

# Toronto Centre Young Liberals:

## 2007 Policy Documents



**TORONTO CENTRE**  
*Young Liberals*

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## Letter from TCYL

Monday, May 28, 2007

The Toronto Centre Young Liberals (TCYL) has a lot to be proud of after the Ontario Young Liberals (OYL) Toronto Region Policy Parliament, which was held on Saturday, May 26, 2007. TCYL submitted four policies:

1. "Measuring Post Secondary Education Policy" written by Yuri Navarro;
2. "Internationally Trained Professionals Policy: Increasing Access to Gainful Employment for Internationally Trained Professionals" written by Yuri Navarro;
3. "Improving Fluorescent Lamps Recycling Policy: Instruction Requirements, Collection Methods, and Recycle Promotion " written by Adlan Taramov; and,
4. "Promoting the Use of Cycling for Commuting Policy: Building Healthy Communities, Creating Healthy Citizens" written by Chris Drew.

Within the riding of Toronto Centre, the Ryerson Young Liberals submitted a policy entitled "Reducing Transit Fees for Post-Secondary Education: Increasing Affordability for Post-Secondary Education".

### **Here are some highlights from a great day for TCYL:**

- TCYL came with the **most** number of people compared to any other club;
- TCYL was one of only *two* clubs that submitted *four* policies;
- TCYL was the only club where three different members wrote policies, where 50% of the policies came from new members, and two policies were put forward by one new member;
- All of the policies were edited, reviewed, supported, printed, and assisted by many TCYL members;
- The policies, compared to the other clubs, provided the most **detailed** and **comprehensive** amount of background information;
- The background information for the policies was supported by *academic research* and provided *comparisons* to other jurisdictions;
- TCYL was the only club to have its own powerpoint presentations, and printed information packages;
- The policies were the most **innovative** and **specific**;
- When it came to voting for each policy, *three* of our four policies passed *unanimously*;
- TCYL was the loudest club present, asked the most number of questions, spoke passionately, and showed excellent team spirit when presenting its policies.

In particular, **Adlan Taramov** and **Yuri Navarro** deserve special recognition for their hard work, excellent research for their policies, passionate and articulate presentations, and showing a great amount of initiative. Everyone's lives are very busy, so to show this kind of commitment to the OYL's policy process is impressive.

Of the four policies TCYL submitted, a policy written by its partner organization, the Ryerson Young Liberals, was voted into the top three to move forward to the OYL's SummerFling Policy Conference this summer. TCYL will once again come out in force to the OYL's SummerFling, and looks forward to actively participating in the debates, passionately speaking on the issues that matter to the residents of Toronto Centre, and making decisions based on what we believe is in the best interests of our country and our province.

The TCYL policies brought forward **relevant issues** and we will be asking the Toronto Centre Provincial Liberal and Federal Liberal Associations to *adopt* them, and *move* them forward to the Ontario Liberal Party and Liberal Party of Canada's policy approval bodies. In addition, we will be sending all of the policies to a wide-range of experts, party officials, members, and representatives in an effort to get our ideas implemented and increase awareness of the important issues.

On a personal note, I have never felt so proud and privileged to be part of a Liberal-related group as I am with TCYL. The policy parliament came after a busy week for TCYL where we had a Victory Day social, volunteering at the Bollywood Fundraiser, and a movie social.

On behalf of the Toronto Centre Young Liberals,

Sincerely,



Chris Drew,  
President, Toronto Centre Young Liberals (Federal)  
VP Federal, Toronto Centre Young Liberals (Provincial)  
Secretary, Ryerson Young Liberals

## Education:

# Measuring Post Secondary Education



**TORONTO CENTRE**  
*Young Liberals*

*Submitted by the  
Toronto Centre Young Liberals (TCYL)*

**OYL Toronto Policy Parliament**

**May 26 2007**

**York University at Glendon Campus  
Toronto, Ontario**

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Education is key to the success of any modern society in that the education level of a given population has the power to affect not only their social and cultural characteristics, but their economic success as well. Today's job market is requires higher-levels of both theoretical and hands-on education each year, a trend that is not expected to subside. Unfortunately, as outlined in the 2005 Rae Report, there are many hurdles that line the road to a better and more effective educational system in Ontario, most of which require significant amounts of funding and consultations to address. This policy addresses one specific recommendation as outlined in the Rae Report: the transferability of post secondary education credits from one institution to the next.

As of the release of the Rae Report in 2005 there were 18 Universities and 24 Colleges in Ontario alone. Our Universities are home to 280,000 fulltime undergraduate, 69,000 part-time and 33,000 graduate and research students. In addition to this massive number, Ontario's College system is home to 162,000 full-time and 175,000 part-time students. Unfortunately, these two major silos of the educational system in Ontario have largely remained separate since their conception in the 1960's, due mainly to "strong resistance to collaboration"<sup>1</sup> between them. The result has been that many post-secondary students are made to choose between one form of education and the other; a problem that makes it difficult for students to take advantage of the strengths each can offer.

With the current lack of reliable and standardized information regarding the quality of education available at our institutions, it is difficult for students to make the right choice when embarking on their post-secondary careers. Often students are left to rely on information available through magazines and periodicals to make their decisions; information which is often conflicting and difficult to comprehend. Most students will admit that it is unusual to stay fixed on one educational path throughout their post-secondary career without deviating in at least some manner. For some this may mean pursuing an unanticipated minor in political science, while for others it could mean switching entire programs, and still for others this may mean changing institutions outright. It is not uncommon for students to find that an institution is a poor fit and opt instead to pursue their education elsewhere. Regrettably, under our current system this type of change could be a significant setback as there is no way of guaranteeing what credits could be transferred to the new institution. When looking at transferability between the silos the problem only worsens as such assessments are often left in the hands of the receiving institution alone where biases can, and often do affect the judgement.

It is important that we encourage the kind of flexibility needed to improve our educational system and allow our students to pursue the education of their

choice. In the words of the Hon. Bob Rae, “We must achieve greater transparency and fairness regarding credit recognition and transfer between institutions.”<sup>1</sup> The most effective way of addressing this issue is to allow for the standard grading of post-secondary credits so as to make them readily transferable.

**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;<sup>1</sup>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;

**SOURCES:**

- <sup>1</sup>Hon Bob Rae. *Ontario A Leader in Learning, Report and Recommendations*. Feb 2005. URL:  
[http://www.uwo.ca/pvp/president\\_reports/documents/RaeFinalReport.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/pvp/president_reports/documents/RaeFinalReport.pdf)
- <sup>2</sup>Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. 2007. URL:  
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/tcu/>
- <sup>3</sup>Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance. *Rae Expected To Call For \$1.5b For Higher Ed: Former Premier To Present Education Report Next Week*. National Post. Feb 4 2005. URL:  
[http://www.ousa.ca/sef/in\\_the\\_news/id/74.html](http://www.ousa.ca/sef/in_the_news/id/74.html)
- <sup>4</sup>Council of Ontario Universities. 2007. URL:  
<http://www.cou.on.ca/>
- <sup>5</sup>Colleges Ontario, the voice of Ontario colleges. 2007. URL:  
[http://www.collegesontario.org/client/collegesontario/colleges\\_ontario\\_lp4w\\_Ind\\_webstation.nsf/Index.html?Readform](http://www.collegesontario.org/client/collegesontario/colleges_ontario_lp4w_Ind_webstation.nsf/Index.html?Readform)
- <sup>6</sup>Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada. 2007. URL:  
[http://socrates.uacc.ca/index\\_e.html](http://socrates.uacc.ca/index_e.html)
- <sup>7</sup>Engineers Canada. Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board. 2007. URL:  
[http://www.engineerscanada.ca/e/ccpe\\_boards\\_2.cfm](http://www.engineerscanada.ca/e/ccpe_boards_2.cfm)

## **Internationally Trained Professionals Policy:**

**Increasing access to gainful employment for  
internationally trained professionals**



**TORONTO CENTRE**  
*Young Liberals*

***Submitted by the  
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**OYL Toronto Policy Parliament**

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## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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: the 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.

**SOURCES:**

- <sup>1</sup>Hon. Mike Colle. *Bill 124, Fair Access to Regulated Professions Act, 2006*. Legislative Assembly of Ontario. 2007. URL:  
[http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills\\_detail.do?locale=en&BillID=421](http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&BillID=421)
- <sup>2</sup>Keung, Nicholas. *Newcomers face issues*. Metro News. Pg 1. May 1, 2007.
- <sup>3</sup>Jiménez, Marina. *Immigrants Battle Low Income*. Globe & Mail. Pg A5. Jan 31, 2007.
- <sup>4</sup>*Provincial government support for internationally trained individuals achieving results*. Government of Ontario, CNW News Group. January 21, 2007. URL:  
[http://ogov.newswire.ca/ontario/GPOE/2005/01/31/c8551.html?lmatch=&lang=\\_e.html](http://ogov.newswire.ca/ontario/GPOE/2005/01/31/c8551.html?lmatch=&lang=_e.html)
- <sup>5</sup>*Many good ways for employers to tap into skilled immigrant talent pool*. Human Resources Professionals of Ontario. Nov 2005. URL:  
<http://www.hrpao.org/NR/rdonlyres/48BB004E-18C6-498F-BDC8-EBE9684E9791/0/BusExecNov2005.pdf>
- <sup>6</sup>TRIEC, Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council. 2007. URL:  
<http://www.triec.ca/index.asp?pageid=0>
- <sup>7</sup>World Education Services. *International Academic Credential Evaluation*. 2007. URL:  
<http://www.wes.org/ca/>
- <sup>8</sup>Career Bridge Program, For Internationally Qualified Individuals. 2007. URL:  
<http://www.careerbridge.ca/>
- <sup>9</sup>The Maytree Foundation. 2007. URL:  
<http://www.maytree.com/index.asp?section=1&art=loanprogram>
- <sup>10</sup>CICIC, Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials. 2007. URL:  
<http://www.cicic.ca/en/index.aspx>
- <sup>11</sup>CITPT, Centre for Internationally Trained Professionals & Tradespeople. 2007. URL:  
<http://www.cftpt.org/index.aspx>

## Improving Fluorescent Lamps Recycling Policy:

**Instruction Requirements, Collection  
Methods, and Recycle Promotion**



**TORONTO CENTRE**  
*Young Liberals*

***Submitted by the  
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**OYL Toronto Policy Parliament**

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**York University at Glendon Campus  
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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>FLUORESCENT BULBS</u></b></p> <p>First invented in 1856, fluorescent lamps were brought to wide commercial use in 1938, by General Electric. They had much higher energy efficiency than the incandescent lamps but were unpopular because of few disadvantages related with slow starting and flickering of a lamp.</p> <p>In 1980s, Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL) was introduced and the most important advance in fluorescent lamp technology (including in CFLs) has been achieved - the gradual replacement of magnetic ballasts with electronic ballasts; this has removed most of the flickering and slow starting traditionally associated with fluorescent lighting.</p>
<p>CFL is designed to fit into roughly the same space as an incandescent lamp, but with the advantages of a fluorescent lamp.<sup>1</sup> CFL, has significant advantages in comparison to incandescent lamps:</p> <p>Fluorescent lamps are more efficient than incandescent light bulbs of an equivalent brightness. This is because a greater proportion of the power used is converted to usable light and a smaller proportion is converted to heat. A typical 100 Watt incandescent lamp may convert only 2.6% of its power input to visible light, whereas typical fluorescent lamps convert between 6.6% and 15.2% of their power input to visible light.</p> <p>Fluorescent lamp will last between 10 to 20 times as long as an equivalent incandescent lamp (8,000 and 15,000 hours, whereas incandescent lamps are usually have a life span of 750 hours or 1000 hours).</p> <p>For a given light output, CFLs use between one-fifth of the power of an equivalent incandescent lamp, thereby saving significant amounts of energy and reducing the need for electrical generation. For industrialized countries, lighting makes up about one fifth of electricity consumption, so there are potentially significant benefits. A CFL can save over \$35 in electricity costs over the lamp's lifetime compared to an incandescent lamp.<sup>2</sup></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>MERCURY</u></b></p> <p>Unfortunately, fluorescent bulbs present significant downsides. Fluorescent lamps on average contain small amounts (10 - 75 milligrams) of mercury, a substance which is a toxic health hazardous liquid metal.</p> <p>Mercury is detrimental to health, and should the lamp break, exposure to the substance can be hazardous.<sup>3</sup> Exposure to mercury may cause damage to the brain, kidneys, as well as developing fetuses.</p> <p>In addition, exposure may cause coma and the loss of vision. Exposure to mercury can occur from breathing contaminated air or ingestion of contaminated water or food.</p>	

<sup>1</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fluorescent\\_bulb](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fluorescent_bulb)

<sup>2</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fluorescent\\_lamp#Advantages\\_over\\_incandescent\\_lamps](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fluorescent_lamp#Advantages_over_incandescent_lamps)

<sup>3</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LED\\_lamp#Adaptation\\_hurdles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LED_lamp#Adaptation_hurdles)

Mercury is particularly dangerous to children and pregnant women; A casual relationship has been established between central nervous system damage as well as birth defects and mercury exposure.<sup>4</sup>

Based on data from the Centers for Disease Control, the US EPA estimated that 10 % of Women of child-bearing age have levels of mercury that double their risk of having babies born with mental or neurological problems.

Over 60,000 of newborns annually might be at risk for adverse neurodevelopmental effects exposure to methylmercury (95 % of mercury found in fish is in the form of methylmercury, - neurotoxin, and a particularly toxic form of mercury).<sup>5</sup>

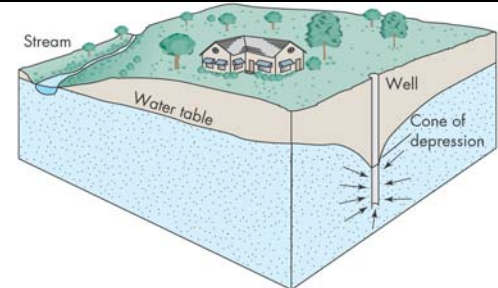
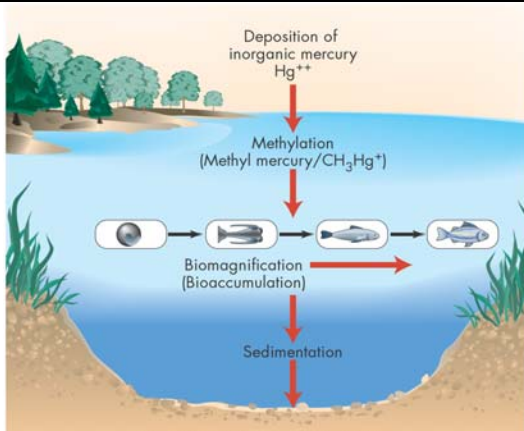


### **MERCURY POLLUTION**

When products containing mercury are disposed of improperly through the use of landfills or incinerators, the mercury is exposed to the atmosphere and deposited. Mercury easily absorbs into soil, travels through surface water and settles in bottom sediment of rivers and lakes.

Only ~20% of the ~11.6 t of mercury used in lamps in the U.S. in 2001 was recycled, a new U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) study shows. Much of the rest either wound up in domestic landfills or municipal-waste incinerators (47%) or was released into the air when lamps broke during transport and handling (25%).<sup>6</sup>

Small amounts of mercury are able to produce devastating consequences. The mercury from one fluorescent light tube, approximately 23mg, can contaminate 30,000 liters of water above recognized safe drinking water limits.<sup>7</sup>



According to Environment Canada, waste lamps, whether broken or intact, contribute approximately 1150 kg/yr of mercury to landfill each year, bound to phosphor substance in the glass. Mercury may be emitted with

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.mercola.com/article/mercury/mercury\\_elimination.htm](http://www.mercola.com/article/mercury/mercury_elimination.htm),

<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=1473138>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.newmoa.org/prevention/topic/subsection.cfm?hub=22&subsec=13&nav=13>

<sup>6</sup> october 1, 2006 / Environmental Science & Technology n 5829

<sup>7</sup> (<http://atlanticweb1.ns.ec.gc.ca/epb/newsletters>)

methane gas or may be absorbed into the soil of landfills. These releases can be reduced through recycling and safe disposal of lamps.<sup>8</sup>

**CURRENT CHALLENGES TO PROPER DISPOSAL**

Provincial governments in Canada are mainly concentrating on voluntary reduction of mercury in lamps by manufacturers. The Canada-wide Standard for mercury-containing lamps takes a pollution prevention approach to reducing environmental releases of mercury, by reducing the mercury content of lamps sold in Canada.



The manufacturers of mercury-containing lamps have reduced the mercury content of standard 4-foot T-12 lamps, with the average content declining from 48 mg/lamp in 1985 to 12 mg/lamp in 2000. Ongoing efforts to further reduce mercury content will translate directly into reduced emissions due to breakage and reduced mercury going into landfills<sup>9</sup>.

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.ccme.ca/assets/pdf/merc\\_lamp\\_standard\\_e.pdf](http://www.ccme.ca/assets/pdf/merc_lamp_standard_e.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> (Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, CANADA-WIDE STANDARD for MERCURY-CONTAINING LAMPS)

<sup>10</sup> <http://news.thomasnet.com/companystory/513880>

In the United States, under the voluntary commitment, effective April 15, 2007, NEMA members will cap the total mercury content in CFLs of less than 25 watts at 5 milligrams (mg) per unit. The total mercury content of CFLs that use 25 to 40 watts of electricity will be capped at 6 mg per unit. NEMA is launching a website, [www.cfl-mercury.org](http://www.cfl-mercury.org), where CFL manufacturers conforming to the voluntary commitment on mercury will be listed.<sup>10</sup>

But the main challenges presented by the lack of recycling and collecting centers, coupled with inadequate information regarding proper disposal of burned-out and broken lamps, remain currently unresolved.

Instructions on how to properly dispose broken or burned-out residential or industrial fluorescent light bulbs exist, but there is no special legislation that would enforce manufacturers to put, the necessary instructions on any of their packaging.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR PROPER DISPOSAL OF A CFL:**

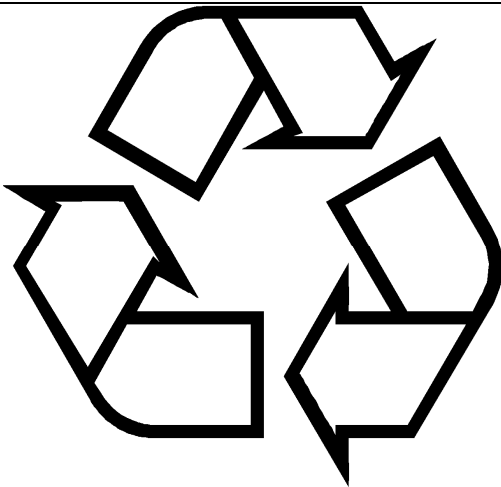
*“If a CFL breaks in your home, open nearby windows to disperse any vapor that may escape, carefully sweep up the fragments (do not use your hands) and wipe the area with a disposable paper towel to remove all glass fragments. Do not use a vacuum. Place all fragments in a sealed plastic bag and follow disposal instructions above.”*

(<http://www.nema.org/lamprecycle/epafactsheet-cfl.pdf>)

This set of instructions was found on the NEMA ([National Electrical Manufacturers Association in USA](http://www.nema.org)) website and in order to promote well-informed consumers, this type of information must be included on the relevant packaging.

The population is poorly informed about the mercury content in CFLs and related recycling. A recent Survey by Environment Canada shows that only 30 % of the respondents are recycling at least some of their mercury waste.<sup>11</sup>

According to American Environment Science and Technology journal, in October 2006, recycling rate for commercial and industrial users of mercury containing lamps in US was only 28 %. Residential users, which account for the other third of fluorescent lamps in use, recycled a mere 2%. Disposal of spent household bulbs is unregulated.



**RECYCLING**

There is a need for broken or burned-out CFLs to be brought to special reception centers, and then transported to mercury reclamation facilities. On the contrary, the current recycling system creates very little incentive for people to recycle fluorescent bulbs. The current structure is not only inconvenient but places the complete burden of disposal on the citizens of Ontario.

For example according to the City of Toronto's Safe disposal options for fluorescent tubes compact light bulbs, in order to recycle fluorescent bulb, a person has to:

- Drop off fluorescent tubes and compact light bulbs at one of the City's six Solid Waste

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.ec.gc.ca/nopp/docs/fact/en/mercOntHpl.cfm>

- drop-off depots that take household hazardous waste*
- *Make an appointment with Toronto's "Toxics Taxi" service by calling 416-392-4330 if you have a minimum of 10 liters or up to a maximum of 50 liters of household hazardous waste to pick up your HHW (although it is hard to imagine someone storing 10 liters of mercury at the house)*
  - *Bring fluorescent tubes and compact light bulbs to your local Community Environment Day event. (municipality of Toronto)<sup>12</sup>*



Moreover, fluorescent bulbs are not legally considered hazardous waste in Ontario<sup>13</sup>, which makes solution of recycling inadequacies impossible for municipalities. An inadequate recycling system is currently coping with an increase in usage and therefore waste, of fluorescent lamps. Without the necessary policies and infrastructure in place, dangerously high levels of mercury pollution in households across Ontario are a realistic and foreseeable consequence.

**LONG-TERM DEMANDS AND CONSEQUENCES**



The government of Ontario announced its plans to ban incandescent lamps by 2012 in order to cut the local energy consumption. This type of action will inevitably, increase the demand for reception and reclamation facilities in the Province. The appropriate number of facilities needs to be in place, in order to meet this increased demand. The banning of conventional incandescent light bulbs and their replacement with fluorescent ones will dramatically increase levels of mercury in the air, land and water pollution of the Province. Considering all mercury related health hazards, this may increase pressure on our health care system that is already suffering from widening gaps in demand and supply, and inadequate funding.

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.toronto.ca/garbage/fluorescent.htm>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.toronto.ca/garbage/fluorescent.htm>

On one hand industrial mercury emissions from coal-burning plants will decrease, because of decreased energy consumption. But on the other it will be compensated by bringing mercury pollution to the houses of Ontarians.

Water contamination will aggravate already existing aqueous mercury water treatment issues. Increasing need for more water treatment facilities means more budget spendings, and distraction of resources, so much needed for Ontario's education and health care system.

Distraction of resources from investing in education and our health-care will affect Ontario's future as a competitive player in a globalizing world market.

<b>2012 100% Fluorescent</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>Shortage in Recycling and Collecting Facilities. Lack of Information and Incentives for Population</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>Risk of Heavy Mercury Air, Water, Land Pollution</b>
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**Improving Fluorescent Lamps Recycling Policy  
Submitted By: The Toronto Centre Young Liberals**

**WHEREAS** mercury contained in fluorescent light bulbs is hazardous to the health of Ontario's residents,

**WHEREAS** the lack of information amongst the population and inefficiencies in the fluorescent lamps recycling system will lead to air, land and water pollution;

**WHEREAS** plans by the government to ban incandescent lamps will magnify the issue of mercury pollution on an even large scale;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Ontario Young Liberals (OYL) request the government to pass necessary legislation that would identify and classify mercury containing in fluorescent lamps as hazardous toxic waste;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the OYL propose the government to create Coordinated Network for Collection and Recycling of Household Fluorescent Lamps across the Province, reference 2012 switch to fluorescent;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the OYL request the government to enforce fluorescent lamp manufacturers to include instructions on how to properly dispose broken fluorescent bulbs on packaging;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the OYL urge the government to make fluorescent lamps recycling system more accessible, efficient and create incentives for the population, in response to the dramatic increase in usage of fluorescent bulbs; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the OYL encourage the government to make efforts to educate population about toxicity of mercury, proper disposal and recycling of fluorescent bulbs.

Coordinated Network for Collection and Recycling of Fluorescent Lamps within the Ministry of Environment will include.

- Launching statistical data and research projects on fluorescent lamp mercury emission long and short-term impact on population, environment and economy of the province;
- Educational Programs (in cooperation of Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment, and NGOs);
- Making CFL's collecting and recycling services more accessible for population (placing collection centers at hospitals, home hardware stores and other establishments with more frequent toxic waste collecting services);

- Coordination and Info-sharing on collection and recycling services coverage amongst municipalities;
- Encouragement of health and safety promotion programs and researches at Ontario universities (UofT, Ryerson, York, Hamilton, London etc.); and,
- Encouragement of universities and manufacturers to find a replacement for mercury in fluorescent bulbs.

# **Promoting the Use of Cycling for Commuting** **Policy:**

**Building Healthy Communities, Creating  
Healthy Citizens**



**Ryerson Young Liberals**



**TORONTO CENTRE**

*Young Liberals*

***Submitted by the  
Ryerson Young Liberals (RYL) and Toronto Centre  
Young Liberals***

**OYL Toronto Policy Parliament**

**May 26 2007**

**York University at Glendon Campus**

## Toronto, Ontario

### **Promoting the Use of Cycling for Commuting Policy** **Submitted by: Ryerson Young Liberals and Toronto Centre Young Liberals**

**WHEREAS** cycling to places of employment or educational institutions has many benefits in terms of improving air quality, reducing traffic congestion, and enhancing physical and mental health;

**WHEREAS** encouraging citizens to cycle for their commutes will help Canada achieve its Kyoto Accord commitments; therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Ontario Young Liberals (OYL) advocates that the Provincial and Federal Governments eliminate all sales taxes on citizens purchasing bicycles, bicycle-related equipment, and maintenance;

**BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED THAT** citizens wishing to have the sales tax removed must register via the internet with their local municipality their weekly route of travel to ensure they are legitimately using bicycles for commuting purpose; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the OYL encourage the provincial government to establish a *Cycling Network Capital Fund* which will be accessed by municipalities for the purpose of constructing dedicated cycling networks.

## **Reduce Transit Fees for PSE Policy:**

### **Increasing Affordability for Post-Secondary Education**



**Ryerson Young Liberals**

york university young liberals

*Submitted by the  
Ryerson University and the  
York University Young Liberals*

**OYL Toronto Policy Parliament**

**May 26 2007**

**York University at Glendon Campus  
Toronto, Ontario**

## **Reduce Transit Fees for PSE**

**Submitted by: The Ryerson University and York University Young Liberals**

**WHEREAS** students in the province of Ontario are facing increased costs to attend post-secondary education (PSE) and some students often decide to live at home with family members or off-campus as they cannot afford to live in PSE residents or in the vicinity of their PSE institution;

**WHEREAS** public transit costs can be a significant factor in the cost of attending PSE and there is currently no PSE student monthly pass or monthly discount in some jurisdictions in the province of Ontario where for instance at Ryerson University students purchasing a TTC Metropass for eight months pay \$702.00, with a difference of only 14% between the regular price of a Metropass and the Ryerson Students' Union TTC Volume Incentive Pass;

**WHEREAS** the implementation of a universal transit pass ("U-Pass"), where an eight month transit pass is included in the tuition fees of all PSE students at a particular institution, can be used to reduce the yearly transportation costs for PSE students, encourage them to reduce their environmental footprint, provide transit agencies with the potential for long-term riders and more predictable fare models, and reduce the stress on universities to accommodate students on residence;

**WHEREAS** public transit agencies' financial capacity to provide a U-Pass is the most significant barrier for an affordable U-Pass yearly price and the financial consequences of allowing students to be able to 'opt-out' of a U-Pass if they choose not to use the service;

**WHEREAS** reducing transit costs for post-secondary education students is another tool the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada can use to make PSE more affordable, which will directly increase the abilities of low and middle-income students to attend PSE;

**WHEREAS** this policy if adopted would provide the Ontario Liberal Party with another strong and clear message to PSE students in the October 2007 election on how the party takes affordability of PSE seriously; therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Ontario Young Liberals (OYL) advocate the provincial government to financially subsidize a portion of the cost of a U-Pass

for any PSE institution that successfully holds a referendum to approve the U-Pass, and any PSE institution where students currently have a U-Pass;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** upon a successful referendum, the provincial government would provide an annual and guaranteed financial subsidy to reduce the cost of the U-Pass based on the number of students using the U-Pass compared to the total population of students at the particular PSE institution;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the OYL urges the federal government to immediately convert its “Tax Credit for Public Transit Passes” where used by PSE students into a financial subsidy for U-Pass users across Canada based on a percentage of the number of students using the U-Pass compared to the total population of students at the particular PSE institution; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the OYL advocates the Ontario Liberal Party and the Liberal Party of Canada to include this policy in their platforms for the next electoral campaigns.

## **OYL Endorsement of a Mixed-Member Proportional Electoral System Policy:**

***Working Together to Promote a Better Way  
to Elect Our Representatives***



**Ryerson Young Liberals**

***Submitted by:  
the York University Young Liberals and  
Ryerson Young Liberals***

**OYL Toronto Policy Parliament**

**May 26 2007**

## York University at Glendon Campus Toronto, Ontario

### **OYL Endorsement of a Mixed-Member Proportional Electoral System Policy Submitted by: the York University Young Liberals and Ryerson Young Liberals**

**WHEREAS** the Ontario Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform, a historic initiative in deliberative and participatory democracy, was initiated by the McGuinty government;

**WHEREAS** the Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform has recommend a mixed-member proportional (MMP) voting system;

**WHEREAS** the Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform is comprised of 103 randomly selected Ontarians, one-per-riding, gender-balanced and reflected the diversity of the province, including many students, who studied electoral systems, consulted with interested citizens and deliberated before recommending the MMP system;

**WHEREAS** the proposed MMP system ensures that every Ontarians' vote is reflected in the composition of the legislature;

**WHEREAS** evidence from Western democracies demonstrates that proportional voting systems elect more female legislators, more legislators from visible minority groups, have better environmental policies and have higher voter turnouts;

**WHEREAS** in those countries, governments are normally coalitions of two-or-more political parties representing the majority of citizens and, as a result, citizens are more satisfied with government and policy better reflects majority views; therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Ontario Young Liberals (OYL) endorse the Ontario Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform's recommendation of a mixed-member proportional electoral system for Ontario and encourage all Ontarians to vote Yes in the October 10, 2007, referendum.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the OYL endorse the broad, multi-partisan Yes campaign, under the leadership of Fair Vote Ontario, the democratically-run, membership-based, multi-partisan coalition for voting reform;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the OYL use its internal channels (website, newsletters, events) to communicate to its members, and other Liberals, the importance of voting Yes on October 10; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the OYL and its spokespersons communicate the membership's endorsement to the general public through the media, as appropriate, the importance of voting Yes and the broad, multi-partisan nature of the campaign.