

Toronto Regional Policy Parliament

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Hosted by the Glendon Liberals

Policy Package



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Condemning Israel Apartheid Week

Submitted by: St. Paul's Young Liberals

WHEREAS the term Apartheid is used to incite hate; and

WHEREAS using the term Israel Apartheid diminishes the real suffering of those who lived in the South African apartheid state; and

WHEREAS false rhetoric and vilification is unjust and does not advance the Palestinian cause, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Young liberals condemn Israel Apartheid week, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ontario Young liberals call for an end to the practice of mounting Israel Apartheid week at Ontario Universities and Colleges.

Policy for an Integrated Public School System in Ontario

Submitted by: Daniel Gatto, Trinity-Spadina Young Liberals

WHEREAS it is unfair to publicly fund a group of schools that are affiliated with one religion without funding all religiously affiliated schools;

WHEREAS former Protestant schools in Ontario have become fully public;

WHEREAS funding all or any faith based school is against the spirit secular government and education;

WHEREAS a segregated Catholic school board is discriminatory and against the spirit of multiculturalism;

WHEREAS religion is a matter of private and personal interest;

WHEREAS parents are free to send their children to a religiously affiliated school at their own expense;

WHEREAS public funding for Catholic schools presents a value added and an unfair advantage for parents who want to send their children to a Catholic school;

WHEREAS one integrated and secular system can lead to economies of scale;

WHEREAS a Catholic teacher can be employed by either the public board or the Catholic board, while a non-Catholic can only be employed by the public board;

WHEREAS publicly funded education up to high school is a in the interest of the public and publicly funded faith-based education up to high school is not in the interest of the public;

WHEREAS Ontarians have made it clear that they do not support the funding of all faith based schools as per the outcome of the 2007 Ontario election;

WHEREAS Section 15(1) entitle "Equality Rights" of the Constitution Act, 1982 implicitly overrules the 1867 BNA Act provision within Section 93 for publicly funded Catholic schools;

WHEREAS in June 2005, Quebec passed Bill 95, which eliminated all religious instruction from public schools in the province;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OYL urge the Government of Ontario to integrate the Catholic school board into a single secular public school board.

Reference Material: Policy for an integrated public school system in Ontario

Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms of the Constitution Act, 1982

Equality Rights

Equality before and under law and equal protection and benefit of law 15. (1) *Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination* and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, *religion*, sex, age or mental or physical disability.

Policy on International Exchange

Submitted by: Aaron Ginsberg

WHEREAS Canada must be able to compete in a global economy.

WHEREAS Canada's universities should become centres of international learning.

WHEREAS students should be able to have a global education in order to compete in a global economy.

WHEREAS an international exchange provides benefits to both host institutions and their students.

WHEREAS the ERASMUS program in the European Union has helped to unify the continent.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada support students enrolled to study abroad with a \$1 000 scholarship per term.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada provide a \$5 000 per student, per term sponsorship to Canadian universities that support a foreign exchange program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada work towards the establishment of international exchange programs akin to the ERASMUS program with their allies within any or all of the G20, NATO, the Commonwealth, the Francophonie, APEC and the OAS.

A Policy to Eradicate the Use of Chile Soldiers

Submitted by: Etobicoke Centre Young Liberal Association

WHEREAS approximately 250,000 to 300,000 child soldiers are currently exploited in situations of armed conflict in approximately 30-40 countries around the world (DFAIT)

WHEREAS the widespread availability of inexpensive, lightweight, automatic weapons allows for children as young as seven to participate in combat related roles

WHEREAS young girls are often victims of maiming, sexual violence, sexual exploitation, forced marriage, and are at a higher risk of exposure to HIV/AIDS

WHEREAS poverty and a lack of education offer few options for a child, resulting in children “volunteering” for military service

WHEREAS Canada was a key leader behind the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which prohibits the deployment and forced recruitment of children under the age of 18.

WHEREAS preventing the recruitment and assisting with the reintegration of former child soldiers is not stated as “key” priorities or as “ongoing” priorities by DFAIT.

BE IT RESOLVED that the OYL urges the Government of Canada to make the prevention, use of, and reintegration of former child soldiers a “key” priority for DFAIT and CIDA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the OYL urges the Government of Canada to assist, where possible, the establishment of accurate birth registration systems to help verify the age of children in conflict zones

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the OYL urges the Government of Canada to introduce legislation against recruitment of child soldiers into the Criminal Code of Canada (to allow for the prosecution of Canadian citizens abroad [extraterritorial jurisdiction] and the protection of Canadian victims abroad)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the OYL urges the Government of Canada to support the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1612, which established, a monitoring and reporting mechanism on the use of child soldiers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the OYL urges the Government of Canada to partner with NGO’s and aid organizations to create viable alternatives to recruitment, such as education, employment, and skills training opportunities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the OYL urges the Government of Canada to increase global awareness via NGOs about children’s rights against forced recruitment into armed forces or armed groups

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the OYL urges the Government of Canada to withhold any military assistance for governments that fail to take steps to demobilize and stop recruiting children into their forces or governments which support groups that actively engage in recruiting child soldiers.

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 Neocotinoid 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.

Policy on Euthanasia

Submitted by: Jayme Turney, Parkdale High-Park Young Liberals

WHEREAS euthanasia is currently illegal under the Criminal Code of Canada;

WHEREAS in extreme cases terminally ill patients, or patients with locked-in syndrome, may desire euthanasia when faced with prolonged and needless suffering;

WHEREAS preventing terminally ill patients, or patients with locked-in syndrome, from exercising euthanasia, without a medically sound justification, or a positive medical prognosis, is merciless and infringes upon an individual's right to choose how to treat his/her condition;

WHEREAS valuable and critical resources are wasted when used to prolong the suffering of a terminally ill, or locked-in syndrome patient, against his/her wishes;

WHEREAS abuses of such a policy must be prevented with strict and reasonable boundaries;

WHEREAS the potential for advancements in medicine that may treat or cure terminal illnesses, or locked in syndrome, must be taken into account in any euthanasia policy; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Young Liberals press the Liberal Party of Canada to adopt a policy legalizing euthanasia; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this euthanasia policy only apply to the terminally ill facing death within six months, and to patients with locked-in syndrome, who have provided competent, conscious, and voluntary consent with a conclusive diagnosis of two physicians and two psychologists; and to unconscious or incompetent terminally ill patients, facing death within six months, and incompetent locked-in syndrome patients, provided they have expressed a desire to be euthanized in an advanced directive and that two physicians and two psychologists provide a conclusive diagnosis.

A Policy to Eliminate the Ontario Secondary Schools Literacy Test (OSSLT)

Submitted by: Amanda Sartori, Glendon Liberals

WHEREAS the Ontario government has maintained a commitment to ensuring the quality of education in Ontario,

WHEREAS the Ontario Secondary Schools Literacy Test (OSSLT) is not an effective measurement of Ontario students' performance,

WHEREAS the OSSLT does not result in an accurate reflection of a student's literacy skills as teachers teach only the elements that are tested on the literacy test,

WHEREAS the results of the literacy test do not judge the level of literacy of students across the province of Ontario equally as the test does not measure initiative, creativity, conceptual thinking, curiosity, judgment and ethics,

WHEREAS standardized testing undermines the curriculum, in that it has shifted, along with instructional time, to areas that are being covered on the test in the form of "literacy test preparation,"

WHEREAS the OSSLT puts ESL students at a disadvantage as it is a test designed for students whose first language is English,

WHEREAS 63% of ESL students who took the test in 2002, failed the test and had to repeat it;

WHEREAS the OSSLT costs \$25 million to administer and incurs a \$25 million remedial cost;

WHEREAS the OSSLT, in its ranking of Ontario secondary schools, creates a culture of competition between schools not conducive to effective learning;

WHEREAS the high-stakes nature of standardized testing impedes learning among students; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the OYL urges the Ontario government to remove the OSSLT from the secondary schools curriculum; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the OYL urges the Ontario government to continue its commitment to ensuring the high quality of education in Ontario by other means.