the illicit global trade of natural resources, such as blood diamonds, on the black market and to gross violations of human rights and humanitarian law; and

WHEREAS 45 out of 49 wars since 1990 have been fought exclusively with SALW, while causing 90% of war-related deaths, resulting in millions of casualties while 2 million children have been killed by small arms since 1990; and

WHEREAS these and other devastating effects of the unhindered global trade in SALW and munitions has been recognized by the United Nations, countless humanitarian agencies, NGOs, academics, and the countless victims around the world; and

WHEREAS Canada has played a historical role in the advancement of international law, peace, security, and human security as evident in the creation of international peacekeeping operation, the International Criminal Court, and the Ottawa Convention banning anti-personnel land mines;

BE IT RESOLVED that The Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to immediately begin exploring avenues for the creation of an international convention regulating the global trade in small arms and light weapons and munitions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to immediately begin advocating the creation of such a convention to other members of the international community and to open dialogues to discuss means of creating such a convention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to recognizes its international commitments in having signed the United Nations firearms Protocol and hereby commits to ratifying the Protocol at the soonest possible date.

Young Liberals of Canada

8) MODERNIZING CIDA – MAKING OUR AID DOLLARS MORE EFFECTIVE

WHEREAS many voters, especially young Canadians, see international aid and development as a positive area Canada can contribute to international challenges; and

WHEREAS it is critically important with respect to our 3D (Diplomacy, Development and Defence) approach to foreign policy challenges, that CIDA be made into a coherent, focused and more effective organization; and

WHEREAS CIDA has been seen to be unfocused and scattered in its activities with too much of its resources, both human and financial, concentrated in Canada; and

WHEREAS the Liberal Party supports achieving an international expenditure development envelope of 0.7% of GDP within the first 8 years of becoming government, but that support of increased expenditures is conditional on CIDA becoming a more effective organization;

BE IT RESOLVED that a new Liberal government would:

1. focus CIDA's initiatives on no more than 24 countries;
2. ensure sufficient emergency funds are available for natural or man-made disasters;
3. give CIDA a legislative mandate concentrating on poverty reduction; and,
4. focus CIDA's activities on the following areas:
 - i. Food Security
 - ii. Water Security
 - iii. Primary Health Care-with a focus on HIV-AIDS
 - iv. Primary Education-with a focus on child protection
 - v. Governance and Anti-Corruption Activities

National Liberal Caucus

9) CANADA-UNITED STATES RELATIONS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SECRETARY OF STATE FOR CANADA-US RELATIONS

WHEREAS the United States is Canada's largest trading partner, closest neighbour, friend and ally; and

WHEREAS Canada and the United States share many mutual challenges, both domestically and internationally; and

WHEREAS the challenges run the gamut from health care, international trade, security, environmental concerns and aging population; and

WHEREAS recognizing this while we have a very close relationship there is still much that can be done to address these challenges by capitalizing on cooperation between civil society, NGOs, various levels of government, educational and research initiatives between our two countries; and

WHEREAS recognizing the need for a mature and respectful relationship between the United States and Canada based on our interests and security for our region;

BE IT RESOLVED that a new Liberal government would create a Secretary of State for Canada-US Relations under the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

National Liberal Caucus

I O) FUNDING OF WATER, A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT, IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

WHEREAS only 1% of water on earth is fresh water; and

WHEREAS fresh water is a shared legacy, a public trust and a collective responsibility; and

WHEREAS access to clean, fresh water is a basic human necessity; and

WHEREAS Canada must exercise responsible stewardship over this life-giving resource;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada, in national and global trade, to respect water as a common good and basic human necessity which is ensured through public ownership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that government regulation and trade agreements do not treat water as a marketable commodity controlled only by the marketplace rules of supply and demand.

Liberal Party of Canada in Alberta

11) CANADA AND AFGHANISTAN

WHEREAS diplomacy, development and defence are the three main elements that define Canada's foreign policy; and

WHEREAS Canada is contributing through diplomacy, the provision of aid and of security to the rebuilding of war-torn Afghanistan with the aim of bringing long term peace and stability to the region; and

WHEREAS Canadians have made the supreme sacrifice in assisting the Afghan people in working toward this stability; and

WHEREAS winning the war on terror both in Afghanistan and globally will ultimately be accomplished by winning over the hearts and minds of local populations; and

WHEREAS the Canadian people must clearly understand the goals and objectives of Canadian involvement in Afghanistan so that the Canadian people can be reassured that the sacrifices made by military and civilian efforts supporting humanitarian efforts are achieving these goals;

BE IT RESOLVED the Liberal Party of Canada will urge the Government of Canada to have a full and open debate in Parliament on the current goals and objectives of the mission in Afghanistan with the aim of clearly defining the mission's goals and objectives for the Canadian people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Liberal Party of Canada will urge the Government of Canada to ensure that goals, objectives and timelines will be published and carefully monitored and measured on the basis of clear and quantifiable criteria to determine whether the strategy being used to achieve those goals, objectives and timelines is appropriate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Liberal Party of Canada will urge the Government of Canada to report to the Canadian people on the success, or lack thereof, of those criteria on an ongoing and regular basis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Liberal Party of Canada will urge the Government of Canada to use the success, or lack thereof, of meeting these objectives as the principal basis for determining how long, or whether, Canada maintains a military presence in Afghanistan.

Liberal Party of Canada (Quebec)

Liberal Party of Canada (Alberta)

I 2) THE CANADIAN MILITARY, SECURITY, SOVEREIGNTY AND PEACE KEEPING

WHEREAS the Canadian Forces must carry out the duties of defending Canada, peace keeping, peace making, civic emergencies and protecting our sovereignty; and

WHEREAS the demands on our forces are growing, from the need to protect ourselves at home and abroad to the need to maintain our sovereignty in the arctic; and

WHEREAS our forces are over-extended and too small to make simultaneous contributions to international operations and the defence of North America; and

WHEREAS Canada's defence expenditure has declined from 1.8% of GDP in 1990 to 1.2% of GDP in 2003, which is one of the lowest in NATO; and

WHEREAS Canadian peace-keeping and peace-making operations are dependent on having trained personnel and sufficient resources; and

WHEREAS recent and past disasters have proven the need for a capable military to support first-responders in a crisis;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to increase funding for the Canadian Forces to the median NATO spending, as a percent of GDP, by the year 2010 so that the Canadian Armed Forces can meet its obligations under the National Security Plan and the International Policy Statement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada call upon the Government of Canada to expedite reforms in the procurement of Canadian Forces assets to augment our presence in the Arctic, to uphold domestic responsibilities and also to allow for concurrent foreign operations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to develop a plan to increase the forces at operational levels and then maintain them through multiyear funding that guarantees sufficient equipment for all personnel, adequate maintenance of all equipment and safe and effective equipment for all operations.

*Liberal Party of Canada British Columbia
Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)*

I 3) RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND ARCTIC SOVEREIGNTY

WHEREAS Canada has typically been a world leader on human rights issues, but not when it comes to our First Peoples; and

WHEREAS the Government was one of only two nations on the Human Rights Council to vote against a United Nations draft declaration on human rights of Indigenous peoples; and reversed the support of the previous government; and

WHEREAS the failure to put Canada's name to this non-binding declaration that was years in the making, is shameful and an insult to Aboriginal Canadians; and

WHEREAS the current government has committed to make military investments to enhance Canada's Arctic Sovereignty while failing to recognize that the key to sovereignty in the North cannot be achieved without the cooperation of the Dene, Métis, Nunavut and Yukon first nations; and

WHEREAS the current government has failed to honour Canada's Kyoto Protocol commitments and global warming is impacting the lives and livelihood of Northern Aboriginals;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to vote in favour of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People when it comes before the United Nations General Assembly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada develops a comprehensive arctic sovereignty strategy that addresses issues such as trade, Arctic water pollution, regulations for shipping traffic, and aeronautics regulation. This includes a review of the Berger report and working with Nunavut to address the issues identified in the Report.

National Liberal Caucus

I 4) REFORM OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WHEREAS the United Nations has been unable to respond in times of humanitarian crises such as Rwanda, Kosovo and Iraq; and

WHEREAS one of the reasons for this paralysis has been the veto power held by the five permanent members of the Security Council; and

WHEREAS it is undemocratic for a single nation to veto the will of the majority of nations; and

WHEREAS The UN charter makes it clear that membership is not a right but a commitment to uphold the principles and purposes of the organization; and

WHEREAS the experience of the past fifty years has shown that some member countries of the UN have failed to guarantee human rights and equality before the law to their own citizens;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada supports the Government of Canada in implementing foreign policy aimed at reforming the UN in the following ways:

1. The Security Council be reconstituted so that more populous and powerful countries are elected more frequently.
2. The voting rules for the Security Council be revised so that it will be impossible for a single country to veto the collective will.
3. A necessary condition for UN membership is that each member country must uphold the requirements of the UN charter.
4. Any country that fails to comply with the Charter should forfeit their Security Council seat, if currently held, and be deprived of full UN membership rights, including emergency aid.
5. The concept 'the responsibility to protect' be added to the UN Charter.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)

I 5) CANADA'S ROLE IN PEACEKEEPING, CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND GOVERNANCE BUILDING

WHEREAS one of Canada's strengths and significant contributions to the world has been reinstating and maintaining peaceful conditions in other countries through military and non-military methods of peacekeeping and conflict resolution, and providing advice on the building of effective democratic governments; and

WHEREAS there is broad public support for Canada to play this role in foreign affairs;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada support development of a federal government strategy to increase Canada's effective role in military and non-military methods of peacekeeping and conflict resolution, and providing advice on the building of effective democratic governments.

Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)

I 6) INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

WHEREAS the world's poor continue to be victimized by poor nutrition and disease, and debt burdens continue to obstruct development in the poorest countries; and

WHEREAS the United Nations and former Prime Minister Lester Pearson set a target for industrial countries to allocate 0.7% of their GDP to international development assistance; and

WHEREAS the Liberal government has endorsed this commitment on several occasions, including in the 1993 Liberal Foreign Policy Handbook, and in the 1999 Federal Budget; and

WHEREAS Canada's current level of international development assistance (0.28%) is well below the aforementioned target, and well below the current OECD average of 0.41%; and

WHEREAS the continued waning of Canadian influence in international institutions such as the United Nations, NATO and the G8 is closely linked to the Canada's declining levels of international development assistance; and

WHEREAS Canada is a trading nation in an increasingly interdependent world, and supporting a more secure, equitable and prosperous world is in its national interest; and

WHEREAS Canada is one of the wealthiest nations per capita in the world, and most Canadians, feeling concern for the less fortunate, support international aid and development assistance;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the federal government to increase its level of international development assistance to at least 0.7% of GDP with ten years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the federal government reduce the amount of "tied aid" it gives, which limits the freedom of recipient countries to act in their own best interests; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the federal government continue forgiving unsustainable debt owed to Canada by the least developed countries that demonstrate an ongoing commitment to peaceful development and good governance, including the protection of human rights.

Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)

I 7) EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

WHEREAS the Liberal Governments of Prime Ministers Chrétien and Martin have led Canada out of crippling deficits and into seven consecutive surpluses; and

WHEREAS these surpluses have allowed the Government of Canada to pay off over 60 billion of Canada's debt, lowering the annual interest payments, ensuring a larger proportion of tax dollars directly benefit Canadians and Canadian undertakings; and

WHEREAS the South and Southeast Asian Earthquake and Tsunami-related disaster has shown quite convincingly that cash assistance is a very high priority for all relief agencies, be they governmental, inter-governmental or nongovernmental; and

WHEREAS it is clear that making large sums of unforeseen cash outlays, other than at the end of a fiscal year, is the boon of any finance minister;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada call on the Government of Canada to devote four percent of each future surplus to an emergency relief fund that can be carried forward from year-to-year and used as the first line of funding to meet domestic or international emergency needs at the discretion of the appropriate committee of Cabinet; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all taxpayers be entitled to make annual tax-deductible contributions into such a fund up to a limit of \$10,000 for individuals and \$1 00,000 for incorporated entities without limiting in any way their currently allowed tax-deductible charitable donations.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)



ECONOMIC POLICY

I 8) NATURAL RESOURCES

WHEREAS natural resource industries directly employ almost one million Canadians in both urban and rural regions and a further one million are employed indirectly and that thousands of small rural and northern communities are built around the mining and forestry industries in particular; and

WHEREAS the previous Liberal government introduced in November 2005 a Forest Industry Competitiveness Strategy, worth nearly \$1.5 billion and designed to help the Forest industry remain strong and sustainable in the face of increasing challenges by providing support for forest dependent communities, as well as initiatives to enhance the skills of forestry workers, to develop new markets for wood products and to develop innovative technologies; and

WHEREAS the last election prevented action being taken on this strategy; and

WHEREAS Canada's mining industry faces increasing international competition and other challenges;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party supports the immediate implementation of the measures contained in the Forest Industry Competitiveness Strategy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party supports the implementation of a policy permitting mining companies, which require environmental impact reports, to have certain costs associated with those studies to be eligible for an Exploration Tax Credit.

National Liberal Caucus

I 9) CANADIAN URANIUM INDUSTRY

WHEREAS Saskatchewan has a vast natural resource in uranium; and

WHEREAS Uranium mining technology has evolved to being a relatively safe and environmentally sound process; and

WHEREAS the mining industry provides employment opportunities in urban, rural and northern communities for all people be they Aboriginal, non-aboriginal, Inuit or Metis; and

WHEREAS Saskatchewan needs solutions to the out-migration of its youth, young families and its workforce; and

WHEREAS the world market continues to seek high quality uranium for the production of power; and

WHEREAS Nuclear power is environmentally friendly and will produce significantly less greenhouse gases than most other sources of energy;

BE IT RESOLVED that all levels of government - municipal, First Nations, Provincial and Federal develop a firm policy which will further the development of the uranium industry in Saskatchewan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada advance Canada as a leading country in the safe and responsible development of the uranium industry on the world stage.

Saskatchewan Liberal Association

20) REBUILDING OUR FISHING INDUSTRY

WHEREAS fish and marine resources are and will remain of primary importance to Canada and the people of all three coasts;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada continue to support all action necessary, including custodial management, use of appropriate technology, etc., to ensure that fish and marine resources are protected and their benefits maximized; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada allocate all necessary resources to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to support proper research and enforcement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada undertake the necessary licence buyback and early retirement program to help the fishing industry adjust to reduced quotas, ensuring long term viability for harvesters and plant workers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada increase efforts to reduce foreign tariffs obstructing access to export markets.

Liberal Party of Canada Newfoundland and Labrador

21) FISHERIES REFORM

WHEREAS scientific studies have clearly shown that bottom trawling severely damages ocean-floor ecosystems, destroys corals and fish habitat, and reduces oceanic species diversity; and

WHEREAS trawling is associated with significant unintended bycatch, thereby wasting and harming populations of many non-target species; and

WHEREAS the Department of Fisheries and Oceans devotes insufficient resources to monitoring populations and protecting habitats of most fish species, resulting in catch quotas that do not have a scientific basis and in some cases are likely to result in long-term population collapses of target species; and

WHEREAS fisheries enforcement on Canada's coasts has been poor, resulting in significant poaching risks; and

WHEREAS government funding dedicated to creating Marine Protected Areas and the implementation of the Wild Salmon Policy are not sufficient to address the government's goal of protecting sensitive ecological zones and salmon populations;

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

1. Undertake a public review of the impact of bottom-trawling in Canada's territorial waters, including recommendations for reform;
2. Protect critical spawning and feeding grounds by increasing funding for the creation of Marine Protected Areas;
3. Significantly increase funding for fisheries science, monitoring and enforcement, including implementation of the Wild Salmon Policy;
4. Reform the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to provide a greatly improved capacity for focused West Coast fisheries policy development and implementation.

Liberal Party of Canada in British Columbia

22) GST BREAK FOR HOSPITALS SCHOOLS, UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

WHEREAS important institutions such as hospitals, schools, universities and colleges continually face tough budget constraints; and

WHEREAS in 2004 the Liberal government gave municipalities a 100 per cent GST rebate as a part of the 'New Deal' with cities and communities;

BE IT RESOLVED that a new Liberal government would extend a 100 per cent GST rebate to hospitals, schools and universities/colleges.

National Liberal Caucus

23) POVERTY

WHEREAS Canada dropped from 1st to 8th place between 1999 and 2003 on the U.N. Human Development Index; and

WHEREAS corporate profits rose 54 per cent over the same period (1998-2003); and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has posted large budgetary surpluses for the last nine years; and

WHEREAS there is a significant imbalance in the division of the after tax income with the highest 20% of families taking home 43.7% and the lowest 20% of families taking home only 5%;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to develop an Anti-Poverty Strategy with clear goals, a timeline and funding to meet the goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to establish a federal minimum wage and set it at \$11.50 an hour for employees under federal jurisdiction (railways, transport, bank employees etc) ; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to introduce legislation to provide access to EI benefits to part-time and self-employed workers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to increase the basic personal exemption to \$10, 000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to raise the threshold for G.S.T. by 15 per cent, and raise the rebate itself by 15 per cent.

National Liberal Caucus

24) NATIONAL ENERGY STRATEGY

WHEREAS it is critical for the federal government to ensure the security of Canada's energy supply; and

WHEREAS building a sustainable society requires Canadians to significantly reduce its reliance on fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS the federal government must simultaneously provide support for Canada's natural resource sector, and oil and gas sector;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a new Liberal government implement a national energy strategy that will contain the following elements:

1. Fund programs to level private investment in wind, solar, and other renewable green forms of energy;
2. Invest in research into new energy technology such as carbon capture and sequestration, clean coal, hydrogen, and others;
3. Use available policy tools to ensure that expansion in the Alberta oil fields does not outstrip local community infrastructure or put pressure on the local environment that cannot be absorbed;
4. Ensure that takeovers of Canadian natural resource companies take into account the need to build large, competitive, Canadian natural resource corporations, and that such takeovers are in Canada's national and strategic interest.

National Liberal Caucus

25) FISCAL AND ECONOMIC BALANCE

WHEREAS federal government policies have not succeeded in ensuring the economic benefits of Confederation are shared fairly by all provinces; and

WHEREAS federal and provincial governments are endeavouring to find ways of reducing Canada's fiscal and economic imbalances;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to ensuring a fair distribution of economic benefits among the provinces; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Canada's Equalization Program, which was intended to help share the benefits certain provinces derive through Confederation with those who derive less (or even incur costs), be re-designed to more effectively ensure a fair distribution of the benefits of Confederation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that non-renewable resources be considered part of a province's wealth not subject to being shared in the same manner as renewable economic activities such as those resulting from government policies conferring advantages on particular regions at the expense of others.

Liberal Party of Canada Newfoundland and Labrador

26) FISCAL IMBALANCE

WHEREAS the Canadian federation exists through its Constitution and establishes two levels of government; and

WHEREAS the federal, provincial and territorial levels of government work together towards common goals, all the while allowing the constituent entities to adopt autonomous measures which allow them to preserve their unique character; and

WHEREAS governments face a number of challenges in order to balance their budgets and provinces face the greatest financial pressure because of their jurisdiction over health, education, roads and municipal infrastructure; and

WHEREAS the financing of the Canadian federation must be fair throughout the country, considering that provinces have the freedom to make choices in their own jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS the federal Liberal government attempted to relieve the provinces' fiscal pressures by creating infrastructure programs, and signing the 2000 and 2004 deals in health care, and the 2005 New Deal for Communities;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada recognizes the relevance of some of the provincial governments' preoccupations regarding the existence of a fiscal imbalance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada create a task force to study the question of fiscal imbalance and that it propose concrete long term solutions; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that a new Liberal Government begin a multilateral and intergovernmental consultation process with all provinces and territories so as to find a common solution to the question of fiscal imbalance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a new Liberal Government invite its provincial and territorial partners to negotiations leading to a long term solution of the question of fiscal imbalance, while taking into account:

1. the public finances of the federation as a whole;
2. the division of powers;
3. the need of each government to reduce its debt;
4. the various priorities that the provinces decide to fund; and
5. a way to circumscribe the federal spending power.

Liberal Party of Canada (Quebec)

27) FEDERAL SPENDING FAIRNESS

WHEREAS all Canadians deserve the opportunity to work with and for the Government of Canada in their own Province or Territory; and

WHEREAS federal government employment grew by an average of 6.2% nationally between 1999 and 2002, but only by .07% in Newfoundland and Labrador; and

WHEREAS Newfoundland and Labrador has experienced the largest decline of any province in federal spending over the last decade; and

WHEREAS the number of federal government employees in Newfoundland and Labrador decreased by 32% between 1993 and 2004;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada support the implementation of a program of federal investment in people and procurement in all Provinces and Territories of Canada for the purpose of reducing existing imbalances; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such a program ensure that the Canadian military maintain a strong presence in all existing military operations in Canada including Goose Bay, Labrador; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that military operations in Newfoundland and Labrador be increased in keeping with the province's disproportionately high contribution to Canada's military efforts.

Liberal Party of Canada Newfoundland and Labrador

28) PROTECTING OFFSHORE RESOURCE BENEFITS

WHEREAS the Liberal Government of Canada negotiated with the Provinces of Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia amendments to the respective offshore Accords that guarantee their receipt of the benefits of offshore development; and

WHEREAS the current Government has refused to confirm a commitment to the Accords;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada endorse the intent of the previous Liberal government to perpetuate the protection of such benefits under any changes to the Equalization Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada support the constitutional entrenchment of the Atlantic Accord in accordance with clause 64 of the Accord.

Liberal Party of Canada Newfoundland and Labrador

29) FACILITATING SCIENTIFIC INNOVATION

WHEREAS, Canadian High Technology is a result of leading-edge thinking and innovation, and it is appropriate for the federal government to provide leadership in identifying and financing national goals in computer science, mathematics and science so that the scientific leaders and innovators of tomorrow have the theoretical and practical educational base and support needed, today, to foster the synergy that is the essence of future creative thought;

BE IT RESOLVED that the federal government create a National Focus/Agenda on scientific education that will provide young people with local and national access to curriculum resources which will include human("mentors", lectures), written (text material) , physical (equipment-computers, electronic test equipment) and virtual (web) components.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)

30) CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

WHEREAS subsidization and protectionist policies of other nations prohibit the individual farmer from effectively negotiating a fair price for wheat; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Wheat Board, acting on behalf of farmers, has been largely effective in doing so;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal party of Canada maintain and support the Canadian Wheat Board.

Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)

31) RESOLUTION REGARDING THE NEED TO DEVELOP BEEF SLAUGHTER CAPACITY IN CANADA

WHEREAS it is recognized by all levels of government within Canada that Canada presently lacks sufficient capacity to slaughter and process the cattle produced in Canada; and

WHEREAS all levels of government within Canada, as well as Canadian beef producers and consumers, recognize that it is not in the economic interests of Canada for the Canadian economy in general, and the Canadian beef industry in particular, to rely upon foreign-located packers to slaughter and/or process Canadian-bred cattle; and

WHEREAS various levels of government within Canada have expended in excess of three billion dollars in order as to assist the Canadian cattle industry to overcome the adverse effects of the BSE crisis; and

WHEREAS, despite such unprecedented levels of financial support, no additional high-volume cattle slaughter facilities have been constructed in Canada since the BSE crisis commenced in May, 2003; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the adverse effects of the BSE crisis, Canadian cattle producers presently lack the financial resources to construct a high-volume beef slaughter facility in Canada;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the government of Canada to provide appropriate levels of financial assistance, in such form and manner as shall be necessary, in order to support the construction of a sufficient number of high-volume beef slaughter and processing facilities in Canada to meet the current and projected needs of the Canadian cattle industry, on the condition that any financial assistance provided by the government of Canada be repaid to the government of Canada through a check-off levy assessed against each head of cattle in Canada.

Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)

32) SUPPLY MANAGEMENT FOR CANADA'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

WHEREAS Canadian farmers in recent years have experienced drastically low international commodity prices due primarily to the significant subsidies being provided to farmers in the European Union and the U.S.; and

WHEREAS agricultural subsidies generally lead to higher input costs, overproduction, declining prices, environmental degradation, and stifled development in the Third World; and

WHEREAS traditional importers of Canadian agricultural products such as China are increasingly becoming more self-sufficient; and

WHEREAS the world's food-trading system is volatile and subject to market shocks such as serious disease outbreaks like BSE and Avian Flu; and

WHEREAS intensive farming operations degrade the environment and pose a serious risk to ground and surface water; and

WHEREAS decreasing the rural exodus to urban areas, of youth in particular, by creating a healthier agricultural sector would preserve the rural culture that is the foundation of Canada's history and would decrease pressure on urban infrastructure; and

WHEREAS the agricultural sectors currently operating under supply management in Canada (poultry, dairy and eggs) have been very successful, enjoying stable and predictable prices and relying less on government handouts;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the federal government to pursue agricultural policies with the provinces that embrace supply managed systems, oriented primarily for domestic production (at least for industries involving livestock and their by-products), while still allowing limited market access to foreign competition, primarily from developing countries, through over-the-quota tariffs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the federal government to defend and promote supply management during negotiations at the World Trade Organization.

Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)

33) SUPPLY MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS the Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector is integral to our high standard of living and quality of life; and

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada committed in the 2004 Moving Canada Forward Platform Bulletin on Supporting Canada's Farmers to defend orderly marketing systems, including supply management systems for dairy, poultry, and eggs; and

WHEREAS the Prime Minister's Caucus Task Force on Future Opportunities in farming recommended that the federal government continue to uphold our orderly marketing systems on all fronts and against all challenges; and

WHEREAS there are immediate threats to the import controls pillar thereby threatening one of the three pillars upon which supply management stands; and

WHEREAS these threats are leading to the erosion of the domestic market for dairy, poultry, and eggs;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the federal government to reaffirm its commitment to supply management and the sectors under supply management whose producers provide Canadians with the highest quality of dairy, poultry, and egg products; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the federal government to formally recognize and reflect in agriculture and trade initiatives the three pillars of supply management as: import controls, producer pricing, and production planning; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the federal government to reflect their commitment to supply management and the three pillars through the realization of new tariff rate quotas for dairy products under Canada's WTO commitments.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)

34) CANADIAN FOOD POLICY

WHEREAS Canadian farming is at a critical juncture; and

WHEREAS the agricultural producers have invested to produce high-quality foods; and

WHEREAS the cost of producing this high-quality food cannot be recaptured through the pricing of the products to consumers; and

WHEREAS the U.S., Europe and other trading countries use creative means of paying their agricultural producers through environmental, tourism, and other creative avenues in order to ensure their farmers maintain a reasonable return for their costs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada develop a Canadian food policy that addresses the current economic realities and ensures that Canadian agricultural producers are able to make a reasonable income as they produce the high-quality food required for Canada.

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

35) NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL POLICY FOR CANADA

WHEREAS, Canadians need and expect a safe, secure and sufficient food supply produced in Canada by Canadian farmers as part of our overall national security system; and

WHEREAS Canada is experiencing an ever increasing aging population of farmers with decreasing numbers of young farmers entering the agricultural profession; and

WHEREAS much of the poor economic state of the agricultural industry today can be attributed to high production costs (e.g., farm fuel, machinery, repairs, agricultural chemicals, etc.) with low farm-gate product values and low to nil profit margin to farmers selling their products; and

WHEREAS farmers have decreasing control in the market place because of foreign-owned monopolies and pressures; and

WHEREAS food quality and safety can be enhanced by decreased usage of agricultural chemicals and increased organically certified food products;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada develop a comprehensive national agricultural policy to ensure a safe and secure food supply within Canada; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada direct the Canadian Government to support and maintain the Canadian Wheat Board as the prime marketing agency for Canadian farmers and promote farmer-owned and Canadian-owned food production, supply, sales and distribution, and including such facilities as biofuel production plants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada direct the Government of Canada to increase support to maintain family farms to strengthen Canadian sovereignty over the land and increase subsidization programs to the farming industry to bring in line with U.S. and European subsidization standards, and thereby strengthen Canadian farmer competitiveness in the world market place; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada direct the Government of Canada to develop a made-in-Canada organic produce certification program that will encourage increased organic food production, decreased farm chemical usage, and be of sufficiently high standard to satisfy world trading countries.

Liberal Party of Canada in Alberta

36) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - RESEARCH FUNDING

WHEREAS Canada has developed exceptional University programs providing graduates with world renowned science and technology degrees; and

WHEREAS Canada has been committed to becoming a competitive and aggressive leader in the fields of science & technology development world wide; and

WHEREAS the Canadian graduate in science & technology is seeking and gaining broader and more financially rewarding employment opportunities in foreign countries; and

WHEREAS the scientific & technology fields (medicine, academia and industry) cannot provide the graduate with equal financial or research opportunities due to limited or inadequate funding under the current fiscal restrictions;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party ensure that sufficient funds are directed to the Research & Development community to maintain and further enhance the current position of Canada in the Science & Technology fields thus eliminating the drain of talented young Canadian graduates.

Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)



SOCIAL AND JUSTICE POLICY

37) AFFORDABLE HOUSING

WHEREAS, as Liberals, we believe that all our citizens must have access to affordable and quality housing; provided by programs (but not limited to) such as: the Affordable Housing Initiative, the Supportive Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI), the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP), and Aboriginal Housing on and off-reserve; and

WHEREAS the housing needs of many Canadians, including seniors, new families, and aboriginals, is at a critical level due to the high cost of and availability of housing needs; and

WHEREAS no housing strategy can succeed without stable, multi-year funding that will achieve sustainable and lasting results;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government adopt a National Housing Strategy with a mandate to increase the availability of both affordable and supportive housing to meet current and future needs.

Liberal Party of Prince Edward Island
Liberal Party of Canada in Alberta
Seniors Liberal Commission
National Women's Liberal Commission
National Liberal Caucus

38) SOCIAL HOUSING – CMHC OPERATING PROFITS

WHEREAS stable, reliable and affordable housing promotes self-reliance, counters a multitude of social problems, and contributes to the economic well being of all Canadians; and

WHEREAS Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, of which Canada has ratified, states every individual has the right to adequate housing; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada reaffirmed the importance of housing and addressing homelessness during the 2004 Speech from the Throne; and

WHEREAS the lack of affordable housing in Canada continues to be a serious problem; and

WHEREAS CMHC recorded a retained earnings of \$3.4 billion dollars in 2004; and

WHEREAS any operating surplus of the CMHC is currently transferred to the general operating revenues of the federal treasury;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada encourages the Government to increase the funds available for affordable housing to combat homelessness including the re-investment of any surplus from the CMHC into housing initiatives.

Liberal Party of Canada British Columbia

39) ABORIGINAL HOUSING IN URBAN AREAS

WHEREAS an ever increasing number of aboriginal people are migrating to urban areas seeking jobs, higher pay and better quality of life, therefore are faced with the problem of finding affordable housing; and

WHEREAS without affordable housing, aboriginal people quickly lose the benefits of good paying jobs as they must spend high percentages of their salary on housing; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada support federal government assistance in providing affordable housing and home ownership. This assistance could take the form of:

1. Low-cost mortgages for buyers or low-cost home improvement loans;
2. Development of a "sweat equity" program whereby families and communities provide labour on projects in return for lower housing payments;
3. Working in conjunction with Band councils and Tribal councils or NGOs in building and renovating housing.

Saskatchewan Liberal Association

40) CRIMINAL CODE OF CANADA REFORM AND MODERNIZATION

WHEREAS the Criminal Code of Canada has been called too complicated, too illogical and poorly organized; and

WHEREAS Canadians deserve a Criminal Code that is modern, simple, logical, coherent, comprehensive, organized, and understandable; and

WHEREAS piecemeal amendments to the Criminal Code have resulted in loopholes and inconsistencies that have allowed criminals to escape justice; and

WHEREAS a major reform of the Criminal Code will result in a justice system that reflects the Canadian values of fairness and democracy, while giving the public reason for continued confidence in the justice system;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that a new Liberal government will commit to a massive review of the Criminal Code of Canada; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this review will seek to modernize and simplify the Criminal Code.

National Liberal Caucus

4 I) NATIONAL LEGAL AID PROGRAM

WHEREAS at the January, 2005 Meeting of the Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Ministers Responsible for Justice, the Ministers expressed the need for new federal funding for civil legal aid; and

WHEREAS many Canadians have limited income and no resources available at all when it comes to defending themselves in court; and

WHEREAS the core concept of justice is about being accessible to all citizens from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS although many provinces offer good legal aid services, criteria for admissibility varies largely from region to region and does not offer the same level of coverage to all Canadians. A national system of standardized legal aid would address this, ensuring all Canadian citizens are equal in front of the law, no matter what province they call home; and

WHEREAS the current Conservative government has no plans for such a national program and is focusing their efforts on imposing more rigid sentences to criminals with no regard to giving Canadians the ability to defend themselves when accused of crimes in court;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a new Liberal government would create a new National Legal Aid Program to ensure fair justice for all Canadians. This program would include provisions for Civil Legal Aid, most notably for cases involving spousal and child support;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a new Liberal government would recognize Legal aid as an essential public service.

National Liberal Caucus

42) AUTOMATIC AND SEMI-AUTOMATIC WEAPONS

WHEREAS automatic and semi-automatic weapons are illegal for hunting purposes; and

WHEREAS automatic and semi-automatic weapons do not support the hunting culture found in all parts of Canada;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to support legislation to eliminate the personal use of automatic and semi-automatic weapons.

*National Women's Liberal Commission
Liberal Party of Nova Scotia*

43) SAFE INJECTION SITE

WHEREAS, Injection drug use is a growing health crisis for Canada and presents potential health risks, including fatal and non-fatal overdoses and blood-borne diseases such as HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C; and

WHEREAS, In Vancouver, studies show almost a third of intravenous drug users have HIV, and nearly 90 per cent have hepatitis C, and similar trends have been reported in Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg, Ottawa and Quebec City; and

WHEREAS giving addicts a safe place to inject drugs reduces syringe-sharing, and in doing so reduces the spread of diseases like HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C; and

WHEREAS a report by the House of Commons Special Committee on the non-medical use of drugs recommended that Safe Injection Sites be established in large cities; and

WHEREAS, a report commissioned by Health Canada recommends that safe injection sites be set up for intravenous drug users;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada take all steps necessary to establish a National Safe Injection Site program for large cities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada continue to support and implement prevention and treatment programs for those afflicted with narcotics addiction.

Young Liberals of Canada

44) LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA

WHEREAS, recognizing that after almost a century of wasted resources, failed enforcement and judicial embarrassment, millions of Canadians today choose to ignore the real and presumed perils of a costly, ineffective prohibition by regularly consuming cannabis products; and

WHEREAS, further recognizing that, despite nearly a century's combined effort by legislators and law enforcement to prevent it from happening, the cultivation and distribution of cannabis has evolved into a major agricultural and cultural industry in Canada; and

WHEREAS, the 1969-72 Commission of Enquiry into the Non-Medical Use of Drugs recommended that cannabis be removed from the Narcotic Control Act and that the provinces implement controls on possession and cultivation similar to those governing the sale and use of alcohol; and

WHEREAS, the 2002 Canadian Senate Special Committee on Illegal Drugs chaired by Hon. Senator Pierre Claude Nolin, recommended the full decriminalisation and legalization of cannabis in Canada; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, the House of Commons Special Committee on the Non-Medical Use of Drugs recommended that the Canadian Ministers of Justice and Health develop a strategy to decriminalize the possession and cultivation of cannabis for personal use; and

WHEREAS, numerous private and public studies from various institutions and individuals ranging from the National Organisation for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML-Canada) to the Fraser Institute to Nobel-prize winning economist, Milton Friedman, have called for the legalization of cannabis;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the government of Canada to legalise and regulate Canada's marijuana industry and trade; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the government of Canada to examine the social consequences of granting amnesty to Canadians convicted of simple marijuana possession since 1923, and destruction of all criminal records related thereto; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the government of Canada to examine and determine whether the issue of marijuana control and regulation be retained by the federal government or whether they might be better addressed by the provinces in a manner similar to alcohol; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the government of Canada to ensure that Health Canada recognize and work with the existing, established network of community-based 'compassion clubs' in providing access to safe and secure quality medicinal cannabis to Canadians in need.

Young Liberals of Canada

45) EQUALITY AND AGE OF CONSENT

WHEREAS the current law discriminates against unmarried same-sex couples by not permitting unmarried persons under 18 to legally engage in consensual anal intercourse;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Federal Government of Canada to bring the age of consent for anal intercourse in equal pairing with other forms of sexual activity.

Liberal Party of Canada British Columbia

46) PROTECTING SEX WORKERS IN CANADA

WHEREAS in March 2005 the Liberal Party of Canada adopted a policy aimed at protecting the rights of sex workers by supporting a review of Section 213 of the Criminal Code of Canada; and

WHEREAS proper management of the problems associated with victimization in the sex trade cannot be managed by a simple repeal of Section 213 of the Criminal Code of Canada; and

WHEREAS men, women and children often enter the sex trade because of situations beyond their control, either financial or otherwise; and

WHEREAS those who force others into the sex trade and then profit from it are at fault for the danger that their victims face each and every day; and

WHEREAS those who exploit sex workers by paying for their services are often knowingly guilty of sexual assault and in a growing number of cases, the sexual abuse of children; and

WHEREAS the sex trade in Canada is growing each year, particularly in the areas of sex tourism;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to follow through with the prescriptions adopted in the 2005 Biennial Policy entitled "Sex Workers Rights" and review Section 213 of the Criminal Code of Canada, but only in conjunction with a review of enhanced penalties for those who force men, women and children into the sex trade against their will; and those who profit from the sex trade.

Liberal Party of Canada British Columbia

47) GUN CONTROL

WHEREAS the cancellation of the gun registry is part of the Conservative Party's program; and

WHEREAS the Conservative government has started to slash into the registry by ending requirements to register long guns; and

WHEREAS police forces have continually supported the gun registry and spoken out against efforts by the Conservative government to weaken or end it; and

WHEREAS the continued support of police forces for a total gun registry is a strong indication of the capacity of the current system to reduce the harm caused by guns; and

WHEREAS certain dangerous weapons are not found on the current list of illegal weapons; and

WHEREAS it is necessary to continue to effectively control the possession and use of guns;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada take the necessary steps:

1. to counter the efforts by the Conservative government to end or reduce the scope of the current gun registry that was enacted by parliament several years ago;
2. to review the classification of guns so that semi-automatic weapons be classified as an illegal weapons; and
3. to enact more severe laws to better control the possession and use of guns.

Liberal Party of Canada (Quebec)

48) BUILDING A FAIR AND EFFECTIVE JUSTICE SYSTEM – RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

WHEREAS Canada has taken a leadership role in assisting victims of crime through the work of the Policy Centre for Victims' Issues; and

WHEREAS building more prisons is not necessarily the answer to reduce crime rates;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada supports the work of the Policy Centre for Victims' Issues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada supports a more restorative approach to non-violent crimes. This restorative approach includes more victim input into the legal process, including sentencing; also, continuing to support guidelines that promote effective forms of alternative sentencing to traditional incarceration.

Saskatchewan Liberal Association

49) SURVIVING SPOUSE PENSION BENEFITS

WHEREAS the number of Canadians who are protected by private pensions provided by their employers is decreasing; and

WHEREAS inflation is adversely affecting many pension plans in Canada; and

WHEREAS, on the death of a pensioner, an elderly spouse may not receive a survivor's pension from pension plans other than the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and such persons often having to move to subsidized housing or worse;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to establish a commission to study the inadequacy of many private pension plans to provide sufficient pension income for the pensioner and a surviving spouse, and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to establish a commission to examine a requirement for employers who do not provide employees retirement pensions to match contributions by an employee to a Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) on a two for one basis.

Senior Liberals Commission

50) RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE CANADIAN MATERNITY AND PARENTAL LEAVE BENEFITS

WHEREAS the importance of parental involvement with their children in the early years of life is well documented; and

WHEREAS current Canadian maternity and parental leave policies penalize low income families because benefits are provided at only 55% of insured earnings; and

WHEREAS current Canadian parental leave policies penalize fathers who are statistically more likely to have a higher income or be the sole wage earner - resulting in only 9.5% of fathers claiming benefits; and

WHEREAS current Canadian maternity and parental leave policies force both parents to take leave on a full-time basis, discouraging flex-time and part-time work arrangements;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to amend the Employment Insurance Act to provide maternity and parental benefits at a rate of 100% for parents with average insured earnings below \$25,000 and at a rate of 75% for parents with average insured earnings between \$25,001 - \$50,000, with a maximum benefit of \$37,500 per year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to amend the Employment Insurance Act to allow parental leave to be taken on a part-time basis, to allow more flexibility to parents and employers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to amend the Employment Insurance Act to allow hours worked prior to parental leave to qualify the applicant for regular benefits if they should become unemployed upon returning from maternity or parental leave.

National Women's Liberal Commission

5 I) THE EXTENSION OF THE OLD AGE SECURITY ALLOWANCE

WHEREAS the existing Old Age Security income-tested Allowance is payable only to pensioners' spouses or widowed spouses who are between 60 and 64 years of age and meet the residence requirements; and

WHEREAS there is increasing number of single individuals between those ages who are either separated, divorced or have never been married; and

WHEREAS many of these individuals are dependent on social assistance or have a limited income that meets the income-tested requirements of the present Allowance; and

WHEREAS the majority of these single individuals are women who have had lower wages throughout their period of employment;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to extend the Allowance to separated, divorced and single individuals who are between the ages of 60-64 and who meet the residence requirements and have a yearly income that is below the specified maximum amount determined by the Program.

National Women's Liberal Commission

52) CHILD CARE FUNDING FOR CHILDREN SIX TO TWELVE

WHEREAS research demonstrates that quality child care for school-age children before and after school can encourage a children's development, safety, and school performance as well as reduce risk-taking behaviors such as the use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco; and

WHEREAS child care funding and services available to children under six may no longer be offered once a child has reached six years of age; and

WHEREAS limiting funding to children under age six may force families to choose not to use child care for their older children or those children with special needs who may no longer qualify for services because of their age;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Federal government to invest, over a five year period, funding to support the child care needs of children aged six and over; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Federal government to work with provinces and territories to negotiate an agreement in principle that outlines requirements for financial accountability, is informed by evidence-based practices and builds upon the principles of quality, universally inclusive, accessible and developmental child care services for children aged six and over; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Federal government to work with provinces and territories to ensure that this funding specifically addresses some of the challenges associated with child care for children with special needs aged six and over.

Liberal Party of Canada British Columbia

53) CUTS TO FEDERAL SOCIAL PROGRAMS

WHEREAS the Conservative Government has recently announced severe budget cuts which seriously undermine critical social programs;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to fully reinstate funding for cultural and heritage programs, literacy groups and all other HRSD funding that was cut.

Liberal Party of Canada Newfoundland and Labrador

54) CHILD POVERTY

WHEREAS in spite of record government surpluses 1,201,000 children, or nearly one in six of Canada's children, remain in poverty. This is despite continued growth, rising employment and strong job creation, child poverty remains stuck at 17.6%; and

WHEREAS child poverty rates for Aboriginal, immigrant and children in visible minority groups are more than twice the average for all children and the poverty rate for children with disabilities is 27.7%;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to coordinate with the provinces and continue its efforts to combat child poverty, with such initiatives as early learning and child care, the Canada Child Tax Benefit and driven by a public non profit sector; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in an effort to reduce poverty among children the Canada Child Tax Benefit be raised to \$4,900 per child annually.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)
Saskatchewan Liberal Association
National Liberal Caucus

55) AGING OF THE POPULATION AND SUPPORT FOR SENIORS

WHEREAS Canada is undergoing important demographic changes, as baby-boomers approach retirement age; and

WHEREAS the report of the Liberal Caucus Task Force on Seniors underlined that, even though our income support programs are generally efficient, certain seniors groups, including women living alone, handicapped individuals, and Aboriginals, are particularly vulnerable and remain more affected by these uncertainties;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to facilitate the participation of seniors over the age of 65 in the workforce, and will work with the provinces and territories, unions and employers to eliminate the factors that dissuade those who would like to continue to work; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to ensure that seniors will have a better system of income support by increasing the coverage offered by the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) while correcting existing inequalities based on civil status; it will revise the formula for calculating RRSP contributions and withdrawals from FERR, in order to increase the number of years during which they can contribute to an RRSP; and, it will revise the procedures for dealing with requests by the Canada Pension Plan, the Income Security and the GIS in order to permit a retroactive period which seniors have a right to; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to overhaul the New Horizons program so that it may better address the challenges of combating solitude and isolation among seniors and to support their participation in social life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to re-examine the mandate of the Canada Mortgages and Housing Corporation so that it participates in the realization and construction of residential complexes that integrate common services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to, in partnership with the provinces and territories, elaborate a strategy to combat abuse and poor treatment that seniors may suffer.

Liberal Party of Canada (Quebec)

56) NATIONAL DISABILITY SUPPORTS STRATEGY

WHEREAS every day Canadians with disabilities and their families still face daunting barriers; and

WHEREAS there is now an unprecedented consensus among the Canadian public, governments, the disability community and experts about the need for national action on disability, in particular to ensure access to needed supports;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada commit to a National Disability Supports Strategy that would:

1. Include a national program of flexible and responsive disability related supports to allow people with disabilities to learn, become employed and contribute to the social and economic well-being of Canada.
2. Reduce the poverty rate of Canadians with disabilities.
3. Increase the employment rate of Canadians with disabilities.
4. Engage the disability community, its organizations and provincial/territorial governments in developing, tracking implementation and monitoring the results of the National Disability Supports agenda.

New Brunswick Liberal Party





HUMAN RESOURCES

57) UTILIZING SENIORS' SKILLS

WHEREAS Canada's seniors have acquired a vast resource of skills, knowledge, experience and maturity; and

WHEREAS there is a growing universally recognized employers' need for older workers because of the shortfall of younger workers because of the persistent low birthrate; and

WHEREAS many seniors have not contributed to RRSP's or private pension plans and therefore must rely on government benefits; and

WHEREAS an increasing number of seniors, particularly older women, are forced to remain in the workforce lest they fall into a state of poverty;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government to preserve the integrity of the government pension plans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government to consider adjustments to the Income Tax Act which would improve the disposable income of seniors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to establish mechanisms whereby seniors may utilize their acquired skills and/ or participate in re-training opportunities and seek work toward the fulfillment of their physical and intellectual potential.

Seniors Liberal Commission

58) EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE

WHEREAS only about one in five of the two million young children in Canada have access to a regulated early learning and child care space; and

WHEREAS the lack access to high quality care continues to keep women, especially single mothers, in poverty making it impossible for women to fully participate in the economic, social, cultural and political life of their communities; and

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada recognizes the beginning role that early learning and/or child care programs play in the education and development of Canadian children; and

WHEREAS remuneration for well-qualified child care workers is inadequate. This results in difficulty with both the recruitment and retention of qualified child care workers;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal Government undertake to develop an organized system of early childhood development guided by four key principles -- quality, universally inclusive, accessible, and developmental (QUAD) – similar to the initiative that was developed by the previous Federal Liberal Government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada tie provincial and territorial accountability to plans that include timelines and targets for using federal funds to build a universal, publicly-funded system, recognizing that provinces and territories will develop their own priorities and related plans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada provide the recognition and respect for parents, children and child care workers, by ensuring remuneration for child care workers reflects the level of education and responsibility of those workers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada maintain current federal funding commitments under the Early Childhood Development and Multilateral Framework Agreements by committing to increasing the funding available in line with budget surpluses.

*National Liberal Caucus
Liberal Party of Prince Edward Island
Liberal Party of Nova Scotia
Liberal Party of Canada – Yukon
Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)
Liberal Party of Canada in Alberta*

59) IMMIGRATION STRATEGY AS PART OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS a regional development strategy can only be effective if citizens continue to populate the rural and remote regions of Canada; and

WHEREAS rural and remote regions of Canada today face considerable difficulties in attracting and retaining new immigrants, youth, and skilled workers; and

WHEREAS Atlantic Canada, a predominantly rurally populated region, is facing declining population in terms of natural growth rates, net inter-provincial migration, and net immigration;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada support the creation of a comprehensive immigration strategy as part of its regional development initiative to help ensure the survival of rural and remote communities across the country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such a strategy should include clear, ambitious targets to increase immigration in rural and remote regions, promotional tools for provinces to recruit immigrants, strategic investments in Immigrant Settlement Agencies (ISA's) as well as strengthened foreign credential recognition programs, direct support to employers who hire immigrants, support for language training and assistance in overcoming cultural differences.

National Liberal Caucus

60) IMMIGRATION - SEASONAL WORKERS

WHEREAS in 2004, over 15, 000 foreign seasonal workers came to Canada, and made valuable contributions to Canada's economy, including the agricultural sector, the hospitality industry, and care giving professions; and

WHEREAS many of these seasonal workers, especially in the agricultural sector, live and work in substandard conditions; and

WHEREAS, employment standards, and social rights for these workers remain a serious concern and where they pay into the Employment Insurance Program, they cannot receive program benefits;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada supports measures to include the rights of foreign seasonal workers into the Canadian Labour Code; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada encourages the Government of Canada to exempt foreign seasonal workers, in particular agricultural workers, from paying Employment Insurance premiums.

National Liberal Caucus

61) REFUGEE APPEAL BOARD

WHEREAS Canada's Immigration System allows thousands of refugees to seek protection in Canada from political prosecution abroad; and

WHEREAS despite the above, decisions made by the Immigration and Refugee Board are the work of one sole member, rendering the refugee claimant's fate in the hands of a single person; and

WHEREAS in addition, several eligibility requirements prevent some claimants from having an opportunity to tell the Immigration and Refugee Board about their fears; and

WHEREAS several refugee claimants have been victims of the preceding flaws, including Amir Kazemian, who has since June 2004, been residing in a Vancouver Church to avoid deportation back to Iran; and

WHEREAS the government has acknowledged the problems posed by the preceding and has promised the introduction of an appeal system to rectify it; and

WHEREAS to this date, despite the recommendation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Inter-American Commissioner on Human Rights to give refugee claimants an appeal system, the Canadian government has yet to comply; and

WHEREAS in the absence of an appeal system, there are no other mechanisms to ensure a correction of errors;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada urges the government of Canada to acknowledge the need to implement a refugee appeal board in order to give refugee claimants a fair chance to correct procedural errors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT The Minister of Citizenship and Immigration search for ways to implement an appeal system for refugees to maintain the integrity and reputation of Canada's immigration policies.

Young Liberals of Canada

62) FAMILY CLASS IMMIGRATION

WHEREAS under the family class immigration law, eligible sponsors can sponsor one's brother, sister, nephew, niece, or grandchildren who are orphans under the age of 18 and not married or in a common-law relationship, this age restriction is unacceptable since it separates and divides family; and

WHEREAS every Canadian citizen should have the right to be with their relative in order to maintain and strengthen families' relationships and build on Canadian values, culture, and the future of Canada. Family is the building block to a prosperous society;

BE IT RESOLVED the Liberal Government reinstate the change in the Family Class Immigration Act that will allow Canadian citizens to sponsor their brother, sister, nephew, niece or grandchildren who are orphans regardless of age or marital status.

Liberal Party of Prince Edward Island

63) IMMIGRATION

WHEREAS Immigration has been recognized as an important component of Canadian society and is critical to the continuing growth of our country; and

WHEREAS challenges to immigrants relate to their professional credentials, and limits their ability to support themselves economically, creating undue burdens on these individuals; and

WHEREAS the approval of immigration applications is of an unacceptable length, and reporting on the status of applications is poor;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to develop protocols which remove excessive delays and promote more timely processing of applications for immigration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that immigrants have access to a comprehensive process to review, acknowledge and align their professional credentials with standards established by professional bodies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to broaden its outreach activities with professional associations to enable a mentoring process along with meaningful support in areas such as, but not limited to, ESL access, internship support and/or access to further relevant education through a single point of access in supporting immigrants in their pursuit of careers related to their professional background.

Liberal Party of Nova Scotia

64) IMMIGRATION

WHEREAS the immigrant population is increasing in rural and northern Canada as a result of government policy; and

WHEREAS immigrants in northern and rural locations have inadequate local access to services from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) and Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC); and

WHEREAS current policies and services within HRSDC and CIC are administered from the south, which makes it difficult and costly to get timely temporary immigrant labour approval; and

WHEREAS there is increasing onus on immigrants to acquire expensive legal support from population centers in southern Canada to address immigration concerns;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada provides increased resources and personnel in rural and remote areas (e.g. legal services) such as itinerant services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an office providing immigration services be opened to the public during normal business hours in each of the three territorial capital cities (Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Iqaluit).

Liberal Party of Canada – Yukon

65) INVESTING IN EDUCATION

WHEREAS Canadians believe that education is the great equaling factor in society and that all Canadians regardless of their means or background should have equal opportunity to the highest level of education that meets their needs; and

WHEREAS many Canadian students are burdened with rising debt for post-secondary education which has become a roadblock to those with lesser means; and

WHEREAS students often graduate with crippling debt loads and these loans become repayable upon graduation regardless of the employment status of the graduate;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government will implement new initiatives to reduce student debt and make quality education more affordable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the eligibility for student loans be based on the resources of the student rather than the parents.

Liberal Party of Canada Newfoundland and Labrador
Liberal Party of Prince Edward Island

66) CANADA EDUCATION TRANSFER

WHEREAS every Canadian dollar invested in post-secondary education will be returned to the Government seven times over in the form of increased tax revenue and increased productivity; and

WHEREAS a quality public post-secondary education system requires support from both the provincial/territorial and federal Governments working together in a stable and accountable relationship;

BE IT RESOLVED the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to separate post-secondary education funding from the Canada Social Transfer to create an independent Canada Education Transfer based on a per-student funding formula as opposed to a per-capita funding formula; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to support generous funding of the Canada Education Transfer and advocate for annual increases to match inflation and demographic growth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to reach an agreement that prevents provinces/territories from decreasing their own funds for post-secondary education once additional federal funding has been provided.

Liberal Party of Nova Scotia

67) STANDARDS FOR POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

WHEREAS the looming skills shortage due to the aging population and increased international competition from countries such as China and India, puts Canadian business and our economy at risk; and

WHEREAS Canada must prioritize Post Secondary Education in order to mitigate this risk; and

WHEREAS there is no Minister with the mandate to help coordinate Post Secondary Education across the country;

BE IT RESOLVED that the government of Canada appoint a Minister responsible for Post Secondary Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Minister responsible for Post Secondary Education work with the Council of Ministers of Education Canada (CMEC) and other stakeholders to establish national PSE standards and benchmarks for cost, quality and accessibility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Minister work to establish a transparent, earmarked fund for education similar to the Canadian Health Transfer.

Young Liberals of Canada

68) NATIONAL VOLUNTEER AND WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

WHEREAS Canada is composed of diverse and distinct regions each contributing to the national enterprise different variations of culture, values, experience, and perspectives; and

WHEREAS an appreciation of Canada is fostered by exposure to and experience of the different regions of the country; and

WHEREAS in a global and cosmopolitan international community with fewer and fewer barriers between nations, the fostering of a positive national identity, consistent with the complexity of the Canadian experience has become of national importance, particularly in parts of the country where a strong regional identity supplants a coherent nationalism; and

WHEREAS Canada's influence in the world can be enhanced through the communication of the Canadian experience in other countries by Canadians themselves; and

WHEREAS volunteer and work placement programs like Katimavik, Canada World Youth, and University Co-ops have proven to be an effective way for young Canadians to develop skills as leaders, as citizens and as effective members of the work force, as well as developing personal values, goals, and a sense of direction and enjoyment of life;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Party encourage the government to appoint a Minister of State for Youth Skills Development responsible for the establishment of a national volunteer and work experience program for secondary school graduates; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this program be overseen by the Department of Human Resources & Skills Development and that participants be selected on the basis of: elements of academic success, demonstrated leadership, community involvement and awareness of current affairs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the program be two-years in duration for each participant and consist of: an initial screening and preparation period; first a six month regional volunteer component; second a six month workplace internship; third a six month overseas project; and a final six month overseas work term; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the program be initially established on a pilot basis with the hope of expanding to allow for full national participation and where there is an unbalanced availability of placements in Canada or overseas that exceptions be made and additional participants be admitted to either the first year or the second year only; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that where it is practical, job placements overseas will be with Canadian government agencies or placed through partnerships with Canadian Companies operating overseas.

Young Liberals of Canada

69) FOREIGN SKILLED AND INDEPENDENT WORKERS

WHEREAS the majority of Canada's work force will retire within the next 15 years, creating shortages within Canada's labour economy, particularly in the health care field and construction industry; and

WHEREAS Canadians 65 and older will account for at least 25 per cent or (9.4 million) of the population by the year 2031, and within the next decade could potentially outnumber children under 18 years old in Canada; and

WHEREAS within the next 25 years, immigration will account for all of Canada's net birth and labour force growth; and

WHEREAS the current immigration system fails to adequately assess and admit a sufficient number of foreign skilled and independent workers to fill acute shortages in the Canadian workforce;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada encourages the Government of Canada to immediately put in place an accelerated work place skills professional development transition program for the unemployed and underemployed foreign skilled and independent workers presently in Canada; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada encourages the Government of Canada to provide incentives for employers to hire and mentor foreign skilled and independent workers in labour sectors where the most glaring employment gaps occur.

National Liberal Caucus

70) AFFORDABILITY OF POST SECONDARY EDUCATION AND REDUCING STUDENT DEBT

WHEREAS post secondary education provides young Canadians with the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful in the global economy; and

WHEREAS post secondary education has a positive impact on earning capacity and standard of living; and

WHEREAS the current levels of tuition have led to increased student debt levels and lessened the affordability of post secondary education; and

WHEREAS the burden of student loan repayment reduces the amount of disposable income that would otherwise be invested directly in the national economy; and

WHEREAS the current annual tax credit for interest payable on outstanding student loans is minimal;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Government continue to make the affordability of post secondary education an issue of national importance and to consider innovative ways to increase the affordability of post-secondary education such as grants, bursaries as well as higher tax credits for the interest paid on student loans, to all students qualified to enrol in post secondary education with a view to reducing and eliminating student debt loads; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Canadian government introduce a stand alone post secondary education fund to be governed by a Canada Education Act and that the act outline responsibilities for the federal and provincial government, establishes principles, enables enforcement and determines long term and stable funding formulae.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)

71) LITERACY

REAFFIRMING the call to implement a pan-Canadian adult literacy strategy that will provide leadership and funding for literacy service providers; and

WHEREAS literacy programming, especially literacy support for adults, is a key component of any government's efforts to ensure all Canadians have adequate skills to participate in the new economy; and

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada understands the urgency and complexities of dealing with low adult literacy skills and will provide the leadership and financial commitment for a marked improvement in adult literacy skills; and

WHEREAS the Government cuts to literacy programs targeted the most vulnerable low-income Canadians and literacy coalitions across the country;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to immediately reinstate and, indeed, increase financial support for adult literacy programs; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government to provide assurances to Canadians that unilateral funding cuts will not be brought forward in the next budget.

*Liberal Party of Nova Scotia
New Brunswick Liberal Association
National Women's Liberal Commission*

72) TRAINING IN A SECOND OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

WHEREAS in 2001 4.3 million Canadians reported using French at work and 14.3 million Canadians reported using English at work; and

WHEREAS the rich heritages of the French and English speaking residents of Canada have contributed to Canada's multicultural society; and

WHEREAS to encourage unity Canadians must address barriers that divide our nation, of which language is considered by some to be most divisive;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Young Liberals of Canada urges the Liberal Party of Canada to advocate for the establishment of a national fund, the intent of which will be the elimination of post-secondary tuition fees for one second official language course per Canadian student per academic year if said student enrolls in a second official language course; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a cap of four courses per student shall be funded.

Young Liberals of Canada

73) LABOUR MARKETS

WHEREAS a skilled and active workforce is an imperative in the new global economy; and

WHEREAS apprenticeships are not universally recognized across Canada; and

WHEREAS the credentials of many newcomers to Canada are not recognized; and

WHEREAS the Government eliminated the Labour Market Partnership Agreement between the federal and provincial governments designed to fill gaps in the labour market, especially for workers not eligible for Employment Insurance;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the government of Canada to meet the challenges of skills shortages, employment insurance and foreign credential recognition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government create new financial incentives for individuals to complete the Red Seal Program with the goal of having apprenticeships universally recognized across Canada; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government establish a Foreign Credential Secretariat to work in close cooperation with the provinces to ensure better labour market integration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Labour Market Partnership Agreements be re-instituted with the focus on six priority areas: Workplace Skills Development; Labour Market Integration of recent immigrants; Expanding Apprentices; Literacy and Essential Skills; Assistance to Aboriginal Peoples; and Assistance to Others Facing Labour Market Barriers.

National Liberal Caucus



CANADIAN HERITAGE AND IDENTITY

74) ENDING CORPORATE MONOPOLY OF PUBLIC AIRWAVES

WHEREAS access to public airwaves that provide fair, accurate and carefully researched news should be a right enjoyed by all Canadians; and

WHEREAS in Canada media and public airwaves are concentrated and controlled by five companies; and

WHEREAS media and public airwaves controlled by a monopoly deprives Canadians of their right to access fair, accurate and carefully researched news and information; and

WHEREAS media monopolies allow for the cultivation of censorship, repression of dissenting views and limits free speech;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Federal Government to establish a parliamentary inquiry into the concentration of media ownership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Federal Government to introduce legislation to regulate the monopoly of public airwaves to ensure Canadians have access to a plurality of opinions and diverse sources of information.

Liberal Party of Canada British Columbia

75) CANADIAN MUSEUMS

WHEREAS museums across the country are having difficulty balancing their budgets for lack of public funding; and

WHEREAS the museums in most danger of closing their doors are those located in small towns and rural areas; and

WHEREAS the Museums Assistance Program has been slashed by 25% by the Harper government; and

WHEREAS the Liberal government undertook extensive consultations in order to find solutions to the crisis that Canadian museums are facing; and

WHEREAS a new Museums Policy would preserve the cultural heritage that the 2500 Museums in Canada represent; and

WHEREAS Canadian museums attract millions of visitors each year;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Government of Canada adopt a new policy for Canadian museums without delay; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada consult with Canadian museum associations to establish new criteria for financing and eligibility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada increase the funding for the Museums Assistance Program by \$10 million per year for five years, with priority given to smaller communities.

National Liberal Caucus

76) CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

WHEREAS the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation/ Société Radio-Canada is one of the treasures of our Canadian culture; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation/ Société Radio-Canada must be able to count on a stable budget in order to fulfill its mission: inform, enlighten, entertain; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation/ Société Radio-Canada must reflect Canadian identity as a whole, and, at both national and regional levels, must recognize our regional diversity by meeting the specific needs of the regions; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation/ Société Radio-Canada must be available in French and in English in order to reflect, and meet the needs of the two official language communities, including the minority communities of each language;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Government of Canada support and maintain a traditional public broadcasting service in Canada; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Government of Canada adopt the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) model whereby the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation/ Société Radio-Canada is entirely funded by public funds, with long-term (7-10 years) financial commitments, allowing the Corporation to count on stable, predictable funding, and providing a significant planning vehicle that would facilitate both budget projections and the fulfillment of its mandate.

National Liberal Caucus

77) PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF MINORITY COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada considers linguistic duality to be a cornerstone of our country's identity; and

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada introduced the Official Languages Act in 1969 and strengthened the implementation of the Act through specific provisions of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and

WHEREAS the previous Liberal government continued this tradition by adopting Bill S-3 (An Act to amend the Official Languages Act (promotion of English and French)) which was designed to encourage francophone and anglophone minorities in Canada to reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS the present government has undermined the vitality of minority communities by cutting the Court Challenges Program; and

WHEREAS this program cut has given rise to lawsuits from la Fédération des communautés francophones et Acadiennes du Canada (FCFA); and

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada remains as committed as ever to promoting the recognition and use of French and English in Canadian society; and

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada wishes to provide the legislative framework necessary for minority communities to reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS the present government attaches little importance to Official Languages matters; and

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada wishes to re-establish Official Languages matters as a priority for the Government of Canada;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada re-instate the Court Challenges Program, and provide it with the funding necessary for the program to operate effectively; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada implement Bill S-3 quickly and harmoniously, specifically ensuring that each Department understands and plays its assigned role.

National Liberal Caucus

78) LINGUISTIC DUALITY AND OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada considers linguistic duality to be a cornerstone of our country's identity; and

WHEREAS the Liberal Party has always demonstrated leadership in Official Languages matters, and, in 2003, specifically brought forward the Action Plan for Official Languages, which called for an investment of \$751 million over five years; and

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada remains as committed as ever to promoting the recognition and use of French and English in Canadian society; and

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada wishes to provide the tools necessary for minority communities to reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS the present government attaches little importance to Official Languages matters; and

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada wishes to re-establish Official Languages matters as a priority for the Government of Canada;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Government of Canada renew the Action Plan for Official Languages for another period of five years, and increase its funding in order to include funds specifically for arts and culture; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada ensure that any agreement reached with any partner or partners contains specific language clauses with a view to supporting the development of minority communities and allowing them to reach their full potential. These agreements should also include funds earmarked for the needs of these communities.

National Liberal Caucus

79) MULTICULTURALISM

WHEREAS multiculturalism was embedded in the Constitution by the Liberal Party of Canada; and

WHEREAS the Multiculturalism Act is more than just words, it must be implemented in spirit as well as word; and

WHEREAS multiculturalism should inform all policy development as official multiculturalism policy over the years has made a major difference in empowering communities of immigrant background and helping all Canadians embrace diversity; and

WHEREAS multiculturalism is the tool that helps us achieve social cohesiveness and must foster an inclusive and equitable society; and

WHEREAS racism and discrimination remains a serious problem in Canada with a 2003 Ipsos-Reid Survey indicating 74 per cent of respondents expressed the view that there is still considerable racism in Canada;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to increase the funding needs for Multiculturalism Canada and appoint a full Minister to be accountable to Parliament; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to establish an oversight body to ensure that diversity is being used as a screening lens in developing public policy and that the body have the resources necessary for research in order to help inform public policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to provide more resources to help settlement and integration and to break down institutional and employment barriers for new Canadians.

National Liberal Caucus

80) RESTORATION OF FUNDING TO STATUS OF WOMEN CANADA

WHEREAS the Conservative government removed the word “equality” from the stated goals of the Status of Women Canada; and

WHEREAS under a Liberal government the Federal department of the Status of Women enjoyed funding of over \$23 million annually; and

WHEREAS the Conservative government has significantly reduced this funding; and

WHEREAS it is widely recognized that the value of financial support provided to women's organizations in Canada to carry out research and provide services to women are extremely important in raising the standard of women's equality in Canada;

BE IT RESOLVED that The Liberal Party of Canada advocate the restoration of funding to the Status of Women Canada to pre-October 2006 levels and promote the return of “equality” to the department's mandate.

National Women's Liberal Commission

81) COMMUNITY BASED WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

WHEREAS the Liberal Party has supported front line women's centres, and

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada has supported full participation of community based women's organizations including Aboriginal Women, Immigrant Women and women seeking equity,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to actively engage with community based women's organizations to restore and increase their funding.

National Women's Liberal Commission

82) GENDER PARITY

WHEREAS The Liberal Party of Canada (LPC) has long championed gender equity in its policies and gender parity in Canadian politics; and

WHEREAS in order to achieve these objectives, the LPC needs a clear plan of action with concrete goals;

BE IT RESOLVED that the LPC adopt a plan of action to achieve gender parity in both the Party and Parliament within three general elections; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this plan include implementing the following recommendations to:

1. Strengthen the national and regional Women's Commissions and require the Leader to consult them when appointing women candidates and approving nominations.
2. Establish a dedicated position within the Leader's Office to:
 - i) Coordinate the work of the Liberal Party and Caucus to attain gender parity in both the Party and Parliament; and
 - ii) Conduct gender-based analyses of all Party policies and proposals, including campaign platforms and convention resolutions.
3. Ensure that 52% of Liberal MPs are women within three general elections through specific targets and timetables as follows:
 - i) If the next election is held within two years, field women candidates in at least 35% of all ridings, including 100% of vacated ridings and [X]% of swing and winnable ridings (defined in terms of [X] percentage of Liberal support in the last three elections).
 - ii) If the next election is held within 3-4 years, field women candidates in at least 50% of all ridings, including 100% of vacated ridings and [X]% of swing and winnable ridings.

THEREAFTER, continue to increase the number of women running in swing and winnable ridings so that gender parity is achieved within three general elections.

Liberal Party of Canada (Québec)

83) CIVICS – EDUCATION

In Canada education is a provincial matter and the jurisdictional issue has historically inhibited discussion of national standards and criteria. However, some involved in the dialogue think that the future of democracy is of utmost national interest and there should be a national strategy for the education of citizens. To overcome the jurisdictional barrier a number of bodies have established national associations such as the Canadian Education Association or such as the Council of Ministers of Education Canada, to facilitate discussion and action among their members on this type of national issue.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada support the efforts of these organizations to promote and support civics education across the country;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge all provincial, territorial and aboriginal governments to promote the development and implementation of a civics education curriculum from kindergarten to grade twelve levels which encompasses the history of the democratic process in Canada, knowledge and practice of the skills of democratic participation, and the mechanics of the three levels of government in Canada.

New Brunswick Liberal Association

84) IMPLEMENTATION OF FIRST NATION LAND CLAIMS

WHEREAS the Auditor General has criticized the Government of Canada for not respecting the letter, spirit and intent of ratified Land Claim Agreements; and

WHEREAS the proper and full implementation of Land Claim and Self Government Agreements reflects upon the honour and integrity of all Canadians; and

WHEREAS not respecting the letter, spirit and intent of ratified Land Claim and Self Government Agreements creates a disincentive to the successful negotiation and ratification of more agreements; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada is not effectively negotiating implementation measures and funding for ratified, and yet to be ratified, Land Claim and Self Government Agreements; and

WHEREAS initiatives such as Gathering Strength, the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples and the Government of Canada's Policy on the Inherent Right of Aboriginal Self-Government recognize and highlight the value and importance of Canada's Aboriginal Peoples; and

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada supports the effective and expeditious implementation of Canada's comprehensive land claim and self-government agreements with the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to commit to the full and proper implementation of all Land Claims and Self Government agreements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to ensure sufficient funding to meet federal obligations for implementation of these agreements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to establish evaluation methods, in cooperation with the parties, to ensure that the letter, spirit and intent of Land Claim and Self Government Agreements are honoured through their implementation.

Liberal Party of Canada – Yukon

85) THE QUEBEC NATION

WHEREAS history recognizes the three founding peoples of Canada – Aboriginal, French and English; and

WHEREAS Quebec is a founding member of the Canadian federation and is the principal cradle of the French presence in North America; and

WHEREAS Quebec defines itself primarily, although not exclusively, by its unique language and culture, its civil law and its inestimable contribution to the political, economic, and cultural evolution of Canada; and

WHEREAS Quebec covers a specific territory and recognizes the historical linguistic duality and cultural plurality within this territory as enshrined in both the Canadian and Quebec Charters of Rights and Freedoms; and

WHEREAS the majority of Quebecers wish to retain their historical partnership with the rest of Canada, respecting their partners' cultural and social aspirations; and

WHEREAS countries have long recognized nations within their borders without upsetting either domestic or international legal frameworks; and

WHEREAS it is duty of the Liberal Party of Canada to take the lead in order to assure that each member of the Canadian federation is accorded the proper respect and recognition necessary to facilitate future discussions regarding the evolution of a Canada that best reflects its modern and advanced society;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada recognizes the Quebec nation within Canada; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada will create an expert taskforce with the mandate of reporting to the next Leader of the Party on possible ways and the appropriate timing to officialise this historic and social reality.

Liberal Party of Canada (Quebec)

86) POLITICAL REFORM

WHEREAS many Canadians believe our political system fails to ensure fair and equal opportunity to influence the Government of Canada;

BE IT RESOLVED that it will be a priority of a Liberal Government to ensure that our political system is reformed to more accurately reflect the views of citizens and increase the ability of our practices and institutions, such as the Senate, to provide for appropriate accountability and the kind of equitable individual and provincial political influence required for a successful and democratic federal system.

Liberal Party of Canada – Newfoundland and Labrador

87) ABORIGINAL AGREEMENTS AND STRATEGIES

WHEREAS the area of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs is an area that has been largely ignored by the current government; and

WHEREAS the biggest issue facing Aboriginal Canadians whether on-reserve or off-reserve is the prosperity gap that exists between them and other non-Aboriginal; and

WHEREAS in addition to failing to honour the Kelowna Accord the government has not delivered on the commitments of the 2005 Canada-Métis Nation Framework;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to reinstate the Kelowna Accord with its full funding commitment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to expand the Urban Aboriginal Strategy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to honour the Canada-Métis Framework and a 10-year strategy similar to the Kelowna Accord to address Métis issues.

National Liberal Caucus

88) “THE KELOWNA ACCORD”

WHEREAS the Government of Canada entered into the Kelowna Accord with the governments of the provinces and territories and with Canada’s Aboriginal leadership with the agreed goals of narrowing and ultimately eliminating the troubling gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians that exist in the areas of education, skills development, health care, housing, access to clean water and employment in order to dramatically improve the socio-economic conditions of Aboriginal people in Canada; and

WHEREAS the Conservative government has failed to honour and implement the obligations agreed to under the Kelowna Accord; and

WHEREAS the national organizations representing the First Nations, the Métis Nation and Inuit Peoples continue to call on the Government of Canada to honour and implement the Kelowna Accord; and

WHEREAS Mr. Paul Martin, Member of Parliament (LaSalle-Emard) introduced Bill C-292 An Act to Implement the Kelowna Accord in the House of Commons in spring 2006. This Act requires the Government of Canada to fulfill its obligations under the Kelowna Accord; and

WHEREAS this Bill C-292 An Act to Implement the Kelowna Accord recently passed second reading in the House of Commons with a vote of 159 – 123 and has been referred to Committee for review; and

WHEREAS Gary Merasty, Member of Parliament (Desnethé-Mississippi-Churchill River) introduced an Aboriginal Affairs Committee motion calling on the Conservative government to implement the Kelowna Accord, which passed in the House of Commons with a vote of 160 to 113;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to immediately take all measures necessary to fully implement the terms of the accord, known as the “Kelowna Accord”, that was concluded on November 25, 2005 at Kelowna, British Columbia, by the Prime Minister of Canada, the first ministers of each of the provinces and territories of Canada and the leaders of the Assembly of First Nations, the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, the Métis National Council, the Native Women’s’ Association of Canada and the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples.

Aboriginal Peoples Commission

89) LIBERAL VALUES

WHEREAS values assist our evolution, and influence our behaviour and our actions; and

WHEREAS liberal values define the Liberal Party of Canada and its policies; and

WHEREAS liberal values ensure, among others things:

full human dignity, equality of individuals, constitutional equality before the law, the right to life, the respect of human differences and equal opportunity for all in society regardless of race, religion, national origin, ethnicity, gender, age, sex, sexual orientation, or mental or physical handicaps; and

WHEREAS the Liberal Party must continue to evolve according to its values, and use these values to create open and visionary policies that meet the needs of all Canadians; and

WHEREAS Liberals believe that government has a role to play in establishing directives on how citizens collaborate, establish links, mutually assist each other, and support equality of opportunity for the largest population possible; and

WHEREAS liberal values must be known and understood; and

WHEREAS the report “Liberal Values” from the 2006 Renewal Commission highlighted these values, and grouped them under 4 themes:

Évolution - Open-minded - Diversity - Forward Thinking - Innovative - Learning	Compassion - Volunteerism - Social Responsibility - Social Justice - Listening - Solidarity - Sharing
Intégrité - Honesty - Responsibility -Accountability	Société - Equity - Multilateralism - Sustainable Development

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada proudly reaffirms these values; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada promote constantly the notion of liberalism and those values associated with it, in every possible occasion and in all forums and communications that it has access.

Liberal Party of Canada (Quebec)

90) AMEND THE VOTING RULES WITHIN THE LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA

WHEREAS democracy is a fundamental principle in the governance of the Liberal Party of Canada; and

WHEREAS democracy can be best served by allowing the maximum number of people to express their views; and

WHEREAS voting in an election is a vital form of expression of ones views in a democracy; and

WHEREAS technology currently exists to allow mass voting in elections at a reasonable cost;

BE IT RESOLVED that

1. the Liberal Party of Canada allow all members of the Party in good standing to directly vote in the process of choosing both the Leader of the Party, the National Executive of the Party, as well as any related commissions;
2. Balloting shall be by direct voting at polling places established within individual constituencies;

In the event a second ballot is required, provision shall have been made in advance for a second ballot to be conducted within a reasonable number of days from the original polling day.

Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)

91) AMEND THE CAMPAIGN FINANCE RULES WITHIN THE LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA

WHEREAS openness, honesty and transparency are among the fundamental beliefs of the Liberal Party of Canada; and

WHEREAS both the amount and the source of all campaign donations during internal Liberal Party of Canada elections are pertinent information for the Party and the public alike;

BE IT RESOLVED that

1. the Liberal Party of Canada force all of its candidates to fully disclose to the public all sources and amounts of campaign finances received up to and during all candidate nominations, leadership races and the election of Party Executive;
2. the Liberal Party of Canada force all candidates running for the aforementioned positions to disclose to the public all campaign expenditures within 30 days of the polling day;
3. the Liberal Party of Canada ban all candidates running for the aforementioned positions from accepting donations from corporations and unions, and place a cap on the amount of personal donations that can be accepted;
4. the Liberal Party of Canada lower the cap on campaign spending for all candidates running for the aforementioned positions.

Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)

92) PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

WHEREAS the current “first-past-the-post” electoral system disproportionately allocates seats in Parliament in relation to the percentage of the popular vote that each party receives; and

WHEREAS proportional representation (PR) would likely increase voter turn-out, which is currently at an all-time low, because voters would no longer fear that their vote is wasted or that they must vote “strategically”; and

WHEREAS experience with PR systems in Europe has often led to an increase in the representation of women, minorities and political parties whose voices are underrepresented or shut out of the current system; and

WHEREAS experience with PR systems in Europe also indicates that they need not necessarily lead to deeply fragmented parliaments or frequent elections; and

WHEREAS PR would help to eliminate the fragmentation of parties along geographical boundaries that has existed in Canada during the past several elections; and

WHEREAS several provinces, most notably British Columbia, are currently examining the various types of proportional representation systems as an alternative to the “first-past-the-post” system for their respective provincial elections;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the federal government to strike an all-party task force to study proportional representation and propose alternatives to the current federal electoral system, all the while guaranteeing that the regions of Canada still receive adequate representation on candidate lists under such a system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada put the recommendations of the task force to a binding national referendum during the next general federal election.

Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)



INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

93) MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS Canada's municipalities face an increasingly burdensome infrastructure deficit; and

WHEREAS studies have shown that the public transit deficit alone tops \$60 billion; and

WHEREAS the federal government has a responsibility to ensure that the local infrastructure of our country is of sufficiently high quality to support our economy;

BE IT RESOLVED that a new Liberal government will renew, restructure and create new Infrastructure funds to respond to the needs of Canada's cities and municipalities. The funds are as follows:

1. Renewal of the Municipal Rural Fund
2. Renewal of the Border Infrastructure Fund
3. Restructure and create Physical Infrastructure Fund
4. Restructure and create Social Infrastructure Fund
5. Create Transit Infrastructure Fund

National Liberal Caucus

94) URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

WHEREAS urban sprawl in Canadian cities is leading to serious economic, health and environmental consequences; and

WHEREAS the federal government's well-received New Deal for Cities and Communities and the federally-funded Green Municipal Funds are important steps in the direction of a more sustainable approach to the development of Canada's communities; and

WHEREAS municipalities not yet familiar with green infrastructure technologies tend to require costly installations of redundant back-up systems, even though green infrastructure technologies are reliably engineered to be safe and effective; and

WHEREAS municipalities need assurance that unforeseen consequences associated with change can be effectively managed; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has a responsibility to ensure that federal transfers to communities help achieve our national sustainability goals and Kyoto Protocol treaty targets;

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

1. to create a fund to indemnify municipalities against a portion of the perceived risks associated with green infrastructure, and
2. to fund, where necessary, one-time investments in redundant back-up infrastructure so that municipalities are encouraged to build working examples of green infrastructure systems in their local context (e.g., storm water, streets, lanes, distributed and district energy, water re-use and distributed sanitary; etc.);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada build on the New Deal for Cities and Communities' achievements in partnership with municipalities, by applying commonly known benchmarks for sustainable community design as criteria for future infrastructure investments in communities over 500,000 people (e.g., modest density requirements; protection of perennial streams; infiltration standards for streets; urban containment; etc.).

Liberal Party of Canada British Columbia

95) ENERGY

Energy security is a major issue for Canadians. However, inter-provincial trade is often limited to provinces immediately adjacent to each other as the ability to transmit energy through an intermediary province is limited by local transmission regulations. Alternative domestic energy sources are being delayed or abandoned by the inability to transmit electricity through provinces to another. This means less energy security for Canadians, higher prices, and fewer alternative energy projects being developed.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada study the matter of inter-provincial transmission of electricity, with a view to ensuring movement and equity of energy supply amongst provinces.

New Brunswick Liberal Association

96) NATIONAL POWER GRID

WHEREAS alternate sources of clean power are increasingly in demand and Canada has abundant energy resources in the form of alternative fuels, hydro-electricity, wind power and nuclear energy; and

WHEREAS use of alternative energy would contribute to improving air quality and reducing reliance on non-renewable energy use which contributes to climate change; and

WHEREAS Canada has world leading technology and expertise for the construction and operation of nuclear power facilities and reactors; and

WHEREAS the effective utilization of Canada's abundant power supplies throughout all of Canada will require adequate transmission facilities; and

WHEREAS there is a robust infrastructure in place to transport electricity north-south to energy markets in the United States, but no such infrastructure exists to support the east-west transfer of energy;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada support the creation by the Government of Canada of a national power grid for the efficient movement of electrical power throughout all Provinces and Territories; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to support the construction of an east-west power grid that will be the clean energy highway of the future and provide a secure supply of electrical energy for all of Canada.

*Liberal Party of Prince Edward Island
Liberal Party of Canada - Newfoundland and Labrador*

97) NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM

WHEREAS good transportation facilities are an essential component of any economic endeavour; and

WHEREAS many important trunk highways in Canada have been in place for more than half a century; and

WHEREAS there has been a dramatic increase in vehicle registrations, in tourism and in the transportation of goods over the past half century; and

WHEREAS the decline and abandonment of the railway in many areas has meant that the transportation of goods must be entirely carried out by means of our highway system; and

WHEREAS inadequate highways, together with high traffic volumes, frequently result in property loss, personal injury and death; and

WHEREAS well designed highways can significantly reduce fuel consumption and emission; and

WHEREAS over the past half century the United States has built a magnificent Interstate Highway System;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to commit to the development of a National Highway System to meet all contemporary North American engineering standards.

Liberal Party of Prince Edward Island

98) LABRADOR HYDRO DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS the province of Newfoundland and Labrador is not deriving maximum benefit from Labrador's hydro potential; and

WHEREAS it would be in the national interest to increase the generation of electric power in the country;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government will work with the provinces involved to ensure maximum development of Labrador's hydro potential, and fair financial returns from all projects for the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Liberal Party of Canada Newfoundland and Labrador

99) IMPROVING TRANSPORTATION

WHEREAS an efficient national transportation system for goods and people is essential to economic prosperity;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada support the implementation of national transportation policy initiatives which will meet the needs of all Canadians and promote national unity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such improvements include the completion of the Trans Labrador Highway to National Highway Standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that necessary improvements be made to the Gulf Ferry Service to improve quality, safety and the unhindered and cost efficient movement of goods and people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that changes be made in air transport and airport regulations to increase price competition and levels of service in more remote parts of the country.

Liberal Party of Canada Newfoundland and Labrador

I 00) VANOC

WHEREAS the city of Vancouver will host the 2010 Winter Olympic games; and

WHEREAS this high-profile event is an excellent opportunity to promote active living for citizens from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS it is desirable to build upon the "Own the podium 2010" initiative; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT if elected to form government, the Liberal party of Canada will ensure that the VANOC will receive adequate funding to meet its current \$55 million infrastructure requirement, including in particular the completion of a sledge hockey rink in Sea - to - Sky Country.

National Liberal Caucus

101) INCREASED SUPPORT FOR MUNICIPALITIES

WHEREAS Canadian municipalities are struggling with responsibilities that are beyond their fiscal means; and

WHEREAS senior levels of government have transferred responsibilities to junior levels of government without transferring the requisite funding or have reduced funding investments that have traditionally been implemented by junior levels of government using funding from senior levels of government, such as housing and public transit; and

WHEREAS municipalities are accordingly forced to neglect essential social and physical responsibilities, such as the provision of adequate stocks of affordable housing, sufficiently rich educational programs, public transit, roads and other physical infrastructure maintenance and expansion; and

WHEREAS these forced 'savings' obtained through providing fewer services and infrastructure renewal all result in long-term damage to society in the form of reduced productivity, increased health care costs, reduced standards of living and a lesser quality of life, all of which lead to our municipalities becoming less attractive destinations for new investment;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada immediately provide the financial resources that municipalities require to fulfill their responsibilities and lend its moral suasion, where provincial legislative changes are required to empower municipalities to manage their own affairs, to put an end to these illusionary savings and to get the competitive vitality and healthy environments back into our cities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada fully fund all programs that are a result of its own policies such as the settlement, education and job training of immigrants and refugee claimants.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)

102) MUNICIPAL FINANCING

WHEREAS over the last number of years municipal governments have been required to take on increasing responsibilities; and

WHEREAS stable funding is required for municipalities to make long term plans to meet those responsibilities; and

WHEREAS the previous Liberal government started the process of providing long term stable funding to municipalities;

BE IT RESOLVED that a new Liberal government will immediately complete the transfer of five cents per litre of the gas tax to municipalities. This will accelerate the increase of gas tax received by municipalities to the \$2 billion annually. A Liberal government will legislate the transfer of the gas tax for an indefinite period of time, reinforcing our commitment and helping cities develop long-term Integrated Community Sustainability Plans.

National Liberal Caucus

I O3) NATIONAL WATER POLICY AND WATER SOVEREIGNTY

WHEREAS water is critical to our ecosystems, human health, agriculture and industry; and

WHEREAS massive inter-basin diversions of water and ground water extractions for bottled water have all been considered as options for water export and all may have an adverse effect; and

WHEREAS the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, and eight of the United States purported to enter into agreements dealing with the Great Lakes and diversions and withdrawals of water there from although such agreements are outside of their jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS water may be considered a tradeable good under NAFTA thus putting water at risk of being treated as a commodity under NAFTA; and

WHEREAS there is a significant lack of research on the impact of diversions and withdrawals on the relationship between groundwater, surface water and watersheds; and on Great Lakes water levels and flows;

BE IT RESOLVED that Canada assert its sovereignty over all boundary waters, including the Great Lakes, by:

1. imposing a moratorium on further diversions or withdrawals from such waters until adequate research has been conducted;
2. negotiating exemptions of water from international trade agreements;
3. conducting research, in cooperation with the provinces, into the effects of withdrawals and diversions, the relationship of groundwater, surface water and watersheds to provide objective scientific data.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)

I O 4) LOW-EMISSION VEHICLES

WHEREAS Canada has made a commitment to the Kyoto Protocol to reduce Greenhouse, among other, emissions; and

WHEREAS worldwide demand for fossil fuels such as oil, gasoline, diesel and natural gas is increasing, production capacity is nearing its upper limit, global supplies are rapidly being exhausted and prices are soaring in consequence; and

WHEREAS vehicles currently on the market that are considered low-emission polluters under Kyoto standards are often priced prohibitively higher due to their new technology (gas/electric hybrid, hydrogen) that many potential consumers may be deterred from purchasing such a vehicle for purely financial reasons; and

WHEREAS government has an active role to play in encouraging energy efficiency, conservation and also eventually weaning the Canadian population and industrial base off of fossil fuel-based energy; and

WHEREAS a significant percentage of rural Canadians, both private citizens and businesses, employ light trucks, either pickup or forms of SUVs, out of necessity for traversing rugged terrain and for load capacity;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to create a monetary incentive to Canadians who purchase low-emission vehicles; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to put into place a system of tax penalties for heavy-polluting vehicles like luxury SUVs and pickup trucks for personal use in urban settings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to ensure that the aforementioned tax penalties be abrogated for the use of pickup trucks and utility SUVs in rural settings and for business purposes.

Young Liberals of Canada

I O5) SAVE BC'S ENDANGERED WHITE KERMODE BEAR (SPIRIT BEAR)

WHEREAS the white Kermode bear (or spirit bear, as it is more commonly known) is a highly endangered, genetically unique subspecies of the black bear that numbers fewer than 400; and

WHEREAS the spirit bear is a global treasure that lives only on the central section of Canada's west coast - a remarkable part of British Columbia's natural heritage, and is as unique to Canada as the Panda Bear is to China; and

WHEREAS the only way to ensure the future of the spirit bear is to protect a large core intact ecosystem - Princess Royal Island and the adjacent mainland watersheds including the Green, Khutze, and Aaltanhash - in order to ensure their genetic viability; and

WHEREAS remarkably strong youth and aboriginal-oriented national and global campaigns have helped make this issue one of the most supported conservation initiatives in the history of Canada; and

WHEREAS all stakeholders involved in the spirit bear debate have been working to reach a comprehensive plan to safeguard the spirit bear habitat, protect the Great Bear Rainforest, and foster sustainable and environmentally-friendly economic growth in the region, but no agreement to address the long-term survival of the spirit bear has yet been reached;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada strongly will encourage the Government of Canada to recognize the threat to the future of the spirit bear and support the work of stakeholders to reach an agreement that saves the spirit bear and its habitat, including the critical Green-Sheep Passage/Tolmie Option Area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada will strongly encourage the Canadian government to acknowledge that it has a significant role to play in discussions and negotiations surrounding the future of the spirit bear, including but not limited to its jurisdiction over endangered species, biodiversity, climate change, and fisheries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada will urge the Government of Canada to work to help the issue's stakeholders reach an agreement and, failing that, will intervene to protect an ecosystem for the spirit bear that includes those lands proposed for protection by the BC Central Coast Land Use Plan and the Green-Sheep Passage/Tolmie Option Area, currently deferred from development

Liberal Party of Canada British Columbia

I 06) GREENING OF THE NATIONAL BUILDING CODE

WHEREAS Canadians continue to struggle with indoor and outdoor air quality in the home, school and workplace;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to collaborate with trade unions, the not-for-profit sector, the construction industry and government departments to explore strategies to promote and enable the use of sustainable products and technologies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to initiate changes to the National Building Code to require the use of alternative and/or sustainable energy sources for residential and commercial renovation and/or construction.

Liberal Party of Nova Scotia

107) NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FOR CANADA

WHEREAS, a healthy and balanced environment is essential for long-term sustenance and survival of our plant and animal species as well as for the health and safety of the urban and rural human population; and

WHEREAS, a healthy environment of clean air, water, and land is essential for Canada's growing economy and industrial expansion and, for the well-being and opportunities of future generations (indeed, without a sustainable environment our sustainability is seriously jeopardized); and

WHEREAS, the previous Liberal Government of Canada signed the Kyoto Accord which now needs to be expanded to further enhance environmental health standards within Canada and the world; and

WHEREAS, federal, provincial, industrial, and individual cooperation is necessary in resolving environmental issues including clean energy sources, water management, agro chemical management, clean air standards, and food safety standards; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for the Liberal Party of Canada to direct the Government of Canada to increase research and funding into the development of new technologies that will enhance environmental safety, protection and sustainability;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada develop a comprehensive national environmental policy that ensures clean air, water, and land and protects our plant and animal species, and provides a safe and healthy environment including a safe and secure food supply; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Canada reinstate the Kyoto Accord and expand on it and work to cooperate with the provinces, industry, and individuals to achieve a sustainable and healthy environment.

Liberal Party of Canada in Alberta

I 08) KYOTO

WHEREAS Liberals across the country acknowledge that climate change is Canada's single biggest environmental challenge,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to support unconditionally Canada's commitment to the Kyoto Protocol and commit immediately to constructive negotiations relating to the post Kyoto period; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to commit to a national action plan to meet Canada's Kyoto objectives including the following elements:

1. Regulation of greenhouse gas emissions;
2. Financial support for the promotion of energy conservation measures;
3. Financial support for the generation of clean energy;
4. Financial support of research and development into clean energy;
5. Public education on the effects of climate change and how individual action can make a difference; and,
6. Supporting international measures to fight climate change under Kyoto, such as the Clean Development Mechanism.

National Liberal Caucus

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)

Liberal Party of Nova Scotia

Liberal Party of Canada – Yukon

Liberal Party of Canada (Québec)

109) RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARDS

WHEREAS greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) cause climate change, environmental degradation and also produce the smog that is a significant cause of sickness and mortality in Canada and around the world; and

WHEREAS the federal government ratified the Kyoto Protocol committed to reduce GHGs to 6% below the 1990 levels by the year 2012; and

WHEREAS the beginning of the Kyoto compliance period (2008) is fast approaching and the likelihood of the government's ability to implement the reductions as set out in the Protocol will diminish with time; and

WHEREAS using alternate, renewable energy sources, such as wind, sun, biomass and small hydro developments, not only lowers GHGs and is good for the environment, but is also good for the economy; and

WHEREAS the initial costs of these energy sources can be more expensive in the short-run, thereby discouraging private-sector investment in renewables and necessitating government leadership; and

WHEREAS mandatory government standards for the inclusion of a specified percentage of renewable energy already exist in the European Union and in thirteen American states;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the federal government introduce, by 2006, Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards for all federal operations that are ambitious, yet achievable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the federal government to encourage provincial, territorial and municipal governments to adopt similar Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards to increase the percentage of Canadians' energy supply coming from renewable resources.

Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)



RURAL ISSUES

110) REINSTATEMENT OF CANADIAN FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION ACT

WHEREAS the Canadian Government has created the expectation of safe, reliable, cheap food; and

WHEREAS the standard of Canadian food quality ensures a safe, high-quality food to Canada consumers; and

WHEREAS the import of food from other countries does not necessarily follow the standards Canadians are assured of domestically; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) uses the Canadian Agricultural Products Act (CAPA) instead of the Canadian Food and Drug Administration Act (CFDAA) to inspect imported food products, which allows for substandard products in Canada;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada recommend the reinstatement of the CFDAA to be used as the standard for allowing imported food into Canada.

New Brunswick Liberal Association

111) RURAL ENERGY INITIATIVES

WHEREAS rural communities were the cornerstone on upon which our nation was built; and

WHEREAS outbound migration has had a devastating effect on the social, economic and cultural identity of our rural communities from coast to coast; and

WHEREAS unless there is immediate and decisive Government action, we will witness the collapse and disappearance of the rural way of life; and

WHEREAS there are emerging and viable technologies that generate renewal and viable forms of energy without greenhouse gas emissions such as wind power, tidal power, solar power and plant-based fuels;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to implement programs including, but not limited to, tax incentives, deferrals and/or rebates in rural areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to support communities in the development of district energy initiatives.

Liberal Party of Nova Scotia

112) RURAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY

WHEREAS outbound migration has had a devastating effect on the social, economic and cultural identity of our rural communities from coast to coast; and

WHEREAS youth have been forced to relocate to urban areas due to a lack of employment opportunities, causing rural communities the loss of their vitality, exuberance and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS rural areas face particular difficulties in the state of its population's health, the availability of health services, the additional costs for post-secondary education and general underdevelopment; and

WHEREAS the unique complexities of rural issues require a dedicated voice at the federal Cabinet table to speak passionately and specifically to the needs of all rural Canadians; and

WHEREAS within the Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food, there is a singularity of purpose that focuses primarily on matters pertaining to agriculture policy; and

WHEREAS rural policy is more than agricultural policy and we believe that this reality must be better reflected in national structures of Canadian governance;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada supports the creation of a federal Rural Affairs Minister that would seek to consolidate resources servicing the unique needs of rural Canada. That the Minister would advocate for rural Canada as a whole; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada define its vision and action plan for the future of rural areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada supports the establishment of a Rural Economic Development Fund that would seek to support new business ventures in small communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada supports the development of a policy that provides for fair representation of government services and jobs in rural communities.

National Liberal Caucus

New Brunswick Liberal Association

113) FAIR FUNDING & SERVICES FOR ALL CANADIANS

WHEREAS infrastructure renewal of sewage and water facilities, roads and bridges is a pressing challenge for rural Canada, complicated by a relatively small population, and an equally small property tax base from which to draw; and

WHEREAS the need for immediate information exchange is another essential component of life in rural Canada – for business, education, medical and private use; and

WHEREAS many parts of rural Canada continue to lag behind urban centres with respect to access to new technologies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada recognizes that public services must be equally accessible to all Canadians; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada supports providing long-term sustainable funding for the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada supports using technology effectively to provide equal government services from rural-based centres, thereby maximizing regional employment opportunities and developing local talent. This includes maintaining rural post offices and rural mail delivery systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to reinstate and upgrade public access computer internet sites and support developing a policy that requires service providers to make broadband available to all communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada supports developing a policy to facilitate the intergenerational transfer of properties and assets from parent to child for agriculture and fishing.

*National Liberal Caucus
Liberal Party of Nova Scotia*

114) DECENTRALIZATION OF FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE

WHEREAS over the last five years, the Canadian public service grew by 11 % across the country, but in the National Capital Region, the growth rate was 19 per cent, or almost 18,000 new jobs; and

WHEREAS in 2001 the number of public service jobs in the entire Atlantic Region didn't amount to half of the number of public service employees in the National Capital Region; and

WHEREAS decentralizing federal departments and agencies will have obvious economic benefits for the regions and will have a positive policy impact on decision-making;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada support a strategy of decentralizing the federal public service so as to maximize the benefits of steady, gainful employment for the regions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada undertake this process of decentralization in order to maximize the wealth of expertise that exists in the regions, matching federal departments or agencies to specific regions will have real benefits in terms of sharing expertise and technology transfer, not only for the region but also for that specific department.

National Liberal Caucus

115) NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY POLICY

WHEREAS government agricultural programs and policies in recent years have been designed on the premise of a successful outcome of the Doha round of WTO negotiations – talks aimed at reducing domestic supports, increasing market access, eliminating export subsidies and maintaining our supply management system as well as the Canadian Wheat Board; and

WHEREAS these talks have failed, making decisive action necessary to help Canadian producers face a new economic and policy reality; and

WHEREAS Canadian producers must have sustainable incomes and all partners in the agri-food production chain deserve the opportunity to succeed and be profitable; and

WHEREAS Canada has no formal strategy to maintain a safe, affordable food supply;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada supports setting as a national priority the establishment of a fully funded and long-term National Food Security Policy which views the nation's ability to produce safe and reliable agricultural products as an issue of national sovereignty and security; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada supports the provision of an immediate and one-time cash investment into the agricultural sectors, at the primary producer level, of \$3.66 billion.

National Liberal Caucus

116) ALTERNATE ENERGY AS AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOOL FOR RURAL CANADA

WHEREAS wind farms, carbon sinks, bio-diesel and ethanol plants are all important components on the road to converting to a greener and cleaner energy sector and are all well-suited to taking root in rural Canada; and

WHEREAS wind farms and carbon sinks could generate extra income for farmers while generating green and clean energy for all of Canada; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada support the establishment of new wind farms in rural Canada. The farms should be capable of producing a combined minimum of 10,000 MW and enhance domestic manufacturing capacity;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada supports the implementation of a policy that would call for a mandatory minimum of a 10 per cent ethanol component with respect to the composition of gasoline and a 10 per cent bio-diesel component with respect to diesel fuel; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada supports policies and increased investments in grown-and-made-in-Canada ethanol and bio-diesel production.

National Liberal Caucus

117) RURAL SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS the Romanow report identifies health costs savings of up to 150 million dollars associated with an increase of 10 per cent in physical activity across the population; and

WHEREAS no single program currently offers a one-stop process in order to obtain funding from the federal government to participate in the construction of new sports and upkeep of publicly available sports infrastructures; and

WHEREAS many Canadians who reside in smaller communities are deprived of many opportunities to reap the full health benefits of an active lifestyle because of lack of existing sports infrastructures or their state of disrepair; and

WHEREAS sports infrastructure in smaller communities has the potential to become the centre of active lifestyles within those communities; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to put forward a rural sports infrastructure program which will assist smaller communities who wish to encourage active lifestyles by the creation and upkeep of public sports infrastructure.

National Liberal Caucus

118) RURAL HEALTH CARE

WHEREAS rural healthcare faces demands that are dramatically different than those faced by facilities and practitioners in urban Canada and that rural Canada faces unique challenges in attracting and retaining qualified medical personnel – including outdated infrastructure, sparse populations and great distances between them; and

WHEREAS it is recognized that the solutions to many of these challenges may be held in areas of provincial or territorial jurisdiction, there are federal measures that could be initiated that would serve to alleviate the real challenges faced by those seeking medical care outside of urban centres;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada supports the implementation of tax incentives for medical professionals that locate in rural Canada; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada supports the provision of funding to the provinces and territories to enable the placement of a nurse practitioner in every hospital servicing an area of less than 25,000 regular residents.

National Liberal Caucus

119) RURAL DOCTOR REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS fixing health care for Canadians is a top priority for the Liberal Party of Canada; and

WHEREAS one of the greatest challenges to health care is a growing shortage of doctors in rural Canada; and

WHEREAS Canada continues to have a backlog in recognizing the foreign credentials of doctors; and

WHEREAS encouraging immigrant doctors to practice in rural Canada provides a means to address the shortage of doctors in rural Canada;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party encourage the Government of Canada to establish and further invest in a Rural Canada Placement Program to encourage new Canadians with foreign credentials to settle and practice in rural areas of Canada currently facing shortages of Doctors and medical professionals.

Liberal Party of Canada in British Columbia

I 20) NUTRITION SUBSIDY FOR REMOTE COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS the cost of nutritious food in most remote and many aboriginal communities is often far higher than in urban centres, which means people are unable to purchase sufficient quality food to meet their health needs; and

WHEREAS such lack of nutrition leads to poor health generally and lower achievement in school for young people, thus limiting the potential for personal development;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada support a food assistance program which lowers the price of nutritious foodstuffs in remote and aboriginal communities through a system of subsidies applied directly to the foodstuffs or a transportation subsidy which helps reduce costs to remote retailers and thus the consumer.

Saskatchewan Liberal Association

121) INFRASTRUCTURE – NOT FOR PROFIT

WHEREAS rural community infrastructures provided by volunteer services is in need of increased public investment, and

WHEREAS not for profit groups, e.g. Royal Canadian Legion, Senior Citizens Clubs, Parish Councils and other such organizations are not able to develop, maintain, or fund repairs to community infrastructures; and

WHEREAS the maintenance of these facilities is essential to the quality of life in rural Canada being as they are essential elements in the social-economic fabric of the community;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada, urge the Government of Canada to change programs such as the New Horizons Program to allow for a higher ceiling on contributions; up to \$50,000 for existing infrastructure repairs and improvements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Regional Development Agencies develop programs to assist community based not for profit groups with rural community infrastructure projects.

New Brunswick Liberal Association

I 22) FIGHTING REGIONAL DISPARITIES

WHEREAS the economic and social health of rural areas and urban centres are interdependent; and

WHEREAS Canadian rural areas can only benefit from the maintaining and development of both their human and natural resources; and

WHEREAS Canadian rural areas must have access to real development opportunities and this requires a concerted effort by all the stakeholders involved in the growth of Canadian rural communities along with increased cooperation between levels of government; and

WHEREAS the fight against regional disparities is at the heart of the Liberal Party of Canada's priorities, and from this standpoint, it is important that we put forward a series of measures aimed at giving Canadian rural areas the tools they need to fulfil their potential; and

WHEREAS it is extremely important to develop an action plan that provides for the implementation of an adequate economic structure for rural areas so they may be able to face the international competition that will keep increasing in the years to come;

BE IT RESOLVED that a government formed by the Liberal Party of Canada will ensure the economic development of Canadian rural areas through;

1. Implementing an effective policy to fight regional disparities;
2. Ensuring the sound management of natural resources maintenance, development and replacement;
3. Increasing the number of secondary and tertiary processing businesses on their territory;
4. Increasing the investment funds dedicated to rural areas;
5. Promoting access to venture capital for companies located on their territory;
6. Analyzing the ability to establish preferred taxation zones for rural areas;
7. Increasing the number of government service and research centres on their territory;
8. Promoting the development of their social and economic infrastructures;
9. Improving the cooperation between the various social and economic stakeholders in these communities;
10. Performing a comparative study of regional development programs in other industrialized countries in order to draw from their achievements;
11. Analyzing the needs of each region in order to ensure a better allocation of resources and maximize spin-off;
12. Ensuring government programs are flexible enough to meet the specific needs of rural areas;
13. Ensuring compliance with international trade agreements to protect activities such as our agricultural and forest industries; and
14. Implementing an administrative structure dedicated to the management, follow-up and accelerated handling of projects originating from Canadian rural areas.

Liberal Party of Canada (Quebec)

I 23) INVESTMENT IN REGIONAL PROCESSING PLANTS

WHEREAS a vibrant primary sector provides job creation; and

WHEREAS the value-adding of raw products not only provides sustainable jobs, but a higher return on investment by selling at premium prices;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada provide monies to establish investment value-added processing plants to provide investment in the development of regional processing plants for all primary sectors; that is, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and mining.

New Brunswick Liberal Association





HEALTH

I 24) LONG TERM CARE CONTINUUM

WHEREAS many Canadians require additional health support care outside of the traditional and expensive institutional settings; and

WHEREAS no national standards currently exist and there is a need for a uniform national standard of quality for a continuum of care from independent living, to home care, supportive care, long term care, and, in some cases, hospital or palliative care; and

WHEREAS home care and home support are fundamental components of a health care system but they are not now covered under the Canada Health Act, although Veterans Affairs Canada has, for many years provided its clients with assistance in their daily living activities by means of a program entitled the Veterans' Independence Program;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to take a lead role in establishing a system of high quality home care programs across Canada as part of an integrated range of health services that meet the principles of the Canada Health Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to bring long term care into the Canada Health Act, establish high quality national standards for long term care facilities and encourage the provinces and territories to conduct accreditation on the basis of such standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to adapt the Veterans' Independence Program for the benefit of all Canadian seniors and to develop delivery systems for its implementation.

Seniors Liberal Commission

I 25) DENTAL AND VISION CARE

WHEREAS one of the unfortunate frequent consequences of aging is failing vision; and

WHEREAS many of the causes of failing vision can be corrected by surgical procedures which are covered under the Canada Health Act but the cost of routine eye examinations and corrective lenses are not covered; and

WHEREAS healthy gums and teeth are essential for good general health; and

WHEREAS poor oral health also puts seniors at risk for developing, or making worse, serious health problems and can sometimes be physically disfiguring; and

WHEREAS many seniors spent their formative years in an age when there was little emphasis on dental care or in locations where dental care facilities were unavailable or limited; and

WHEREAS neither dental care nor vision care is covered under the Canada Health Act and many seniors can not afford them;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to include vision care and dental care for seniors within the Canada Health Act.

Seniors Liberal Commission

I 26) HEALTH – PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

WHEREAS Canadians are entitled to transparent fiscal and quality accountability for all health services paid from Canadian tax dollars; and

WHEREAS preventable medical errors result in as many as 24,000 deaths in Canada each year and one in 13 patients who receive care in Canadian hospitals suffers an adverse event stemming from drug overdoses, inadequate or faulty devices, insufficient monitoring by medical personnel and communication errors; and

WHEREAS the sustainability of our public health system is jeopardized by the staggering economic costs related to preventable medical errors with patients spending more than one million extra days in hospital being treated for complications of their care; and

WHEREAS extensive research confirms that commitment to “Quality” care could save up to 30% of the Health Care budget (reference: Dr. D. Berwick, Harvard University); and

WHEREAS “Quality” Care is defined to include all of the following dimensions; Timely Access, Clinical Competence, Appropriateness, Efficiency, Acceptability, Effectiveness, Continuity, Safety (of patient and care provider) and Accountability; and

WHEREAS there is no standard process with well-defined criteria to establish, monitor and regulate “Quality” service across this nation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada and the National Health Council to:

1. Establish and implement clear Performance Indicators and measurable Standards of Practice for all medical care that is paid from Canadian tax dollars (Reference: Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation descriptors and dimensions which define Quality).
2. Monitor and enforce Performance Indicators and Standards of Practice across Canada.

Liberal Party of Canada (Alberta)
Seniors Liberal Commission

I 27) PRESERVING HEALTH CARE

WHEREAS Canadians support all components of the Canada Health Act in implementing a quality healthcare system; and

WHEREAS de-listing and shifting delivery of healthcare services out of hospitals and from non-profit agencies to for-profit organizations/suppliers have led to downloading of costs to patients, unequal access, and increasing reliance on private for-profit insurers; and

WHEREAS studies show that increased reliance on corporate for-profit delivery and for-profit healthcare insurance is more costly, may provide less quality care, and will undermine sustainability, quality and comprehensiveness of our public health system; and

WHEREAS privatization results in loss of public transparency and control;

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

1. Prohibit or limit direct and indirect public subsidies of private corporate ventures related to healthcare payment and delivery.
2. Implement enhanced universal coverage and publicly controlled non-profit delivery of new substitutes for short and long-term hospital and physician care.
3. Ensure universal coverage of pharmaceutical supplies and ambulance services; expand coverage for medically necessary vision and dental care.
4. Facilitate timely implementation of Romanow recommendations.
5. Increase regulation, oversight and consumer protection related to private for-profit healthcare insurance products.
6. Research and implement social policies on issues that have significant negative impact on health and wellness such as poverty, preventable injury, food insecurity and inadequate access to education and information.

*Liberal Party of Canada (Alberta)
Seniors Liberal Commission*

I 28) CANADA'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

WHEREAS the protection and reinforcement of the Canadian health care system have long been goals of Governments of Canada led by the Liberal Party; and

WHEREAS the public health care system must be reinforced to meet the objectives of the Canada Health Act;

BE IT RESOLVED that the protection and reinforcement of the Canadian health care system are and will remain essential priorities of Governments of Canada led by the Liberal Party of Canada; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a new Liberal government:

1. Accessibility to Treatment: will ensure, in concert with the provinces and territories, that the public health regime offers access to treatments within required medical timeframes;
2. Financial Support: will ensure the long term predictability of federal financing for health care by guaranteeing that health transfers to the provinces and territories increase by 6% annually over the next ten years;
3. Pandemic Protection: will contribute to international efforts in combating infectious diseases before they arrive at our borders;
4. Mental Health: will provide significant resources to improve mental health and fight substance use/addictions; and
5. Homecare: in concert with the provinces and territories, will favour homecare and establish national norms for homecare and palliative care.

Liberal Party of Canada (Quebec)

I 29) NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH PLAN

WHEREAS mental health issues are forecast to become the leading health concern in Canada in the next twenty years; and

WHEREAS many mental health issues (such as schizophrenia) are very costly to the healthcare system; and

WHEREAS the mental health sector is currently extremely under funded in comparison to other health issues;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada develop a National Mental Health Plan with increased funding to the mental health sector; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada, in conjunction with provincial and territorial governments, work to implement recommendations of the Kirby Report.

New Brunswick Liberal Association

I 30) HEATH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM

WHEREAS health care is a fundamental right of all Canadians regardless of age, gender, social or ethnic background, or economic status; and

WHEREAS time has demonstrated that there is a need to move beyond the traditional medical, physician oriented, cure system and to develop systems which promote wellness in the belief that it is better to avoid illness than to simply wait for it to happen; and

WHEREAS we believe that a wellness model would make more effective use of expensive medical resources and make our hospital facilities more readily available when active, acute care is required;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government begin the fundamental shift from a medical model to a system of publicly funded, community based, multidisciplinary, health care centers that utilize the benefits of holistic based procedures as a compliment to traditional medical practice.

Liberal Party of Prince Edward Island

131) PREVENTATIVE HEALTH PROGRAMS

WHEREAS there are many illnesses and conditions that are preventable and if thus prevented the well-being of Canadians increases and the cost of health care decreases; and

WHEREAS many senior citizens suffer serious injuries that are costly to treat and many of these injuries are preventable through home improvement aids and seniors' home help programs; and

WHEREAS such conditions include obesity, childhood malnutrition, fetal alcohol syndrome and diseases for which inoculations are available; and

WHEREAS funding for health agencies and preventative health programs has declined over the last ten years;

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

1. Renew it's commitment to public health agencies and preventative health programs.
2. Promote healthy lifestyle choices through education programs, food security guarantees, accurate nutritional reports, and inoculations.
3. Partner with the provinces to promote healthy lifestyle choices through coordinated programs, regulations, legislation and joint funding.

Liberal Party of Canada in Alberta

I 32) RESOLUTION ON CANCER PREVENTION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

WHEREAS the Government of Canada is responsible for both the protection of the health of its citizens (through regulating food safety and disclosing information), and the protection of its environment; and

WHEREAS, in Canada, there has been a sharp rise in cancer since the 1970s such that one third of Canadian females and half of Canadian males will develop cancer; and

WHEREAS to prevent cancer we must avoid introducing carcinogens into our bodies from the air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat; and

WHEREAS current regulations in Canada allow toxic chemicals to remain on the market and be released into the environment indefinitely, there being no goals or timelines for their elimination;

BE IT RESOLVED that the next Liberal government establish and fund a national cancer registry and (in cooperation with provincial cancer registries) test each patient's level of chemical contamination and record his/her occupational and environmental history; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the next Liberal government immediately enact product labelling laws requiring the disclosure of all known or probable carcinogens so that Canadian consumers can make informed choices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the next Liberal government amend the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA):

1. to shift the burden of proof onto industry to prove that a chemical can be used safely before it is allowed on the market or its continued use is permitted;
2. to oblige industry to submit safety and health data for assessment by Health Canada and Environment Canada and for peer review;
3. to regulate toxic chemicals that may be released during the use or disposal of consumer products;
4. to require industry to replace toxic substances with safer or non-toxic substitutes;
5. establish timelines for eliminating carcinogens, endocrine disruptors and respiratory, reproductive and neurological toxins from use, release, manufacture, disposal and recycling in Canada, achieving a 50% reduction by 2010 and virtual elimination by 2015;
6. to conform with recommendations from both Health Canada and Environment Canada that stain repellents (known as perfluorinated chemicals or PFCs) and brominated flame retardants (PBDEs), chemicals associated with cancer, developmental problems, respiratory illnesses and damage to the nervous system, be eliminated in Canada and their manufacture and import prohibited,

*National Women's Liberal Commission (NWLC)
Liberal Party of Canada (Québec)*

I 33) CANADA HEALTH ACT

WHEREAS health care remains a priority issue for a majority for Canadians; and

WHEREAS the current state of public health care system in Canada centres on the future of the Canada Health Act, and specifically whether it should be amended or repealed in order to improve the system; and

WHEREAS the growth of privatization, coupled with increasing wait times, an ageing population, and shortages of health care professionals across the country has amplified the need for action; and

WHEREAS there is a growing appetite from the medical community and Canadians at large to see tangible action from the federal government to improve Canada's publicly-funded health care system;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada encourage the Government of Canada to work with the provincial and territorial governments to clarify and define what is meant by "comprehensiveness" or "medically necessary services"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada encourage the Government of Canada to agree, on uniform terms which suit all levels of jurisdiction, to amend the Canada Health Act to reflect a more standardized health care system on a national scale.

National Liberal Caucus

I 34) HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS across Canada, provinces and territories are struggling to redevelop their health care infrastructure, with some turning to the private sector in order to finance hospital redevelopments and long term care facilities; and

WHEREAS in aboriginal, northern and rural areas, patients suffering due to a lack of local health infrastructure, health human resources, and costs associated with traveling to the nearest hospital or clinic to receive treatment; and

WHEREAS Canada's aging population will soon create increasing pressure on the health care system to provide an adequate number of long term care facilities to meet their needs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada encourage the Government of Canada establish a Federal Health Infrastructure Fund, which would provide streamlined funding to the provinces and territories specifically to build new health care facilities, and modernize existing facilities.

National Liberal Caucus

I 35) SENIORS INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM

WHEREAS health authorities recognize the fact that a senior is healthier and happier in his/her own home and community; and

WHEREAS it can be shown that the expense of caring for a senior in his/her own home is much less than the cost of caring for that same senior in a care facility; and

WHEREAS a fiscally sound initiative has been in place within the veterans community of Canada entitled the "Veterans Independence Program";

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal Government move to adopt the proven aspects of the Veteran's Independence Program and its delivery system for the benefit of all seniors.

Liberal Party of Prince Edward Island