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6. Vision of Rural Canada

WHEREAS Rural Canada is struggling with rising costs which causes the closure of many small locally owned businesses including family farms; and

WHEREAS there is a global food shortage and Canada is in a unique position to assist; and

WHEREAS healthy methods of farming benefit Canada in many ways, such as improved health, sustainable and self-sufficient food production and an improved environment from the use of fewer chemicals and less fossil fuel usage; and

WHEREAS younger generations have, for decades, had to leave Rural Canada to find employment, thereby harming the growth and development of these areas;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada adopt a future vision of Rural Canada to include education, research and development, information technology and marketing systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the next Liberal government to create a Department of Rural Affairs to support self-sustaining agriculture, re-develop the family farm and support the role information technology can play in the growth of the rural economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a component of the future vision of Rural Canada is having a clear plan to further the cause of organic methods of agriculture, encouraging a focus of research, development and education into healthy and non-pollutant systems of farming; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Rural Affairs will work in a collaborative manner with all people most affected by its directions.

Liberal Party of Nova Scotia

16. Royal Commission on the Environment and Health

WHEREAS, during the past seventy years, tens of thousands of chemicals, many of which are cancer-causing, have been used in industrial processes and the production of consumer goods;

WHEREAS, some of these chemicals now contaminate our air, water and food, and may be linked to increases in autism, childhood asthma and developmental delays, posing a threat to the wellbeing of future generations;

WHEREAS, over the last 10-15 years, new technologies, such as those that create genetically modified organisms and nanoparticles, have developed rapidly, and are being used in the production of consumer goods;

WHEREAS, recently developed technologies create new life forms designed to function autonomously in the environment which may be difficult to control or contain;

WHEREAS, there have been few independent, peer-reviewed studies and no transparent, inclusive, in-depth discussion on possible environmental and health impacts of these substances and technologies;

WHEREAS, protection of human health and the environment requires rigorous application of the Precautionary Principle;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the next Liberal government of Canada to conduct a Royal Commission on the Environment and Health to examine:

- all aspects of the environmental and health impacts of industrial activity in Canada;
- the application of the Precautionary Principle, which protects public health and the environment from uncertain risks, to the regulation of both industrial processes and the production, distribution and availability of consumer goods in Canada; and make recommendations accordingly.

National Women's Liberal Commission

29. Improving Child Care and Parental Leave for Canadian Families

WHEREAS the importance of the availability of quality care for children during the early childhood years is widely recognized;

WHEREAS only 20% of Canadian families have access to regulated, quality child care services and this access may be severely hampered based on family income and the region in which the family resides;

WHEREAS parents who wish to stay at home to care for young children may not be able to do so under the current federal maternity and parental leave programme due to the inadequate benefits offered and restrictive regulations governing the programme;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada urge the next Liberal government to:

- work with the provinces and territories to create a nationally coordinated, publicly funded child care plan that ensures families in Canada have access to quality child care regardless of family income or the region of the country in which they reside;
- provide a comprehensive federal maternity and parental leave programme that increases benefits and is available to part-time and contract workers as well as the self employed, modeled on the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan;
- pay a meaningful allowance to the stay-at-home parent of a pre-school child.

National Women's Liberal Commission

35. Aging with Dignity

WHEREAS by 2031 almost 1 in 4 Canadians will be over the age of 65 and;

WHEREAS population aging presents a wide variety of complex challenges such as financial security and retirement, housing, transportation, chronic diseases and health care needs in an environment with insufficient support for seniors as reflected in:

- ✦ basic old age pension and supplement are deemed not sufficient for seniors to live with dignity,
- ✦ government's claw back has resulted in injustices to certain groups of pensions;

WHEREAS the Liberal Party believes that population aging is a success story and seniors with their skills, knowledge and experience are valuable given Canada's need for their contribution to the workforce; and

WHEREAS it can be shown that the cost of caring for a senior in his or her own home is much less than the cost of caring for that same senior in a long term care facility;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to adapt the Veterans' Independence Program and deliver systems for the benefit of all Canadian seniors.

BE IT RESOLVED that the next Liberal Government of Canada re-study all claw backs.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada is in favour of a wide range of supporting services and enhancements, including:

- ✦ setting the starting amount for the old age pension at \$600.00 a month and adjusted for inflation in subsequent years
- ✦ housing programs and building standards which enable seniors to age in peace, and that the GIS not be included in the calculation of benefits or for qualifying for social programs such as housing, legal or other
- ✦ a national home care program which provides quality health care and home making services
- ✦ establishment, of publicly funded and administered long term care facilities, with measurable standards of quality care which are monitored enforced and transparent.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge a Liberal Government to introduce innovations whereby seniors may use their acquired skills and/or participate in educational or retraining opportunities which enhance the fulfillment of their physical and intellectual potential including but not limited to:

- ✦ expand Educational Tax Credits to include seniors using a broader definition of eligible courses;
- ✦ support a life long learning website;
- ✦ carry out a life long learning awareness program.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada supports a review of legislation governing private and public pension plans to ensure an appropriate framework for meeting the financial needs of seniors.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as the population ages at different rates, the Liberal Party commits to ensuring equitable access to programs and benefits for all Canadians.

Senior Liberals' Commission
Liberal Party of Prince Edward Island
Liberal Party of Canada (Alberta)
New Brunswick Liberal Association

58. Access to Information

WHEREAS the Government of Canada shut down the Access procedure relating to the Access to Information Program (ATIP); and

WHEREAS this program is critical for keeping government open, transparent and accountable; and

WHEREAS the ATIP Access procedure and process provided for efficient coordination of access requests to the federal government;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada immediately re-instate the ATIP Access procedure and process.

Yukon Liberal Party

69. Making Poverty History at Home and Abroad

WHEREAS a Liberal Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson proposed the .7% of gross domestic product be contributed to foreign aid;

WHEREAS under-developed countries are still repaying loans to the developing world, some of these loans were given to oppressive regimes to help them buy arms, others had unfair terms and still others were used to pay for projects that only benefit western corporations;

WHEREAS under-developed countries are often pressured into signing unfair trade agreements in order to gain minimal access to Western markets or to receive aid from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund;

WHEREAS even 18 years after the all party resolution in the House of Commons to end child poverty in Canada, in 2007 788,000 or 11.7% of children in Canada live in poverty;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada urge the next Liberal government to pledge to reach the goal of giving .7% of its Gross Domestic Product to foreign aid by 2015;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada urge the next Liberal government to continue to work with the international community to forgive debt to developing and under-developed countries;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada urge the next Liberal government to commit to stop unfair deals going ahead, to listen to the serious concerns of poor countries and work with those countries to develop new deals that will help deliver trade justice;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada urge the next Liberal government to implement a plan to reduce overall poverty in Canada by 30% in the next five years and child poverty in Canada by 50%;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada urge the next Liberal government to ensure that programs and services to address poverty do not promote discrimination, segregation and marginalization.

*Saskatchewan Liberal Association
Senior Liberals' Commission*

75. Supporting Canada's Aboriginal Peoples

WHEREAS the Aboriginal population (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) is increasing in Canada, comprising 3.8% of Canada's population (15% in Manitoba and Saskatchewan) and has grown by 45% in the last decade;

WHEREAS a large segment of this population has been shut out of the economic benefits accruing to most Canadians;

WHEREAS the Kelowna Accord negotiated by the Liberal government, provinces/territories and Aboriginal groups was cancelled by the current government;

WHEREAS Canada was one of only four countries to vote against the UN Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada urge the next Liberal government to support the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People and endorses the principles in the Kelowna Accord;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada urge the next Liberal government to provide resources for Aboriginal peoples to establish a preferred future for themselves by strengthening their identity, governance relationships, and accountability among themselves and others;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada urge the next Liberal government to take immediate steps to provide clean drinking water on reserves;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada urge the next Liberal government to improve housing for Aboriginal peoples both on and off reserves;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada urge the next Liberal government to provide programs and services to improve living conditions by addressing substance abuse and violence in particular;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada urge the next Liberal government to work with Aboriginal peoples to devise and provide education programs that include cultural, lifestyle, employment and academic components;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada urge the next Liberal government to work with Aboriginal peoples to create economic development.

Saskatchewan Liberal Association

91. Alternate Energy

WHEREAS much of Canada's electrical power is generated by the burning of fossil fuels which contributes to global warming; and

WHEREAS there is a need to develop alternatives to fossil fuels in the generation of electric power which will reduce the production of greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS alternative sources of clean power are increasingly in demand and Canada has abundant resources for the development of such alternative fuels including, but not limited to hydro-electricity, wind power, nuclear power, etc.; and

WHEREAS the effective development of these alternative, clean energy technologies will require considerable investment and their effective utilization throughout all of Canada will require adequate transmission facilities; and

WHEREAS the effective utilization of Canada's power supplies throughout all of Canada will require adequate transmission facilities; and

WHEREAS there is a robust infrastructure in place to transport electricity north-south to energy markets in the United States but no such infrastructure exists to support the east-west transfer of energy;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge a Liberal Government to support and provide incentives for the development of alternate energy systems including, but not limited, to hydro-electric power, wind power and nuclear power in order to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge a Liberal Government to encourage and support the development of a national power grid for the efficient movement of electrical power throughout all the provinces and territories; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge a Liberal Government to ensure that this proposed transmission grid function as a carefully regulated common carrier, with all who use it being given equal treatment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge a Liberal Government to encourage and support the concept of net metering in order to encourage and promote the development and growth of small scale electric power producers.

Liberal Party of Prince Edward Island

95. Regional Development

WHEREAS a reasonable standard of living and a viable social structure can be more readily provided by strong economic performance than by transfer payments; and

WHEREAS the generation of economic wealth is not evenly distributed throughout Canada; and

WHEREAS this disparity is often the result of a lack of public infrastructure including transportation systems, communication systems, educational systems, water and sewer systems and other deficiencies; and

WHEREAS local provincial, territorial and municipal governments often lack the economic resources to provide such infrastructure;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge a Liberal Government to continue to support the concept of Regional Development by providing support to the installation of essential infrastructure and in turn facilitating business and economic development.

Liberal Party of Prince Edward Island

110. Greening the West

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the next Liberal government to require the Department of Western Economic Diversification to create a distinct investment fund to promote the development and implementation of the newest and best technologies to battle Green House Gas emissions in those locations where such emissions are most intense.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the next Liberal government to introduce matching grants to encourage the use of passive and active solar energy, water use reducing devices, wind power where applicable, and geo-thermal technology to help construct sustainable communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the next Liberal government to establish a National Water Commission, with provincial (or regional) chapters to initiate the longer term planning and implementation issues that will ensure a sustainable fresh water supply to Canadian citizens.

Saskatchewan Liberal Association

111. Revitalizing Ocean Fisheries

WHEREAS fishery and marine resources and economic activities they support are, and will remain, of prime importance to Canadians on all three coasts;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada support all actions that may be required, including and primarily adequate scientific and research activity, to ensure that returns are maximized for the benefit of our citizens;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada allocate to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans the adequate resources of patrol vessels, aircraft and personnel necessary to the safety of fisherpersons, protection of the resource, and enforcement of a regime of custodial management;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada ensure equitable treatment of those availing of opportunities for licence buyback and early retirement, programs essential to the long-term viability of the industry for harvesters and plant workers who remain and for future participants;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada increase efforts to negotiate lower tariffs on fishery exports to foreign markets.

Liberal Party of Newfoundland and Labrador

112. To Address Global Climate Change and the Economic Crisis by Stimulating a Competitive, Sustainable Green Economy

WHEREAS urgent, comprehensive and coordinated actions from governments around the world are essential to address global climate change and economic crises;

WHEREAS action on climate change needs to include four pillars of response: mitigation, adaptation, carbon storage in natural ecosystems, and nature conservation;

WHEREAS immediate investments in a sustainable green economy will stimulate economic recovery, develop competitive green technologies, create jobs, reduce greenhouse gases and foster sustainable communities;

AND WHEREAS the shift to ethanol derived from food stocks has caused global food prices to rise, leading to hardship and violence where food shortages are already acute;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal Government, in consultation with Canadians, will develop and implement a multi-faceted strategy to stimulate the development of a sustainable, competitive green economy that will reduce the threat of global warming and stimulate economic growth.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Liberal government will lead Canada and the world to address the crises facing both our environment and our economy, by carefully considering all mechanisms of investment, incentive and taxation, and implementing an economic and environmental recovery strategy that will lead to:

- a. timely and meaningful reductions of our industrial and household carbon emissions so that Canada meets its international obligations to mitigate climate change;
- b. conservation and restoration of ecosystems to safeguard natural carbon sinks;
- c. policies that promote the use of non-food based fuel and low carbon emission transportation; and
- d. long term development of a competitive green economy sustaining future generations, their environment and their communities.

Liberal Party of Canada (British Columbia)

113. Crisis in Agriculture

WHEREAS many family farms are suffering extreme financial crises and are, in fact, on the brink of financial disaster through default on farm loans, bankruptcy, mortgage foreclosure or other financial measures beyond their control; and

WHEREAS the survival of these farms is essential to the preservation of the Canadian social structure, the integrity of the Canadian economy and, indeed, the security of the Canadian food supply; and

WHEREAS these problems are being brought about in large measure by depressed prices in the hog and beef sectors and by weak markets in the potato sector, aggravated by record high prices for essential inputs including diesel fuel, agricultural fertilizers and agricultural chemicals; and

WHEREAS observations at retail food outlets fail to identify the source of many food items and appear to suggest that they are being obtained from non Canadian sources;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge a Liberal Government to undertake appropriate measures, including legislation where necessary, to safeguard a sustainable future for Canadian farms, to ensure that Canadian farmers have fair access to Canadian markets, that farmers are not forced to sell their products below the cost of production and that farm inputs are available at reasonable cost.

Liberal Party of Prince Edward Island

114. Profit Sharing

WHEREAS there is a need to increase our productivity in a competitive world;

WHEREAS several companies in Canada have profit-sharing plans for their employees;

WHEREAS such companies have substantially increased their productivity, competitiveness and profits;

WHEREAS this has led to greater employee retention and motivation;

WHEREAS this has led to increased savings for those employees;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada is in favour of encouraging companies to establish profit-sharing plans which would be voluntary for both companies and employees and supports using fiscal incentives to accomplish this goal.

New Brunswick Liberal Association

115. Poverty

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada is committed to reducing poverty throughout Canada, and has established the objective of reducing poverty by 30% and child poverty by 50% within five years; and

WHEREAS the Canada Assistance Plan (CAP), which formed a significant component of the social safety net and guaranteed minimal levels of social security for Canadians regardless of where they lived, was replaced by the Canada Health and Social Transfer (CHST) as part of the effort of the Liberal Government to balance its annual budget; and

WHEREAS while the federal budget has been balanced for ten years, the standard of living of poor Canadians has regressed over this time; and

WHEREAS, poverty disproportionately affects women and children; and

WHEREAS the experience of the Government of Canada and the Canadian provinces with CAP and CHST has been that federal social program transfers are most effective when they are conditional on matching funding from provincial governments;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT a Liberal Government shall lead the establishment of poverty reduction standards based on the social determinants of health, and ensure sufficient funding to maintain these standards, evaluate results, and report to Canadians; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT those standards include financial programs and child care to support single female parents to improve their earning capacity through education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a Liberal Government shall restore the Canada Assistance Plan, with its requirement for matching funding from provincial governments.

Liberal Party of Nova Scotia

116. Aboriginal Education

WHEREAS the education of Aboriginal learners in Canada is a matter of divided constitutional responsibility between the federal and provincial governments and the Indian Act provides for the primary and secondary education of First Nations;

WHEREAS Aboriginal peoples are the fastest growing population. From 1971 to 2001, the Aboriginal population grew by 322%, compared to 37% by non-Aboriginals. The working population of Canada is aging, and a one million worker shortage is predicted within 20 years;

WHEREAS Funding for the Post Secondary Educations (PSE) Program has been capped at a 2% annual growth since 1986, and the number of learners funded over recent years continues to decline. This is partly due to a fixed budget while tuition and other incidental costs generally increase.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada work with the Government of Canada to increase spending increases for PSE programs, be based on actual costs associated with program components and not be subject to caps, and indexed annually to reflect rises in both tuition costs and the cost of living;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs review the categories of eligible expenses under the PSE Program to ensure that the real expenses routinely incurred by individual eligible Aboriginal learners are covered. Such expenses may include child care, special needs, and special shelter. This review should occur immediately, and at regular intervals thereafter.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that all Aboriginal students who are accepted to Post-Secondary Education be given the funding required to ensure their attendance at a level which is truly reflective of the cost of Post-Secondary Education.

Aboriginal Peoples' Commission

117. Care Continuum

WHEREAS due to age and illness, many seniors cannot safely live unassisted and require additional support outside of hospitals but not expensive institutional care; and

WHEREAS a need exists for a standard of quality for a continuum of care from independent living, to home, supportive, long term, hospital or palliative care; and

WHEREAS home care and support are fundamental components of health care but are not covered under the Canada Health Act; and

WHEREAS inadequate dental and vision care can adversely affect quality of life and lead to more serious health problems; and

WHEREAS a senior is healthier and happier at home, where the cost for their care is significantly less than an institution; and

WHEREAS no national standards currently exist for home or long term care and there are great disparities in services provided by provinces and rural and urban areas;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to take a lead role in establishing a system of quality home care programs for seniors and others across the country as part of an integrated range of health services including long term care, mental health, dental and vision care, and that such services be incorporated into the Canada Health Act; and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to establish national standards for the quality and practice of long term care and encourage that facility accreditation be based on such standards.

Senior Liberals' Commission

118. Northern Sovereignty

WHEREAS a number of foreign nations do not recognize Canada's sovereignty over the Northwest Passage; and

WHEREAS there are disputes between Canada and other circumpolar nations on jurisdictional boundaries in the Arctic; and

WHEREAS demand for resources underlying Arctic waters will continue to increase over time as global warming provides for greater access to these resources; and

WHEREAS infrastructure development is a useful means to support Canada's claim; and

WHEREAS the Canadian military and the Coast Guard are integral "players" in Arctic domestic duties in search and rescue and in securing sovereignty interests;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada actively and aggressively asserts our northern sovereignty by enforcing our territorial rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Canada expand its military capacity in aerial surveillance and naval patrol frequency throughout Canada's northern waters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada support the construction of a western Arctic port at King Point and access to it from the Dempster Highway; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Canada tax civilian and military marine traffic plying Arctic waters to support infrastructure development and sovereignty; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Canada increase significantly its support for scientific infrastructure throughout the North to ensure that our scientific presence can reinforce primary research needs in areas such as climate change impacts on northern and First Nation communities and sensitive northern ecosystems.

Yukon Liberal Party

119. Extending Existing Affordable Housing Programs

WHEREAS the crisis regarding homelessness and the lack of affordable housing continues to increase in Canada, especially in large urban centres and communities experiencing sudden and substantial growth;

WHEREAS affordable housing is not available and/or within the financial capacity of many low income Canadians, resulting in increased homelessness, increased use of shelters, and increased risk to the health and safety of communities;

AND WHEREAS shelter is a basic human need and the foundation upon which healthy, secure and socially inclusive communities are built;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to extend and enhance existing programs and create new ones, including:

- The Affordable Housing Initiative;
- The Supportive Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI);
- The Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP);
- Aboriginal housing on and off-reserve;
- Co-operative housing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to support innovative initiatives through partnerships with the provinces, territories and stakeholder groups to leverage contributions for new affordable housing units and also create financial incentives for investors to do so.

Liberal Party of Canada (Alberta)

120. Reversing the Ban on MSM Organ Donation

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.

Young Liberals of Canada

123. Climate Change

WHEREAS

- Scientists confirm that human activity, especially the burning of fossil fuels, is altering the atmosphere, changing Earth's climate, and damaging the environment;
- Urgent action is required to combat the adverse effects of climate change; Biofuel production from crops grown for fuel (rather than for food) contributes to higher food prices, and risks increasing poverty and hunger, particularly in the global South.

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

1. Support unconditionally Canada's commitment under the Kyoto Protocol by enacting comprehensive legislation designed to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Canada, including, but not limited to:

- i. establishing a carbon tax, a cap and trade system, or a combination of both, including hard limits on the emission of greenhouse gasses for large final emitters;
- ii. providing financial support for energy efficiency and conservation measures, generating clean energy, and public education on the effects of global warming.

2. Initiate constructive negotiations relating to the post-Kyoto period intended to build an international climate regime that includes:

- i. deeper mandatory GHG emission reductions for industrialized countries;
- ii. expanding the group of countries committed to binding emission reductions;
- iii. protection for tropical forests;
- iv. prioritizing climate-friendly technologies.

3. Combat climate change by committing Canada to a 25-40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (relative to 1990 levels) by 2020, and an 80% reduction by 2050.

4. Favour the production of biofuels from forest product and agricultural residues.

Liberal Party of Canada (Quebec)

124. Human Rights Commission

WHEREAS visible minorities, refugees, women, seniors and children are subject to discrimination and injustice that is not addressed by federal legislation;

WHEREAS

- ✦ Canada has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, without adopting an overall policy reflecting its commitments;
- ✦ the Immigration and Refugee Board has not established the Refugee Appeals Division required by the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act;
- ✦ the country does not have a federal office monitoring the implementation of its national and international commitments;

WHEREAS the CHRC has a limited mandate that does not include the power to reprimand or prosecute and federal responsibility for human rights is divided among several non-centralized government agencies;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the next government to ensure that:

- ✦ the mandate of the CHRC is expanded to include type of citizenship status and socio-economic class as a ground of discrimination;
- ✦ all legislative bodies, needs and recommendations for the protection of human rights be centralized in the CHRC;
- ✦ the CHRC be given the power to monitor the implementation of our commitments and obligations to enforce its recommendations;
- ✦ the CHRC be accountable to the House of Commons and be given an appropriate budget;
- ✦ the CHRC put in place temporary or standing sub-commissions such as a sub-commission for children and a sub-commission for gender equity and equality.

Liberal Party of Canada (Quebec)

126. Economic Growth

WHEREAS the signs of economic slow-down can be seen in several countries of the world and are already making an impact on Canada's economy;

WHEREAS the price of oil (as well as that of gasoline) is increasing in unpredictable ways and this has a significant impact on stock markets and the Canadian economy;

WHEREAS Canada has already lost a large number of jobs in the industrial and manufacturing sectors;

WHEREAS a global slow-down is already making itself felt;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the next Liberal government encourage and promote research and development programs designed to better equip companies and businesses for the:

- transition from R&D to marketing of products,
- expansion of marketing efforts to foreign markets,
- modernizing of manufacturing facilities,
- securing of funding on public markets.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the next Liberal government support the creation and maintenance of jobs through the Business Development Bank of Canada and other government agencies in order to help in the financing of new companies as well as those experiencing difficulties;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a Liberal government take the positive impact of reducing corporate taxes into account in devising its tax policy and retain the flexibility thought to be necessary at a time of economic slow-down;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a Liberal government restore funding programs for the promotion of the arts and the export of their products abroad, just as it will ensure that support is offered to initiatives designed to maintain substantial Canadian content in cultural productions.

129. Natural Resources

GIVEN the whole importance of natural resources for the economic development of our rural areas, for environmental balance and for future generations;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada urge the next Liberal government to ensure that nature is conserved and that control is exercised over our natural resources by actions such as:

- ✦ Promotion of the rational exploitation of natural resources;
- ✦ Secondary and tertiary processing of natural resources in the resource areas;
- ✦ Equitable sharing of natural resources;
- ✦ Maintenance of Canadian control over these resources;
- ✦ Development of recapture systems;
- ✦ Implementation of a national program to preserve and renew drinking water.

Liberal Party of Canada (Quebec)

131. National Water Policy

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 commoditization, 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.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)

132. National Housing Strategy

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.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)

134. Internationally Trained Professionals

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.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)

135. Development of an Integrated Transportation Policy

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.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)

138. 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:

- assuring every adult working full-time, year-round a living standard above poverty for each region of Canada;
- 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;
- working with provinces to increase the rates of social assistance payments;
- 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;
- 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;
- providing an annual increase in housing subsidies for low income families adjusted for increases in costs of food, transportation and fuel.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)

140. A Policy to Support the Implementation of a National Child Care Plan in Canada

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.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)