

TCYL-TCFLA Policies for the Liberal Party of Canada 2009 Biennial Meeting

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TCFLA

Toronto Centre Federal Liberal Association

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Passed by the members: All

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) – Toronto Centre Federal Liberal Association | Written By: Chris Drew

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) – Toronto Centre Federal Liberal Association | Written By: Yuri Navarro

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 – Toronto Centre Young Liberals | Written By: Aaron GlynWilliams