

ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS



BIENNIAL CONVENTION

MONTREAL 2014



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Liberal

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

MTL  2014 



163. Emergency Resolution on Ukraine

WHEREAS, as required by its constitution, Ukraine's Parliament has by more than a 2/3rds majority of 328 deputies out of 450 voted to impeach Ukraine's president Yanukovich, and voted to hold new presidential elections in May of this year.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada calls upon the Government of Canada to immediately and unequivocally express its tangible support for the transitional process to a secure democracy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Canada call for an observer mission of at least 500 Canadian observers led by a pre-eminent Canadian to help oversee this election;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the international community takes all necessary steps to ensure that any and all human rights violations in Ukraine are properly investigated and, as appropriate, prosecuted

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada call upon the IMF to urgently meet with the new Ukrainian leadership to provide economic support and develop a new plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon the Prime Minister of Canada to make clear to any foreign power not to interfere with nor undermine the will of the Ukrainian people as expressed by their elected representatives in the Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine's Parliament.

Liberal Caucus



164. Emergency Resolution: Restoring Electoral Fairness

WHEREAS the right to vote is a basic democratic right of all Canadian citizens, guaranteed by the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, and no citizen should be unfairly burdened in the exercise of that right.

WHEREAS, in 2009, the Fifth Report of the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples noted the significant shortcomings of Bill C-31 during the 2008 federal election^[1];

WHEREAS, instead of correcting these problems, Bill C-23 will amend the Canada Elections Act by:

- Further restricting access to voting by disallowing vouching for voters, thereby preventing approximately 120,000 Canadians from voting;
- Threatening the independence of the Commissioner of Canada Elections, by making this position part of government rather than leaving it with Elections Canada, which is independently answerable to Parliament;
- Prohibiting the Chief Electoral Officer from communicating broadly with Canadians;
- Hampering investigations into election breaches, by failing to give the Commissioner the power to compel witnesses to answer questions or provide documents;

BE IT RESOLVED that the next Liberal government of Canada, in consultation with Elections Canada, urgently enacts legislation to protect, strengthen and improve the electoral process by redressing the above concerns;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as per recommendations of the Chief Electoral Office to have all parties and individuals keep copies of records and contracts with telemarketing companies employed by them to provide access to Elections Canada as required.

Liberal Party of Canada (Alberta)
Liberal Party of Canada (Quebec)

^[1] <http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/SEN/Committee/402/abor/rep/rep05may09-e.pdf>

Liberal

PRIORITY RESOLUTIONS

MTL  2014 



1. National Transportation Strategy

WHEREAS traffic delays in Canada result in a loss of over \$5 billion per year;

WHEREAS municipalities, provinces and territories do not have sufficient funds to build modern transit systems while continuing to provide other essential services;

WHEREAS many cities and towns across Canada, large and small, are facing funding shortfalls to fund their major public transit projects. Some examples include \$6.2 billion for Toronto's downtown relief line, \$1 billion for York Region transit, \$200 million per year for ten years in Calgary, \$515 million for Edmonton's southeast LRT and Montreal's \$3.1 billion extension to the West Island;

WHEREAS VIA rail funding has been declining and is currently at the discretion of cabinet, thus being neither predictable nor subject to public scrutiny or input;

WHEREAS Canada is the only G7 country without a national transit strategy;

WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities has called on the national government to implement a national transportation strategy;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada consult with provinces, territories and municipalities and propose an integrated, intermodal national transportation strategy, that serves large and small communities, within two years of taking office;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal Government develop a predictable and reliable transportation funding commitment for at least 10 years, with the allocation of funds to be determined by the population and predicted growth of the population.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)



11. Equalizing On-Reserve Education

WHEREAS one-third of First Nations students on-reserve attend First Nations schools;

WHEREAS Aboriginal people have a higher financial rate of return to education than non-Aboriginal Canadians because, with education, the gap in earnings closes and largely catches up to non-Aboriginal earnings;

WHEREAS presently, nearly 40 per cent of Aboriginal students do not finish high school;

WHEREAS over the next 10 years, aboriginal young people will make up a significant portion of new entrants in the labour market;

WHEREAS funding for schools on reserve lags that of other schools by roughly 30 per cent;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada supports First Nations rights to education and commits to funding First Nations schools equal to that of the Provincial funding allocations for Provincial operated schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada is committed to closing this education gap within its first term in government.

Liberal Party of Canada (Saskatchewan)



21. Acknowledging the Past in Order to Move Forward: A Resolution to Officially Reject The 1969 White Paper

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada introduced 'The White Paper' in 1969 that sought to abolish the *Indian Act*, the legal relationship and nation-to-nation relationship between the Indigenous nations and Canada;

WHEREAS 'The White Paper' was not agreed to by the Indigenous nations who agreed to share with Canada the lands and resources that are within its borders;

WHEREAS the introduction of 'The White Paper,' in 1969, despite abandonment by the Liberal Party of Canada, has continued to undermine the Liberal Party of Canada's relationships with Indigenous peoples due to little or no recognition by the of the impact such a policy could have;

WHEREAS Indigenous philosophies require the past be recognized and accounted for in order to foster better relationships and a path forward;

WHEREAS public acknowledgement by the Liberal Party of Canada that 'The White Paper' was a serious mistake will help build strong relationships and assist both sides of the Treaty relationship to move forward;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada, through its membership, national board, and elected representatives, at the 2014 Biennial Convention openly and with regret acknowledge that 'The White Paper' of 1969 was a serious mistake for the Party to consider and officially renounce what it stands for;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada will not repeat the mistakes of the past and strive for meaningful consultation when considering legislation and policy that impact the rights of Indigenous peoples.

Aboriginal Peoples' Commission



31. Restoring Trust in Canada's Democracy*

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party pursue political reforms which promote:

- Open, democratic nominations of candidates;
- Fewer "whipped" votes in Parliament and more "free" votes requiring individual MPs to assume full responsibility for their decisions;
- Stronger Parliamentary control over public finances, including an annual deadline for the budget; accounting consistency among the Estimates and the Public Accounts; more clarity in voting on Estimates; a costing analysis for each government Bill; and a requirement that government borrowing plans must get Parliament's pre-approval;
- A truly independent, properly resourced Parliamentary Budget Officer;
- A more effective Access-to-Information regime with stronger safeguards against political interference;
- An impartial system to identify and eliminate the waste of tax-dollars on partisan advertising;
- Careful limitations on secret Committee proceedings, Omnibus Bills and Prorogation to avoid their misuse for the short-term partisan convenience of the government;
- Adequate funding, investigative powers and enforcement authority to ensure Elections Canada can root out electoral fraud;
- Pro-active disclosure of parliamentarians' expenses, a more transparent Board of Internal Economy and better audit rules;
- A truly independent Senate not based upon partisanship or patronage;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT immediately after the next election, an all-Party process be instituted, involving expert assistance and citizen participation, to report to Parliament within 12 months with recommendations for electoral reforms including, without limitation, a preferential ballot and/or a form of proportional representation, to represent Canadians more fairly and serve Canada better.

Liberal Caucus

(*) The democratic reform agenda described in this resolution represents a compilation of ideas developed by the Leader and the Caucus over the past year. Canadians want their Members of Parliament to be effective voices for their communities in Ottawa, and not merely mouthpieces in their communities for an all-too-powerful Prime Minister. Our goal must be greater transparency, accountability and participation in Canada's political system, and fewer abuses which undermine the confidence of citizens and voters in the quality of their democracy.



50. National Energy Strategy

WHEREAS energy production and consumption is vital to Canadians well-being and standard of living;

WHEREAS achieving energy self-sufficiency is possible and valuable;

WHEREAS it is important for Canada to maintain and diversify its markets for energy products and services;

WHEREAS the scientific consensus is that climate change is a serious environmental threat requiring rapid action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada will, in consultation with Canadians, develop and implement a National Energy Strategy that will transition our energy system to a low-carbon system in line with our international commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while enhancing our economic success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NES will:

- ensure the transition increases overall employment;
- utilize market mechanisms to reduce pollution and enhance competition for innovation in low-carbon technologies;
- Eliminate subsidies hindering the low-carbon transition;
- define and seek to eliminate energy poverty in Canada;
- Refine the application process to be more effective by assessing the full costs and benefits through the life-cycle of a proposed energy project;
- evaluate and eliminate interprovincial trade barriers;
- enhance access and diversity of markets for energy products and services;
- take actions to maximize the efficient utilization and conservation of energy resources;
- establish meaningful consultative, Constitutional processes with First Nations/Inuit/Metis prior to development of energy and/or natural resource programs;
- support construction and effective maintenance of pipeline and railway networks across Canada with effective regulation and inspection;
- establish a multi-sectoral National Roundtable on Energy to advise and monitor progress towards achieving the goals and objectives of the NES.

Liberal Party of Canada (Alberta)



51. National Framework for Mental Health

WHEREAS mental illness affects one in five Canadians;

WHEREAS mental illness is the largest single contributor to the burden of disease, leads to significant morbidity and early mortality (through suicide and impact on other medical illnesses) and substantively contributes to negative social, civic and economic outcomes for Canadians;

WHEREAS most mental illness is preventable and treatable;

WHEREAS only 5.5% of Canada's health care budget is allocated to mental health services, despite the recommendations of the World Health Organization to allocate 10%;

WHEREAS the current Conservative government has announced plans to cut the rate of increases to health care spending by half starting in 2013;

WHEREAS delegates to the LPC January 2012 convention unanimously approved a motion to develop a national housing strategy that includes measures to address homelessness and recognized that there is a correlation between homelessness and mental health/addiction;

BE IT RESOLVED that a new Liberal government will implement and fund the Mental Health Commission of Canada's report: "Changing Directions, Changing Lives: A Mental Health Strategy for Canada"

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a new Liberal government will increase funding for mental health services to 8-10% of the national healthcare budget

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a new Liberal government will create an office of a national mental health ombudsperson who will issue an annual report for parliament on the status of mental health and mental health care in Canada

Liberal Party of Canada (British Columbia)
Supported by Liberal Party of Canada (Yukon)



61. Aboriginal Issues

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Liberal Party of Canada:

- Develop a process for an accelerated consultation with full participation of First Nation Communities to rewrite existing legislation with the intention of encouraging and supporting the development of sustainable First Nation communities;
- Introduce an Educational Program for all Canadians, through media or other means to provide all Canadians with an understanding of the history and background leading to the issues currently confronting Aboriginal Peoples and Canadians;
- Develop a national strategy to deal with Aboriginal land claims and duties to consult within a reasonable timeframe;
- Create a process for First Nation Peoples participation in natural resource issues in order for First Nation Peoples to share in revenues that are generated from the resources on First Nation lands.

RATIONALE:

It is imperative that all Canadians understand the Rights asserted in the Proclamation of 1763, the Treaties entered into with First Nation Peoples, and the damage created by the Indian Act and Residential School Policies. Canadians must work with First Nation Peoples in the spirit of cooperation and mutual respect to modernize these Treaties and legislation. Where applicable, all new legislation must be the result of a fully collaborative and consultative process with full participation of Aboriginal Peoples governing authorities. It must be aimed at building self-reliant communities that are economically sustainable and reflect the true intent of the treaties, allowing First Nation communities to participate in the economic future of Canada, while maintaining their cultural heritage and dignity.

Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)



71. Canadian Pension Plan (CPP) Enhancements

WHEREAS approximately 65 percent of private sector workers in Canada have no workplace pension plan to supplement their CPP;

WHEREAS retired workers relying on the CPP annual income often fall significantly below the poverty line (approximately 266,000 seniors);

WHEREAS the CPP maximum contributions only provide approximately 25 percent of income up to a maximum of \$12,000 a year;

WHEREAS the C.D. Howe Institute determined that a minimum of 60 percent contribution of the average Canadian income is needed to bring a retirement income to \$24,000 per year;

WHEREAS it is estimated that only 1 in every 4 Canadians qualify for Registered Retirement Saving Plans (RRSP) and for those who do qualify, it is often difficult to build meaningful retirement funds;

WHEREAS responsibility for the CPP is a shared responsibility between two levels of government;

BE IT RESOLVED the Liberal Party of Canada adopt a policy in support of CPP enhancements and expansion as a means of providing an adequate standard of living for retired workers;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Liberal Party of Canada use all leverage possible to harmonize its position with all other provinces, which are in support of CPP enhancements that provide a retirement income for seniors who should be able to retire with dignity and not have to worry about falling below the poverty line in their most vulnerable years.

Liberal Party of Canada (Newfoundland and Labrador)



165. Death with Dignity: Legalizing Medically-Assisted Death

WHEREAS the choice to take one's life when terminally ill is extremely personal, and adult patients suffering from a terminal disease should reserve the right to decide when their life ends and when their suffering ends;

WHEREAS health care professionals, the family and the patient would be better protected by a regulatory framework for medically-assisted death;

WHEREAS Canadians and national bodies such as the Royal Society of Canada and the Senate of Canada have recognized that end-of-life decision-making is a critically important public policy issue;

WHEREAS Quebec has recently made the argument that medically-assisted death constitutes an important part of end-of-life care;

WHEREAS the evidence from jurisdictions which allow some form of voluntary medically-assisted death demonstrates that the vulnerable can be protected;

BE IT RESOLVED that voluntary medically-assisted death be de-criminalized after a public consultation process designed to make recommendations to Parliament with respect to the criteria for access and the appropriate oversight system for medically-assisted end-of-life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada commits to working with the professional medical community and relevant stakeholders in a collaborative effort to establish professional protocols in relation to de-criminalizing medically-assisted death in Canada.

National Women's Liberal Commission
Young Liberals of Canada



100. Creating a Basic Annual Income to be Designed and Implemented for a Fair Economy

WHEREAS changes to the seasonal workers benefits under Employment Insurance are no longer assured as provinces find their social assistance funds stretched to the limit as they cope with hunger, housing and security;

WHEREAS many children, seniors and individuals with disabilities also face income insecurity across the country;

WHEREAS pension security is at risk;

WHEREAS the federal government has not kept pace with local needs;

WHEREAS many explicit and invisible signs of income insecurity exist in Canadian rural and urban settings, both presenting unique circumstances in the Provinces and Territories;

WHEREAS Provinces and Territories require greater flexibility in designing and administering programs which specifically fit their respective jurisdictions;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Federal Liberal Government work with the provinces and territories to design and implement a Basic Annual Income in such a way that differences are taken into consideration under the existing Canada Social Transfer System.

Liberal Party of Canada (Prince Edward Island)



111. Resilient Communities in Canada's North

WHEREAS northern Canada is a unique and special place;

WHEREAS northern Canada has unique, special and significant contributions to all of Canada;

WHEREAS northern Canada includes the three territories and northern regions of the provinces;

WHEREAS northern communities have strong social and cultural capital which has enabled them to be resilient and manage risk;

WHEREAS there are a number of extreme challenges facing northern communities – such as climate change, lack of community infrastructure and quality housing, remoteness, isolation, affordable connectivity, resource development, the legacies of past federal government policies and socio-economic challenges;

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada supports northern security and economic development as referenced in the *Northern Economic Vulnerability Policy*;

WHEREAS these extreme challenges threaten the security and resiliency of our northern communities;

WHEREAS community resilience in the north is established from the bottom up and relies on social and cultural capital;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a Liberal Government will work with northern communities, northern leaders, policy makers and professionals to build on the inherent resiliency of northern communities to increase local capacity to adapt and thrive in the context of Canada's changing north.

Liberal Party of Canada (Yukon)



113. National Action Plan on Dementia

WHEREAS Dementia currently affects more than 35 million people worldwide and has been called a "global crisis" and a "ticking time-bomb" by G8 Ministers of Health, with predictions that those numbers will double every two decades (1); and

WHEREAS is a disease clearly associated with advancing age, affecting 1 person in 10 over the age of 65 in Canada, and 1 person in 3 over the age of 85; and

WHEREAS it is predicted that dementia will affect 1.4 million Canadians by 2040; and

WHEREAS the G8 Ministers of Health have called for action in every country to find an effective treatment or cure for dementia by 2025; and

WHEREAS Canada is the only G8 countries with no national strategy to address the dementia epidemic;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada, working in partnership with mental health specialists, provinces and territories, and groups such as the Alzheimer Society of Canada, forthwith establish a comprehensive National Action Plan on Dementia.

Liberal Party of Canada (New Brunswick)



123. Health Care

WHEREAS past federal payments to provinces/territories under the Canada Health Act have been the result of federal/provincial/territorial negotiation;

WHEREAS the proposed federal funding after 2018 will be determined on a provincial/territorial per capita basis but does not recognize costs related to demographic factors including age^(1*);

WHEREAS quality standards are not adequately defined^(2*);

WHEREAS the level of access to health care throughout rural Canada is increasingly difficult to maintain^(3*);

WHEREAS improving cost efficiencies is essential to ensuring the financial sustainability of health care^(4*);

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal Government will amend the Canada Health Act to provide that the annual payment to provinces/territories be subject to consultation between the federal/provincial/territorial governments;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal Government recognize, in setting funding levels, that health care costs vary with all demographic factors, and provincial/territorial payments must reflect such factors;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal Government join the ongoing provincial/territorial “Innovative Health Care Initiative”^(5*,6*,7*) which has already begun to achieve improvements in quality standards, delivery standards and cost efficiencies as well as ways to improve health care access for rural residents.

Senior Liberals’ Commission

(1*) http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2011/12/19/health-transfer-payments-flaherty_n_1158072.html

(2*) <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hcs-sss/pubs/qual/2000-qual/index-eng.php>

(3*) <http://publications.gc.ca/Collection-R/LoPBdP/BP/prb0245-e.htm>

(4*) <http://gis.emro.who.int/healthsystemobservatory/Workshops/QatarConference/PPT>

(5*) <http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2012/exec/0117n02.htm>

(6*) <http://www.theguardian.pe.ca/News/Local/2012-06-04/article-2995720/Ghiz-Wall-looking-to-standardize-health-services/1>

(7*) <http://policymonitor.ca/premiers-release-health-care-innovation-working-group-report>



133. Respecting Aboriginal Rights

WHEREAS aboriginal peoples have been living for at least ten thousand years on land that is now Canada, and some of this territory is the subject of land claims which have yet to be settled;

WHEREAS many aboriginal communities in Canada lack sufficient housing and basic amenities, and this situation has been a subject of concern in United Nations reports;

WHEREAS these living conditions contribute to high levels of substance abuse, suicide, infant mortality, child neglect, and violence — particularly domestic and sexual abuse of aboriginal women and children;

WHEREAS aboriginal women face systematic and institutional stereotyping and discrimination that prevent their access to empowering services and programs;

WHEREAS recommendations of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (1996) remain to be implemented;

WHEREAS the Kelowna Accord to improve the education, employment and living condition of Aboriginal peoples has not been implemented;

WHEREAS Canada adheres to, but has not yet implemented, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

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

- settle, within a time-bound framework, all outstanding aboriginal land claims;
- implement the recommendations of i) the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (1996), especially those highlighted in the Assembly of First Nations' ten-year Report Card, and ii) relevant United Nations reports;
- reinstate the Aboriginal languages programme and implement all provisions of the Kelowna accord;
- implement, emphasizing Aboriginal women's and children's rights, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Liberal Party of Canada (Quebec)



153. Funding for Health Care

WHEREAS Canadians value the principles of Medicare, and health care costs have historically and consistently risen at higher rates than CPI;

WHEREAS Provinces differ in their needs for health care funding because of their population's health, levels of disability and age;

WHEREAS Canada's ranking in health and health care outcomes lag behind those of many developed countries;

WHEREAS the demands of an 'acute care' model are increasingly difficult to fund;

WHEREAS there is a costing crisis imminent to care for an aging population;

WHEREAS the epidemic in obesity and diabetes places an escalating financial burden on our system;

WHEREAS Veterans have fought to preserve our freedom and democracy, and that many of them have job-related health care needs;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government will maintain a single-payer, publicly-funded health care system, that is fair for all Canadians, through an equitable and adequate funding formula under the *Canada Health Act* tailored to meet Provincial and Territorial needs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government will take leadership in the development of an effective health and health care system for all Canadians to achieve and maintain health, by creating funding initiatives for:

- A national model for health promotion;
- A national strategy and standards for the care of the elderly;
- A national Pharmacare program;
- A national strategy and standards for combating obesity and diabetes;
- Addressing and accommodating the health needs of Veterans.

Liberal Party of Canada (Nova Scotia)



159. Fracking

WHEREAS fracking continues to occur throughout our country with each proposal creating controversy where many of the same issues are brought forward without resolution;

WHEREAS the fracking discourse is rarely grounded in factual or objective assessment, and many members of the public believe that a situation has developed where an entire industry has been given special consideration when it comes to secretly contaminating Canada's freshwater supply;

WHEREAS the chemicals used are not assessed due to arguments of proprietary or trade secrets;

WHEREAS residents in the Northwest Territories have the right to know what the best practices are and what the industry is allowed to put in the ground to assist with the shale gas production;

WHEREAS residents in the Northwest Territories have the right to protect the environment and the public trust;

WHEREAS decision makers throughout the entire country at all levels must be able to take economic, social and environmental considerations into account in order to support economic development and the environment for future generations;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada propose a National Environmental Assessment of Fracking that will:

- optimize positive environmental effects and minimize or mitigate negative environmental effects;
- consider potential cumulative environmental effects;
- implement a Sustainable Development Strategy;
- save time and money by drawing attention to potential liabilities for environmental clean-up and other unforeseen concerns;
- streamline project-level environmental assessment;
- promote accountability and credibility among the general public and stakeholders; and
- contribute to broader environmental policy commitments and obligations.

Liberal Party of Canada (Northwest Territories)

Liberal

**PRIORITY RESOLUTIONS COMING
FROM WORKSHOPS**

MTL  2014 



3. A National Strategy for a Universal Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Program to Support Canadian Families in Honouring the Rights of Children to Achieve their Full Potential

WHEREAS the 2010 workforce participation rate of mothers was greater than 68% while families accessing licensed Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) was 17%, resulting in long wait lists and the use of alternate, sometimes harmful, childcare arrangements;

WHEREAS the health, wellbeing and academic attainment of children are improved through high quality ECEC which addresses issues of child poverty, equity of opportunity, physical and emotional harm;

WHEREAS an investment in ECEC results in a healthier and more competitive workforce, generating net profits to government through increased tax revenues and lower transfer payments;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal Government institute a Universal ECEC Program with national standards and monitoring mechanisms, by restoring the bilateral agreements of the previous Liberal Government with the provinces and the territories; increasing federal funding for ECEC to 1% of GDP; re-investing the \$1,200 per year from the Universal Child Care Benefit into the Canadian Child Tax Benefit and directing the credit to the parent who remains at home;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that tax incentives be arranged to develop workplace ECEC; and funding provided to expand post-secondary ECEC training, thereby ensuring high level quality care through competent program staff;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no child be excluded from ECEC because of disability, access, or the cost of service, and that all children be provided with care that fosters cognitive, linguistic, emotional, social and physical development, linked to other family-oriented community services like hearing and vision care, parental support and mental health.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)



38. A New Deal on Health Care

WHEREAS Canadians place great value on Canada's public health care system;

WHEREAS the 2004 Health Accord between the federal Liberal government and provinces and territories provided the system with stable and predictable funding for a decade.

WHEREAS the Accord created joint jurisdictional responsibility to develop goals and benchmarks for transformative change, in nine areas.

WHEREAS the Harper government walked away from those joint responsibilities and refused to meet with First Ministers, on Health, since 2006.

WHEREAS, as a result of this abdication of federal leadership, systemic reform of the health care system was unable to progress according to plan and remains primarily focused on acute hospital and physician care.

WHEREAS as a result of this abdication of federal leadership, the shift to multidisciplinary/continuing care, home care and health promotion, electronic health records, national pharmacare and disease prevention was also unable to progress according to plan.

WHEREAS this led to a continuation of systemic inefficiencies that increased costs, blocked access, and threatens the sustainability of Medicare.

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government shall:

- Renegotiate a new health care agreement with provinces and territories as full partners, which would provide the jurisdictional flexibility to ensure the transformative changes needed to sustain Medicare are achieved.
- Ensure that accountability of results in this new agreement will focus on measurable outcomes including cost-effectiveness, efficiency and timely access to care.

Liberal Caucus



10. Pensions: Old Age Security & Canada Pension Plan

WHEREAS 60% of working Canadians in the 21st century do not have an employer-sponsored retirement income pension plan, and Canada Pension Plan is a critical source of retirement income;

WHEREAS the Canada Pension Plan is presently structured to provide a maximum of 25% up to the Year's Maximum Pensionable Earnings of the average working Canadian upon retiring at age 65;

WHEREAS youth employment and career opportunity is a continuing economic public policy issue and full time employment opportunities for young adults are increasingly limited in today's employment market;

WHEREAS the qualifying age for eligibility for old age security benefits was raised to age 67 from age 65 thereby creating a domino effect impacting on the above economic and social objectives;

WHEREAS voluntary retirement savings are subject to excessive management and administration fees that could be avoided through voluntary supplementary CPP contributions;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Old Age Security Benefits eligibility revert to age 65 to facilitate the voluntary exit of older Canadians from this market into alternative part time employment and or retirement;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada in partnership with the Provincial and Territorial Governments adopt and implement legislation to enhance retirement benefits under the Canada Pension Plan to 50% for workers earning between \$30,000 and \$80,000 per year upon retirement at age 65;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CPP be amended to accept voluntary supplementary contributions which would be subject to the RRSP contribution limits.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)



97. Basic Income Supplement: Testing a Dignified Approach to Income Security for Working-age Canadians

WHEREAS one in eleven Canadians lives in poverty (as measured by LICO), despite the array of income security and social assistance programs provided by federal and provincial governments;

WHEREAS income security programs such as the National Child Benefit and the Guaranteed Income Supplement provide an income-tested base benefit to low income children and seniors, but not working age adults;

WHEREAS there are perverse disincentives to exiting from social assistance systems, often referred to as the “welfare wall”;

WHEREAS the idea of a basic income supplement for working age adults was recently endorsed by the Canadian Medical Association as a means of improving the health of low income Canadians;

WHEREAS there was an encouraging pilot project of a basic income supplement for working age adults conducted jointly by the Government of Manitoba and the Government of Canada in Dauphin, Manitoba in the 1970s;

WHEREAS the Senate of Canada, in its 2008 report on poverty, “In from the Margins,” called for a study on the costs and benefits of a basic income supplement;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada advocate for a federal pilot of a basic income supplement in at least one Canadian town or city, in cooperation with the appropriate provincial and municipal government(s).

National Women’s Liberal Commission



36. Sustainable and Transformative Canadian Infrastructure Investment

WHEREAS infrastructure investment is the foundation of economic growth, job creation and a healthier environment;

WHEREAS the Government of Canada is in a strong fiscal position relative to the provinces and middle-class households and has access to capital at low interest rates;

WHEREAS the Government of Canada must play a leadership role in unlocking untapped sources of non-government investment, including from pension funds and public-private partnerships;

WHEREAS Canada's economic growth and job creation continue to be well below our potential, and crumbling infrastructure in communities as diverse as the City of Montreal or on First Nations Reserves is an increasingly acute drag on our economic prospects and our environmental sustainability;

WHEREAS existing infrastructure funding is inadequate to address our aging population, a changing climate, and ensuring our economic competitiveness;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- A Liberal Government should commit to a Transformative Canadian Infrastructure Investment plan that would significantly expand the funds invested or facilitated by the Government of Canada for infrastructure to a level up to 1pct of GDP per year;
- This plan would invest in projects that have met an integrity test and that have been determined by rigorous and independent expert analysis to contribute to objectives such as robust job creation, world-class public transit systems, increased energy efficiency and sustainable water systems;
- A Liberal Government would provide a full disclosure of public debt and associated debt charges incurred to fund infrastructure separately from other public debt and associated charges in the accounts of the Government of Canada.

Liberal Caucus



5. New Jobs for New Times – Securing Canada’s Future Through Innovation

WHEREAS a key to prosperity in the 21st Century is innovation based on on-going research and development (R&D), a strong ethic that respects basic and independent research and experimentation, and leveraging of Canada’s comparative advantages;

WHEREAS recent studies warn that Canada underperforms in this area, harming its trading competitiveness;

WHEREAS science and innovation require government support in the form of stable funding, science advisors, subject experts and modern infrastructure within a culture of limited government interference;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada develop, as a cornerstone of its economic program, a science-based Innovation Strategy to address economic and social needs as part of its efforts to support middle-class job creation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this strategy reaffirm Canada’s commitment to basic research based on independence from government interference and freedom of communication; be guided by peer-reviewed evidence and global best practices; be inclusive, including strategies for small and medium-sized businesses, remote communities and resource extraction industries; and be environmentally sustainable;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this strategy adopts an integrated, long-term approach that employs experts from academia, government and business; engages the social innovation community; and works with the educational system to develop high-quality researchers and effective entrepreneurs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the strategy aggressively capitalize on innovation gains by pursuing the negotiation of new trade agreements to facilitate innovation.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)



29. Implementing the Kelowna Accord

WHEREAS a historical meeting took place in Kelowna British Columbia between the provincial and federal government of Canada and representatives of the Indigenous peoples;

WHEREAS the agreements reached in Kelowna became known as 'The Kelowna Accord';

WHEREAS The Kelowna Accord heralded a new era of co-operation between Canada and Indigenous peoples;

WHEREAS The Kelowna Accord represented hope for Indigenous peoples that a time had come for a mutual and respectful nation-to-nation relationship;

WHEREAS the Conservative government of Canada scrapped and refused to recognize the agreements of The Kelowna Accord;

WHEREAS The Liberal Party of Canada is desirous of forging a new relationship with the Indigenous nations;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada commit to implementing the agreements set out in the Kelowna Accord within its first term as government and dutiful consideration of changes in costs and inflation.

Aboriginal Peoples' Commission



110. A Resolution for Action for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

WHEREAS the effects of colonization, discrimination, stigmatization and remaining silent and inactive on the missing and murdered Indigenous women issue has contributed to the issue itself;

WHEREAS the missing and murdered Indigenous women issue has received international attention via United Nations, with a United Nations Special Rapporteur spending nine days touring Canada and speaking with Indigenous individuals and organizations;

WHEREAS the Conservative Party of Canada has eliminated funding to the Sisters in Spirit Research Project and have dismissed calls from Premiers across Canada for a national inquiry on missing murdered and Indigenous women;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada, within its first term as government, begin working with pertinent Indigenous advocacy organizations, Indigenous communities, and Indigenous families of those missing and murdered on the issue of the missing and murdered Indigenous women to allow the project to be relevant to the unique issues facing Indigenous women and girls;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada reinstates research funding under the heading of Sisters in Spirit to allow appropriate documentation and analysis of this on-going human rights issue and support current Indigenous organizations research and documentation on missing and murdered Indigenous women;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada support current Indigenous advocacy organizations to continue their work in advocating for the families and friends of the missing and murdered Indigenous women.

Liberal Party of Canada (Yukon)



33. A Social Covenant with Canadian Veterans

WHEREAS, successive generations of Canadians have served their country honourably as members of the Canadian Armed Forces;

WHEREAS, service in the Canadian Armed Forces requires members to make a personal commitment to put their lives on the line on behalf of their fellow citizens, and to risk their lives anywhere in the world that the nation deems it appropriate that they do so;

WHAREAS, the burden associated with military service is not only borne by those in the Canadian military, but also by their families, who make untold sacrifices to help ensure the success of Canadian Armed Forces missions;

WHEREAS, the Conservative government's approach to veterans' policy demonstrates an utter disregard for our country's social covenant with those who serve in the military, particularly through its aggressive funding cuts to the supports and services that veterans need;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a future Liberal government will uphold the principles of this social covenant in its defence and veterans policies, and will live up to our country's sacred obligation to care for veterans and their families throughout their lives by allowing them to maintain a quality of life that is worthy of the sacrifices that they have made for Canada;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a future Liberal government will introduce legislation to strengthen the New Veterans Charter to reflect this commitment.

Liberal Caucus



162. Affordable National Housing Strategy

WHEREAS Canada does not have a long-term national plan for housing;

WHEREAS the LPC at its 2012 convention adopted a priority resolution calling for development of a comprehensive national housing strategy;

WHEREAS access to affordable quality housing is a first step in reducing poverty, hunger and homelessness, especially among vulnerable populations including low income seniors, new immigrants, Aboriginal peoples and persons with disabilities and illness;

WHEREAS affordable housing for young families is an important step to commence a middle income life style with improved health and wellness and which allows children to more fully benefit from the education system;

WHEREAS affordable housing has many different interpretations, any meaningful definition must reflect local community needs ranging from accessible social housing through rental apartments and houses to low-income and middle-income family homes;

BE IT RESOLVED that a national housing commission be struck to work in conjunction with all levels of government and social housing and private sector housing providers to create a national housing action plan that would produce affordable, safe housing for Canadians at all income levels;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the objectives of the national housing action plan be the elimination of waiting lists for affordable housing; the reduction of the cost of housing for middle and lower income earners; and the stabilization of the economy with job-creating investment in housing infrastructure;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this plan will provide sustainable and predictable tax measures to support the development of market rental housing and that governments ensure existing affordable housing and homelessness investments are permanent.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)
Liberal Party of Canada (Prince Edward Island)
Senior Liberals' Commission



160. RCMP Oversight

WHEREAS the RCMP hold a unique and iconic role within the Canadian psyche; and

WHEREAS sexual harassment and bullying has been documented and ongoing issue within the RCMP;

WHEREAS the evidence indicates that the Bill C-42 will not address the root causes of harassment and bullying within the culture of the RCMP;

WHEREAS systemic harassment and bullying within major municipal police forces has been consistently and effectively combatted through the use of arms-length public police commissions and dispute resolution mechanisms;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada establish an independent police commission made of up qualified members of the public, 50% of whom are women;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVES that this body be given the task of establishing the policies and procedures necessary to launch and operate an arms-length dispute resolution mechanism with a mandate of combatting sexual harassment and bullying within the RCMP and that this mandate include the establishment of specific hearing and disciplinary measures designed to punish offenders found to be guilty of sexual harassment and bullying;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body and process exist outside of the formal RCMP chain of command and that the body should be answerable to an appropriate authority other than the Commissioner or any other person under the authority of the Commissioner of the RCMP.

Liberal Party of Canada (Northwest Territories)



92. Redressing the "democratic deficit" for women in Parliament

WHEREAS the World Economic Forums' *Global Gender Gap Report 2013*,¹ an index which benchmarks national gender gaps on economic, political, education and health-based criteria, and provides country rankings, currently relegates Canada to 20th position overall;

WHEREAS on the "political empowerment" component, based on percentage of women in Parliament, women in ministerial positions, and years with a female head of state, the *Global Gender Gap Report 2013* ranks Canada a lowly 42nd;

WHEREAS women in Canada constitute slightly more than half the population, participate in the paid labour force, according to Statistic Canada, at a rate increasingly close to that of men (58.3% for women compared to 65.2% for men in 2009),² but still represent slightly less than one-quarter of Members of Parliament;

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada remains committed to the full democratic participation of citizens of all races, creeds, and genders, and is committed to "exploring Parliamentary and Electoral reform in order to realign our institutions with democratic principles and to ensure more meaningful and effective representation";

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada, offering to work together with the provinces and territories, and learning from the experience of the Nordic countries and others that have achieved much fairer gender representation, address Canada's democratic deficit as a top priority.

National Women's Liberal Commission

¹ <http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2013/>
http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_NR_GGGR_Report_2013_EN.pdf

² <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-503-x/2010001/article/11387-eng.htm>

³ <http://www.liberal.ca/fr/representation-utile-reforme-parl-elect/>



6. Climate Change Action

WHEREAS an overwhelming scientific consensus confirms that the Earth's climate system is unequivocally warming as a result of human activities that increase atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases;

WHEREAS the resulting climate change has well-documented severe environmental, economic and social costs, and already contributes to 400,000 deaths a year globally;

WHEREAS environmental protection and economic growth are not mutually exclusive;

BE IT RESOLVED that Canada urgently create a national environmental strategy that embraces scientific evidence and accepts the reality of human-caused climate change, champions mandatory international agreements to keep the Earth's atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations below the level that would increase global temperatures by 2 degrees Celsius, sets firm annual targets for Canada's fair share of emission reductions, takes appropriate action to ensure they are met and publishes independently-validated annual progress reports;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this strategy be comprehensive and developed in consultation with all levels of government and other stakeholders and place a realistic and fair price on carbon while supporting regulatory and innovative approaches to sustainable development;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these strategies be evidence-based and support the investments needed to make them economically advantageous to implement;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these strategies include investment in research and development into ways to reduce costs of green energy technologies.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)



2. The “Bees and Farming” Resolution: Moratorium on Neonicotinoids in Canada

WHEREAS managed hives, wild bees and native pollinators are integral and irreplaceable as pollinators in agriculture and in the natural environment;

WHEREAS the economic health of crop and livestock agriculture – which contributes 8% of Canada’s total GDP – ultimately relies upon a healthy population of pollinators;

WHEREAS neonicotinoid-based insecticides have been subject to moratoriums in other jurisdictions due to the conclusive links to bee deaths;

WHEREAS the systemic mode of action of neonicotinoids means that conventional risk mitigation measures – including causing farmers to modify seeding machinery and planting practices – may impose additional costs on farmers while not protecting pollinators from harm;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada call for the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) to suspend immediately its registration of all neonicotinoid-based compounds, resulting in an immediate moratorium on the sale and use of this class of technology in Canada;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pollinator health – including test methodologies to more accurately assess the impact of systemic insecticides – become a more prominent criterion of subsequent registration reviews for new agricultural pesticides;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal Government contribute scientific leadership in securing the future global vitality of pollinators in collaboration with other countries and the UN-Agricultural Development and Food Security Organization to support the research and monitoring that are needed to improve information on the status of pollinators and establish a framework for conservation and restoration of pollinator species within two years.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)