

TCYL Policies for the Ontario Young Liberals Toronto Region Policy Parliament

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An Energy Policy on the International Energy Bank

Submitted by: Patrick Lum, Toronto Centre Young Liberals | tcyl.ca

WHEREAS enriched uranium creates the by-product, plutonium. Both substances are used to make nuclear weapons. These weapons should not be produced.

WHEREAS every country has the right to a peaceful, domestic nuclear power program.

WHEREAS nuclear reactors run on uranium rods in approximately five year periods, at which time the energy in the rods needs to be replenished.

BE IT RESOLVED that Canada help establish an international energy bank managed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to dispense and collect uranium rods. These rods would be dispensed indiscriminately given that the countries set to receive them allow frequent inspection of their nuclear facilities. This would regulate nuclear power supplies and limit the proliferation of nuclear technologies. This also provides an alternative to fossil fuels.

**Diplomatic Countermeasures Against
Perpetrators of Mass Violations of Human Rights and Genocide**

Submitted by: Adlan Taramov, Toronto Centre Young Liberals | tcyl.ca

WHEREAS Canada should again play the role of the world's champion of human rights and peace;

WHEREAS it is against the nature of a democratic society and government to ignore brutal abuse and violation of the universally recognized humanitarian principles;

WHEREAS the possibilities of the Canadian government to intervene on behalf of those humanitarian principles is rather limited;

WHEREAS the international law proscribes the practice of implementing diplomatic countermeasures for countries that cannot enforce peace and human rights, but do not wish and cannot afford to ignore and legitimize these violations;

WHEREAS Canada has great diplomatic potential and good image in the World, since it never possessed colonies and has a long history of diplomatic efforts to advocate peace, human rights, stability, and rule of law in the world

WHEREAS the World needs a wise Canada to take the lead in promoting universally recognized principles;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian government expresses its legitimate concerns about mass human right violations, and violation of the laws of war in Chechnya, Sri-Lanka, Sudan, Tibet etc;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian government takes action to recognize situations of grave violations of international humanitarian and treaty law as illegitimate;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian government takes steps to recognize the brutal and mass oppression of civilian populations as illegitimate and contrary to the spirit of humanity;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Canadian government imposes sanctions on the government officials directly involved in the crimes against humanity and genocide;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Canada makes a diplomatic effort to revitalize diplomatic efforts in the United Nations aimed at providing humanitarian relief and protection for the world's poor and oppressed;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Canada is to take its traditional place in the World as the wise leader and champion of the principles of human rights and rule of law;

Afghanistan Pullout Policy

Submitted by: Patrick Lum, Toronto Centre Young Liberals | tcyl.ca

WHEREAS upon his election in January 2006, Harper transformed Canada's role in Afghanistan from a peace keeping role to a combat role. The number of Canadian deaths increased significantly since 2006. There were four deaths in 2002, two in 2003, one in 2004, one in 2005, then 37 in 2006, 30 in 2007, and 32 in 2008.

WHEREAS Canada should adhere to the Manley Recommendations by Fmr. Liberal Dept. PM John Manley, which call for new helicopters, aerial intelligence vehicles, and increased levels of surveillance.

WHEREAS the Taliban pay \$12-14 per day, and the Afghan army of 30 000 people pays \$4 per day. This financial incentive helps Taliban recruitment. Thus, there exists moderate Taliban.

WHEREAS Pakistan is crucial to solving the problem in Afghanistan. Pakistan is to be directed away from its tense situation with Pakistan in Kashmir and to its border with Afghanistan.

WHEREAS The FATA between Afghanistan and Pakistan are porous, leading to the transport of destabilizing narcotics.

BE IT RESOLVED that by 2011, Canada will urge NATO members to take more responsibility and transfer accountability to the Afghan National Police.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Canada pulls out of Afghanistan by 2011. The goals in the interim should include storing heavy weapons, extracting mines, making micro loans, and training Afghan National Police. Canada should focus building trade routes between Pakistan and Afghanistan, policing the FATA, and promoting development.

A Policy for a High Speed Railway in Canada

**Submitted by: Andrew Vittas, Toronto Centre Young Liberals and
York University Young Liberals**

WHEREAS the current economic crisis along with the continual threats of climate change has exposed the need for Canada to boost infrastructure investment to keep its economy moving and modernization of public services;

WHEREAS the need to invest in new Green technology and reduce dependence on non-renewable and polluting substances and investing into new technologies for greater efficiency of public services through environmentally friendly methods;

WHEREAS new technology and developments are needed to boost revenue and the quality of services by investing in new Green technology to improve Canada's ageing public transportation infrastructure;

WHEREAS a considerable number of organizations, policy analysts, individuals, economists, and politicians have called for and/or have pledged support for the investment in a Canadian HRS;

WHEREAS the Quebec-Windsor Corridor is the most densely-populated and heavily-industrialised region of Canada. With over 16 million residents, including the national capital and three of the large metropolitan areas of Toronto, and Montreal a high speed railway will prove to be major convenience and will provide a great service to these growing cities;

WHEREAS the successful use of Green technology and efficiency achieved in France and Germany through the investment, development, and usage of their High Speed Railways.

WHEREAS a Canadian High Speed Railway will have the ability to travel between 170KM/H to 320KM/H and will effectively boost services and economic progress in Ontario and Quebec.

WHEREAS the investment of a HSR will achieve gains across the board through boosting Canadian infrastructure, public transportation, and efficiency. Tapping into a new efficient and profitable Green economy model.

WHEREAS the opportunity to gradually develop other HSR networks across Canada after Quebec City-Windsor line is operational, effectively setting a new nationwide Green economic strategy, with profitable returns, and making Canada a worldwide example in creating transportation and environmental awareness economy.

WHEREAS: the key to maintaining Canada's economic growth and development in the 21st century will come from investing in green technologies, and to develop new and efficient infrastructure to cope with the challenge of providing services to our expanding metropolitans and to protect our environment. Canadian policy cannot maintain the economy while harming the environment and cannot protect the environment while harming the economy so a new dual approach needs to be taken by expanding our economy through Green technology and the efficiencies it provides. The investment of the HSR will be a large step forward for Canada and its interests in strong growth and quality of living.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OYL urge the Government of Canada to investment in the construction of the first Canadian High Speed Railway (HSR) linking Quebec City with Windsor.

Policy on Pesticide

Submitted by: Michael Raybould, Toronto Centre Young Liberals | tcyl.ca

WHEREAS Neonicotinoid Pesticides are applied to seeds and are prevalent in high levels plants to do considerable damage to honey bees;

WHEREAS these Pesticides are designed to affect memories of insects and have been found to disrupt the abilities of bees to function and if bees are exposed to high levels over time they will fall to the ground with spasms and not be able to fly;

WHEREAS honey bees are important to humans as the production of honey pollinates most of the crops in the western world and without pollination these crops would cease to produce food;

WHEREAS many countries in Europe have already banned the use of these systemic pesticides;

WHEREAS the rapidly shrinking population of honey bees needed to pollinate our plants will result in decrease in the supply of many crops and will drive food prices.

WHEREAS developing safer pesticides and using alternatives will help to save honey bees and save consumers money at the supermarket.

WHEREAS banning Neonicotinoid would also help protect Canadians from the unknown long term health risks of consuming these pesticides for a prolonged period of time; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED That the Government of Canada institute a national ban of Neonicotinoid.

Decriminalization of Sex Work in Canada

Submitted by: Lindsay Czitron, Toronto Centre Young Liberals | tcyl.ca

WHEREAS those who work in the sex industry are subject to violence and discrimination;

WHEREAS sex workers are often afraid to report crimes committed against them due to fear of being arrested themselves;

WHEREAS laws in Canada make it impossible to practice sex work both safely and legally;

WHEREAS sex work is the only form of consensual sexual adult activity effectively outlawed by the state;

WHEREAS the “Living off the Avails” law criminalizes the friends, families, roommates, and partners of sex workers;

WHEREAS trafficking and exploitation are abhorrent, but many are in the sex trade consensually as adults;

WHEREAS countries such as New Zealand that have decriminalized prostitution experience lower rates of coercion, trafficking, child prostitution, and violence against sex workers; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the laws in the Criminal Code against Communicating for the Purpose of Prostitution (Sec. 213), Living off the Avails (Sec. 212) and Keeping a Common Bawdy-House (Sec. 210) should be overturned;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that sex workers should be able to work both independently and in groups;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that sex work should be treated like any other form of work in Canada, with appropriate health and safety regulations, reasonable taxation like any other form of income, and the right to unionize;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that violence, human trafficking, extortion and child prostitution will not be tolerated;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all sex workers, whether in the sex industry by choice or circumstance, enjoy full rights as Canadians.