

Alberta Liberal Party 2016 Policy and Principles Convention Resolutions

Table of Contents

Introduction

Accountable Government for All Albertans Municipal Campaign Financing

- Flat Fee FOIP Requests
- Municipal Lobbyist Registry
- Electoral Reform
- Visible Photo Radar

Alberta's Energy Future

- Refining and Refineries
- Orphaned and Abandoned Oil and Gas Wells
- Renewable Energy Policies
- Pipeline Policy
- Regulation of Alberta's Wholesale and Retail Electricity Markets
- Carbon/Pollution Charge

Putting People First

- Legal Translation Services
- Indigenous Safe Injection Access and Mental Health
- Banning Conversion Therapy for Minors
- Industry Wide Prompt Payment Legislation
- Online Consumer Protection from 3rd Party Opportunists

Smart Ideas on Education

- Community Asset Spaces
- Financial Literacy
- Ensuring Value and Accountability in Higher Education
- Enhanced Trades Training in High School

Your Health

- Assisted Dying
- Improving Health Services for All Albertans Through Home Care
- Sugar Charge
- Free Birth Control

Introduction

The following document contains the policy resolutions as passed at the Alberta Liberal Party 2016 Policy Convention. They represent the hard work of many grassroots members coming together from across the province to find ways to make Alberta a more just and prosperous place to live.

This document will be replaced in the New Year by a more comprehensive method of communicating our policy positions. In the meantime we are making available here the resolutions passed which, while not detailed, provide the big picture of each policy initiative.

Together these policies illustrate how life would be better for all Albertans under a Liberal government. They each embody the Liberal values of balance, inclusivity and the empowerment of the individual.

I hope you find them as inspirational as I do. Together we can make these ideas a reality for you and your family.

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Sincerely,

David Gamble
VP Policy, Alberta Liberal Party

Accountable Government for All Albertans

Municipal Campaign Financing

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party supports the elimination of corporate, trade unions, and employee trade unions/organizations with regards to political donations in municipal entities' elections and byelections.

Flat Fee FOIP Requests

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party supports a flat fee for FOIP requests to be delivered digitally within the prescribed thirty-day response period;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that reasonable limits may be placed upon individuals or institutions to avoid abusing the public information access system.

Municipal Lobbyist Registry

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party supports that all Municipal Governments in Alberta be included in the Lobbyists Act of Alberta, as mandated through an amended Municipal Government Act.

Electoral Reform

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party call on the government of Alberta to enact a process of electoral reform before the next election.

Visible Photo Radar

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Liberal Party supports banning hidden photo radar cameras in favour of visible cameras with the goal of both increasing their effectiveness as a deterrence tool and improving public trust in the use of photo radar as a tool for making our streets safer.

Alberta's Energy Future

Refining and Refineries

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberals support creating extensive support programs to incent the creation of secondary manufacturing around the oil and gas industry in Alberta, to include:

- * The creation of a research hub for petrochemical, petroleum derivative industries;
- * The creation of a hub for petrochemical manufacturing; * The development of low profile all-season agriculture to use waste energy from the extraction and refining processes;
- * The construction of carbon scrubbing and capture, along with the creation of a secondary carbon dioxide market;
- * Encourage the creation of better rail and road infrastructure for export.

Orphaned and Abandoned Oil and Gas Wells

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party proposes to review and amend the regulations within the Alberta Energy Regulator's existing framework to ensure that proper abandonment and reclamation activities of inactive (orphaned) wells and facilities located in the province are undertaken by the applicable licensees in a timely manner.

.Renewable Energy Policy

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party proposes:

- a. The government prepare a comprehensive analytical report outlining on the cost/benefit of achieving different GHG reduction targets considering the available sources, dependability, environmental and economic impact, and cost of development of renewable energy for Alberta;
- b. That no significant development of renewables be commenced without such a report; and;
- c. That natural gas cogeneration be considered side by side with any development of renewable energy sources before development of new power sources is undertaken.

Pipeline Policy

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the ALP supports the construction of important energy infrastructure, particularly major delivery pipelines to ensure that our products reach market and obtain world price levels as safely as possible

Regulation of Alberta's Wholesale and Retail Electricity Markets

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party proposes:

- a. Re-regulate the wholesale market for electricity to eliminate price volatility, increase certainty of future prices, and ensure that consumers pay no more than the actual cost of electricity;
- b. Prices in the wholesale electricity market should be based on the competitive procurement of energy supplies by the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO);
- c. The AESO would determine an average wholesale price;
- d. The retail price should be based on a flow-through of the average wholesale price to consumers as a "Default Contract" in a regulated environment; however, consumers should be able to opt out of the Default Contract in favour of a competitive retail contract that better meets their preferences;
- e. Distribution and transmission costs should continue to be determined in a regulated environment.

Carbon/Pollution Charges

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberals propose:

1. Alberta immediately adopt a policy of actively seeking North America-wide (and worldwide) consensus on an effective, significant, global life-cycle charge on all carbon-releasing consumption, and act in concert with others;
2. That such a charge apply based on the carbon release per unit of consumption, such that the charge is applied proportionately;
3. That the existing carbon taxes be broadened to encompass more completely the activities of current consumers;
4. That revenues from such charges be revenue-neutral, and/or used to create public infrastructure that will encourage lifestyle changes without unduly disrupting our current standard of living.

Putting People First

Legal Translation Services

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Liberal Party supports funding transfers to recognized organizations offering free legal translation services provided by professionally trained legal translators.

Indigenous Safe Injection Access and Mental Health

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Alberta Liberal Party will implement health services of safe injection sites that are culturally sensitive to Indigenous Peoples' that allow Indigenous ways as well as "Western" medicine;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Alberta Liberal Party will implement these services without cutting the fundamental health services all Albertans deserve access to;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Alberta Liberal Party will develop any policy with safe injection sites, mental health services to Indigenous Peoples' with existing Indigenous organizations leading with evidence-based data.

Banning Conversion Therapy for Minors

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party views conversion therapy as unethical and would ban all attempts to convert a minor's' sexual orientations or identities, for whatever reasons;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party would oblige health care professionals and therapists to offer counseling or other ethical resources to help LGBTQ2+ minors to accept themselves as they self-identify

Industry Wide Prompt Payment Legislation

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Liberal Party supports industry wide prompt payment legislation for the construction sector with its main themes to decrease payment times to contractors by way of proper money handling (i.e., a trust to ensure owner has money), increased communication, revisions to the lien act, and increased consequences for late payments.

Online Consumer Protection from 3rd Party Opportunists

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Liberal Party supports legislation making illegal the use of software known as "bots" to buy tickets for resale.

Smart Ideas on Education

Community Asset Spaces

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party supports the building of flex spaces in new school developments that can be used to meet the greater needs of their community, as required.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party supports retrofitting older schools where possible to serve as flex spaces to meet the greater needs of their community.

Financial Literacy

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Liberal Party supports efforts to improve and expand financial literacy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Liberal Party embraces a multilateral approach that involves all stakeholders, including, but not limited to, all levels of government, business, the financial sector, educators, and unions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT financial literacy curriculum be mandatory in high school curriculum;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT learning resources be provided to adults as well, specifically targeted for people experiencing “teachable moments”: at periods in their life when they are most receptive to financial education, such as buying a first home or entering a pension plan;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Liberal Party would look to the findings of the federal government’s Financial Literacy Task Force in implementing their strategy.

Ensuring Value and Accountability in Higher Education

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party will investigate the spending distribution of tuition and educational grant money at institutes of higher education, to ensure that sufficient funding is entering classrooms, student labs, and other programs which directly contribute to student learning and success;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party will cap and enforce the percentage of tuition and educational grant dollars that can be used for non-educational purposes such as marketing and administration;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party will put into place measures to reaffirm the place of public universities as public institutions of education and research (in service of the public interest) and to resist the corporatization which is distracting from those two foundational pillars.

Enhanced Trades Training in High Schools

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party supports expanding trades training in high school and junior high to reduce the risk of skilled labour shortfalls.

Your Health

Assisted Dying

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that an Alberta Liberal Government would require all appropriate government funded health institutions to allow patients who request them to receive assisted dying services;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no doctor or other medical personnel be required to provide assisted dying services beyond providing a referral to another medical professional who will provide such services.

Improving Health Services for all Albertans through Home Care Funding

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Home care spending be doubled in Alberta in the next fiscal budget through health care system funding reallocation, to enable a 50% increase in the number of home care clients served annually, and to increase the number and amount of services provided to home care clients.

Sugar Charge

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Liberal party propose a 2% charge on sugary drinks that are over the 10% nutritional content threshold, and the revenue be:

- a) used to subsidize fresh fruits and vegetables
- b) used to educate elementary students on nutrition
- c) reinvested back into AHS

Free Birth Control

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the ALP supports the provision of Health Canada approved forms of non-prescription birth control and other sexual health products to those Albertans who ask for it from the relevant government agency or their doctor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that prescription birth control should be made available to prescription holders free of cost for those Albertans who ask for it from the relevant government agency or their doctor. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the aim of this policy is to promote both public health and harm reduction.