

TCYL Policies for the Ontario Young Liberals Toronto Region Policy Parliament

May 17, 2008



Table of Contents

Policy Title	Club	Author	Page	Result
A) <u>Reversing the Ban on MSM Organ Donation</u>	Toronto Centre Young Liberals	Aaron GlynWilliams in collaboration with Michael Pelz	2	Passed-TRPP Policy for Summer Fling
B) <u>Addressing Canada's Demographic Changes By Improving the Permanent Residents Process</u>	Toronto Centre Young Liberals	Denise Lam	3	
C) <u>Increasing Access to Gainful Employment for Internationally Trained Professionals</u>	Toronto Centre Young Liberals	Yuri Navarro	4	
D) <u>Improving Fluorescent Lamps Recycling Policy</u>	University of Toronto Young Liberals	Adlan Taramov	6	
E) <u>Ban Asbestos Exports to Developing Countries</u>	Toronto Centre Young Liberals	Angela De Campo and Chris Drew	7	
F) <u>Creation of a VIA Rail Act</u>	Toronto Centre Young Liberals	Mark Drew	8	
G) <u>Using Low-Speed Vehicles to Fight Climate Change</u>	Ryerson Young Liberals	Chris Drew	9	

A) Reversing the Ban on MSM Organ Donation

**Submitted By: Aaron GlynWilliams, Toronto Centre Young Liberals in
collaboration with Michael Pelz,
University of Western Ontario Young Liberals**

WHEREAS Canada suffers from severe organ shortages and maintains one of the lowest organ donation rates in the world;

WHEREAS thousands of Canadians wait in hope for organs;

WHEREAS all donated organs undergo extensive tests to guard against transmission of HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis-C, and other debilitating diseases;

WHEREAS there have been no reported cases of organ recipients receiving HIV/AIDS and/or Hepatitis-C from organs donated by gay men;

WHEREAS as per the recommendations of Canada's medical community, screening efforts should focus on dangerous sexual activity independent of sexual orientation;

WHEREAS Health Canada's stipulation that gay men who have engaged in sexual activity since 1977 are ineligible to donate organs is counterproductive and void of credible scientific information, moreover, such policies avoid addressing unsafe sexual practices in the heterosexual community;

WHEREAS the Federal ban on organ donations from gay men promotes regrettable stereotypes which denigrate the gay community; and,

WHEREAS the ban on gay male organ donations reduces the already small amount of organs available for donation; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the recent ban on MSM organ donations be overturned;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Health Canada refocus its efforts on enhanced screening and education programs about potentially risky sexual activities for all groups, independent of their sexuality; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Health Canada strive to promote equality and tolerance between all Canadians, and that all significant policy decisions be completed in consultation with the Canadian Medical community.

B) Addressing Canada's Demographic Changes By Improving the Permanent Residents Process

Submitted By: Denise Lam, Toronto Centre Young Liberals

WHEREAS the backlog to process permanent resident (PR) applications has reached over 900,000 and continues to grow at an alarming rate, due in part to the lack of resources and leadership provided by the Harper government;

WHEREAS long wait times for PR applications causes immigrants to feel considerable anxiety, frustration and disappointment in Canada, as well as cause family strains;

WHEREAS Canada will be facing employment shortages in certain sectors the near future and needs permanent residents to contribute to the Canadian economy, especially in skilled trades and professional occupations;

WHEREAS Canada's demographics are changing as Canada's baby boomers age and fewer children are born from Canadian born families, causing the ratio between taxpayers and those using social services such as health care to increase;

WHEREAS the Harper government recently amended the Citizenship and Immigration Act to give new powers to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration that will permit the Minister to be able to 'cherry-pick' PR applicants and ignore the current points system, decrease the chances that family reunification will occur, and continue to grow the backlog with refugee applicants.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada reverse the amendments to the Citizenship and Immigration Act passed by the Harper government;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Government of Canada develop a Permanent Resident Action Plan to address the changing demographics in Canada;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Plan include an increase in the annual operating budget of Citizenship and Immigration Canada with the goal of decreasing wait times for PR applications to be processed;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Plan include Government of Canada reducing the backlog of Convention Refugee and those applying for Permanent Residents under Humanitarian and Compassionate grounds in order to allow applicants to receive clarity in their lives.

[\[Table of Contents\]](#)

C) Increasing Access to Gainful Employment for Internationally Trained Professionals

Submitted By: Yuri Navarro, Toronto Centre Young Liberals

WHEREAS the acceptance and integration of new immigrants is necessary to maintain and increase economic and population growth in the Province of Ontario;

WHEREAS despite higher levels education per capita, new Immigrants are facing poverty at three times the level of Canadians born and educated in the Country, leading to desperation and social unrest;

WHEREAS the inability to adequately incorporate Internationally trained persons into the economy by allowing them to practice in their fields of expertise costs the country upwards of \$5 billion per year in economic opportunity;

WHEREAS Bill 124, Fair Access to Regulated Professions Act does not address more specifically the issue of recognition of foreign credentials in regulated professions including but not exclusive to: engineering, architecture, accounting, finance, medical professions, and teaching;

WHEREAS Bill 124, Fair Access to Regulated Professions Act does not address the specific issue of assisting foreign trained professionals to achieve gainful employment in their field through pressuring for the recognition of foreign work experience in their field;

BE IT RESOLVED that the OYL ask the Government of Ontario to further promote the integration of internationally trained persons at the regulatory level by asking the Access Centre for Internationally Trained Individuals to establish standardized guidelines and/or a point system to judge the educational value of foreign credentials against those gained in Ontario, and make said information public so that it may be used by both employers and regulatory organizations in determining the qualifications of individuals based on their international credentials;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the that the OYL urge the Government of Ontario to further promote the integration of internationally trained persons at the regulatory level by asking the Fairness Commissioner to establish guidelines to prevent discrimination based on "foreign experience" and put into place enforceable measures to ensure that both regulatory organizations and employers do not place undue hardship on internationally trained professionals based solely on the origin their education and experience;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the OYL encourage the Government of Ontario to further promote the integration of internationally trained persons at the organizational level by creating a mandate for the Access Centre for Internationally Trained Individuals to enter into relationships with professional organizations in order to promote the recognition of international credentials and experience through the use of mentorship programs, financial incentives and educational campaigns; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that where significant regulatory hurdles exist that will limit the ability of internationally trained individuals to attain gainful employment in their field of practice, and where such hurdles cannot be reasonably removed so as to ensure quality standards in said field of practice, this information be made public internationally through the Access Centre for Internationally Trained Individuals so that prospective immigrants may adequately prepare for such hurdles upon immigrating to Canada.

[\[Table of Contents\]](#)

D) Improving Fluorescent Lamps Recycling Policy

Submitted By: Adlan Taramov, Toronto Centre Young Liberals

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

E) Ban Asbestos Exports to Developing Countries

Submitted By: Angela De Campo and Chris Drew, Toronto Centre Young Liberals

WHEREAS Canada is one of the leading countries in the world to export asbestos;

WHEREAS asbestos is a toxic and deadly material which is no longer used in many developed countries and about 75 per cent of Canadian asbestos is shipped to Asia where, along with India, the biggest customers are Indonesia, South Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand (source: Globe and Mail);

WHEREAS Canada exports asbestos to mostly developing countries where there are poor safety practices which results in serious health consequences for workers and the World Health Organization estimates asbestos kills at least 90,000 people a year — about half of all occupational cancer deaths (source: Globe and Mail);

WHEREAS there are alternatives available for asbestos; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Government of Canada ban the export of asbestos to developing countries; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Government of Canada establish transition program for employees in the Canadian asbestos mining industry to find new sources of employment.

[\[Table of Contents\]](#)

F) Creation of a VIA Rail Act

Submitted By: Mark Drew, Toronto Centre Young Liberals

WHEREAS VIA Rail Canada does not have its own act of parliament, unlike other crown corporations such as Canada Post and the CBC;

WHEREAS VIA Rail was created over 25 years ago as an emergency measure to resolve the 1970s crisis in passenger rail;

WHEREAS VIA cannot make its own decisions on which routes to serve nor can it make any investment without Treasury Board approval;

WHEREAS a *VIA Rail Act* should be enacted without delay, to correct these structural problems and give VIA a clear mandate to provide service wherever sufficient demand exists and the means to do so (Source: Transport 2000); therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Government of Canada pass a VIA Rail Act and develop a strategy to increase the use passenger rail between cities and towns in Canada; and,

BE IT FURHTER RESOLVED THAT the Government of Canada commit to long-term and predictable funding for VIA Rail to ensure that the strategy can be fully implemented.

[\[Table of Contents\]](#)

G) Using Low-Speed Vehicles to Fight Climate Change

Submitted By: Chris Drew, Ryerson Young Liberals

WHEREAS gas prices continue to rise;

WHEREAS Pollution spewing from vehicle tailpipes kills about 440 people in Toronto and costs the city's economy \$2.2-billion every year, according to a new study from the city's public health unit that one critic says falsely suggests our air is poisonous (source: National Post);

WHEREAS Canadian companies such as ZENN Motor Company have faced regulatory obstacles from Transport Canada that have prevented the commercial sale of Low-Speed Vehicles (LSV);

WHEREAS Low-Speed Vehicles present an environmentally friendly alternative and meet the safety requirements

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Government of Canada change all federal regulations to permit low-speed Vehicles (LSV); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Government of Canada offer similar tax credits and training funding to LSV producers similar to those provided to the major auto producers.

[\[Table of Contents\]](#)