



# Plenary for the 2006 Leadership and Biennial Convention

November 29 – December 3, 2006

Montreal, Quebec



# International Affairs



## 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 of 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 have 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 operations, 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 recognize 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*



## **10) 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*



### **13) 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 develop 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*



# Economic Policy



## 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 recognize 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.



### **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)*





### **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)*



# 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 Supporting 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*



42)

**Policy Resolution 42 has been withdrawn due to unintended factual errors and can therefore not inform party policy.**



## 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*



# Human Resources



## 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 of 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 Nova Scotia  
Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)*

*Liberal Party of Prince Edward Island  
Liberal Party of Canada – Yukon  
Liberal Party of Canada in Alberta*



## **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 the 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 governments, establish principles, enable enforcement and determine 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 urge 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 urge 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*



# Canadian Heritage and Identity

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## **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*



## 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 to be established by the leader of the Liberal Party in consultation with the provincial women's commissions and the executive of the National Women's Commission.

*Liberal Party of Canada (Québec)*



## 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-Missinippi-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*



# Infrastructure and Environment



## 103) 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 therefrom 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; and
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)*





## **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, 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, 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*



## 108) 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 Nova Scotia*

*Liberal Party of Canada (Québec)*

*Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)*

*Liberal Party of Canada – Yukon*



# Rural Issues



## 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 their 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.



## 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;

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, bio-diesel, solar power and tidal power production.

*National Liberal Caucus*



# Health



## 126) 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.





## 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 its 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; and
3. Partner with the provinces to promote healthy lifestyle choices through coordinated programs, regulations, legislation and joint funding.

*Liberal Party of Canada in Alberta*



## 132) 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. to 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; and
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.



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