

# 2021 LIBERAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

## OPEN POLICY PROCESS



**FAST-TRACK  
RESOLUTIONS**



# 2021 LIBERAL NATIONAL CONVENTION OPEN POLICY PROCESS

## Fast-Track Resolutions

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# A CANADIAN BASIC INCOME - RETHINKING CANADAS' TOMORROW (#3375)

**Whereas** COVID-19 exposed serious gaps in federal and provincial social safety nets;

**Whereas** economic stability is key to equality of opportunity and dignity; and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states, “everyone has a right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being” of themselves and their families;

**Whereas** income is a primary social determinant of health, yet precarious work is a growing concern and millions of Canadians still live in poverty at great cost to our society;

**Whereas** a basic income would secure household purchasing power, address the stigma attached to being a welfare recipient, and signal that Canadians are best placed to determine their immediate needs;

**Whereas** a basic income would simplify benefit applications for Canadians in need, allow for merging of government programs and reduce administrative costs for government;

**Whereas** the Canada Emergency Response Benefit was a progressive and transformative program that supported 8.8 million Canadians, proving to be both effective and popular;

**Whereas** Canada’s existing social safety net already includes basic income supports, including for seniors and families with kids; and several basic income experiments have both shown positive results and debunked labour force concerns;

**Be it resolved** that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to:

1. Conduct a basic income cost-benefit analysis, including reviews of basic income projects and studies by subject matter experts;
2. Explore streamlining current federal income supports, while maintaining those for distinct needs, adjusting for regional differences, and identifying new revenue sources;
3. Work with provinces, territories, and First Nations, Métis and Inuit to develop and implement a basic income guarantee.

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# TRANSITIONING TO A GREEN ENERGY ECONOMY (#3321)

## Whereas :

- global warming is the ongoing rise in the average temperature of the Earth's climate system, which poses an existential threat to life as we know it;
- scientists have determined that the dominant cause of global warming is the emission of greenhouse gases from burning fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas);
- much of the energy derived from burning fossil fuels is used for transportation and generating electricity;
- in 2019, the House of Commons declared a Climate Emergency, and Health Canada reported almost 15 thousand premature deaths annually due to air pollution from fossil fuel use;
- readily available sources of renewable "green" energy are cleaner, cheaper and safer than energy generated from burning fossil fuels or irradiating uranium in a nuclear reactor;
- experts in the economics of energy agree that:
  - all electricity could be generated from renewable sources at costs well below those incurred when using fossil fuels or nuclear technology;
  - by 2030, all passenger vehicles will be electric;
  - reduced demand for petroleum products will lower prices and make extracting oil uneconomic by 2025;

**Be it resolved** that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada, working with provinces, territories and Indigenous communities, to develop a publicly available Green Energy Transition Plan, with concrete goals and timelines, subject to annual review, that includes:

- ending government support for both the fossil fuel and nuclear components of the energy sector;
- creating incentives for developing alternative sources of renewable energy: wind, solar, geothermal, tidal, small-scale local hydro, etc.;
- reallocating public funds to retraining and relocating workers displaced by the transition from polluting sources of energy to renewable ones.

## Liberal Party of Canada - Quebec

## EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATION AND INTERNET (#3316)

**Whereas** due to the results of climate change and extreme weather events increasing in both frequency and intensity, these weather disasters are exposing the vulnerability of cell tower infrastructure and significant regulatory gaps in the telecommunications industry;

**Whereas** Canadians rely on cellular services and pay among the highest Internet rates in the industrial world;

**Whereas** access to broadband Internet e-mail, social media and telecommunications can be sporadic across Canada, especially when accessing them in rural and northern regions;

**Whereas** telecommunications fall under exclusive federal jurisdiction and with that comes a responsibility to mitigate and respond to emergency service disruptions, and research has found availability to mobile phones reduces disaster fatalities;

**Whereas** presently there are no federal regulations with regards to the “disaster resilience” capacity of cell sites, as well, more Canadians are working from home due to COVID-19 who require access to affordable high-speed broadband Internet;

**Be it resolved** that the Liberal Party of Canada will urge the Government of Canada to address regulation, planning, and response for emergency telecommunications and Internet access by the following:

- Regulate disaster resilience and adopt disaster recovery plans for telecommunications service providers.
- Collect relevant data to help with future emergency communications planning.
- Require updates on service disruptions from telecommunications service providers for customers.
- Standardize a ‘forgiveness’ plan for consumers affected by service disruptions.
- Ensure that the Canadian Armed Forces as part of their regular disaster relief efforts has the capability to assist in restoring a damaged communication network.
- Provide free Wi-Fi access in public buildings.
- Ensure that Canadians are paying rates comparable to other countries.
- Accelerate access to internet services in rural areas to help the Canadian economy.

**Liberal Party of Canada - Nova Scotia**

# HIGH-SPEED RAIL: AN AFFORDABLE AND EFFICIENT NEW MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION (#3259)

## **Whereas**

- Canada remains the only G7 nation without a high-speed rail line;
- Canadian cars, which burn an average of 2,000 L of gasoline every year, release an average of 4,600 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere and domestic flights shorter than 1 hour are disproportionately harmful to the environment
- Electric high-speed rail results in fewer carbon emissions than alternative methods of transportation;
- Quebec City to Windsor is a current corridor well-suited for high-speed rail with 16 million Canadians living between those two cities'
- High-speed rail can radically reduce the commute times of many Canadians and help bring economic development to rural regions

## **Be it resolved** that the Government of Canada:

- Design and create a trans-Canada high-speed rail line that would replace rail networks' current infrastructure along the trans-Canada railway;
- Commits to sharing the operating costs with the respective provinces and VIA Rail;
- Incentivize the expansion of the high-speed rail network by the provinces to unite the rural and urban centres in Canada;
- Ensure any high-speed rail network is carbon neutral;
- Ensure high-speed rail networks be made affordable and accessible for use by all Canadians;
- Study other areas of the country that can support high-speed rail systems in place of air travel between cities as part of phase 2 of a high-speed rail implementation plan.

## **Young Liberals of Canada**

## NORTHWEST TERRITORIES RESOURCE REVENUE SHARING (#3241)

**Whereas** the Devolution agreement for land and resources negotiated by the Conservative government retained 50% of Resource Revenues, and has a maximum benefit of 2% of the previous year's budget;

**Whereas** the ownership of resource revenues is fundamental to the fundamentals of de-colonizing Canada's territories;

**Whereas** Indigenous peoples have inhabited the Northwest Territories since time immemorial.

**Be it resolved** the Liberal Party will remove the 2% limit on resource revenues in the devolution agreement; and

**Be it further resolved** Be it further resolved that the Liberal Party will assign its share of resource revenues to the indigenous groups in the Northwest Territories.

Liberal Party of Canada - NWT

## ENSURING CANADIAN FOOD SECURITY (#3205)

**Whereas**, researchers calculated that 10,000 years of farming practices have released about 100 billion tons of carbon from the soil into the atmosphere, driving the climate crisis, drought and desertification;

**Whereas**, the benefits of regenerative agriculture include:

- restoring degraded soil and increasing resiliency to droughts and floods;
- sequestering carbon (every additional percentage of organic matter in the soil sequesters 8.5 tons of carbon per acre);
- improving plant health, nutrition and productivity;

**Whereas**, the 2019 Food Policy for Canada recognizes that the interdependence of social, health, environmental and economic dimensions of food requires a systems approach to deal with food-related societal challenges;

**Whereas**, the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-business Mandate Letter focuses almost entirely on promoting industrial agriculture, with the goal of increasing exports, instead of prioritizing Canadian food security and health;

**Whereas**, the Covid-19 pandemic and recent trade disputes have exposed the:

- economic costs of policy focused on exporting commodities at the expense of developing domestic markets;
- vulnerabilities in the domestic food supply chain (insufficient production, concentration of meat processing, etc.);
- increased susceptibility of Canadians living with metabolic and other diet-related chronic illnesses (including obesity) to becoming very ill and even dying .

**Be it resolved** that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to:

- reformulate agricultural policy to shift away from industrial towards regenerative agriculture by such measures as:
  - implementing the recommendations in the 2020 National Farmer's Union report ***Creating the Foundation for a Climate-friendly Post-Pandemic Food System for Canadians***;
  - developing a program to reward farmers for sequestering carbon;
- increase funding to implement the systems approach of the 2019 Food Policy for Canada.

### Women's Liberal Commission

# “NO WORKER LEFT BEHIND” IN TRANSITION TO A LOW CARBON ECONOMY (#3110)

**Whereas** Canada has committed to dramatic Greenhouse Gas emission reduction;

**Whereas** the combined effects of the market for oil and of environmental concerns have adversely affected the Canadian fossil fuel industry;

**Whereas** in the post-industrialization era, the labour market has significantly shifted toward the service and knowledge-based sectors with a rise of authoritarian populism, driven largely by a growing sense of economic precarity on the part of working-class people;

**Whereas** 6.7 million Canadians aged 25-64 do not have university, college or completed apprenticeship qualifications and they have been most affected by the labour market upheaval;

**Whereas** the pace of actions to secure for Canada a leading position in the transition to transformational low carbon technologies has been slow, particularly in the move toward a hydrogen-based economy and low carbon transportation;

**Whereas** providing options for the current skill base of the workforce is critical to acceptance of the needed transitions;

**Whereas** risk capital for projects of scale in Canada is in short supply,

**Be it resolved** that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to

- Provide meaningful retraining supports, including income and tuition, for workers from designated industries displaced by Greenhouse Gas reduction measures;
- Make direct public investment in transformational projects to create jobs for these displaced workers and facilitate the formation of new Greenhouse Gas reduction industries in the full spectrum of alternate energy sources: wind, solar, hydrogen, geothermal, nuclear, and hydroelectric;
- Encourage the establishment of a hydrogen-based sector, the manufacture of electric vehicles in Canada and the development of non-combustion uses for fossil fuels.

**Liberal Party of Canada - Newfoundland and Labrador**

## HEALTH CARE SYSTEM INVESTMENT IN RURAL AREAS (#3102)

**Whereas** almost one fifth (18%) of Canadians living in rural communities are served by only 8% of Canadian physicians;

**Whereas** Canadians living in rural communities are generally older, have less access to resources, and have higher poor health indicators;

**Whereas** rural communities face difficulties in regards to recruiting and retaining physicians and health care providers;

**Whereas** many rural communities face difficulties accessing health care and emergency transport;

**Whereas** Telehealth reduces healthcare expenditures, increases access to healthcare, and improves health outcomes;

**Be it resolved** that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Canadian Government to:

- increase the funding and work with the provinces and territories to improve access to Telehealth services in rural communities;
- work with the provinces and territories clarify and improve licensing for physicians and other health care providers delivering Telehealth services;
- collaborate with the provinces and territories to improve transportation of patients from rural communities to urban centres.

**Liberal Party of Canada (Prince Edward Island)**

## WATER RESOLUTION (#3059)

**Whereas** water is crucial to our health, our environment, our economy and our spiritual well being; and

**Whereas** climate change threatens both water supplies and water quality while increasing risk of flooding; and

**Whereas** new pesticides, industrial chemicals, pharmaceuticals and other products are developed each year that pose a potential threat to water quality; and

**Whereas** the provinces have primary constitutional authority for water; and

**Whereas** the government of Canada has committed to create a new Canada Water Agency to work together with the provinces, territories, Indigenous communities, local authorities, scientists and others to find the best ways to keep our water safe, clean and well-managed; and

**Whereas** a significant challenge in taking action to meet these water challenges is bringing scientific knowledge in an appropriate form to guide decision makers at all levels.

**Be it resolved** the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to ensure a key role of the new national water agency is to ensure development and transfer of knowledge that will:

- Ensure impact of new products on water is understood before they enter our water supplies;
- help public and private decision makers prepare for the extremes of flood and drought; and understand and act on emerging risks to aquatic environments and water quality.

**Liberal Party of Canada - Saskatchewan**

## PROTECTION OF PENSIONS (#3011)

**Whereas** pensions are not a priority during the bankruptcy process for corporations;

**Whereas** workers pensions are able to be manipulated and moved, even for government employees;

**Whereas** pensions should be reliable and predictable;

**Be it resolved** that the Liberal Party Canada urge the Government of Canada ensure that pensions become the first priority in the bankruptcy process;

**Be it further resolved** that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to ensure that pensions be legally protected, reliable, and predictable regardless of employment, sector, or source of pension.

Liberal Party of Canada - Alberta

## CALLS TO JUSTICE FOR MMIWG2T (#2988)

**Whereas** WHEREAS the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the 231 Calls for Justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls both call for immediate action from the Government of Canada to address disparities in Canadian Society and discrimination towards Indigenous Peoples'.

**Be it resolved** that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to adopt all 231 Calls for Justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls immediately.

**Be it further resolved** that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to always consider a 2SLGBTQIA+ Indigenous Lens when developing and amending policy and legislation.

**Be it further resolved** that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada develop a Domestic Violence Framework within by 2022 to address the Calls for Justice and the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action.

**Be it further resolved** that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada develop a National Trauma Allowance to allow for victims of Trauma to seek support at low-to-no cost for the victim.

**Be it further resolved** that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to commit to addressing Minimum Sentencing policies and legislation that are discriminatory towards Indigenous Offenders by 2022.

**Be it further resolved** that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to immediately adopt UNDRIP

### Indigenous Peoples' Commission

## PRAIRIE WATER STRATEGY (#2963)

**Whereas** the prairie water basin includes among others, the Bow, Saskatchewan, Red, Winnipeg, Nelson and Churchill Rivers and the major lakes: Winnipeg, Manitoba, Winnipegosis and Lake of the Woods;

**Whereas** these waterways drain the heartland of Canadian agriculture, sustaining agriculture through their effluent contribution yet contributing to the deterioration of the overall system, particularly lakes;

**Whereas** Canada's prairie provinces have experienced the worsening effects of climate change, including more extreme weather events, resulting in more costly storms, floods, droughts and wildfires;

**Whereas** billions of dollars have been spent by all levels of government – including First Nations – businesses, private citizens and insurance companies to recover from these events;

**Whereas** the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement has paid out more to help offset flood and wildfire losses in the last six years than in the entire previous history of the program (since 1970);

**Whereas** an integrated scientific approach to planning for water management is essential for the health of these water and land resources in Western Canada;

**Whereas** all responsible authorities need to coordinate efforts to achieve the benefits of sound water management and address the current and future challenges presented by land use and climate change, including Canadian and American federal Governments, First Nations, Provinces, Municipalities, land use planning entities, Watershed Districts, Red River Basin Authority; that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to consult, confirm and financially support the development and implementation of a Prairie Water Strategy to ensure the long-term purity of these water and soil resources, thus helping to ensure greater resilience in Prairie communities, a sustainable agricultural industry, and a healthy freshwater basin.

**Be it resolved** that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to consult, confirm and financially support the development and implementation of a **Prairie Water Strategy** to ensure the long-term purity of these water and soil resources, thus helping to ensure greater resilience in Prairie communities, a sustainable agricultural industry, and a healthy freshwater basin.

Liberal Party of Canada - Manitoba