



ontario young liberals

Toronto Regional Policy Parliament

July 18, 2010

York University

Policy Parliament Procedure

In order to ensure a smooth and efficient process, this year the governing structure behind policy parliaments has been solidified. The aim of these changes is to produce a more consolidated policy process, which will allow the OYL to bring focus to policy promotion.

All policy introduced will go through the same process, which is as follows;

Step 1: We ask that all submitted policies be labelled as either a federal or provincial before submission.

Step 2: Policy presentation shall be no longer than three minutes, during which time the policy should be introduced and its aims thoroughly outlined.

Step 3: People will have two minutes to ask questions. Questions should be short and to the point.

Step 4: Two people will speak in favour of the policy, and then two people will speak against the policy. This will be done in a rotating fashion. With all time limits, it is up to the moderator to determine if they need to be extended. There are guidelines of the time limits being sent out to ensure that young liberals from across the province all have an equal time dedicated to their policy.

Step 5: At the end of this process, there will be an up-down vote, by a simple hands up majority, to determine whether this particular policy will advance. Each policy parliament will pass two provincial and two federal policies.

Voting will be separate for provincial and federal policies; therefore each OYL member will have four votes.

School Safety Policy

Submitted by: Adlan Taramov, Toronto Centre Young Liberals (Provincial)
(Provincial)

WHEREAS hundreds of children go missing in Canada every year;

WHEREAS an analysis of CPIC 2009 missing children reports by combining *all categories* of missing shows that 35% went missing from institutions - school, detention and youth centers and those classified as "other" institutions. Less than 1% of all missing children went missing from a shopping mall, place of work, or while on a vacation;

WHEREAS safety and security are the primary and most important public goods; and,
WHEREAS it would be against moral values and principles of the Canadians to neglect and disregard the disturbing trend of the increase in daring abductions from Ontario Public Schools in the recent years; therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Young Liberals raise awareness of this issue and urge the government to:

- Enhance the safety measures at Ontario public schools;
- Work with the public and take all necessary action in order to prevent abductions and make public schools a safe environment for the children; and,
- Improve video and other surveillance capabilities at public schools and the surrounding sites.

<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/pubs/omc-ned/an-ra/annrep-rappann-09-eng.htm#1>)

Increased Funding for Mental Health Services (Federal)

Submitted by: York University Young Liberals

WHEREAS most mental health issues are treatable and many mental health service consumers are fully capable of successfully functioning in society when treated;

WHEREAS one in four Canadians will struggle with a mental health issue in their lifetime; and,

WHEREAS only 5.5% of the healthcare budget in Canada is spent on mental health services, despite the recommendations of the World Health Organization to allocate 10%;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT an increase of funding for mental health services is allocated to 8-10% of the healthcare budget; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the services covered shall include, but not be limited to, professional counselling and access to prescribed medication.

Congestion Pricing in the Greater Toronto & Hamilton Area (GTHA) (Provincial)

Submitted by: York University Young Liberals

WHEREAS many jurisdictions have come to understand that the demand for private automobiles has shifted to ones that minimize their consumption of engine fuel, and therefore government revenues from fuel taxes will slowly but surely diminish;

WHEREAS if the GTHA's transportation patterns follow business as usual, the reduction in GDP due to excess traffic congestion would increase from \$2.7 billion in 2006 to \$7.2 billion in 2031 – an increase of 167%;

WHEREAS Metrolinx, the region's transportation authority, has planned for "The Big Move", which consists of building over 1200 kilometres of rapid transit, essentially tripling existing services (estimated to cost \$50 billion in capital over 25 years and approximately \$1.5 billion per year in ongoing operation and maintenance);

WHEREAS building public transit infrastructure represents only the pull factor of a policy to reduce automobile dependency, and no big move can be planned in isolation from push factors;

WHEREAS existing HOV lanes are underused, inefficient, and in danger of being eliminated by their respective governments;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the goals of discouraging unnecessary automobile use and generating substantial, long-term funding for public transit can both be met by pricing congestion on the roadways of the GTHA in the form of two phases;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT for Phase 1, HOV lanes be converted to HOT lanes as a measure of introducing the concept of congestion pricing to road users;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT as the benefits of the HOT lanes become evident, citizens will be more likely to support Phase 2, a more extensive congestion pricing scheme such as a cordon toll or general-purpose based pricing;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT as the price of congestion increases for road users, other sources of government revenue such as property taxes, land transfer taxes, vehicle registration fees, and fuel taxes need not increase, and in some cases, can be decreased or eliminated; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT some revenue may be allocated, for example, in the form of discounts, rebates or tax credits to offset potential adverse impacts to those that will be hit the hardest.

Offshore Oil Spill Prevention Policy

Submitted By: Adlan Taramov, Toronto Centre Young Liberals (Federal)

WHEREAS recent events (BP Gulf of Mexico oil spill) in the United States have proven the possibility of massive deepwater oil spills;

WHEREAS oil spills produce enormous environmental impact on wildlife;

WHEREAS oil spills devastate tourism, fishing, and other sectors of coastal economy; and,

WHEREAS stopping deepwater oil spills requires complex technologies; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Young Liberals urge the federal government to:

- Learn from the mistakes made by business and the public sector before and during the BP Gulf of Mexico and other similar crises; and,
- Recognize the importance of offshore oil spill prevention.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Young Liberals urge the government to:

- Introduce regulations requiring oil companies to develop and have the necessary technology and resources in order to prevent and stop potential deepwater oil spills in the future; and,
- Work together with coastal businesses and communities in order to develop action plans and strategies in case of environmental disasters similar to deepwater oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, 2010

UofT Young Liberals Federal Resolutions

WHEREAS Canadian citizenship entails not only certain rights, but also certain duties;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT possessors of Canadian citizenship not living in Canada for extended periods and who are of sufficient means be required to contribute – perhaps in a modified or proportional form – to national revenue.

WHEREAS there is a need for medical professionals in Canada today and;

WHEREAS filling this need by poaching medical professionals from under-developed countries runs counter to Canada's aim of raising the standard of living in those countries and;

WHEREAS there can exist great variances in the medical training practices and standards throughout the world;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party urge present and future Liberal governments to satisfy the demand for medical professionals in Canada primarily by increasing the capacity of Canadian medical training centres.

Continued...

WHEREAS the recent economic downturn has affected the availability of federal research grants in Canada, resulting in the abandonment and scaling down of many important research projects across the country;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal party encourage a Liberal government to evaluate the ever changing economic environment to assess its capacity to restore and increase the amount of funding available to

Increased Funding for Legal Aid Ontario (Provincial)

Submitted By: Gloria Li, Toronto Centre Young Liberals & York University Young Liberals

WHEREAS community legal clinics in Ontario are understaffed and underfunded, thus, affecting the quality of service and sustainability;

WHEREAS Legal Aid Ontario (LAO) is cutting administrative costs by closing local Legal Aid offices and substituting the former service with a toll-free service, which can leave clients frustrated as the waiting time can become lengthy;

WHEREAS LAO is making changes to the Clinic Resource Office (CRO) leading to the loss of specialization, a resultant decrease of its efficiency and a reduction in resources made available to the 79 community legal clinics throughout Ontario;

BE IT RESOLVED that each community legal clinic be properly staffed with a team of staff lawyers and community legal workers reflecting the numbers of potential clients in its catchment area; and

BE IT RESOLVED that LAO create a service which provides real-time interactive human assistance machines, which cuts administrative costs but also maintain the value of visual interaction between LAO staffs and clients; and

BE IT RESOLVED that LAO reinstate the barrister service which it has cut from CRO to assist clinics in working on big cases.

UofT Young Liberals Provincial Resolutions

- WHEREAS Canada is a country where all citizens should have access to necessary medical care;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party urge present and future Liberal governments to continue to vigorously support and improve publicly funded healthcare, but not impede the establishment and delivery of well-regulated private health care options.

- WHEREAS government taxes and price controls on tobacco products are a vital tool in the fight to eliminate tobacco use amongst Canadians;

WHEREAS only Official Status Indians are exempt from paying provincial taxes on cigarettes sold on First Nations reserves;

WHEREAS the sale of cheap tax-free tobacco on First Nations reserves to non-Aboriginal Canadians is undermining the efforts of government to curtail tobacco use;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party will urge present and future Liberal governments to take action to halt the sale of tobacco products on First Nations Reserves to those who are not Official Status Indians.

-WHEREAS Canada is a country with two official languages and;

WHEREAS a population with knowledge of both official languages is essential to maintaining national unity and;

WHEREAS knowledge of one's second official language is generally weakest amongst anglophone students;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party encourage present and future Liberal governments to reinvigorate French language teaching in anglophone schools and raise standards for French language capabilities amongst anglophone students.

-WHEREAS it is unequivocal that a scientifically and mathematically proficient population is an essential national asset;

WHEREAS higher education in Canada is world-class, high-school education is rapidly falling behind other nations in terms of infrastructure and quality of education;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a future Liberal government would task itself with reviewing the present education system and take steps to improve the system;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the government will seek to promote science and math in Canadian high-schools;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the government will seek to reduce the shortage of skilled science and math teachers in Canadian high schools;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the government will act to inject much needed funds into the public education system.

-WHEREAS higher education in Canada is coming under increasing stress in the current economic environment;

WHEREAS there is a predicted and expected increase in the number of applicants to universities and colleges in Canada in the coming years;

WHEREAS in the face of increasing costs there is a greater need to increase government financial support to students pursuing higher education;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a future Liberal government will urgently seek to address the issue of increasing applicants-to-classroom space ratio by:

- **providing universities with the financial support to build more facilities and appoint faculty to meet the demand,**
- **creating newer colleges and universities;**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Liberal government will provide resources to universities and colleges to upgrade and modernize their present facilities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a future Liberal government is encouraged to increase the funds available to federal and provincial financial assistance granting organizations.

-LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party urge present and future Liberal governments to ban or severely restrict the use of cosmetic pesticides in the province.

Addressing Canada's Economic Challenges By Improving Literacy in New Canadians and At-Risk Canadians

Submitted By: Taras Koulik, Toronto Centre Young Liberals
(Federal)

- WHEREAS** nearly a billion people entered the 21st century unable to read a book or sign their names;
- WHEREAS** between 1994 and 2003, the proportion of Canadian adults with high literacy skills fell from 24 per cent to 20 per cent;
- WHEREAS** seven million working-age Canadian adults—about 4 in 10—do not have the literacy skills necessary to function in the workplace;
- WHEREAS** Canada will be facing employment shortages in certain sectors in the near future requiring residents to contribute to the Canadian economy; residents with skilled trades, professional occupations, and the literacy skills necessary;
- WHEREAS** the 2003 International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey showed, the LES of Aboriginal people (aged 16-65) are significantly lower than those of the general population;
- WHEREAS** Canada's demographics are changing as Canada's baby boomers age and fewer children are born from Canadian born families, resulting in an increase in immigration; with new Canadians facing more pressure in maintaining high literacy rates;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada strive to expose and disrepute the current Harper government's lack of focus on this pressing economic issue;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Government of Canada assist citizens to engage in formal or informal lifelong learning to maintain their skills, especially literacy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Plan include an increase in the annual operating budget of the Office of Literacy and Essential Skills with the goal of increasing funding to literacy programs and support to new Canadians with literacy programs dedicated to their needs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Plan has the effect of committing the Government to striving to bring Canada's literacy rates to be the highest in the world.

Amending the Criminal Code of Canada to increase sentencing minimums on impaired driving (Federal)

Submitted by: York University Young Liberals

WHEREAS in 2006, according to Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), alcohol and/or drugs were involved in 1,278 traffic fatalities, 75,374 injuries and 163,893 property-damage-only crashes, culminating in total financial and social costs of these losses at an estimated \$12.8 billion;

WHEREAS in 2006, MADD released the findings of a survey indicating that over 80% of Canadians support "effective impaired driving laws" and "appropriate sentences";

WHEREAS the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators' Road Safety Vision 2010 project called for 40% reductions in the percentage of alcohol-related traffic fatalities and serious injuries, but an independent mid-term evaluation reported that no province or territory was on track to meet the alcohol-related traffic fatality target;

WHEREAS convicted impaired drivers currently face only a mandatory penalty of \$1000 for a first offense, a sentence of 30 days in jail for a second offense, and a sentence of 120 days in jail for a third offense;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minimum punishment under *s.255(1)* be \$1000 for a first offense, a sentence of 60 days for a second offense, a sentence of one year for a third offense, and a sentence of five years for subsequent offenses within a ten-year time period;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the minimum punishment under *s.255(3)* for impaired driving causing death be a sentence of ten years;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the minimum punishment under *s.259(4)* for driving while suspended due to a prior impairment conviction (without causing death) be a sentence of two years;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the minimum punishment under *s.259(4)* for second or subsequent convictions of impaired driving causing death be imprisonment for life; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT adequate funding be provided by the federal government for programs that seek early identification of chronic re-offenders of impaired driving.

Encouraging a Mixed Economy

Submitted by: Jose De Ocampo, Toronto Centre Young Liberals (Federal)
(Federal)

- WHEREAS** the citizens of Canada would greatly benefit from increased competition by having more firms in the market to choose from;
- WHEREAS** the citizens suffer from lack of transparency in regards to the externalities derived from the purchasing of products and or services;
- WHEREAS** a government influenced firm is directly liable to all levels of citizenry;
- WHEREAS** the private firm is only liable to a limited number of individuals within a society etc. the courts and financial shareholders;
- WHEREAS** a government influenced firm's profits are directly invested back into society in the form of transfer payments, tax reliefs, infrastructure investments, etc;
- WHEREAS** the citizens of Canada are being gouged by telecommunications companies; therefore,
- BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the federal government utilize unused factors of production for the well being of the citizens of Canada;
- BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the government create firms of varying sizes to compete within markets that have too few firms; and,
- BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the government-influenced firms cannot exceed a size of thirty percent of total market share.

New Legislation to Replace Canada's Current Unmerited Cannabis Laws

Submitted by Salim Dhanani, Toronto Centre Young Liberals
(Federal)

WHEREAS Canada's current Criminal Code and the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* prohibit the possession of cannabis resin whilst a majority of Canadians believe it should be legalized;

WHEREAS Cannabis is the second most widely used recreational drug in Canada, second to alcohol and yet bill S-10 proposes to implement mandatory minimums creating a large increase in cost to taxpayers;

WHEREAS there is no medical evidence to show the adverse affects from the intake of Tetrahydrocannabinols (active substance in Cannabis). There have been zero fatalities that have occurred as a result of the psychoactive effects of cannabis use. Furthermore, new medical evidence is showing numerous benefits affiliated with cannabis usage (Harvard Medical Review);

WHEREAS It can be seen through past precedent that prohibition of such a widely used and readily available drug is more detrimental to society as it lacks the necessary regulations to limit use and prevent abuse;

WHEREAS Current expenditure on the prohibition of Cannabis exceeds \$500million per year and it does not include the expenditure by the Correctional Services of Canada to hold inmates incarcerated due to their involvement in the cannabis industry;

WHEREAS the legalization of Cannabis will not only eliminate the costs of prohibition but will create substantial tax revenue for governing bodies;

WHEREAS the legalization of Cannabis will allow the formation of regulation that prevent abuse and facilitate restrictions to usage; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED The Government of Canada legalizes the possession and use of Cannabis. That it regulates the usage to those over 21 years of age and in specific cafés to enforce regulation. That trafficking is still illegal and possession above 28grams is considered trafficking. That cannabis usage can only take place in designated cafes. Cafés can only sell cannabis that they are the proprietors of and cannot obtain liquor licenses; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Cannabis will be taxed at a considerable rate, similar to cigarettes and alcohol. That a portion of the taxes collected will be spent on responsible Cannabis use and addiction counseling. That a portion of the taxes collected will be spent to offset the healthcare costs created by smoking cannabis cigarettes (normal smoke-related problems).

Addressing Canada's Demographic Changes by Improving the Permanent Residency Process

Submitted By: Denise Lam, Toronto Centre Young Liberals
(Federal)

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; and,

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; therefore,

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; and,

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.

Neighbourhood Revitalization and Development Policy

(Provincial)

Submitted By: Adlan Taramov, Toronto Centre Young Liberals

WHEREAS Low-Income Neighbourhoods can experience:

- Increases in income inequality
- Challenges to the social fabric of the community
- Decreases efficiency of social institutions

WHEREAS Low-Income Neighbourhoods can experience:

- High rates of unemployment and underemployment
- Increasing risks of depression - mental health related
- Lower school graduation rates
- Increase in crime/organized crime rates
- Deterioration of housing and general quality of life

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Young Liberals urge the government to work with local governments, businesses, nonprofit and community organizations in order to find development plan and strategies that would unlock existing resources and potential for the economic development, improving public services, and quality of life;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the government introduce:

- A Neighbourhood Investment Tax Credit in order to encourage businesses and individuals to support development projects and services; and,
- A Community Development Grant in order to improve motivation, skills, and quality of life of the residents
- Small Business Loan Program in order to provide financing for business start-up and expansion
- Neighbourhood Energy Retrofit/Conservation Projects in order to create more local jobs and increase energy efficiency of the housing. These projects will pass on the savings from energy conservation directly to the residents thus helping low-income and single-parent families

