



2015 MEMBER APPROVED POLICY PROPOSALS

Policy Proposal #1

Current Article:

No current article.

Proposal:

Wildrose members from Calgary-Hays, in a special resolution, propose the following:

The Policy and Constitution Committee strike a Member Approved Policy Restructuring Committee with the goal of subdividing the Member Approved Policy Document into two categories:

- a) No more than 25 overarching policies fundamental to the Party's philosophy and priorities for future campaigning and enactment, if elected, as the next Government of Alberta
- b) The remainder of the existing policies to be streamlined, and consolidated where possible into a more manageable number.

This Member Approved Policy Restructuring Committee will be tasked with consulting members and returning to the 2016 AGM with a Member Approved Policy document restructured as above for approval by the membership. This restructured document will be submitted on the deadline date for policy submissions according to the following timelines:

- 1) Approval of this resolution at the 2015 AGM
- 2) If passed, formulation of the Member Approved Policy Restructuring Committee.
- 3) Review at 2016 Policy Forums for CA members and other highly motivated members
- 4) Distribution of Restructuring Committee recommendations to CAs and solicitation of CA feedback/comments by August 2016
- 5) Restructuring Committee iterates the recommended document as it deems appropriate for submission to the membership at the AGM.
- 6) Voting by membership on the restructured document at 2016 AGM.

*****NOTE: Please see Appendix A at the end of this document for an example of how these core policies may be structured. The example is not final, but intended to**

Rationale:



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There are 191 policy statements in the current Policy Book as approved by the members at the 2014 AGM. Given that one of Wildrose's major beliefs is to streamline government to deliver the essentials, this list of policies is too lengthy and wordy to be quickly understood when asking for the voters' support.

Moreover, there is considerable overlap among many of the policies which could readily be consolidated into a fewer number. As well, there are several statements that one might describe as 'motherhood', which while admirable, more properly belong with our Statement of Principles, now included with the Party's Constitution.

In order to provide a clearer picture to not only our own Party members, but also to the voting public in general, we should be encapsulating our most important policies in a concise document that lends itself to both being printed and publicized, and also assuring message consistency from our elected MLAs.

It is our belief that such a core set of policies should number at most 25, and ideally closer to 20. We have thoughts for the Party members' consideration on what these core policies should be, given the subsequent acceptance of this policy submission.

The remainder of the existing 191 policies should undergo the usual scrutiny from members, but also should be consolidated/streamlined into, say, a maximum of another 75 secondary or subsidiary policies. At this time, we would retain the 7 major policy sections, but we would suggest that these should be revisited in the coming year.



Policy Proposal #2

Current Article:

I. DEMOCRATIC REFORM

A. Federalism

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

1. ...
3. ... work with other provincial governments to pressure the federal government to reform the federal Equalization program to achieve a more equitable transfer system.

Proposal:

Wildrose members from Strathmore-Brooks propose that the following article be added to this section:

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

4. ... advocate that equalization formulas take into account public policy decisions made by provincial governments that discourage economic activity and significantly limit responsible resource development.

Rationale:

Public policy decisions that discourage economic activity and significantly limit responsible resource development introduce a level of unfairness into the equalization system for all provinces over the long run. Canadians and Albertans would be better served by an equalization formula that encourages and rewards fiscal prudence and responsible resource development rather than a system that encourages policies that have the reverse effects.

This new policy statement is an important addition to the Member Approved Policies because it provides clear reasoning for why equalization in its current form ought to be reformed and it is worded constructively with a view towards improvement and fairness for all provinces in the long run. Given the fiscal challenges of Canada today and the policies being implemented in different parts of the country, this statement is also particularly relevant to public discourse going forward.

Note: although equalization falls under federal jurisdiction, advocating for a fairer equalization formula is within provincial jurisdiction. This statement would be an



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appropriate addition to the Federalism section because it addresses a public policy change that relates to the relationships between the provinces as well as the federal government.



Policy Proposal #3

Current Article:

I. DEMOCRATIC REFORM

A. Federalism

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

1. ...
3. ... work with other provincial governments to pressure the federal government to reform the federal Equalization program to achieve a more equitable transfer system.

Proposal:

Wildrose members from Innisfail-Sylvan Lake propose that the following article be added to this section:

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

4. ... Create an Equalization Reform Task Force to investigate the issues surrounding the Federal Equalization Program with the objective of developing a new equalization formula that correctly accounts for both provincial revenues and spending and thus is fair for all Canadians and in doing so strengthens the confederation.

Rationale:

This resolution differs from item I A - 3 as it does not include the need to work jointly with other provinces and thus adds more weight focus to an issue of vital importance to Albertans.

Equalization may be the single most significant threat to confederation in the mid-term.

Currently Albertans are net contributors to the tune of \$4000 per capita annually to the program. With the maturation of several current oilsands production facilities and ever more production coming on-stream, royalty and tax revenues are going to grow rapidly which will almost certainly escalate that contribution rate.



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That, bluntly, will not stand - particularly when the current equalization system does not take into account differences in provincial spending habits (government-funded daycare and heavily subsidized post secondary education in Quebec, for example) nor does it adjust for the forgone revenues of various provincial crown corporations that provide services and benefits to their citizens at far below market rates (electricity in MB, Quebec (and BC and NL?))

Alberta for obvious reasons (and reasons they should not be ashamed of) needs to take the lead in fostering understanding of the gravity of the issue and the cleavages in confederation the current Equalization formula creates and in proposing a solution that is fair to all Canadians.



Policy Proposal #4

Current Article:

I. DEMOCRATIC REFORM

B. Electoral Reform

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

4. ...

8. ... strengthen voting regulations by following Federal Identification voting requirements.

Proposal:

Wildrose members from Calgary-Currie propose that the following article be added to this section:

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

9. ... prohibit spending announcements by the provincial Government during a by-election period.

Rationale:

This policy goes back to the October by-elections where the PC's made big spending announcements, including one that affected a riding where a by-election was happening. This policy would prevent government from trying to "buy" by-elections for the only purpose of winning.



Policy Proposal #5

Current Article:

I. DEMOCRATIC REFORM

B. Electoral Reform

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

4. ...

8. ... strengthen voting regulations by following Federal Identification voting requirements.

Proposal:

Wildrose members from Calgary-Currie propose that the following article be added to this section:

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

9. ... reduce the maximum amount anyone can donate to a registered provincial political party to \$2000 per calendar year. The value of donation includes that of cash or in kind donations. Limits will increase by \$25 on January 1st of each year.

Rationale:

This particular policy better aligns with federal party finance rules. The donation amount is slightly higher at \$2000 vs. \$1500 federally, but the \$25 per year increase is the same (as per Elections Canada website on donation limits). It also ensures that the possibility of an entity "buying" the support of a party or candidate is significantly mitigated.

Wildrose has also done best by getting a large amount of individuals donating smaller dollar amounts such as \$30, \$50, or \$75, for example, at a time.



Policy Proposal #6

Current Article:

I. DEMOCRATIC REFORM

B. Electoral Reform

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

4. ...

8. ... strengthen voting regulations by following Federal Identification voting requirements.

Proposal:

Wildrose members from Calgary-Currie propose that the following article be added to this section:

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

9. ... prohibit registered political parties from taking out loans.

Rationale:

This policy suggestion closes the NDP loophole that allows unions to loan money to political parties. It's also based on the belief that a party should be well organized enough in its fundraising to fully fund their operations and campaigns through donations from regular Albertans.



Policy Proposal #7

Current Article:

I. DEMOCRATIC REFORM

B. Electoral Reform

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

7. ... hold elections for Alberta Senators at the same time as Provincial Elections.

Proposal:

Wildrose members from Calgary-Currie propose that the above article be amended to read as follows:

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

7. ... support the abolition of the Canadian Senate.

Rationale:

This policy is consistent with that of the federal Conservative Party, and Brad Wall's Saskatchewan Party (the only two conservative gov't left in the country). It's also clear that the senate has been nothing but a headache for Canada. Even though Alberta has had elected senators appointed, it doesn't seem to have made a difference in senate conduct.



Policy Proposal #8

Current Article:

I. DEMOCRATIC REFORM

B. Electoral Reform

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

4. ...

8. ... strengthen voting regulations by following Federal Identification voting requirements.

Proposal:

Wildrose members from Calgary-Klein propose that the following articles be added to this section:

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

9. ... Pass legislation preventing MLAs from crossing directly from one caucus to another; MLAs must sit at least six months as an independent in order to consult with constituents before being eligible to join another caucus.

Rationale:

****NOTE: If this proposal is passed, proposal #9 is moot and will not be heard, at the proposer's request****

1. Floor-crossing is something that has gone on for centuries in Westminster parliaments, but it is usually controversial, generates many hard feelings, and when done for personal gain hurts all those attached to it. While Wildrose only became an official party in the Legislature because of MLAs crossing over to our caucus, the surprise, mass-crossing to government that occurred in late 2014 was a shocking event that should never be repeated.

2. This proposal bans floor-crossing, but allows an MLA to ask to join another caucus after taking 6 months to get feedback from constituents.

3. The other Caucus would obviously still need to decide whether to accept.



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4. While crossing over to the governing side is usually unseemly, particularly when there are promises attached, some floor-crossings are legitimate and respect constituents. In particular, when a governing caucus has lost its way, or has broken a key promise to a constituency, or in general has stopped acting on behalf of the constituents, the honourable thing for an MLA to do is to leave the caucus. Similarly, when any MLAs feel strongly that their party has turned in the wrong direction, or is drifting into obscurity with no reasonable hope of recovery, they need to be able to go independent.

5. Once independent, MLAs might find that their constituents want them to join another caucus. Banning them from joining that caucus would seem undemocratic.

6. By-elections are costly, and the Premier can decide to wait up to 6 months after the resignation before calling one, meaning those constituents would be unrepresented for 7 months, and not even have a local office. One of the MLAs who joined Wildrose in 2010 offered to run in a by-election if it was called immediately, but the Premier refused.

7. Having a 6-month independent period would ensure that constituents would have a full opportunity to have a say on what the MLA should do. It would ensure there were no sneaky backroom surprises sprung on voters, and that, for example, MLAs wouldn't be crossing to government to become a minister the next week.

8. In 2011, after sitting as an independent for about 11 months, Guy Boutilier joined the Wildrose Caucus to the outrage of almost no one.



Policy Proposal #9

Current Article:

I. DEMOCRATIC REFORM

B. Electoral Reform

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

4. ...
8. ... strengthen voting regulations by following Federal Identification voting requirements.

Proposal:

Wildrose members from Calgary-Klein propose that the following articles be added to this section:

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

9. ... Pass legislation preventing MLAs from crossing from one caucus to another; MLAs must sit as independents or resign and run in a by-election even if that means their constituency is unrepresented for up to 7 months.

Rationale:

****NOTE: If this proposal is passed, proposal #8 is moot and will not be heard, at the proposer's request****

1. Floor-crossing is something that has gone on for centuries in Westminster parliaments, but it is usually controversial, generates many hard feelings, and when done for personal gain hurts all those attached to it. While Wildrose only became an official party in the Legislature because of MLAs crossing over to our caucus, the surprise, mass crossing to government that occurred in late 2014 was a shocking event that should not be repeated.

2. This proposal ensures no MLA can join another caucus without an election. Sitting as an independent is obviously something every member has a right to, and while there are costs and inconvenience involved, running in a by-election under another party's banner is the only acceptable way to join another caucus mid-term.



Policy Proposal #10

Current Article:

I. DEMOCRATIC REFORM

C. Government Reform

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

9. ...

16. ... create conflict of interest legislation and regulations for government procurement. The legislation and regulations should i) clearly specify penalties including dismissal of government employees for serious breaches of impartiality and ii) include a mandatory “cooling off” period preventing government employees from going to work for contractors whose procurement awards they have been involved in.

Proposal:

Wildrose members from Stony Plain propose that the following article be added to this section:

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

17. ... Allow private enterprise to compete against government essential services and receive the same grants as those provided by government monopolies.

Rationale:

Studies have shown that competition within government services benefits taxpayers by improving the product and service they receive. Our current model for services employs a government monopoly that is not cost effective, has no budgeting, and no accountability.



Policy Proposal #11

Current Article:

II. ECONOMY

A. Agriculture

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

1. ... recognize that access to and use of land within a set of predictable and stable rules is crucial to the maintenance of an economical viable agricultural industry.

Proposal:

Wildrose members from Calgary-Currie proposes that the above article be amended to read as follows:

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

1. ... recognize that access to and use of land within a set of predictable and stable rules is crucial to the maintenance of an economically viable agricultural industry.

Rationale:

Current statement not grammatically correct.



Policy Proposal #12

Current Article:

II. ECONOMY

A. Agriculture

LAND USE AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

1. ...
5. ... recognize that affected producers must be compensated for any loss of income that results when society imposes restrictions on the way in which producers operate.

Proposal:

Wildrose members from Innisfail-Sylvan Lake propose that the following article be added to this section:

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

6. ... Design and Implement a High-intensity Livestock Land Zoning and Regulatory framework to enable those wishing to develop such operations to move ahead in a timely, rational manner, confident that they are doing so under a system that protects them and their fellow Albertans and the environment.

Rationale:

There is enormous potential in Alberta for the expansion of high intensity livestock production due to not just exploding global demand, but the imminent liberation of huge markets via various free trade agreements.

And there are many excellent locations/regions in the province for such operations. But what potential owners and operators of these facilities need are zoning and regulatory protection that assures them that they will not fall victim to NIMBY politics. Well-drafted regulations and good site selection by government can provide them that assurance while also preventing new operations locating in areas ill-suited for them.



Policy Proposal #13

Current Article:

II. ECONOMY

B. Spending Control

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

16. ...

21. ... adopt a results-based governance model across all of its departments as opposed to a process-based governance model.

Proposal:

Wildrose members from Calgary-Currie propose that the following article be added to this section:

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

22. ... take concrete steps to eliminate the fundamental imbalance between Government revenues and expenditures through spending reductions and efficiencies.

Rationale:

This policy proposal clearly states the Wildrose position on how we would deal with the structural deficit in Alberta. Government spending in Alberta has ballooned to record levels, and it must be deal with by spending reduction and finding efficiencies within government.



Policy Proposal #14

Current Article:

II. ECONOMY

C. Energy

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

22. ...

37. ... promote and encourage micro-generation of electricity by all parties, including industry, individuals and co-ops, and allow them to sell it back to the electrical grid.

Proposal:

Wildrose members from Calgary-Currie propose that the following article be added to this section:

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

38. ... recognize that the Alberta Sedimentary Basin has reached mature status relative to oil and gas exploration and, to encourage continued investment in this sector, royalty rates must trend lower, not higher.

Rationale:

Other political parties, and much of the public, want to raise royalties, which is the exact opposite of what should be done in a mature basin. A mature basin means it has a high drilling density, the big finds have been made, and the future discoveries will be smaller. There has to be an incentive for people to explore for smaller prizes otherwise they will go with their capital and jobs to areas/industries that give reasonable return on investment.



Policy Proposal #15

Current Article:

II. ECONOMY

C. Energy

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

22. ...

37. ... promote and encourage micro-generation of electricity by all parties, including industry, individuals and co-ops, and allow them to sell it back to the electrical grid.

Proposal:

Wildrose members from Innisfail-Sylvan Lake propose that the following article be added to this section:

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

38. ... Conduct a thorough review of the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) and its regulation with a view towards introducing reforms to make it more efficient and responsive to the needs of both the industry and Albertans as well as linking its funding the activity level of the industry itself.

Rationale:

The AER is a massively over-staffed bureaucracy. This is particularly acute when the industry itself is experiencing a downturn - the industry is cutting back on its activities while the AER remains unchanged. And idle bureaucrats can be meddlesome bureaucrats.



Policy Proposal #16

Current Article:

II. ECONOMY

C. Energy

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

22. ...

37. ... promote and encourage micro-generation of electricity by all parties, including industry, individuals and co-ops, and allow them to sell it back to the electrical grid.

Proposal:

Wildrose members from Innisfail-Sylvan Lake proposes that the following article be added to this section:

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

38. ... Conduct a thorough review of the regulations regarding electricity generation, transmission and delivery with a view towards introducing reforms to make these segments more transparent, more competitive and more efficiently regulated and administered than they currently are.

Rationale:

While the Klein administration made an attempt to deregulate the electrical system it made a hash of it - deregulating some parts while leaving others untouched and in general the system of regulation and oversight is a very inefficient mess. We need to finish the job.



Policy Proposal #17

Current Article:

II. ECONOMY

H. Labour

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

54. ...

58. ... create rules to ensure the transparency and accountability of all pension plan investments.

Proposal:

Wildrose members from Strathmore-Brooks propose that the following article be added to this section:

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

59. ... gradually move public sector employee pension away from defined-benefit plans and towards defined-contribution plans.

Rationale:

This new policy statement is an important addition to the Member Approved Policies because it describes a common-sense reform that is already yielding results in the private sector and could similarly work in the public sector. Moving pensions from defined-benefit to defined-contribution models prevents the creation of unfunded liabilities, which are an inherent problem with the former, as a result of constant changes in the size of the labour force and changes in the economy. This statement is fair and balanced as it presents a reform that would be more responsive to change and fairer to employees and to other stakeholders in the long run.



Policy Proposal #18

Current Article:

II. ECONOMY

H. Labour

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

54. ...

58. ... create rules to ensure the transparency and accountability of all pension plan investments.

Proposal:

Wildrose members from Innisfail-Sylvan Lake propose that the following article be added to this section:

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

59. ... Investigate the feasibility and manner in which the current Workers Compensation Board (WCB) system can be opened-up to become a transparent and competitive system with the cost and service benefits such a system could deliver in the provision of this vitally important protection of Alberta's workers.

Rationale:

The WCB is a monopoly provider of on-the-job accident insurance for many working Albertans. And like all monopolies, it is vastly inefficient, insensitive to its clients - both workers and employers. Removing the monopoly and creating a market for the provision of the mandated coverage would create the much-needed competition and the efficiencies, service and accountability to the employers and employees (and Albertans as a whole) free markets deliver.



Policy Proposal #19

Current Article:

II. ECONOMY

J. Federal Equalization and Transfers

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

62. ...

67. ... provide greater tax deductions for charitable contributions.

Proposal:

Wildrose members from Innisfail-Sylvan Lake propose that the following article be added to this section:

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

68. ... Study the merits of becoming a part of the national Harmonized Goods and Services Tax (HST) system with following goals:

- a) Having the Government of Alberta control the rate of tax, not the federal government.
- b) Determining if it will improve interprovincial trade and be a more efficient alternative to the GST.
- c) That all of those revenues would be automatically transferred to the Province of Alberta.
- d) Ensuring that it would be at revenue neutral - that the revenues generated would not exceed those of the GST revenues.

Rationale:

The GST is a massive tax on the economic activity of Albertans over which they have no control. The federal government sets the rate. And the party that is in power federally may have radically different ideas from those of Albertans as to what that rate should be.

Additionally Canada-wide HST structure would be more efficient than the current patchwork of HSTs and PST+GST or just GST. Clearly for this reason the federal government would prefer a pan-Canadian HST system.



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By committing to not use this as a means of increasing the tax burden on Albertans, becoming part of the HST will deliver those efficiencies AND protect Albertans from rate increases imposed by outsiders. It currently is taxation that lacks enough representation.

Insisting that all of those revenues be transferred to the province will allow the federal government to exit the Healthcare transfer system - a system that infringes on Healthcare - a provincial jurisdiction.



Policy Proposal #20

Current Article:

III. EDUCATION

A. Courses

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

1. ...grant public, separate, and public charter schools more flexibility to offer specialized programs in the trades, arts, music, physical education and business while ensuring all students learn the core aspects of the standard curriculum.

Proposal:

Wildrose members from Fort McMurray-Conklin propose that the current Article 1 be amended as follows:

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

1. ...grant public, separate, ~~and~~ public charter schools, **private schools and homeschooling** more flexibility to offer **or access** specialized programs in the trades, arts, music, physical education and business while ensuring all students learn the ~~core~~ **fundamental** aspects of the ~~standard curriculum.~~ **core subjects.**

Rationale:

The same flexibility and access to specialized opportunities must exist equally for all Alberta students in all forms of education choice as per Wildrose Policy III. Education D. School Choice #11, so as not to give an advantage to some, or restrict others.

Not all students or educators currently follow one same standard core curriculum, as long as a solid core program is provided and prescribed learning outcomes are met (such as the Schedule of Learning Outcomes as per Appendix A of the Home Education Regulation). To ensure all students learn the core aspects of 'the' standard curriculum would be to force all into one mold, denying the freedom of choice and method to meet the individual education goals and needs of the students.



Policy Proposal #21

Current Article:

III. EDUCATION

C. Post-Secondary Education

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

7. ...

10. ... support research and development funding for colleges, universities and institutes by encouraging private sector partnerships while respecting pure research, academic freedom, and institutional autonomy.

Proposal:

Wildrose members Kean Bexte and 9 others in good standing propose that the following article be added to this section:

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

11. ... Amend the Post-Secondary Learning Act to allow every student to choose whether or not he/she wishes to become a dues-paying member of a student association, in each year of enrollment at a post-secondary education institute.

Rationale:

****NOTE: If this proposal is passed, proposal #22 is moot and will not be heard, at the proposer's request****

1. At this time, the Post-Secondary Learning Act of Alberta stipulates that all students at a post-secondary institution must pay dues to the student association at their respective institution. Much like mandatory membership and dues to any public sector union, these dues are then often used to advance certain, often progressive, political agenda. Thus students end up paying for political ideology, advocacy and action that may be directly counter to their own political principles.

2. Greater representation in the Wildrose Party of people under the age of 30 years old is a desirable goal. In the interest of building membership numbers and strength among young people and the student population the Party needs to begin to develop real post-secondary education policies that we can deliver on.



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3. Conservative Parties in Alberta have failed to address the specific interests of voting-age students and to articulate viable and practical conservative post-secondary policy alternatives that will attract youth membership and electoral support in the same way liberal and progressive political Parties have.

4. It is almost impossible to build and spread youth interest or membership momentum in the Party in the absence of such policy. Many young people have a natural interest in political ideology and so, left with this vacuum from the right, will inevitably gravitate to the left.

5. The libertarian aspect of conservative politics is what tends to interest most interest young people. This policy hits right at that interest: civil rights, individual rights, freedom of speech and association, freedom of choice and limits on compulsive legislation of the type that is so prevalent on the left.

6. We need to take this opportunity to demonstrate to students and youth that we care about their interests and that we actually want them to care about Wildrose and to see it, not as just an “old people’s” Party, but a Party of youth and the future.



Policy Proposal #22

Current Article:

III. EDUCATION

C. Post-Secondary Education

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

7. ...

10. ... support research and development funding for colleges, universities and institutes by encouraging private sector partnerships while respecting pure research, academic freedom, and institutional autonomy.

Proposal:

Wildrose members Kean Bexte and 9 others in good standing propose that the following article be added to this section:

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

11. ... Amend the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act to add post-secondary student associations with mandatory membership to Section 1(j) of the Act.

Rationale:

****NOTE: If this proposal is passed, proposal #22 is moot and will not be heard, at the proposer's request****

1. The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Section 1(j) stipulates that a "local public body" means (i) an educational body, (ii) a health care body, or (iii) a local government body and, although Student Union associations with compulsory membership are not included. We presume this is because unions are not included as they are not seen as "a public body".

2. The purpose of the Act is outlined as follows: "To allow any person a right of access to the records in the custody or under the control of a public body"

3. It is a shared understanding between members of the Wildrose Party that transparency and choice are pillars of democracy. Since student associations are



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compulsory it only makes sense that members should enjoy complete fiscal and political transparency of the association they are forced to belong to.

4. As an example, the University of Calgary Students' Union has a budget of \$19 million. That is no small amount of money; it is money that is forcibly taken by socialist bureaucrats to fund an often times partisan agenda. Keeping this information private and unavailable to the membership is undemocratic and compromises the civil rights of the members.



Policy Proposal #23

Current Article:

III. EDUCATION

D. School Choice

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

11. ... protect parent's right to choose what school their child attends whether it be public, separate, public charter, private or homeschooling.

Proposal:

Wildrose members from Fort McMurray-Conklin propose that the current Article 1 be amended as follows:

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

11. ... **Recognize that parents are the primary decision-makers for their children and their children's education, and** protect parent's right to choose **the education their child receives** ~~what school their child attends~~ whether it be **through** public, separate, public charter, private **school** or homeschooling.*

Rationale:

It is important to ensure that those who have ultimate responsibility for the child also have the ultimate authority in making education decisions for them.

To limit the choice of parents to what school their child attends strips them of their right to have any input, say or decision as to the type, form and content of education their child will receive.

* Note: ***Bold and italicized text*** identifies additions and changes from the Current Article; Words also stricken out denote deletions (e.g. ~~deletions~~) from the Current Article.



Policy Proposal #24

Current Article:

III. EDUCATION

D. School Choice

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

11. ...

14. ... lift the freeze on new public non-profit charter schools, allowing teachers, parents, special needs workers, and other educational experts to offer new and innovative curriculum and programs for students. Such schools must be open to all students and may not charge tuition.

Proposal:

Wildrose members from Innisfail-Sylvan Lake propose that the following article be added to this section:

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

15. ... In light of the dramatic technological changes sweeping the education field, investigate the viability of creating a Education Allowance system in order to liberate parents, children and those adults looking to further their education by enabling more flexibility in how they access educational services and resources at all ages.

Rationale:

The enormous and dramatic changes in communications technology have already begun to revolutionize how Albertans receive education services.

The domination of bricks and mortar classrooms and lecture halls is fast coming to an end. The potential for efficiencies and channels of excellence to increase is immense, provided the system can respond in a flexible and efficient manner.

A voucher or Education Spending Account (ESA) system that gave each student funding that they then choose to deploy how they (and their parents/guardians) consider the best for their circumstances would be the best option for achieving those two objectives. Such a system could be opened up to citizens over the age of eighteen helping adult Albertans to further the training, skills and accreditation levels.



Policy Proposal #25

Current Article:

V. HEALTH CARE

B. Delivery

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

9. ...

20. ... address fraud in our health care system by requiring all health cards to show photographs and be renewed every five years (as are driver's licences). In addition, those individuals who have driver's licences shall have health cards merged with driver's licences to form one card when being renewed.

Proposal:

Wildrose members from Strathmore-Brooks propose that the current article be added to the policy document:

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

21. ... encourage competition and choice in the delivery of health care, keeping the focus on achieving greater efficiency and better health outcomes for patients.

Rationale:

This new policy statement is an important addition to the Member Approved Policies because it ties two of the things that matter most to Albertans, achieving better health outcomes and efficiency, to meaningful reforms that will produce better results.

Competition and choice are essential components to a functioning economy that have the benevolent effects of encouraging innovation and driving down prices. Traditionally it has been assumed that health care should remain exclusively within the public sector. A quick examination of Canadian health care in the 21st century reveals a different picture.

Primary Care Networks, long term care facilities, pharmacies, dental and chiropractic clinics, diagnostic and laboratory services are all examples of non-governmental, alternative methods of delivery that are already playing a key role in health care. Maintaining universal access through other forms of health care delivery while providing more options for Albertans at a lower cost is not only possible but also necessary. This is a policy that should be proudly defended by a Wildrose government.



Policy Proposal #26

Current Article:

V. HEALTH CARE

C. Funding

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

21. ...

25. ... deliver an annual individual statement of benefits to each resident of Alberta.

Proposal:

Rosey Rosenke and 4 other Wildrose members in good standing propose that the current article be added to the policy document:

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

26. ... in the case of federal law legalizing assisted suicide and euthanasia, not spend any health care money to fund assisted suicide/euthanasia.

Rationale:

In light of the recent legalization of assisted suicide in Canada it will soon be up to the provincial health care systems to regulate assisted suicide. Staying true to the libertarian principles of the Wildrose Party we should not choose to fund individual's personal decisions to end their lives.



Policy Proposal #27

Current Article:

V. HEALTH CARE

C. Funding

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

21. ...

25. ... deliver an annual individual statement of benefits to each resident of Alberta.

Proposal:

Wildrose members from Drayton Valley-Devon propose that the current article be added to the policy document:

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

26. ... direct provincial health care dollars towards high quality palliative care.

Rationale:

A parliamentary committee in 2000 showed that most Canadians do not have access to high quality palliative care.

It is possible that once assisted suicide becomes legal in Canada, health care dollars will divert to support the practice of assisted suicide rather than to ensuring Albertans have access to high quality palliative care.

We feel that this proposed resolution, which addresses this concern of funding for palliative care taking priority over funding of assisted suicide, fits with wishes of Albertans, and fits in with the values of the Wildrose Party. This policy proposal was unanimously supported by all who attended the Constituency Association meeting in which this policy was discussed. Their signatures are included on the accompanying document.



Policy Proposal #28

Current Article:

V. HEALTH CARE

C. Funding

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

21. ...

25. ... deliver an annual individual statement of benefits to each resident of Alberta.

Proposal:

Wildrose members from Innisfail-Sylvan Lake propose that the following article be added to this section:

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

26. ... Investigate the creation of a Seniors and Disabled Care Allowance program that would give seniors and the disabled Albertans who require assistance for their day to day living the funding and thus the freedom to choose how they wish access that assistance.

Rationale:

It is widely recognized that the supply of government built and operated facilities for seniors in need of care is either going to be dramatically below the required supply and/or extremely expensive and inflexible. Meanwhile these government-run facilities have unfair funding advantages compared to private assisted-living facilities. Also there is a huge unused inventory of rooms and manpower that a Seniors Care Allowance program could open-up - the unused bedrooms of son's and daughter's homes whose children are now adults.



Policy Proposal #29

Current Article:

V. HEALTH CARE

C. Funding

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

21. ...

25. ... deliver an annual individual statement of benefits to each resident of Alberta.

Proposal:

Wildrose members from Innisfail-Sylvan Lake that the following article be added to this section:

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

26. ... Review and reform the Alberta Non-Group and Seniors Benefit programs with the following goals to be achieved:

- a) Putting the third party provision of those services out to tender with a mandated five-year re-tendering from then on. Additionally, no branding of the programs by the third party will be allowed.
- b) Putting both programs on track towards achieving a deficit-free footing wherein total premiums charged match total benefits paid.
- c) Provide a premium-subsidy program for those of limited means.

Rationale:

Both of these programs run massive deficits. The seniors' benefit is publicly funded, yet both compete (unfairly) in the private market.

They are operated by Blue Cross and (to our knowledge) they have not been put to tender for at least twenty years. Blue Cross has been branding it and thus is perceived by many as being a government entity.



Policy Proposal #30

Current Article:

V. HEALTH CARE

C. Funding

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

21. ...

25. ... deliver an annual individual statement of benefits to each resident of Alberta.

Proposal:

Wildrose members from Innisfail-Sylvan Lake that the following article be added to this section:

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

26. ... Investigate the creation of a Provincial Health Spending Account program that would give Albertans funds to access established medically beneficial health care services that are currently not covered by the provincial government.

Rationale:

There are many health care options that have clinically proven benefits for those in need that Albertans must pay for out of their own pockets either directly or via the purchase of insurance. The failing of the current arrangement is that many Albertans suffer needlessly because they cannot afford the services. This is often compounded by the ailment growing in severity to the point that they have to be admitted to a publically-funded and usually far more expensive facility or service and in many cases they have to stop working thus costing themselves, their employers, and the Albertan economy far more.

A modest, voluntary (both for Albertans, and care providers) Health Spending Account that would cover a many of these services could actually save the provincial government on health care costs as well as improving the health and wellbeing of many Albertans and their families.



Policy Proposal #31

Current Article:

VI. JUSTICE

B. Policing

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

7. ...

10. ... review of traffic policing process across the province to clearly determine what works and what does not and to amend legislation to remove all financial incentives to traffic law enforcement in Alberta.

Proposal:

Wildrose members from Calgary-Currie propose that the following article be added to this section:

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

11. ... prohibit the use of photo radar, excluding speed-on-green and red light cameras, on Alberta highways and roads and instead enforce traffic laws via officers.

Rationale:

Photo radar to enforce speed limits rarely changes behaviours. Many don't know that they've been caught until the ticket arrives in the mail. There are no demerit points associated with a photo radar ticket for speeding, so deterrents are very limited. Speed-on-green, and red-light cameras are to be excluded from this policy statement as they reduce collision in high-collision intersections, specifically because many know that cameras are there and present. People slow down in these intersections as they're aware they will always receive a ticket if speeding or running red lights in these areas.



Policy Proposal #32

Current Article:

VI. JUSTICE

D. Firearms

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

12. ...

15. ... table periodic reports in the Legislature concerning the frequency, causes and prevention of all categories of violent crime in Alberta, and the social, environmental, and economic effects of all firearms-related activities

Proposal:

Todd Brown and 14 other Wildrose members in good standing propose that the following article be added to this section:

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

16. ... take control of the administration, application and interpretation of the Firearms Act with the goal of reducing paperwork and legal hurdles for gun owners in Alberta. The government should also appoint our own Chief Firearms Officer (CFO) and limit what the CFO can do on an arbitrary basis.

Rationale:

This proposal will resound well with most if not all gun owners, rural and urban alike. Keeping the CFO's from arbitrarily making policy that is enforced as law is something that should never be tolerated. The only body that should be making law is parliament, whether federal or provincial, and this problem can be corrected on a provincial level. Correcting this problem would also save an estimated \$6-million annually.

Background Information

When the Firearms Act was first introduced the provinces were given the option to administer it. While many provinces turned it down, a few did not. The result in Alberta is that the policy surrounding the administration of the Act is driven out of Ottawa and by the RCMP. The staff that administers the Act are either former RCMP or usually have strong ties to them. Alberta ends up being a small voice yet is one of the greatest impacted.



2015 MEMBER APPROVED POLICY PROPOSALS

If Alberta were to take over the administration of the Firearms Act, we would have more control over the application and interpretation of the legislation. For example, there are many situations that the Chief Firearms Officer (CFO) has discretion in providing conditions and in applying “good and sufficient reasons”.

Currently, the CFO requires that a person hold a valid range membership to renew their License or when purchasing a restricted firearm. There are many ranges that offer day passes or guest passes and in PEI they even allow farmers to target practice on their own property, provided they are not violating any other laws. Yet unless an Albertan wants to go to court, they are forced to purchase a range membership they have no use for and no intention of using. Nowhere in the Firearms Act does it state that a range membership is a prerequisite to getting, or keeping, a restricted firearms license. This is a CFO policy.

The CFO sent a contract for all Alberta Firearms instructors to sign, and while most points make sense, one is particularly egregious: clause 18; “you agree to follow any further conditions as required by the Chief Firearms Officer”. There is no businessman that would sign a contract in which there is an open-ended clause that gives all power of change and revision to the other party. As a result of this contract, Alberta has lost almost 50% of its instructor base.



Policy Proposal #33

Current Article:

Multiple Locations:

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

Proposal:

Rob Woronuk and 4 other members in good standing propose that the following be removed from the preamble of all sections and sub-sections:

~~Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:~~^{*}

Rationale:

1. This change makes all Member Approved Policies (“MAP”) of the same structure as Caucus policies in the Legislative Policy Agenda and reflects a consistency and unity of expression within the Party.
2. The “Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:” clause has never been approved by Members at an AGM. At the 2011 AGM where it was proposed (Resolution 32), it failed to pass.
3. The “Wildrose members believe...” clause speaks of beliefs, not policies.
4. The repetitiousness of the clause is tedious and inefficient. All that’s really needed is the policy.

Example of Policies Rewrite:

The first block of **Caucus Policies** on Wildrose.ca is called *Balanced Budgets* (see https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/wildrose/pages/223/attachments/original/1429486536/Balanced_Budgets_apr19.pdf?1429486536) and the first three policies are:

* Note: ***Bold and italicized text*** identifies additions and changes from the Current Article; Words also stricken out denote deletions (e.g. ~~deletions~~) from the Current Article.



2015 MEMBER APPROVED POLICY PROPOSALS

- Balance the budget by 2017 without raising taxes or cutting front line services
- Include all capital spending in a transparent budget surplus figure - the PC government left out over \$4 billion this year
- Create an Independent Budget Office to provide independent analysis of budget projections, economic forecasts, and cost estimates

Note that all policies start with a verb: *Balance, Include, Create* etc. in this case.

Now compare the above with current **Member Approved Policies**, again starting with the first:

"I. DEMOCRATIC REFORM

A. Federalism

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

1. ... defend Alberta against intrusions by the federal government by protecting the property, legal, constitutional and democratic rights of Albertans.
2. ... work with the federal and provincial governments, professional trade organizations and regulatory bodies to ensure that residents of Canada who have recognized qualifications and credentials to practice a trade, skill or profession can carry out business anywhere in Canada.
3. ... work with other provincial governments to pressure the federal government to reform the federal Equalization program to achieve a more equitable transfer system."

With the approval of the motion this would be rewritten:

"I. DEMOCRATIC REFORM

A. Federalism

1. Defend Alberta against intrusions by the federal government by protecting the property, legal, constitutional and democratic rights of Albertans.
2. Work with the federal and provincial governments, professional trade organizations and regulatory bodies to ensure that residents of Canada who have recognized qualifications and credentials to practice a trade, skill or profession can carry out business anywhere in Canada.
3. Work with other provincial governments to pressure the federal government to reform the federal Equalization program to achieve a more equitable transfer system."

Removed is the "Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:" and the policies begin with verbs: Defend, Work, Work etc.

We now have a parallel structure between Caucus Policy and MAP.



Appendix A – Restructured Policy Document

Example

NOTE: This is to serve only as an example of how the Policy Document can be restructured, not precisely how it would be restructured.

Suggested Core Policies (selected from 2014 AGM Member Approved Policies)

**Draft by Chris Phillips, Calgary Hays Board Member
October 3, 2015**

Notes:

- a) The 7 major sections have been retained for now, with at least 2 core policies per section
- b) Certain policies have been consolidated into a suggested core policy, both within and between the 7 sections

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

I. DEMOCRATIC REFORM

- uphold the fundamental property and civil rights of all Albertans, and protect them from arbitrary, frivolous and vexatious claims
- implement full disclosure of all financial expenditures of public funds, requiring all organizations that receive public funding from the Provincial Government -- including provincial government departments, municipalities, hospitals, school boards, universities, colleges, provincial boards/agencies/commissions, and crown corporations -- to disclose annually the positions, salaries and total taxable benefits of employees paid over a certain level in a calendar year
- provide stable, predictable funding to municipalities, determined by an objective formula to support short and long-term local decision making
- institute an effective sunset provision on all provincial regulations that will ensure that they are reviewed on a regular basis by government and the affected sectors, that they remain relevant, and that they are both conducive to the public good/safety and supportive of competitive market-driven enterprise



2015 MEMBER APPROVED POLICY PROPOSALS

II. ECONOMY

- prioritize spending towards front line staffing positions and critical core public services such as Health, Education, Seniors, Policing and Social Supports; with spending reductions targeted at unnecessary programs and bureaucracy, pay and perks for both government and provincial boards/agencies/commissions and crown corporations executives, and grants/subsidies to for-profit corporations
- adopt a results-based governance model across all of its departments as opposed to a process-based governance model
- ensure an internationally competitive regulatory and fiscal regime that attracts and retains both upstream and downstream energy-related investment
- create budget transparency guidelines to ensure government debts and cash deficits are publicly and accurately reported
- mandate public disclosure of the Government's priority list and rationale for all infrastructure projects and maintenance, including the means of financing

III. EDUCATION

- institute methods to improve transparency concerning required academic standards and student outcomes, so that parents have the information they need to make informed decisions regarding their child's education
- protect parents' right to choose what school their child attends, whether it be public, separate, public charter, private or homeschooling; and with funding following the student
- place equivalent emphasis on strengthening the availability of, and funding for, each of academic, technical, and skilled trades curricula/programs, both at secondary and post-secondary levels

IV. ENVIRONMENT

- ensure the responsible development of Alberta's natural resources, optimizing environmental and fiscal sustainability, including more efficient resource recovery methods, effective water and emissions management, and cogeneration in the interest of Albertans
- conserve Alberta's environment and monitor environmental impacts with enforcement provisions, while balancing economic development opportunities



2015 MEMBER APPROVED POLICY PROPOSALS

V. HEALTH CARE

- decentralize Alberta Health Services and restore more decision-making to the local level
- focus funding on patient care and reduce wasteful spending in the system
- institute a Health Management System, including outcomes performance measures, that rewards cost-effective, cost-saving administration by providing incentives to doctors, nurses and health care professionals

VI. JUSTICE

- ensure that all Albertans have access to legal representation and justice
- ensure that the rights of crime victims, including the right of compensation from convicted persons, take precedence over those found guilty of committing crimes

VII. SOCIAL

- implement an effective and incentive based social assistance program that will promote participation in the economy
- provide social services through community organizations rather than government whenever possible