

# **2008 OYL Policy Parliaments**

## **Policy Submission Guidelines**



**Author: Chris Drew, OYL Policy Director**

## **The 2008 OYL Policy Parliament Process**

Welcome to the 2008 OYL Policy Parliament process. The goal of the process is for young Liberals from across the province to come together to discuss, debate and prioritize policies we wish to advocate for in 2008.

OYL Policy Parliaments will take place in regions throughout Ontario during April and May, with an option of more taking place in the Fall of 2008. At the upcoming Policy Parliaments, OYL members will bring forward their policies, debate them, and the vote on which ones will move forward to the province-wide OYL Policy Parliament (also know as “OYL SummerFling”) which will take place in the Summer of 2008.

This is the first update in my role as Policy Director. I will be an extremely active Policy Director so this will be the first of many updates on the OYL policy process and policy opportunities in the Liberal Party, federal and provincial. The OYL Policy Parliaments are only one aspect of how you can get involved in the policy creation and advocacy side of the Liberal Party. More important on those aspects will be forthcoming and be part of the OYL 2008 Policy Action Plan.

Due to the timing of the OYL AGM and the by-election, the OYL Policy Parliaments are starting a little later than in previous years. Nevertheless, the OYL has a strong history of active policy parliaments and I have no doubt that this year will be no different.

Please considering submitting a policy as it will be a rewarding process for you on a personal level, and more importantly, with hard work you will be able to see your ideas implemented.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

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OYL Policy Director

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## The Importance of Policy

Policy is important for the Liberal Party as it allows the party, whether in government or not, to make a positive difference in the lives of the citizens of Canada and Ontario.

Policy is one way that as a Young Liberal you can voice your opinion and contribute to the development of solutions to a wide array of problems and issues. Policy resolutions adopted by the Ontario Young Liberals are presented to the Liberal Party as a whole for consideration. Young Liberal policy plays a vital role in promoting progressive policy positions within the Liberal Party of Canada and the Ontario Liberal Party. OYL policies can be a base from which to lobby for change, and those policies adopted by the Ontario Liberal Party and Liberal Party of Canada becomes official party policy.

The process is challenging and satisfying. It is an excellent vehicle for attracting new members and motivating current members. Policy discussion and policy resolutions are another way that Young Liberals can make a difference in Ontario, in Canada and toward their future<sup>1</sup>.

## What Should I Write Policy About?

Policy can be developed on almost any issue. Your policy can either be federal or provincial in nature. Past examples of policies have included issues such as:

- the humanitarian crisis in Dafur
- the ratification of Kyoto
- permitting same-sex marriage
- improving affordable housing
- investing in public transit
- organ donations
- removing the GST on environmentally friendly products
- and recognition for foreign-trained professionals.

Choose an issue that is important to you, one that you are passionate about. There are no limits to what you can write about, and do not be shy to propose ideas that may stray from the status quo. Members of riding and student clubs are encouraged to submit policy proposals for issues they believe are important

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<sup>1</sup> Block, Andrew. "OYL Policy Manuel 2006" Ontario Young Liberals.

## Building a Policy Resolution

Policy provides solutions to problems or issues within a society. It also serves to develop a clear framework for what are often complex and unclear issues. Policy provides direction and establishes tangible goals for the organization to pursue. There are three key elements to policy:

- Identifying the problem or issue
- Outlining the possible methods to approach the issue
- Deciding on how the organization intends to reach its goals

Policy resolutions are statements that outline a problem and then offer solutions to solve it.

### *Research and Background information*

It is recommended and completely optional that in addition to a one-page policy, another document is included that provides background research on the rationale for your policy. This research will help to strengthen the case of your policy and will allow for more information on your policy that may not be able to be incorporated into your presentation or the question and answer session. For an example of background research from previous years, please see Appendix Two for more information.

## Policy Requirements and Submission Guidelines

### *Building a Policy Resolution*

Policy is typically written in a format known as a **resolution**. There are two main components to policy resolution: the “Whereas” statements and the “Be it Resolved” statements. Whereas statements describe the circumstances surrounding the issue and highlight the need for a policy resolution on the issue. The Be It Resolved section of the resolution outlines the proposed actions to be undertaken. That is where you outline a proposed solution to the issue or problem. Each action to be undertaken should be given its own Be it Resolved statement<sup>2</sup>.

Please see **Appendix One** for examples of previous policies.

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<sup>2</sup> Block, Andrew. “OYL Policy Manual 2006” Ontario Young Liberals.

***Submission Requirements***

All policies must be submitted in Microsoft Word format and should no longer than one 8.5 by 11 inch page. Please assist the editing process by using Arial 12 point font.

***Policy Approval Process***

Each region will be permitted to pass five regional priority policies. Each policy will be presented by the author for five minutes (depending on the number of policies in a region, this could be three minutes), followed by a brief question and answer period. Amendments will be permitted if the author is agreeable and if the amendment does not substantially change the policy. Only one amendment per policy will be permitted. All policies will be displayed on a powerpoint presentation and one copy of the policy will be available per person.

Once all of the policies have been presented, a vote will take place where members will rank their priority policies. The top five will move forward to SummerFling.

***Summary of the Approval Process***

- Maximum number of policies from each riding or student club: 3
  - Each club may write one addition policy with another riding or student club
- Policies per region: 3 (final number to be determined)
- OYL priority policies to be decided at the AGM: 5
- OYL policies for LPC(O)'s Policy Convention: 10 (Federal policies only)

***Deadlines***

Policies from Eastern and Southwest regions must be submitted to Chris Drew by April 18, 2008 at 12:00PM.

## Appendix One

### Measuring Post-Secondary Education Policy Submitted by: the Toronto Centre Young Liberals

**WHEREAS** information regarding the quality of education available at Ontario post-secondary institutions is both inadequate and unreliable, making it difficult for students to make educated choices about their future;

**WHEREAS** the Government of Ontario has increased funding and access to post-secondary education, resulting in 86,000 more students in post-secondary institutions but has failed to provide those students with the flexibility to pursue educations of their choice;

**WHEREAS** the current labour market requires increasing levels of theoretical and technical education to ensure productivity and success;

**WHEREAS** the lack of such information presents a significant obstacle to many post-secondary students, making it unnecessarily difficult for students to pursue further education, often forcing them to repeat pre-learnt course materials;

**WHEREAS** the lack of such information makes it difficult for immigrants to measure their current level of education by Canadian standards, and also further their education in the country based on existing knowledge;

**WHEREAS** in the 2005 report commissioned by the Government of Ontario, specific recommendation where made regarding the transferability of credits that have yet to be pursued;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the OYL ask the Government of Ontario establish a centralized Council on higher education, reporting to the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, to advise the Government on how to achieve its targets and measures for improvement, on performance and outcomes, and co-ordinate research on higher education, and encourage best practices; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the OYL urge Government of Ontario take the steps necessary to increase the information available regarding the quality of education at its post-secondary institutions by mandating said council to evaluate credits at various Ontario institutions based on a standard benchmark, and make this information public so that it may be used by students in selecting an institution and by institutions in the transfer of credits;

## Appendix Two

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Submitted by: Yuri Navarro, Toronto Centre Young Liberals

New immigrants with foreign education and work credentials are courted every year to come to Canada where they are told they can establish a new and prosperous life. Immigrants account for approximately 50% of Canada's population growth and the Government of Canada spends millions every year on advertising campaigns and immigration programs meant to encourage the flow of educated individuals to our country; the current point-based immigration model places a specific emphasis on individuals with both English language skills, and post secondary education. In 2003, the province of Ontario became home to over 50% of Canada's new immigrants, 70% of which had at least some level of post secondary education, 40% of which had at least one University degree.

Unfortunately, many of our new immigrants encounter significant hurdles in finding employment related to their education and training. Although the numbers vary from one study to another, all studies seem to agree that over 50% of new immigrants are still unable to find employment in their field of expertise; of which one of the most significant outcomes is poverty. According to a recent Statistics Canada study, nearly one in every five immigrants who arrived between 1990 and 2000 is living in a state of chronic low income, despite their high average level of education. Such poverty leads to desperation and can often lead to the kind of violence which is seen today in our poorest neighbourhoods. Although there are currently some independent and government sponsored organizations which provide assistance to new immigrants in the form of mentorship and internship programs (such as TRIEC, Career Bridge, WES), a more centralized approach is required to effectively address the problem. Most new immigrants report that programs which currently exist to help integrate them into the workforce are either too difficult to locate or do not have sufficient capacity to accommodate the number of immigrants entering the country (119,887 in Ontario in 2003).

On the other side of the issue, employers admit to being concerned about the qualifications which foreign professionals possess; 40% of employers surveyed in a survey conducted by Price Waterhouse, admitted to setting aside résumés with foreign credentials because they felt they could not judge the value of such credentials. The Conference Board of Canada estimates that the resulting unemployment and underemployment of immigrants costs the economy as much as \$5-billion a year in lost production. What's more, many experts including Professor Joerg Dietz of the University of Western Ontario's Richard Ivey School of Business are predicting that, according to current figures, 100% of our labour force growth will have to come in the form of immigrants by 2011. Already 27% of Ontario's population is made up of people born in a country other than Canada (44% in the Toronto CMA); many of whom have either already gained their citizenship or plan to do so.

It is important that the Government of Ontario properly and effectively address the concerns of this community for not only the good of our economic future but the good of the province as a whole. This policy addresses the issue at hand by recommending a three pronged approach of legislation, education, and funding; while still working within the framework of Bill 124, Fair Access to Regulated Professions Act.

**Increasing Access to Gainful Employment for Internationally Trained Professionals Policy  
Submitted by: Yuri Navarro, Toronto Centre Young Liberals**

**WHEREAS** the acceptance and integration of new immigrants is necessary to maintain and increase economic and population growth in the Province of Ontario;

**WHEREAS** despite higher levels of education per capita, new immigrants are facing poverty at three times the level of Canadians born and educated in the Country, leading to desperation and social unrest;

**WHEREAS** the inability to adequately incorporate internationally trained persons into the economy by allowing them to practice in their fields of expertise costs the country upwards of \$5 billion per year in economic opportunity;

**WHEREAS** Bill 124, the Fair Access to Regulated Professions Act does not address more specifically the issue of recognition of foreign credentials in regulated professions including but not exclusive to: engineering, architecture, accounting, finance, medical professions, and teaching;

**WHEREAS** Bill 124, the Fair Access to Regulated Professions Act does not address the specific issue of assisting foreign trained professionals to achieve gainful employment in their field through pressuring for the recognition of foreign work experience in their field;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the OYL ask the Government of Ontario to further promote the integration of internationally trained persons at the regulatory level by asking the Access Centre for Internationally Trained Individuals to establish standardized guidelines and/or a point system to judge the educational value of foreign credentials against those gained in Ontario, and make said information public so that it may be used by both employers and regulatory organizations in determining the qualifications of individuals based on their international credentials;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the that the OYL urge the Government of Ontario to further promote the integration of internationally trained persons at the regulatory level by asking the Fairness Commissioner to establish guidelines to prevent discrimination based on “foreign experience” and put enforceable measures into place to ensure that both regulatory organizations and employers do not place undue hardship on internationally trained professionals based solely on the origin their education and experience;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the OYL encourage the Government of Ontario to further promote the integration of internationally trained persons at the organizational level by creating a mandate for the Access Centre for Internationally Trained Individuals to enter into relationships with professional organizations in order to promote the recognition of international credentials and experience through the use of mentorship programs, financial incentives and educational campaigns; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that where significant regulatory hurdles exist that will limit the ability of internationally trained individuals to attain gainful employment in their field of practice, and where such hurdles cannot be reasonably removed so as to ensure quality standards in said field of practice, this information be made public internationally through the Access Centre for Internationally Trained Individuals so that prospective immigrants may adequately prepare for such hurdles upon immigrating to Canada.