

# CONSERVATIVE CONVENTION



# 08

## **POLICY HANDOUT BALLOT RESOLUTIONS**

**PLEASE DROP OFF YOUR COMPLETED HANDOUT BALLOT  
IN ROOM 7, GROUND FLOOR, ON FRIDAY BETWEEN 9 A.M.  
AND 5 P.M.**

**In this package you will find 57 resolutions to amend the Party's 2005  
policy declaration. These will be voted on by handout ballot rather  
than at the workshop and Plenary. Delegates should mark yes or no  
on the Policy handout ballot they have been provided. It is not  
necessary to vote on every resolution. The completed Policy handout  
ballot must be dropped off in ROOM 7 on the GROUND FLOOR of the  
Winnipeg Convention Centre on Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.**

**PLEASE DO NOT FOLD YOUR HANDOUT BALLOT!**

## RESOLUTION P-1

### 1. Role of Government

The Conservative Party believes that the role of government is to:

- i) protect the lives and property of its citizens;
- ii) ensure equality of opportunity;
- iii) foster an environment where individuals and private initiative can prosper;
- iv) ensure the security of our nation's borders; and
- v) provide services to Canadians that cannot be provided more efficiently and effectively by individuals or by the private sector.

### Proposed by: Caucus Member(s)

The Conservative Party believes that the role of government is to:

- i) protect the lives and property of its citizens;
- ii) ensure equality of opportunity;
- iii) foster an environment where individuals and private initiative can prosper;
- iv) ensure the security of our nation's borders **and the safety of our citizens at home and abroad**; and
- v) provide services to Canadians that cannot be provided more efficiently and effectively by individuals or by the private sector.

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-2

### 1. Role of Government

The Conservative Party believes that the role of government is to:

- i) protect the lives and property of its citizens;
- ii) ensure equality of opportunity;
- iii) foster an environment where individuals and private initiative can prosper;
- iv) ensure the security of our nation's borders; and
- v) provide services to Canadians that cannot be provided more efficiently and effectively by individuals or by the private sector.

### Proposed by: Calgary South East

The Conservative Party believes that the role of government is to:

- i) protect the lives and property of its citizens;
- ii) ensure equality of opportunity;
- iii) foster an environment where individuals and private initiative can prosper;
- iv) ensure the security of our nation's borders; ~~and~~
- v) provide services to Canadians that cannot be provided more efficiently and effectively by individuals or by the private sector; **and**
- vi) **maintain and enhance national infrastructure.**

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

### RESOLUTION P-3

#### 4. Sound Financial Management

- i) A Conservative Government will strengthen the internal audit and comptrollership functions of government, ensuring that program delivery matches the intent of the program, spending is measured against objectives and cost overruns are brought immediately to the attention of Parliament.
- ii) A Conservative Government will create the independent office of the Comptroller General reporting to Parliament with a mandate to ensure that the highest standards and practices of expenditure management are enforced in all federal departments, Crown corporations, agencies and foundations.
- iii) A Conservative Government will restore the audit role of the Treasury Board.
- iv) A Conservative Government will allow the Auditor General to table reports with the Clerk of the House of Commons when Parliament is not sitting, and have them made public through the Speaker. Currently, the Auditor General can only report when Parliament is sitting.
- v) A Conservative Government will ensure transparency and accuracy of and confidence in the government's finances by providing the Auditor General with full access to all documents from all federal organizations, including all agencies, Crown corporations, the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) Investment Board, and foundations. Currently, the Auditor General does not have full access to all of the government's books.

**Proposed by: Ottawa West-Nepean and Fredericton**

**The Conservative Party believes that the rules governing transparency and accountability in government departments ought to be extended to all government agencies, Crown corporations and government-funded foundations.**

~~i) A Conservative Government will strengthen the internal audit and comptrollership functions of government, ensuring that program delivery matches the intent of the program, spending is measured against objectives and cost overruns are brought immediately to the attention of Parliament.~~

~~[...]~~

~~v) A Conservative Government will ensure transparency and accuracy of and confidence in the government's finances by providing the Auditor General with full access to all documents from all federal organizations, including all agencies, Crown corporations, the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) Investment Board, and foundations. Currently, the Auditor General does not have full access to all of the government's books.~~

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

**RESOLUTION P-4**

5. Government Duplication and Waste

A Conservative Government will streamline government services and eliminate waste, unnecessary overlap and duplication between the levels of government.

**Proposed by: Wild Rose**

**The Conservative Party believes the government should implement a detailed process to A**  
~~Conservative Government will~~ streamline government services and eliminate waste, unnecessary overlap and duplication between the levels of government.

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-5

### 7. Free Votes

A Conservative Government will restore democratic accountability in the House of Commons by allowing free votes. A Conservative Government will make all votes free, except for the budget and main estimates. On issues of moral conscience, such as abortion, the definition of marriage and euthanasia, the Conservative Party acknowledges the diversity of deeply held personal convictions among individual Party members and the right of Members of Parliament to adopt positions in consultation with their constituents and to vote freely.

### Proposed by: Nepean Carleton

A Conservative Government will restore democratic accountability in the House of Commons by allowing free votes, ~~A Conservative Government will make all votes free, except for the budget and main estimates.~~ **and will make most votes free.** On issues of moral conscience, such as abortion, the definition of marriage and euthanasia, the Conservative Party acknowledges the diversity of deeply held personal convictions among individual Party members and the right of Members of Parliament to adopt positions in consultation with their constituents and to vote freely.

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-6

### 10. Electoral Reform

- i) A Conservative Government will consider changes to electoral systems, including proportional representation, the single transferable ballot, fixed election dates, and the use of referendums.
- ii) In reviewing options for electoral reform, a Conservative Government will not endorse any new electoral system that will weaken the link between Members of Parliament and their constituents, that will create unmanageably large ridings, or that will strengthen the control of the party machinery over individual Members of Parliament. A national referendum will be held prior to implementing any electoral reform proposal.

**Proposed by: Brandon Souris and Toronto Centre and Charleswood - St. James – Assiniboia**

- i) A Conservative Government will consider changes to electoral systems, including **the use of** ~~proportional representation, the single transferable ballot, fixed election dates, and the use of~~ referendums
- ii) In reviewing options for electoral reform, a Conservative Government will not endorse any new electoral system that will weaken the link between Members of Parliament and their constituents, that will create unmanageably large ridings, or that will strengthen the control of the party machinery over individual Members of Parliament. A national referendum will be held prior to implementing any **future** electoral reform proposal.

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-7

### 19. Tax Relief

- i) A Conservative Government will provide immediate and long-term broad based tax relief, starting with reducing personal income tax rates and substantially raising both the Basic Personal Exemption and the Spousal Exemption under the Income Tax Act. Reducing personal income taxes will hike the take home pay and raise the living standard of all Canadians.
- ii) A Conservative Government will reduce business taxes. Reducing business taxes would encourage both foreign and domestic businesses to invest in Canada, meaning more and better jobs for Canadian workers. Lower business taxes mean greater returns for pension plan members and those who own RRSPs, mutual funds and common shares.
- iii) A Conservative Government will reduce capital gains taxes. Lower capital gains taxes encourage saving and investment which means more capital for Canadian businesses, more jobs for Canadian workers and bigger returns for Canadian investors.
- iv) A Conservative Government will reduce payroll taxes. Payroll taxes that exceed the amount necessary to properly fund Employment Insurance are a tax on job creation. Lower payroll taxes encourage hiring and business expansion.
- v) Canada's tax system must be built on a foundation of fairness. The Conservative Party will take steps to close loopholes such as the use of offshore tax havens which erode the Canadian tax base and allow companies to avoid paying Canadian taxes.

### Proposed by: National Policy Committee

### 19. Tax Relief

- v) Canada's tax system must be built on a foundation of fairness. **The** Conservative Party **believes the government should** take steps to close loopholes such as the use of offshore tax havens which erode the Canadian tax base and allow companies to avoid paying Canadian taxes.

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-8

### 20. Family Tax Fairness

- i) A Conservative Government will create tax fairness for families by eliminating inequities between single and dual income families and introducing a deduction for dependent children.
- ii) A Conservative Government will amend the Income Tax Act to eliminate all tax disadvantages to families including those who care for children at home and to recognize the economic value of stay at home parents by introducing tax fairness measures such as income splitting.
- iii) The Conservative Party also recognizes that many of our seniors lived on single family incomes as one parent stayed home and cared for their children. Our seniors deserve tax fairness to eliminate the discrepancy between single and dual family income in retirement. A Conservative Government will review income splitting as a means of creating this tax fairness.

**Proposed by: Edmonton Centre**

### 20. Supporting Families ~~Family Tax Fairness~~

**The Conservative Party recognizes the need to support families and children. The Conservative Party believes that Canada's decreasing birthrate needs to be addressed by reducing the barriers facing those wishing to start and grow their families, thus ensuring the well being and long-term sustainability of our communities.**

- i) A Conservative Government will create tax fairness for families by eliminating inequities between single and dual income families and introducing a deduction for dependent children.

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-9

21. Spending Controls

A Conservative Government will strengthen enforcement and criminal code penalties for fraud involving the misuse of tax dollars.

**Proposed by: Caucus Member(s)**

**i)** A Conservative Government will strengthen enforcement and criminal code penalties for fraud involving the misuse of tax dollars

**ii) The Conservative Party believes that government should introduce a system of program evaluation to ensure that all major government spending programs are independently evaluated on a regular basis. This will ensure that programs are meeting government priorities and delivering value for money.**

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-10

### 26. Economic Principles

A Conservative Government will create an economic climate in which Canadians can thrive and prosper, and with their success create quality job opportunities for Canadians.

The Conservative Party believes that a dollar in the hand of a Canadian citizen is better than a dollar in the hand of a government bureaucrat. Canadians should be enjoying a higher standard of living, a more competitive economy and greater productivity, similar to our major trading partners. A Conservative Government will ensure that Canada's competitive position in the world is not impeded by a lack of ethics in government.

### **Proposed by: Calgary Southwest**

A Conservative Government will create an economic climate in which Canadians can thrive and prosper, and with their success create quality job opportunities for Canadians.

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**The Conservative Party believes that lower taxes and reduced government interference in the economy will result in more purchasing power in the hands of the people of Canada, which leads to a more competitive economy, greater productivity, more quality job opportunities, and a higher standard of living.**

Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No

## RESOLUTION P-11

### 26. Economic Principles

A Conservative Government will create an economic climate in which Canadians can thrive and prosper, and with their success create quality job opportunities for Canadians.

The Conservative Party believes that a dollar in the hand of a Canadian citizen is better than a dollar in the hand of a government bureaucrat. Canadians should be enjoying a higher standard of living, a more competitive economy and greater productivity, similar to our major trading partners. A Conservative Government will ensure that Canada's competitive position in the world is not impeded by a lack of ethics in government.

### Proposed by: Calgary Southwest

A Conservative Government will create an economic climate in which Canadians can thrive and prosper, and with their success create quality job opportunities for Canadians.

**The Conservative Party believes in the principle of maximizing value-added processing in Canada, and that the government should create an economic environment that encourages Canadian businesses to export products rather than raw materials.**

The Conservative Party believes that a dollar in the hand of a Canadian citizen is better than a dollar in the hand of a government bureaucrat. Canadians should be enjoying a higher standard of living, a more competitive economy and greater productivity, similar to our major trading partners. A Conservative Government will ensure that Canada's competitive position in the world is not impeded by a lack of ethics in government.

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-12

### 28. Science, Research and Development

- i) A Conservative Government will establish a single authority or single window to review big science projects according to published guidelines. These types of projects are often tied up in the bureaucracy because, under the current system, they are forced to seek funding from a myriad of departments and agencies. A single-window approach would be more transparent for the research community and more accountable to Canadian taxpayers.
- ii) A Conservative Government will appoint an independent Chief Scientist who will advise and report to Parliament on scientific matters, and help coordinate science policy issues within government, and internationally. This office will be modeled on the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology in the United Kingdom. The Chief Scientist will be mandated by Parliament to provide independent and balanced analysis of public policy issues related to science and technology. This information will be provided openly to Parliamentarians and Canadians to enable informed decisions.
- iii) A Conservative Government will uphold funding of innovation, technology and research through the granting councils. The Conservative Party supports a competitive peer review process and enhanced transparency and accountability to determine who shall receive grants through these councils. A Conservative Government would continue to fund the indirect costs of research with particular attention to small universities.
- iv) The Conservative Party recognizes the importance of private sector investment in research and development of commercial applications. We recognize that the Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) tax credit has been successful in spurring private investment in R&D. We will work with stakeholders in all fields of research and various industry sectors to expand this tax credit. A Conservative Government will also eliminate the capital tax and reduce the capital gains tax because the effectiveness of the SR&ED tax credit relies upon the general level of tax on capital and investment.

### Proposed by: Kelowna-Lake Country

- iii) A Conservative Government will uphold funding of innovation, technology and research through the granting councils. The Conservative Party supports a competitive peer review process and enhanced transparency and accountability to determine who shall receive grants through these councils. ~~A Conservative Government would continue to fund the indirect costs of research with particular attention to small universities.~~

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-13

28. Science, Research and Development

...

iv) The Conservative Party recognizes the importance of private sector investment in research and development of commercial applications. We recognize that the Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) tax credit has been successful in spurring private investment in R&D. We will work with stakeholders in all fields of research and various industry sectors to expand this tax credit. A Conservative Government will also eliminate the capital tax and reduce the capital gains tax because the effectiveness of the SR&ED tax credit relies upon the general level of tax on capital and investment.

### **Proposed by: Mont-Royal**

iv) The Conservative Party recognizes the importance of private sector investment in research and development of commercial applications. We recognize that the Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) tax credit has been successful in spurring private investment in R&D. We will work with stakeholders in all fields of research and various industry sectors to expand this tax credit. A Conservative Government will also eliminate the capital tax and reduce the capital gains tax because the effectiveness of the SR&ED tax credit relies upon the general level of tax on capital and investment. **In principle, the Conservative Party believes that the federal government of Canada should provide more scientific research and experimental development tax incentives.**

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-14

30. Infrastructure

A Conservative Government will reduce federal gasoline taxes conditional on an agreement with the provinces and territories that they will use this tax room to fund infrastructure in provincial, territorial and municipal jurisdictions.

**Proposed by: Wild Rose**

**The Conservative Party believes that the government should allocate a portion of federal retail gasoline taxes to the provinces and territories to fund infrastructure.** ~~A Conservative Government will reduce federal gasoline taxes conditional on an agreement with the provinces and territories that they will use this tax room to fund infrastructure in provincial, territorial and municipal jurisdictions.~~

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-15

### 35. Copyright Legislation

i) The Conservative Party believes that the objectives of copyright legislation should be:

- a) to create opportunities for Canadian creators to enjoy the fruits of their labour to the greatest possible extent;
- b) to ensure that the rights of Canadian creators are adequately protected by law;
- c) that these rights are balanced with the opportunity for the public to use copyrighted works for teaching, researching and lifelong learning;
- d) to continue to allow an individual to make copies of sound recordings of musical works for that person's personal and individual use; and
- e) that enforcement is applied fairly and in accordance with international standards.

ii) The Conservative Party believes that reasonable access to copyright works is a critical necessity for learning and teaching for Canadian students and teachers, and that access to copyrighted materials enriches life long learning and is an essential component of an innovative economy.

iii) A Conservative Government will give consideration to educational public policy goals within the copyright framework. A Conservative Government will work with industry to increase awareness and develop a public education campaign to better inform users and creators on the copyright laws in Canada.

iv) A Conservative Government will eliminate the levy on blank recording materials.

### Proposed by: Central Nova

(i)(d) to continue to allow an individual to make copies of ~~sound~~ recordings of musical works **and video** for that person's personal and individual use; and

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-16

### 39. International Trade

In an increasing competitive global economy, trade remains the key to future prosperity in Canada. Many Canadian jobs depend heavily upon foreign markets. Those jobs are placed in jeopardy when other nations make it difficult for our exporters to sell their products.

- i) A Conservative Government will bring more security to existing trade related jobs. To create new employment opportunities, our trade agenda will focus on diversifying both the products we sell abroad and the markets into which we sell those products. A Conservative Government will secure access to international markets through a rules based trading system. A Conservative Government will strive to maximize the benefits we have as a free trading nation, emphasizing the need to establish trading relationships beyond North America.
- ii) In future rounds of trade negotiations, a Conservative Government will vigorously pursue reduction of international trade barriers and tariffs. A Conservative Government will pursue the elimination of trade-distorting government export subsidies within clearly established time limits. A Conservative Government will seek a clear definition of what constitutes an export subsidy.
- iii) A Conservative Government would move to find new markets for Canadian goods and services by emphasizing development of trade ties with emerging markets.
- iv) In recognition of freshwater as a critical resource to the future of Canadians, the Conservative Party believes that there should be an investigation into the security of our long term freshwater resources as they pertain to exportation as a commodity.

**Proposed by: Caucus Member(s)**

New

**v) The Conservative Party believes the government should strive to maximize the benefits of our cross border trade by reducing or removing impediments to the efficient flow of goods, services and people at border crossing points. The government should also pursue agreement on standards for secure identification of cross-border travellers that is both affordable and convenient.**

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-17

### 39. International Trade

In an increasing competitive global economy, trade remains the key to future prosperity in Canada. Many Canadian jobs depend heavily upon foreign markets. Those jobs are placed in jeopardy when other nations make it difficult for our exporters to sell their products.

- i) A Conservative Government will bring more security to existing trade related jobs. To create new employment opportunities, our trade agenda will focus on diversifying both the products we sell abroad and the markets into which we sell those products. A Conservative Government will secure access to international markets through a rules based trading system. A Conservative Government will strive to maximize the benefits we have as a free trading nation, emphasizing the need to establish trading relationships beyond North America.
- ii) In future rounds of trade negotiations, a Conservative Government will vigorously pursue reduction of international trade barriers and tariffs. A Conservative Government will pursue the elimination of trade-distorting government export subsidies within clearly established time limits. A Conservative Government will seek a clear definition of what constitutes an export subsidy.
- iii) A Conservative Government would move to find new markets for Canadian goods and services by emphasizing development of trade ties with emerging markets.
- iv) In recognition of freshwater as a critical resource to the future of Canadians, the Conservative Party believes that there should be an investigation into the security of our long term freshwater resources as they pertain to exportation as a commodity.

### Proposed by: Brandon-Souris

**The Conservative Party believes that, in** an increasing competitive global economy, trade remains the key to future prosperity in Canada. Many Canadian jobs depend heavily upon foreign markets. Those jobs are placed in jeopardy when other nations make it difficult for our exporters to sell their products.

- i) A Conservative Government will bring more security to existing trade related jobs. To create new employment opportunities, our trade agenda will focus on diversifying both the products we sell abroad and the markets into which we sell those products. A Conservative Government will secure access to international markets through a rules based trading system. A Conservative Government will strive to maximize the benefits we have as a free trading nation, emphasizing the need to establish trading relationships beyond North America.
- ii) In future rounds of trade negotiations, a Conservative Government will vigorously pursue reduction of international trade barriers and tariffs. A Conservative Government will pursue the elimination of trade-distorting government export subsidies within clearly established time limits. A Conservative Government will seek a clear definition of what constitutes an export subsidy.
- iii) A Conservative Government would move to find new markets for Canadian goods and services by emphasizing development of trade ties with emerging markets.
- iv) In recognition of freshwater as a critical resource to the future of Canadians, the Conservative Party believes that there should be an investigation into the **protection and** security of our long term freshwater resources as they pertain to exportation as a commodity.

**Do you support this amendment? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-18

40. Inter-provincial Trade

A Conservative Government will take the lead in working with its provincial partners to eliminate inter-provincial trade barriers in commerce, labour, and capital mobility.

**Proposed by: Edmonton Leduc**

A Conservative Government will ~~take the lead in working with~~ **encourage and assist** its provincial partners to eliminate inter-provincial trade barriers in commerce, labour and capital mobility.

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-19

### 41. Transportation

- i) A Conservative Government would consider expanding 'Open Skies' to promote competition and consumer choice.
- ii) A Conservative Government believes a modern, efficient transportation system is integral to the well-being of Canada's economy, and essential for Canada to be competitive in continental and global markets.
- iii) A Conservative Government will support public-private infrastructure investment as part of a comprehensive approach to improving and sustaining a world-class transportation system.
- iv) A Conservative Government will work in partnership with the provinces and territories to achieve an integrated transportation system.
- v) A Conservative Government will work in partnership with the provinces to achieve a truly 'National Highway System'. A first-class Trans-Canada highway should be the centrepiece.
- vi) A Conservative Government will reduce or eliminate federal government fees, levies, taxes and rents, hidden and otherwise, associated with Canada's national transportation system.
- vii) A Conservative Government will re-evaluate the corporate governance and ensure accountability at Canada's airport authorities.
- viii) A Conservative Government will ensure access to future transportation infrastructure for people with disabilities is a fundamental priority for all future public or private transportation installations.
- ix) To reduce automobile-rail accidents at level crossings, a Conservative Government will encourage railroad owners to take more responsibility for ensuring consistency in level crossing markings and equipping rail cars with side reflectors.
- x) A Conservative Government will assume responsibility for legitimate Customs and Immigration costs for all points of entry into Canada. A Conservative Government will improve border crossings and alleviate congestion resulting in the timely delivery of goods.
- xi) A Conservative Government will ensure airlines are represented on the Board of NAV Canada.
- xii) The Conservative Party supports the retention of lightstations, their personnel, and their aids to navigation. Lightstations are an important contribution to Canadian sovereignty, provide for public safety especially for recreational boaters and kayakers, are an essential presence to monitoring sea-planes and marine traffic, and assist in the interdiction of smuggling. The Conservative Party also recognizes the historical value of the lightstations and promotes the concept that they are well situated infrastructure and personnel which can be utilized for scientific data collection and for other uses.
- xiii) A Conservative Government will work on a solution to improve border crossings and alleviate congestion at the borders setting goals within specified timelines while recognizing the need for improving security and improved relations with the United States and establish a study of the feasibility of a North American perimeter.

### Proposed by: Caucus Member(s)

- i) ~~A Conservative Government would consider expanding 'Open Skies' to promote competition and consumer choice.~~ **The Conservative Party believes that the government must negotiate reciprocal "Open Skies"-type agreements where it is deemed to be in Canada's overall interest.**
- ii) A Conservative Government believes a modern, efficient transportation system is integral to the well-being of Canada's economy, and essential for Canada to be competitive in continental and global markets.  
[ . . . ]
- xiii) A Conservative Government will work on a solution to improve border crossings and alleviate congestion at the borders setting goals within specified timelines while recognizing the need for improving security and improved relations with the United States and establish a study of the feasibility of a North American perimeter.
- xiv) The Conservative Party believes that the government should improve the security of Canada's transportation system, including ports and marine facilities.**

Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No

## RESOLUTION P-20

### 41. Transportation

- i) A Conservative Government would consider expanding 'Open Skies' to promote competition and consumer choice.
- ii) A Conservative Government believes a modern, efficient transportation system is integral to the well-being of Canada's economy, and essential for Canada to be competitive in continental and global markets.
- iii) A Conservative Government will support public-private infrastructure investment as part of a comprehensive approach to improving and sustaining a world-class transportation system.
- iv) A Conservative Government will work in partnership with the provinces and territories to achieve an integrated transportation system.
- v) A Conservative Government will work in partnership with the provinces to achieve a truly 'National Highway System'. A first-class Trans-Canada highway should be the centrepiece.
- vi) A Conservative Government will reduce or eliminate federal government fees, levies, taxes and rents, hidden and otherwise, associated with Canada's national transportation system.
- vii) A Conservative Government will re-evaluate the corporate governance and ensure accountability at Canada's airport authorities.
- viii) A Conservative Government will ensure access to future transportation infrastructure for people with disabilities is a fundamental priority for all future public or private transportation installations.
- ix) To reduce automobile-rail accidents at level crossings, a Conservative Government will encourage railroad owners to take more responsibility for ensuring consistency in level crossing markings and equipping rail cars with side reflectors.
- x) A Conservative Government will assume responsibility for legitimate Customs and Immigration costs for all points of entry into Canada. A Conservative Government will improve border crossings and alleviate congestion resulting in the timely delivery of goods.
- xi) A Conservative Government will ensure airlines are represented on the Board of NAV Canada.
- xii) The Conservative Party supports the retention of lightstations, their personnel, and their aids to navigation. Lightstations are an important contribution to Canadian sovereignty, provide for public safety especially for recreational boaters and kayakers, are an essential presence to monitoring sea-planes and marine traffic, and assist in the interdiction of smuggling. The Conservative Party also recognizes the historical value of the lightstations and promotes the concept that they are well situated infrastructure and personnel which can be utilized for scientific data collection and for other uses.
- xiii) A Conservative Government will work on a solution to improve border crossings and alleviate congestion at the borders setting goals within specified timelines while recognizing the need for improving security and improved relations with the United States and establish a study of the feasibility of a North American perimeter.

### Proposed by: Calgary Southwest

- v) A Conservative Government will work in partnership with the provinces **and utilize revenues from the federal fuel excise tax as a source of funding** to achieve a truly 'National Highway System.' ~~A first-class Trans-Canada highway should be the centerpiece.~~

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-21

### 44. Alternative Energy and Transitional Fuels

The Conservative Party believes in promotion of alternative energy (such as wind, solar, geothermal) and transitional fuels (such as biodiesel, ethanol, natural gas) to help develop hydrogen as a fuel. The expense of assuring the security of traditional fuel sources and concerns over pollution makes the use of these energy sources necessary.

### Proposed by: National Policy Committee

### 44. Alternative Energy and Transitional Fuels

The Conservative Party believes ~~in promotion of~~ **that the government should promote** alternative energy (such as wind, solar, geothermal), ~~and~~ transitional fuels (such as biodiesel, ethanol, natural gas), **and the development** ~~to help develop~~ **of hydrogen as a fuel**. The expense of assuring the security of traditional fuel sources and concerns over pollution makes ~~the use of~~ these energy sources necessary.

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-22

### 44. Alternative Energy and Transitional Fuels

The Conservative Party believes in promotion of alternative energy (such as wind, solar, geothermal) and transitional fuels (such as biodiesel, ethanol, natural gas) to help develop hydrogen as a fuel. The expense of assuring the security of traditional fuel sources and concerns over pollution makes the use of these energy sources necessary.

#### **Proposed by: Burlington**

The Conservative Party believes in promotion of alternative energy (such as wind, solar, geothermal) and transitional fuels (such as biodiesel, ethanol, natural gas) to help develop hydrogen as a fuel. The expense of assuring the security of traditional fuel sources and concerns over pollution makes the use of these energy sources necessary. **The government should enhance tax incentives for energy efficient measures which lead to a cleaner environment**

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-23

### 46. Offshore Oil and Gas Development

A Conservative Government will promote exploration and environmental assessment of offshore natural resources on both the Pacific and Atlantic coasts, in cooperation with the provinces, affected First Nations, private industry and other relevant scientific and environmental groups. We will ensure that companies follow best practices and the precautionary principle to mitigate environmental risk, allow for arms-length regulatory processes to ensure safe and environmentally responsible practices prior to development of these natural resources, and consider the potential of these natural resources before designating new Marine Protected Areas.

### **Proposed by: South Surrey - White Rock - Cloverdale**

The Conservative government will, **with a strong concern for the environment**, promote exploration ~~and environmental assessment~~ of offshore ~~natural~~ resources along all our coastal waters ~~on both the Pacific and Atlantic coasts~~. **This will be carried out** in cooperation with the provinces, affected First Nations, private industry and other relevant scientific and environmental groups. We will ensure that companies follow best practices and the precautionary principle to mitigate environmental risk, allow for arms-length regulatory processes to ensure safe and environmentally responsible practices prior to development of these natural resources, and consider the potential of these natural resources before designating new Marine Protected Areas.

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-24

### 47. Water - Great Lakes

A Conservative Government will work with the United States to provide a clear federal plan of action to address critical threats to the sustainability of our shared resource, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin. Our government will provide adequate funding to fulfill its commitment to this region, which is home to 16 million Canadians and is a crucial source of clean air, drinking water, food, shelter, health, employment and recreation, as well as Canada's highest concentration of industry. We will establish long-term outcomes; translate them into real plans for the basin; apply a consistent basin-wide approach for issues that span the entire basin; clarify responsibilities of federal and provincial governments; and recognize constitutional authority of the provinces.

### Proposed by: Parry Sound – Muskoka

A Conservative government will work with the United States **and the provinces** to provide a clear federal plan of action to address the challenges confronting the Great Lakes & St. Lawrence River basin. **We will address the threats to our shared resource, including water levels, invasive species, pollution and other threats to the tourism industry and the living conditions and economic well-being of area residents.** Our government will provide adequate funding to fulfill its commitment to this region, which is home to 16 million Canadians and is a crucial source of clean air, drinking water, food, shelter, health, employment and recreation, as well as Canada's highest concentration of industry. We will establish long-term outcomes; translate them into real plans for the basin; apply a consistent basin-wide approach for issues that span the entire basin; clarify responsibilities of federal and provincial governments; and recognize constitutional authority of the provinces.

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-25

### 51. Health Care

- i) The Conservative Party believes all Canadians should have reasonable access to timely, quality health care services, regardless of their ability to pay.
- ii) The provinces and territories should have maximum flexibility to ensure the delivery of medically necessary health services within a universal, public health care system. The Conservative Party supports adding a sixth principle to the Canada Health Act to provide stable and transparent federal funding. We will work with the provinces in a co-operative and constructive manner.
- iii) Flexibility for the provinces and territories in the implementation of health services should include a balance of public and private delivery options. This approach would ensure that health services remain publicly funded, while services are provided through the most appropriate public or private provider based on quality and cost.
- iv) We will work with the provinces and territories in the development of national quality indicators and objectives.

### Proposed by: Peace River

- i) The Conservative Party believes all Canadians should have reasonable access to timely, quality health care services, regardless of their ability to pay.
- ii) The provinces and territories should have maximum flexibility to ensure the delivery of medically necessary health services within a universal, public health care system. The Conservative Party supports adding a sixth principle to the Canada Health Act to provide stable and transparent federal funding. We will work with the provinces in a co-operative and constructive manner.
- iii) Flexibility for the provinces and territories in the implementation of health services should include a balance of public and private delivery options. This approach would ensure that health services remain publicly funded, while services are provided through the most appropriate public or private provider based on quality and cost.
- iv) We will work with the provinces and territories in the development of national quality indicators and objectives.
- v) We will work with provincial governments and professional medical groups to increase the supply of health care professionals where shortages exist.**

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-26

### 51. Health Care

- i) The Conservative Party believes all Canadians should have reasonable access to timely, quality health care services, regardless of their ability to pay.
- ii) The provinces and territories should have maximum flexibility to ensure the delivery of medically necessary health services within a universal, public health care system. The Conservative Party supports adding a sixth principle to the Canada Health Act to provide stable and transparent federal funding. We will work with the provinces in a co-operative and constructive manner.
- iii) Flexibility for the provinces and territories in the implementation of health services should include a balance of public and private delivery options. This approach would ensure that health services remain publicly funded, while services are provided through the most appropriate public or private provider based on quality and cost.
- iv) We will work with the provinces and territories in the development of national quality indicators and objectives.

### **Proposed by: Vancouver South**

iii) Flexibility for the provinces and territories in the implementation of health services should include a balance of public and private delivery options. ~~This approach would ensure that health services remain publicly funded, while services are provided through the most appropriate public or private provider based on quality and cost.~~

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-27

54. Health Sciences Research, Development and Innovation

i) The Conservative Party recognizes the importance of health sciences research in enhancing the health of Canadians and as a dynamic economic sector in its own right. A Conservative Government will foster an environment that encourages health sciences research and development of new health care technologies in part through the provision of an adequate level of federal funding.

ii) A Conservative Government will be open to innovations which would reduce waiting lists, improve the quality of care, and ensure better coordination and information sharing in the delivery of health. A Conservative Government will not be afraid to implement new advances so that all Canadians can benefit from a modern effective health system tailored to meet their needs.

**Proposed by: Edmonton Leduc**

ii) A Conservative Government will ~~be open to innovations~~ **supports projects** which would reduce waiting lists, improve the quality of care, and ensure better co-ordination and information sharing in the delivery of health care. A Conservative Government will ~~not be afraid~~ **work with the provinces** to implement new advances so that all Canadians will benefit from a modern, effective health system tailored to ~~meet~~ their needs.

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-28

54. Health Sciences Research, Development and Innovation

i) The Conservative Party recognizes the importance of health sciences research in enhancing the health of Canadians and as a dynamic economic sector in its own right. A Conservative Government will foster an environment that encourages health sciences research and development of new health care technologies in part through the provision of an adequate level of federal funding.

ii) A Conservative Government will be open to innovations which would reduce waiting lists, improve the quality of care, and ensure better coordination and information sharing in the delivery of health. A Conservative Government will not be afraid to implement new advances so that all Canadians can benefit from a modern effective health system tailored to meet their needs.

**Proposed by: Calgary Nose Hill**

ii) A Conservative Government will be open to innovation which would reduce waiting lists, improve the quality of care, and ensure better coordination and information sharing in the delivery of health. A Conservative government will ~~not be afraid to implement~~ **be open to the implementation of** new advances so that all Canadian can benefit from a modern, effective, **and sustainable** health system tailored to meet their needs.

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-29

### 65. Shared Parenting

A Conservative Government will make the necessary changes to the Divorce Act to ensure that in the event of a marital breakdown, the Divorce Act will allow both parents and all grandparents to maintain a meaningful relationship with their children and grandchildren, unless it is clearly demonstrated not to be in the best interests of the children.

#### **Proposed by: Fleetwood - Port Kells**

A Conservative government will make the necessary changes to the Divorce Act to ensure that in the event of a marital breakdown, the Divorce Act will **grant joint custody**, ~~allow both parents and all grandparents to maintain a meaningful relationship with their children and grandchildren~~ unless it is clearly demonstrated not to be in the best interests of the **child** ~~children~~. **Both parents and all grandparents should maintain a meaningful relationship with their children and grandchildren, unless it is demonstrated not to be in the best interest of the child.**

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-30

### 68. Seniors

The Conservative Party recognizes that those over the age of 65 are becoming a dominant segment of our population. We also recognize that in ten years, the baby boomers will have reached retirement age, representing a significant portion of the population. We are committed to ensuring that seniors continue to have quality of life, accessible health care and the ability to stay in their homes longer.

- i) Four million Canadians are now over the age of 65, a number that is growing rapidly as Canadians are living longer. Many Canadians wish to continue working but are penalized by the loss of retirement benefits. A Conservative Government would end the discriminatory practice of mandatory retirement and give Canadians the choice of retirement or continuing to work without the loss of federal retirement benefits.
- ii) Canadians over the age of 65 who cannot collect Employment Insurance yet are required to pay premiums when working. A Conservative Government would end this unfair practice and ensure that those over the age of 65 would not pay Employment Insurance premiums.
- iii) Policies must be developed in order to enable a greater number of Canadian seniors in need of care to remain in their own homes, rather than in more expensive institutional accommodations where their independence suffers and costs are higher to the taxpayer. A Conservative Government would create tax incentives for non-professional caregivers to look after elderly parents or other elderly or disabled relatives in the home.
- iv) A Conservative Government would take tough measures to prevent elder abuse, and to implement more severe punishment for those who commit this crime.
- v) A Conservative Government would appoint a Minister Responsible for Seniors to ensure that the unique needs of seniors are being properly addressed across government departments.
- vi) A Conservative Government will appoint a Seniors Council comprised of seniors and representatives of seniors' organizations to advise the Minister Responsible for Seniors on issues of national importance.
- vii) A Conservative Government would work with provincial counterparts to identify seniors entitled to either federal or provincial benefits. A Conservative Government would review the retroactivity policy of entitlement to federal benefits.

### Proposed by: Burlington

iii) Policies must be developed in order to enable a greater number of Canadian seniors in need of care to remain in their own homes, rather than in more expensive institutional accommodations where their independence suffers and costs are higher to the taxpayer. A Conservative Government would create incentives for non-professional caregivers to look after the elderly parents or other elderly or disabled relatives in the home.

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-31

### 72. Aboriginal Affairs Principles

The fundamental obligation of the federal government is to improve the living conditions of Aboriginal Canadians, including the Inuit, in terms of economic opportunity, health, education, and community safety.

The Conservative Party believes that the following principles should govern the administration of existing federal Aboriginal programs. These principles should also govern future legislative reform to the Indian Act and related legislation. They should also inform government decision making in the of rights disputes – whether based upon existing treaties, court decisions or Section 35 of the Constitution Act:

i) The Need for a Legislated Framework for Federal Aboriginal Expenditures: The Parliament of Canada must develop legislation which governs the delivery of federal governmental programs to Aboriginal Canadians. Both Aboriginal and non- Aboriginal Canadians deserve to know the legislative basis upon which the Government of Canada is expending funds on Aboriginal health, education, social welfare and infrastructure. Legislation should be developed which governs such programs and which prescribes the standards of service which the federal government has undertaken to provide to aboriginal Canadians.

ii) Self Government – Legal and Democratic Authority: The Indian Act (and related legislation) should be replaced by a modern legislative framework which provides for the devolution of full legal and democratic responsibility to First Nations, including the Inuit, for their own affairs within the overall constitutional framework of our federal state. Such legislative reform should be pursued following full consultation with First Nations, with the objective of achieving a full and complete devolution of democratic authority that is consistent with the devolution of other decision making responsibility within our federal system. First Nations like other Canadians, are entitled to enjoy democratic control over their own affairs within a legislative context that ensures certainty, stability, respect for the rule of law and which balances collective and individual responsibility. First Nation communities must have the flexibility to determine for themselves, whether and how free market principles, such as individual property ownership should apply to reserve lands. Self government should be accomplished in a manner which takes into account the cultural and linguistic diversity of Canada's First Nations. Within the context of the Canadian Constitution, we should be prepared to make flexible accommodations for the protection of language and culture within self- government agreements.

iii) Transparency: Both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians are entitled to complete transparency and accountability in the expenditure of all public funds on aboriginal programs, services and inter-governmental transfers. Aboriginals, like other Canadians, must have ready access to police and judicial intervention to constrain and check any exercise of governmental authority (whether aboriginal or non-aboriginal) which is illegal, corrupt or an abuse of power.

iv) Respecting the Canadian Constitutional Framework: We are a nation governed by the Constitution Act, under which the rights of all citizens are protected and advanced by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Our future together as a country must be built upon the universal application of that framework. All Aboriginal rights recognized under Section 35 of the Constitution must be conferred within the four square corners of the Constitution Act and the Charter, with full protection for equality rights, such as women's rights, for both Aboriginal and non- Aboriginal Canadians. Future Aboriginal legislation, policies and programs must balance the collective rights of Aboriginal Canadians under Section 35 of the Constitution with the individual equality rights enshrined in the Charter – which protect all Canadians – whether Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal. Aboriginal Canadians are entitled to the full benefits of Canadian citizenship and the full protection of the Charter - in areas such as economic opportunity, the delivery of health services, community safety, women's rights, respect for the rule of law, and the education and protection of children. Canada must develop in a manner that ensures constitutional equality and workability.

v) A Framework for the Settlement of Comprehensive Claims and Self Government Agreements: Settlement of all outstanding "comprehensive claims" must be pursued on the basis of a clear framework which balances the rights of Aboriginal claimants with those of Canada – in particular, negotiated settlements must balance the economic and social needs of Aboriginal Canadians with Canada's need for certainty and finality of terms. Self government agreements must reflect Canada's need for both efficacy and practicality in institutional structure, and "constitutional harmony" so as not to impede the overall governance of Canada.

vi) The of Existing Specific Claims and Lawsuits against the Federal Crown: The federal government should, as a priority, adopt measures to resolve the existing backlog of "specific" claims so as to provide justice for Aboriginal claimants, together with certainty for Government, industry and non-Aboriginal Canadians. Institutional reform in the specific claim area should be pursued in a manner which resolves claims in a timely manner. The jurisdiction of the Federal Court should be expanded and the arbitrary ambit of the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) Minister and the Specific Claims Policy

**Proposed by: South Surrey - White Rock - Cloverdale**

iii) Transparency: Both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians are entitled to complete transparency

and accountability in the expenditure of all public funds on aboriginal programs, services and inter-governmental transfers. Aboriginals, like other Canadians, must have ready access to police and judicial intervention to constrain and check any exercise of governmental authority (whether aboriginal or non-aboriginal) which is illegal, corrupt or an abuse of power. **The Auditor General should be empowered to review the spending of Aboriginal governments and Aboriginal organizations which receive public funds.**

<b>Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No</b>
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## RESOLUTION P-32

### 72 Aboriginal Affairs Principles

The fundamental obligation of the federal government is to improve the living conditions of Aboriginal Canadians, including the Inuit, in terms of economic opportunity, health, education, and community safety.

The Conservative Party believes that the following principles should govern the administration of existing federal Aboriginal programs. These principles should also govern future legislative reform to the Indian Act and related legislation. They should also inform government decision making in the of rights disputes – whether based upon existing treaties, court decisions or Section 35 of the Constitution Act:

- i) The Need for a Legislated Framework for Federal Aboriginal Expenditures: The Parliament of Canada must develop legislation which governs the delivery of federal governmental programs to Aboriginal Canadians. Both Aboriginal and non- Aboriginal Canadians deserve to know the legislative basis upon which the Government of Canada is expending funds on Aboriginal health, education, social welfare and infrastructure. Legislation should be developed which governs such programs and which prescribes the standards of service which the federal government has undertaken to provide to aboriginal Canadians.
- ii) Self Government – Legal and Democratic Authority: The Indian Act (and related legislation) should be replaced by a modern legislative framework which provides for the devolution of full legal and democratic responsibility to First Nations, including the Inuit, for their own affairs within the overall constitutional framework of our federal state. Such legislative reform should be pursued following full consultation with First Nations, with the objective of achieving a full and complete devolution of democratic authority that is consistent with the devolution of other decision making responsibility within our federal system. First Nations like other Canadians, are entitled to enjoy democratic control over their own affairs within a legislative context that ensures certainty, stability, respect for the rule of law and which balances collective and individual responsibility. First Nation communities must have the flexibility to determine for themselves, whether and how free market principles, such as individual property ownership should apply to reserve lands. Self government should be accomplished in a manner which takes into account the cultural and linguistic diversity of Canada's First Nations. Within the context of the Canadian Constitution, we should be prepared to make flexible accommodations for the protection of language and culture within self- government agreements.
- iii) Transparency: Both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians are entitled to complete transparency and accountability in the expenditure of all public funds on aboriginal programs, services and inter-governmental transfers. Aboriginals, like other Canadians, must have ready access to police and judicial intervention to constrain and check any exercise of governmental authority (whether aboriginal or non-aboriginal) which is illegal, corrupt or an abuse of power.
- iv) Respecting the Canadian Constitutional Framework: We are a nation governed by the Constitution Act, under which the rights of all citizens are protected and advanced by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Our future together as a country must be built upon the universal application of that framework. All Aboriginal rights recognized under Section 35 of the Constitution must be conferred within the four square corners of the Constitution Act and the Charter, with full protection for equality rights, such as women's rights, for both Aboriginal and non- Aboriginal Canadians. Future Aboriginal legislation, policies and programs must balance the collective rights of Aboriginal Canadians under Section 35 of the Constitution with the individual equality rights enshrined in the Charter – which protect all Canadians – whether Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal. Aboriginal Canadians are entitled to the full benefits of Canadian citizenship and the full protection of the Charter - in areas such as economic opportunity, the delivery of health services, community safety, women's rights, respect for the rule of law, and the education and protection of children. Canada must develop in a manner that ensures constitutional equality and workability.
- v) A Framework for the Settlement of Comprehensive Claims and Self Government Agreements: Settlement of all outstanding "comprehensive claims" must be pursued on the basis of a clear framework which balances the rights of Aboriginal claimants with those of Canada – in particular, negotiated settlements must balance the economic and social needs of Aboriginal Canadians with Canada's need for certainty and finality of terms. Self government agreements must reflect Canada's need for both efficacy and practicality in institutional structure, and "constitutional harmony" so as not to impede the overall governance of Canada.
- vi) The of Existing Specific Claims and Lawsuits against the Federal Crown: The federal government should, as a priority, adopt measures to resolve the existing backlog of "specific" claims so as to provide justice for Aboriginal claimants, together with certainty for Government, industry and non-Aboriginal Canadians. Institutional reform in the specific claim area should be pursued in a manner which resolves claims in a timely manner. The jurisdiction of the Federal Court should be expanded and the arbitrary ambit of the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) Minister and the Specific Claims Policy

Proposed by: Ottawa West-Nepean

ii) Self Government – Legal and Democratic Authority: The Indian Act (and related legislation) should be replaced by a modern legislative framework which provides for the devolution of full legal and democratic responsibility to First Nations, including the Inuit, for their own affairs within the overall constitutional framework of our federal state. Such legislative reform should be pursued following full consultation with First Nations, with the objective of achieving a full and complete devolution of democratic authority that is consistent with the devolution of other decision making responsibility within our federal system. First Nations like other Canadians, are entitled to enjoy democratic control over their own affairs within a legislative context that ensures certainty, stability, respect for the rule of law and which balances collective and individual responsibility. First Nation communities must have the flexibility to determine for themselves, whether and how free market principles, such as individual property ownership should apply to reserve lands. Self government should be accomplished in a manner which takes into account the cultural and linguistic diversity of Canada’s First Nations. Within the context of the Canadian Constitution, we should be prepared to make flexible accommodations for the protection of language and culture within self- government agreements. **The Conservative Party believes the government should not negotiate land claims where the rule of law is not respected.**

Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No
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### RESOLUTION P-33

76. Justice Principles

A Conservative Government will reorient the approach to criminal justice and the policing system to give greater emphasis to the protection of society through the prevention of crime and emphasize the needs and rights of victims.

**Proposed by: Brant**

A Conservative Government will reorient the approach to criminal justice and the policing system to give ~~greater emphasis~~ **the highest priority** to the protection of society through the prevention of crime and emphasize the needs and rights of victims.

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-34

### 77. Dangerous Offenders

- i) A Conservative Government believes that government has an obligation to strengthen Canadians' confidence in our legal system's ability to judge dangerous offenders appropriately so that dangerous offenders will not be released until they are no longer a threat to society.
- ii) Anyone convicted of three offences causing death or serious harm against the person shall be automatically designated as a dangerous offender. This would not preclude the Crown from pursuing dangerous offender status for any other offender deemed to fit the criteria.

### Proposed by: Edmonton Strathcona

- i) A Conservative Government believes that government has an obligation to strengthen Canadians' confidence in our legal system's ability to judge dangerous offenders appropriately so that dangerous offenders will not be released until they are no longer a threat to society.
- ii) Anyone convicted of three offences causing death or serious harm against the person **arising from separate occurrences** shall be automatically designated as a dangerous offender. This would not preclude the Crown from pursuing dangerous offender status for any other offender deemed to fit the criteria.

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-35

### 79. Sentencing

A Conservative Government will:

- i) institute mandatory minimum sentences for violent and repeat offenders;
- ii) require that sentences for multiple convictions be served consecutively;
- iii) eliminate statutory (automatic) release;
- iv) Reform the National Parole Board including increased input from the community and victims in National Parole Board decisions; and
- v) require applicants for parole to demonstrate to the National Parole Board that they have been rehabilitated.

### Proposed by: Calgary West

A Conservative Government will:

- i) institute mandatory minimum sentences for violent and repeat offenders **and for those convicted of sexually assaulting a minor;**
- ii) require that sentences for multiple convictions be served consecutively;
- iii) eliminate statutory (automatic) release;
- iv) Reform the National Parole Board including increased input from the community and victims in National Parole Board decisions; and
- v) require applicants for parole to demonstrate to the National Parole Board that they have been rehabilitated.

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-36

### 79. Sentencing

A Conservative Government will:

- i) institute mandatory minimum sentences for violent and repeat offenders;
- ii) require that sentences for multiple convictions be served consecutively;
- iii) eliminate statutory (automatic) release;
- iv) Reform the National Parole Board including increased input from the community and victims in National Parole Board decisions; and
- v) require applicants for parole to demonstrate to the National Parole Board that they have been rehabilitated.

### Proposed by: North Vancouver

A Conservative Government will:

- i) Institute mandatory minimum sentences for violent and repeat offenders;
- ii) Require that sentences for multiple convictions be served consecutively;
- iii) Eliminate statutory (automatic) release;
- iv) Reform the National Parole Board including increased input from the community and victims in National Parole Board decisions; ~~and~~
- v) Require applicants for parole to demonstrate to the National Parole Board that they have been rehabilitated; **and**
- vi) no longer require judges to treat imprisonment as a last resort.**

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-37

### 81. Firearms

A Conservative Government will repeal Canada's costly gun registry legislation and work with the provinces and territories on cost-effective gun control programs designed to keep guns out of the hands of criminals while respecting the rights of law-abiding Canadians to own and use firearms responsibly. Measures will include: mandatory minimum sentences for the criminal use of firearms; strict monitoring of high-risk individuals; crackdown on the smuggling; safe storage provisions; firearms safety training; a certification screening system for all those wishing to acquire firearms legally; and putting more law enforcement on our streets.

### **Proposed by: South Surrey - White Rock - Cloverdale**

A Conservative Government will repeal Canada's costly gun registry legislation and work with the provinces and territories on cost-effective gun control programs designed to keep guns out of the hands of criminals while respecting the rights of law-abiding Canadians to own and use firearms responsibly. Measures will include: mandatory minimum sentences for the criminal use of firearms; strict monitoring of high-risk individuals; **increased enforcement and prosecution** ~~crackdown~~ of the smuggling; safe storage provisions; firearms safety training; a certification screening system for all those wishing to acquire firearms legally; and putting more law enforcement officers on our streets.

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-38

### 82. Organized Crime

- i) A Conservative Government would recognize that organized crime is growing throughout Canada, that international criminal organizations are more and more active in Canada in money laundering and illicit drug trafficking and, finally, that this phenomenon crosses boundaries.
- ii) To fight against this curse and ensure the safety of Canadians in their communities, a Conservative Government will:
  - a) adopt, in collaboration with the provinces, a national strategy on the fight against organized crime, including the creation of a joint national task force on security;
  - b) increase the financial resources allocated to the RCMP to help them to fight against those activities in all regions of the country; and
  - c) propose an amendment to the Criminal Code to reverse the burden of proof, so that members of a criminal organization (and not the Crown) will have to prove at the time of seizure that the goods were not acquired through criminal acts committed for organized crime. Specific criteria will govern this measure to respect the principle of the presumption of innocence of the accused.

**Proposed by: Saint-Lambert**

**d) strengthen the legislation to prosecute any person who knowingly engages in counterfeit activities by manufacturing, reproducing, and distributing, importing, or selling counterfeit goods**

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-39

### 82. Organized Crime

- i) A Conservative Government would recognize that organized crime is growing throughout Canada, that international criminal organizations are more and more active in Canada in money laundering and illicit drug trafficking and, finally, that this phenomenon crosses boundaries.
- ii) To fight against this curse and ensure the safety of Canadians in their communities, a Conservative Government will:
  - a) adopt, in collaboration with the provinces, a national strategy on the fight against organized crime, including the creation of a joint national task force on security;
  - b) increase the financial resources allocated to the RCMP to help them to fight against those activities in all regions of the country; and
  - c) propose an amendment to the Criminal Code to reverse the burden of proof, so that members of a criminal organization (and not the Crown) will have to prove at the time of seizure that the goods were not acquired through criminal acts committed for organized crime. Specific criteria will govern this measure to respect the principle of the presumption of innocence of the accused.

**Proposed by: Jeanne-LeBer**

**iii) The Conservative Party believes that the federal government in collaboration with the provinces, should develop prevention strategies in the fight against street gangs.**

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-40

85 Child Protection

A Conservative Government will act to protect children by eliminating all defences that are used to justify the possession of child pornography.

A Conservative Government would rename the Age of Consent to the Age of Protection and raise it from 14 to 16 years of age.

### **Proposed by: Notre-Dame-de-Grâce - Lachine**

A Conservative Government will act to protect children by eliminating all defences that are used to justify the possession of child pornography.

A Conservative Government would rename the Age of Consent to the Age of Protection and raise it from 14 to 16 years of age.

**The Conservative Party believes that the federal government should fight the cyber-stalking of children by allocating more resources for Internet monitoring, by increasing the penalty for cyber stalkers, and by taking measures to raise awareness among all Canadians (particularly young Canadians) about the importance of protecting your privacy online.**

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-41

### 86. Missing Persons Registry

A Conservative Government will enact a national missing persons registry to assist in the location and identification of persons reported missing. The registry would operate in conjunction with the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) and DNA databanks currently in place. We would streamline and improve the existing computer systems, including DNA databanks, CPIC and the sex offender registry.

#### **Proposed by: Caucus Member(s)**

**i)** A Conservative Government will enact a national missing persons registry to assist in the location and identification of persons reported missing. The registry would operate in conjunction with the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) and DNA databanks currently in place. We would streamline and improve the existing computer systems, including DNA databanks, CPIC and the sex offender registry.

**ii) The Conservative Party believes that the federal government should fight human trafficking by providing the RCMP with the personnel and resources needed to effectively combat this problem, and by instituting tougher sentences for all those involved in this form of human exploitation.**

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-42

### 91. Bilingualism

The Conservative Party believes that Canada's official languages constitute a unique and significant social and economic advantage that benefit all Canadians.

- i) A Conservative Government will support the Official Languages Act ensuring that English and French have equality of status and equal rights and privileges as to their use in all institutions of the Parliament and Government of Canada.
- ii) The Conservative Party will work with the provinces and territories to enhance opportunities for Canadians to learn both official languages.

### Proposed by: Caucus Member(s)

### 91. Official Languages ~~Bilingualism~~

The Conservative Party believes that Canada's official languages constitute a unique and significant social and economic advantage that benefit all Canadians. **The Conservative Party recognizes and supports the important contributions of official language minority communities to Canada.**

- i) A Conservative Government will support the Official Languages Act ensuring that English and French have equality of status and equal rights and privileges as to their use in all institutions of the Parliament and Government of Canada.
- ii) A Conservative Government will work with the provinces and territories to enhance opportunities for Canadians to learn **and use** both official languages.

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-43

### 95. Rural Principles

Rural Canada plays an intrinsic role in Canada's economic and social fabric, contributing approximately 15% of Canada's GDP and 40% of our exports. The Conservative Party is committed to assuring rural Canadians that the sectors such as agriculture and agri-food, fisheries, mining, and forestry that support their communities will be a priority with the federal government.

### Proposed by: Malpeque and Parry Sound – Muskoka

Rural Canada plays an **essential** ~~intrinsic~~ role in Canada's economic and social fabric, contributing approximately 15% of Canada's GDP and 40% of our exports. The Conservative Party ~~is committed to assuring rural Canadians that the sectors such as~~ **believes that** agriculture, ~~and~~ agri-food, fisheries, mining, **tourism**, and forestry **- the sectors that sustain Canada's rural communities - must** be a priority with **for** the federal government.

Do you support this resolution t? Yes - or - No

## RESOLUTION P-44

### 96. Agriculture Principles

The Conservative Party views the agriculture industry to be a key strategic economic sector of Canada. We recognize that various regions of Canada and sectors of the industry hold competitive advantages in agricultural production. National agriculture policy will reflect our belief that one size does not fit all. Agriculture policy must be developed only in consultation with the agricultural producers. Our farmers today are business operators, and to dictate policy which might have an adverse effect on this business community would have negative consequences and go against Conservative Party principles. Balancing financial responsibility with support programs that actually work is a major priority of this party.

i) Food. Food is one of the basic necessities of life, and a Conservative Government places high priority on assuring that Canada's food supply is safe, secure, and sustainable. We seek to be among the world's best when it comes to the safety of our food supply.

ii) Export and Diversification. To ensure that Canada has a secure supply of food, a Conservative Government will encourage self-sufficiency in national food production, including increased diversification in the types of foods and agricultural products produced. We will seek to enhance export opportunities for all agricultural products with special emphasis on markets for processed and finished commodities. Through diversifying, the value added process and manufacturing will create new jobs within the respective communities and Canada.

iii) Sustainability. If we are to ensure that Canada's food supply is assured in the long term, agricultural production must be both economically and environmentally sustainable. We believe that responsible land use and receiving a fair return for growing food go hand in hand. To mitigate against unforeseen adversity, we will put in the hands of the individual producer innovative economic tools they need to be flexible, to respond to changing market conditions and to manage the risks of weather and disease.

iv) Rural Economy. As the agricultural base of the rural economy has declined, so too has infrastructure in small communities. To preserve the social fabric of rural Canada, a Conservative Government will encourage diversity and responsible development in small towns and villages by encouraging innovation in the development of small businesses that keep these communities alive.

### Proposed by: Elgin Middlesex London

The Conservative Party views the agriculture industry to be a key strategic economic sector of Canada. We recognize that various regions of Canada and sectors of the industry hold competitive advantages in agricultural production. National agriculture policy **development and ongoing support** will **continue to** reflect our belief that one size does not fit all. Agriculture policy must be developed only in consultation with the agricultural producers. Our farmers today are business operators, and to dictate policy which might have an adverse effect on this business community would have negative consequences and go against Conservative Party principles. Balancing financial responsibility with support programs that actually work is a major priority of this party.

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-45

### 96. Agriculture Principles

The Conservative Party views the agriculture industry to be a key strategic economic sector of Canada. We recognize that various regions of Canada and sectors of the industry hold competitive advantages in agricultural production. National agriculture policy will reflect our belief that one size does not fit all. Agriculture policy must be developed only in consultation with the agricultural producers. Our farmers today are business operators, and to dictate policy which might have an adverse effect on this business community would have negative consequences and go against Conservative Party principles. Balancing financial responsibility with support programs that actually work is a major priority of this party.

i) Food. Food is one of the basic necessities of life, and a Conservative Government places high priority on assuring that Canada's food supply is safe, secure, and sustainable. We seek to be among the world's best when it comes to the safety of our food supply.

ii) Export and Diversification. To ensure that Canada has a secure supply of food, a Conservative Government will encourage self-sufficiency in national food production, including increased diversification in the types of foods and agricultural products produced. We will seek to enhance export opportunities for all agricultural products with special emphasis on markets for processed and finished commodities. Through diversifying, the value added process and manufacturing will create new jobs within the respective communities and Canada.

iii) Sustainability. If we are to ensure that Canada's food supply is assured in the long term, agricultural production must be both economically and environmentally sustainable. We believe that responsible land use and receiving a fair return for growing food go hand in hand. To mitigate against unforeseen adversity, we will put in the hands of the individual producer innovative economic tools they need to be flexible, to respond to changing market conditions and to manage the risks of weather and disease.

iv) Rural Economy. As the agricultural base of the rural economy has declined, so too has infrastructure in small communities. To preserve the social fabric of rural Canada, a Conservative Government will encourage diversity and responsible development in small towns and villages by encouraging innovation in the development of small businesses that keep these communities alive.

### Proposed by: Lambton-Kent-Middlesex

iii) Sustainability. If we are to ensure that Canada's food supply is assured in the long term, agricultural production must be both economically and environmentally sustainable. We believe that responsible land use and receiving a fair return for growing food go hand in hand. To mitigate against unforeseen adversity, we will put in the hands of the individual producer innovative economic tools ~~they need~~ **such as stabilization accounts** ~~to be flexible,~~ **to allow them to** respond to changing market conditions and to manage the risks of weather and disease.

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-46

### 96. Agriculture Principles

The Conservative Party views the agriculture industry to be a key strategic economic sector of Canada. We recognize that various regions of Canada and sectors of the industry hold competitive advantages in agricultural production. National agriculture policy will reflect our belief that one size does not fit all. Agriculture policy must be developed only in consultation with the agricultural producers. Our farmers today are business operators, and to dictate policy which might have an adverse effect on this business community would have negative consequences and go against Conservative Party principles. Balancing financial responsibility with support programs that actually work is a major priority of this party.

i) Food. Food is one of the basic necessities of life, and a Conservative Government places high priority on assuring that Canada's food supply is safe, secure, and sustainable. We seek to be among the world's best when it comes to the safety of our food supply.

ii) Export and Diversification. To ensure that Canada has a secure supply of food, a Conservative Government will encourage self-sufficiency in national food production, including increased diversification in the types of foods and agricultural products produced. We will seek to enhance export opportunities for all agricultural products with special emphasis on markets for processed and finished commodities. Through diversifying, the value added process and manufacturing will create new jobs within the respective communities and Canada.

iii) Sustainability. If we are to ensure that Canada's food supply is assured in the long term, agricultural production must be both economically and environmentally sustainable. We believe that responsible land use and receiving a fair return for growing food go hand in hand. To mitigate against unforeseen adversity, we will put in the hands of the individual producer innovative economic tools they need to be flexible, to respond to changing market conditions and to manage the risks of weather and disease.

iv) Rural Economy. As the agricultural base of the rural economy has declined, so too has infrastructure in small communities. To preserve the social fabric of rural Canada, a Conservative Government will encourage diversity and responsible development in small towns and villages by encouraging innovation in the development of small businesses that keep these communities alive.

### Proposed by: Northumberland Quinte West

i) Food. Food is one of the basic necessities of life, and a Conservative Government places high priority on assuring that Canada's food supply is safe, secure, and sustainable. We seek to be among the world's best when it comes to the safety of our food supply. **We will take measures to ensure accurate labeling of ingredients and country (ies) of origin, and more rigorous safety testing of imported food products.**

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

**RESOLUTION P-47**

97. Canadian Wheat Board

A Conservative Government will give farmers the freedom to make their own marketing and transportation decisions and to direct, structure, and to voluntarily participate in producer organizations.

**Proposed by : Battlefords Lloydminster**

A Conservative Government will give farmers the freedom to make their own **individual** marketing and transportation decisions and to direct, structure, and to voluntarily participate in producer organizations.

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-48

### 100. Immigration Principles

The Conservative Party supports a welcoming and well-managed immigration system for Canada based on:

- i) a fair and transparent process that earns the respect and confidence of Canadians as well as of the international community;
- ii) compassionate measures to assist in family reunification;
- iii) ensuring that Canada is successful in encouraging skilled immigrants to make Canada their destination of choice;
- iv) a clear and workable process for immigrants to obtain equivalency for their international skills, training and experience;
- v) addressing the need for adequate long-term funding for settlement services providers; and
- vi) upholding Canada's humanitarian tradition of providing safe haven for refugees.

### Proposed by: Prince Albert

- iii) ensuring that Canada is successful in encouraging skilled immigrants **and their spouses and children** to make Canada their destination of choice;

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-49

### 100. Immigration Principles

The Conservative Party supports a welcoming and well-managed immigration system for Canada based on:

- i) a fair and transparent process that earns the respect and confidence of Canadians as well as of the international community;
- ii) compassionate measures to assist in family reunification;
- iii) ensuring that Canada is successful in encouraging skilled immigrants to make Canada their destination of choice;
- iv) a clear and workable process for immigrants to obtain equivalency for their international skills, training and experience;
- v) addressing the need for adequate long-term funding for settlement services providers; and
- vi) upholding Canada's humanitarian tradition of providing safe haven for refugees.

### Proposed by: St Paul's

The Conservative Party supports a **non-partisan**, welcoming and well-managed immigration system for Canada based on:

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-50

### 100. Immigration Principles

The Conservative Party supports a welcoming and well-managed immigration system for Canada based on:

- i) a fair and transparent process that earns the respect and confidence of Canadians as well as of the international community;
- ii) compassionate measures to assist in family reunification;
- iii) ensuring that Canada is successful in encouraging skilled immigrants to make Canada their destination of choice;
- iv) a clear and workable process for immigrants to obtain equivalency for their international skills, training and experience;
- v) addressing the need for adequate long-term funding for settlement services providers; and
- vi) upholding Canada's humanitarian tradition of providing safe haven for refugees.

### Proposed by: London North Centre

The Conservative Party supports a welcoming and well-managed immigration system for Canada based on:

- i) a fair ~~and~~ transparent **and efficient** process that earns the respect and confidence of Canadians as well as of the international community;
- ii) compassionate measures to assist in family reunification;
- iii) ensuring that Canada is successful in encouraging skilled immigrants to make Canada their destination of choice;
- iv) a clear ~~and~~ workable, **and efficient** process for immigrants to obtain equivalency for their international skills, training and experience;
- v) addressing the need for adequate long-term funding for settlement services providers; and
- vi) upholding Canada's humanitarian tradition of providing safe haven for refugees.

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-51

### 101. Settlement Support

The Conservative Party wants to ensure that immigrants have the best possible opportunity to contribute to Canada's economic and social well-being. Support from settlement organizations and the broader community plays an important role. A Conservative Government will:

- i) work cooperatively with the provinces and municipalities on policy relating to settlement support for immigrants;
- ii) address the need for adequate and equitable resources to provide language instruction, encourage community mentoring, build job search skills and offer other settlement services to meet the needs of immigrants, including children;
- iii) work to streamline the funding process to deliver enhanced funding stability and allow long-term planning by service providers; and
- iv) examine the feasibility of having federal funds for settlement services follow the movement of newcomers from one region to another.

**Proposed by: Thunder Bay - Rainy River & Thunder Bay - Superior North**

- ii) address the need for adequate and equitable resources to provide language instruction (**in order to allow immigrants to achieve functional capability in one of the two official languages**), encourage community mentoring, build job search skills and offer other settlement services to meet the needs of immigrants, including children;

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-52

### 103. Applications Process

The Conservative Party believes that there must be fundamental change to the applications process to minimize stress and uncertainty for applicants and their families.

A Conservative Government will:

- i) ensure that Citizenship and Immigration Canada is properly staffed, trained and resourced to improve the processing of people wanting to come to Canada;
- ii) reorganize the applications process so that applicants are given accurate information about what to expect, are readily able to obtain information on the status of their files, and are given service in a considerate and professional manner;
- iii) reverse the Liberal policy of separating married couples while the application of the non-status partner is being processed;
- iv) extend automatic Canadian citizenship to children adopted from abroad by Canadian parents once the adoption is final;
- v) provide options such as the posting of a bond to allow higher acceptance rates for family visits while protecting the integrity of the system from queue jumping; and
- vi) reduce the need for Temporary Resident Permits (TRPs) issued by the Minister by making the applications process more fair and efficient, and make the use of TRVs by the Minister both transparent and accountable through a process of independent review.

### Proposed by: Caucus Member(s)

The Conservative Party believes that there must be fundamental change to the applications process to minimize stress and uncertainty for applicants and their families.

A Conservative Government will:

- i) ensure that Citizenship and Immigration Canada is properly staffed, trained and resourced to improve the processing of people wanting to come to Canada;
- ii) reorganize the applications process so that applicants are given accurate information about what to expect, are readily able to obtain information on the status of their files, and are given service in a considerate and professional manner;
- iii) reverse the Liberal policy of separating married couples while the application of the non-status partner is being processed;
- iv) extend automatic Canadian citizenship to children adopted from abroad by Canadian parents once the adoption is final;
- v) provide options such as the posting of a bond to allow higher acceptance rates for family **and other special** visits while protecting the integrity of the system from queue jumping; and
- vi) reduce the need for Temporary Resident Permits (TRPs) issued by the Minister by making the applications process more fair and efficient, and make the use of TRVs by the Minister both transparent and accountable through a process of independent review.
- vii) refrain from using the term 'resident' or 'residence' in temporary, student and visitor visas to ensure greater certainty for those temporarily visiting Canada.**

Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No

## RESOLUTION P-53

### 104. Recognition of International Credentials

The Conservative Party believes in providing new immigrants with the best possible opportunity to use their education and experience here in Canada. We see this as a matter of fairness to newcomers and their families and a means of ensuring that Canada receives the full benefit of immigration.

A Conservative Government will:

- i) work with the provinces to develop, in consultation with Canadian professional and trade associations, a process to evaluate standards in countries of origin in order to establish a workable system for assessing and recognizing credentials and experience;
- ii) work with the provinces to develop, in consultation with Canadian professional and trade associations, criteria for obtaining equivalent Canadian professional status and transition programs for integration of immigrants into the Canadian workplace;
- iii) require the credentials process to be disclosed to applicants by immigration staff overseas and on the Citizenship and Immigration Canada website;
- iv) encourage international students graduating from accredited Canadian colleges and universities to remain and work in Canada; and
- v) develop a better system to identify Canada's labour market needs and make the points system more flexible to ensure these needs can be met.

### Proposed by: Caucus Member(s)

ii) work with the provinces and territories to

**a) ensure that equivalency exams are fair and that they accurately reflect the level of understanding expected of individuals educated in Canada and**

**b) to develop, in consultation with Canadian professional and trade associations, criteria for obtaining equivalent Canadian professional status and transition programs for integration of immigrants into the Canadian workplace;**

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-54

### 106. Foreign Aid – Official Development Assistance

- i) The Conservative Party believes in the inherent benefits of development assistance to Canadians and the world. Development assistance must be anchored by expression of Canadian values and pursued within the context of Canada's strategic interests as defined by an integrated foreign policy.
- ii) The Conservative Party is committed to strengthening Canada's record in foreign aid. A Conservative Government will introduce legislation that will empower Parliament to define a legal framework for Canada's Official Development Assistance (ODA) envelope of spending. This legislation will include a clear mandate for development assistance; mechanisms for policy coherence, monitoring, accountability and reporting to Parliament; and enhanced public transparency.
- iii) The Conservative Party supports increasing the effectiveness of humanitarian aid efforts by the Canadian government. In order to accomplish this, the Conservative Party will establish clear criteria for recipient countries.
- iv) The Conservative Party will provide the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) with the authority to monitor and report on the expenditure and implementation of all official development assistance dollars to ensure it meets the objectives of poverty reduction, respect for human rights and good governance. CIDA will be responsible for publishing an annual report to the public to maintain public support for increases in ODA, enhance transparency, and increase accountability.
- v) The Conservative Party will ensure that the ODA envelope of spending will increase in a steady and predictable manner, beginning with a significant one-time increase in the ODA budget. Benchmarks will be established in order to allow Canadians to hold the government accountable.

**Proposed by: Caucus Member(s)**

**vi) The Conservative Party believes that CIDA must advise Canadian industry when and where it is committing aid dollars. This will ensure that Canadian businesses have the opportunity to bid on the tenders.**

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-55

### 111. Security

- i) The Conservative Party believes that Canada has a direct interest in a more stable and secure world. Our government must be positioned to deal with complex international security issues in order to protect our citizens and contribute to the broader responsibility.
- ii) A Conservative Government will ensure better cooperation among Canada's intelligence and security agencies to more effectively protect Canadians against internal and external security and economic threats in a changing and unstable global environment. Canada must not be a safe haven for international terrorist operatives.
- iii) A Conservative Government will establish a Canadian national intelligence agency to coordinate existing intelligence from all sources to provide the Prime Minister, senior ministers and officials with national intelligence information and assessments. The creation of a new Canadian national intelligence agency will be drawn from the Privy Council Office's international assessment and security and intelligence secretariats.
- iv) A committee of senior government and official opposition Members of Parliament (sworn to secrecy as required) will be established to scrutinize and oversee the activities of the national intelligence agency, utilizing confidential and in-camera sessions as required. The head of the national intelligence agency should be confirmed by Parliament and should appear before the committee as required.
- v) In a post September 11th world, a Conservative Government will enhance the foreign intelligence gathering and analytical capacity of the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service (CSIS), Department of National Defence, and Communications Security Establishment (CSE).
- vi) A Conservative Government will work with our North American partners to coordinate efforts on security for our collective personal safety and economic prosperity.
- vii) The responsibilities for a revitalized Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) should be part of the Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness. As part of increasing marine security, we will reinstitute the Ports Police as a unit of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), and increase surveillance on the coasts and the Great Lakes.
- viii) A Conservative Government will ensure that agencies such as CSIS, RCMP, Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) and Coast Guard are properly resourced both in manpower and equipment.

### Proposed by: Lanark – Frontenac-Lennox & Addington

- vi) A Conservative Government will work with our North American partners to coordinate efforts on security for our collective personal safety and economic prosperity **with particular emphasis on preservation of our Northern waters.**

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

## RESOLUTION P-56

**Please Note:**

- Any existing policy being proposed for deletion is ~~struck thru~~.
- Any policy being deleted because it has been completed is ~~struck thru and highlighted~~.
- Any proposed updating and all textual editing has been **bolded and underlined**.
- This omnibus contains resolutions prepared by the National Policy Committee to ensure the 2005 Policy Declaration is sufficiently updated to reflect our years in Government.

**Do you support this resolution? Yes - or - No**

### 2. MINISTERIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

A fundamental component of Parliamentary government is Ministerial accountability to Parliament. The Conservative Party is determined to enforce parliamentary principles of government accountability. **The Conservative Party believes that** ministers ~~in a Conservative Government will~~ **should continue to** have authority and be accountable for the policies they implement and the administrative actions of their departments.

### 3. PUBLIC SERVICE EXCELLENCE

~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party believes that all Canadians deserve** will ensure that Canadians have an efficient, effective, and independent professional public service. ~~A Conservative government will legislate~~ **The Conservative Party believes that the government should build upon the** whistleblowing protection **legislation it enacted in the 39<sup>th</sup> Parliament,** to ensure that those who expose corruption and wrongdoing are protected from reprisal. **The Conservative Party continues to support any measures which enhance public service effectiveness and accountability.**

### 4. SOUND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

i) ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party believes the government should continue the work it started in the 39<sup>th</sup> Parliament to** strengthen the internal audit and comptrollership functions of government, ensuring that program delivery matches the intent of the program, spending is measured against objectives and cost overruns are brought immediately to the immediate attention of Parliament.

ii) ~~A Conservative Government will create the independent office of the Comptroller General reporting to Parliament with a mandate to ensure that the highest standards and practices of expenditure management are enforced in all federal departments, Crown corporations, agencies and foundations.~~

iii) ~~A Conservative Government will restore~~ **The Conservative Party believes in** the audit role of the Treasury Board.

iv) ~~A Conservative Government will allow~~ **The Conservative Party believes that** the Auditor General **should be able** to table reports with the Clerk of the House of Commons...

v) ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party believes the government should** ensure transparency, ~~and~~ accuracy of and confidence in the government's finances by providing the Auditor General with full access to all documents from all federal organizations, including all agencies, Crown corporations, the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) Investment Board, and foundations. ~~Currently, the Auditor General does not have full access to all of the government's books.~~

#### 5. GOVERNMENT DUPLICATION AND WASTE

~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party believes the government should** streamline government services and eliminate waste, unnecessary overlap and duplication between the levels of government.

#### 6. OFFICERS OF PARLIAMENT

~~A Conservative Government will ensure~~ **The Conservative Party believes** that senior officers such as the Auditor General, Chief Electoral Officer, Comptroller General, Ethics Commissioner, Information Commissioner, and Privacy Commissioner ~~will~~ **should** be appointed by Parliament and report to it.

#### 7. FREE VOTES

~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party believes in** restoring democratic accountability in to the House of Commons by allowing free votes. ~~A Conservative Government will make all~~ **All** votes **should be** free, except for the budget, ~~and~~ main estimates, ~~and~~ **core government initiatives**. On issues of moral conscience, such as abortion, the definition of marriage, and euthanasia, the Conservative Party acknowledges the diversity of deeply-held personal convictions among individual party members and the right of Members of Parliament to adopt positions in consultation with their constituents and to vote freely.

#### 8. SUPREME COURT JUDGE APPOINTMENTS

~~A Conservative Government will ensure~~ **The Conservative Party believes** that nominees to the Supreme Court of Canada ~~will~~ **should** be ratified by a free vote in Parliament...

#### 9. SENATE REFORM

i) ~~A Conservative Government will support~~ **The Conservative Party supports** the election of senators...

ii) ~~Where~~ **The Conservative Party believes that wherever** the people of a province or territory by democratic election choose persons qualified to be appointed to the Senate, **the government should continue the practice it started in the 39<sup>th</sup> Parliament** of filling any vacancy in the Senate for that province or territory from among those elected persons.

#### 10. ELECTORAL REFORM

i) ~~A Conservative Government will consider~~ **The Conservative Party believes the discussion of possible changes to** is open to the possibility of changes to electoral systems **the electoral system is valuable in a healthy democracy.**

12. PARLIAMENT AND THE COURTS

- i) ~~A Conservative Government will ensure that~~ **The Conservative Party believes that Parliament, rather than the courts, is should be** the law-making body of Canada ~~rather than abdicating that responsibility to the courts.~~
- ii) ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party supports the establishment of a parliamentary** Judicial Review Committee ~~of Parliament...~~

14. FEDERALISM

~~A Conservative Government will restore the~~ **The Conservative Party supports the restoration of a** constitutional balance between the federal and provincial and territorial governments.

The Conservative Party is committed to the federal principle and to the notion of strong provinces within Canada. ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party believes the government should** work co-operatively with the provinces to improve the lives of Canadians while respecting the division of power and responsibilities outlined in the Constitution.

**The Conservative Party believes** ~~Government will ensure~~ that the use of the federal spending power in **areas of** provincial jurisdictions is **should be** limited, **and that provinces should be** authorized ~~ed~~ ~~the provinces~~ to use the opting out formula with full compensation if they want to opt out of a new or modified federal program in **an** areas of shared or exclusively **provincial** jurisdiction.

15. REFORM OF THE FEDERATION

- i) ~~A Conservative Government~~ **The Conservative Party believes the government should** consider reforming Canadian federalism, taking into account: ...
- ii) ... ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party** supports the work of the Council of the Federation ....

16. FISCAL IMBALANCE

**The Conservative Party believes that fiscal balance, brought in by Budget 2007, must be maintained.** ~~A Conservative Government will fix, in collaboration with the provinces, the problem of fiscal imbalance by increasing the amounts allocated to provincial transfers, by reducing taxes, or by transferring tax points to the provinces.~~

17. BALANCED BUDGET LEGISLATION

~~A Conservative Government will enact~~ **The Conservative Party believes the government should enact** balanced budget legislation....

18. DEBT REPAYMENT

- i) ~~A Conservative Government will move~~ **The Conservative Party believes the government should continue** to pay down the mortgage, which the huge national debt places on the

shoulders of our children and grandchildren, thus reducing the interest payment on the debt which is the single largest federal budgetary commitment.

ii) ~~A Conservative Government will introduce~~ **The Conservative Party supports the introduction of** a debt repayment plan with the main part of budget surplus being allocated to ...

#### 19. TAX RELIEF

i) ~~A Conservative Government will provide immediate and long term broad based tax relief, starting with reducing personal income tax rates and substantially raising both the Basic Personal Exemption and the Spousal Exemption under the Income Tax Act.~~ **The Conservative Party supports both immediate and long-term broad-based tax relief, building upon the GST cuts and income tax reductions introduced in the 39<sup>th</sup> Parliament.** Reducing personal income taxes **is a priority for the Conservative Party because it increases** ~~will hike~~ the take home pay and raises the living standard of all Canadians.

ii) ~~A Conservative Government will reduce~~ **The Conservative Party encourages the government to continue the process of reducing business taxes which had started in the 39<sup>th</sup> Parliament.** Reducing business taxes ~~would encourage~~ **encourages** both foreign and domestic businesses to invest in Canada, meaning more and better jobs for Canadian workers. Lower business taxes mean **more jobs as well as** greater returns for pension plan members and those who own RRSPs, mutual funds and common shares.

iii) ~~A Conservative Government will reduce capital gains taxes.~~ **The Conservative Party believes that** lower capital gains taxes encourage saving and investment which means more capital for Canadian businesses, more jobs for Canadian workers and bigger returns for Canadian investors. **Therefore, the Conservative Party supports new measures such as those introduced in the 39<sup>th</sup> Parliament, in which the lifetime capital gains exemption for small business owners, farmers, wood-lot operators, and fishers were increased.**

iv) ~~A Conservative Government will reduce payroll taxes.~~ **The Conservative Party believes that** payroll taxes ~~that~~ **should not** exceed the amount necessary to properly fund Employment Insurance **because unnecessarily high payroll taxes** are a tax on job creation. Lower payroll taxes encourage hiring and business expansion.

v) Canada's tax system must be built on a foundation of fairness. The Conservative Party ~~will take steps~~ **encourages the Government to continue** to close loopholes such as the use of offshore tax havens which erode the Canadian tax base and allow companies to avoid paying Canadian taxes.

#### 20. FAMILY TAX FAIRNESS

i) ~~A Conservative Government will create~~ **The Conservative Party supports** tax fairness for families by eliminating inequities between single and dual income ...

ii) ~~A Conservative Government will amend the Income Tax Act to eliminate~~ **The Conservative Party supports the elimination of** all tax disadvantages ~~to~~ **for** families ...

iii) The Conservative Party also recognizes that many of our seniors lived on single family incomes as one parent stayed home and cared for their children. Our seniors deserve tax fairness to eliminate the discrepancy between single and dual family income in retirement. ~~A Conservative Government will review income splitting as a means of creating this tax fairness.~~

## 22. EQUALIZATION

Equalization is an essential component of Canada's nation building efforts. ~~The Conservative Party supports changes to the equalization program to ensure provinces and territories have the opportunity to develop their economies and sustain important core social services. We will remove non-renewable natural resource revenue from the equalization formula to encourage the development of economic growth in the non-renewable resource sectors across Canada. The Conservative Party will ensure that no province is adversely affected from changes to the equalization formula.~~ **The Conservative Party believes that provinces and territories should be able to provide comparable public services at comparable levels of taxation; therefore, we support an equalization formula and a territorial financing formula which are fair to every jurisdiction and which promote economic growth.**

## 23. MONETARY POLICY

~~A Conservative Government will promote~~ **The Conservative Party supports** a stable and predictable monetary policy that creates a positive climate for investment and growth for Canada within the context of the global economy.

## 24. TAXPAYER'S BILL OF RIGHTS

~~A Conservative Government will implement a Taxpayer's Bill of Rights to ensure that taxpayers are treated fairly, and will create an independent Office of Taxpayer Protection, which would act as an ombudsman for Canada Revenue Agency complaints.~~

## 25. INDEPENDENT CHIEF ACTUARY

~~... To improve the public's confidence that the promises made by governments are affordable over the long term, a Conservative Government would~~ **the Conservative Party supports making** the Chief Actuary of Canada an independent officer of Parliament.

## 26. ECONOMIC PRINCIPLES

~~A Conservative Government will create~~ **The Conservative Party believes that it is the responsibility of government to create** an economic climate in which Canadians can thrive and prosper, and with their success create quality job opportunities for Canadians.

The Conservative Party believes that a dollar in the hand of a Canadian citizen is better than a dollar in the hand of a government ~~bureauerat~~ bureaucracy. Canadians should be enjoying a higher standard of living, a more competitive economy and greater productivity, similar to our major trading partners. ~~A Conservative Government will ensure that~~ **The Conservative Party believes that** Canada's competitive position in the world ~~is not~~ **should never be** impeded by a lack of ethics in **Canada's** government.

## 27. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

ii) ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party believes that government should** work with international organizations and individual nations to reduce protectionist policies to secure free trade agreements. Our goal in negotiations will be to secure agreements that benefit Canadian manufacturers by allowing them to compete and succeed through

competition on a level playing field. Where there is injurious harm caused by a trade action, and we have a reasonable chance of winning and/or reversing this action, we will support an industry on a temporary basis until the trade action is resolved.

iii) ~~A Conservative Government would~~ **The Conservative Party supports amending** the Investment Canada Act to expand the review process ...

iv) ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party supports the privatization of** crown corporations that compete directly with comparable services ...

#### 28. SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

i) ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party supports the establishment** a single authority or single window to review big science projects ...

ii) ~~A Conservative Government will appoint~~ **The Conservative Party supports the creation of** an independent Chief Scientist who will advise and report to Parliament on scientific matters, and help coordinate science policy issues within government, and internationally. This office will be modeled on the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology in the United Kingdom. The Chief Scientist will be mandated by Parliament to provide independent and balanced analysis of public policy issues related to science and technology. This information will be provided openly to Parliamentarians and Canadians to enable informed decisions.

iii) ~~A Conservative Government will uphold~~ **The Conservative Party supports** the funding of innovation, technology and research through the granting councils. The Conservative Party supports a competitive peer review process and enhanced transparency and accountability to determine who shall receive grants through these councils. ~~A Conservative Government would~~ **The Conservative Party believes that government should** continue to fund the indirect costs of research with particular attention to small universities.

iv) ... ~~A Conservative Government will also eliminate~~ **The Conservative Party supports the elimination of** the capital tax and **the reduction of** the capital gains tax because ...

#### 30. INFRASTRUCTURE

~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party supports reducing** federal gasoline taxes **on the condition that** ...

#### 31. FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party believes that government should** protect the best interests of consumers by fostering competition and ensuring that the financial services sector is appropriately regulated, balanced with stability and opportunity for success and growth in these institutions.

#### 32. LABOUR

ii) ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party believes that government should** work with unions and employers in areas of federal jurisdiction to develop a dispute settlement mechanism to minimize or avoid work disruption.

35. COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

iii) ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party believes that government should** give consideration to educational public policy goals within the copyright framework. ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **and** work with industry to increase awareness...

iv) ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party supports the elimination of** the levy on blank recording materials.

37. LONG-TERM ENERGY FRAMEWORK

The Conservative Party believes that Canada has a natural economic advantage due to an abundance of fossil fuels, an abundance of hydro power generation, some of the world's best wind regimes and other renewable and non-renewable sources. The Conservative Party ~~will~~ **believes that government ought to** develop a renewable and non-renewable energy framework which takes into account outstanding obligations and which will meet our long-term requirements for domestic consumption and export. The Conservative Party believes that strengthening energy market integration will ensure greater reliability of energy supplies across Canada. ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party also encourages government to** explore ways to reduce barriers to the movement of energy products across provincial and other

39. INTERNATIONAL TRADE

i) ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party supports bringing** more security to existing trade related jobs. To create new employment opportunities, our trade agenda will focus on diversifying both the products we sell abroad and the markets into which we sell those products. ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party emphasizes the importance** of secure access to international markets through a rules based trading system. ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party believes that Canada should** strive to maximize the benefits we have as a free trading nation, **and emphasizes** the need to establish trading relationships beyond North America.

iii) ~~A Conservative Government would move to find~~ **The Conservative Party supports efforts by the government to develop** new markets for Canadian goods and services by emphasizing **the** development of trade ties with emerging markets.

40. INTER-PROVINCIAL TRADE

~~A Conservative Government will take~~ **The Conservative Party believes that the government is responsible for taking** the lead in working with its provincial partners to eliminate inter-provincial trade barriers in commerce, labour, and capital mobility.

41. TRANSPORTATION

i) ~~A Conservative Government~~ **The Conservative Party supports** expanding 'Open Skies' to promote competition and consumer choice.

ii) ~~A Conservative Government~~ **The Conservative Party supports** a modern, efficient transportation system is integral to the well-being of Canada's economy...

- iii) ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party** supports public-private infrastructure investment as part of a comprehensive approach to improving and sustaining a world-class transportation system.
- iv) ~~A Conservative Government will work~~ **The Conservative Party believes that the government always should work** in partnership with the provinces and territories to achieve an integrated transportation system.
- v) ~~A Conservative Government will work~~ **The Conservative Party believes that the government should work** in partnership with the provinces to achieve a truly 'National Highway System'. A first-class Trans-Canada highway should be the centrepiece.
- vi) ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party supports the reduction or elimination of** federal government fees, levies, taxes and rents, ...
- vii) ~~A Conservative Government will re-evaluate the corporate governance and ensure~~ **The Conservative Party supports strong** accountability **mechanisms for corporate governance** at Canada's airport authorities.
- viii) ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party believes that ensuring** access to future transportation infrastructure for people with disabilities is a fundamental priority ...
- ix) **The Conservative Party believes that, in order** to reduce automobile-rail accidents at level crossings, ~~a Conservative Government will encourage~~ **the government should continue to ensure that** railroad owners ~~to~~ take more responsibility for ensuring consistency in level crossing markings and equipping rail cars with side reflectors.
- x) ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party believes that the government should** assume responsibility for legitimate Customs and Immigration costs for all points of entry ...
- xiii) ~~A Conservative Government will work on a solution~~ **The Conservative Party believes that it is an important ongoing responsibility of government** to improve border crossings and alleviate congestion at the borders, ~~setting goals within specified timelines while recognizing~~ **The Conservative Party also recognizes** the need for improving security and improved relations with the United States ~~and establish a study of~~ **and recommends that the feasibility of** a North American perimeter **be studied**.

#### 42. ENVIRONMENTAL PRINCIPLES

- i) In order to have a strong economy and maintain good health, Canada must have strong, coordinated and achievable environmental policies. ~~A~~ **The Conservative Government Party** believes **that** responsible exploration, development, conservation and renewal of our environment is vital to our continued well-being as a nation and as individuals. ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party believes that it is the responsibility of government to** ensure that the sometimes competing values of preserving the environment and creating jobs are maintained in proper balance.
- ii) ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party believes:**
  - a) **that** ~~initiate a review of~~ all environment and energy initiatives, ~~including the Kyoto Accord~~ **should be reviewed;**
  - b) ~~adopt a new approach for an environmental strategy at the international level~~ **that an effective international emissions reduction regime on climate change must be truly**

global and must include binding targets for all the world's major emitters, including China and the United States;

c) that Canada should create a program to heighten public awareness to the economic benefits of environmental solutions ~~minimizing~~ which minimize the ~~wasting~~ waste of resources; and

d) that Canada should establish a program of tax credits to promote environmental solutions in the areas of transportation and entrepreneurial innovation, among others.

#### 43. CLEAN AIR AND GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTIONS

~~A Conservative Government will legislate caps on~~ The Conservative Party supports the legislated emissions caps introduced in the 39<sup>th</sup> Parliament to fight smog-causing pollutants like nitrogen oxide (NOx), sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), and volatile organic compounds (VOC's), and supports the initiative to cut air pollution from industry in half by 2015.

The Conservative Party supports the mandatory renewable fuel content in gasoline requirement that was enacted in the 39<sup>th</sup> Parliament, and supports more stringent automobile fuel efficiency standards. ~~We will negotiate power plant and smokestack~~

~~emissions limits with the United States and the northern border states. Within Canada we~~ ~~Within Canada we will also investigate~~ The Conservative Party supports a domestic cap-and-trade system that will allow firms to generate credits by reducing smog-causing pollutants.

The Conservative Party supports the initiative, started in the 39<sup>th</sup> Parliament, to move from a voluntary approach to greenhouse gas emissions, which had allowed industry to keep polluting, to an integrated regulatory framework with mandatory emission reduction targets across all major industries.

The Conservative Party supports the reduction of greenhouse gases per unit of production by means of targets that become progressively more restrictive each year.

#### 45. CONTAMINATED SITES

~~In cooperation with the provinces, territories, and municipalities, a Conservative Government will determine how many federal contaminated sites are in Canada, rank them according to the threats they pose, and~~ The Conservative Party supports initiatives to provide stable long-term funding to for the cleanup of contaminated sites in cooperation with the provinces, territories and municipalities.

~~A Conservative Government will~~ The Conservative Party believes that the government should continue to remove roadblocks that discourage the private sector from cleaning and developing contaminated land:

#### 46. OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT

~~A Conservative Government will~~ The Conservative Party believes the government should continue to promote exploration and environmental assessment of offshore natural resources on both the Pacific and Atlantic coasts, in cooperation with the provinces, affected First Nations, private industry and other relevant scientific and environmental groups. ~~We will ensure~~ The Conservative Party believes that companies should follow best practices and the precautionary principle to mitigate environmental risk, allow for arms-length regulatory processes to ensure

safe and environmentally responsible practices prior to development of these natural resources, and consider the potential of these natural resources before designating new Marine Protected Areas.

#### 47. WATER - GREAT LAKES

~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party believes the government should continue** working with the United States to ~~provide a clear federal plan of action to address critical threats to the sustainability of our shared resource, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin. Our government will provide adequate funding to fulfill its commitment to this region, which is home to 16 million Canadians and is a crucial source of clean air, drinking water, food, shelter, health, employment and recreation, as well as Canada's highest concentration of industry. We will~~ **The Conservative Party believes that government should** establish long-term outcomes; translate them into real plans for the basin; apply a consistent basin-wide approach for issues that span the entire basin; clarify responsibilities of federal and provincial governments; and recognize constitutional authority of the provinces.

#### 48. ILLEGAL OIL DUMPING

i) ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party believes in the following initiatives:** expanded oil-dumping detection; **prohibitions to prevent** ships from entering sensitive sea areas; ~~legislate~~ **legislation requiring** ship operators to account for their ships' waste; and ~~offer~~ incentives to dump waste at our port facilities, not in our waters.

ii) ~~A Conservative Government will massively~~ **The Conservative Party supports** increased fines for illegal oil dumping, a practice that kills hundreds of thousands of sea birds every year along Canada's coastlines. ~~This problem is encouraged by current Canadian laws that make profitable the practice of dumping oil in the ocean instead of disposing of it legally at a port. Ship operators caught illegally dumping oil will~~ **should** face criminal charges and be prevented from plying Canadian waters.

#### 49. AQUIFER MAPPING

~~A~~ **The Conservative Government Party supports the will-development of** a long-term plan in cooperation with the provinces and territories to create an inventory that could define significant and key aquifers and establish policy to protect the quality and sustainability of Canada's major aquifers. ~~Currently, there is no clarity on the quality, sustainability or number of Canada's aquifers — the geologic units capable of containing a usable amount of groundwater. With the threat of groundwater resources becoming depleted in Canada we will face increasing need to understand the extent and replenishment of aquifers.~~

#### 50. AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

~~A~~ **The Conservative Party believes that the** government **should,** in cooperation with local, provincial and international governments, ~~will~~ make....

52. MEDICARE AUDIT

~~A Conservative Government will conduct~~ **The Conservative Party supports the concept of** a social audit, under the existing office of the Chief Actuary ...

53. PUBLIC HEALTH

~~The Conservative Party supports the creation of a Canada Public Health Agency and the appointment of a Chief Public Health Officer of Canada.~~ **The Conservative Party recognizes** the importance of wellness promotion and disease prevention in enhancing the health of Canadians and contributing to the sustainability of our health care system.

54. HEALTH SCIENCES RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION

i) The Conservative Party recognizes the importance of health sciences research in enhancing the health of Canadians and as a dynamic economic sector in its own right. ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party encourages all governments to** foster an environment that encourages health sciences research and development of new health care technologies, **which** in part **can be achieved** through the provision of an adequate level of federal funding.

60. POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

i) ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party supports** removing post-secondary education funding from the Canada Social Transfer and create an independent Canada Education Transfer. ...

ii) ~~A Conservative Government will change the current policy and make scholarships and bursaries tax free.~~ **The Conservative Party believes that the government must ensure that scholarships and bursaries, which were made tax-free in the 2006 budget, are not taxed in the future.**

61. STUDENT LOANS

i) ~~A Conservative Government will revamp the federal student loan program to eliminate~~ **The Conservative Party supports** eliminating **limiting** the inclusion of parental income and assets in the assessment of loan applications.

ii) ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party supports** providing greater flexibility to students paying back federal student loans ...

iii) ~~As the Millennium Scholarship Program currently only assists six per cent of students, a Conservative Government will channel these funds into the student loan program to help more students obtain post-secondary education.~~

62. EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

~~A Conservative Government~~ **The Conservative Party supports** the establishment of an independent employment insurance system...

63. FAMILY AND MARRIAGE

iii) The Conservative Party believes that Parliament, through a free vote, and not the courts should determine the definition of marriage. ~~A Conservative Government would support~~ **The Conservative Party supports** the freedom of religious organizations to determine their own practices with respect to marriage.

64. SUPPORT FOR PARENTS

~~A Conservative Government will consider, in collaboration with the provinces and territories, establishing the policies required to give parents who choose to stay home to take care of their preschool children the recognition and financial support they need to carry out this important task.~~

65. SHARED PARENTING

~~A Conservative Government will make the necessary changes to the Divorce Act to ensure~~ **The Conservative Party believes** that in the event of a marital breakdown, the Divorce Act **will should** allow both parents and all grandparents ...

66. CHILD CARE

The Conservative Party recognizes that parents are in the best position to determine the care needs of their children, and that they should be able to do so in an environment that encourages as many options as possible, and in a manner that does not discriminate against ~~those~~ **parents** who opt to raise their children in **the** family, social, linguistic, and religious environments **that they judge to be best for their own families.** ~~We also recognize that the delivery of education and social services are provincial responsibilities under the constitution. We believe that support should go to all parents and families raising children, especially to lower and middle income parents. All existing levels of support will be maintained and improved if necessary.~~ **The Conservative Party strongly supports the Universal Child Care Benefit introduced in the 2006 Budget.**

68. SENIORS

i) ... ~~A Conservative Government would end~~ **The Conservative Party opposes** the discriminatory practice of mandatory retirement and **believes** ~~give~~ Canadians **should be given** the choice of ~~retirement~~ **ing** or continuing to work ...

ii) ~~Canadians over the age of 65 who cannot collect Employment Insurance yet are required to pay premiums when working. A Conservative Government would end this unfair practice and ensure~~ **The Conservative Party believes** that those over the age of 65 ~~would~~ **should not only** pay Employment Insurance premiums **if they qualify to receive Employment Insurance benefits.**

iii) ... ~~A Conservative Government would create~~ **The Conservative Party supports** tax incentives for non-professional caregivers to look after elderly parents ...

iv) ~~A Conservative Government would take~~ **The Conservative Party favours** tough measures to prevent elder abuse, and ~~to implement~~ more severe punishment for those who commit this crime.

- ~~v) A Conservative Government would appoint a Minister Responsible for Seniors to ensure that the unique needs of seniors are being properly addressed across government departments.~~  
~~vi) A Conservative Government will appoint a Seniors Council comprised of seniors and representatives of seniors' organizations to advise the Minister Responsible for Seniors on issues of national importance.~~

#### 69. RETIREMENT SAVINGS

- i) ~~A Conservative Government~~ **The Conservative Party** values retirement security as a vital element of independence. We confirm our commitment to the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and Old Age Security (OAS). ...
- ii) ~~A Conservative Government will pursue~~ **The Conservative Party favours** economic and fiscal policies that will ensure government retirement programs are affordable and sustainable over the long run, protecting the sanctity of the CPP investment fund so that it will not be available to be raided as a vehicle to balance the budget or for any other political purpose.
- iii) ~~A Conservative Government will ensure~~ **The Conservative Party emphasizes the importance of ensuring** that the CPP Investment Fund is mandated to seek maximum security and to maximize the rate of return being earned on behalf of Canada's pensioners. No other policy objective will be permitted to interfere with the objectives of security and maximum rate of return.
- ~~iv) A Conservative Government will recognize the efforts put forth by Canadians to prepare for retirement and consider the splitting of registered retirement income and how best to enable flexibility in pension withdrawals.~~
- ~~v) A Conservative Government will increase financial flexibility by implementing a Registered Lifetime Savings Plan which would allow Canadians to withdraw their savings tax free.~~ **The Conservative Party believes that the Tax Free Savings Account, introduced in the 2008 Budget, must be preserved and enhanced.**
- vi) The Conservative Party believes that the significant increase in the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) exemption, introduced in the 39<sup>th</sup> Parliament, must be maintained.**

#### 70. HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

- ii) ~~A Conservative Government would develop a policy of~~ **The Conservative Party** supports a broad-based tax relief, income support programs and tax incentives to make home ownership and rental accommodation more attainable and accessible.
- iii) ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party believes that all governments should** address homelessness by assisting in the provision of shelters and by recognizing, addressing and seeking solutions to contributing factors of homelessness.
- iv) ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party believes that the government should** partner and link with the respective jurisdictions of provincial, territorial and municipal governments, business initiatives and the work of social agencies and non-profit organizations, in dealing with housing, homelessness, social infrastructure and related support services, such as skills development, literacy, substance abuse treatment, health and social development.
- ~~v) A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party believes that the government should** work with the provinces and municipalities to develop framework agreements that help

low-income city dwellers access affordable housing, through the use of tax incentives for private sector builders. The Conservative Party recognizes that most renters live in urban centres, and that the pressures of population growth as well as certain economic factors have made it increasingly difficult for many renters to find housing.

#### 71. NATIONAL DISABILITY ACT

~~A Conservative Government will introduce~~ **The Conservative Party supports** a National Disability Act designed to promote reasonable access to medical care, medical equipment, education, employment, transportation and housing for Canadians with disabilities.

#### 73. LAND TITLE

ii) ~~A Conservative Government~~ **The Conservative Party supports the development,** in conjunction with First Nations, ~~of~~ ~~would create~~ a First Nations Land Ownership Act ....

#### 76. JUSTICE PRINCIPLES

~~A Conservative Government will reorient~~ **The Conservative Party supports reorienting** the approach to criminal justice and the policing system to give greater emphasis to the protection of society through the prevention of crime. Additionally, we support ~~and~~ **emphasizing** the needs and rights of victims.

#### 77. DANGEROUS OFFENDERS

i) ~~A Conservative Government~~ **The Conservative Party** believes that the government has an obligation to strengthen Canadians' confidence in our legal system's ability to judge dangerous offenders appropriately so that dangerous offenders will not be released until they are no longer a threat to society.

ii) Anyone convicted of three offences causing death or serious harm ~~shall~~ **should** be automatically designated as a dangerous offender **and should bear the onus of proving that they are no longer a danger to society.** This would not preclude the Crown from pursuing dangerous offender status for any other offender deemed to fit the criteria.

#### 78. SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY

~~A Conservative Government will require~~ **The Conservative Party supports** the registration of all convicted sex and ~~(pronounced)~~ **designated** dangerous offenders...

#### 79. SENTENCING

**The Conservative Party supports** ~~A Conservative Government will:~~

- i) ~~institute~~ mandatory minimum sentences for violent and repeat offenders;
- ii) **requiring** that sentences for multiple convictions be served consecutively;
- iii) **eliminating** statutory (automatic) release;
- iv) ~~Reform the National Parole Board including increased input from~~ **ensuring that** the community and victims **have input on** ~~in~~ National Parole Board decisions; and
- v) **requiring** applicants for parole to demonstrate to the National Parole Board ...

~~80. NATIONAL VICTIMS' OMBUDSMAN OFFICE~~

~~A Conservative Government will establish a National Victims' Ombudsman Office with a budget allocation equal to that of the Office of the Correctional Investigator to ensure victims have a voice in the federal corrections and the justice system.~~

82. ORGANIZED CRIME

i) ~~A Conservative Government would~~ **The Conservative Party** recognizes that organized crime is growing throughout Canada...

83. YOUNG OFFENDERS

i) ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party supports introducing** measures to hold young lawbreakers accountable to their victims and the larger community. ...

ii) ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party encourages the government to work with the provinces and territories to ensure that the put in place early identification and intervention strategies for youth at risk, which were implemented in the first term of the Conservative Government, continue to work.** The justice system for young people will provide effective punishment that deters criminal behaviour and instils a sense of responsibility in young offenders for their behaviour; and gives young people better opportunities for rehabilitation.

85. CHILD PROTECTION

~~A Conservative Government will act to protect~~ **The Conservative Party supports the protection of** children by ~~eliminating~~ **through the elimination of** all defences that are used to justify the possession of child pornography.

~~A Conservative Government would rename the Age of Consent to the Age of Protection and raise it from 14 to 16 years of age.~~ **The Conservative Party will oppose any effort to lower the age of protection below 16 years of age, to which it was raised in the first term of the Conservative government.**

86. MISSING PERSONS REGISTRY

~~A Conservative Government will enact~~ **The Conservative Party supports the creation of** a national missing persons registry to ...

~~91. BILINGUALISM~~ **OFFICIAL LANGUAGES**

i) ~~A Conservative Government will support~~ **The Conservative Party supports** the Official Languages Act ensuring that English and French have equality of status and equal rights and privileges as to their use in all institutions of the Parliament and Government of Canada.

ii) The Conservative Party will **encourages the government to continue working** with the provinces and territories to enhance opportunities for Canadians to learn both official languages.

93. ARTS AND CULTURE

i) The Conservative Party supports arts, culture and the diverse heritage of Canada. Recognition that language is an integral part of one's culture and heritage should form the basis for decision

making relating to its cultural and artistic community. **The Conservative Party encourages the government to recognize the diverse cultural nature of Canada and its shared history, and to take these into account when** ~~While recognizing Canada's diverse culture and shared history, the Conservative Party will~~ **working** to strengthen opportunities and accessibility in both the domestic and international markets for our creative works.

ii) The Conservative Party believes that government support should be linked to accountability, transparency and sustainability. **The Conservative Party believes that ongoing scrutiny is necessary to ensure** ~~A review of programs and policies will ensure that they~~ effectively meet their objectives, ~~and~~ are based on merit, and **will** remove political involvement from the process. Arts, culture and heritage make a substantial contribution to Canadian society and ~~in a positive way, affect the quality of life~~ **have a positive impact on the lives** of many Canadians. ~~A Conservative Government will, through the tax system and other means,~~ **The Conservative Party supports measures, including those implemented through the tax system, which encourage** ~~support~~ charitable giving by individuals and corporations to the arts and cultural community ~~in order that its work can be expanded.~~

#### 94. AMATEUR SPORT

The Conservative Party recognizes the value of promoting amateur sport as a means of building legacy and heritage in local communities, and as a means of serving future generations of athletes. ~~We will~~ **The Conservative Party believes in** ~~help develop tax incentives to supporting~~ and **increasing** participation in local and top-tier international sporting events. An investment in amateur sport is an investment in future Canadian leaders and builds Canadian representatives around the world.

#### 96. AGRICULTURE PRINCIPLES

ii) Export and Diversification. To ensure that Canada has a secure supply of food, ~~a Conservative Government will encourage~~ **the Conservative Party supports** self-sufficiency in national food production, ...

iii) Sustainability. If we are to ensure that Canada's food supply is assured in the long term, agricultural production must be both economically and environmentally sustainable. We believe that responsible land use and receiving a fair return for growing food go hand in hand. To mitigate against unforeseen adversity, we will **continue putting** in the hands of the individual producer **the** innovative economic tools they need to be flexible, to respond to changing market conditions and to manage the risks of weather and disease.

iv) Rural Economy. As the agricultural base of the rural economy has declined, so too has infrastructure in small communities. To preserve the social fabric of rural Canada, ~~a Conservative Government will~~ **the Conservative Party encourages the government to foster** diversity and responsible development in small towns and villages by encouraging innovation in the development of small businesses that keep these communities alive.

#### 99. FISHERIES

i) ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party encourages the government to** work cooperatively with the provinces and territories in all regions of the country to put

emphasis on protecting and enhancing all stocks. This must be done in order to meet the needs of Canadians rather than reducing the harvesting and processing efforts to fit declining and mismanaged fisheries.

ii) ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party encourages the government to** take a leadership role in international dealings with other fishing countries in order to assure cooperative management of common stocks and end fishing abuses, including foreign overfishing. We will not hesitate to take **encourage the government to maintain its commitment to take** custodial management of the stocks on the Nose and Tail of the Grand Banks and the Flemish Cap. We recognize that fish is a renewable resource which can be rebuilt and sustained through a proper investment in science and management.

iii) ~~A Conservative Government would~~ **The Conservative Party believes in** investing significantly in ~~increasing~~ our scientific knowledge base and **in making** firm and fair decisions based on facts, with a regulatory and enforcement regime that has the ability to carry out the necessary function. Responsibility must come from participating regions where more decision making must be located so that wild stocks, as well as aquaculture, can be managed appropriately.

iv) ~~A Conservative Government would ensure that the current capital gains deferral available to farmers and woodlot owners when capital property is transferred to a child is extended for the commercial fishery.~~

v) ~~A Conservative Government will adopt,~~ **The Conservative Party encourages the government to work** with any interested province or territory, a system of increased provincial management over fisheries through a system of joint management and joint fisheries councils modelled on the system proposed by unanimous resolution of the Newfoundland and Labrador House of Assembly in May 2003 and as detailed in the government of Newfoundland and Labrador's white paper on the subject as released in 2003. **to increase and streamline mechanisms for provincial management of fisheries.**

#### 101. SETTLEMENT SUPPORT

... ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party believes in:**

- i) **working** cooperatively with the provinces and municipalities on policy relating to settlement support...
- ii) **addressing** the need for adequate and equitable resources to provide language instruction...
- iii) **working** to streamline the funding process to deliver enhanced funding stability...
- iv) **examining** the feasibility of having federal funds for settlement services...

#### 102. REFUGEE DETERMINATION

... ~~A Conservative Government will~~ **The Conservative Party believes in:**

- i) **streamlining** the process of validating refugee claims;
  - ii) where the Immigration and Refugee Board finds claimants do not qualify as genuine refugees, **ensuring** such individuals are escorted from Canada...;
  - iii) **giving** greater priority to refugees identified pursuant to the United Nations Convention ...
  - iv) **implementing** a fully merit-based process for Immigration and Refugee Board appointments;
- and

v) developing a refugee appeals process that is fair and timely.

### 103. APPLICATIONS PROCESS AND LANDING FEES

The Conservative Party endorses ~~believes that there must be fundamental~~ changes made to the applications process in the first term of the Conservative government, which ~~to~~ minimize stress and uncertainty for applicants and their families while reducing the backlog and meeting the economic needs of Canada.

The Conservative Party also endorses the lowering of landing fees for new immigrants, as introduced during the first term of the Conservative government.

### 104. RECOGNITION OF INTERNATIONAL CREDENTIALS

~~A Conservative Government will~~ The Conservative Party supports:

- i) working with the provinces to develop, in consultation with Canadian professional and trade associations, a process to evaluate standards in countries of origin in order to establish a workable system for assessing and recognizing credentials and experience;
- ii) working with the provinces to develop, in consultation with Canadian professional and trade associations, criteria for obtaining equivalent Canadian professional status and transition programs for integration of immigrants into the Canadian workplace;
- iii) requiring the credentials process to be disclosed to applicants by immigration staff overseas and on the Citizenship and Immigration Canada website;
- iv) encouraging international students graduating from accredited Canadian colleges and universities to remain and work in Canada; and
- v) developing a better system to identify Canada's labour market needs and make the points system more flexible to ensure these needs can be met.

### 105. FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRINCIPLES

iii) ~~A Conservative Government will coordinate~~ The Conservative Party believes that Canada's international relations, trade and foreign aid policies ~~to~~ should advance the country's economic interests ...

### 106. FOREIGN AID – OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

v) The Conservative Party supports measures, started in the first term of the Conservative government, to ensure that the ODA envelope of spending will increase in a steady and predictable manner, and in particular the framework for increasing Canada's contribution to the developing world, under which development assistance will be doubled by 2012. ~~beginning with a significant one-time increase in the ODA budget. Benchmarks will be established in order to allow Canadians to hold the government accountable.~~

### 108. INTERNATIONAL TREATIES

~~Before entering into any new major international treaties or undertakings, a Conservative Government will~~ The Conservative Party supports the practice, which began in the 39<sup>th</sup>

Parliament, of ensuring that Parliament is fully informed and consulted before binding action is taken with regard to any major new international treaty. The provinces will also be fully consulted if such treaties have a direct effect on the authority and finances of provinces in their areas of responsibility.

109. CANADA FIRST DEFENCE POLICY STRATEGY

The Conservative Party believes that:

The purpose of Canada's ~~Conservative~~ defence policy is to better defend the national interest – the security of the Canadian nation and the economic prosperity of the Canadian people – in accord with the values of Canadians. In all that we do in the area of defence policy, we will apply this basic measure of the national interest, and advance a the “Canada First Defence ~~policy~~” Strategy” (CFDS). The Conservative Party supports CFDS because:

(i) CFDS clearly lays out the priority tasks for the armed forces; surveillance and control of Canadian territory and the protection of Canada and Canadians, a strong and reliable partnership with the US in the defence of North America; a strong leadership role in international security and stability operations

(ii) CFDS is a 20-year strategy supported by assured long term funding to strengthen the four pillars of defence; personnel; equipment; readiness and infrastructure. The Strategy provides for a balanced increase in across these 4 pillars, including increasing the personnel strength of the CF and the replacement of all the major equipment systems with new more capable platforms.

(iii) CFDS not only raises the strength of our armed forces but provides our soldiers, sailors and airmen with the best and most modern equipment to carry out the tasks assigned to them. The increase in personnel will reduce stress on soldiers and their families; increased funding for readiness means better and more focused training and the improvement in infrastructure will contribute to bettering the lifestyle of the military community.

(iv) CFDS gives Canadian industry a unique opportunity, through predictable funding and timelines, to plan and prepare in the longer term for the development of equipment and systems to support our Armed Forces. The Strategy will help to maintain the Canadian defence industry to maintain and build their lead in many areas of advanced technology while providing quality jobs for thousands of Canadians across the country.

The Conservative Party fully supports the government's prompt actions to fill some of the most pressing defence priorities: strategic and tactical airlift capability for operational and humanitarian relief tasks; the strengthening of Canada's presence in the Arctic; and giving our forces deployed in Afghanistan the tools they need to establish security and to maximise their own protection in support of NATO and the Government of Afghanistan.

The Conservative Party fully supports the government's renewal of a strong commitment to NORAD and the expanded cooperation with the US, through Canada Command, in the surveillance and control of our coasts and closer coordination of disaster response operations.

- ~~i) The roles and missions supported by the Conservative Party are first, sovereignty protection, domestic defence, and North American shared defence. Conservatives will also support international peace and security missions as well as humanitarian assistance.~~
- ~~ii) The Conservative Party supports a multi-role, combat capable maritime, land and air force as the appropriate requirement to meet the goals of a "Canada First Defence Policy. Fundamental capability requirements are national surveillance and control, counter terrorism, air and sea deployability, as well as logistics supportability.~~
- ~~iii) To achieve these capability requirements, the Conservative Party believes that Canada's national defence must be more effective and efficient. This includes commitments to provide: improved security of our territory, more front line personnel with less administration; a more efficient and properly funded national procurement process; increased investments in infrastructure with a specific care to married quarters and base housing; a more efficient training and recruitment process; a reduction in rank structure overhead, and an increase in Parliamentary oversight over national defence matters.~~
- ~~iv) To achieve the goals of a "Canada First Defence Policy, the Conservative Party believes the regular force strength of the Canadian Forces must be steadily increased to at least 75,000 personnel, along with simultaneous increases in reserve personnel levels.~~
- ~~v) To support and maintain Canada's military today as well as cover the costs of an increased force, the Conservative Party believes in immediately injecting significant funds into the Department's budget, to address the shortfalls in capital, personnel, operating and maintenance activities. To implement our policy, annual increases will follow throughout the mandate.~~
- ~~vi) The Conservative Party supports the longer term goal of increasing the defence budget base to ensure that Canada can advance its national interests, at levels comparable to Canada's NATO European allies. A Conservative Government will increase defence spending to the NATO European average as a percentage of G.D.P. A Conservative Government will also guarantee a stable defence budget so that the Department of National Defence can spend funds on its most urgent operational and equipment priorities.~~
- ~~vii) The Conservative Party supports:
  - ~~a) Canada's participation in negotiation of a North American Missile Defence System on the clear understanding that any agreement must serve Canada's interest;~~
  - ~~b) NORAD as a viable aerospace defence organization to counter threats to North America;~~
  - ~~c) Canada's continued cooperation between Canada and the United States with respect to military activities in defence of North America;~~
  - ~~d) Canada's continued sovereign and independent command of all armed forces operations within Canadian territory; and~~
  - ~~e) Immediate moves to increase equipment and resources to exercise Canada's sovereignty in the Arctic.~~~~
- ~~viii) The Conservative Party believes that a viable Canadian Defence Industry contributes to our national security and our industrial productivity, through such sectors as shipbuilding, aerospace, electronics, and land systems among others. Defence procurement will, subject to availability, quality and cost, support Canadian industry that can meet military requirements. The Conservative Party also believes that it is essential to ensure Canadian defence industry has access to the United States defence procurement market.~~

#### 110. VETERANS

- i) A Conservative Government will treat all veterans with respect and will create a Veteran's Bill of Rights to ensure that all disputes involving veterans are treated quickly, fairly and with the presumption in favour of the rights of the veteran. **The Conservative Party supports the Veterans' Bill of Rights, which was created in 2007 to ensure that all disputes involving veterans are treated quickly, fairly and with the presumption in favour of the rights of the veteran. The Conservative Party regards this as an important component of the national commitment to treating our veterans with respect.**
- ii) A Conservative Government will ensure **The Conservative Party is committed to ensuring that** the veterans of Canada's wars and peacekeeping operations receive their veterans' benefits and health care in a timely fashion.
- iii) A Conservative Government will ensure conduct a complete review of the veterans' hospitals to ensure that the needs of veterans are being met. **The Conservative Party is committed to ensuring that Canada's veterans' hospital and various veterans' wings in regular hospitals are in top working order.**
- iv) The Conservative Party would immediately disband the Veterans Review and Appeal Board (VRAB) and replace the membership with qualified medical and military members who are capable of adjudicating appeals on an informed basis rather than a political basis. The VRAB would be housed in offices separate from VA offices and be in locations as set out in the VA Regional offices (major centres). **supports the continuing reform of the Veterans Review and Appeals Board (VRAB) so that it can more effectively respond to the wishes of veterans.**
- v) The Conservative Party would immediately enlist the services of an Ombudsman with a mandate similar to that of the National Defence Ombudsman.

#### 111. SECURITY

- ii) A Conservative Government will ensure **The Conservative Party is committed to ensuring that** better cooperation among Canada's intelligence and security agencies to more effectively protect Canadians against internal and external security and economic threats in a changing and unstable global environment. Canada must not be a safe haven for international terrorist operatives.
- iii) A **The Conservative Government Party believes the government should consider establishing** a Canadian national intelligence agency to coordinate existing intelligence from all sources to provide the Prime Minister, senior ministers and officials with national intelligence information and assessments. The creation of a new Canadian national intelligence agency will be drawn from the Privy Council Office's international assessment and security and intelligence secretariats.
- iv) **The Conservative Party believes the government should examine the feasibility of establishing** a committee of senior government and official opposition Members of Parliament (sworn to secrecy as required) ~~will be established~~ to scrutinize and oversee the activities of the national intelligence agency, utilizing confidential and in-camera sessions as required, and **also consider having** the head of the national intelligence agency ~~should~~ be confirmed by Parliament and ~~should~~ **appear** before the committee as required.

v) In a post September 11th world, a ~~the~~ Conservative Government will **continue to** enhance the foreign intelligence gathering and analytical capacity of the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service (CSIS), Department of National Defence, and Communications Security Establishment (CSE).

vi) ~~A Conservative Government will work~~ **The Conservative Party believes the government should continue to work** with our North American partners to coordinate efforts on security for our collective personal safety and economic prosperity.

viii) ~~A Conservative Government will ensure~~ **The Conservative Party believes the government should remain committed to ensuring** that agencies such as CSIS, RCMP, Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) and Coast Guard are properly resourced both in manpower and equipment.