

Ontario Young Liberals
Regional Policy Parliaments:
Policies Passed To Date

**Policies Passed at the Southwest,
Eastern, Toronto, Southcentral and
Central Policy Parliaments**

May 31, 2008



Chris Drew, OYL Policy Director – chris@oyl.org

Region Policy Parliaments: Policies Passed at the Southwest, Eastern, and Toronto, Southcentral and Central Policy Parliaments

Table of Contents				
Policy Title	Club	Author	Page	Result
A) Renewed Pan-Canadian Funding Model for Aboriginal Peoples Background Research	Glendon Young Liberals and St. Paul's Young Liberals	Ryan Singh and Ryan Dunn	4 5	Passed – TRPP Policy for OYL Summer Fling
B) Increase Early Outreach and Information about Post-Secondary Education Background Research	St. Paul's Young Liberals	Ryan Dunn	8 9	Passed – TRPP Policy for OYL Summer Fling
C) Reversing the Ban on MSM Organ Donation	Toronto Centre Young Liberals	Aaron GlynWilliams in collaboration with Michael Pelz	11	Passed – TRPP Policy for OYL Summer Fling
D) A Policy to Hold a National Day of Action on Poverty Reduction and to Support the Implementation of a National Child Care Plan in Canada	Ottawa-Centre Federal Young Liberal Association		12	Passed – ERPP Policy for OYL Summer Fling
E) Politique de Recyclage E) Recycling Policy		Patrick Levesque Patrick Levesque	13 14	Passed – ERPP Policy for OYL Summer Fling

Region Policy Parliaments: Policies Passed at the Southwest, Eastern, and Toronto, Southcentral and Central Policy Parliaments

Table of Contents				
Policy Title	Club	Author	Page	Result
F) Policy to Amend the Ontario Human Rights Code to Include 'gender identity' and 'gender expression' as Prohibited Grounds of Discrimination Background Information	Ottawa-Centre Federal Young Liberal Association	Ryan Dyck	15	Passed – ERPP Policy for OYL Summer Fling
			16	
G) Amendments to the 1985 Indian Act	University of Western Ontario Young Liberals	Chad Cowie	18	Passed – SWRPP Policy for Summer Fling
H) Childhood and Youth Obesity	University of Guelph Young Liberals		19	Passed – SWRPP Policy for Summer Fling
F) Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and Post-Secondary Students	University of Guelph Young Liberals		20	Passed – SWRPP Policy for Summer Fling
H) Awareness and Reduction of Anxiety Disorders Among Youth	McMaster Young Liberals	Kate Hatcher	21	Passed – SCRPP Policy for Summer Fling
I) Opt-in Organ Donations	McMaster Young Liberals	Jill Roberts	22	Passed – SCRPP Policy for Summer Fling

Region Policy Parliaments: Policies Passed at the Southwest, Eastern, and Toronto, Southcentral and Central Policy Parliaments

Policy Title	Club	Author	Page	Result
J) Policy on Enhancing Civic Education	Damien O'Brien	Brock Young Liberals	23	Passed – SCRPP Policy for Summer Fling
K) Proactive Health Regulations	Mississauga Erindale Federal Young Liberals	Husain Aboghodieh	24	Passed – CRPP Policy for Summer Fling
L) Elimination of Commercial Advertising on the CBC	Peterborough Federal Liberal Youth Association		25	Passed – CRPP Policy for Summer Fling
M) Student Book Assistance Program (SBAP) Policy	Bramalea—Gore—Malton Federal Young Liberals		26	Passed – CRPP Policy for Summer Fling
Background Information			27	

Renewed Pan-Canadian Funding Model for Aboriginal Peoples

Submitted by: Ryan Singh, Glendon Young Liberals and Ryan Dunn, St. Paul's Young Liberals

WHEREAS currently, a significant gap exists between the standard of living for Aboriginal Canadians and the standard of living for the rest of Canada

WHEREAS considerable investments in education, housing and infrastructure, health services, and human resources for aboriginal Canadians are needed to close the living standards gap and stimulate economic development

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Ontario is committed to the fair and equitable standard of living for all people in Canada

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Liberal Party advocate for a renewed pan-Canadian funding model for aboriginal peoples in order to rectify the existing living standards gap

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the new funding model address key areas such as education, health care, housing and infrastructure, and human resources.

[\[Table of Contents\]](#)

Background Research: Renewed Pan-Canadian Funding Model for Aboriginal Peoples

About the Kelowna Accord

On November 25, 2005, a national process of Aboriginal policy negotiation was concluded in Kelowna, British Columbia. At this First Ministers Conference on Aboriginal Affairs, the Prime Minister and the premiers agreed on a five-year, \$5 billion plan to improve the lives of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit peoples. Originally entitled: *First Ministers and National Aboriginal Leaders: Strengthening Relationships and Closing the Gap*, the plan would be more commonly known as the Kelowna Accord. The successful implementation of the Kelowna Accord would have seen the standard of living gap catch up to the rest of Canada by 2016. The Accord was hailed as a breakthrough for all aboriginal people. However, seventy-two hours later, Prime Minister Martin's budget was defeated, and the Kelowna Accord never came to fruition.

Investments in the Accord

The Kelowna Accord addressed some of the more pertinent issues with living standards for aboriginal people in Canada. The following is a brief summary of the investments and initiatives:

Relationships and Accountability

In the area of relationships and accountability the primary aspects of the plan were as follows:

- Implement all commitments at the First Ministers Meeting provincially in close conjunction with regional First Nations, Metis, and Inuit groups.
- Establish regional key performance indicators and monitor progress.
- An annual two-day meeting between Aboriginal Affairs ministers and national Aboriginal leaders, including a First Nations forum, a Metis forum, and an Inuit forum.

Education

According to a 2007 report from the Centre for the Study of Living Standards, in 2001, 52.2% of Aboriginal Canadians 15 and over were high school graduates, compared to nearly 70% of non-Aboriginal Canadians. Moreover, only 23% of Aboriginal people aged 18 to 29 reported having completed their post-secondary education, compared to 43% in the rest of Canada.

This divide has a direct impact on labour force participation and standard of living. This gap also represents a void of cultural capital within the aboriginal community.

Region Policy Parliaments: Policies Passed at the Southwest, Eastern, and Toronto, Southcentral and Central Policy Parliaments

The protection of the aboriginal identity in the educational process is paramount to maintaining a cultural identity in Canada, however without significant capital investments these objectives will not be achieved.

The Kelowna Accord called for a \$1.8 billion investment in education in order to:

- increase the high school graduation rate of aboriginal people to equal the rest of Canada (22,000 more high school graduate over the next 5 years)
- increase the post-secondary completion rate by 50% (14,800 graduates in the next 5 years and 37,000 graduates over the next 10 years)

Health Care

Health issues facing aboriginals have a significant impact on the standard of living gap. According to a Prime Minister's Office report in 2005, the infant mortality rate among aboriginal people was 20% higher than the rest of Canada; aboriginal people were three times more likely to have type 2 diabetes; and the suicide rates of aboriginal people was anywhere from 3 to 10 times more common than the rest of Canada.

Each of these health issues represents a significant problem given the advancements in healthcare and health education.

The Kelowna Accord called for a \$1.3 billion investment in health care for aboriginal people in order to:

- reduce child mortality, child obesity, diabetes and youth suicide by 20% over a five year period
- double the number of health care workers by 2016; specifically 150 doctors and 1,200 nurses)

Housing and Infrastructure

Estimates calculated by the PMO project that the on-reserve housing shortage is 20,000 to 35,000 units and increasing. Off the reserve, aboriginal people have a 76% higher housing need than the rest of Canada. Moreover, on-reserve, one of the greatest threats to the well being of aboriginal people is the purity of the drinking water for people.

To alleviate the housing and infrastructure concerns, the Kelowna Accord called for \$1.6 billion to:

- reduce the on-reserve housing deficiency by 40% over the next 5 years.
- reduce the off-reserve housing access gap by 50% over the next 5 years.
- earmark \$400 million to address the need for clean water.

Region Policy Parliaments: Policies Passed at the Southwest, Eastern, and Toronto, Southcentral and Central Policy Parliaments

Human Resource Investment

According to Statistics Canada, in November 2005, the unemployment rate for aboriginal people was 19.1% (off-reserve) and 29% (on-reserve) with a median income of \$16,000 / year. Where as, the rest of Canada, at this time, had an unemployment rate of 7.4% with a median income of \$25,000.

The Kelowna Accord called for a \$200 million investment in human resources in order to:

- increase aboriginal employment levels by 30% over the next 5 years
- increase the median income for aboriginal people by \$4,500 over the next 5 years.
- introduce internet access to 250 aboriginal communities over the next ten years.

The Numbers

Below is a financial breakdown of the \$5 billion investment in the Kelowna Accord

(in \$ Millions)	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	Total
Education	95	264	408	484	549	1800
Housing and Infrastructure	500	275	275	275	275	1600
Human Resource Investment	40	40	40	40	40	200
Health Care	137	218	309	320	331	1315
Other	39.5	32.5	32	27	39	170
Total	811.5	829.5	1064	1146	1234	5085

Numbers Related to the Policy

Since the Kelowna investment projections were done in 2005, it is naïve to think that an identical investment would yield a similar outcome. Below is a projected investment chart according to the CPI increases from November 2005 to March 2008.

(in \$ Millions)	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	Total
Education	99	276	427	506	574	1882
Housing and Infrastructure	523	288	288	288	288	1673
Human Resource Investment	42	42	42	42	42	209
Health Care	143	228	323	335	346	1375
Other	41	34	33	28	41	178
Total	848	867	1112	1198	1290	5316

(The CPI index for November 2005 is 107.7 and March 2008 is 112.6. This yielded an inflation index of 1.04549675)

Increase Early Outreach and Information about Post-Secondary Education

Submitted by: Ryan Dunn, St. Paul's Young Liberals

WHEREAS low-income students tend to have low participation rates in post-secondary education;

WHEREAS recent government initiatives seek to address the financial barriers to post-secondary education for low-income students;

WHEREAS low-income students do not have access to the same cultural capital as middle and high income students;

WHEREAS early outreach and increased information about post-secondary education for low-income students can reduce the void in cultural capital; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Liberal Party look to increase early outreach and information about post-secondary education to all students in grade 7 and 8.

[\[Table of Contents\]](#)

Background Research: Increase Early Outreach and Information about Post-Secondary Education

Definitions

Cultural Capital: The concept of cultural capital is simple: children pick up the attitudes, habits and modes of thought and speech from one's parents and other family members. Therefore, parents and family members who are educated tend to have a greater degree of cultural capital. Moreover, parents who are educated tend to have higher income levels. Therefore, income tends to be, but not always, directly correlated to education levels.

Relevance

The concept of cultural capital affects children in two ways: vocabulary and comprehension, and ambition.

Vocabulary and Comprehension

Children from more educated families tend to hear more words than those from poorer families, in that same vein, the level of discussion that occurs and the comprehension of abstract ideas that children pick up is increased. Evidence shows that at age 15 students from more educated families have a higher reading comprehension than those in poorer families. In Canada, this gap is equivalent to one year in schooling. This gap can curtail the participation rates of youth from poorer families because of the classroom divide that occurs.

Ambition

Children who come from educated families are assumed to take the same educational path as their parents. At a very early age it is projected that children will go off and complete at least one post-secondary degree. This is not the same for students who come from families without post-secondary education. The assumption that one will go on to pursue post-secondary studies subconsciously shapes the way they approach their studies, namely, high school is a step before university. In order to take that step certain academic standards must be achieved.

The Power of Information and Early Outreach

Early outreach programs such as Head Start and No Child Left Behind are aimed at closing the cultural capital gaps. These programs aim at giving students the necessary skills, confidence, and environment to examine all possibilities with the utmost potential. More recently, Dr. Phil Oreopoulos from the University of Toronto has been conducting research about financial information and behavioral changes among low income families. He has started to expand his research to measure the impact of information on post-secondary participation. Preliminary results from the financial information study indicates that low-income families tend to have less information about social services and financial assistance than middle and high income families. The preliminary research

Region Policy Parliaments: Policies Passed at the Southwest, Eastern, and Toronto, Southcentral and Central Policy Parliaments

about education and information indicates that low-income families do not possess accurate information about the costs and benefits to education.

References

Looker, Dianne, and Graham S. Lowe, 2001 "Post-Secondary Access and Student Financial Aid in Canada: Current Knowledge and Research Gaps," A Background Paper for a Canadian Policy Research Networks Workshop on Post-Secondary Access and Student Financial Aid, 1 February 2001, Ottawa.

Oreopoulos, Phil (2006). "Does Human Capital Transfer from Parent to Child? The Intergenerational Effects of Compulsory Schooling" (with Marianne Page and Ann Stevens) *Journal of Labor Economics*, Vol. 24, No. 4, October 2006, pp. 729-760.

Oreopoulos, Phil. "Helping Complete College Financial Aid Applications: Evidence from a Randomized Trial with H&R Block" (with Eric Bettinger and Bridget Long) (in progress)

Usher, Alex (1998). "Income-Related Barriers to Post-Secondary Education," Council of Ministers of Education, Canada Working Paper as part of Postsecondary Education Project, Learner Pathways and Transitions, October, 1998.

[\[Table of Contents\]](#)

Reversing the Ban on MSM Organ Donation

Submitted By: Aaron GlynWilliams, Toronto Centre Young Liberals in collaboration with Michael Pelz, University of Western Ontario Young Liberals

WHEREAS Canada suffers from severe organ shortages and maintains one of the lowest organ donation rates in the world;

WHEREAS thousands of Canadians wait in hope for organs;

WHEREAS all donated organs undergo extensive tests to guard against transmission of HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis-C, and other debilitating diseases;

WHEREAS there have been no reported cases of organ recipients receiving HIV/AIDS and/or Hepatitis-C from organs donated by gay men;

WHEREAS as per the recommendations of Canada's medical community, screening efforts should focus on dangerous sexual activity independent of sexual orientation;

WHEREAS Health Canada's stipulation that gay men who have engaged in sexual activity since 1977 are ineligible to donate organs is counterproductive and void of credible scientific information, moreover, such policies avoid addressing unsafe sexual practices in the heterosexual community;

WHEREAS the Federal ban on organ donations from gay men promotes regrettable stereotypes which denigrate the gay community; and,

WHEREAS the ban on gay male organ donations reduces the already small amount of organs available for donation; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the recent ban on MSM organ donations be overturned;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Health Canada refocus its efforts on enhanced screening and education programs about potentially risky sexual activities for all groups, independent of their sexuality; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Health Canada strive to promote equality and tolerance between all Canadians, and that all significant policy decisions be completed in consultation with the Canadian Medical community.

[\[Table of Contents\]](#)

A Policy to Hold a *National Day of Action* on Poverty Reduction and to Support the Implementation of a National Child Care Plan in Canada

Submitted by: the Ottawa-Centre Federal Young Liberal Association

WHEREAS Premier Dalton McGuinty has identified poverty reduction as one of the government's priorities and continues to provide additional funding to support families and individuals most in need;

WHEREAS the Ontario Young Liberals are equally dedicated to reducing poverty in Ontario;

WHEREAS children and youth are disproportionately affected by poverty;

WHEREAS the provinces are in need of the Federal government's support in combating poverty and tackling the problems with child care;

WHEREAS the Federal Government must recognize the strong need for an effective national child care plan to assist working families;

WHEREAS the Federal Government holds with it the necessary resources and necessary supports from stakeholders to implement a national child care plan for all Canadians;

WHEREAS the *Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada* has voiced its shame on the Federal Government's cut of nearly \$1 billion to child care in the 2007 budget and have made the claim that tax credits do not build a system for most families in need of child care;

WHEREAS it is unacceptable that in 2006 the number of new child care spots opening up decreased by almost half compared to the increases each year between 2001 and 2004;

WHEREAS the Federal government must be urged to take action on child care and to create forward moving solutions to reduce poverty in Canada; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Eastern Ontario Young Liberals urge the Federal government to implement a long-term national child care plan while working in partnership with the provinces; and,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Eastern Ontario Young Liberals support having a nation-wide Day of Action to raise awareness for poverty reduction in Ontario and across Canada.

Politique de Recyclage

Présenté par: Patrick Levesque

Attendu que souvent, les appartements n'offrent pas d'accommodements permettant à leurs locataires de recycler et que plusieurs résidents ne recyclent pas, tout simplement parce qu'aucun services adéquats ne leurs sont offert;

Attendu qu'il y a souvent très peu de raisons incitant les propriétaires à offrir de tels services, puisqu'il n'existe aucun encadrement légal ou conséquence lorsqu'aucun service de recyclage n'est offert;

Attendu que les manufacturiers produisent cinq kilogrammes de déchets afin de produire un kilogramme de marchandise disponible au consommateur et qu'à chaque jour, en Amérique du Nord, nous produisons suffisamment de déchets pour remplir 70,000 camions à vidanges. Après une année, s'ils étaient tous alignés de pare-choc à pare-choc, ils atteindraient une distance équivalente à la moitié de la distance terre-lune;

Il est résolu que le gouvernement provincial attribue des fonds pour aider des municipalités à mettre en place des programmes et des services de recyclage extensifs et faciles d'accès dans les appartements et les autres types de résidences à plusieurs unités, là où aucun n'existe déjà ;

Il est en outre résolu que ce programme inclut aussi les appartements et résidences qui possèdent un service de recyclage inadéquat;

Il est en outre résolu que cette campagne constitue un programme pilote qui, par la suite, s'étendrait afin d'inclure d'autres participants tels : les restaurants, les commerces au détail, etc.

Il est en outre résolu qu'un ensemble de directives sur le programme de recyclage soit implémenté, afin d'assurer une homogénéité parmi les participants du programme.

Recycling Policy

Submitted By: Patrick Levesque

WHEREAS apartments often do not provide adequate recycling facilities for their tenants and many residents do not recycle simply because the service is not adequately offered to them;

WHEREAS there is often little impetus for landlords to provide such services, as there is no legal framework or ramification for not providing recycling facilities; and,

WHEREAS manufacturers produce five kilograms of waste in order to produce one kilogram of consumer goods and in North America, we produce enough waste to fill 70,000 garbage trucks each day. Lined up bumper to bumper, over a year, they would stretch halfway to the moon; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the provincial government establish a fund to assist municipalities with implementing extensive and easy recycling programs in apartments and other multi-unit residences, where none already exist;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this program extend to other apartments and residences that have substandard recycling programs as well;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a set of legally mandated recycling guidelines be established and implement, so as to ensure homogeneity among program participants; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this campaign act as a pilot program that would eventually expand to include other actors, such as: restaurants, retail, etc.

Policy to Amend the *Ontario Human Rights Code* to Include ‘gender identity’ and ‘gender expression’ as Prohibited Grounds of Discrimination

Submitted By: Ottawa-Centre Federal Young Liberals

WHEREAS transsexual and transgender people have no explicit human rights protection in Ontario;

WHEREAS transsexual and transgender people regularly experience harassment and discrimination in employment, housing, health care, education and access to public services on the basis on their gender identity and expression;

WHEREAS the Ontario Human Rights Commission has stated that “there are, arguably, few groups in our society today who are as disadvantaged and disenfranchised as transgenderists and transsexuals”;

WHEREAS the Ontario Human Rights Commission has further stated that for transsexual and transgender people “fear and hatred combined with hostility towards their very existence are fundamental human rights issues”;

WHEREAS the people and Government of Ontario hold as a fundamental principle their responsibility “to recognize the dignity and worth of every person and to provide for equal rights and opportunities without discrimination”;

WHEREAS article 2.1(g) of the Constitution of the Ontario Young Liberals identifies the promotion of gender equality as a core objective of the association; and,

WHEREAS the Northwest Territories has established a precedent in Canada by amending section 5(1) the *Northwest Territories Human Rights Act* in 2004 to include protection from discrimination or harassment on the basis of ‘gender identity’; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Young Liberals urge the Government of Ontario to amend the *Ontario Human Rights Code* to include ‘gender identity’ and ‘gender expression’ as prohibited grounds of discrimination for all purposes of that legislation.

Policy Background Information

Submitted by: Ryan Dyck, Ottawa Centre Federal Young Liberals

Transsexual and transgendered individuals are routinely harassed and discriminated against in communities across Ontario, and across Canada. They face transphobia and transmisogyny on a daily basis, they are excluded from public spaces and from receiving public services, they experience chronic unemployment and/or homelessness, their families often reject them, and they experience a disproportionately high rate of suicide. In short, they are in dire need of explicit protection from discrimination.

The Ontario Human Rights Commission defines gender identity as the following:

Gender identity is linked to an individual's intrinsic sense of self and, particularly the sense of being male or female. Gender identity may or may not conform to a person's birth assigned sex. The personal characteristics that are associated with gender identity include self-image, physical and biological appearance, expression, behaviour and conduct, as they relate to gender.

At birth, a child is assigned a gender by a health care professional based on observation of the child's genitalia. Society makes the assumption that based on this medical assessment a child will grow up to exhibit correspondingly masculine or feminine behaviours and appearances. However, this is not always the case. A person's felt identity or core identity may differ in part or in whole from their birth assigned sex. Individuals whose birth-assigned sex does not conform to their gender identity include transsexuals, transgenderists, intersexed persons and cross-dressers.

Until recently, the most academically accepted estimates indicated that 1 in 11,900 biological males are trans-identified, and 1 in 30,400 biological females are trans-identified.^{1*} Most recently, a new study conducted in the United States – awaiting publication – suggests that gender identity disorder (GID) prevalence may be as high as 1 in 505 for biological males, and 1 in 3,347 for biological females².

In the recent past, if protected at all trans-identified individuals have been tenuously protected under the grounds of disability, and, more recently, sex. There exists no explicit protection for trans people in the Code. In fact, the Northwest Territories is the only region in Canada to include protection on the basis of gender identity within its human rights legislation. A few cities, such as Toronto and Ottawa, have included such protection in their respective municipal bylaws. Federal NDP MP Bill Siksay has twice introduced a private member's bill in the House of Commons proposing an amendment to the *Canada Human Rights Act*. Bill C-326 carried through first reading in June 2006, but has not progressed since. Similarly, in March 2007 provincial NDP MPP Cheri DiNovo introduced the private member's bill entitled "Toby's Law" in the Ontario

¹ *Standards of Care for Gender Identity Disorders*, Sixth Version, Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, Inc. (February 2001), 2.

* It was generally believed that this study underestimated prevalence as it reflected only those individuals who had been assessed by gender identity clinics, and did not account for those who remained "in the closet" or transitioned successfully without detection or medical assistance.

² Mary Ann Horton, Ph.D., "The Prevalence of SRS Among US Residents," draft submitted for publication to the *International Journal of Transgenderism* (30 March 2006), 6.

Region Policy Parliaments: Policies Passed at the Southwest, Eastern, and Toronto, Southcentral and Central Policy Parliaments

Legislature proposing an amendment to the *Ontario Human Rights Code*. “Toby’s Law” was carried through first reading, but has not been reintroduced since the October 2007 general election. To date, no representative of the Liberal Party either federally or provincially has introduced such a bill.

In 1998, the British Columbia Human Rights Commission made a recommendation to the BC Legislature that the *BC Human Rights Code*, pointing to the “inadequacies in dealing with this type of discrimination under the existing categories [of sex/gender and disability]”. Further, the 2000 Report of the Canadian Human Rights Act Review entitled *Promoting Equality: A New Vision*, asserted that “to leave the law as it stands would fail to acknowledge the situation of transgendered individuals and allow the issues to remain invisible. . . We recommend that gender identity be added to the list of prohibited grounds of discrimination in the Act.”

Amendments to the 1985 Indian Act

Submitted By: Chad Cowie

WHEREAS Canada and its legislation continues to refer to those under the Indian Act as “Indians within the meaning of the Indian Act (Chapter 27, Statutes of Canada – 1985);

WHEREAS a majority of the Indigenous populations take offence to being referred to as Indians as the term is generally in meaning to those who are culturally/ethnically linked to the nation of India;

WHEREAS it is the 21st century and Canada continues to use a colonial and archaic term when referring to the first peoples of North America;

WHEREAS currently those elected to Chief and Council are not held accountable to the people who elect them into office;

WHEREAS the only people Chief and Council must report to/listen to are the Federal Government of Canada, specifically the Minister of Indian Affairs and those within the Ministry of Indian Affairs;

WHEREAS this clause has allowed many Chief and Councils to take advantage of those who elect them all in order to benefit themselves or those who they deem fit to;

WHEREAS the lack of accountability/recall to those who elect them has led to undemocratic methods and the current system allows them to continually do this with no negative consequences on themselves until their mandate is up;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federal Government of Canada meet with various First Nations groups, leaders, and communities to discuss a possible changing of name for the Ministry of Indian Affairs and all legislation related;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federal Government of Canada take no longer than one year to work on a name change for Indian Affairs in order to allow a proper amount of time to discuss what is best suited in the eyes of those who are within the Indian Act (Chapter 27. Statutes of Canada - 1985);

BE IT RESOLVED THAT once a new name is changed, the Federal Government of Canada has up to five (5) years to amend/change any items that must be updated to reflect the name change;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federal Government of Canada amend the Indian act to enforce accountability of Chief and Council to the people who elect them into their offices;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Federal Government of Canada only amend these two items with the consensus of the First Nations population who are recognized under the Indian Act (Chapter 27, Statutes of Canada – 1985).

Childhood and Youth Obesity

Submitted By: University of Guelph Young Liberals

WHEREAS Canada has one of the highest rates of childhood obesity in the developed world, ranking fifth out of 34 OECD states; and

WHEREAS in March 2007, the non-partisan Standing Committee on Health produced the report *Healthy Weights for Healthy Kids*, in which the Committee makes twelve recommendations that address the fear that today's children will be the first generation for some time to have poorer health outcomes and a shorter life expectancy than their parents; and

WHEREAS a particularly alarming finding of the Committee is that First Nations and Aboriginal children and youth have a significantly high rate of obesity; and,

WHEREAS as today's overweight and obese children age, they will become tomorrow's overweight and obese adults; and

WHEREAS the epidemic of obesity is expected to increase dramatically, resulting in an amplified burdening on the healthcare and social systems.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Young Liberals support the twelve recommendations put forward by the Standing Committee on Health; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT in addition to supporting the *Healthy Weights for Healthy Kids* report, the Ontario Young Liberals recommend that Ontario high schools include a physical activity requirement for students to graduate from secondary school.

Note: Policy put forward by the University of Guelph Young Liberals in collaboration with Liz Sandals and the Hon. Carolyn Bennett.

Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and Post-Secondary Students

Submitted By: University of Guelph Young Liberals

WHEREAS autism spectrum disorders (ASD) is a complex neurological disorder that usually appears during the first three years of life;

WHEREAS people with ASD tend to have difficulty relating to others, problems with speech and non-verbal communication, and limited and repetitive interests and behaviour, such as hand flapping and rocking;

WHEREAS ADS affects nearly 1 in 165 children;

WHEREAS the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) provides funding for services to families with children that have ASD. Some of these services include summer and March Break camps;

WHEREAS a partnership between MCYS and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) has led to the creation of the Ontario College Graduate Certificate Program in Autism and Behavioural Science at six colleges or college consortia across the province;

WHEREAS more than 100 students graduated in 2006 from the Ontario College Graduate Certificate Program in Autism and Behavioural Science, and by 2008-2009 the target enrolment will be at least 200;

WHEREAS students attending school and working towards their Graduate Certificate Program in Autism and Behavioural Science need summer employment, preferably in their field; and,

WHEREAS Ontario has invested more than \$3.9 million this year in seasonal camps and other services that provide breaks for families of children with ASD; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT another partnership is formed between MCYS and MTCU for summer camps for children with ASD and students studying towards their Graduate Certificate Program in Autism and Behavioural Science;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this joint initiative between MCYS and MTCU provide grants for students working towards their Graduate Certificate Program in Autism and Behavioural Science to work for their summer acting as 'camp councillors' to 'campers' with ASD; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the families of children with ASD receive grants to attend these summer camps.

Awareness and Reduction of Anxiety Disorders Among Youth

Submitted By: Kate Hatcher, McMaster Young Liberals

WHEREAS anxiety disorders affect 12% of the population causing mild to severe impairment. While there are 6 types of anxiety disorders, as a group they represent the most common of all mental illnesses'

WHEREAS anxiety disorders are more prevalent among women, 16%, as opposed to men, 9%, it is among youth where anxiety has significantly increased. Between 1987 and 1994 there was a 52% increase in hospitalization for girls under the age of fifteen with anxiety disorders; a 49% increase for boys;

WHEREAS a study for 1999/2000 shows that the hospitalization for youth of both genders between the ages of 15-24 reached 8.4 million across the country for anxiety disorders;

WHEREAS anxiety disorders are common they have a detrimental economic impact. Anxiety disorders contribute to lost productivity due to both time away from work and unemployment. Other associated costs include claims on insurance;

WHEREAS anxiety disorders can be taxing on the health care system due to heavy use of the emergency department and primary care this contributes to significant health care costs;

WHEREAS anxiety disorders can be effectively treated in the community setting. This treatment is imperative in order to enhance the quality of life of individuals with anxiety disorder. Proper treatment can also help to prevent common secondary disorders, such as depression and substance use and abuse; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Young Liberals/McMaster Young Liberals advocate on behalf of creating community networks. These networks shall be where medical experts and professionals within the school systems can receive education, have access to adequate resources, and work in collaboration in order to properly diagnose and treat young individuals with anxiety disorder; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the OYL/MYL encourages the provincial governments to organize and run campaigns on youth anxiety to raise public awareness among parents and youth alike.

Opt-in Organ Donations

Submitted By: Jill Roberts, McMaster Young Liberals

WHEREAS there were 1,650 people on the waiting list for an organ transplant in Ontario in 2007, of which 147 people passed away. This equates to one person every three days that dies while waiting for a transplant.

WHEREAS 2006 statistics ranked Ontario's donor rates lower than the national average, with 13 donors per million, compared with 14 donors per million nationwide. Since that time, Ontario has made great strides with regards to increasing the number of organ donors in the province including reimbursing living donors for reasonable expenses, and the recent proposal to amend the Education Act in order to make organ donation education a mandatory component of the Ontario Secondary School curriculum. However, the donor rate is still too low to meet the demand for organ donation.

WHEREAS at present, Ontario requires donors to opt-in to donate organs, but final consent remains with the families even when a donor card has been signed.

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has approved donation after cardiac death; however, in waiting for family consent, the number of viable organs obtained from such donations is less than optimal; and,

WHEREAS an increase in the annual donor rate in Ontario by 50 (from 150 to 200) will result in an estimated cost savings of \$3.4 million to the province; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Young Liberals urge the Ontario Government to support a First Person Consent organ donation policy. According to first person consent, donors will continue to be required to opt-in to the system with the option of also obtaining an accompanying signature from a family member. The consent of the donor and family member will allow for organs to be automatically harvested instead of following the traditional method of waiting for family's final consent; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the current process of contacting family to obtain final consent shall remain in place in the case that a donors who opts-in to the systems does not obtain an accompanying signature from a family member.

Policy on Enhancing Civic Education

Submitted By: Damien O'Brien, President, Brock Young Liberals

WHEREAS in any democracy, a citizen has rights and responsibilities;

WHEREAS it is essential that in a democracy, citizens must be empowered through impartial education and knowledge to accurately vote their conscience;

WHEREAS when any citizen chooses not to vote, our democracy suffers for their voice having not been counted;

WHEREAS there is an unacceptable lack of emphasis in the public education system regarding democracy, civics and a practical knowledge of politics; and,

WHEREAS there is a great opportunity in the Province of Ontario to enhance the public education system to empower elementary and secondary school students in advance of them gaining the right and assuming the responsibility of voting; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Young Liberals call for the Government of Ontario to place demonstrably greater emphasis on civics and civic education in public education curriculum in both the elementary and secondary levels;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the OYL believes that new and existing teaching methods, including extra-curricular activities that are designed to emphasize the value of democracy, an appreciation of citizenship and a practical knowledge of politics should be used in addition to conventional methods of education;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the OYL believes that this curriculum, its development and delivery must be free of any partisan bias, and a code of ethics must be developed to enforce this; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the OYL calls on the Government of Ontario to create a terms of reference for a body to be established to steward the implementation of this policy including all relevant and necessary stakeholders (including but not limited to youth stakeholder groups).

Proactive Health Regulations

Submitted By: Husain Aboghodieh, President of Mississauga Erindale Federal Young Liberals

WHEREAS the children of a province and a nation are its future;

WHEREAS healthy children allows for a healthier community;

WHEREAS increasing costs in the healthcare system has become a large burden on governments; and,

WHEREAS proactive solutions are solutions that allow for early prevention; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Liberal Party to put in place measures that would ban all "junk food" sales in elementary schools; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT mandatory athletic exercises are put into place for all elementary students.

Elimination of Commercial Advertising on the CBC

Submitted By: Peterborough Federal Liberal Youth Association

WHEREAS commercial advertising on Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) television broadcasts, in online publications and in other media creates the potential to obstruct the free flow and exchange of cultural expression;

WHEREAS the radio services of the CBC are currently commercial free;

WHEREAS the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) currently operates without commercial advertising so that it is "free from both political and commercial influence and [answerable] only to its viewers and listeners" and is thus funded through a government-mandated television licensing fee;

WHEREAS a 2006 Senate Report on the Canadian News Media recommended the elimination of commercial advertising on the CBC; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Young Liberals strongly urge the Liberal Party of Canada to increase funding to the CBC to a level where commercial advertising is no longer required either through the implementation of a television licensing fee or other means; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the CBC continue to carry professional sporting events such as the NHL and the Olympics and that an exemption be made to allow commercial advertising during these broadcasts.

Student Book Assistance Program (SBAP) Policy

Submitted by: Bramalea—Gore—Malton Federal Young Liberals

WHEREAS the high cost of post-secondary education (PSE) is a barrier to entry for many potential students;

WHEREAS the cost of books is a significant part of the cost of PSE;

WHEREAS many students do not buy required textbooks because they cannot afford to do so;

WHEREAS reducing the costs associated with PSE would encourage more people to pursue higher education; and,

WHEREAS students should be able to focus on their studies and not have to work long hours to pay for school; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Young Liberals urge the Liberal Party of Canada to advocate for the introduction of a Student Book Assistance Program (SBAP), whereby the federal government pays the cost of books for all full-time and part-time students enrolled in the first year of an accredited post-secondary institution.

Student Book Assistance Program (SBAP) Policy: Background information

The cost of post-secondary education (PSE) in Canada has increased dramatically over the past twenty years. Statistics Canada reports that the average cost of tuition at a Canadian university rose by almost 400 percent between 1988 and 2007. Associated costs, including the price of textbooks, have also skyrocketed, leaving students and recent graduates with an unprecedented level of debt.

Statistics on the cost of textbooks are difficult to find. However, anecdotal evidence suggests that many students are unable to afford some or all of their required books. Publishers gouge students, who must purchase the publishers' products in order to pass their courses. Buying cheaper second-hand books is typically not an option: publishers release new versions annually or semi-annually, rendering previous versions obsolete. Texts are often packaged with extras such as interactive CDs, which drive up prices but are rarely used in class.

The Government of Canada currently provides an income tax credit to help defray the cost of textbooks. Full-time students are able to claim \$65 for each month of study and part-time students can claim \$20 per month. (It is also worth noting that although books are not subject to Provincial Sales Taxes, they *are* subject to the federal Goods & Services Tax.)

There are three main problems with the current income tax credit:

1. the amount of the credit is not associated with a student's actual textbook costs;
2. many, if not most, students do not make enough money to pay income tax in the first place; and
3. a credit does not help students pay for textbooks at the time of purchase.

Provincial governments tend to be hostile to attempts by the federal government to interfere in matters of provincial jurisdiction. As such, measures to freeze or reduce tuition vary from province to province, and the federal government is extremely wary of implementing any significant, nationwide program to address rising tuition costs.

This policy seeks to create a program to help post-secondary students nationwide cope with the financial burdens associated with pursuing higher education. The SBAP would address the shortcomings of the current textbook income tax credit by paying the entire cost of textbooks up front. By not imposing conditions on provincial governments (as in the *Canada Health Act*), it is hoped that this policy would avoid the interjurisdictional roadblocks that have heretofore made such programs impossible.

Region Policy Parliaments: Policies Passed at the Southwest, Eastern, and Toronto, Southcentral and Central Policy Parliaments
