



SUMMER FLING

OYL 
POLICY
PACKAGE
2012

Wilfrid Laurier University

August 10-12



Dear Ontario Young Liberals,

This weekend we come together for the 10th annual Ontario Young Liberal (OYL) Summer Fling. Summer Fling started as a small gathering of Young Liberals to meet during the summer to discuss policy, exclusively; some would call it the "Summit of the Wonks". Every year it would travel around Ontario to entice young people to explore the beauty that lies on our doorstep.

This year, we mark the advances we have made together. The conference has grown into an inclusive event with activities ranging from dancing, to debating, to listening to guest speakers, to a semi-formal dinner, to doing some door-to-door, to spending time with over a hundred of our friends once a year doing what we do best. It has become a truly become a diverse event that happens to end with a concrete outcome.

Below you'll find the policies passed at the various policy parliaments that have occurred over the past few months since our OYL Annual General Meeting. Young people gathered in the North, the Southwest, Toronto, Central and South-Central Ontario to bring this all together.

We are trying to go green, in light of our youth wing's ample number of environmental policies advocating less paper waste, we hope the tech-savvy amongst you will download this file to your smartphone, tablet or laptop. You could say we're finally making the Green Shift.

I'm immensely proud of the authors of these policies below for bringing them forward; they're immensely talented people with fantastic ideas, willing to stand up for what they believe in. If you're curious about a policy, please take the time to discuss it with the author and get your questions answered.

Together, we can move our society, and even the world, forward to where it should be. Thank you for registering for OYL Summer Fling 2012.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, concerns or are interested in getting further involved.

Cheers,

Shane Mackenzie
OYL Policy Director
Ontario Young Liberals (OYL)

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PROVINCIAL POLICIES



1 The "Gift of 8" Organ and Tissue Donation in Ontario

WHEREAS over 80 percent of Canadians say they are in favour of organ donation, yet in areas where one can register to be an organ donor only about twenty percent are signed up.

WHEREAS in Ontario less than twenty five percent of Ontarians have registered consent to donate.

WHEREAS currently in Ontario there are over 1500 residents waiting for a organ transplant.

WHEREAS every three days in Ontario someone loses their fight while waiting for a life saving transplant.

WHEREAS one organ donor has the potential to save 8 lives as well as enhance the lives of up to 75 others through tissue donation.

WHEREAS currently the Ministry of Transportation delivers an insert regarding the organ donation system with every new drivers license issued.

WHEREAS the province of Newfoundland and Labrador has adopted a system where by citizens are asked if they wish to become an organ donor upon receipt of their drivers license renewal form. If they agree, a red heart is placed on bottom right hand corner of their new drivers license.

WHEREAS communication is the key to addressing apathy among the population as made evident by Helene Campbell and her recent #beanorgandonor campaign.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Young Liberals urge the Liberal Party of Ontario to adopt the same drivers license renewal form which includes a question regarding organ donation consent.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Young Liberals urge the Liberal Party of Ontario to implement a hotline whereby all recipients of newly issued drivers licenses in Ontario can call a representative from the Ministry of Health to discuss the organ donation program with the hopes of dispelling common myths regarding organ donation.

References:

<https://beadonor.ca>
Kidney Foundation of Canada: <http://www.kidney.ca/page.aspx?pid=2272>

Frank Tersigni
Rebecca Nielsen

University of Guelph Young Liberals

2 Ontario Wind Energy: The Solution is a Breeze

WHEREAS finding alternative and renewable forms of energy still poses as a pressing issue in Ontario.

WHEREAS wind energy is a clean source of energy which would be beneficial to harness; as well as offer new job opportunities.

WHEREAS the United States, Sweden, Spain and other European countries lead the way in meeting a good percentage of their energy needs with the use of wind turbines.

WHEREAS European countries have sought to increase their wind energy demands to contribute a larger portion of their energy needs by 2020.

WHEREAS Ontario leads the country in wind energy supplies.

WHEREAS onshore wind turbines production has been protested and offshore projects have been brought to a halt due to pressure from rural communities over noise pollution-related health concerns, contamination of fresh water, property value issues and aesthetics.

WHEREAS Ontario Liberal Party platform is committed to replacing coal with other cleaner forms of energy while still addressing the concerns from constituents.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a proper public inquiry be conducted to incorporate the local rural communities' opinions and sensitivities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT more research regarding wind turbines' noise pollution, and its effects on health and economic impact; as well as offshore wind turbines effects on fresh water and be conducted by a non-partisan third party.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT that if studies do show some of the residents' claims to be true, that a compromise be reached between them and the Ontario Liberal government.

Thuva Ashokumar
University of Guelph Young Liberals

3 Education Equality: Maximizing the Potential of Our Students and Ending Religious Discrimination in Our Schools

WHEREAS catholic religious education is publically funded in the province of Ontario

WHEREAS the Public School system in the Province of Ontario suffers from a lack of adequate public funding;

WHEREAS the economic efficiencies provided by the amalgamated system would help to reduce Ontario's \$15 billion deficit

WHEREAS Roman Catholics now constitute 35% of Ontarians and are therefore no longer a small minority in Ontario;

WHEREAS public polls conducted in 1999 and 2012 showed that a majority of Ontarians disagreed with the practice of provincial government funding for Catholic schools;

WHEREAS in 1999, the United Nations ruled that government funding exclusively for Catholic schools is a form of discrimination;

WHEREAS funding the religious education of a single religious domination challenges the principles of equality and multiculturalism

WHEREAS school boards in most Canadian provinces are divided along linguistic, not religious lines

WHEREAS Ontario students should learn, grow, play and make friends in schools with children from diverse religious and cultural traditions

WHEREAS this action is contrary to section 15 (1) of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms which states, "Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability."

BE IT RESOLVED that the province of Ontario cease publically funding catholic religious education

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a constitutional amendment is put in place to invalidate paragraphs (1) to (4) of section 93 in the Constitution Act, 1867

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a citizen coalition be formed and a referendum be held on abolishing denominational schools

Colin Brown, **Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale YLs**
Rishabh Kumar & Tom Yun, **Willowdale Young Liberals**
Natalie Lolua, **University of Ottawa Young Liberals**

4 Leadership for our Scientists in the Experimental Lakes Area

WHEREAS included in the Omnibus budget implementation Bill C-38 were funding cuts to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans resulting in the abrupt announcement of the closure of Experimental Lakes Area (ELA) by next year, March 31, 2013;

WHEREAS ELA is a unique freshwater research station in Ontario that uses the whole ecosystem approach and long-term experiments that, for one, have provided continuous monitoring data since 1968 to scientists around the world;

WHEREAS places like ELA allow researchers to fully understand the potential environmental effects of human activities like oil sands development. In doing this type of research regulation and cleaning technologies could be

enforced to mitigate environmental impacts and remediation strategies can be explored. This is a proactive approach to protecting our environment;

WHEREAS Ontario will benefit from understanding how the choices we make today affect our greatest resource, fresh water;

WHEREAS the Ministry of Natural Resources is responsible for protecting Ontario's water resources;

WHEREAS the Ministry of Economic Development and Innovation has funded programs including Ontario Water Innovation Award, Green Focus on Innovation and Technology and the Ontario Research Fund;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario Liberal Party incorporate funding and operating the ELA under the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Economic Development and Innovation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ELA be required to provide research based on technology related to the conservation and/or treatment of water as well as providing continuous monitoring data.

Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale Young Liberals

5 Vocational Training Retention Program

WHEREAS Youth unemployment has a significantly negative impact on the career paths and future income of young people.

WHEREAS Apprenticeships and other work-study programs help students gain valuable work experience and identify future employers.

WHEREAS The retirement of the Baby Boomer generation will cause the workforce to lose skills and experience crucial to Ontario's prosperity.

WHEREAS Apprenticeship and other work-study programs provide a way for skills to be passed on from experienced workers to those preparing to enter the workforce.

WHEREAS Ontario's apprenticeship programs have a dangerously low rate of completion.

WHEREAS Australia, facing similarly low rates of completion, has instituted funding worth AUD18 million for mentorship programs.

WHEREAS the Australian program provides resources for improved and greater communication between industry veterans and apprentices.

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government would create funding worth \$15 million annually for mentorship programs attempting to increase the rate of completion, and explore ways to reduce costs for businesses participating in such programs.

BE IT RESOLVED that a Liberal government would work with the Australian government in knowledge sharing while developing and fine-tuning the program.

Ben Jorgensen
to be presented by Harris Berton
Carleton Liberals

6 RESTART Ontario: Bold Steps for a Brighter Tomorrow

Whereas Ontario has shifted into an era of slow growth, slowed down recently to 1.8 per cent — just over half the 3 per cent pace set in 2010, and that the manufacturing sector can no longer be counted on to fuel Canada's most populous province.

Whereas there is a strong positive relationship between innovation (patent stock) and per capita GDP in both OECD and non-OECD countries; and that G-7 Nations, such as Canada, can foster such innovation by investing more into proven R&D initiatives.

Whereas the City of Waterloo is home to a brilliant innovation hub made possible by a mixture of business incubators, accelerators, and universities that focus on fostering entrepreneurial spirit.

Whereas Canadian entrepreneurs prefer to look to the USA, instead of Canada, for venture capital.

Whereas Ontario's low broadband speeds and oligopolistic ISP market structure stunts R&D, which in turn stunts technological innovation, which ultimately stunts economic growth in a G7 nation.

Whereas strong public services require a strong economy, and a prosperous tax base, and that weak economic growth feeds into income inequality.

Therefore be it resolved that the Government of Ontario takes bold, measured steps to establish innovation hubs in each region of the province, ease and increase access to venture capital, encourage entrepreneurship through a public awareness initiative, and decrease socio-economic barriers to starting a business.

Be it further resolved that Ontario Network of Excellence (ONE) locations be expanded into other countries, for the purpose of encouraging more direct foreign investment and relocating talent as well as firms into Ontario.

Be it further resolved that the Government of Ontario commissions a study with the strict goal of establishing clear policy directives on long term economic growth, technological innovation, and curtailing income inequality in Ontario.

Be it further resolved that the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities, and the Ministry of Economic Development & Innovation, work in tandem with one another to:

- Establish and share best practices for fostering an environment of inclusion and collaboration between faculties and students, R&D innovation, and entrepreneurial spirit within students at post-secondary institutions.
- Expand ONE into every Ontario University and college, within the next 5 years, through a mixture of business incubators, accelerators, and research facilities.
- Provide new Ontario graduates an OSAP repayment window extension of 12 months, instead of the current 6 months, should they choose to start their own business working with a ONE incubator.

Be it further resolved that the Government of Ontario invests in a combined LTE and fibre-optic infrastructure project, with the clear intention of force-feeding competition into the internet service providers' market, speeding up internet speeds to up to and over 1gbs, and bridging the digital divide between rural and urban Ontario, preferably by 2020.

Sushil Tailor
Brampton-West Young Liberals

7 Liquor Reform

**Richmond Hill Provincial
Young Liberals**

Whereas: In an era of global competitiveness and the accelerating growth of international tourism the presence of a vibrant nightlife and entertainment has become an important factor for citizens and visitors.

its full potential in extracting a larger share of capital accumulation and fostering the business community.

Be it further resolved: That the legal age of liquor consumption is revised to 18 years old as it has been done in Quebec, Manitoba, and Alberta, while permitting individuals 16-17 years old to consume alcohol while under parental supervision.

Whereas: Ontario liquor laws remain one of the strictest in North America and have not reached

Be it resolved: That the current required time of alcohol service closure set at 2am is revised to 4am for all licensed establishments.

8 Project Based Learning

**Kajananth Thirunavukkarasu
Toronto-Centre Young Liberals**

WHEREAS Ontario stands as a world leader in education excellence according to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

WHEREAS students are more likely to retain the knowledge gained through project based learning than traditional textbook-centered learning

WHEREAS we need to increase our high school graduation rate to at least 85%

WHEREAS catering the teaching style based on the student's learning abilities will help Ontario continue to improve the success of education for our students.

WHEREAS Project based learning helps students understand, apply and retain information learned in our education system

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Ontario strike a committee to study and provide recommendations on ways Ontario can use project based learning to enhance the success and learning experience of our students.

WHEREAS most students often have difficulties relating classroom materials to real-world problems and challenges

WHEREAS Ontario Liberals have pledged to foster skills like collaboration, team building and problem solving in Ontario students

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Ontario take appropriate action to implement the recommendations outlined in the report.

WHEREAS we need to meet our goal of increasing student achievement and exceed our provincial standards by least 75% of students

9 Provincial Safe Injection Site

**Laurentian University
Young Liberals**

WHEREAS research in the mid 1990's written by The Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS indicated that an epidemic of HIV/AIDS within the population of drug addicted persons was imminent

WHEREAS during that period, a regional health authority declared that overdose deaths had reached epic proportions

BE IT RESOLVED that provincial safe injection sites be adopted in Ontario, as in B.C., to fight this epidemic

WHEREAS the establishment of a supervised injections facility is a legitimate response to a public health emergency



**Liberal**

FEDERAL POLICIES



A Applying a Health Promotion Lens in Canada

Michelle Amri
Sid Wilson
Western Liberals

WHEREAS health promotion is defined as “the process of enabling people to increase control over their health and its determinants, and thereby improve their health”¹, it is a population health approach that is focused on prevention rather than treatment, which is beneficial for physical and mental outcomes of people,

WHEREAS slight improvements in fundamental conditions and resources for health (peace, shelter, education, food, income, a stable ecosystem, sustainable resources, social justice, and equity), will have improvements in health, either individual or population,

WHEREAS health promotion is cost effective, as it has the ability to prologue life years and increase quality of life for numerous people while costing a fraction of treatment in many instances,

WHEREAS many marginalized population groups in Canada face health problems that people in third world countries face, that can be combated with simple health promotion initiatives,

WHEREAS Canada is a leading country in equality and human rights, as a nation there is pressure to guide the rest of the world towards stronger health promotion measures through example, as equality of people will be seen in their health outcomes,

WHEREAS many Canadians will experience prolonged life with treatment, but will live with quality years of prolonged life with prevention, the core of health promotion.

WHEREAS health promotion will save on many health care costs, as health promotion is an investment into the future.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Young Liberals urge the Liberal Party of Canada to significantly increase funding for health promotion initiatives as part of its party platform.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Young Liberals urge the Liberal Party of Canada to create a policy that utilizes health promotion strategies for all policy and program development as part of its party platform, whether it be in relation to infrastructure or the economy. For example, when building roads the development of continuous and safe bike paths would be essential in the promotion of physical activity.

1. Participants at the 6th Global Conference on Health Promotion. The Bangkok Charter for health promotion in a globalized world. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization, 2005 Aug 11. Accessed 2012 June 26.

B Death With Dignity

Becca Nielsen
Frank Tersigni
University of Guelph Young Liberals

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2012, the BC Supreme Court struck down the Canadian Supreme Court's ruling on euthanasia stating that it is unconstitutional.

WHEREAS, no government, religious leader or institution has the right to tell someone with a terminal, irreversible illness how long they have to suffer.

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of modern medicine to inflict the least amount of harm to patients, where telling some patients that their medical wishes are second to the preservation of life is inflicting harm.

WHEREAS, Death with Dignity is allowing terminally ill patients with a prognosis of 6 months the option of deciding when the best time for them to exist life is.

WHEREAS, this policy is not advocating for death, rather it is advocating for a choice.

WHEREAS, by virtue of one's position, it shall not be required upon any physician or pharmacist to assist patients that request death with dignity should they not wish to write or fill a prescription.

WHEREAS, allowing a patient to choose when their time is up will not only help the patient, but the patients family by allowing the family the opportunity to say goodbye, giving the family peace of mind knowing the patient left peacefully.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ontario Young Liberals urge the Liberal Party of Canada to again be the party of big ideas by adopting a stance in favour of legalising physician assisted suicide.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Government of Canada establish guidelines in consultation with provinces on what constitutes Death with Dignity and when physician-assisted suicide would be considered an appropriate option.

*euthanasia- when a physician assists a patient in ending their life through injection or assisting them to take any medication that would terminate their life. The physician holds control of when the patient's life ends.

*physician assisted suicide- when a physician prescribes a terminally ill patient medication that the patient will take when they feel that it is time for their life to end. The patient holds control of when their life ends.

C Leadership for Our Women

Ancaster-Dundas-
Flamborough-Westdale
Young Liberals

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has cut funding to a number of women's programs including Marie Stopes International, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Workplace Equity/Employment Equity, and the Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses;

WHEREAS the Department of Status of Women Canada has been "guttled" by significant cuts and changes;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada work to restore funding to all of these programs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in the meantime, the National Women's Liberal Commission and our Liberal Party of Canada Parliamentary Caucus take on the role of advocacy for women that Status of Women Canada can no longer legally do.

D Canada and the United Nations

WHEREAS recent comments and actions by members of the current Government of Canada have cast doubt on our country's role in the UN;

WHEREAS, for the only time in its history, Canada lost its bid for temporary membership of the United Nations Security Council in 2010;

WHEREAS Canada currently contributes the 56th most peacekeepers of all UN members, down from 21st in 2004 and 7th in 1993 (Source);

WHEREAS a robust and efficient United Nations is necessary for harmonious global relations;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada commit to reinforcing Canada's legacy of leadership in the United Nations and its missions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada, at a time it forms the government, will continue to offer support to the United Nations and its missions at all levels, including the contribution of peacekeepers, technologies, and equipment.

E Individual Taxpayers' Receipt Federal

WHEREAS a better informed public is beneficial and improves the strength of our democracy;

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada has been calling for more transparency and accountability in terms of the actions of the Harper government;

WHEREAS the public has the option to get receipts when they purchase every other good and service, but do not when they pay for goods and services from the government;

WHEREAS other jurisdictions, such as the United States, have begun to issue receipts to their taxpayers that outline which departments receive taxpayer dollars and how much they receive;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Canadian government issue a simple, one-page receipt to all taxpayers outlining how much of their hard-earned tax dollars go to each ministry or major department of the government so that the Canadian people will be better informed as to how the government is spending taxpayers' money.

Daniel Nowoselski
Ottawa-Centre Young Liberals

F Policy to Legalise Euthanasia for the Terminally Ill

WHEREAS one of the main measures of a free society is whether citizens have control over their own lives.

WHEREAS the ultimate control over one's own life must be said to be having the freedom to end it when one desires.

WHEREAS there is no justifiable reason why a government should perpetuate suffering through the power of the law.

WHEREAS euthanasia is now widely recognized as a humane and justifiable act for almost every other species of animal bar humans.

WHEREAS patients have a basic right to privacy when it comes to deciding how and whether to treat a painful terminal illness.

WHEREAS polls now show that around two-thirds of Canadians believe that the time has come to legalize euthanasia.²

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada supports the right of terminally ill patients to euthanasia if there is no realistic chance of recovery.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such euthanasia only be permitted when a patient's consent can be clearly determined by medical officials.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the event that a terminally ill patient is unable to give consent to euthanasia, that he or she may then specify in their living will an immediate relative who would be authorized to make a decision on euthanasiation of the patient in the event that the patient falls into a terminal illness with no realistic chance of recovery.

Roy Sengupta
Ottawa-Centre Young Liberals

2. http://www.angus-reid.com/polls/38352/most_canadians_generally_agree_with_euthanasia/

G Promoting Canadian Culture in the 21st century

Will Norman
Mississauga South Young Liberals

WHEREAS - Canadian music deserves to be supported and funded for both economic and cultural reasons,

WHEREAS- Canadians are accessing more and more content online, bypassing the traditional models of Canadian Content regulation and promotion,³

WHEREAS- Many Canadian bands and performers have recently had more success from establishing popularity outside of Canada, or from online promotion,

WHEREAS- Canadians access Canadian Content on websites like Youtube at as high a rate as non-Canadian content, without any regulatory regime in place⁴

WHEREAS- Modern technology and the nature

of cultural consumption by Canadian consumers has increasingly made an anachronism of Canadian content regulations for commercial music radio stations,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT - A Liberal government commits to updating the mandate of Industry Canada, the Ministry of Canadian Heritage and the CRTC to better reflect the nature of Canadian musical production and promotion in the 21st century by phasing out the requirements for commercial radio music stations to play 35% CanCon.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED - that A Liberal government commits to directly supporting Canadian artists and not a regulatory framework by committing to increasing the funding for programs like FACTOR (the Foundation Assisting Canadian Talent on Recordings) and Starmaker

which fund new Canadian artists.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED – that In recognition of the need for a funding model for giving greater direct support for programs that support Canadian artists, the federal government ensure that ISP's pay a fraction of their Canadian profits directly to these programs.

3. Statistics Canada's 2009 Canadian Internet Use Survey: "80% of adult Canadians used the internet for personal use" <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/blogs/education/2010/05/statistics-canadas-canadian-in.html>

4. "Who needs Cancon?", Winnipeg Free Press, Jan 14, 2012: "YouTube reports that Canadian videos are being sought-out and viewed at a rate roughly on par with those originating in the U.S...Annually, in fact, [Youtube] calculate[s] that the site features more original Canadian content than has ever been broadcast during prime time on CBC (English and French) and CTV combined." <http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/canada/who-needs-cancon-137339598.html>

H LED Street Lights Should Be Installed Throughout Canada

Barrie Young Liberals

Whereas sodium streetlights account for 35% of municipalities' energy bills

Whereas Barcelona saw energy bills decline by 1/3 after installing LED streetlights⁵

Whereas LED streetlights can last up to 20 years being approximately 4 times the lifespan of regular streetlights

Whereas LED streetlights reduce CO2 emissions

Whereas LED streetlights can be dimmed when less street lighting is needed, such as late nights and early mornings

Whereas LED streetlights can be run through motion detectors and on timers

Whereas LED streetlights allow for higher light output even at lower temperatures

Whereas LED streetlights are better for nocturnal wildlife⁶

Whereas sodium streetlights create urban sky glow, light trespass, glare, and clutter⁷

Whereas disruption of the circadian rhythms caused by light pollution can cause insomnia, depression, cancer, and cardio-vascular disease⁸

Whereas "brighter does not mean safer and overly bright lighting creates a sharp contrast between light and darkness, making the places outside the area of illumination nearly impossible to see"⁹

Whereas LED streetlights are safer, more energy efficient and better for human health, wildlife, and the environment that sodium streetlights

Be it resolved that the Liberal Party of Canada support and lobby the federal government for financial support for the installation of LED street lights across Canada

5. <http://inhabitat.com/barcelona-introduces-led-streetlights-that-cut-energy-use-by-13/>
6. http://docs.darksky.org/Docs/ida_wildlife_brochure.pdf
7. http://docs.darksky.org/Docs/ida_human-health_brochure.pdf
8. http://docs.darksky.org/Docs/ida_human-health_brochure.pdf
9. http://docs.darksky.org/PG/ida_safety_brochure.pdf

I Change gender option on Liberal Party membership

Glendon Liberals

Change applicant's options for joining the Liberal Party from simply male/female to include transgender or gender x options

WHEREAS the tenets of inclusiveness and acceptance are core to party ideology

WHEREAS the idea of gender includes more than simply male or female

BE IT RESOLVED that applicants to the party have the options to select transgender or gender x as well as male or female

J Reforming Canada's "Arcane" Foreign Credential Accreditation

WHEREAS Canada accepts over 250,000 new immigrants per year, a number that represents one of the highest per capita immigration rates in the world

WHEREAS immigrants currently account for more than half Canada's growth in its net labor market and population

WHEREAS Canada's immigration system puts a very heavy emphasis on a potential immigrant's education level and profession based on where Canada has labour shortages, ensuring that Canada receives only the brightest immigrants. This means that almost 40% of all Canadians with a master's degree and 49% of those with a doctorate are foreign born

WHEREAS Canada's former Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Joe Volpe once stated that Canadian accreditation policies have created 'an arcane infrastructure that essentially mitigates against the immediate integration of highly skilled immigrants'

WHEREAS while immigration itself may be a federal matter, the foreign credential accreditation process in Canada is a responsibility of the country's provincial and territorial governments, with approximately 400 regulatory bodies created by the provinces and territories to regulate 50 professions

WHEREAS to get accreditation, immigrants often undertake a lengthy, "personal journey involving complex interactions with several institutions", often dealing with poor information regarding accreditation procedures and interacting with regulatory bodies that sometimes lack the knowledge needed to make informed decisions on certification and standards of educational qualifications, training and other requirements that vary province by province

WHEREAS some scholars have noted these self-governing regulatory bodies have abused their ability to set professional standards by tweaking them to "actively exclude immigrant labour from the most highly desired occupations in order to reserve these occupations for Canadian-born and Canadian-educated workers."

WHEREAS this has led to a situation in which only a small fraction of immigrants are able to successfully have their credentials recognized, with recent StatsCanada reports pegging this number at as low as 28% of the entire skilled immigrant population.

WHEREAS this difficulty in obtaining accreditation has led to economic, social and psychological problems for immigrants, with almost 1/5th living in chronic poverty which both "prevents immigrants from committing themselves to their new country and developing a strong Canadian national identity"

and also causes mental problems including "stress, anxiety, depression, unhappiness, worry, tension, irritation and frustration"

WHEREAS this lack of accreditation does not benefit Canada which continues to suffer from economically crippling labour shortages that immigrants could cover

WHEREAS many scholars argue that greater federal control over immigration could lead to better results

WHEREAS as has been shown with health care in the past, federal governments can gain a say into provincial jurisdictions by offering cash incentives tied to improvements in provincial services

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Young Liberals encourage the federal government and the Liberal Party of Canada to adopt a policy that creates cash incentives offered to provinces for the improvement and streamlining of accreditation policies and the number of immigrants accredited per year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Young Liberals encourage the federal government and the Liberal Party of Canada to adopt policies that encourage greater consistency between accreditation standards in the provinces

K Promoting National Economic Growth and Innovation through the Elimination of Capital Gains Taxation in Canada

Connor Scott

Laurentian University Young Liberals

WHEREAS the theory of optimal taxation developed by Oxford economist James Mirrlees postulates that the economic cost of taxation is higher the more easily the tax can be avoided by all those who have to pay it;

WHEREAS by this metric, the capital gains tax is the worst tax of them all;

WHEREAS taxpayers can simply avoid having to pay this tax by not realizing their capital gains; thereby discouraging domestic and foreign investors from increasing their respective levels of savings and investing in Canadian assets with a high-probability of generating capital gains;

WHEREAS less investment by Canadians and foreign investors reduces labour productivity – and, thereby, all processes which directly contribute towards increasing the standard of living;

WHEREAS fewer investments are made in high-risk projects, and mechanisms of innovation and growth are hitherto impaired;

WHEREAS states with lower capital gains taxes, or those with none at all, observe larger realizations of capital gains and thereby acquire greater revenues;

WHEREAS Canadians with modest incomes and diminutive shares in mutual funds pay a disproportionate percentage of the aggregate revenue received by governmental institutions;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada advocates for the abrogation of the capital gains tax, thereby encouraging dynamism and investment within the Canadian economy.