

Alberta Liberal Party
Policy Proposals for the 2018 Policy Convention

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Affordable Daycare

Mover(s): Women's Issues Committee

WHEREAS caregivers typically commit significant amounts of time to unpaid work; and

WHEREAS research demonstrates that when women work, the economy grows; and

WHEREAS the current daycare system has insufficient capacity for the number of parents/guardians who wish to undertake paid employment,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party supports a means-tested system for affordable daycare.

Alberta Needs A Fair and Proportional Voting System

Mover(s): Democratic Reform and Municipal Issues Committee

WHEREAS Proportional Representation (PR) systems treat voters equally and government is to be representative of all the people. Currently in Alberta, the NDP have more seats and power than their popular vote warrants while the PC's, Alberta Liberal and Alberta Party have too few. With PR, NDP would have 36 seats instead of 54, PC would have 24 seats instead of 10 seats, Wildrose would remain the same with 21 seats, Alberta Liberals would have 4 seats and Alberta Party would have 2 seats; and

WHEREAS Proportional Representation systems represent genuine majority governments. Currently, the NDP have 100% of the power with 41% of the popular vote. The opposition is not able to influence the decision making leaving 59% of the population voiceless. In a PR system, the NDP would need to consult other parties to make legislation. There would be less flip flopping of laws when another party ruled; and

WHEREAS 85% of democracies in the world have PR and a body of research spanning 50 years suggests you get better democracy and governance through PR. More women, minorities and aboriginals are chosen; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party supports a voting system of Proportional Representation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party encourages the Government of Alberta to begin educating Albertans on Proportional Representation.

Bear Spray

Mover(s): Southern Regional Policy Meetings

WHEREAS Bear spray attacks have increased in the past year,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a police permit be required for purchase of bear spray in Alberta.

Continuing Education

Mover(s): Southern Regional Meeting

WHEREAS vulnerable persons living under special difficult circumstances do not have access to housing, education, technical and/or vocational training, health, and work opportunities other people in society have,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party strongly supports a community hub model, which includes housing, educational facilities, health services, childcare, and career training facilities to assist vulnerable persons to be able to have advanced and continuing educational opportunities.

Corporate Income Tax

Mover(s): John Monroe - Red Deer South

WHEREAS a separate corporate income tax collection system imposes an additional compliance burden on Alberta corporations; and

WHEREAS a separate corporate income tax collection system also imposes costs on the Alberta government; and

WHEREAS the Canada Revenue Agency currently administers the provincial corporate income tax for eight provinces and three territories,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberals support entering into discussions with the federal government over the possibility of amending the tax collection agreement between Alberta and Canada to have the Canada Revenue Agency collect Alberta's corporate income tax.

Diversify Economy

Mover(s): Calgary-Elbow

WHEREAS Alberta's economy is highly dependent on energy industry: oil, gas and mining industries make up 17% of the Alberta economy; and

WHEREAS changes in the global economy, weaker international energy prices and increased competition put Alberta's economy at risk; and

WHEREAS low income tax rates combined with the fact that Alberta has no provincial capital taxes, payroll taxes or sales tax, amplifies Alberta's dependence on volatile revenue from energy sources,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Alberta prepare for a 'post-carbon age' by focusing on economic diversification to secure Alberta's resilience to the volatility of oil prices over the longer term.

Early Childhood Education

Mover(s): Women's Issues Committee

WHEREAS the people of Alberta have long been committed to ensuring all children have access to a high-quality education; and

WHEREAS the first six years of a child's life are critical to development and future educational success. A child whose developmental needs have been met is more likely to grow into a self-reliant, responsible, and contributing member of society; and

WHEREAS research demonstrates the effectiveness of excellent pre-school and kindergarten programming to future educational success; and

WHEREAS full-day kindergarten is not available in all jurisdictions and school authority program funding for the pre-kindergarten population (2.5 – 5 years) is limited to those with disabilities/development delays; and

WHEREAS full-day educational programming supports parents' ability to undertake paid employment,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Alberta Liberal Party supports the availability of full-day early childhood education programming in all jurisdictions for all children aged 2.5 years and older.

Ecological Goods and Services Provided by Private Landowners

Mover(s): Lethbridge-East

WHEREAS 30 percent of Alberta's land area is privately owned and the land use and other practices of farmers and other landowners affect the quality of air and water and soil as well as aesthetics; and

AND WHEREAS, land use or farming practices can have considerable benefits or detriments to wildlife, air and water quality and quantity, which benefit all Albertans and may affect climate change; and

AND WHEREAS polls of Albertans and others have indicated concern extending to willingness to contribute financially for wildlife, countryside and ecological goods and services; And whereas there may be a cost or loss of financial benefit to landowners to making changes to their land use, farming infrastructure or practices; and

AND WHEREAS low cost remote verification of land use is now feasible,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party will compensate landowners or farmers for ecological goods and services they provide to the people of Alberta and others.

These services may be:

- areas developed or maintained for the benefit of wildlife, or to maintain or improve the quality of subterranean or surface water bodies;
- carbon storage developed through management practices;
- alteration of infrastructure for the benefit of wildlife or the natural environment;
- maintenance of unfragmented land, and;
- such other activities or practices as shall be determined.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that there may be liability or penalty for destruction of accrued ecological goods and services.

Economic Development

Mover(s): Nick Jansen, Vice-President Policy

WHEREAS subsidies (like taxes) distort the outcomes of well-functioning markets, leading to a loss of economic welfare and a smaller overall economy; and

WHEREAS a myriad of subsidies are currently provided to politically favoured sectors with the intention of increasing economic diversification; and

WHEREAS if these subsidies do in fact diversify the economy, they do so at the expense of its size; and

WHEREAS recent research suggests that the benefit of any economic diversification, being the reduction of economic volatility, is small given that Alberta is already the fourth most economically diversified province in Canada; and

WHEREAS recent research further suggests that increasing economic diversification through subsidization is costly because it causes the misallocation of labour and investment from its most productive uses; and

WHEREAS recent research further suggests that economic diversification can be achieved through more neutral policies, such as the creation of a more favourable investment climate, without the associated cost to the economy; and

WHEREAS economic diversification is an insufficient justification for subsidization; and

WHEREAS if a subsidy cannot be identified as correcting a quantifiable market failure, its existence must be clearly justified on some other grounds or it should be discontinued,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party supports discontinuing all subsidies granted with the sole intention of increasing economic “diversification,” and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party supports re-evaluating all subsidies against the market failure they are intended to correct.

Ensuring Access to Lifesaving Medication in Schools

Mover(s): Calgary-Bow

WHEREAS 1 in 5 children (5 - 18 years) have a chronic condition such as asthma, Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes, or severe allergies which may require emergency medication; and

WHEREAS these medical conditions are life threatening and survival can depend on timely intervention; and

WHEREAS during a medical crisis a child may not be able to ask for or effectively articulate the help that they require; and

WHEREAS many children are from families without the resources to always afford these medications; and

WHEREAS the death of 12-year-old Ryan Gibbons in Ontario due to having his asthma inhaler confiscated was a preventable tragedy;

WHEREAS other provinces throughout Canada have established regulations and laws regarding how schools manage the medications of children, including banning the confiscation of asthma inhalers and mandating that each child have a medical response plan on file;

WHEREAS every child deserves to be safe and secure in school,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party supports mandating that each school create a medical response plan for every child with a chronic condition which may require emergency medication, including but not limited to asthma, diabetes, and anaphylaxis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party supports investigating ways to improve access to emergency medication for children, from teacher training workshops to research into how to reduce the costs of epi-pens and diabetic supplies like syringes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party supports allowing age appropriate students to have the required medication on their person and not subject to confiscation without cause.

Ensuring Safe Working Conditions for Female Entertainers

Mover(s): Women's Issues Committee

WHEREAS an AGLC liquor licence law from the 90's requires a 3' barrier between entertainers (women who take their clothes off and dance) and the audience; and

WHEREAS the enforcement of the law prohibits the audience from handing the tip directly to the entertainer but requires the audience to toss/throw their tips to the entertainers; and

WHEREAS in the course of receiving the tips that are thrown at them, the entertainers can be treated with disrespect and can be injured by the tossed coins; and

WHEREAS the Alberta Liberal Party is committed to ensuring all Albertans have safe working conditions,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the throwing of tips be banned and a safe method of collecting tips be implemented that aligns with the Alberta Employment Standards Code for safe working conditions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the new method of collecting tips is consistent across the province and is stringently reinforced by civic and provincial law enforcement.

Food for Health and Wellbeing

Mover(s): Calgary Varsity

WHEREAS Poor health, disabilities and premature death related to the chronic diseases associated with prosperity are major sources of unhappiness and misery but most of us would be shocked to learn that diet is the number one cause. The good news is that much of the problem is preventable given reliable information and willingness to modify lifestyle and eating habits; and

WHEREAS at \$22.1 billion, Ministry of Health cost estimates for 2018 are about 40% of the Alberta budget of \$56.2 billion. The high dollar cost of ill health, especially among seniors, thus provides a secondary solid reason to help provide reliable science based evidence and information to encourage changes to life style and eating habits; and

WHEREAS “It turns out that a more plant based diet may help prevent, treat or reverse of our fifteen leading causes of death,” according to Dr Michael Greger, in his remarkable book, “How not to Die; Discover the Foods Scientifically Proven to Prevent and Reverse Disease.” The information is also freely available on his meritorious website, “nutritionfacts.org” which features annual talks as well as over 2,000 short, easily understood videos on a wide array of health and nutrition topics based on published scientific information; and

WHEREAS The one unifying diet, advocated by Dr Greger, that is found to be healthy for the heart, brain, lung, liver. etc and to best prevent and treat many chronic diseases is a whole-food plant based diet, defined as an eating pattern that encourages the consumption of unrefined plant foods including whole grains, legumes (peas and beans), nuts, fruits and vegetables but discourages consumption of meats, dairy products, eggs and processed foods; and

WHEREAS Improved health is a strong incentive to reduce and ideally eliminate consumption of animal based foods, many people are also disturbed by treatment of animals under industrial farming conditions. Less land is also required to feed populations eating a plant based diet so there are also environmental advantages,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party request that the Ministry of Health recognize and strongly promote the benefits of good nutrition, healthy eating and active living. Healthy eating would be defined as an eating pattern that encourages the consumption of unrefined plant foods and discourages meats, dairy products, eggs and processed foods; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Physicians and other health care workers, as well as the general public, be encouraged to become more knowledgeable about the profound health benefits of healthy. Physicians should also be asked to consider recommending a plant based diet to all their patients, especially those with high blood pressure, diabetes, cardiovascular disease or obesity as an alternative or supplement to medication.

Luxury Taxation Policy

Mover(s): Calgary-Mountain View

WHEREAS Alberta's financial debt reached \$33.3 billion for the 2016-2017 financial year, and the projected budgetary deficit for 2018 is, Alberta faces revenue shortages in both the short and long-term; and

WHEREAS the common wealth, which our taxes create and sustain, empowers the wealthy in myriad ways to create their wealth; and

WHEREAS the wealthy have a greater moral obligation to sustain the common wealth by paying their fair share of debt to society; and

WHEREAS our capitalist system rewards the wealthy more than its taxes hurts them, not only is a luxury tax system just, it is essential; and

WHEREAS handouts are given to the business class from federal, provincial, and local governments; e.g., billions of dollars in start-up capital, research and development funding, equity capital, bailout aid, debt financing, low-interest loans, loan guarantees, export subsidies, tax credits, and other special favours; and

WHEREAS BC charges a luxury vehicle tax, which will increase in April, 2018; and

WHEREAS a tax on luxury items is small change to the super wealthy who can afford them; and

WHEREAS a luxury tax would help reduce the provincial debt and make a direct financial contribution to Alberta's public services,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party adopt a 2% provincial Luxury Vehicles Tax system.

Moving Towards a Digital Government Which Works Better for All

Mover(s): Calgary-Bow

WHEREAS our flimsy paper health cards are often unreadable and when laminated are hard to fit in one's wallet; and

WHEREAS the complexity of documentation requirements can often impede access to government services; and

WHEREAS it can be difficult and expensive to access all the records which government has about you, from tax documents to educational transcripts; and

WHEREAS everything from medical records to property tax records is spread out across dozens of locations, requiring a great deal of work to request individually; and

WHEREAS great inefficiency comes from entering the same information repeatedly into government forms; and

WHEREAS needing coins to pay for the bus is backward and reduces ridership; and

WHEREAS the internet of things can provide us with the data required to build walkable cities, highly efficient transit systems, healthier communities, more effective headwater management strategies, and lower emission lifestyles; and

WHEREAS government websites and information services are often hard to navigate,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party supports the full exploration of issuing digital identification and authentication to the people, to allow for greater verification, faster access to government services, and easier access to the information the government has about them; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party supports making government information and services easily accessible through voice devices, internet of things devices, chatbots, and better user interfaces; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party supports the inclusive development of these digital interfaces, such as by utilizing fonts which allow for Indigenous languages and alphabets as well as ensuring that all government technology meets high accessibility standards.

Opposition to Clear Cutting

Mover(s): Environment Committee

WHEREAS Clear-cutting is an outdated forestry practice, and in areas of importance to water conservation, habitat and tourism, the risks are too great.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party supports more sustainable options for lumber extraction.

Pay Equity

Mover(s): Women's Issues Committee

WHEREAS Alberta is the only province in Canada that has no Pay Equity legislation/framework;
and

WHEREAS Alberta Human Rights Act prohibits discrimination based on the ground of gender,
but Alberta does not have a law to enforce this; and

WHEREAS Gender income gaps in Alberta are the largest in Canada, women face an average
pay gap of 25.8 cents compared to men, that is 30% less than men; and

WHEREAS AUPE Pay and Social Equity Committee have been lobbying for long time to ask the
Alberta Government to enact Wage Equity Legislation for Alberta. AUPE argues that wage
inequity leads to social inequity, such as elder poverty, child poverty, increased education and
health care costs. AUPE has put together a proposed set of legislation that would work for
Alberta,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Government develop mandatory Pay
Equity legislation that includes both public and private sectors and is based on international
best practices (Quebec and Swedish models).

Preservation and Enhancement of Alberta's Freshwater Resources

Mover(s): Lethbridge-East

WHEREAS Alberta and other parts of the prairies depend for water for their daily needs, industry and irrigation on rivers, lakes and subterranean waters originating on the Eastern Slopes of the Rockies; and

WHEREAS uncontrolled flooding originating in the upper reaches devastate lives, homes, livelihoods and the health and wealth of downstream communities large and small; and

WHEREAS land use in the entire watershed is an integral part of surface water flows, river and lake health, with natural vegetation and landforms generally filtering impurities, mitigating spring flood flows and maintaining flows later in the year as well as providing healthy wildlife and fish habitats, particularly in the upper reaches; and

WHEREAS climate change is likely to result in more frequent, more extreme weather events, making effective flood control and more even release of water into waterways; and

WHEREAS responsibility for flood mitigation has been reserved to engineers, both government and private, their projects have not and cannot ever be totally effective; the use of natural flood mitigation systems, through preservation of vegetation and wetlands has been ignored in favour of tree-cutting, roads and other developments including unregulated camping, trail-building and uncontrolled illegal off-road vehicles; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party will manage entire watersheds on lands under Crown jurisdiction with the health and natural functioning of the ecosystems (ie, the entire watershed) and encourage private landowners to follow that lead; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party will use bio-engineering and other land use practices to use or simulate natural systems to mitigate floods, preserve and enhance biodiversity, wildlife habitat and healthy ecosystems and consider water quality and quantity as the highest priorities when considering any activities in the Eastern Slopes areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party will fund all watershed councils at a level that allows all 13 to consult stakeholders and develop land use planning documents within the next 10 years and, following review of their recommendations, develop land use plans along with rationale for any deviations from the advice of stakeholders, or from the long-term health of the waterways.

Protecting Alberta's Bio Diversity

Mover(s): Environment Committee

WHEREAS Albertans benefit from a healthy eco-system where wildlife is protected and where biodiversity is promoted; and

WHEREAS Albertans have a responsibility to address the impact human activity has on wildlife,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party supports a comprehensive strategy to protect wildlife and promote bio-diversity that includes but is not limited to:

- Habitat centric, science-based conservation strategy for caribou and wolves.
- Assessment of large predator populations (cougars, wolves, wolverines) for the development of research based management plans.
- The valuation of wilderness areas, using long term, natural capital based valuations to make policy decisions, based on the multiple benefits these areas intrinsically provide, including water conservation, ecotourism, wildlife habitat, air quality, and other benefits.
- Investments in infrastructure that promotes habitat connectivity through more wildlife overpasses and tunnels.
- Incentives to develop native flower belts and tighter regulations on the neonicotinoids pesticides is needed to protect declining pollinator populations.

Protection of Drivers, Passengers and Wildlife Through Wildlife Overpasses and Underpasses

Mover(s): Lethbridge-East

WHEREAS wildlife crossing Alberta highways cause highways cause traffic accidents that can cause loss of life and health of vehicle drivers and their passengers, mortality of wildlife, significant vehicle damage and costly work for police and emergency services; and

WHEREAS infrastructure, including fencing, underpasses, and overpasses can reduce the efforts of wildlife to cross major transportation corridors, as observed on Highway 1 through Banff Park, reducing pain and suffering to humans, mortality of wildlife and monetary losses; and

WHEREAS wildlife crossings currently mainly allow safe crossing of Highway 1 in and around Banff National Park and the investment has been well justified by the reduction in vehicle damage costs,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party supports investments in infrastructure that promotes habitat connectivity through wildlife overpasses and tunnels on all transportation corridors where human life and injury, wildlife mortality and other costs justify the costs.

QE2 Highway

Mover(s): Southern Regional Meeting

WHEREAS: On the QE2 Highway between Calgary and Edmonton, there have been numerous accidents, both fatal and otherwise, in the past; and

WHEREAS The drive between Calgary and Edmonton takes three hours – on a good day; and

WHEREAS The drive feels unsafe and treacherous to drive,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The QE2 Highway between Calgary and Edmonton be widened to three lanes going north and south, for a total of six lanes, by 2025.

School Systems

Mover(s): St. Albert

WHEREAS the current system of two, publicly funded school systems, one "public" and one "Catholic", is a dated relic from the 1890s and does not reflect the modern cultural, ethnic, linguistic, and religious diversity that is Alberta today; and

WHEREAS it is discriminatory to fund one religious system 100% to the exclusion of all of the other religious denominations in Alberta today; and

WHEREAS there are Albertan teachers who are being actively discriminated against by the Catholic School System on the basis of religion, a moral outrage in 2018; and

WHEREAS it is wasteful and inefficient to maintain two separate school systems, with duplication of resources, administration, and capital expenditures; waste which is depriving the public system of much-needed funds to reduce class sizes and invest in our children,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that an Alberta Liberal government will move to combine the separate school districts into a unified, public school system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an Alberta Liberal government will commit to re-investing all of the savings from such unification back into our public school system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an Alberta Liberal government will consult with stakeholders in the current separate system and design a model of delivery whereby Catholic education may be offered as an alternative program in the public stream.

Tax Reform

Mover(s): Nick Jansen, Vice-President Policy

WHEREAS taxes distort the outcomes of well-functioning markets, leading to a loss of economic welfare and a smaller economy; and

WHEREAS the Marginal Cost of Public Funds (MCF) measures the cost to society of raising the last dollar of revenue using a given tax, including the marginal value of lost economic welfare.

WHEREAS recent research estimates the MCF for the corporate income tax, the personal income tax, and a sales tax as being 4.72, 1.77 and undefined, respectively; and

WHEREAS these MCF values indicate there is an opportunity to increase economic welfare and grow the economy by implementing a sales tax and using its revenue to reduce the corporate and personal income tax rates; and

WHEREAS these MCF values further indicate that a sales tax should be used to raise any additional revenue, since it would do so at the least cost to society; and

WHEREAS these MCF values further indicate that the revenue from the carbon tax should be used to reduce the corporate and personal income taxes, such that it is revenue neutral; and

WHEREAS providing small businesses with preferential tax treatment creates incentives for tax avoidance that are antithetical to their growth; and

WHEREAS eliminating the preferential tax treatment of small business would broaden the corporate tax base, allowing the government to raise a given amount of revenue with a lower corporate income tax, thereby reducing its economic cost,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party supports introducing a provincial sales tax; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party supports using sales tax revenue to reduce the personal and corporate income tax rates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party supports phasing out the preferential tax treatment of small business; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party supports using carbon tax revenue to reduce the personal and corporate income tax rates, such that the carbon tax is revenue neutral.

Timely Payment for Alberta Workers

Mover(s): St. Albert

WHEREAS it is legal to pay Employees up to ten days past their pay period in Alberta;

AND WHEREAS there is no penalty for repeated late payments that do not exceed the ten day period, allowing employers to pay employees late frequently without violating labour code standards;

AND WHEREAS late payments to employees compromises their quality of life and ability to meet financial obligations;

AND WHEREAS the ten day period is the longest of any province in Canada;

AND WHEREAS businesses, especially small businesses need to be given some leeway for late payments;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Liberals support shortening the ten (10) day pay delay period to five (5) through amendments to the Employment Standards Code.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Liberals support amending the Employment Standards Code to prevent employers from abusing the five (5) day pay delay period through frequent late payments that are less than five (5) days late.

Universal Dental Care for All

Mover(s): Banff-Canmore

WHEREAS Oral health is a condition in which people can speak, eat and socialize without active (oral) disease, discomfort or embarrassment (1). While having good levels of oral health is important in itself, it has also been linked to general health (2). However, levels of oral health are not equally distributed throughout the population, as there are inequalities in terms of socio-economic position (SEP), with people of disadvantaged SEP being more likely to have poorer outcomes in all oral health conditions (1,3). These inequalities are mediated by certain health-related behaviours such as having a balanced diet, smoking or alcohol consumption (1,4). In contrast, the role attributable to dental services in these inequalities is not entirely clear; and

WHEREAS dentist visits seem to be a determinant of oral health, at least when carried out on a regular basis (5,6). However, SEP inequalities in the use of dental care services have also been described, with socio-economically advantaged people being more likely to have seen a dentist (7,8). Thus, socio-economically disadvantaged people not only have greater needs of dental care, but also make less use of it, exacerbating existing inequalities; and

WHEREAS In terms of oral health, older people are also a particularly vulnerable group, since the incidence of oral diseases increases with age and has a disproportionate effect in older age groups (1). In addition, their ability to pay is usually reduced and the costs of dental treatment, which are usually high, may represent an unacceptable burden for them.

Dental systems relying on public coverage seem to show lower inequalities in their use, thus confirming the potential benefits of such systems,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Alberta Liberal Party support providing Universal Dental Care to all.

Waste Reduction and Recycling - Extended Producer Responsibility

Mover(s): Dr. David Swann - ALP Caucus

WHEREAS the Recycling Council of Alberta reports that AB has the highest per capita waste disposal in Canada (Alberta – 997 kg/ cap/ year compared to Nova Scotia – 386 kg/ cap/ year); and

WHEREAS EPA / Environment Canada studies show:

- Reducing waste (eliminating it at the source) has a dramatic impact on reducing greenhouse gases
- Recycling is also an effective way of reducing GHGs
- Less energy is required to manufacture materials from recycled materials than from virgin material and no gases occur from landfilling or incinerating those materials

AND WHEREAS Zero Waste means designing and managing products and processes to reduce the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all resources, and not burn or bury them; and

WHEREAS implementing Zero Waste will eliminate all discharges to land, water or air that may be a threat to planetary, human, animal or plant health."; and

WHEREAS Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is an environmental policy approach in which a producer's responsibility for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of a product's life cycle - for taking back the product or covering the cost of its recycling; and

WHEREAS many provinces have fully instituted EPR with provincial savings (ex. BC) of approximately \$70M per year to public purse,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party supports instituting EPR for all products and recover the costs of recycling and/or landfill; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberals support the AUMA Resolution 2013:

THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association urge the Province of Alberta to:

- 1. Expand and refine the existing Extended Producer Responsibility programs to include more items (e.g., electronics) and not download costs to municipalities (e.g., paint).*
- 2. Develop additional Extended Producer Responsibility programs for items such as construction and demolition waste, leaf and yard waste and packaging waste.*
- 3. Create a means to stabilize and develop predictable markets for recyclable materials including plastics, glass, paper, cardboard and other materials.*

Welfare Reform

Mover(s): Nick Jansen, Vice-President Policy

WHEREAS approximately 400,000 Albertans live in poverty; and

WHEREAS income support is currently provided through an administratively complex, costly and paternalistic network of welfare programs that provide insufficient benefits to alleviate systemic poverty; and

WHEREAS the current level of poverty in Alberta has been estimated to cost society between \$7.1 and \$9.1 billion per year, approximately one third of which is a direct cost to the government; and

WHEREAS it has been estimated that eliminating poverty in Alberta would cost approximately \$5 billion per year; and

WHEREAS providing a minimum income would promote equality of opportunity, promote gender equality, create a more flexible and just labour market, and lessen the distributional impacts of globalization and technological advancement, among other benefits,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party supports introducing a Guaranteed Annual (aka “Basic” or “Minimum”) Income; for example, through a Negative Income Tax; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party supports using a Guaranteed Annual Income to replace all existing welfare programs (including the minimum wage), thereby eliminating the administrative complexity, distortion, paternalism and cost of the current welfare system.