

Yes to fighting anti-Semitism, No to IHRA definition of anti-Semitism

Submitted by Brian Chang, Lester Brown

WHEREAS The IHRA working definition of antisemitism and its examples have been used to seek to silence criticism, including that of NDP caucus members, of serious violations of Palestinian human rights and international law by Israel, and

WHEREAS We strongly condemn antisemitism, Islamophobia, white supremacy, and all forms of hatred and intolerance

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

[That the following be added to Section 4.1(f) of the NDP 2018 Policy Book]

While strongly condemning antisemitism, opposing the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition with its examples of antisemitism, which have been used to attempt to silence those who denounce grave abuses of human rights of the Palestinian people, and those who speak out against the illegal occupation and annexation of Palestinian lands, unequal treatment of Arab-Palestinians in Israel, and the inhumane blockade of Gaza.

Background info: <https://canadiandimension.com/articles/view/how-ihra-definition-antisemitism-shielding-israel-from-criticism>

De-fund, Disarm and Disband Police Forces in Canada

Submitted by John Wilson

Whereas police protect capitalists from violence caused by capitalism (poverty, mental illness, discrimination, etc.), break strikes and attack social protests, fight minor crime instead of major corporate crime, escalate mental health incidents, and disproportionately kill racialized people, and

Whereas reform attempts have not reduced victim injuries and deaths or held offending police accountable,

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the NDP advocate the following: The rapid de-funding of police forces in Canada by 50%, transferring the funds to necessary social services including but not limited to housing, mental health, and addictions treatment; The disarming of police beginning with the removal of all military hardware, gas, pepper and other sprays and guns; The permanent removal of all non-indigenous police forces from indigenous lands; and ultimately, the disbanding of armed, uniformed police forces to be replaced by community-controlled peace services.

New Protocols to Manage Pandemics

Submitted by John Wilson

Whereas the Covid-19 pandemic demonstrated insufficient government preparedness, private senior care residences experienced 4 times the deaths of public residences, inconsistent workplace lockdowns caused excess deaths, and workers' wages were insufficiently subsidized during necessary lock-downs, and there was profiteering on personal protective equipment, vaccine research, respirators, and essential supplies.

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the NDP advocate mandatory public protocols to manage pandemics to save lives, reduce suffering, and eliminate profiteering, nationalize all senior care residences, stockpile necessary supplies and equipment, create public laboratories to monitor diseases and mass produce antivirals and medications on a cost recovery basis, and address overcrowding, poverty and disabilities to reduce vulnerability and exposure to deadly pathogens, and

Be It Further Resolved that such protocols will give workers the absolute right to refuse unsafe work with no loss in pay or benefits, never prioritize corporate profit over public safety, and will appropriately penalize violators.

Re-establish Connaught Labs as a Crown Corporation for domestic pharmaceutical production

Submitted by John Wilson

Whereas private-sector patented medical products exploit publicly funded medical research without cost recovery, constituting rent-seeking and theft of public funds; and

Whereas Covid-19 has reinforced the need for domestic, public pharmaceutical manufacturing; and Connaught Labs produced inexpensive necessary medicines in Canada while publicly owned, including insulin and diphtheria vaccine;

Therefore, be it resolved that: The NDP actively advocate and work to establish and maintain a Crown Corporation under the name of Connaught Labs to manufacture vaccines, pharmaceuticals and medical devices; and

Be It Further Resolved that Connaught Labs sell or license its products on a cost-recovery basis.

For Pharmacare, Dental, Vision, Hearing, and Mental Health Fully Integrated into Medicare*

Submitted by John Wilson

Whereas a national drug plan will save Canadians over \$7 billion, preventative dental care will reduce emergency visits and improve overall patient health, and vision, hearing, and mental health care will prevent serious longer term health impacts and is urgently needed to improve public health, especially for those most vulnerable;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the NDP actively campaign for a national drug plan as an integral part of medicare for all residents of Canada via socializing pharmaceutical operations in Canada, through research and production of generic drugs by a publicly-owned corporation, and by the federal government as a central bulk purchaser and distributor of pharmaceuticals to all in need.

Be it further resolved that all basic and recommended dental, visual, and hearing exams and care including any prescribed visual or aural aids and comprehensive mental health care and counseling be covered under medicare for all residents of Canada.

Solidarity with Palestine

Submitted by John Wilson

Whereas millions of Palestinians face indignities and injustice from the State of Israel every day; and whereas, when the 2015 NDP federal election campaign blocked or removed NDP candidates who simply mentioned Israeli state crimes against Palestinians, it was a gross disservice to social justice;

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the NDP actively campaign in support of the demand of Palestinian unions, civil society and unions across Canada and around the world for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against the Israeli state until it dismantles the apartheid wall, allows refugees to return home, ends its demolition of Palestinian homes and olive groves, lifts the siege of Gaza, ends its occupation of Palestinian lands, and terminates its apartheid practices.

For More Policy Discussion at NDP Conventions

Submitted by John Wilson

Whereas substantially greater democracy and political pluralism are an urgent necessity within the NDP;

Therefore, Be It Resolved that this convention mandate and ensure more accessible, more democratic, membership-driven party conventions, with low/minimal registration fees, and with at least 80% of convention time dedicated to debate and voting on resolutions from grassroots organizations. Further that prioritization of resolutions for debate be decided by online full membership voting.

Creation of a Publicly-Owned Telecom

Submitted by Ari Vangeest

WHEREAS telecom services are essential in our digital global economy, where citizens rely on technology to access education, shopping, and social opportunities; and

WHEREAS telecom giants abuse their monopoly power to deliver shoddy customer service, inflict deceptive marketing, and provide poor service coverage, specifically in rural and Indigenous communities;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT an NDP government will develop publicly owned telecoms following the example of SaskTel in Saskatchewan, which has lower prices and better services at little cost to the public treasury;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the publicly-owned telecom enterprise be mandated with the following:

- (a) provide high speed internet to remote communities and upgrade networks that connect every building, home, and device;
- (b) provide free or extremely low-cost service for poor and working-class Canadians and Indigenous people;
- (c) use its resources to develop a flourishing of popular democratic culture through publicly-funded arts, culture, and public-interest journalism.

Abolish Billionaires

Submitted by Ari Vangeest

WHEREAS the Parliamentary Budget Officer [recently reported](#) the most extreme wealth inequality in Canadian history; and

WHEREAS [Canadian billionaires doubled in numbers and wealth this past decade](#); and

WHEREAS [79% of Canadians support a wealth tax, even 64% of Conservatives](#); and

WHEREAS every billionaire is a policy failure;

Therefore BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NDP add the following clause to Section 1.7 of the Policy Book: "f. All gross wealth above \$1 billion to be taxed at 100%."

Free Transit for All

Submitted by Ari Vangeest

WHEREAS dependence on private automobiles is a major source of Canadian greenhouse gas emissions;

WHEREAS the pandemic has precipitated a death spiral of ridership losses, budgetary shortfalls, fare increases, and service cuts in public transit, exposing inherent flaws in the fare-focused funding model;

WHEREAS public transit is an essential service;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NDP add to Section 2.6 of the Policy book the following:

“g. Providing stable, long-term, operational, federal funding to all of Canada’s existing public transit systems for the provision and expansion of reliable, comfortable, efficient, zero-carbon, fare-free, and therefore resilient, public transit systems within one year of forming government.

h. Enabling all cities to establish fare-free public transit systems within one year of forming government.”

EDA Autonomy

Submitted by Ari Vangeest

WHEREAS the Party seeks to promote internal democracy and grassroots leadership; and

WHEREAS an absence of transparency and predictability in our internal processes can breed cynicism and disengagement among members, as well as the broader public;

BE IT RESOLVED that the following be added to Article XV of the Constitution:

- (3) The rules and procedures that Council creates shall abide by this general framework:
- (a) EDAs are required to open a local nomination process with a public call to all members, and with a set deadline for participants to enter the nomination contest.
 - (b) No more than 7 days after a nomination deadline closes, EDAs must submit received applications to the Party for the purpose of vetting.
 - (c) The Party, by way of Council, its assignees, or Party staff, must complete the vetting process within a window of 30 days after an EDA submits the contestant applications. If this window lapses, authority to conduct vetting as well as to approve a contestant, will rest with the relevant EDA. In the event of a snap election, Council may also devolve this authority to an EDA ahead of time.
 - (d) During the vetting window, contestants may begin pre-campaigning activities, as defined in the most up to date rules and procedures previously set out by Council or the EDA.
 - (e) If the Party conducts and completes the vetting process rather than delegate to the EDA, it must advise the EDA which contestants have passed vetting no later than the end of the 30-day vetting window.
 - (f) All approved contestants are notified by the EDA and begin their nomination campaigns at the same time.
 - (g) If a contestant does not pass vetting by the Party, the contestant will be notified with the explicit reasons for rejection. In order to protect privacy, a general overview of the Party's reasons will be given to the EDA.
 - (h) If a contestant does not pass vetting by the EDA, the contestant will be notified with the explicit reasons for rejection. In order to protect privacy, a general overview of the

EDA's reasons will be given to the Party. Unless a snap election has been called, nomination campaigns must last a minimum of 30 days.

(4) Where the Council establishes a vetting process for local contestants, or where EDAs are empowered by Council to do the same, that process will be:

(a) Limited in its scope and requirements for disclosure. Candidates will not be required to disclose documents or communications that relate to medical history, or that exist within forums that are non-public and contain sensitive personal information.

(b) Focus its vetting on criteria outlined below in (5)(b) and (5)(c).

(5) Once nominated by an EDA, a candidate may only be barred or removed from candidacy if one or more of the following is true:

(a) The candidate resigns of their own accord.

(b) The candidate violates civil or criminal laws, or Elections Canada's regulations, in such a way that would prevent them from continuing as a candidate.

(c) Council resolves, after hearing from the candidate, that the candidate has committed acts or made statements in violation of the Party's Constitution.

(6) EDAs are free to open a nomination process in order to select a candidate for their riding, at any point in advance of an electoral cycle.

(a) If the Council has not yet established nomination rules and procedures for an upcoming cycle, the EDA will use those established by Council in the previous cycle.

(7) EDAs are required to send the open nomination call to local members via all regular channels, at the outset of a nomination process. Unless a snap election has been called by the government, EDA nomination calls must occur:

(a) at least 30 days before the scheduled nomination deadline;

(b) at least 90 days before any scheduled nomination meeting; and

(c) at least 180 days before the last possible date of a regular federal election.