

Liberal

2014 Policy Book

Proposed Policies for the 2014 Policy Convention

Chateau Nova Hotel & Suite (13920 Yellowhead Trail) Edmonton, AB

Saturday, September 27, 2014
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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Table of Contents

Message from the Vice President (Policy)	3
Agenda	4
Rules of Procedure – Debate of Proposed Policies	5
Rules of Procedure – Breakout Sessions	6
Rules of Procedure – Voting on Omnibus Resolutions	7
Interim – Board of Directors	8
Interim – Tabled Policy	9
Interim – Liberal Opposition Provisional Policies	10
Review of Previous Policies – Mental Health	13
Review of Previous Policies – Per Capital Distribution of Municipal Revenue	14
Review of Previous Policies – Fuel Excise Tax	15
2014 Proposed Policies	16
Elimination of Supply Management for Alberta Milk, Egg, and Poultry Producers	17
Expanded Canada Pension Plan	18
National Energy Corridor	19
Payday and Car Title Loans	20
Sale of Alberta Government Aircraft Fleet	21
Start-up Alberta Fund	22
Upgrading Rural Infrastructure to Meet 21st Century Needs	23
Aboriginal Cultural Competency Training for Teachers	24
Aboriginal Wisdom Council for Correctional Services	25

Learning Through Play	26
Supporting Child Care Workers	27
Teaching of Sexual Consent	28
Funding for Family and Community Support Services	29
Municipal Political Contributions Tax Credit	30
Opening Pathways to Citizenship for Temporary Foreign Workers.....	31
Access to Dental Care	32
Alberta Wellness Foundation	33
Excellence in Medical Research	34
Full Funding of CNIB Rehabilitation Services.....	35
Reducing Harms of Alcohol Advertising to Youth	36
Timely Access to Mental Health Assessment and Treatment	37
Value-for-Money Analyses of Private Health Care Delivery.....	38
Economic Withholding	39
Environmental Commissioner	40
Respect for Urban Municipalities in Energy Development and Resource Extraction	41
<i>Responsible Energy Development Act</i> Amendments	42
Aging in Place	43
National Affordable Seniors Drug Plan	44
Primacy of Palliative Home and Hospice Care	45
Protecting Vulnerable Persons from Fire.....	46
Restoration of Seniors Property Tax Deferral Program.....	47
Seniors' Activity Centre Funding	48
Specialized and Medical Transportation Funding.....	49

Message from the Vice President (Policy)

Fellow Liberals,

Change is in the air. It is truly an exciting time to be a Liberal in Alberta and in Canada.

Since the 2012 provincial election, Liberal Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta have been hard at work championing the innovative and bold policies put forward in the YES platform. Despite numerous government scandals, two different premiers, and multiple cabinet shuffles, the Liberal Opposition has steadfastly held the government to account on matters of importance to all Albertans.

With the renewal of the Alberta Liberal Party at the 2013 AGM and Policy Convention, we have focused our efforts on strengthening our party's infrastructure, reconnecting with our grassroots, and re-establishing our identity as Alberta's only moderate centrist alternative to the current government.

Alberta Liberals believe in Freedom of the Individual, Equality of Opportunity, and Fairness to Future Generations. We as a party are committed to putting forward solutions that are based on the values of Fiscal Prudence, Social Progressiveness, and Environmental Responsibility.

The proposals being debated at the 2014 Policy Convention are no different. They are aimed at ensuring Alberta has a Strong Economy and a Strong Society.

At this year's convention, we have the task of making sure our party members, candidates, and elected representatives are all supported by a solid policy foundation. That is why we will be considering numerous provisional policies, reviewing past policies, and proposing new ideas.

The 2014 Proposed Policies have been organized into easy to understand categories and will be discussed in detail during our Breakout Sessions before being brought before the general membership. At the conclusion of our meeting, any remaining proposals will be put forward as an omnibus resolution so that no good idea is left on the table.

Welcome!

Jonathan Huckabay,
Vice President (Policy)

Liberal

Agenda

President's Welcome

Rules of Procedure

Debate of Proposed Policies
Breakout Sessions
Voting of Omnibus Resolutions

Interim Policies

Board of Directors
Tabled Policy
Liberal Opposition Provisional Policies

Review of Previous Policies

Mental Health
Per Capita Distribution of Municipal Revenue
Fuel Excise Tax

[LUNCH]

Breakout Sessions

Alberta's Economic Future
Families and Communities
Health
Resource Stewardship
Seniors

2014 Policy Proposals

Leader's Closing Remarks

Rules of Procedure – Debate of Proposed Policies

By-Laws of the Alberta Liberal Party **Article 26. Upon presentation of a Proposed Policy:**

a. The Chair shall call for a show of voting cards by **members who wish to debate** the Proposed Policy. If **less than twenty (20)** voting cards are raised, the Chair shall call for an **immediate vote** on the Proposed Policy.

b. Should **twenty (20) or more** members indicate they wish to debate the resolution:

i. The **mover** of the Proposed Policy or designate shall have **one minute** to summarize the rationale for the Proposed Policy;

iii. **Two members in favour** and **two members opposed** to the resolution may be recognized and permitted to speak for up to **one minute each**;

iv. **Amendments** proposed...by **Breakout Sessions** of the Ratification Process shall be considered. **No additional amendments shall be considered**;

v. **One member in favour** and **one member opposed to each amendment** may be recognized and permitted to speak for up to **one minute each**.

vi. **The member who opened debate** under 26[b][i] shall be permitted **one minute to close debate**.

c. Notwithstanding the provisions in this section, the Chair may:

i. Limit debate in order to permit as many Policy Proposals to be considered in a fair and open manner; and

ii. Allow, expand, or increase debate if time permits, or if the Policy Proposal is in the opinion of the Chair is of sufficient importance to warrant increased debate.

d. **All resolutions or amendments shall require a majority vote** by those present and voting, and if passed shall become Policy of the Alberta Liberal Party.

e. All resolutions that fail to receive a majority vote by those present and voting shall be deemed defeated and removed from further consideration until resubmitted under Section 6 of this Article.

Rules of Procedure – Breakout Sessions

By-Laws of the Alberta Liberal Party **Article 21. The Vice President (Policy) may schedule or designate any session at a General Meeting to be a Policy Breakout Session, and shall appoint a Chair to preside over the same.**

22. Breakout Sessions shall have the authority to:

a. **Debate Policy Proposals.** Debate shall be governed by rules or order determined in advance by the Vice President (Policy);

b. **Propose amendments** to the plenary session by majority vote. Amendments proposed by a Breakout Session shall be considered in order of their approval...;

c. Provide short comment on the Proposed Policy to be delivered verbally to the relevant plenary session;

d. **Take a guiding vote.** The Chair of a Breakout Session may call a guiding vote, the results of which will be provided to the plenary session upon the presentation of the Proposed Policy.

23. **Breakout Sessions shall not amend, ratify, approve, or reject Proposed Policy directly.**

Rules of Procedure – Voting on Omnibus Resolutions

By-Laws of the Alberta Liberal Party **Article 31. Upon notification of the President and Vice President (Policy) of the Alberta Liberal Party, the Alberta Liberal Caucus may make policy binding upon the Alberta Liberal Party as it sees necessary to carry out its role:**

a. Policy created under this Section shall be deemed ratified provisionally until such a time as it can be put forward to a General Meeting of the Alberta Liberal Party.

i. **Ratification of Provisional Policy shall take place at the opening plenary session** of a General Meeting, and be done **by omnibus resolution.**

ii. **Any member may call for a vote to separate out any policy of the omnibus resolution. The motion to separate will be voted upon immediately without debate.**

iii. **Policies separated out under Section 31[a][iii] shall be reclassified as Proposed Policies** and added to the schedule for consideration under the rules set out in Sections 22 and 26 of this resolution.

Interim – Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Alberta Liberal Party passed the following policy:

Water as a Public Good

WHEREAS water is among Alberta's most precious natural resources;

WHEREAS climate change is expected to decrease Alberta's water supply at the same time as increased industrial demand for the resource increases;

WHEREAS access to safe, clean drinking water is an integral component of the realization of all human rights;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta has only committed to prohibit the sale of water to other jurisdictions;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta is inclined to let the market – not the public – decide who has access to water;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should designate all surface and groundwater as a public good, to be managed in the public interest, and regulated accordingly.

Sponsor: Liberal Opposition (Ms. Blakeman) – Amended and approved by the Board of Directors

Interim – Tabled Policy

Debate of the following policy was tabled at the 2013 Policy Convention:

Establishment of Trade Schools

WHEREAS the Province of Alberta is a growing economy in need of skilled trade workers both now and in the foreseeable future;

WHEREAS the youth of Alberta who wish to join in a trade deserve the best opportunities to learn that trade and become certified as fast as possible;

WHEREAS the Registered Apprenticeship Program and other related programs at the high school level act as a rudimentary foundation for individuals wanting to learn a trade skill;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should endorse and work toward establishing dedicated trade schools at the high school level;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should expand the Registered Apprenticeship Program, and other related trade-based programs at the high school level, as a vital step toward the establishment of dedicated trade schools.

Sponsor: Alberta Young Liberals – Tabled at the 2013 Policy Convention

Interim – Liberal Opposition Provisional Policies

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should:

Aboriginal Relations

- ✓ Increase funding to Alberta Native Friendship Centres.
- ✓ Repeal *Aboriginal Consultation Levy Act, 2013* (Bill 22).
- ✓ Commit to meaningful consultation with First Nations on resource development.
- ✓ Provide cultural competence training and care for Aboriginal Health.
- ✓ Request an independent (Health Canada and the World Health Organization) study of Fort Chipewyan.
- ✓ Support a federal public inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women.
- ✓ Support a joint federal-provincial-First Nations investigation into the death of children in government care.

Agriculture

- ✓ Ban hunting of wildlife held in captivity on game farms.
- ✓ Reduce usage of antibiotics in the raising of livestock for consumption.

Culture

- ✓ Expand Community Facilities Enhancement Program (CFEP) to cover maintenance and accessibility upgrades.
- ✓ Double, then triple funding to the Alberta Foundation for the Arts.
- ✓ Establish Community Lottery Boards.

Education (K-12)

- ✓ Eliminate school fees.
- ✓ Increase ESL funding.
- ✓ Make schools community hubs.
- ✓ Start a provincial school lunch program.
- ✓ Fully fund Full-day Kindergarten programs.
- ✓ Provide a tax credit up to \$500 for teachers.
- ✓ Expand registered apprenticeship programs.
- ✓ Eliminate Provincial Achievement Tests.
- ✓ Make Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs) mandatory in schools where students request them.
- ✓ Ensure Alberta Education curriculum teaches basics skills first before discovery learning.

Education (PSE)

- ✓ Provide stable, predictable funding for post-secondary institutions by adopting a multi-year funding cycle.
- ✓ Expand distance learning.

Energy

- ✓ Grant all requesting stakeholders standing at Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) and Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) hearings.
- ✓ Ensure appropriate environmental safeguards are in place to support getting Alberta's energy products to new markets.
- ✓ Bring in penalties for generators and utilities that match the magnitude of the offense.
- ✓ Increase the powers of the Market Surveillance Administrator.
- ✓ Encourage more bitumen upgrading in Alberta.

Environment and Sustainable Resource Development

- ✓ Apply Alberta's carbon levy to actual emissions.
- ✓ Use carbon levy to finance environmental innovation, Green Transportation Fund.
- ✓ Require the Science Advisory Panel of the Alberta Environmental Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Agency to be comprised of a majority of individuals with a background in environmental science.
- ✓ Amend the *Protecting Alberta's Environment Act* to require the Alberta Environmental Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Agency to publicly report its findings on a quarterly and annual basis.
- ✓ Establish an independent monitoring process of environmental standards and more stringent penalties for polluters.
- ✓ Protect the habitats and migration patterns of endangered and at risk species.
- ✓ Support legal protection of intact forests and prohibit further fragmentation under any new Land Use Regional Plans.
- ✓ Amend the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan and the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan to slow forest degradation and fragmentation.

Executive Council

- ✓ Disband the Public Affairs Bureau.
- ✓ Allow MLAs to have free votes in the Legislature on all non-budgetary or platform issues.

Health

- ✓ Ban smoking in vehicles with minors.
- ✓ Ban use of indoor tanning beds by minors.
- ✓ Build a new hospital in west Edmonton to replace the Misericordia Community Hospital.
- ✓ Use federal health transfer money for deferred health facility maintenance.
- ✓ Guarantee surgery and emergency wait times to six months and six hours respectively.
- ✓ Establish regional (rural) medical training programs and schools.
- ✓ Increase ratio of residencies to medical school graduates.
- ✓ Return health decision-making ability to the frontlines.
- ✓ Get every Albertan a family doctor and wellness team.
- ✓ Create more incentives for general practitioners.
- ✓ Double the funding of for public home care.
- ✓ Provide more public long term care beds.
- ✓ Increase the quality of all long term care.
- ✓ Commit to keeping couples together.

Human Services

- ✓ Create a universal low-cost childcare program in Alberta.
- ✓ Increase the number of licensed child care spaces in the province.
- ✓ Keep Michener Centre open for as long as current residents need it.
- ✓ Index Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) payments to inflation.
- ✓ Base financial eligibility for income supports on real-life variables.
- ✓ Implement a formal poverty reduction strategy for Alberta.
- ✓ Increase support the Housing First model.

International and Intergovernmental Relations

- ✓ Co-locate Alberta Trade Offices in Canadian embassies and consulates.
- ✓ Require open competition for senior government representatives or trade envoys.

Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour

- ✓ Restore Summer Temporary Employment Program (STEP) funding and expand its scope and funding to create year-round, paid internships.
- ✓ Repeal the *Public Sector Services Continuation Act, 2013 (Bill 45)* and the *Public Service Salary Restraint Act, 2013 (Bill 46)*.
- ✓ Modernize existing labour legislation by including paid farmworkers under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, the *Workers' Compensation Act*, the *Labour Relations Code*, and the *Employment Standards Code*.
- ✓ Modernize maternity/parental leave from 52 to 26 consecutive weeks of employment.
- ✓ Commit to more immigrant settlement funding.
- ✓ Improve international qualification assessments to expedite recognition of foreign credentials.
- ✓ Amend the Alberta's Labour Code to allow unpaid candidate leave with a job guarantee.

Justice

- ✓ Streamline death review process for children who die in government care.
- ✓ Change Alberta's voting system to instant run-off elections.
- ✓ Remove section 11.1 of the *Alberta Human Rights Act*.
- ✓ Establish a single fixed election date.

Municipal Affairs

- ✓ Draft City Charters.
- ✓ Provide stable, predictable funding for municipalities by adopting a multi-year funding cycle.
- ✓ Directly fund neighbourhood associations.
- ✓ Energy efficiency labeling for new homes and condos.
- ✓ Permit inclusionary zoning for municipalities to address affordable housing challenges.
- ✓ Expand the proposed dispute resolution process for condominiums to include single family dwellings.
- ✓ Support the creation of a flood insurance program for Alberta.
- ✓ Budget realistically for disaster recovery.
- ✓ Require residential builders to be licensed.

Service Alberta

- ✓ Maintain the land titles registry as a government entity.
- ✓ Amend the *Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA)* to allow monetary penalties for companies that lose customers' personal information.
- ✓ End political interference in *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act* request processing.
- ✓ Provide government services in more languages.

Transportation

- ✓ Make ATV helmets mandatory.
- ✓ Expedite twinning of Highway 63.

Tourism, Parks, and Recreation

- ✓ Create endowment for amateur sport.



A Manufactured Crisis

Sherman to Redford: "Where's the bubble?"



ALBERTA TAXPAYER
COLLECTION AGENCY

Collection Note

To: Alison Redford

Qty	Description
1	\$45,000 Flight to South Africa

Please direct cheque for full amount to the Alberta Taxpayer

Treasury Board and Finance

- ✓ Create an Independent Budget Officer.
- ✓ Return to a comprehensive consolidated budget.
- ✓ Reverse public sector pension reforms detailed in *Public Sector Pension Plans Amendment Act, 2014 (Bill 9)* and the *Employment Pension (Private Sector) Plans Amendment Act, 2014 (Bill 10)* and require that any future changes be negotiated through the collective bargaining process.
- ✓ Stop transfers from the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund to General Revenue.
- ✓ Modernize and liberalize Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission rules to allow for the creation of a "cafe culture" in municipalities.
- ✓ Incentivize the expansion of a homegrown small brewing and micro-distillery industry to encourage domestic production and more choice for consumers.



Liberal
ALBERTA LIBERAL OPPOSITION

Review of Previous Policies – Mental Health

The sponsor and the Calgary Region has requested to REVISE the following policy:

Mental Health

WHEREAS there's no health without mental health;

WHEREAS in the history of provincial politics in Alberta, no provincial political party has mandated improving the care and treatment of the mentally ill as an urgent, long-overdue commitment to our most vulnerable citizens;

WHEREAS equality of opportunity for a life of dignity is a core value of the ALP, yet the current ALP policy on health care does not include a detailed proposal for an efficient, effective model of health care delivery for the mentally ill;

WHEREAS the prevalence for mental health disorders in Alberta is estimated at 20% of the general population, and represents an ever increasing portion of the relative burden of general health disorders;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED to empower the leader and executive of the Alberta Liberal Party to make every reasonable effort to advance a bold initiative to:

1. Implement and expand on the recommendations of the Senate Committee Report (2006) and “Positive Futures – Optimizing Mental Health for Alberta's Children & Youth” (2006),
2. Fund the necessary resources to promote public awareness and understanding of mental illness and improve access to and evidence-based treatment from multidisciplinary teams of both traditional and alternative health professionals in institutions and community treatment centers in order to be able to treat individuals in a holistic manner encompassing mental and physical components concurrently.

Sponsor: Calgary – Mountain View

Review of Previous Policies – Per Capital Distribution of Municipal Revenue

The sponsor has requested to REVISE the following policy:

Per Capita Distribution of Municipal Revenue

WHEREAS Alberta's economic and population bases have shifted over the last century from agricultural and rural to energy exporting and urban;

AND WHEREAS Albertans now live predominantly in a handful of larger urban centers;

AND WHEREAS a fundamental disconnect now exists between where most Albertans live and the location of major industries or commercial activities;

AND WHEREAS those larger urban centers lack the industrial and commercial tax base of many rural districts and counties with relatively sparse populations;

AND WHEREAS this severely impacts the ability of those urban centers to deliver and pay for the municipal government services and public infrastructure that their growing populations require;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party supports the distribution of revenue from Combined Low Expenditure Assessments on a province-wide, per capita basis to each governing body, be it urban municipalities, towns, districts or counties.

Sponsor: Liberal Opposition (Ms. Blakeman)

Review of Previous Policies – Fuel Excise Tax

Multiple stakeholders have requested to REPEAL the following policy:

Fuel Excise Tax

WHEREAS Alberta spends over 2 Billion annually on the construction and maintenance of roads and Alberta municipalities spend approximately another 2 billion for a total of \$4 billion;

AND WHEREAS Alberta collects only \$760 million per year in gasoline and other fuel excise taxes;

AND WHEREAS other tax and resource revenues must consequently go towards building and maintaining roads while we short education, universities, health care, seniors care etc;

AND WHEREAS transportation exhaust is a major contributor to urban air pollution and to greenhouse gas emissions and the consumers who burn it pay nothing for the impairment of the environment;

AND WHEREAS consumers make millions of decision daily about where to live, where to work and what to do for recreation and financial signals definitely affect those decisions;

AND WHEREAS the Alberta Fuel Excise tax has not been raised in 25 years and is by far the lowest in Canada and is one of the reasons that other provinces question Alberta's environmental commitment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the fuel excise tax should be doubled from 9¢ per liter to 18¢ per liter and the funds collected from this excise tax be allocated to the construction and maintenance of roads, public transportation and other transportation infrastructure and the level of tax on different fuels should be related to their carbon and energy content.

Sponsor: Calgary Region

2014 Proposed Policies

Alberta's Economic Future

- Elimination of Supply Management for Alberta Milk, Egg, and Poultry Producers
- Expanded Canada Pension Plan
- National Energy Corridor
- Payday and Car Title Loans
- Sale of Alberta Government Aircraft Fleet
- Start-up Alberta Fund
- Upgrading Rural Infrastructure to Meet 21st Century Needs

Families and Communities

- Aboriginal Cultural Competency Training for Teachers
- Aboriginal Wisdom Council for Correctional Services
- Funding for Family and Community Support Services
- Learning Through Play
- Municipal Political Contributions Tax Credit
- Opening Pathways to Citizenship for Temporary Foreign Workers
- Supporting Child Care Workers
- Teaching of Sexual Consent

Health

- Access to Dental Care
- Alberta Wellness Foundation
- Excellence in Medical Research
- Full Funding of CNIB Rehabilitation Services
- Reducing Harms of Alcohol Advertising to Youth
- Timely Access to Mental Health Assessment and Treatment
- Value-for-Money Analyses of Private Health Care Delivery

Resource Stewardship

- Economic Withholding
- Environmental Commissioner
- Respect for Urban Municipalities in Energy Development and Resource Extraction
- *Responsible Energy Development Act* Amendments

Seniors

- Aging in Place
- National Affordable Seniors Drug Plan
- Primacy of Palliative Home and Hospice Care
- Protecting Vulnerable Persons from Fire
- Restoration of the Seniors Property Tax Deferral Program
- Seniors' Activity Centre Funding
- Specialized and Medical Transportation Funding

Elimination of Supply Management for Alberta Milk, Egg, and Poultry Producers

WHEREAS Supply Management is a protectionist agricultural relic of the 1970s that artificially increases the cost of chicken, turkey, eggs, and milk by over \$275 per family a year;

WHEREAS Supply Management provides a disincentive for those producers to innovate;

WHEREAS egg, and poultry producers are forced to pay a mandatory fee, or check-off, to their respective marketing boards, while non-supply managed producers such as beef, pork, canola, barley, pulse, etc. are presented with a voluntary check-off;

WHEREAS the Alberta Liberal Party believes in the free market, open competition, and global opportunities for Albertan producers;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should work with its partners in Confederation to remove the burden of Supply Management and immediately eliminate mandatory check-offs for Alberta milk, egg, and poultry producers.

Sponsor: Edmonton – Gold Bar

Expanded Canada Pension Plan

WHEREAS Albertans, like other Canadians, are not saving enough for retirement;

WHEREAS the Alberta government has been in opposition to the idea of gradually boosting Canada Pension Plan payouts and premiums as a means of enhancing the retirement security of Albertans;

WHEREAS the Alberta government has instead been promoting voluntary Pooled Registered Pension Plans (PRPPs) as an alternative to an expanded Canada Pension Plan;

WHEREAS Albertans already have access to voluntary retirement savings options such as Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs), yet a great many people still don't contribute to them;

WHEREAS the *Pooled Registered Pension Plans Act (Alberta)* has yet to be proclaimed law despite receiving Royal Assent on May 27, 2013;

WHEREAS the Canada Pension Plan is an extremely well-run public pension plan that could be expanded to help address the growing retirement income gap facing many Albertans;

WHEREAS one of the key strengths of the Canada Pension Plan is that contributions are mandatory, thereby ensuring that people save for their retirement;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should seek to enhance the retirement security of Albertans by first and foremost pursuing a national agreement to boost Canada Pension Plan payouts and premiums;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should aim to tie the introduction of Pooled Registered Pension Plans in Alberta to the ratification of a national agreement on an expanded Canada Pension Plan.

Sponsor: Edmonton Region

National Energy Corridor

WHEREAS the free trade of energy products is essential for Alberta's economy;

WHEREAS negotiated political solutions may help address environmental concerns and First Nations land claims related to energy transportation infrastructure;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should work with its partners in Confederation to establish a national energy corridor for the purposes of inter-provincial and international trade.

Sponsor: Liberal Opposition

Payday and Car Title Loans

WHEREAS many low-income Albertans rely on payday or car title loans to make ends meet;

WHEREAS payday loans are limited to a maximum of \$1,500;

WHEREAS the low amount of payday and car title loans is not something that most mainstream banks and other financial institutions would consider lending;

WHEREAS the federal Criminal Code sets a maximum of 60 per cent as an annual interest rate on payday loans, but annualized rates in Alberta and many other provinces are actually much higher because of the limited 62-day borrowing period;

WHEREAS payday and car title loans trap many Albertans in a vicious cycle of spiralling debt because of their staggering interest rates;

WHEREAS Quebec has made it unprofitable for payday and car title loan companies to operate by prohibiting high interest rate charges;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should make it unprofitable for payday and car title loan companies to operate in Alberta by prohibiting high interest rate charges;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should fill the lending void by mandating ATB Financial to offer low-interest, short-term credit to people who need smaller-size loans.

Sponsor: Edmonton Region

Sale of Alberta Government Aircraft Fleet

WHEREAS Alberta is the only province in Canada that still maintains a fleet of government aircraft;

WHEREAS other provinces with comparable or larger geographic areas than Alberta have demonstrated that maintaining a fleet of government aircraft is not a necessity;

WHEREAS commercial flight options exist for politicians and government employees that are typically less expensive than using the government planes;

WHEREAS at close to \$5 million, the annual cost of maintaining the fleet of Alberta government aircraft is not insignificant;

WHEREAS Alberta's fleet of government aircraft have long been subject to a considerable amount of abuse and misuse by PC premiers, cabinet ministers and backbench MLAs;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should sell off the province's aircraft fleet.

Sponsor: Liberal Opposition

Start-up Alberta Fund

WHEREAS Alberta's economic portfolio is concentrated in a limited number of industries;

WHEREAS instability results from limited economic diversification;

WHEREAS immense opportunity exists in supporting Alberta's creative class;

WHEREAS many low-income Albertans rely on payday or car title loans to make ends meet;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should enhance Alberta's economic potential through the creation of a Start-up Alberta Fund to support entrepreneurs and their small businesses.;

Sponsor: Edmonton Region

Upgrading Rural Infrastructure to Meet 21st Century Needs

WHEREAS Alberta's economic portfolio is concentrated in a limited number of industries;

WHEREAS rural infrastructure, especially roads, have not been adequately maintained and upgraded to meet the demands of wear and tear of the increasingly larger machinery and transport vehicles used in intensified farming and industry;

WHEREAS some of the infrastructure has had to be limited in use, and some even closed in the interests of public safety;

WHEREAS a primary responsibility of government is to generate and maintain a safe environment, economy and safety;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should upgrade and maintain municipal infrastructure to meet standards that assure a safe operating environment in the best interests of all affected.

Sponsor: Little Bow

Aboriginal Cultural Competency Training for Teachers

WHEREAS it is vital to restore cultural identity of Aboriginal students as a result of historical government policies of assimilation;

WHEREAS it is important for teachers to be knowledgeable of historical traumas that affect Aboriginal students' learning abilities;

WHEREAS there is a need for cultural competency training for Alberta teachers to be better equipped in supporting Aboriginal students towards achieving their education;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should require and fund cultural competency training by Traditional Elders for Alberta teachers who work with First Nations, Metis, and Inuit students.

Sponsor: Members at Large

Aboriginal Wisdom Council for Correctional Services

WHEREAS Aboriginal peoples have the highest incarceration rate in Alberta compared to non-Aboriginals;

WHEREAS many Aboriginal offenders within provincial correctional facilities do not feel safe and culturally respected in the current environment;

WHEREAS many Aboriginal offenders experience discrimination, racial profiling, and insensitivity to indigenous spirituality and values while in custody;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should establish an Aboriginal Wisdom Council, consisting of Traditional Elders, with a mandate to evaluate the current situation, make recommendations for structural and operational changes, and provide ongoing guidance on creating a more culturally inclusive environment for Aboriginal offenders in Alberta correctional facilities.

Sponsor: Members at Large

Learning Through Play

WHEREAS play is essential to children's development;

WHEREAS through play children can acquire social, cognitive, language skills, and mature emotionally;

WHEREAS learning through play programs in Quebec and Finland have proven to be successful at improving a child's social and cognitive skills;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should adopt the best educational practices from other jurisdictions such as Quebec and Finland in order to establish more learning through play opportunities and programs under the auspice of Alberta Education.

Sponsor: Calgary – Varsity

Supporting Child Care Workers

WHEREAS the educational needs of our children are vitally important to the well-being of our society;

WHEREAS a healthy middle class depends largely on a society that creates opportunities and choice for young families;

WHEREAS evidence continues to show that children benefit from quality early childhood education;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should tackle the continued need for trained child care professionals by expanding the "High School Child Care Scholarship" into a bursary available to all high school students or recent high school graduates who have completed the prescribed requirements for the scholarship;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should permit high school credits to be awarded for students completing the Level 1 "Child Care Orientation Course", and make applicable child care volunteer work available for "Work Experience" high school credits;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should ensure Child Care Worker wages are more competitive so that the quality of child care is enhanced.

Sponsor: Edmonton – Meadowlark

Teaching of Sexual Consent

WHEREAS the topic of sexual consent is not explicitly taught as part of Alberta's Kindergarten to Grade 12 curriculum;

WHEREAS the full understanding of sexual consent is vital to the emotional and physical health of all romantic and sexual relationships;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should ensure the concept of sexual consent is explicitly mentioned and included in the Health and Life Skills Program of Study, or any similar program, taught under the auspice of Alberta Education.

Sponsor: Liberal Opposition

Funding for Family and Community Support Services

WHEREAS Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) has provided services for over 40 years to prevent social crises for Alberta's most vulnerable seniors, children, youth, adults, and newcomers;

WHEREAS investment in prevention of social ills pays off in terms of preserving both human and financial capital;

WHEREAS population changes and growing income inequality have increased the demand for additional FCSS resources;

WHEREAS FCSS are based on an 80/20 collaborative, cost-sharing funding relationship between the Government of Alberta and municipalities or Métis settlements;

WHEREAS provincial funding levels to FCSS have been frozen until 2017, which has resulted in service cuts as neither municipalities nor Métis settlements are able to make up the difference;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should increase funding to Family and Community Support Services and other community-led social initiatives that prevent social crises and improve social cohesion in ways that match the needs of individual communities.

Sponsor: Lethbridge – East

Municipal Political Contributions Tax Credit

WHEREAS municipal political contributions in Alberta do not presently qualify for a tax credit;

WHEREAS provincial and federal political contributions in Alberta presently qualify for a generous tax credit;

WHEREAS the absence of a tax credit for municipal political contributions discourages many Albertans from seeking public office or contributing to municipal political campaigns;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should make municipal political contributions tax receiptable in the same manner as provincial and federal political contributions.

Sponsor: Liberal Opposition

Opening Pathways to Citizenship for Temporary Foreign Workers

WHEREAS Alberta has been experiencing chronic labour shortages over the past decade;

WHEREAS the federal Temporary Foreign Worker Program does not adequately meet the needs of Alberta's growing economy;

WHEREAS the solution to resolve Alberta's labour shortage is to permanently increase the size of the provincial labour force;

WHEREAS the federal temporary Foreign Worker Program neither serves the interest of Canadians nor temporary foreign workers;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should work with the federal government to reform the Temporary Foreign Worker program in order to ensure Canadian jobs are protected, enable temporary foreign workers who already in Alberta to get placed on the pathway to citizenship should they chose to remain in Canada, and to develop new policies and programs that will lead to the increase of permanent immigration in Alberta.

Sponsor: Edmonton – Mill Creek

Access to Dental Care

WHEREAS the cost of dental care is not regulated by the Government of Alberta or the Alberta Dental Association and College;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta already covers dental costs for seniors and children;

WHEREAS cost should not be a barrier for Albertans to receive access to required dental care;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should extend dental care coverage to include lower-income Albertans who are not be able access basic and emergency dental services due to their unregulated costs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should support the inclusion of dental care into the *Canada Health Act*.

Sponsor: Liberal Opposition

Alberta Wellness Foundation

WHEREAS Alberta is experiencing a chronic disease epidemic that is impacting Albertans' physical, mental and economic health, as well as the future sustainability of our province's universal public health care system;

WHEREAS Alberta's Auditor General reports the government lacks a process to identify individuals with chronic disease and has not taken "sufficient responsibility" for directing and coordinating chronic disease management, which the Auditor General calls, "arguably the largest challenge facing our health care system," one of the "largest drivers of health care costs;"

WHEREAS the majority of Alberta's health care budget is dedicated to the treatment and management of chronic diseases that are largely preventable;

WHEREAS some jurisdictions outside of Canada have invested in dedicated and sustainable health promotion foundations to ensure long-term, evidence-based focus on disease prevention;

WHEREAS the Alberta Policy Coalition for Chronic Disease Prevention (APCCP) together with business, recreation, health and community stakeholders have formed *Wellness Alberta* campaign, to call on the Government of Alberta to make new, long-term, and sustainable investments through the creation of an Alberta Wellness Foundation;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should establish an Alberta Wellness Foundation with an initial investment of \$50 million, increasing over 3-5 years to \$170 million per year, or approximately one per cent of the annual Alberta Health budget, in order to prevent chronic disease, promoting health, reduce the burden on our health care system, and improve the quality of life of all Albertans;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should ensure a transparent and accountable governance model for an Alberta Wellness Foundation by selecting its directors through an all-party committee and having it report annually to the Legislature.

Sponsor: Vice President (Policy)

Excellence in Medical Research

WHEREAS there is a need for a greater emphasis on the prevention and treatment of chronic, slow onset diseases such as arthritis, diabetes, multiple sclerosis (MS), or conditions that feature neuro-degeneration such as Alzheimer's or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS);

WHEREAS Alberta Health currently provides only \$86 million a year, or approximately 0.5 per cent of the total health budget, to Alberta Innovates: Health Solutions for medical research;

WHEREAS treating chronic and autoimmune diseases cost the Province of Alberta hundreds of millions of dollars annually, and that figure is projected to continue rising as the population increases and ages;

WHEREAS ongoing investigation is essential for the discovery of new evidence and better practices, which will likely lead to the alleviation of human suffering and an overall reduction in health costs;

WHEREAS medical research is a long-term investment in society;

WHEREAS Alberta should make every effort to become a research hub that fosters leadership in medical excellence.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should increase funding to Alberta Innovates: Health Solutions for research into the prevention and treatment of chronic and autoimmune diseases;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should encourage the creation and support of multidisciplinary teams of professionals who take an integrated approach to prevention and treatment.

Sponsor: Calgary Region

Full Funding of CNIB Rehabilitation Services

WHEREAS every 12 minutes someone in Canada develops blindness or partial sight;

WHEREAS the leading cause of vision loss is age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and the number of people suffering from AMD is expected to double in the next twenty years as Alberta's population ages;

WHEREAS vision loss costs Alberta \$817 million in direct costs to the health care system and \$684 million in indirect costs, which combined with the burden of disease, costs the health system, individuals, families, and businesses a total of \$2.613 billion.

WHEREAS the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) is the only provider of rehabilitation services for people suffering from vision loss;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta does not incorporate vision rehabilitation into its continuum of care and only provides partial funding for rehabilitation services, the remainder of which is subsidized through charitable donations;

WHEREAS rehabilitation services for almost every other debilitating disease or injury is provided by the Government of Alberta through investment in programs provided by occupational therapists and facilities such as the Glenrose Hospital in Edmonton and the Foothills Medical Centre in Calgary;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should fully fund the cost of rehabilitation services provided by the CNIB to Albertans suffering from vision loss.

Sponsor: Vice President (Policy)

Reducing Harms of Alcohol Advertising to Youth

WHEREAS alcohol abuse is one of the leading preventable causes of death of young people in Alberta;

WHEREAS approximately half of Albertan youth in Grades 7 to 12 are current alcohol users;

WHEREAS a majority of current youth drinkers report binge drinking in the past month;

WHEREAS controlled studies in multiple countries, including Canada, have confirmed that alcohol advertising leads youth both to drink earlier and heavier and to underestimate the risks of alcohol use, even when alcohol advertising is not intentionally directed at youth;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should instruct the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission to enforce evidence-based restrictions on alcohol advertising elements proven to be attractive to youth, including lifestyle images, humour, celebrities, sexual content, and party scenes, and to reduce youth exposure to alcohol advertising through volume restrictions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should launch a broad-based public campaign to educate youth about the risks of alcohol use in order to foster a culture of responsibility in Alberta.

Sponsor: Calgary – Varsity

Timely Access to Mental Health Assessment and Treatment

WHEREAS anecdotal evidence suggests those seeking mental health services wait an average of 40 to 60 days for psychiatric assessment;

WHEREAS the length of these wait times are unacceptably long for individuals who experience acute episodes of a psychotic nature and/or suicide ideation;

WHEREAS prompt intervention could prevent suicide, ease prolonged suffering, avert future crises, and reduce the need for more intensive forms of care;

WHEREAS current wait times severely compromise effective treatment and recovery;

WHEREAS timely access to effective intervention during childhood and adolescence is essential in the prevention of chronic mental health disability into adulthood;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should guarantee access to mental health assessment and treatment services within a maximum of seven days for children, youth, and adults who experience acute episodes of mental illness;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should guarantee access to mental health assessment and treatment services within a maximum of fourteen days for children, youth, and adults who experience disabling symptoms of mental illness that are not of a psychotic or suicidal nature.

Sponsor: Calgary – Mountain View

Value-for-Money Analyses of Private Health Care Delivery

WHEREAS all Albertans deserve the highest level of quality in health care services paid for with public money regardless of the structure providing it;

WHEREAS there is a lack of transparency in how public funds are used by private, for-profit health care providers;

WHEREAS Albertans should have access to detailed information on both the use of public funds and the quality of health services paid for by public funds in order to determine if public money is being used appropriately;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should require private, for-profit health care service providers to disclose sufficient information with regard to the provision of programs and services paid for by public money, excluding information restricted under relevant privacy legislation, in order to conduct value-for-money analyses on those programs and services;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should conduct regular value-for-money analyses, which take into account the cost, the quality of care, and the outcomes, of all private, for-profit health care programs and services paid for by public funds, and report these findings to the public on an annual basis.

Sponsor: Edmonton – Centre

Economic Withholding

WHEREAS deregulation has failed to deliver lower electricity prices in Alberta, despite provincial government assurances that it would;

WHEREAS the problem of high electricity prices is exacerbated by economic withholding, the practice of power generators taking power plants offline for discretionary shutdowns, as it invariably leads to electricity price spikes as the power supply tightens;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta, the Market Surveillance Administrator and the Alberta Electric System Operator have largely condoned economic withholding as a legitimate practice in Alberta's deregulated electricity market;

WHEREAS economic withholding serves conservative ideological interests by incentivizing new investment in the province's electricity market;

WHEREAS many of Alberta's power producers have come to rely on economic withholding as a means of boosting their profitability;

WHEREAS economic withholding hurts residential electricity consumers who are not on a fixed contract;

WHEREAS a large majority of Albertans have chosen to remain on the Regulated Rate Option (RRO) by not signing a competitive electricity contract;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should ban the practice of economic withholding on the part of power producers.

Sponsor: Stony Plain

Environmental Commissioner

WHEREAS the implementation and enforcement of Alberta's existing environmental laws, policies, standards, objectives and guidelines is not adequately tracked and enforced by an independent, publicly-funded authority;

WHEREAS the current practice of industry self-monitoring has failed to reduce negative environmental impacts or to improve environmental responsibility;

WHEREAS the Office of the Auditor General provides valuable scrutiny of the Government of Alberta's fiscal management;

WHEREAS the Auditor General of Alberta's July 2014 indicated the Government of Alberta has failed to implement, track, or report the results of the 2008 Climate Change Strategy;

WHEREAS the Office of the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario has successfully scrutinized the Province of Ontario's environmental management since 1994;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should establish the Office of the Environmental Commissioner as an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices should be responsible for the selection of the Environmental Commissioner

Sponsor: Calgary Region

Respect for Urban Municipalities in Energy Development and Resource Extraction

WHEREAS there is no formal requirement for the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) to consult with residents or elected bodies of urban municipalities before approving licences for oil and gas projects within municipal boundaries;

WHEREAS current legislation allows the AER to supersede the land-use policies of urban municipalities;

WHEREAS energy development and resource extraction projects within urban municipal boundaries may have an impact on local property values, land-use planning, development, infrastructure, and public health and safety;

WHEREAS it is a primary responsibility of democratically elected governments to respect their constituents' concerns, protect their rights, preserve their public goods, and ensure their health and safety;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should require mandatory consultation with local residents and elected bodies before granting approval for energy development and resource extraction projects within urban municipal boundaries;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should ensure urban municipalities are granted standing in hearings for all new applications for resource extraction within the jurisdiction, with the option to participate being at the discretion of the municipality;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should ensure all applications to the Alberta Energy Regulator for energy extraction address issues of compatibility with local municipal development plans and existing development;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should amend current legislation to grant urban municipalities veto power over the licencing of energy development and resource extraction projects within their own boundaries.

Sponsor: Lethbridge – West

Responsible Energy Development Act Amendments

WHEREAS property and the right to enjoy it are essential features of a free and democratic society;

WHEREAS the recent passage of the *Responsible Energy Development Act* and other pieces of legislation aimed at streamlining the approvals process for energy development in the province have resulted in a marked decline in property rights protections for Alberta landowners;

WHEREAS the *Responsible Energy Development Act* ended the legislative requirement that energy regulators must consider the public interest when deciding whether to approve resource development applications;

WHEREAS the *Responsible Energy Development Act* resulted in landowners being stripped of their right to appeal environmental decisions affecting their land to the independent Environmental Appeals Board;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should amend the *Responsible Energy Development Act* to include a requirement that regulators must consider whether resource development applications are in the public interest;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should amend the *Responsible Energy Development Act* to reinstate the right of landowners to appeal environmental decisions affecting their land to the independent Environmental Appeals Board.

Sponsor: Stony Plain

Aging in Place

WHEREAS by 2031, it is expected that one in five Albertans will be considered a senior;

WHEREAS ninety per cent of Albertans who responded to a survey conducted by the Demographic Planning Commission in 2008 agreed with the statement, "I want to live in my own home during my senior years";

WHEREAS many private dwellings do not have barrier-free designs to support seniors in their homes;

WHEREAS the cost of living in retirement is often the most concerning issue for seniors;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should introduce a refundable personal income tax credit to seniors, regardless of income, for improving the safety and accessibility of their home;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should introduce a refundable personal income tax credit, regardless of income, for younger family members living with and supporting a senior relative in their home.

Sponsor: Liberal Opposition

National Affordable Seniors Drug Plan

WHEREAS Canadian drug plans are fragmented by provincial borders;

WHEREAS Canadians pay among the highest cost per capita for prescription drugs when compared to other members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD);

WHEREAS a report released in August 2014 by the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions states that a national plan would save \$11.4 billion annually in drug costs and administration fees;

WHEREAS a 2013 EKOS Research Association poll showed that 78 per cent of Canadians are in favour of establishing a universal pharmacare program in Canada;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should support the creation of a national affordable seniors' drug plan.

Sponsor: Edmonton Region

Primacy of Palliative Home and Hospice Care

WHEREAS care of the dying has become a core function of Long Term Care/Nursing Home facilities;

WHEREAS the current government has down-graded Long Term Care/Nursing Home facilities to Assisted Living or Auxiliary Hospitals, circumventing the need for an adequate amount of qualified nursing staff as regulated by the *Nursing Homes Act*;

WHEREAS hospitalizations account for the majority of end-of-life care costs in Canada, and research shows that shifting patients who are nearing end-of-life from acute care settings to home care can save a significant amount of healthcare costs;

WHEREAS non-economic benefits associated with home palliative care includes improved patient and care giver satisfaction, better symptom control, and greater likelihood of the person dying in the setting he/she prefers;

WHEREAS experts are advocating a palliative approach to care be integrated into care for all people with chronic, life-limiting conditions, and be available much earlier in the course of the disease to address needs;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should view palliative home care/hospice care as the first choice, not an alternative to placement or hospitalization, and improve the quality, consistency, accessibility of palliative home care/hospice care across the province;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should expand accreditation standards, focusing on areas such as symptom management, and advance care planning, and support the integration of a palliative approach into chronic disease management.

Sponsor: Edmonton – Centre

Protecting Vulnerable Persons from Fire

WHEREAS all Albertans have the reasonable expectation of protection against fire;

WHEREAS studies have shown that automatic fire suppressing sprinkler systems have saved both lives and property from fire;

WHEREAS not all residences in Alberta for seniors and vulnerable persons have automatic fire-suppression sprinklers;

WHEREAS fires in seniors' residences and facilities housing vulnerable persons without sprinkler coverage leads to high mortality rates;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should mandate the installation of a fire-suppression systems such as automatic sprinklers in all facilities primarily used for housing seniors and other vulnerable persons in order to protect them from fire.

Sponsor: Liberal Opposition

Restoration of Seniors Property Tax Deferral Program

WHEREAS seniors should be able to remain in their homes for as long as they wish and it is medically reasonable to do so;

WHEREAS enabling seniors to stay in their homes reduces pressure in other areas of Alberta's health care system;

WHEREAS the current Seniors Property Tax Deferral Program only provides a loan that must be repaid after the resident moves or dies;

WHEREAS prior to Budget 2013, the Seniors Property Tax Deferral Program was provided in the form of a grant to eligible seniors;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should restore the Seniors Property Tax Deferral Program as a grant for eligible seniors.

Sponsor: Liberal Opposition

Seniors' Activity Centre Funding

WHEREAS seniors' centres play a vital role in the lives of many seniors across Alberta;

WHEREAS the financial health of seniors' activity centres across the province varies greatly, and those experiencing financial difficulties face a wide range of challenges;

WHEREAS a large majority of seniors' activity centres are reporting an increase in annual expenditures;

WHEREAS many seniors' activity centres cite utility costs as their highest expense;

WHEREAS membership fees charged by seniors' activity centres are often very modest;

WHEREAS besides membership fees, seniors' activity centres rely on fluctuating facility rental revenues, individual donations, special events and gaming to cover their operating costs;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should provide seniors' activity centres with stable funding to help address their rising but varied operating costs.

Sponsor: Liberal Opposition

Specialized and Medical Transportation Funding

WHEREAS the population of Alberta seniors represents the fastest growing demographic in the province;

WHEREAS seniors with poor health and disability status are the largest group of seniors to state difficulty with current access to existing mobility and transportation options;

WHEREAS the *Aging Population Policy Framework* recognizes municipal governments have specific roles to play in meeting the needs of Alberta's aging population, and has the goal of ensuring "Albertans have access to safe, affordable, appropriate and accessible transportation options during their senior years;"

WHEREAS equal access to medical care and larger urban centers can be a serious challenge for rural Albertans.

WHEREAS follow up and specialist appointments, surgeries, and chemotherapy are all examples of the ongoing and acute medical services that may not be equally accessed for all Alberta's residents due to the barrier of transportation.

WHEREAS current grant programs, including the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI), are not sufficient to cover the increasing costs to municipalities for providing specialized and medical transportation services;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Liberal Party believes the Government of Alberta should provide operational and capital funding to municipalities for the provision of specialized transportation for seniors and those needing ongoing or acute medical care requiring transportation to larger urban centers.

Sponsor: Vice President (Policy)

NOTES

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