



# **ADOPTED PRIORITY RESOLUTIONS**



**BIENNIAL CONVENTION  
WINNIPEG 2016**



## **Priority Resolutions**

### **Table of Contents**

**Adjacency Principle**

**Infrastructure Spending Long Term Planning and Co-ordination**

**Maritime Immigration**

**Poverty Reduction: Minimum Income**

**National Water Security Strategy**

**Condemning All Forms of Islamophobia**

**Palliative and Home Care**

**Gender Parity on Corporate Boards**

**Homelessness and Affordable Housing**

**Northern Infrastructure**

**Acting on Indigenous Youth Suicide Prevention**

**Protecting LGBTQ2+ Rights & Refugees**

**Public Hearings on the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement**

**Pension Reform**

**A National Housing Strategy for Canadians**

**Improving Youth Participation in Democracy**

**A National Sustainable Clean Energy Strategy for Canada**

**Value Added Development of Canada's Resources**

**Medicare Coverage for the Treatment of Autism**

**First Nations Housing**

**Pharmacare - To Serve the Public and Save Billions of Dollars for Government**



## **Adjacency Principle**

WHEREAS coastal communities in Canadian provinces and territories have an intrinsic social and economic link to adjacent resources;

WHEREAS historic attachment and dependence on resources in Canadian coastal communities have welded a cultural mosaic into the fabric of the people who live there;

WHEREAS options required for economic survival and sustainability of coast communities in Canada are primarily limited to adjacent resources;

WHEREAS fish management policies of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans have ignored the traditional principle of adjacency and have created a disproportion allocation of fishery resources in adjacent coastal areas to non-residents, large offshore fishing fleets and foreign interests; and

WHEREAS the absence of application of the adjacency principle in the allocation of resources have created far-reaching social economic consequence in rural coastal communities;

BE IT RESOLVED, the Liberal government of Canada establish a “Declaration of Adjacency”, which shall be defined as the fundamental right of those living in Canada to have the first right of benefit from those resources that are in adjacent proximity to their communities and regions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the “Declaration of Adjacency” shall be the defining principle that forms the basis of managing the allocation of resources in the coastal areas and regions of Canadian provinces and territories; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, current allocations and practices are reviewed against the “Declaration of Adjacency” and appropriate adjustments made in instances where there is an absence of an application of the adjacency principle.

*Liberal Party of Canada (Newfoundland and Labrador)*



## **Infrastructure Spending Long Term Planning and Co-ordination**

WHEREAS the Federal government has designated \$11.9 billion over the next two years and \$125 billion over the next ten years for new and renewed infrastructure;

WHEREAS the Provincial Governments of Ontario and Quebec have recognized the importance of engaging in long term strategic planning for infrastructure and have passed legislation to facilitate such embedded scheduling;

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has included in its Jobs and Prosperity Act “Community Benefit Agreements” which will require contractors on large scale projects to develop recruitment initiatives for local construction and trade workers including veterans, aboriginals, women, youth and newcomers to Canada;

WHEREAS Province of Ontario in passing Bill 91 has budgeted for \$130 billion over 10 years including \$31.5 billion for roads, bridges and transit as well as emergency and priority infrastructure;

WHEREAS the Province of Quebec has committed to \$88.4 billion for infrastructure projects between 2015 and 2025 under the Quebec Infrastructure Plan;

WHEREAS the Province of Quebec has mandated Annual Management Plans for Public Infrastructure Investments;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada ask that the government Federal government show leadership in encouraging all provinces and territories to legislate long term plans for scheduling infrastructure projects in a coordinated fashion with the Federal budgeting process so that long term infrastructure needs in all provinces and territories can be met and planning for, with regard to cost sharing purposes.

*Liberal Party of Canada (Prince Edward Island)*



## **Maritime Immigration**

WHEREAS the Nova Scotia population is dwindling, and, as the Ivany Report indicates, one pathway to progress is through immigration; whereas there is a federal cap on the numbers permitted for immigration to Nova Scotia:

BE IT RESOLVED that the federal government remove the cap, encourage immigration to Nova Scotia and the Maritimes, especially in rural areas, and use temporary foreign workers as a pathway to permanent citizenship in order to help sustain the region and stimulate growth.

*Liberal Party of Canada (Nova Scotia)*



## Poverty Reduction: Minimum Income

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada, in consultation with the provinces, develop a poverty reduction strategy aimed at providing a minimum guaranteed income.

### Rationale:

The ever growing gap between the wealthy and the poor in Canada will lead to social unrest, increased crime rates and violence. Research indicates that a guaranteed basic income can reduce this gap, and create social security while being cost neutral. Savings in health, justice, education and social welfare as well as the building of self-reliant, taxpaying citizens more than offset the investment. *Mincome* was an experimental basic income project that occurred in Dauphin, Manitoba during the 1970s. The project, funded jointly by the Manitoba provincial government and the Canadian federal government, began with a news release on February 22, 1974, and was closed down in 1979. The purpose of this experiment was to determine whether a guaranteed, unconditional annual income caused disincentive to work for the recipients, and how great such a disincentive would be.

A final report was never issued, but Dr. Evelyn Forget conducted an analysis of the program in 2009 which was published in 2011. Forget found that in the period that *mincome* was administered, hospital visits dropped 8.5%, with fewer incidents of work-related injuries, and fewer emergency room visits from car accidents and domestic abuse. Additionally, the period saw a reduction in rates of psychiatric hospitalization, and in the number of mental illness-related consultations with health professionals.

*Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)*

[http://leadersandlegacies.com/2015/05/01/goodbye-welfare-hello-basic-income/web25.uottawa.ca/academic/health/ipph/EvelynForget\\_phiric.pdf](http://leadersandlegacies.com/2015/05/01/goodbye-welfare-hello-basic-income/web25.uottawa.ca/academic/health/ipph/EvelynForget_phiric.pdf)



## **National Water Security Strategy**

WHEREAS water is a fundamental requirement for life, liberty and the security of the individual;

WHEREAS numerous Canadian communities have, or continue to have water shortages and water quality challenges;

WHEREAS water security faces increasing risk due to climate change;

WHEREAS commercial water rights and permits are being sold for much less than fair value to Canadians;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada update and implement the 1987 Federal Canada Water Policy, with additional attention to:

- Access to safe drinking water as a human right,
- Establishing priorities for the use of water and regulations for the sale of water,
- Mapping, developing and protecting the inventory of Canadian water resources,
- Regulating industrial and commercial waste water emissions to the highest standards.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada consult with all the provinces, territories, First Nations, Metis, Inuit, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and all other relevant stakeholders to develop a comprehensive national water policy.

*Liberal Party of Canada (Saskatchewan)*  
*Co-sponsor: Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)*



## **Condemning All Forms of Islamophobia**

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada Constitution states that the Liberal Party subscribes to the protection of the fundamental rights and freedoms of persons under the rule of law;

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada's core values statement affirms that we believe in the dignity of every person;

WHEREAS the 42nd General Election saw a sharp increase in the politics of fear and division, including Islamophobic acts, such as the Peterborough Mosque fire;

WHEREAS there has been a significant increase in recorded Islamophobic acts committed in 2015 that have included harassment, violent attacks, murders, arson, graffiti, property damage and death threats against Muslims;

WHEREAS the Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau has repeatedly declared he is 'deeply disturbed' by the increasing Islamophobia in Canada, and joining governments from around the world in condemning such heinous acts towards Muslim communities.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada makes a concerted effort to counter prejudice and hate and develop policies specific to the reduction and elimination of Islamophobia in all of its forms;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada strike a Task Force for the Elimination of All Forms of Islamophobia;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Task Force be forwarded to the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, Cabinet and all MPs to be used as the Government of Canada's strategic vision to eliminate all forms of discrimination and hatred.

*Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)*





## Palliative and Home Care

WHEREAS thousands of Canadians suffer unnecessarily each year because they have no access to palliative care, which unduly increases the use of emergency healthcare<sup>1</sup>;

WHEREAS palliative care improves the quality of life of patients and families;

WHEREAS publicly funded and administered health care is increasingly under pressure to cut services<sup>2</sup>;

WHEREAS delivery of long-term care, home care, mental health services and comprehensive pharmaceutical and wellness programs is neither universal nor consistent in its quality and support across Canada, with only 15% having access to quality palliative care<sup>3</sup>;

WHEREAS national Pharmacare, the sale of marijuana, and less demand for acute care will result in savings that can be redirected to home and palliative care;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Federal Liberal Government craft new, fully cost accounted legislation to implement, in cooperation with the Provinces and Territories, national programs in home and palliative care that are universal and accountable and complementary to the Canada Health Act<sup>4</sup>;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Federal Liberal Government establish, implement and enforce measurable Standards of Quality Care through legislation to ensure compliance;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such standards include integration of palliative care across all sectors of the health care continuum not just at end of the patient care; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Federal Liberal Government make innovation in healthcare delivery a priority, with consideration given to the successful Canadian cooperatives model and to the most successful European nations<sup>5</sup>.

*Liberal Party of Canada (Alberta)*

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<sup>1</sup> Church, E. (2016). Canadians lack proper access to palliative care, study finds. The Globe and Mail. Retrieved from <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/canadians-lack-proper-access-to-palliative-care-study-finds/article28122378/>; Blackwell, T. (2015). Last month of life costs health- care system \$14k on average: report. The National Post. Retrieved from <http://news.nationalpost.com/news/canada/last-month-of-life-costs-health-care-system-14k-on-average-report>

<sup>2</sup> Stunden Bower, S. and Campanella, D. (2013). From Bad to Worse: Residential elder care in Alberta. Parkland Institute. Retrieved [http://www.parklandinstitute.ca/from\\_bad\\_to\\_worse\\_residential\\_elder\\_care\\_in\\_alberta](http://www.parklandinstitute.ca/from_bad_to_worse_residential_elder_care_in_alberta)

<sup>3</sup> See note 1; Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association Inc. (2012). CLHIA Report On Long-Term Care Policy: Improving The Accessibility, Quality And Sustainability Of Long-Term Care In Canada Retrieved from [https://www.clhia.ca/domino/html/clhia/CLHIA\\_LP4W\\_LND\\_Webstation.nsf/resources/Content\\_PDFs/\\$file/LTC\\_Policy\\_Paper.pdf](https://www.clhia.ca/domino/html/clhia/CLHIA_LP4W_LND_Webstation.nsf/resources/Content_PDFs/$file/LTC_Policy_Paper.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Parliamentary Committee on Palliative and Compassionate Care. (2011). Not to be Forgotten: Care of Vulnerable Canadians. Retrieved from <http://pccpc-cpspsc.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/ReportEN.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Baxter, R. et al. (2014). How is the positive deviance approach applied within healthcare organizations: A systematic review of methods used. BMC Health Services Research. 14 (Supp 2), 7. Retrieved from <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6963/14/S2/P7>; Girard, J. (2014). Better health and social care: How are co-ops and mutual boosting innovation and access worldwide: An international survey of co-ops and mutual at work in the health and social care sector. Montreal: LPS Productions. Retrieved from [http://www.ica-ap.coop/sites/all/themes/ica\\_theme/ica\\_images/International-survey-co\\_op-and-mutual-Health-and-social-care-CMHSC-14.pdf](http://www.ica-ap.coop/sites/all/themes/ica_theme/ica_images/International-survey-co_op-and-mutual-Health-and-social-care-CMHSC-14.pdf); Canadian Co-operative Association. (2011). Co-operatives: Building blocks for an innovative economy. Retrieved from [http://www.coopscanada.coop/assets/firefly/files/files/CDI\\_Renewal\\_Proposal\\_FINAL\\_EN.pdf](http://www.coopscanada.coop/assets/firefly/files/files/CDI_Renewal_Proposal_FINAL_EN.pdf)



## **Gender Parity on Corporate Boards**

WHEREAS women comprised 47.3% of the paid labour force in Canada but only 20.8% of board directors of companies on the Canadian Stock Index in 2014, so that Canada ranks 15th among major industrialized countries for women on boards, a decline from ninth in 2011 and sixth in 2009;

WHEREAS many industrialized countries have made significant progress by enacting gender representation laws with minimums set at 40%, a figure adopted in 2012 by the European Commission and subsequently by the European Parliament;

WHEREAS there is a positive correlation across most industries between the percentage of women corporate officers and a company's financial performance, and there are other advantages such as greater breadth of perspective and more innovation, which benefits customers, employees, and shareholders;

WHEREAS in 2009, Quebec amended the *Act Respecting the Governance of State-owned Enterprises* to require provincial Crown corporations to have equal numbers of men and women on their boards and to reflect the diversity of Quebec by 2011;

WHEREAS Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has been praised around the world for appointing a diverse, gender-balanced Cabinet; and

WHEREAS in December 2015, Senator Céline Hervieux-Payette introduced Bill S-207 to address balanced representation on certain boards;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to enact and implement Bill S-207, *An Act to modernize the composition of the boards of directors of certain corporations, financial institutions and parent Crown corporations, and in particular to ensure the balanced representation of women and men on those boards.*

*National Women's Liberal Commission*



## **Homelessness and Affordable Housing**

WHEREAS the objective of housing policy should be to encourage availability of affordable housing for Canadians and affordable housing is increasingly difficult to find - especially in large cities such as Vancouver and Toronto;

WHEREAS current housing patterns give rise to legitimate concerns about urban sprawl, greenhouse gas emissions, and inefficient land use;

WHEREAS some observers have raised questions about the influence of trading, speculation, or purchases by offshore buyers on land values and little reliable data is available to answer questions of this nature for real estate markets in Canada;

WHEREAS the government of Canada could consider a wide range of measures to encourage availability of affordable housing;

BE IT RESOLVED the Liberal Party of Canada make it a priority to have the federal government work urgently with provincial and municipal governments to encourage housing affordability, especially in major cities, by making use of appropriate policy levers available to the federal government;

BE IT RESOLVED the Liberal Party of Canada urge the federal government to consider measures to:

- develop better data on the operation of the housing markets, including on the impact of foreign investment
- increase supply of affordable housing, including rental, by providing financial support or other incentives, or by creating dis-incentives to leaving housing units vacant
- close loopholes in the existing tax regime as it pertains to housing transactions, and to strengthen compliance with tax provisions
- improve energy efficiency in newly built housing

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a national housing action plan be developed as a matter of urgency that will produce affordable safe housing for Canadians at all income levels and implement the initiatives identified in the 2015 LPC platform.

*Liberal Party of Canada (British Columbia)*



## **Northern Infrastructure**

WHEREAS Investments in infrastructure is critical to the advancement of northern economies;

WHEREAS the north is a significant contributor to the future of Canada both nationally and on the international stage (sovereignty);

WHEREAS there are unique engineering challenges faced in the north due to climate change, permafrost and cold conditions.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada will recommend to the government that through government to government relationships, will be a strong partner assisting the territorial and municipal governments established in Yukon and Yukon First Nations governments in the development of appropriate infrastructures through significant financial contributions especially in the following areas: housing, 2<sup>nd</sup> fiber optic cable, road and airport development and upgrades, and energy infrastructure.

*Liberal Party of Canada (Yukon)*



## **Acting on Indigenous Youth Suicide Prevention**

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada has previously committed, through policy resolutions, to pursuing proper and adequate mental health care strategies;

WHEREAS Canada's Minister of Health and the Provincial Health Ministers have agreed to the need to tackle mental health issues, funding, and access;

WHEREAS mental health issues impact 20% of Canadians during their lifetime;

WHEREAS suicide is the major cause of death amongst Canadians aged 15-24 and is typically interconnected with mental health issues;

WHEREAS Health Canada research highlights that suicide rates amongst First Nations youth is 5-7 times, and Inuit youth is 11 times, the national average, compared to that of non-Indigenous youth;

WHEREAS the community of Pimicikamak Cree Nation, like many other Indigenous communities, have declared a state of emergency; with Pimicikamak Cree Nation dealing with six suicides in the last two months and over 140 attempts in the last two weeks alone;

WHEREAS the situations facing Indigenous youth are not only mental health related, but also reflective of Canada's colonial history and dismantling of Indigenous cultures, languages, and way of life;

BE IT RESOLVED the Liberal Party of Canada work with Indigenous communities, organizations, and nations on ways to begin healing, reconciling, as well as implementing mental health and suicide prevention strategies;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Liberal Party of Canada continue to work with Indigenous communities, organizations, and nations to restore and assist with the re-establishment of Indigenous cultures, languages, and ways of life.

*Aboriginal People's Commission of Canada*



## Protecting LGBTQ2+ Rights & Refugees

WHEREAS LGBTQ2+ refugees fleeing persecution still face a complex array of challenges and threats at all stages of displacement, including discrimination, prejudice, violence, difficulty accessing humanitarian services, and barriers to articulating their protection needs during asylum procedures and other interactions with protection and humanitarian workers;

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has honored international agreements on LGBTQ2+ rights and refugees, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convention Civil and Political Rights, and the United Nations Convention for Refugees;

WHEREAS the Minister of Foreign Affairs may authorize export permits for items included on Canada's Export Control List, including military-grade equipment, unless the exports intended use is to commit human rights violations, as per Global Affairs Canada Export Controls;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada encourages the Government to appoint a Minister of LGBTQ2+ Equity, and establishes a Department 'LGBTQ2+ Equity Canada', and to proactively provide refuge to LGBTQ2+ refugees fleeing potential persecution because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada encourages the Government to work with the United Nations, and national governments to advocate for the establishment of a United Nations Envoy on LGBTQ2+ Rights.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada will encourage the Minister of Foreign Affairs to exercise their responsibility in denying export permits for states determined and identified by the United Nations to have threaten the safety or security of human life because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

*Young Liberals of Canada*



## **Public Hearings on the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP)**

WHEREAS the Trans Pacific Partnership [trade] Agreement (TPP), signed but not yet ratified by Canada, sets binding rules for regulating commerce between its 12 member countries in the 21st century;

WHEREAS concerns about the TPP publicly expressed in Canada include the following:

- climate change is not mentioned in the TPP's more than 6000 pages, and its provisions may restrict what the federal and provincial governments can do to meet Canada's international obligations to reduce carbon emissions;
- enforcement of the TPP's environmental and labour chapters would be virtually impossible;
- a Canada – US side deal on eventual mutual standards for dairy products will lead to bovine growth hormone in our milk, which is banned in the EU, and has never been allowed in Canada;
- the previous government offered compensation packages to the auto and dairy sectors for the losses they are expected to suffer;
- new patent rules will lock in exorbitant prescription drug prices in Canada, and make life-saving medicine unaffordable in other TPP countries;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the government of Canada, working with the provinces and territories, to undertake a pan-Canadian consultation on the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) by conducting public hearings across the country before parliamentary consideration of its ratification.

*Liberal Party of Canada (Québec)*



## **Pension Reform**

WHEREAS many Canadians save for their retirement through pension plans offered by their employers and the employer contribution to the company pension plan represents deferred earnings for the employee, constituting employee savings;

WHEREAS this participation is a condition of employment so not voluntary;

WHEREAS the contributions including both employee earnings and deferred earnings are currently not protected by law and may not be available to provide retirement income;

WHEREAS other savings by Canadians are protected by law through the Canadian Deposit Insurance Corporation, a Crown Corporation, for up to \$100,000 at each financial institution;

WHEREAS if a company becomes insolvent while its pension plan is not fully funded, the pensioners are not treated as secured creditors.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Federal Government establish a system to ensure that the contributions to employer pension plans are fully insured, and that any employer that offers a company pension plan based on employee/employer contributions must meet federal standards for the management of such pension plans while maintaining the separation of those funds from any other corporate obligations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to amend the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act so that the company's obligations to the pensioners are treated as a secured creditor under the Act.

*Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)*





## **A National Housing Strategy for Canadians**

WHEREAS federal leadership is required to address a comprehensive and nationwide housing strategy;

WHEREAS Canada is the only G8 country not to have a National Housing Strategy;

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada along with housing advocates and numerous organizations across Canada have long requested action on this issue;

WHEREAS the social and economic costs of not having safe, adequate, and affordable housing have been well documented;

WHEREAS affordable housing was an important part of the 2015 Liberal election platform (Fairness for the Middle Class) and there is a clear need for a National Housing Strategy to solve the shortages of subsidized, affordable, and emergency housing.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the federal government to prioritize the development of a comprehensive National Housing Strategy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the cost of developing a National Housing Strategy be covered by the promised social infrastructure funding.

*Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)*



## **Improving Youth Participation in Democracy**

WHEREAS significant steps could still be taken to enhance democracy in Canada such as improving accessibility to voting, and extending the right to vote to youth aged 16 and older;

WHEREAS there are substantial benefits to extending the right to vote to those aged 16 and above, with increased opportunities to engage and include youth in the democratic process, including the increased participation in the democratic process throughout their entire lifetime; and

WHEREAS indigenous youth are the fastest growing population demographic in Canada, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission final report recommendation #66 calls for a role in reconciliation that specifically involves youth;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada encourages the Government to introduce legislation that extends the right to vote in federal elections to those aged 16 and older;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada encourages the Government to ensure Elections Canada is given an increased mandate to educate youth regarding voting, the rights and obligations of citizenship, and how to inform oneself about the democratic process, and to implement additional measures to improve accessibility to voting, including online voting, and voting on secondary and post-secondary campuses;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada encourages the Prime Minister to ensure the Prime Minister's Youth Council has equitable representation from the national Indigenous organizations and their affiliates, and where membership strives toward proximate alignment with the provinces and territories.

*Young Liberals of Canada*



## **A National Sustainable Clean Energy Strategy for Canada**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada:

In consultation with provincial, territorial and municipal governments establish a comprehensive national sustainable clean energy strategy (following the United Kingdom and Australia energy strategies and models as outlined in the Building Consensus report); and a National Clean Energy Agency dedicated to the development and implementation of sustainable initiatives that shall include, but are not limited to the:

- Development of an east-west clean energy power grid and corridor that will eliminate interprovincial trade barriers, strengthen the federation and foster the Canadian national identity;
- Development of environmental stewardship based on biodiversity, land use, air and water quality indicators measured through continuous monitoring;
- Implementation of clean energy projects and training programs that improve quality of life and economic opportunities for all Canadians;
- Reviewing and, where appropriate, implementation of existing clean energy report recommendations;
- Development of strict guidelines and targets for reduced emissions, and timelines to ensure that these targets are met; and
- Implementation of financial incentives dedicated to encouraging a sustainable clean energy economy.
- Expansion of the mandate of the National Energy Board, or establish a separate regulatory board under the auspices of a Clean Energy Agency to ensure the implementation of and compliance to, the strategy.

Rationale:

A national clean energy strategy is essential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions responsible for global warming and for achieving a decarbonised economy.

Canada is seventh amongst G20 nations in clean energy investment, and lags significantly behind leaders in clean energy development including the United States and China.

*Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)*

<http://cleanenergycanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Tracking-the-Energy-revolution-Canada-.pdf>

<http://www.businesscouncil.mb.ca/images/Publications/EnergyEnvironment/kananaskisreportfinal.pdf>



## **Value Added Development of Canada's Resources**

WHEREAS Canada is blessed with an abundance of natural resources that have been and will continue to be an important component of Canada's prosperity;

WHEREAS value-added processing is, where practical, preferred over shipment of raw product promoted by the Harper government;

WHEREAS accelerated capital cost allowance (ACCA) is deferment of tax rather than a general rate reduction;

WHEREAS the ACCA has been the most cost-effective means for government to promote value addition to Canada's resources and to promote investment in manufacturing;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada recommends that the Government of Canada introduce a form of accelerated capital cost allowance for investment in resource upgrading and manufacturing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this be a permanent feature of corporate income tax to provide certainty for the planning of large investments in manufacturing and resource processing.

*Liberal Party of Canada (British Columbia)*



## **Medicare Coverage for the Treatment of Autism**

WHEREAS the rate of autism spectrum disorder (“ASD”) among Canadian children is now a shocking 1 in 68, constituting a national epidemic and, for reasons unknown, continues to rise;

WHEREAS Canada’s “universal” health care system currently excludes from coverage the recognized, effective, science-based treatment for ASD called Applied Behavioural Analysis (“ABA”), despite the deplorable incidence of this neurological condition and advocacy from numerous citizen groups;

WHEREAS the BC Supreme Court, in 2000, found that ABA was “medically necessary treatment” and that “there were no effective competing therapies”, a decision which was upheld on appeal to the BC Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada;

WHEREAS funding in Canada respecting ABA for ASD currently is not only grossly insufficient, it varies widely between provinces;

WHEREAS the lifetime cost of an individual receiving inadequate treatment (or none) for ASD is reliably estimated between \$2.4-\$3.2 million, excluding indirect costs to society;

WHEREAS the US Government requires all states to provide treatment for ASD as part of state-wide Medicaid programs and 43 out of 50 states require private health insurers to provide coverage for the ASD treatment;

BE IT RESOLVED the *Canada Health Act* be amended to include Medicare coverage for Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or, alternatively, the Government of Canada work with all provincial and territorial governments to ensure inclusion of ABA for ASD within their respective Medical Services Plans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Government of Canada provide funding to each province and territory to fully cover the costs associated with the provision of ABA treatment of ASD.

*Liberal Party of Canada (British Columbia)*



## **First Nations Housing**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada:

Work with design and construction experts and First Nations Communities to design and build housing suitable for use in First Nations communities.

Rationale:

First Nations must be involved in the development of housing for their communities based on historic and current cultural needs. Residents must have a vested interest in owning and maintaining the property, receive training in how to use resources appropriately, and receive training in how to build and maintain the homes. Structures must be developed, situated and maintained to be sustainable in reoccurring and extreme climate conditions.

*Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)*



## **Pharmacare – To Serve the Public and Save Billions of Dollars for Governments**

WHEREAS many Canadians cannot afford the drugs they need to maintain their health; Health outcomes are diminished when Canadians cannot afford to buy the pharmaceutical products they need;

WHEREAS Canada is the only industrialized country with a universal health plan, but no PharmaCare plan; (C. D. Howe Institute, 2013)

WHEREAS Canada has the second highest per capita spending on prescription drugs among members of OECD; (OECD, 2013)

WHEREAS Canadian taxpayers can potentially save up to \$11.4 billion/year if their prescription drugs get procured through a Pharmacare plan (Canadian Federation of Nurses Union, 2014)

WHEREAS currently the drug procurement across the country is managed through 46 different federal, provincial and territorial programs, each with its own administration, bureaucracy and price regime;

WHEREAS it is conceivable that the Federal Government agree with a cost-sharing program, if provinces commit to honour the broad guidelines of a national PharmaCare plan.

BE IT RESOLVED that The Liberal Party of Canada officially adopt the support for a national-universal PharmaCare program as one of its policy priorities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Liberal Party of Canada urge the government of Canada to seize this unique opportunity for serving the public and all levels of government to:

- reconvene the first ministers and the health ministers conferences that had this item on their agendas before getting unilaterally aborted by Mr. Harper in 2006;
- capitalize on its leadership and widespread national support to have a national PharmaCare plan in place within its first mandate.

*Liberal Party of Canada (Québec)  
Co-sponsored by the Seniors Liberal Commission*