

# Plenary Report

The following is a report of all resolutions that were submitted to the Convention floor for consideration by all delegates and which were **adopted** by the Convention as Liberal Party of Canada policy. To be considered at the plenary, a resolution must have previously prioritized by Provincial/Territorial Associations, Commissions, or Committees of the Liberal Party of Canada **or were** prioritized in the thematic workshops held at the Convention

# 1 - REPATRIATION

WHEREAS the Government of Canada passed legislation in 1884, known as the anti-potlatch law banning cultural practices for Aboriginal people in Canada until 1951, that resulted in more than 50 arrests, jail time and the confiscation of hundreds of artifacts during this era;

WHEREAS the practice of the early physical anthropologists removed thousands of Aboriginal human remains for study primarily in Canada and in the United States without prior consent of the families of the deceased during this era;

WHEREAS collectors from around the world took advantage of the anti-potlatch law and aggressively acquired for museums, anthropologists and private collectors a large portion of Northwest Coast Aboriginal cultural property during this era;

WHEREAS two museums were built on Vancouver Island in 1979 and 1980 as one of the Government of Canada's conditions to repatriate a portion of a "Potlatch Collection" that had been confiscated as a result of the anti-potlatch law of this era;

WHEREAS as many as 40 repatriation agreements have or will be negotiated during this decade to address the illegal, unethical and immoral confiscation and collection of Northwest Coast artifacts, regalia and human remains;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to act swiftly to begin drafting clear policy and legislation to provide core funding to maintain the existing conditions of repatriation, and to direct Canadian Heritage to set up an Aboriginal Museum's Assistance Program that would aid in the redress of this unconscionable injustice.

(British Columbia)

## 2 - LAKE WINNIPEG WATERSHED COUNCIL

WHEREAS the Lake Winnipeg watershed is the second largest in Canada, encompassing parts of four provinces, four states, five million people, and over one million square kilometres covering an area from the Rocky Mountains in the west, northern Ontario in the east, south into the United States, and flowing into Hudson's Bay in the north;

WHEREAS the quality of water therein is crucial to the environment and to the success of the farming, fishing and tourism industries;

WHEREAS water from this vast area drains into Lake Winnipeg, and the quality of water in Lake Winnipeg continues to deteriorate as evidenced by ever-increasing toxic algae blooms, beach closures due to E. coli contamination, and the threatened extinction of several native species;

WHEREAS there are many organizations, provinces and states working independently in the watershed to improve water quality in some locations;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to form a "Lake Winnipeg Watershed Action Council" with a mandate to examine the watershed as a whole, and to seek the best ways to ensure the future viability of this valuable resource, through consultation with interested parties, organizations, federal, provincial and state Governments;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to take a leadership role in implementing the recommendations of the "Lake Winnipeg Watershed Council".

(Manitoba)

# 3 - SENIORS HOUSING AND LONG TERM CARE

WHEREAS Canada's population of seniors will increase dramatically in the next decade; and

WHEREAS this sector of the population and those requiring special care receive care and treatment that varies in kind from province to province; and

WHEREAS the financial burden of such care also varies from province to province.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to adopt the recommendations of the N.A.C.A (National Advisory Council on Aging) which state that the Government take a leadership role in the research into, and the development of, a variety of models for the care and housing of an aging population, and one that pays particular attention to the needs of those with dementia.

(New Brunswick)

## 4 - SENIORS

WHEREAS the population of seniors in Canada is increasing, and it is projected that by 2041, 23 per cent of the population will be 65 and over; and

WHEREAS a substantial number of seniors are part of the paid work force and there are considerable differences in the economic circumstances among Canada's seniors; and

WHEREAS income support from the Canadian Pension Plan (CPP), Guaranteed Income Supplement and Old Age Security provide essential income to many seniors; and

WHEREAS seniors can only receive 11 months retroactive payments for CPP, OAS and GIS programs once they have applied; and

WHEREAS the Prime Minister's Task Force on Active Living and Dignity for Seniors, recommended the creation of a National Seniors Agenda along with other measures to deal with issues of seniors services, incomes, housing, community involvement and contributions to education and recording of Canadian history;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada support the creation of a National Seniors Agenda and the implementation of the other recommendations of the Prime Minister's Task Force on Active Living and Dignity for Seniors;

AND BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada advise the Government of Canada fulfill its Election 2004 promise to increase the Guaranteed Income Supplement this year;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada implement a program that would see its employees, 65 and over who want to continue to be part of the paid work force, have the option to do so;

AND BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada adjust the RRSP and RRIF formula to extend the number of years Canadians can contribute to their RRSPs;

AND BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to review the application process for the CPP, OAS and GIS and the retroactive time period when seniors can receive payment and in the review focus on the Canadian Pension Plan to ensure that any contributors are receiving all funds owed to them, past or present.

(National Liberal Caucus)

# 5 - WELLNESS AND HEALTH PROMOTION

WHEREAS the people of Nova Scotia live as long as most Canadians, but become sick from chronic diseases at an earlier age; and

WHEREAS recent studies show that 40% of chronic disease incidence, 50% of the premature mortality caused by chronic disease, and 38% of the total economic costs of illnesses may be preventable; and

WHEREAS a Health and Wellness Committee, with representatives from the federal, provincial and territorial Governments, was tasked during the most recent federal, provincial and territorial negotiations held in September 2004 to develop a National Wellness Strategy; and

WHEREAS early childhood education is the preferred vehicle for lifestyle change and would assist greatly with the ever increasing childhood obesity problem in our country; and

WHEREAS an emphasis on health and wellness initiatives would reduce cost pressures on the overall health care system over the long term;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada ask the Government of Canada to recommend Nova Scotia as a pilot province for implementation of the National Wellness Strategy currently being developed by the Health and Wellness Committee;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada encourage the Government of Canada to promote wellness, health and fitness initiatives to eradicate poverty, and in the implementation of an early childhood development agenda.

(Nova Scotia)

# 6 - THE CANADIAN MILITARY, SOVEREIGNTY AND PEACEKEEPING (AMENDED)

WHEREAS the Canadian Forces must carry out increasing responsibilities for defending Canada and North America, international peacekeeping and peace-making, responding to national emergencies and protecting our sovereignty, especially in the Arctic;

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

WHEREAS the Government of Canada in the 2005 budget took positive steps to reverse the funding decline of the 1990's, which led to rusted out equipment and a shortage of personnel;

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada (LPC) petition the Government of Canada to increase funding for the Canadian Forces from the 2005 budget level by 26.5% by the year 2010.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that aging equipment be replaced and the size of the Forces be expanded, by at least the 8000 permanent and reserve troops promised in 2004, to provide the capability to uphold domestic responsibilities, in particular to augment our presence in the Arctic, and also to allow for concurrent foreign operations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LPC actively petition the Government of Canada to develop a plan to increase the Forces operational levels and maintain them through stable multi-year funding that guarantees the procurement of sufficient safe and effective equipment for all personnel and operations, adequate maintenance of all equipment and sufficient training and a healthy quality of life for all personnel.

(Ontario)

# 7 - EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS research shows affordable and available child care programs reap social and economic benefits by assisting children to grow up happy, healthy and contributing members of our society; and

WHEREAS child care program funding is a responsibility of the federal, provincial and territorial Governments; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada sponsors certain programs and assists the provincial and territorial Governments with others;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to ensure that, in providing funding to programs such as “Best Start”, firm commitments be guaranteed up front from their provincial and territorial partners as to the program specifics which will be provided;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to ensure that, for certain programs such as the Parental Benefits Program which the Government of Canada provides on its own, reviews be made to give consideration to policy options towards a more equitable system for low income workers;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to give further consideration to a more equitable child care system, and that initiatives be carried forward for the implementation of a nationwide daycare program in the English and French languages.

(Prince Edward Island)

# 8 - FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY IN CANADA

WHEREAS Canada is one of the richest nations in the world, but has not been able to eradicate poverty in its own society; and

WHEREAS the international reputation of Canada as a tolerant, fair, and compassionate society is diminished in the absence of a serious commitment to eliminate poverty at home; and

WHEREAS the duty of the Government of Canada and the society as a whole is to help people who are in need; and

WHEREAS poverty is of strategic national importance, affecting many social and economic activities across the country, and therefore the provinces and territories should not be left to deal with poverty issues alone; and

WHEREAS several departments and government agencies provide special support to the poor, who cannot be fully integrated into the society until there is a common mandate, with a coherent national anti-poverty plan with participation from all levels of Government; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to identify the specific needs of different segments of poverty groups, whether they are old, young, single, handicapped or from any other segment of society;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to create a Commission composed of federal, provincial and territorial representatives to coordinate the programs in order to ensure equitable and fair treatment for all people living in Canada.

(Quebec)

# 9 - INTER-GENERATIONAL FARM LOAN

WHEREAS rural Canada, and especially agricultural communities, are losing rural people, young and old, because of the agricultural economy and federal agriculture policy; and

WHEREAS the report on “Securing Agriculture’s Future” issued in October 2002 by the Prime Minister’s Caucus Task Force on Future Opportunities in Farming, stated that rural Canada was close to losing the critical mass to maintain these communities; and

WHEREAS the financing of rural agriculture has not changed for generations; and

WHEREAS there is a need to stabilize agricultural communities before another disaster occurs; and

WHEREAS an inter-generational loan will allow agricultural producers to implement long-term, environmentally sound initiatives that take many years to develop into a sustainable operation, such as forestry, grassing programs, feedlots and value added in the livestock industry; and

WHEREAS an inter-generational loan will prevent the refinancing of farm property every time a disaster occurs;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to implement an inter-generational, long-term, complete farm financing loan, with a 25% to 50% loan guarantee to refinance the agricultural sector.

(Saskatchewan)

# 10 - CANADA'S NORTHERN STRATEGY AND NORTHERN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS the Government of Canada recently announced two important initiatives: Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development and the Northern Strategy, with an initial investment of \$90 million and \$120 million respectively, which will be split between Canada's three northern territories; and

WHEREAS these investments and subsequent investments in these or other northern initiatives have the potential to involve drastic changes to the north and northerners' way of life; and

WHEREAS there has been no real consultation with northerners and no focused strategic planning done to guide the investment of these funds;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to undertake a comprehensive strategic planning exercise involving northern residents and governments before investing any significant amount of money under the Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development and the Northern Strategy initiatives;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to ensure this strategic planning is guided by principles of sustainable development, community capacity-building and governance while focusing on long-term, innovative solutions which achieve healthy and safe communities, a clean environment, and a diversified economy.

(Yukon)

# 12 - ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION (AMENDED)

WHEREAS the Government of Canada is legally and morally obligated to consult with Aboriginal people when changing or formulating policies and legislation that have an impact on Aboriginal people and their rights; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has no consistent comprehensive policy for engaging in consultations with Aboriginal people; and

WHEREAS a federal Aboriginal consultation policy would enhance the consistency and legitimacy of consultations with Aboriginal people; and

WHEREAS the Aboriginal people should be involved in the formulation of such a policy; and

WHEREAS a process must be identified by which the Aboriginal people can be involved in creating and formulating a comprehensive federal policy for engaging in consultations with Aboriginal people; and

WHEREAS the Aboriginal Peoples Commission consists of Aboriginal people with the desire and expertise to establish Aboriginal policy direction and work in implementing the Aboriginal platform of the Liberal Party;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada is committed to engaging Aboriginal people and their organizations including the Aboriginal Peoples' Commission, in the creation and formulation of a comprehensive federal Aboriginal Consultation Policy;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Prime Minister to develop a policy on consultation with the Aboriginal groups, provinces and territories for approval at the next First Ministers Conference on Aboriginal issues.

(Aboriginal Peoples' Commission)

# 13 - INCOME TAX RELIEF FOR SENIORS

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has agreed to improve the tax-based support of those who care for aged or infirm relatives, and will increase the Guaranteed Income Supplement for seniors most in need; and

WHEREAS numerous seniors live on their Old Age Pension and Guaranteed Income Supplement well below the poverty line of \$18,000, and many other seniors experience difficulty in meeting basic living costs; and

WHEREAS the costs for healthcare charges, and other healthcare-related costs, are increasing faster than seniors' pensions;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to raise the seniors tax exemption from \$1,000 to \$2,500, and to grant a tax credit of 25% to individuals and 15% to couples 60 years of age or older;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to amend the Income Tax Act to revert the mandatory age for the conversion of Registered Retirement Savings Plans to Retirement Income Funds to the age of 72, and to roll back the compulsory percentage of withdrawal to pre-1997 levels;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to increase the Guaranteed Income Supplement so that seniors living alone receive a minimum annual income of \$18,000;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to prevent the exploitation of seniors by limiting payment for services rendered by institutions to 75% of the government funds received by individuals.

(Seniors' Liberal Commission)

# 16 - WORLD BANK'S FUNDING OF WATER, A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT, IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Whereas only 1 % of the water on earth is fresh water and that fresh water is a shared legacy and a collective responsibility; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada provides funding to World Bank projects to develop water services in developing countries; and

WHEREAS the World Bank lends these monies, mostly with the requirement that the recipient developing countries allow private corporations to control municipal water services, and the condition that the users pay the full cost of such water services ; and

WHEREAS such conditions prevent the poor in these countries from accessing safe water with the resulting increase in water borne sickness and disease,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to increase its involvement in the development of water services in developing countries and to use its influence with the World Bank;

- To cause the World Bank to stop placing such privatization conditions on loans for water development projects in underdeveloped countries,
- To cause the World Bank to work to strengthen the role of the public sector in delivering and regulating water services,
- To cause the World Bank to support meaningful participation of citizen's groups and affected communities in setting water policies, and
- To ensure access to clean affordable water for the world's poor

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada, in national and global trade, international aid and domestic and global relations, to respect water as a common good and a basic human right, which is ensured through public ownership of the resource

(Alberta)

# 17 - CIVIL MARRIAGE

WHEREAS the Canadian Charter of Rights affirms the equality of all citizens; and

WHEREAS the current definition of marriage as extended to one man and one woman has been struck down by the courts of seven provinces (including the three most populous) and one territory as being discriminatory under the Charter; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government has declared that religious institutions will not be bound to perform same-sex marriages; and

WHEREAS the traditional reality of heterosexual marriage is not personally/individually affected by same-sex marriage and that any other term than marriage is insufficient to create an atmosphere of equality for all Canadians; and

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada has historically championed minority rights including in promoting the passage of the Charter of Rights and Freedom;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to continue to support civil marriage legislation that will recognize the equality rights of all Canadians.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to develop strategies to educate the Canadian public as to the issue of basic human rights with regard to same sex marriage.

(The Standing Committee on Policy Development)

(Co-sponsored by the Young Liberals of Canada and Alberta (Calgary Southwest/Women's Liberal Club)

# 18- Aboriginal Representation in the House of Commons and the Senate

WHEREAS Aboriginal people face extreme challenges in advocating and promoting the social challenges that face Aboriginal people in the Government of Canada;

WHEREAS Aboriginal people have been historically excluded from the democratic process in Canada and have only recently gained the right to vote;

WHEREAS Aboriginal people constitute a significant portion of constituents in different regions of Canada and 4.4 percent of the Canadian population;

WHEREAS Aboriginal people could have 14 Aboriginal representatives in the House of Commons, and 5 Aboriginal senators, if changes were made to include Aboriginal people in the democratic process, on an inclusive basis;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada encourage the Government of Canada to conduct a study, through Elections Canada, to identify the legislative requirements for the installation of Aboriginal people as members of Parliament and as senators on an inclusive and proportional basis;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada encourage the Government of Canada to appoint five Aboriginal people to the Senate before the next federal election.

(Aboriginal Peoples' Commission)

## 25 - Achieving Kyoto

WHEREAS in December 2002, the Government of Canada officially ratified the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that entered into force on February 16, 2005, thus committing Canada to reducing emissions 6% from 1990 levels by 2012;

WHEREAS Canada is one of the highest per capita emitters of greenhouse gases and Canada's emissions continue to escalate (currently 25% above the Kyoto goal in 2002);

WHEREAS there are emerging and viable technologies that generate electricity without greenhouse gas emissions such as wind power, tidal power and solar power;

WHEREAS further progress on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions will require significant investments by individuals, businesses and Governments which will in many cases be recouped through future energy savings;

WHEREAS the recent report Impacts of a Warming Arctic: Arctic Climate Assessment conclusively shows that global warming will have a profound effect on the North;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to execute a Kyoto implementation and sustainable energy action plan including, but not limited to, tax incentives, deferrals, or rebates on: vehicle purchases, public transportation passes, generation of clean energy, energy conservation, reduction of vehicle emissions, and research and development.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada also urge the Government of Canada, as part of this plan, to take action to ensure that individuals, businesses, and Governments reduce greenhouse emissions; to undertake strategic planning measures to address our changing environment; and to educate the public.

(Young Liberals of Canada, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Yukon)

# 41 - A New Mechanism for Post-Secondary Education

WHEREAS the Atlantic Liberal Caucus Report, Rising Tide, outlines initiatives for ongoing regional development in Atlantic Canada, including areas such as education, research and development, and tourism;

WHEREAS access and affordability in our system of post-secondary institutions, which includes universities, community colleges, and other institutes of learning, is key to the success of young Canadians;

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;

WHEREAS under the current Canada Social Transfer (CST) agreement, funding for post-secondary education is granted on a per capita basis to the province of residence of the post-secondary student;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to consider legislation that will ensure stable and predictable funding for post-secondary education;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to create the Canadian Education Transfer (CET), a separate transfer of funds dedicated to post-secondary education;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that 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;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to change the funding formula for post-secondary education to provide that per capita funding be granted to the province of place of learning of the student.

(National Liberal Caucus and Young Liberals of Canada)

## 46 - Supply Management

WHEREAS the Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector is integral to our high standard of living and quality of life; but Canadian farmers have recently experienced drastically low international commodity prices primarily due to the significant subsidies being provided to farmers in competing countries;

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

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

WHEREAS the Canadian Wheat Board has been largely effective in dealing on behalf of grain farmers;

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to reflect its commitment to supply management and the three pillars through the realization of new tariff rate quotas for dairy, poultry, egg products and other commodities under Canada's World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to defend and promote supply management, the Canadian Wheat Board and all single-desk selling during negotiations at the WTO.

(Manitoba, Ontario)

# 50 - Affordable Housing

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada believes that all Canadians must have access to affordable and quality housing;

WHEREAS the housing needs of individuals, both seniors and non-seniors, is at a critical level due to the high cost of and availability of housing;

WHEREAS Canada needs a comprehensive national housing strategy with clearly defined goals that will include a coordinated response to the continuum of housing needs;

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

WHEREAS the mandate of the National Homelessness Initiative does not adequately address the problem of shortages in affordable rental housing units;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to expedite the delivery of existing housing initiatives, and to develop and implement a national housing policy with measurable outcomes that will meet the housing needs of all low-income Canadians;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to take a leading role, working directly with provincial, territorial and municipal Governments, to address the affordable housing crisis in the country.

(British Columbia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, National Women's Liberal Commission)

## 52 - Employment Insurance and Seasonal Work

WHEREAS seasonal work and periods of unemployment are features of many Canadian industries, including agriculture, forestry, tourism and construction;

WHEREAS seasonal work is the only employment available for a large segment of the working population in certain regions;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to protect better the work force, especially seasonal workers and self-employed individuals, by providing greater flexibility in applying the Employment Insurance Act and adapting its provisions to regional conditions;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to ensure that the eligibility for employment insurance be based on the total number of hours worked rather than the number of weeks worked, and that the period between the date all necessary documents must be filed with the employment insurance office and the delivery of the first cheque be no longer than 14 days;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to ensure that the length of time a worker is able to receive employment insurance payments be based on the availability of work in the region, and that the number of payments be increased for individuals who have collected more work hours than the minimum required;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to adopt any other recommendations, compatible with the above, arising out of the work of the Parliamentary Committee on Employment Insurance.

(New Brunswick, Quebec)

# 55 - Diverse Communities

WHEREAS diversity is the heart and soul of Canada's 'shared citizenship' and is one of the defining core values of Canadian society;

WHEREAS ethno-cultural communities have contributed to making Canada a strong, tolerant and successful nation;

WHEREAS over the past 20 years, the relationship between the Government of Canada and ethno-cultural communities has waned through systematic reductions to funding programs for community initiatives;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to make a significant effort in restoring its relationship with ethno-cultural communities, by respecting and valuing the contributions they have made and are expected to make in keeping 'diversity' a living and vital element of Canadian society;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to implement a new Diverse Communities Initiative aimed at assisting these groups to remain vibrant and sustainable by supporting volunteerism, citizenship participation, capacity-building, research, youth and outreach areas such as the arts, heritage, tourism and economic development; and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to launch the Diverse Communities Initiative in the 2005-06 fiscal year with a new funding program under the mandate of the Minister of State, Multiculturalism.

(Manitoba)

# 67 - 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;

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 corporatization results in loss of public transparency and control; therefore

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

- Prohibit or limit direct and indirect public subsidies of private corporate ventures related to healthcare payment and delivery;
- Implement enhanced universal coverage and publicly controlled non-profit delivery of new substitutes for short and long term hospital and physician care;
- Ensure universal coverage of pharmaceutical supplies and ambulance services; expand coverage for medically necessary vision and dental care;
- Facilitate timely implementation of Romanow recommendations;
- Increase regulation, oversight and consumer protection related to private for-profit healthcare insurance products;
- 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/information.

(Alberta)

## 72 - 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.

(Manitoba)

## 76 - Port Infrastructure and Financing

WHEREAS the port of Vancouver (Port) is Canada's largest port trading over \$29 billion in goods with over 90 nations, and generates over \$348 million in federal tax revenue, about \$195 million in provincial tax revenue, and over \$56 million in municipal tax revenue annually;

WHEREAS the Port provides about 25,000 jobs and over \$1.1 billion in wages;

WHEREAS it is desirable to maintain and enhance the Port's commercial viability to attract additional financing to address emerging security concerns, and in light of recent increased competition from foreign ports (which have more flexibility in funding their operations) that has resulted in decreased economic activity at the Port;

WHEREAS the efficient movement of commodities from the rest of Canada to expanding Asian markets through Pacific gateways will have increasing significance to the Canadian economy;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to take immediate steps to implement the recommendations of the Canadian Marine Act (CMA) Review, including requiring all Port surpluses to be re-invested in Port infrastructure development, and removing all restrictions on commercial borrowing entitlements;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada also urge, as part of these recommendations, amendment of the CMA and the Income Tax Act to enable the Port to issue tax-exempt bonds;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge, pursuant to these recommendations, amendment of the CMA to allow the Port to pursue all forms of direct public investment in the Port to ensure its long-term financial stability; and removal of all unnecessary federal financial restrictions that prevent the Port from developing lands under its authority.

(British Columbia)

## 82 - New Regional Development

WHEREAS many of Canada's vast natural resources are located in remote or rural regions of Canada;

WHEREAS these regions require essential quality services (including easy access to federal programs and public servants), and good infrastructure to attract investors and develop these resources;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to develop a national policy for processing basic materials and resources specific to each region;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to prioritize specific regional needs (particularly in rural and remote regions) when developing programs and legislation, and to double the budget allocated to regional development assistance programs;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to relocate parts of the federal public service to areas of high unemployment and support funding the development of necessary infrastructure;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to provide training and other programs that would reduce the physical barriers to post-secondary educational opportunities for people in and from these regions;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada support the creation of tax credit incentives to encourage private investment in these regions; the review of federal initiatives and programs to ensure that rural and small communities are treated fairly in all respects; and implementation of a venture capital program underwritten by the Government of Canada.

(New Brunswick, Quebec)

# 85 - Sex Worker Rights

WHEREAS officially the sex trade is not criminal;

WHEREAS section 213 of the Criminal Code of Canada still forbids communicating for the purposes of sex trade-related acts;

WHEREAS fear of ticketing and judicial consequences incurred from section 213 drive sex trade workers into dangerous and harmful locations;

WHEREAS criminalizing acts related to the sex trade also perpetuates a negative social stigma surrounding sex trade workers;

WHEREAS the sex trade is a profession central to the subsistence of many Canadian citizens who deserve the same workplace safety and social respect as any other member of our society;

AND WHEREAS we must never again have the tragedy of 50 women missing from Vancouver's downtown eastside without notice;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada support review of Section 213 of the Criminal Code of Canada.

BE IT RESOLVED that if Section 213 of the Criminal Code is found to be harmful to the sex trade workers, the Liberal Party of Canada reconsider the need to urge the Federal Government to remove Section 213 of the Criminal Code.

(Young Liberals of Canada)



