

LPC(O) POLICY SUBMISSION TO THE LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA

FEBRUARY 2009

The attached package contains unedited resolutions that have been directly submitted by Electoral District Associations and Commissions or blended by EDA's and Commissions.

These are the 10 resolutions with the most support after a lengthy process of regional policy rallies and a Province wide consultation using the En-Famille application.

Please note that all resolutions marked as "Blended" replace those previously submitted by the authoring EDA's with their collaboration and approval.

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A Policy to Support the Implementation of a National Child Care Plan in Canada (*LPC(O) Priority Resolution*)

*Ontario Young Liberal Commission
Ottawa-Centre Federal Young Liberal Association*

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

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

WHEREAS children and youth are disproportionately affected by poverty;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

National Water Policy (Blended)

*London Fanshawe / Brant / Oakridges Markham /
Newmarket-Aurora / Niagara Falls / Ottawa Centre /*

WHEREAS water is a finite resource that is under increasing strain, and only 1% of Canada's water supply is renewed annually; 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 the interests of foreign corporations investing in water or whose investments require the use, consumption or pollution OF WATER are protected under the North American Free Trade Agreement and other trade agreements; and,

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

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

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

WHEREAS municipalities are in desperate need of adequate funding to maintain, upgrade and build new water and wastewater infrastructure;

BE IT RESOLVED that Canada establish a National Water Policy that would protect water from commoditification, and from international agreements that would undermine the authority of the Canadian government and citizens by introducing binding legislation to ban bulk water exports; and committing the federal government to enter talks with the U.S. and Mexico to exclude water from NAFTA and all future trade agreements; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a National Water Policy establish enforceable national clean water standards 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 enshrine water as a human right to ensure that all people living in Canada are legally entitled to safe, clean, drinking water and water for sanitation in sufficient quantities; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a National Water Policy must implement a comprehensive conservation strategy and invest in water resource research, monitoring and a comprehensive national hydrometric network and water survey of all significant watersheds in Canada.

National Housing Strategy (Blended)

*Peterborough Electoral District Association, Sudbury Electoral District Association, Toronto Centre Electoral District Association, and the Ontario Women's Liberal Commission
Blended by: Chris Drew, Toronto Centre*

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 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal Government shall, 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 a team of key stakeholders, including the non profit sector and the building industry, who within 18 months will develop an incremental 10 year action plan that will:

- Review and expand the Affordable Housing Program to include capital and ongoing funding to build or renovate and sustain housing affordable to low income Canadians;
- Provide sustainable and predictable funding for the Homelessness Partnership Strategy; and.

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.

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.

Foreign Trained Credentials (Blended)

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

*Toronto Centre Electoral District Association
Renfrew Nipissing Pembroke Electoral District Association
Ajax Pickering Electoral District Association?*

WHEREAS the acceptance and integration of Internationally Trained Persons (ITPs) is necessary to maintain and increase both economic and population growth in Canada.

WHEREAS the failure to recognize the value of ITPs in our institutions is not exclusive to new Canadians, but a broader issue which affects all Canadians who seek education outside of Canada;

WHEREAS the inability to adequately incorporate ITPs into the economy often results in poverty, social unrest, loss of human capital, and upwards of \$5 billion per year of lost economic opportunity;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada ask the Government of Canada to work with the provinces and territories, and foreign governments and institutions to promote the integration of ITPs at the regulatory level by helping to establish common guidelines for qualifying the educational value of foreign credentials, and make said information publicly available;

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; 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 through a centralized information post so that both prospective immigrants and Canadians seeking to study abroad may adequately prepare for such hurdles.

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.

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.

GST Cut for Environmentally Friendly Products

*Ontario Young Liberal Commission
Peterborough Federal Young Liberals*

WHEREAS the federal government has proposed rebates of up to \$2000 on the purchase of certain environmentally friendly vehicles. This neglects to take into account the high numbers of Canadians who either do not own a car or will not be purchasing one in the near future;

WHEREAS many products such as, but not exclusive to, cleaning materials and personal care products are products that Canadians more regularly purchase and often have a profoundly negative effect on the environment;

WHEREAS environmental friendly products are defined by the Ministry of Industry;

WHEREAS environmentally friendly household products are often passed over due to either a lack of awareness of their benefits, or a perception that they are more costly than their non-eco friendly counterparts; and,

WHEREAS a greater use of environmentally friendly household products will directly aid the health of the planet while making environmental conservation a daily part of Canadians lives; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Young Liberals urge the Liberal Party of Canada and the Canadian Government to eliminate the five percent GST on environmentally friendly household products.

Reducing Child Poverty in Canada

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.

Renewed Pan-Canadian Funding Model for Aboriginal Peoples

*Ontario Young Liberal Commission
Glendon Young Liberals and St. Paul's Young Liberals*

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

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

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

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

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