

**Rural and
Regional Issues
Resolutions**



85. Fairness and Equity in Federal Spending

WHEREAS the size and diversity of the annual expenditure budget of the Government of Canada means huge fiscal and economic benefits conferred upon Provinces and communities that regularly share in this largesse;

WHEREAS published statistics suggest large and growing inequities between Provinces, Territories and Regions based on levels of federal expenditure for procurement and operational employment - in one period studied federal jobs in Newfoundland and Labrador reportedly grew by only one tenth of the Canadian average; in another, they had declined by as much as 32 per cent;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada support implementation of a proactive policy to ensure fairness and equity in federal expenditures and in the location of federal operations and services where such deficiencies currently exist;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such a policy require that in Newfoundland and Labrador, whose representation in the ranks of the Canadian Armed Forces far exceeds its proportion of the population of Canada, the promised reestablishment of military operations at CFB Goose Bay, Labrador be undertaken forthwith, and that additional opportunities be seized to locate an active military presence in Canada's most easterly, strategic territory.

Liberal Party of Newfoundland and Labrador

86. Protecting Offshore Resource Benefits

WHEREAS the Martin Liberal Government of Canada negotiated with the Provinces of Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia amendments to their respective Accords to permit them to retain 100 per cent of benefits from offshore resources, but the Harper Conservative Government subsequently reneged on the commitment;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada endorses the intention of the previous Liberal Government to protect the two provinces' offshore benefits, notwithstanding any subsequent amendments to the Equalization Program;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that non-renewable resource revenues not be included in Equalization calculations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada support constitutional entrenchment of the Atlantic Accord as prescribed in Sect. 64.

Liberal Party of Newfoundland and Labrador

87. Towards a Balanced Economy

WHEREAS policies of successive federal governments, aimed at securing economic development in Canada's regions, have fallen short of intended goals, failing to benefit all parts of the country equally;

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

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada is committed to ensuring fair distribution of economic benefits among the Provinces;

BE IT RESOLVED that Canada's Equalization Program, which is intended to ensure that all Provinces can provide their people with comparable levels of public services without resorting to more onerous levels of taxation, be redesigned to more effectively ensure the fair distribution of Confederation's benefits;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada appoint a Commission of Inquiry to assess the economic consequences of sixty years of Confederation for Newfoundland and Labrador in order to ensure that the benefits and costs of the union are shared equitably.

Liberal Party of Newfoundland and Labrador

107. Red River Floodway Resolution

WHEREAS the Red River Floodway is a world class engineering project of major economic importance to Winnipeg, Manitoba and Canada and,

WHEREAS people around the world have heard of Winnipeg and the devastating floods in the Red River Valley of Manitoba and,

WHEREAS the Red River Floodway is reported to be one of the few man-made structures which can be seen from outer space and,

WHEREAS St. Norbert is home of the control inlet gate of the Red River Floodway as well as the gateway to Winnipeg and Manitoba for thousand of tourists arriving by land from the U.S. and Eastern Canada and,

WHEREAS the Red River Floodway is currently undergoing a multi-million dollar expansion

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that that Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba) support the creation of a major tourist interpretive centre adjacent to the floodway gates in St. Norbert to explain to both Canadians and foreign visitors how the Red River Floodway works to protect Winnipeg from the devastation of recurring floods which result in billions of dollars of property damage.

Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)

100. Lake Winnipeg Basin-wide Management Strategy

WHEREAS Lake Winnipeg is the world's tenth largest and Canada's sixth largest freshwater lake;

WHEREAS the Lake Winnipeg watershed encompasses four Canadian provinces and three U.S. states;

WHEREAS Lake Winnipeg is in a state of crisis as a result of excessive nutrient loading, and phosphorous in particular, to the Lake;

WHEREAS some western provinces and mid-west States are responsible to varying degrees;

WHEREAS the "Restoring the Health of Lake Winnipeg report" established in November, 2005, proposed a Lake Winnipeg watershed Basin Council for the development of a federal strategy for Lake Winnipeg;

WHEREAS the Liberal party, in its November 2005 platform, has committed to restoring the health of Lake Winnipeg through a comprehensive science program, wetland reconstruction program, and consultation with the agricultural sector, through investment of \$120M over 10 years;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a Greater Lake Winnipeg Basin Council be empowered to develop actions to stop and reverse the damages to Lake Winnipeg, and that the Government of Canada commit \$120M over 10 years immediately to address the problem;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada urge the federal government to develop a system of standardized environmental regulations for all jurisdiction;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada urge the federal government to commit specific infrastructure funding to support upgrading municipal wastewater systems to remove essentially all phosphates.

Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)

57. Recognition of Territory

WHEREAS the Constitution of Canada recognizes both provinces and territories in this Nation;
and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has responsibility for both provinces and territories in its
areas of jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS many forms of the Government of Canada do not include the word "territory" in their
addresses;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada include "territory" where
"province" is identified on forms.

Yukon Liberal Party

15. Consultation and Comprehensive Policy for Northern and Arctic Canada

WHEREAS the peoples, plants, animals, water, ecosystems and society of the northern and Arctic regions of Canada are an integral part of our Canadian history, development, culture, society, sovereignty and sustainability as a nation.

WHEREAS the degradation and destruction of the unique culture, habitat and environment of northern Canada will have adverse economic, social, cultural and ecological consequences that will affect Canada and the entire Earth.

WHEREAS the Inuit, First Nation, Métis and peoples of the north have hundreds and thousands of years of indigenous and environmental knowledge which give them the necessary skills and understanding to know what is necessary to protect and preserve northern and Arctic communities for generations to come.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada work with the Government of Canada, and if in government to enact, a comprehensive national policy which deals with northern and Arctic sovereignty, culture, environmental protection, health, economic and sustainable development, land claims and rights implementation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada, work with the Government of Canada, and if in government enact, a full policy and consultation process which is partnered with and accountable to the Inuit, First Nation and Métis people of northern and Arctic Canada.

Aboriginal Peoples Commission

7. Reassessing Rural Communities in Light of Catastrophic Events

WHEREAS small rural communities face major challenges of population and resource depletion;

WHEREAS future survival depends on socioeconomic resilience;

WHEREAS the culture of most rural communities is grounded in a tradition of survival and resilience through cooperation;

WHEREAS the global threats of climate change and terrorism make it necessary for national survival to decentralize infrastructure, resources and populations so as to minimize the impact of a natural or political catastrophe;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada establish a program for rural community development which encourages the migration of business and regional industry to rural communities and which provides the tools (infrastructure, resources, facilitation) for building the socioeconomic capacity at the grassroots level to weather a crisis.

New Brunswick Liberal Association

6. Vision of Rural Canada

WHEREAS Rural Canada is struggling with rising costs which causes the closure of many small locally owned business including family farms; and

WHEREAS there is a global food shortage and Canada is in a unique position to assist; and

WHEREAS healthy methods of farming benefit Canada in many ways, such as improved health, sustainable and self-sufficient food production and an improved environment from the use of fewer chemicals and less fossil fuel usage; and

WHEREAS younger generations have, for decades, had to leave Rural Canada to find employment, thereby harming the growth and development of these areas;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada adopt a future vision of Rural Canada to include education, research and development, information technology and marketing systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada create a Department of Rural Affairs to support self-sustaining agriculture, re-develop the family farm and support the role information technology can play in the growth of the rural economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a component of the future vision of Rural Canada is having a clear plan to further the cause of organic methods of agriculture, encouraging a focus of research, development and education into healthy and non-pollutant systems of farming; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Rural Affairs will work in a collaborative manner all people most affected by its directions.

Liberal Party of Nova Scotia