



# ***Liberal***

## **Priority Resolutions of the 2008 General Meeting of the Liberal Party of Canada in Alberta**



**CELEBRATING 26 YEARS OF THE CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS**



## 1. Extending Existing Affordable Housing Programs

WHEREAS the crisis regarding homelessness and the lack of affordable housing continues to increase in Canada, especially in large urban centers and communities experiencing sudden and substantial growth;

AND WHEREAS affordable housing is not available and/or within the financial capacity of many low income Canadians, resulting in increased homelessness, increased use shelters, and increased risk to the health and safety of communities;

AND WHEREAS shelter is a basic human need and the foundation upon which healthy, secure, socially inclusive communities are built;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to extend and enhance existing programs and create new ones, including:

- The Affordable Housing Initiative
- The Supportive Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI)
- The Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP)
- Aboriginal housing on and off-reserve;
- Co-operative housing;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to support innovative initiatives through partnerships with the provinces, territories and stakeholder groups to leverage contributions for new affordable housing units and also create financial incentives for investors to do so.

*Edmonton Centre Federal Liberal Association*

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## 2. Funding of Education

WHEREAS seniors are vitally involved with their grandchildren as caregivers and for financial support;

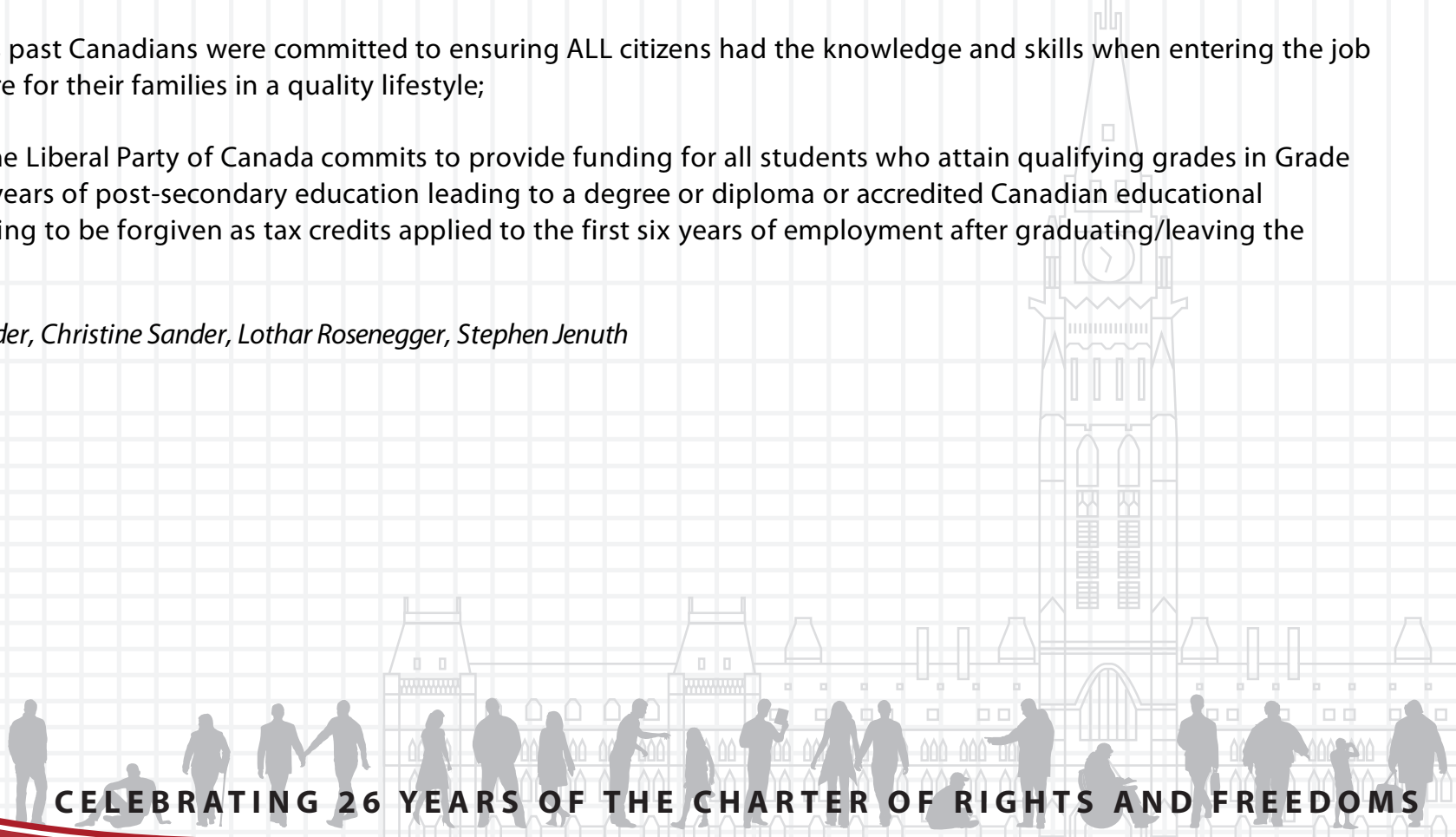
WHEREAS seniors understand that an investment in the education of their grandchildren is an investment in the future of our nation;

WHEREAS the high cost of tuition for post secondary education is prohibitive for many as only a selective few are eligible for assistance and grants;

AND WHEREAS in years past Canadians were committed to ensuring ALL citizens had the knowledge and skills when entering the job market to raise and care for their families in a quality lifestyle;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada commits to provide funding for all students who attain qualifying grades in Grade 12 to fund up to four years of post-secondary education leading to a degree or diploma or accredited Canadian educational institutions, such funding to be forgiven as tax credits applied to the first six years of employment after graduating/leaving the institution.

*Tony Sansotta, John Sander, Christine Sander, Lothar Rosenegger, Stephen Jenuth*



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### 3. Early Learning and Childcare Plan

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada has taken a leadership role in the development of the Early Learning and Childcare Plan

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada continue to make the Early Learning and Childcare Plan part of the election platform.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Plenary Resolution #7 passed at the March 2005 convention be reaffirmed, namely:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to ensure that, in providing funding to programs such as “Best Start”, firm commitments be guaranteed up front from their provincial and territorial partners as to the program specifics which will be provided;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to ensure that, for certain programs such as the Parental Benefits Program which the Government of Canada provides on its own, reviews be made to give consideration to policy options towards a more equitable system for low income workers;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to give further consideration to a more equitable child care system, and that initiatives be carried forward for the implementation of a nationwide daycare program in the English and French languages.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada develops national standards and best practices for early child care in a publicly funded and publicly administered national early childcare system.

*Myar Amerasinghe, Marg Johnson, Trudy LaRose, Joan Groff, Sheila McKay, Kevan Rhead, Alberta Womens' Liberal Commission*



## **4. Home Care, Long Term Care – A Companion Act to the Canada Health Act**

WHEREAS the Canada Health Act only covers services by doctors or in hospitals;

WHEREAS because of advancing age and frequent accompaniment of more than one chronic disability leading to health problems, many seniors are unable to safely cope with the attending responsibilities associated with daily living or care of a chronically disabled spouse or another member of the family;

WHEREAS these chronic conditions often do not warrant expensive institutional care;

WHEREAS neither home care nor long term care is insured under the Canada Health Act;

WHEREAS individual provinces may choose whether or not to fund home care services or even whether to offer such services at all;

WHEREAS there are great disparities in the type of services provided among provinces and between rural and urban areas within provinces;

WHEREAS long term care facilities in most provinces are a mixture of public and privately owned facilities;

WHEREAS the quality standards of such facilities may vary widely from one province to another;

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## **4. Home Care, Long Term Care – A Companion Act to the Canada Health Act (Cont.)**

WHEREAS the cost of long term care also vary widely from one province to another;

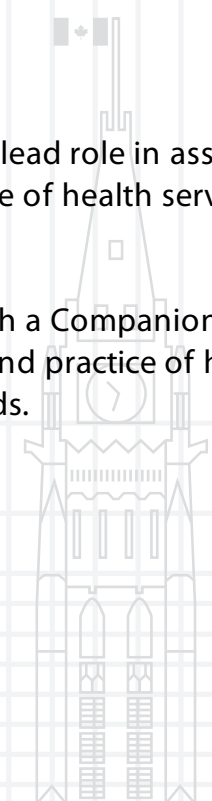
WHEREAS most provinces provide some measure of assistance to seniors and other who can not afford the costs of long term care from their own resources;

WHEREAS the terms under which such assistance is provided varies from one province to another;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to take a lead role in assisting the provinces to establish a system of home care programs across the country as part of an integrated range of health services that meet the principles of the Canada Health Act which provide high quality services to seniors and others.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the government of Canada to establish a Companion Act to the Canada Health Act to cover home care and long term care, establish national standards for the quality and practice of home care and long term care facilities and encourage provinces to conduct accreditation on the basis of such standards.

*Alberta Womens' Liberal Commission*



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## 5. National Water Policy and Water Sovereignty

WHEREAS water is critical to our ecosystems, human health, agriculture and industry;

WHEREAS massive interbasin diversions of water and ground water extractions for bottled water have all been considered as options for water export and all may have an adverse effect;

WHEREAS the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, and 8 of the United States purported to enter into agreements dealing with the Great Lakes and diversions and withdrawals of water there from although such agreements are outside of their jurisdiction;

WHEREAS water may be considered a tradable good under NAFTA thus putting water at risk of being treated as a commodity under NAFTA;

AND WHEREAS there is a significant lack of research on the impact of diversions and withdrawals on the relationship between groundwater, surface water and watersheds; and on Great Lakes water levels and flows;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to assert our sovereignty over all boundary waters, including the Great Lakes, by:

1. imposing a moratorium on further diversions or withdrawals from such waters until adequate research has been conducted;
2. negotiating exemptions of water from international trade agreements;
3. conducting research, in cooperation with the provinces, into the effects of withdrawals and diversions, the relationship of groundwater, surface water and watersheds to provide objective scientific data.

*Seniors Liberals' Commission*

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## 6. Climate Change and Transportation

WHEREAS global climate change is one of the most pressing threats to the environment and human civilization in our time;

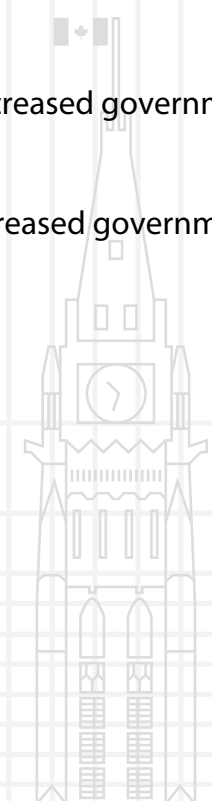
WHEREAS the scientific community has reached a consensus stating that human activity drives global climate change;

WHEREAS private transport and power generation are major sources of GHG production;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to support increased government funding towards expanding public transportation scope and access in municipalities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada call on the Government of Canada to support increased government investment in green power generation.

*Edmonton-Leduc Federal Liberal Association*



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## **7. Preserving High Quality Public Health Care and Health-Performance indicators**

WHEREAS Canadians are entitled to transparent fiscal and quality accountability for all health services paid from Canadian tax dollars; and experts report that a commitment to “High Quality” care could save up to 30% of the Health Care budget;

WHEREAS preventable medical errors result in as many as 24,000 deaths in Canada each year and one in 13 patients who receive care in Canadian hospitals suffers an adverse event stemming from drug overdoses, inadequate or faulty devices, insufficient monitoring by medical personnel and communication errors resulting in patients spending more than one million extra days in hospital being treated for complications of their care;

WHEREAS “High Quality” Care is defined by the Canadian Council of Health Services Accreditation, to include all of the following dimensions: 1. Timely Access, 2. Clinical Competence, 3. Appropriateness, 4. Efficiency, 5. Acceptability, 6. Effectiveness, 7. Continuity, 8. Safety (of patient and care provider) and 9. Accountability;

WHEREAS there are a number of agencies that have the responsibility for overseeing high quality standards for various aspects of health care, there is still no national standard process with well-defined criteria to establish, monitor and regulate continuous, "high quality" service across this nation;

WHEREAS de-listing and shifting delivery of healthcare services out of hospitals and from non-profit agencies to for-profit organizations/suppliers have led to downloading of costs to patients, unequal access, and increasing reliance on private for-profit insurers; and

WHEREAS studies show that increased reliance on corporate for-profit delivery and for-profit healthcare insurance is more costly, may provide less quality care, and result in loss of public transparency and control.



## 7. Preserving High Quality Public Health Care and Health-Performance indicators (Cont.)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to:

1. Establish and implement, with the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) and the Health Council for Canada, clear Performance Indicators and measurable Standards of Practice for all medical care that is paid from Canadian tax dollars (Reference: Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation descriptors and dimensions which define Quality).
2. Monitor and enforce Performance Indicators and Standards of Practice across Canada through an independent, arms length body, and ensure that the independence and impartiality of this regulator is respected and maintained at all times..
3. Provide adequate funding for Health and Health Care and enforce the Canada Health Act.
4. Prohibit or limit direct and indirect public subsidies of private corporate ventures related to healthcare payment and delivery.
5. Implement enhanced universal coverage and publicly controlled non-profit delivery of new substitutes for short and long-term hospital and physician care.
6. Ensure universal coverage of pharmaceutical supplies and ambulance services; expand coverage for medically necessary vision and dental care.
7. Facilitate timely implementation of Romanow recommendations.

*Edmonton Centre, Edmonton-Strathcona, Seniors Liberals' Commission*



## **8. Water Conservation for Aboriginal Communities and Consultation**

WHEREAS clean water is a universal right for all communities, aboriginal and non-aboriginal;

WHEREAS many of these communities face extinction due to the lack of clean water and sustainability of rivers and other water sources are being contaminated by raw sewage disposal;

WHEREAS Indian and Northern Affairs identified that over one quarter of the water treatment systems in First Nations communities remain at high risk to contamination;

WHEREAS consultation with First Nations communities around resolving these issues of proper treatment and disposal is insufficient and some cases non-existent;

AND WHEREAS communities and eco-systems are being exposed to highly infectious diseases and toxins in the contaminated water, and people are forced to rely on bottle water or boiling water methods;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to ensure that clean water is a right for Aboriginal communities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to develop a comprehensive plan to deal with the Aboriginal water crisis in consultation with Aboriginal people to ensure that standards of water quality are at the same levels as in mainstream Canada;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to ensure that consultations and negotiations with Aboriginal communities that deal with environmental impacts are made mandatory.

*Alberta Aboriginal Liberal Commission*

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## 9. Aging with Dignity

WHEREAS in 2002 Canada, participated in the development and adoption of the United Nations International Plan of Action on Ageing;

WHEREAS by 2031 almost 1 in 4 Canadians will be over the age of 65 compared with just over 1 in 10 Canadians currently over the age of 65;

WHEREAS the Liberal Party concurs with the interim report of the Special Senate Committee on Aging that population aging is a success story and seniors are a valuable and vibrant part of our country;

AND WHEREAS population aging presents a wide variety of complex challenges, ranging from financial security and retirement, to housing and transportation issues, to chronic diseases and health care needs,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges support housing programs and building standards which promote the ability of seniors to age in place;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada supports a review of legislation governing private and public pension plans to ensure an appropriate framework for meeting the financial needs of seniors;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada supports a national home care program which provides quality health care and home making services;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada supports the establishment, of publicly funded and administered long term care facilities, with measurable standards of quality care which are monitored enforced and transparent;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as the population ages at different rates, the Liberal Party commits to ensuring equitable access to programs and benefits for all Canadians.

*Seniors Liberals' Commission*

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## 10. Tailing Ponds and Oilsands

WHEREAS a healthy and balanced environment is essential for growing and sustaining Canada's economy;

WHEREAS the Liberal Party has traditionally encouraged the development of unconventional energy resources such as the oilsands;

AND WHEREAS to reconcile the above two goals, there is a need to establish proper regulations and standards on water use, and the creation of tailing ponds as part of oilsands development;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada petition the governments of Canada and Alberta to develop baseline data and conduct scientific study to establish regulations on tailing ponds and remediation of oilsands sites.

*Calgary West Federal Liberal Association*



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