

LPC(O) Policy Meeting 2008

The attached package contains unedited resolutions that have been directly submitted by Electoral District Associations.

They are therefore presented to the LPC(O) Policy Meeting in the language in which they were submitted

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National Food Security Policy

*Kitchener Conestoga Electoral District Association
Chatham Kent Essex Electoral District Association
Haldimand Norfolk Electoral District Association*

WHEREAS the Cindy-Easter Report “Canadian Farmers: Targeted Action for Results” is a demonstrably thorough and forward thinking report dealing with the problems facing agriculture in Canada, and provides solutions to these problems.

WHEREAS the Ridings of Chatham Kent Essex, Haldimand Norfolk, and Kitchener Conestoga are particularly sensitive to the implementation of the four major actions outlined in recommendation five, the “Grown in Canada Initiative”

BE IT RESOLVED that all Countries shipping such crops to Canada must follow the same production and processing practices that are required of Canadian producers

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada adopt all the recommendations of the Cindy-Easter Report “Canadian Farmers: Targeted Action for Results”, to develop a national food policy and in particular that recommendation five, the “Grown in Canada Initiative” be adopted forthwith.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada introduce as policy, mandatory truth in labeling as to the actual content of the package, in its policy platform.

National Water Policy

*London Fanshawe Electoral District Association
Brant Electoral District Association*

WHEREAS water is vital to people's health and livelihoods; the need for clean, fresh drinking water is rising annually; and,

WHEREAS our drinking water in Canada is at risk of contamination from a wide range of microbiological, chemical and radiological contamination and,

WHEREAS Health Canada estimates unsafe drinking water causes 90,000 illnesses and 90 deaths every year and municipalities issue hundreds of boil water advisories each year primarily due to water contamination; and,

WHEREAS Canada faces a threat to its water whether it is labeled a human right or a commodity due to international need or privatization; and,

WHEREAS Canadian water resources are overused, costing billions of dollars in supply and wastewater infrastructure;

BE IT RESOLVED that Canada take an aggressive approach to establishing clear jurisdiction over water sources in order to protect it from commoditization, and from international resolutions that would undermine the authority of the Canadian government, and citizens; which includes the banning of bulk water exports; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Canada implement a national clean water standard adopted by all provinces and territories to monitor contamination, water quality, and commit the federal government to an investment plan for municipal water infrastructure; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a National Water Policy must implement a comprehensive conservation strategy and invest in water resource research and monitoring.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada establish a comprehensive National hydrometric network and water survey of all significant watersheds in Canada and facilitate real-time hydrometric data collection for all surveyed watersheds to enhance the current ability of on going water management.

Risk Management

*Chatham Kent Essex Electoral District Association
Huron Bruce Electoral District Association*

WHEREAS agriculture, as the second largest industry in Canada, is the foundation on which the national economy is premised;

WHEREAS primary agriculture, and the related peripheral agricultural industry, provides employment and economic prosperity for thousands of individual Canadian, families and communities;

WHEREAS Canadians view safe and sustainable food production as a paramount matter of national security and sovereignty;

WHEREAS the Harper Government has cut \$1.1 billion from the annual federal agricultural supports since taking office in 2006;

WHEREAS an ad-hoc approach to agricultural investments has proven ineffective in the 21st Century agricultural production and trading environment;

WHEREAS the grassroots of the Liberal Party of Canada notes and applauds the work of the National Liberal Rural Caucus resulting in the recommendations contained in the discussion paper entitled "Rural Canada; Sharing the Wealth Beyond Tomorrow."

WHEREAS the grassroots of the Liberal Party of Canada, while supporting all the recommendations, is particularly sensitive to the issues behind the recommendations on the Risk Management Program and Supply Management/Orderly Marketing;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada adopt all of the resolutions in the discussion paper "Rural Canada; Sharing the Wealth Beyond Tomorrow" above referenced to, and in particular adopt the Risk Management Programming recommendations and Supply Management/Orderly Marketing recommendation.

Development of an Integrated Transportation Policy

*Kitchener-Conestoga Electoral District Association
Guelph Electoral District Association*

WHEREAS Canada was built on the railway;

WHEREAS transportation is a large and diverse sub section, accounting for 26% of Canada's GHG emissions in 2005; and,

WHEREAS the health, economic and environmental benefits of improved public transportation service have been extensively studied and are well established:

WHEREAS railways are more economical and environmental than highways;

WHEREAS Via Rail is a Crown Corporation providing inter-urban passenger train services to the people of Canada;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada encourage the federal government to implement a fully integrated transportation policy to allow direct links between airport terminals, inner city bus terminals, light rail and urban transit systems with passenger rail services; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada encourage the federal government to support, promote, and expand the role of passenger rail in every possible way across Canada; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Liberal Party of Canada encourage the federal government to provide funds so that rail companies that lease track to VIA Rail improve their track infrastructure to enable existing passenger rail equipment to operate at higher speeds, thereby reducing travel time and also to double track to encourage the simultaneous movement of passenger and freight trains.

Supply Management

Huron Bruce Electoral District Association

WHEREAS Canada's supply managed agricultural sectors and Canadian consumers have been well served by the domestic marketing system known as supply management;

WHEREAS supply management is self supporting and does not rely on government subsidies and/or support to survive or function;

WHEREAS Canadian farmers deserve a fair return for the quality product that they produce and, in the case of supply management, Canadian supply managed farmers have clearly and consistently indicated that supply management achieves this goal;

WHEREAS supply management is not inconsistent with Canada's free trading history, current international commitments or stated goals for the future;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada should underscore its unreserved support for the domestic marketing system known commonly as supply management. Specifically, the Liberal Party of Canada must continue to support the three pillars of the existing system (import controls, production planning and producer price setting) both domestically and in any future trading negotiations.

Breaking Down The Welfare Wall

Kitchener Centre Electoral District Association

WHEREAS in Canada, based on Statistics Canada(2005) - Low Income Cut – Off, 11.7 % of the total population is at the poverty level and the Canadian Government has not taken action to alleviate this problem

WHEREAS people who are on social assistance and who work to earn income many lose up to 100% of that income due to “Marginal Effective Tax Rate’ (the combination of claw back on income tested programs, payroll deductions and loss of drug and dental plans) . This is a major reason people are blocked from getting off assistance and breaking through the welfare wall.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada request the Government of Canada to work in conjunction with the provinces and territories to break down the welfare wall

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the recommendations of 30 –50 Plan to reduce poverty, as presented by Stéphane Dion, be followed.

Carbon Tax Resolution, for Industrial and Corporate Tax and Productivity Enhancement

*Kitchener Centre Electoral District Association
Cambridge Electoral District Association*

WHEREAS the amount of CO2 emissions in Canada has increased by 25% since 1990

WHEREAS the former vice chair of the World Bank, Sir Nicholas Stern, has stated that the only way to control carbon emissions is to assign a value to carbon

WHEREAS the government of British Columbia has led North America by adopting use of Carbon Taxes and the stated intent of the government of Quebec is to implement a similar regime

WHEREAS Ontario is in difficult economic circumstances with respect to with respect to manufacturing and agriculture, exacerbated by the failure of the Harper government to plan to help Canadians find a sustainable, affordable solution to dependence on increasingly more expensive fossil fuels;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada adopt an approach to control carbon emissions that is similar to the approach defined in the last British Columbia Budget. In particular the approach should include a tax per tone for 2009 that would increase annually.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the carbon tax be placed on industrial electrical generation and transportation sources of pollution, be revenue neutral, as well as designed to alleviate the crisis caused by soaring personal transportation costs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this approach, if passed at the national policy convention, be a major policy commitment for the next election.

Great Lakes

Huron Bruce Electoral District Association

WHEREAS the Great Lakes provide millions of people with fresh drinking water;

WHEREAS the Great Lakes support the second largest commercial fishery on Earth;

WHEREAS the Great Lakes generate millions of dollars in economic development and activity annually;

WHEREAS the Great Lakes promote trade and tourism which opens Canada to the world through shipping;

WHEREAS the Great Lakes are facing serious ecological challenges as a result of pollution, climate change and increasing populations along with shoreline;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada should intensify its policy focus and priority on areas impacting upon the long-term health of the Great Lakes. Particular attention should be given to general water quality, trade matters impacting on the Great Lakes, water levels and invasive species this can be done by considering the existing science; including following such notions as contained in the various reports submitted by the International Joint Commission and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

Geriatric Health Care

London North Centre Federal Liberal Association

WHEREAS the number of practicing geriatricians in 2006 was lower than the number required to meet current needs of Canada's aging population for medically trained professionals in geriatrics and psycho-geriatrics; and

WHEREAS geriatric medicine is recognized by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada as a subspecialty of internal medicine that requires two years of training in an approved residency program; and

WHEREAS geriatric specialists provide leadership and support to inter-professional health care teams that respond to the health and support needs of seniors and their caregivers; and

WHEREAS the number of physicians choosing to enter the field of geriatric medicine has decreased and is inadequate to meet current and anticipated needs, and student debt and future remuneration are factors that deter medical students and residents from entering geriatric medicine;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada recognize the shortage of geriatricians, geriatric psychiatrists, and family physicians trained to care for the elderly as an urgent priority and to introduce a special Geriatric Training Grant Program designed to:

1. Create incentives and support the training of qualified medical students, residents and practicing family physicians, internists and psychiatrists as geriatric specialists ; and
2. Provide funding for both guaranteed positions at competitive remuneration and the required support services to allow a range of specialists with expertise in Geriatrics to practice in an effective and efficient manner; and
3. Provide funding to support the development of inter-professional geriatric education and training programs.

Manufacturing Policy

London- Fanshawe Electoral District Association

WHEREAS manufacturing accounts for two-thirds of Canadian exports and is critical to the economy; and,

WHEREAS Manufacturing contributes tens of billions in income taxes each year, helping to pay for social services like education and health care; and

WHEREAS Canadian manufacturers spend 75% of all private sector research and development, employ nearly 2 million Canadians and constitute over 11.5% of all Canadian Jobs; and,

WHEREAS 350,000 Canadian manufacturing jobs have been eliminated since 2002 and are being replaced by insecure work in lower-age sectors; and,

WHEREAS Canada's manufacturing trade balance has gone from a \$12 billion surplus in 1996 to a \$28 billion trade deficit in one decade, representing massive job losses;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada propose the establishment of a Development /Training and Infrastructure fund that will sustain the manufacturing sector in Canada by providing workers with the skills and tools they need to pioneer the first wave of green technologies; and provide adequate capital funding to support investment in research and development for state-of-the-art flex plant assembly lines, engineering and innovative technologies.

National Affordable Housing Strategy

Toronto Centre Electoral District Association

WHEREAS the Government of Canada does not have a National Affordable Housing Strategy;

WHEREAS investing in affordable housing is an important tool to reduce poverty and enhance the quality of life among citizens

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada develop and implement a National Affordable Housing Strategy.

Commitment by a Federal Liberal Government to Reduced CO2 Emissions

York Centre Electoral District Association

WHEREAS it has been proven that high CO2 Emissions are directly contributing to worldwide greenhouse effects; and dangerous worldwide climate changes; and

WHEREAS Canada is viewed by the World as the 8th largest contributor of CO2 Emissions; and

WHEREAS Canada has a moral responsibility to the world; and to future generations; and

WHEREAS Canada is currently viewed by the world as part of the problem rather than being part of the solution; and

WHEREAS Canada must adopt a future willingness and ability to pursue a sustainable climate policy that will reduce CO2 Emissions; and

BE IT RESOLVED that a Federal Liberal Government take a pro-active leadership position with the entire population of Canada to reduce CO2 Emissions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Federal Liberal Government join the international world community in helping reduce CO2 Emissions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Federal Liberal Government set specific targets and timelines to reduce CO2 Emissions, short term and long term; and prepare accurate reports that these objectives are being met; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a strong commitment to Reduce CO2 Emissions become a Liberal Party of Canada Election Policy Statement.

Gender Based Hate Crimes

Etobicoke Centre Electoral District Association

WHEREAS religious, racial, ethnic and gender-sexual orientation identifiable groups have been subjected to hate and violence;

WHEREAS criminal safeguards exist preventing hate crimes against religious, racial, ethnic and sexual orientation identifiable groups and not hate crimes which are gender based;

WHEREAS there are websites dedicated to the propagation of gender based hatred, especially of women, hate and violence messaging t-shirts and other shocking representations of gender based violence disguised as art;

WHEREAS today the hands of our police forces are tied when attempting to deal with this type of hate as the *Criminal Code* does not prohibit gender based hate crimes in Canada;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada will pass an amendment to the existing hate crimes legislation to prohibit gender based hate crimes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that by enacting this change to the *Criminal Code*, Parliament can begin to address the serious issue of misogyny and misandry in all of its vile incarnations.

Alberta Oil Sands

Toronto Danforth Electoral District Association

WHEREAS continued development of the Alberta oil sands at their present pace carries serious economic and environmental consequences, including

- Devastation of extensive areas of boreal forest and contamination of the Athabasca River and other water sources vital to Canada's future ability to meet its need for fresh water
- Release of uncontrolled CO2 emissions which will make Canada one of the world's leading polluter states
- By increasing world oil supply, encouragement of increased oil consumption and consequent further environmental degradation

WHEREAS many Canadians recognize the need to restrain oil sand production, including 71 per cent of Albertans who favour a suspension of new oil sand approvals pending institution of more rigorous environmental assessments,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada undertake that a Liberal government will institute a moratorium on new oil sands development projects until adequate environmental management practices are put into effect to ensure that such developments do not cause irreversible damage to the water, soil and forest resources of Canada, and do not continue to generate currently unacceptable levels of greenhouse gas emissions.

Reduction of Poverty

Scarborough Rouge River Electoral District Association

WHEREAS though Canada is one of the richer nations in the world, there is still significant degree of poverty in its population, with devastating effect on the health and well being on the children living in poverty,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada takes steps to alleviate the effect of poverty on the health and well being of children living in poverty to provide such children with opportunities to exit the circle of poverty

Foreign Policy

Willowdale Electoral District Association

WHEREAS the Harper Government has implemented policies that contradict the principles that should guide Canadian foreign policy, such as it's (a) refusal to meet commitments respecting financial aid to Africa; (b) disavowal of Canada's responsibilities as an environmental steward under the Kyoto Protocol; (c) focus on re-engineering Canadian foreign policy to please the administration of President George W. Bush, to the detriment of Canada's reputation globally; and (d) determination to fight a war in Afghanistan past Canada's NATO combat commitment ending in 2009;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party reaffirm its commitment to developing a foreign policy that reflects Canadians' aspirations to improve human welfare around the world, halt and prevent conflict and develop prosperity while sustaining the environment and which also recognizes that Canada must:

- (a) develop trading and diplomatic ties with the rest of the world, outside North America;
- (b) concentrate its international aid spending to assist with growth and development;
- (c) develop armed forces capable of affirming our sovereignty as well as engaging in humanitarian and multinational peacekeeping efforts;
- (d) enhance intelligence gathering to effectively combat terrorism and arms proliferation;
- (e) re-affirm its commitment to environmental sustainability and re-adopt the Kyoto Protocol; and
- (f) serve notice on NATO that after having honourably and courageously served its combat role, beginning in 2009, Canada will end its combat role and re-focus its engagement in Afghanistan to support the United Nations and NATO efforts to strengthen the physical, economic, cultural and social infrastructure there.

Increasing Access to Gainful Employment for Internationally Trained Persons (ITPs)

Toronto Centre Electoral District Association

WHEREAS the acceptance and integration of new immigrants is necessary to maintain and increase economic and population growth in Canada.

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 ITPs 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;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada ask the Government of Canada to work with the provinces and foreign governments and institutions to promote the integration of ITPs at the regulatory level by helping to establish standardized guidelines to qualify the educational value of foreign credentials, and make said information public so that it may be used by both employers and regulatory organizations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada encourage the Federal and Provincial Governments to improve the recognition and integration of ITPs at the organizational level by engaging professional organizations and employers through the use of mentorship programs, financial incentives and educational campaigns to that effect.; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that where significant regulatory hurdles exist that will limit the ability of ITPs to attain gainful employment in their field of practice, this information be made public internationally through a centralized information post so that prospective immigrants may adequately prepare for such hurdles upon immigrating to Canada.

Promotion of Human Rights

Etobicoke Centre Electoral District Association

WHEREAS human rights are an elemental component of Canada's legal tradition;

WHEREAS human rights are at the heart of Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms;

WHEREAS Canada was an original signatory of the United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights for the protection and advancement of human rights everywhere;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada use every opportunity bilaterally and multilaterally to speak out publicly in promotion of the advancement of human rights everywhere in the world.

Rethinking Employment Insurance

Don Valley East Electoral District Association

WHEREAS while the percentage of unemployed Canadians who qualify for EI benefits has shrunk from 80 percent to just over 40 percent, the EI surplus has continued to increase despite several cuts in premiums, and now stands at over \$54 Billion (up from \$44 Billion in 2004);

WHEREAS EI benefit levels were cut in the early 1990s in response to high unemployment rates and a crushing Federal deficit, but those levels have not been subsequently restored or redesigned in light of current economic conditions;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Employment Insurance Act be amended so that a greater percentage of working Canadians who have paid premiums will, in the advent of temporary unemployment, be eligible to draw EI benefits, that benefits be increased benefits to 60% of insurable earnings and that the maximum insurable earnings be increased;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that EI premium levels be frozen and the EI surplus be reduced over 10 years by increasing the monies used to benefit unemployed Canadians, including the provision of more funds for job retraining, rather than through further decreases in the premium levels;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Federal government undertake a comprehensive review of the Employment Insurance program, with direct input from the Canadian public, so that the EI program will be redesigned to provide fair and adequate benefits to those unfortunate enough to lose their full time or part time jobs.

Establishing a Ministry of Peace

Etobicoke Centre Electoral District Association

WHEREAS humanity, particularly in the 20th century, sequentially descended into the abyss of hatreds, wars and genocides;

WHEREAS Canada is the country from which, in 1956, the novel concept of using soldiers as peacekeepers originated and was championed by Lester B. Pearson, Canada's UN Ambassador at the time;

WHEREAS Canada has an internationally recognized tradition of humanitarianism, civil society building and patient conflict resolution;

WHEREAS there is a realization in Canada that in most regions of the globe undergoing fundamental transitions or experiencing conflicts, that the resort to the force of arms is often counterproductive and indicates a fundamental failure of humanity;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government will create and fund a stand alone ministry called the Department of Peace with an initial budget equivalent to 2 percent of the current budget of the Department of National Defence;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Peace will initially be composed of three distinct branches: 1) a branch for humanitarian work; 2) a branch responsible for civil society and democratic institution building; and 3) a branch responsible for conflict resolution and peacekeeping.

Saving our Water Heritage

*Newmarket-Aurora Electoral District Association
Oakridges-Markham Electoral District Association*

WHEREAS sovereignty over our fresh water is crucial to Canada's future wellbeing and prosperity; contributing to our national heritage, environment, human rights and freedoms.

WHEREAS only 7% of Canada's fresh water is replenished each year from rainfall (further jeopardized by the effects of Climate Change), leading to increasing crop failures, water shortages, droughts, falling Great Lakes water levels, etc. In the USA aquifer consumption is estimated to be 7 times greater than replenishment rates, leading to them seeking Canadian water.

WHEREAS NAFTA provisions allow the USA equal access to our water should any Canadian jurisdiction start water exports.

BE IT RESOLVED that negotiations be undertaken immediately with all Provinces and Territories to secure a binding agreement not to risk opening our fresh water resources to unfettered demands from the USA by banning additional water exports until the NAFTA provisions are revised. This includes river diversions and Great Lakes extractions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that legislation be introduced specifically prohibiting the opening up of exports of our fresh water from any international negotiations (such as the Security and Prosperity Partnership) until the provisions of NAFTA have been changed.

Reducing Child Poverty in Canada

Peterborough Electoral District Association

WHEREAS persistent poverty among children in Canada is morally repugnant and contrary to the nation's interest:

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal Government will honour its commitment to reduce child poverty in Canada by 50 percent in five years by introducing the following initiatives in incremental steps over the desired five year term:

- (a) assuring every adult working full-time, year-round a living standard above poverty for each region of Canada;
- (b) improving access to EI by introducing a 360-hour qualifying requirement to ensure laid-off and part-time workers qualify, improving benefits levels and increasing the maximum from the current \$400/week;
- (c) working with provinces to increase the rates of social assistance payments
- (d) investing in a public child care system for all children under 12 that is high quality, regulated, accessible to all Canadian families and supported by certified well trained, well-paid child care workers;
- (e) ensuring that all low income families have access to safe, stable, appropriate housing that requires no more than 30 percent of gross income for accommodation;
- (f) providing an annual increase in housing subsidies for low income families adjusted for increases in costs of food, transportation and fuel.

First Nations, Métis and Inuit Youth

Ajax Pickering Electoral District Association

WHEREAS First Nations quality of life ranks 63rd, or amongst Third World conditions, according to an Indian and Northern Affairs Canada study that applied First Nations-specific statistics to the Human Development Index created by the United Nations.

WHEREAS the First Nations population in 2006 was much younger than the non-First Nations population. The median age for the First Nations population was 26.5 years, while that of the non-First Nations population was at an all-time high of 39.2 years.

WHEREAS twice the proportion of First Nations children lived with a lone parent in 2001 as did non-First Nations children. On reserves, 32% of First Nations children lived with a lone parent. This percentage jumped to 46% for those in the census metropolitan areas. Only 17% of non-First Nations children lived with a lone parent.

WHEREAS 70% of First Nations students on-reserve do not complete high school, graduation rates for the on-reserve population range from 28.9%-32.1% annually.

WHEREAS the First Nations suicide rate is more than twice the Canadian rate. Suicide is now among the leading causes of death among First Nations youth, aged 10 to 24, with the rate estimated to be five higher than that of non-First Nations youth.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Canadian Government to address the root causes of this person-made crisis through comprehensive investments in First Nations, Métis and Inuit youth education programs to address the increasing disparity between them and non-First Nations youth.

Wind Power for Northern & Remote Communities

Oak Ridges – Markham Electoral District Association

WHEREAS northern and remote communities currently rely on fossil fuels that must be transported to the community for energy; and

WHEREAS Canadians should be looking to move away from fossil fuel consumption to more environmentally friendly energies;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada establish a yearly fund that may be tapped by remote municipalities, for the purpose of replacing fossil fuel generated energy with wind generated energy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the fund will be adjusted for inflation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the municipality must contribute an affordable and equal stake to the project.

National Housing Strategy

Peterborough Electoral District Association

WHEREAS housing in Canada is a key driver of economic productivity, a major contributor to global warming and the foundation of a community's social cohesion and

WHEREAS housing is a key determinant of health and

WHEREAS the changes in the demographics of Canadian society require a wide range of housing types and designs appropriate to these changes and

WHEREAS access to decent, stable, affordable housing is a first step in reducing homelessness:

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal Government, as a first priority in addressing its commitment to reduce poverty, in partnership with the provinces and municipalities, develop and implement a national housing strategy. This strategy will be developed by key stakeholders, including the non profit sector and the building industry. Within 18 months this team will develop an incremental 10 year action plan that will:

- review and expand the Affordable Housing Program to include not just capital but ongoing funding to build or renovate and sustain housing affordable to low income Canadians;
- enhance the role of CMHC so that it maintains its current research role: continues its current mortgaging responsibilities; develops and enforces national housing standards; delivers and monitors funding for housing for low income Canadians;
- provide sustainable and predictable funding for the Homelessness Partnership Strategy
- include a sustainability plan, with regional adaptations, based on national safety and energy standards and recommendations for environmentally safe building technologies and practices for both new and existing housing for all Canadians

Restoration of the Trent Severn Waterway

Haliburton Kawartha Lakes Brock Electoral District Association

WHEREAS the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW) is a recreational magnet for tourists and provides a major source of employment and business activity for the region it traverses, and, in some areas is the major economic driver;

WHEREAS \$370 million over ten years is needed to restore the dams and clean up the water and the Federal Government has announced only \$63 million over five years;

BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. A joint Federal-Provincial Agency (e.g. a Crown Corporation) to operate and maintain the TSW and its watersheds be established;
2. Said Agency be ceded the powers of the Federal and Provincial governments over the TSW watershed with respect to: water quantity and quality management; environmental and cultural impacts of shoreline development within the watersheds; cultural heritage preservation; endangered species protection; fish and fish habitat preservation; planning and development approvals; and, licenses for hydro-electric energy generation;
3. These powers be used to restore and maintain the ecological integrity of the TSW watershed;
4. Both levels of Government allocate a sufficient annual operating budget to said Agency;
5. Exploitation of the hydro-electric generation capacity of the TSW is not at the expense of the enjoyment of other users of the TSW watershed; and,
6. Both levels of Government commit to a 10 year budget of \$240 million to restore, enhance and maintain the water management infrastructure of the TSW Watershed.

Transportation, Communication policy and the Efficient use of Energy Resources.

Richmond Hill Electoral District Association

WHEREAS the Government of Canada, having committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and the efficient use of energy resources is a factor in the reduction of such emissions;

WHEREAS an effective and efficient transportation and communication infrastructure is essential to Canada's economic wellbeing.

WHEREAS a properly developed and managed transportation and communication infrastructure can serve as a major factor in the efficient use of energy resources.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada consultate with provincial, municipal and regional governments to design a program that serves to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Canada's old and outdated transportation and communication infrastructure, that can be flexible in its implementation to respond to possible slow downs in the economy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that transportation and communications infrastructure improvement be included as a major component of the party's election platform.

Responsibility to Protect

Ajax-Pickering Electoral District Association

WHEREAS in recent years lives have been lost or have been put at risk when governments have failed to take the necessary actions to protect their civilian populations from internal war, ethnic cleansing, genocide or crimes against humanity;

WHEREAS Canada spearheaded, as part of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, the development of the Responsibility to Protect doctrine, adopted by the United Nations in 2005, providing the international community with the authority to intervene for human protection purposes where a civilian population is suffering, or at risk of suffering, serious harm as a result of internal war, insurgency, repression or state failure and where the government in question is unwilling or unable to take action;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada call on the Government of Canada to ensure that Canada takes appropriate and timely action, through the United Nations and other international bodies, to help protect civilian populations from harm in the face of internal war, ethnic cleansing, genocide or crimes against humanity when their governments fail to do so;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada call on the Government of Canada to ensure that the principles of the Responsibility to Protect doctrine are enshrined as a central tenet of Canada's foreign policy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada adopt the principles of the Responsibility to Protect doctrine as a cornerstone of Liberal Party policy.

Internationally Trained Professionals

Ajax Pickering Electoral District Association

WHEREAS Canada has a significant and growing community of internationally trained professionals; and

WHEREAS the failure to recognize the skills and credentials of internationally trained professionals results in a significant loss to the economic growth of Canada, as well as a loss of self-esteem to these new Canadians; and

WHEREAS Canada faces a shortage of skilled labour and has, as part of its immigration policy, a goal to attract highly educated and skilled individuals from other parts of the world; and

WHEREAS internationally trained professionals in Canada face significant difficulties and delays in getting foreign credentials evaluated and matched to equivalent Canadian qualifications, which often results in their returning to their country of origin or emigrating to a third country; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada proposes to the Government of Canada that measures be taken to accelerate the evaluation process of foreign credentials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges that the Government of Canada consult with provincial and territorial government to ensure that the credential evaluation process results in common outcomes across all provinces and territories providing a common basis for the systemic integration of internationally trained professionals into their field of expertise, thereby allowing Canada to benefit from the economic contributions of the knowledge and training acquired.

Access to Canadian Justice Act

Richmond Hill Electoral District Association

WHEREAS Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms states that all Canadians have the right to equal protection and equal benefit of the law and affirms that programs can be implemented to ameliorate conditions of disadvantaged individuals or groups.

WHEREAS the Chief Justice of the SCC has called the lack of access-to-justice a crisis in Canada, asserting that justice is far too expensive for the vast majority of Canadians, leaving countless Canadians without the financial means to access a lawyer;

WHEREAS the Federal Government has done little to increase funding for legal aid in Canada despite calls for funding from the provinces.

WHEREAS Canadians employed in the legal profession are afforded the opportunity, unlike most Canadians, to practice in a regulated industry with very little government oversight in terms of fees charged for service.

BE IT RESOLVED that the LPC pursue an agenda that includes working with the provinces on regulating fees charged in the legal profession in order to ensure that more Canadians are able to access justice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LPC work with the provinces to overhaul legal aid services, and as part of a Justice Act, mandate that practicing lawyers provide a certain number of service-hours to legal-aid based clients as part of terms of license renewal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal Government, immediately restore the Court Challenges Program scrapped by the Conservatives without the proper consultation of Parliament.

Seniors

Burlington Electoral District Association

WHEREAS 21.5% of seniors aged 65 to 74, 33% of seniors aged 75 to 84 and 37% of seniors over the age of 85 are unattached (single, widowed or divorced) individuals;

WHEREAS 41% of unattached senior women and 15.9 % of unattached men live below the poverty line and deal with the significant challenge of maintaining the cost of shelter;

WHEREAS the present system allows only a spouse or survivor aged 60 to 65 to apply for the Old Age Security Allowance even though there is a high rate of poverty among single, separated and divorced seniors, particularly women, in this age group;

WHEREAS the single, separated or divorced individual must wait until the age of 65 before applying for and receiving any benefit under the Old Age Security Programs;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada commit itself to improving the quality of life for seniors by increasing financial support for all seniors, and further changing the Old Age Security Allowance requirements to allow all unattached individuals between 60-65 living below the target income to apply for this Allowance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada commit itself to increasing the availability of affordable housing options for seniors (and others) across Canada to address the financial crisis in which many seniors find themselves.

Infrastructure Policy

Oakville Electoral District Association

WHEREAS the infrastructure in Canada is aging and inadequate in meeting the needs of the present and future population and is an impediment in supporting future economic growth; and

WHEREAS the need to repair, replace and modernize our infrastructure to enable Canada to compete and prosper in the world is imperative; and

WHEREAS over eighty percent of Canadians live in an urban environment and depend upon the myriad of infrastructures to live and to earn their incomes by;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada will ensure funding in partnership with the provinces and municipalities for infrastructure replacement and for new and expanded infrastructure projects with emphasis as deemed necessary by the provinces in partnership with the municipalities and meeting environmental requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the vision of new projects will be to position Canada into a global leader where we can export not only the goods and services using these infrastructures but also the infrastructure technologies and expertise; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada will cooperate with the provinces and municipalities to ensure that ongoing maintenance funding is established. This ongoing revenue stream will ensure that there will be adequate funding to secure the assets over the projected asset life.

Policy for Peace in the Middle East

Oakville Electoral District Association

WHEREAS peace in the Middle East is crucial for global peace; and

WHEREAS such peace also impacts prospects of peace in countries with significant Muslim populations; and

WHEREAS such peace is also crucial to the security of Israel and of Jews globally; and

WHEREAS many groups in Canada have expressed serious concern with the current policy of the Canadian government which has abandoned an even-handed approach to the conflict between Israel & Palestine

BE IT RESOLVED that Canada return to a balanced, independent approach towards attaining peace in the Middle East, including on the Israel- Palestine issue; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Canadian Government assume a leadership role convening all concerned parties in a process of negotiation with the goal of attaining peace in the Middle East.

Healthy Seniors Initiative

Ancaster Dundas Flamborough Westdale Electoral District Association

WHEREAS by the year 2027, Canada's population aged 65 or more will exceed 20%;and

WHEREAS older persons are experiencing a shift from acute illnesses to chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS illness prevention initiatives would reduce suffering of seniors an potentially that of health care; and

WHEREAS studies have proven that people who are able to remain in their homes live longer, healthier lives, and that accessible housing design, home improvement assistance and home care could help prevent injuries to seniors; and

WHEREAS national health funding has not consistently supported health promotion nor illness prevention; and

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

1. Recognize the need for a strategy that focuses on targeting the prevention of specific diseases/conditions or their consequences, including arthritis, osteoporosis, hip fractures, falls, stroke, cardiovascular disease and excessive use of medications, and to provide funding to support public health agencies and preventive health programs.
2. Establish national standards for prevention including universal accessibility of inoculations and for the reduction of hazardous chemicals in the air, water and food.
3. Develop national regulations in agreement with national standards, including registered alternative medicines and practitioners, that promote wellness, injury prevention, food security and access to health education and information.
4. Develop a national homecare policy with the intent that seniors will be able to remain in their homes as long as possible, to maintain a longer, healthier lifestyle.

Bulk Water Exports

Niagara Falls Electoral District Association

WHEREAS water should be considered a public good and a fundamental human right, and not a commodity;

WHEREAS bulk water exports would detrimentally affect the environment and the ecosystems from which the water was taken, and are not a sustainable solution to water scarcity;

WHEREAS the governments of Canada, the United States and Mexico have allegedly discussed bulk water exports, while various provinces have considered licensing schemes for such exports;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada reaffirm water as a basic human right and reject the categorization as a commodity;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada continue to exclude bulk water exports from international trade agreements.

Investment in Economically Depressed Urban Cores

Niagara Falls Electoral District Association

WHEREAS the federal government has a history of investment in various economic and cultural infrastructure projects across Canada, especially in economically disadvantaged areas;

WHEREAS the vibrancy of Canadian downtowns is essential for economic development within a community;

WHEREAS economically strong and well-planned communities promote sustainability by encouraging public modes of transportation, both for work and entertainment;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada continue to support the vibrancy of Canadian downtowns in the form of capital assistance for the renewal of infrastructure and public spaces;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada support and promote the revitalization of such areas within our communities by providing additional tax incentives to businesses, cultural groups and attractions that locate or remain in downtown cores.

Small Business Policy; “Liberals Are Open for Business!”

Oakville Electoral District Association

WHEREAS a healthy economy is imperative to the health and wellbeing of Canada; and

WHEREAS there is a need for more overt risk taking on the part of the financial institutions;

WHEREAS small businesses generate much of the growth in the economy with the creation of jobs; and

WHEREAS small businesses may be apt to fail as a result of lack of management skills and inadequate financing;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada will establish Federal Business Centres of Excellence (FBCE) to foster and nurture new developing small businesses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the FBCE will provide, management skills; marketing, sales, financial advice, help with business plans to attract finance and even participation, where required, into the business to mitigate risk so that small business can get reasonable commercial loans and venture capital participation.

Establishing an Environment Board of Canada

Ancaster Dundas Flamborough Westdale Electoral District Association

WHEREAS the state of the Canadian and global environments is now recognized as among the most critical challenges facing Canada; and

WHEREAS governments in Canada need to take decisive action to address environmental threats in cases where such action might be opposed by powerful economic interests; and

WHEREAS the weight of scientific evidence demands that that immediate action must be undertaken; and

WHEREAS it is in the nature of both complex ecological system and the scientific process that such ironclad proof is almost never available until after the resulting environmental damage has become irreparable (e.g., the collapse of the cod industry);

BE IT RESOLVED that it be a policy of the Liberal Party of Canada that the Government of Canada establish and fund a science-based Environment Board of Canada to coordinate the environmental input of all levels of government, including municipal, provincial, and federal in order to serve as a credible source of advice regarding the potential consequences of known environmental threats;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the steps recommended by the Environmental Board of Canada be included in the development of policies needed to effectively mitigate those environmental threats and to assess the success and failure of existing and future policies and government action.

Copyright Amendments

Welland Electoral District Association

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has signaled its intention to introduce new copyright legislation;

WHEREAS it has been reported that Canadian legislation will include provisions modeled after the U.S. *Digital Millennium Copyright Act*;

WHEREAS the *DMCA* has had chilling effects on free speech rights in that country;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada ensure that any amendments to the *Copyright Act* adequately balance the rights of Canadians with those of copyright owners, by including flexible fair dealing provisions and satisfactory copyright exceptions.

Affordable Housing

Sudbury Electoral District Association

WHEREAS affordable housing pressures remain high across many regions of Canada and particularly in urban centres where development costs have become higher; and,

WHEREAS the operational subsidies available to developers of social housing do not reflect true operational costs; and,

WHEREAS current public housing assistance programs do not reflect these limitations and the higher costs inherent in developing an adequate supply of housing units; and,

WHEREAS some government tenders for the construction of affordable housing units based on government per unit cost standards have resulted in zero units being tendered for or when price ceilings have been raised, fewer units than initially targeted:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada supports a comprehensive review of affordable housing assistance programs to ensure that they are relevant to regional market and costing considerations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada encourage the federal government, in conjunction with its provincial partners to embark on an aggressive affordable housing program that addresses current social housing needs.

Centre of Excellence for Mining Innovation

Sudbury Electoral District Association

WHEREAS Canada has a wealth of mineral resources situated across many regions of Canada and much of this mineral wealth has been and remains to be developed with specialized knowledge and in a capital intensive manner; and,

WHEREAS Canada is considered amongst the world leaders in research, exploration and mining development technologies; and,

WHEREAS expansion of this knowledge and expertise could be made possible with further specialization across the various mining sectors (coal, uranium, tar sands, diamonds, salt, industrial and precious metals such as iron, nickel, copper, gold and silver etc); and,

WHEREAS such specialization could increase Canada market share among countries competing for a knowledge and technology based competitive advantage in world markets; and,

WHEREAS each of these sectors is readily identified across a number of regions in Canada; and,

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario, the Municipality of the City of Greater Sudbury, Sudbury's post secondary educational institutions and the region's mining companies and suppliers have already made significant financial contributions towards the creation of the Centre of Excellence for Mining Innovation in Sudbury:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada supports the concept of establishing regional and sector-based mining Centres of Excellence across Canada and that Sudbury be supported in its efforts to be such a Centre of Excellence for Mining Innovation in the area of hard rock mining research and technology; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada provide matching financial support to the efforts of other partners in developing Sudbury as such a Centre of Excellence in Mining Innovation.

Rural and Northern Economic Development

Algoma Manitoulin Kapuskasing Federal Liberal Association

WHEREAS rural and remote regions, particularly in northern areas, are declining in employment and population;

WHEREAS climate change and technical innovation are dramatically altering economic prospects;

WHEREAS economic development agencies have little or no capacity for applied scientific research;

BE IT RESOLVED that a new initiative be developed including a dedicated allocation of applied research capacity, from all of the relevant scientific department and agencies, coordinated by regional development agencies in close consultation with community leaders and other stakeholders, to devise, promote and institute economic development measures in rural and remote regions, including particular attention to taking advantage of new technology and longer growing seasons for northern agriculture.

Student Debt Relief

Sudbury Electoral District Association

WHEREAS post secondary education has been identified as a major contributor to marketing the Canadian labour force to foreign and domestic investment, a contributor to innovation and higher personal incomes; and,

WHEREAS the vast majority of Canadians support post secondary education; and,

WHEREAS post secondary students which rely upon the student loan program, and particularly those who continue study at the post graduate level, face immediate and heavy debt repayment burden upon completion of their studies; and,

WHEREAS some graduating students face delays in entering the workforce:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada strongly favours an immediate tax relief measure equivalent to 100% of the amount of interest that students accrue on their student loans annually, with the provision that debt repayment schedules as agreed to by the student and lender are adhered to during the term of the repayment plan.

McJobs

Algoma Manitoulin Kapuskasing Electoral District Association

WHEREAS manufacturing is forming a decreasing share of the economy and the service sector is contributing an increasing share;

WHEREAS service sector jobs are increasingly short term, part-time and contract work as employers maximize flexibility and minimize the cost of benefits such as pension contributions;

WHEREAS temporary work without full access to the Canada Pension Plan leads to a widening gulf between elderly haves and have-nots;

WHEREAS low-income women, particularly including single mothers without post-secondary education and skills, with little or no access to child care, make up a disproportionate share of people holding down one or more temporary jobs, and must devote their income to immediate needs for food, shelter and clothing;

BE IT RESOLVED that we attach the highest priority to our child care proposals, with particular attention to the needs of mothers forced into temporary work; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that measures be developed, in consultation with the provinces, to alleviate the lack of mandatory pension benefits for temporary job holders, not unlike legislation that has provided for mandatory vacation benefits.

Municipal Infrastructure Assistance

Timmins James Bay Electoral District Association

WHEREAS Canadians largely support the principle of public partnerships in addressing environmental concerns related to air, water and green house gas emissions; and,

WHEREAS a number of factors have led to a reduced capacity among Canadian municipalities to expand, refurbish and update public infrastructure, particularly in the areas of transportation, water and waste water treatment, and alternative energy; and,

WHEREAS Canada's federal, provincial and municipal levels of government have benefited from past public infrastructure programs which are viewed as being highly effective means to address these issues:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada favours a continuation of public infrastructure partnerships and encourages that a new program be developed which creates partnership opportunities in transportation (municipal roads and bridges, energy and emission reduced public transit), water and wastewater treatment, alternative energy, and selected community based recreation initiatives.

Wind Power, Inexpensive and Plentiful

Timmins James Bay Electoral District Association

WHEREAS the Canadian Government has vowed to be more involved in reducing greenhouse gases.

WHEREAS the use of fossil fuels to create energy must be reduced to save global warming.

WHEREAS the need for electricity has peak hours, and off hours, the need for a source that can be stored is needed.

WHEREAS Canada is not using the potential of wind power to the fullest like Denmark- 20%, Spain – 9% and Germany at 7%.

BE IT RESOLVED that Wind Power is an inexpensive and plentiful source that is now only begun to be tapped and Canada should increase the usage to the maximum.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the rural areas that are open to sources of wind should be enticed to produce power be it small or large quantities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada should increase the awareness of using wind generating turbines would save the countries fossil fuels which in turn saves on the greenhouse gases.

Biofuels: Ethanol Production

Kenora Electoral District Association

WHEREAS ethanol has been regarded as an alternative to existing petroleum-based fuels; and

WHEREAS governments, including the Government of Canada, have been promoting ethanol as a way of reducing carbon dioxide emissions, to address concerns about global warming; and

WHEREAS ethanol production is increasing in Canada and North America, to meet government imposed standards requiring ethanol to be included in gasoline; and

WHEREAS global increases in food prices mean the world's poor are having difficulties affording the basic necessities of life, giving rise to a global food crisis; and

WHEREAS questions have been raised as to whether ethanol is truly a green alternative to existing petroleum-based fuels; and

WHEREAS the use of grains, such as corn, to produce ethanol, may be contributing to the increase in global food prices;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to re-examine the science underlying ethanol production, to determine whether this fuel is truly a green alternative to existing petroleum-based fuels;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to re-evaluate policies supporting ethanol production in light of the international food crisis.

Hepatitis C Treatment and Assistance

Timmings James Bay Electoral District Association

WHEREAS an alarming number of Canadians have unknowingly contracted Hepatitis C through a number of sources; and,

WHEREAS the Canadian public has expressed its rightful concern with respect to this trend (partially evidenced by the findings of the Creber Inquiry), and subsequent demands that the Government provide compensation; and,

WHEREAS the Government's efforts until now have been largely in response to litigation and financial settlements related to the contraction of Hepatitis C through tainted blood donations; and,

WHEREAS with the completion of financial settlement measures, the issues of clinical treatment and support services for those who have contracted the disease (from a number of sources) remains outstanding:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada, strongly supports the efforts of the federal and provincial governments to address outstanding issues and to make a more active and financial commitment to expand public health education, prevention and clinical treatment and support services for those living with Hepatitis C.

National Food Security

Kenora Electoral District Association

WHEREAS government agricultural programs and policies in recent years have been designed on the premise of a successful outcome of the DOHA round of WTO negotiations - talks aimed at reducing domestic supports, increasing market access, eliminating export subsidies and maintaining our supply management systems as well as the Canadian Wheat Board: and

WHEREAS these talks have failed, making decisive action necessary to help Canadian Producers face a new economic and policy reality; and

WHEREAS Canadian Producers must have sustainable incomes and all partners in the agri-food production chain deserve the opportunity to succeed and be profitable; and

WHEREAS Canada has no formal strategy to maintain a safe, affordable food supply; and

WHEREAS Canada does not have adequate strategies in place for an internal self sustaining food supply, nor adequate food storage facilities for the long term; and

WHEREAS Canada needs an improved food delivery protocol;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada supports setting, as a national priority, the establishment of fully-funded and long-term National Food Security Policy which views the Nation's ability to produce safe, internally sustainable and reliable agricultural products as an issue of national sovereignty and security.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada support the provision of an immediate cash investment into the agricultural sectors, at the primary producer level as may be determined when the need arises.

Water Resource Management

Ottawa Centre Electoral District

WHEREAS Canada has only 0.5% of the world's population, but its landmass contains approximately 9% of the world's renewable water supply;

WHEREAS with this water richness, Canada has a responsibility to be proper stewards of our water resources;

WHEREAS the existing water protection measures in Canada are inadequate to meet the strains presently imposed on water resources;

WHEREAS no single federal policy exists to regulate water usage or water quality:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada calls upon the federal government to develop a national water strategy to cut through regional jurisdictional obstacles and ensure quality water resource management;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada does not support bulk water exportation of Canadian fresh water resources;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada calls upon the federal government to develop binding and enforceable federal standards on water quality to ensure proper water treatment;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada calls upon the federal government to protect watersheds by strongly enforcing the existing Pulp and Paper Effluent Regulations (PPER), banning the cosmetic use of pesticides and herbicides, banning the use of all chemical fertilizers in non-agricultural uses, and adopting policies, market and non-market based, to reduce chemical fertilizer use in agricultural uses.

Motion Promoting the Recognition of Foreign Trained Canadians and Immigrants

Renfrew Nipissing Pembroke Electoral District Association

WHEREAS the success of immigrants to Canada has been steadily declining since the 1980's ;

WHEREAS Canada has revamped it's immigration system to attract highly educated foreigners

WHEREAS many well qualified immigrants arrive only to find their academic and professional credentials aren't recognized

WHEREAS foreign trained Canadian citizens also return to find that their academic and professional qualifications are not recognized

BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Government institute transparent practices in its recruitment of immigrants.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that academic and professional institutions and organizations to find better and quicker methods to evaluate, retrain if required and recognize foreign qualifications, of both Canadian Citizen's and Immigrants without imposing economic hardship, and the loss of much needed professionals.

Supporting a Worldwide Moratorium on Deep-Sea Bottom Trawling

Kingston and the Islands Electoral District Association

WHEREAS bottom trawling is the most destructive of fishing practices, akin to clear-cutting the ocean floor, and is especially destructive to delicate deep-sea ecosystems;

WHEREAS the majority of nations, including Australia and the United States, have recognized that this unsustainable practice is contributing to the rapid decline of the world's fisheries and support a UN moratorium on bottom trawling on the currently unregulated high seas;

WHEREAS the current Conservative Government made Canada one of a handful of nations that thwarted a UN Resolution to impose such a moratorium in December 2006;

WHEREAS while 78% of polled Canadians supported the proposed moratorium, the Government's ill-considered position has made us partially responsible for the continuing loss of fisheries that will be sorely needed to feed the world's growing population;

BE IT RESOLVED that it be a policy of the Liberal Party of Canada that this country support future UN initiatives to impose a moratorium on deep-sea bottom trawling; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Canada join with the United States to impose to impose trade measures on nations whose fishing vessels adversely affect vulnerable deep-sea life in unregulated high seas areas.

Labour Mobility

Ottawa Centre Electoral District Association

WHEREAS severe and acute labour shortages are placing great strain on the economy, there is a need to improve mobility of skilled Canadians within Canada and to better integrate foreign trained individuals into the Canadian labour market.

WHEREAS barriers to mobility and integration in the Canadian workforce represent a fundamental contradiction to social justice as stipulated under section 6.2 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms granting all citizens and permanent residents the right to move to, reside in, and pursue the gaining of a livelihood in any province.

WHEREAS the federal/provincial/territorial governments have signed the Agreement on Internal Trade on July 1st, 1995 with one of the objectives being the liberalization of interprovincial labour mobility, these commitments have yet to be fully addressed as provinces and territories continue to implement individual strategies.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada recognizes the opportunity costs to Canada's prosperity when Canadians are not participating to their fullest potential in the labour market and that investment in the Canadian labour market is critical to ensuring economic growth, competitiveness, and sustainability.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada calls upon the federal government to establish a National Strategy on Labour Mobility creating a framework for all governments to meet their April 1st, 2009 commitments to remove interprovincial barriers to labour mobility under the Agreement on Internal Trade; and to share accurate and relevant labour market information essential for business, policy and program decisions regarding labour mobility and employment integration.

Valuing Canada's Natural Capital

Kingston and the Islands Electoral District Association

WHEREAS Canada enjoys the world's richest endowment of natural capital (forests, fisheries, waters and ecosystems that provide the seemingly "free" goods and services which underlie our economy, health, well-being and quality of life), both on a national and per-capita basis;

WHEREAS unsustainable resource exploitation practices that consistently favour short-term private economic interests over the broader public good are rapidly depleting and degrading those natural riches;

WHEREAS Canadians have passively consented to this ongoing loss, in part because neither voters nor politicians have any objective basis for weighing the short-term benefits promised by development projects against longer-term costs to air and water quality, biodiversity and capacity to sustain future generations;

WHEREAS a national mechanism for evaluating and tracking changes to Canada's natural capital would enable us to evaluate the long-term costs and benefits of development proposals, and the sustainability of policies and practices that impact the environment;

BE IT RESOLVED that it be a policy of the Liberal Party of Canada that Statistics Canada develop a national framework for assessing the value of Canada's natural capital and tracking changes in that value over time in our National Accounts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the approval process for development projects include analysis of impacts on natural capital, that all projected costs and benefits (including who benefits and who pays) be publicly identified, and that follow-ups be conducted to compare actual costs and benefits to what was promised on approval, enabling us to continuously improve our stewardship of Canada's natural capital.

Government Reporting to the Canadian People on the Outcomes of Military Operations

Kingston and the Islands Electoral District Association

WHEREAS diplomacy, development and defence are the three main elements that define Canada's Foreign Policy;

WHEREAS Canadians have sacrificed, and are sacrificing, their lives in assisting the populations of a number of countries in working toward peace and stability;

WHEREAS peace and stability in these nations can only be accomplished by winning the support and cooperation of local populations through positive actions to build and restore national and personal security, public infrastructure, and credible and stable government at all levels;

WHEREAS the Canadian people must clearly understand the goals and objectives of Canadian involvement in these operations;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada (LPC) urge the Government of Canada to have a full and open debate in Parliament on the goals and objectives of all current and future peacekeeping and peacemaking missions with the aim of clearly defining each mission's goals and objectives for the Canadian people;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that LPC urge the Government of Canada to ensure that goals, objectives and timelines for each mission be published and carefully monitored and measured on the basis of clear and quantifiable criteria to determine whether the strategy being used to achieve these is appropriate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that LPC urge the Government of Canada to report to the Canadian people on the success, or lack thereof, of those criteria on an ongoing and regular basis, and that this progress, or lack thereof, be the principal basis of determining how long Canada maintains a commitment to each such mission.

Canada's Urban-Rural Divide

Renfrew Nipissing Pembroke Electoral District Association

WHEREAS there is a significant urban/rural divide within Canadian politics, and

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada believes that we are stronger together,
and

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada needs to be intentional in its goals to
address this divide,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada establish a Rural Affairs
committee to:

- identify policy areas that need to be further addressed
- identify areas in which the Liberal Party of Canada can reach out to rural
Canadians
- identify ways of promoting the Liberal Party of Canada to rural Canadians

Integration of Federal & Provincial Livestock Slaughter Inspection Capacity

Stormont Dundas and South Glengarry Electoral District Association

WHEREAS farmers with provincially inspected meat products may only sell within their provincial boundaries while being excluded from local markets due to retail requirements for federally inspected meat products;

WHEREAS there are few, if any federally inspected slaughter facilities rural regions of Canada, excluding farmers from large markets and forcing a dependence on US slaughter capacity to move its their livestock to market;

WHEREAS the imposition of federal slaughter inspections supports the control of farm commodities by large corporate marketing firms which in turn contributes to depressed agricultural commodity prices to farmers; and

WHEREAS the federal and provincial governments already integrates service delivery in some areas of joint jurisdiction such as the Harmonized Sales Tax in Atlantic Canada and workforce training in Ontario.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada enjoin the government of Canada to negotiate and implement an integrated slaughter inspection and regulation program with the provincial governments that will include: federal accreditation of provincial facilities meeting inter-provincial and inter-national trade requirements; a single application for a federal-provincial slaughter license; the transfer of federal slaughter inspection resources to provincial governments to operate the integrated system; and, a single stamp of approval to facilitate intra/inter-provincial and inter-national trade.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government be encouraged to lead an inter-governmental effort to rationalize the regulatory load in the interest of reducing costs for slaughter facilities while ensuring optimum food safety, while increasing financial resources that support the economic viability of smaller community-based slaughter facilities.

International Development

Ottawa Centre Electoral District Association

WHEREAS the chief objective of International Development Assistance is to reduce poverty and protect the inalienable human rights of the world's poorest and most vulnerable populations;

WHEREAS Canada's official development assistance stands at 0.32% of Gross National Income (GNI), significantly inferior to the OECD donor countries average (currently at 0.44% of GNI);

WHEREAS in 2005, the House of Commons unanimously adopted a motion calling on the government to increase its foreign aid budget to 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI), the United Nations target for international aid;

WHEREAS international development is a complex and multi-sectoral process requiring decades of dedicated and flexible programmes which target private, public and non-profit sectors. International development assistance is most effective when it is reliable over time and highly focused geographically;

WHEREAS in 2008, the House of Commons passed the Aid Accountability Act, Bill C-293, requiring Canadian development assistance to target poverty reduction, take into account the priorities of the people living in poverty and be consistent with Canada's international human rights obligations;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada calls upon the federal government to increase Canadian foreign aid spending by 15% annually for the next ten years to reach 0.7% of GNI by 2017 – Canada's 150th Anniversary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada calls upon the federal government to ensure that Canadian international assistance in any one country is reliable over time and of sufficient size to be a significant influence on the development process in that country.

Establishing an Environment Board of Canada

*Stormont Dundas and South Glengarry Electoral District Association
Kingston and the Island Electoral District Association*

WHEREAS the state of the Canadian and global environments is now recognized as among the most critical challenges facing Canada;

WHEREAS governments in Canada and elsewhere have traditionally been unwilling to take decisive action to address environmental threats in cases where such action might be opposed by powerful economic interests until the weight of scientific evidence becomes overwhelming;

WHEREAS it is in the nature of both complex ecological systems and the scientific process that such ironclad proof is almost never available until after the resulting environmental damage has become irreparable (e.g. the collapse of the cod fishery);

BE IT RESOLVED that it be a policy of the Liberal Party that the Government of Canada establish and fund a science-based *Environment Board of Canada* to provide credible, independent, multidisciplinary advice to all levels of government and to Canadians generally

- on the health of the Canadian and global environments
- on the potential consequences of known environmental threats;
- on policies required to effectively mitigate those threats, and
- on the success or failure of existing policies;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proposed Board's independence from the short-term policies of the government of the day be assured through multi-year parliamentary appropriations and through an appropriate non-partisan selection process for senior members.