



Liberal Party of Canada

Fast-Tracked 2023 Policy Resolutions



Table of Contents

Note: The following policy resolutions are presented as submitted by Policy Sponsor Groups (Provincial/Territorial Boards, Liberal Party Commissions, and the Liberal Caucus). The following fast-tracked resolutions were put to a vote by a sponsor group's respective voting body, and were sponsored as resolutions that would automatically reach the plenary floor at the National Convention.

A resolution is not considered an official party policy unless it has earned majority support at the policy plenary on the national convention floor.

5-Wing Goose Bay be Designated Primary Search & Rescue Base with Dedicated Air Resources 430.....	3
Climate Crisis 431.....	5
Enhancing Use of Railways For Public Transportation: A Climate Change Mitigation Strategy 432.....	6
Improved Community Climate Resiliency 433.....	7
4 Weeks of Paid Vacation: An Overdue Reform to Catch up to Canada’s Industrialized Peers and Bring our Work-life Balance into the 21st Century 434.....	8
Sound Debt Management and a Return to Balanced Budgets in Canada 435.....	10
A Green Transition for the Prairie Provinces 436.....	11
Truth in Politics 437.....	12
Mandatory Voting 438.....	14
A Citizen’s Assembly on Electoral Reform 439.....	15
Northern Energy Solutions 440.....	16
Modernizing the Canadian Justice System 441.....	17
Free Movement Between Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom 442.....	18
Helping Farmers Transition to More Sustainable Farming Practices 443.....	19
Save Lives – Keep Seniors Home 444.....	21
Affordable Housing 477.....	23

5-Wing Goose Bay be Designated Primary Search & Rescue Base with Dedicated Air Resources | 430

Sponsor: Liberal Party of Canada (Newfoundland and Labrador)

WHEREAS Labrador represents one of the largest regions in Canada without dedicated surface or aeronautical SAR resources;

WHEREAS the 2021 Commission of Inquiry into Ground SAR and Missing Persons identified air resources lacking and furthermore recommended remedial measures;

WHEREAS the NunatuKavut Community Council (NCC) sighted to the Inquiry the lack of dedicated air and surface resources in Labrador as one of the most serious SAR deficiencies facing its residents;

WHEREAS the 2018 Senate report, entitled "When Every Minute Counts" identified the lack of air resources in Labrador and adjacent Northern areas and recommended viable solutions;

WHEREAS 5-Wing Goose Bay (444 DND Squadron) represents a world class military and civilian air base and is strategically located as a gateway to the North and well positioned to provide SAR services to adjacent areas in a rapidly developing Northern region, and

WHEREAS the Minister of National Defence (PR, August 6, 2022) announced 5-Wing Goose Bay as one of the four NORAD air bases to receive funding from its 20-year commitment of \$38.6 billion in modernization air defence up-grades.

BE IT RESOLVED that the LPC urges the Government of Canada to immediately implement measures under its DND mandate to designate 5-Wing Goose Bay as a dedicated SAR air base, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, SAR air resources such as the designated SAR Cormorant helicopter be included in the DND NORAD \$38.6 billion modernization commitment

assigned to the 5-Wing air base in support of SAR for Labrador and adjacent Northern areas of Canada.

Climate Crisis | 431

Sponsor: Liberal Party of Canada (New Brunswick)

Endorser: National Women's Liberal Commission

WHEREAS we are living in a climate emergency and the 2022 IPCC report made it clear that “any further delay in concerted global action will miss a brief and rapidly closing window to secure a liveable future”.

WHEREAS we need rapid, systemic change to stop the climate crisis and we must transform our economy to align with a 1.5°C-compatible future.

WHEREAS it is far less costly to shift our economy away from fossil fuels and adapt to climate impacts than it is to pay the price for climate disasters.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to require federal public investment funds to divest from fossil fuels;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Government of Canada to ensure the end of all subsidies to the fossil fuel sector before 2025.

Enhancing Use of Railways For Public Transportation: A Climate Change Mitigation Strategy | 432

Sponsor: Liberal Party of Canada (Nova Scotia)

WHEREAS the global impact of climate change worldwide is accelerating at an exponential rate;

WHEREAS greenhouse gas emissions (carbon dioxide) are a major contributor to climate change;

WHEREAS automobiles are a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions with each gallon of gasoline burned emitting nearly 20 pounds of carbon dioxide;

WHEREAS Worldwide, rail transportation is recognized as an environmentally friendly form of transportation with greenhouse gas emissions per passenger km for rail transport up to 5 times less than for automobiles;

WHEREAS Canada has an extensive existing national railway system that currently mainly transports freight;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada (LPC) urge the Government of Canada to develop an affordable, accessible, modern and practical rail system for public transportation.

Improved Community Climate Resiliency | 433

Sponsor: Liberal Party of Canada (Prince Edward Island)

WHEREAS Canadians are feeling the impacts of climate change;

WHEREAS NRCAN reports that “Canada’s climate is already changing. Higher temperatures, shifting rainfall patterns, extreme weather events and rising sea levels are just some of the changes already affecting many aspects of our lives. Changes in climate will persist and, in many cases, will intensify over the coming decades;”

WHEREAS natural disasters are costing lives and having a large impact on our economy;

WHEREAS responding to disasters is essential, but so is preparing for the impacts of climate change;

WHEREAS each region will face unique impacts of climate change and need different strategies to become more resilient;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urges the Canadian Government to:

- Increase funding to provinces and territories to support industries to transition to resilient products and best-management practices;
- Develop strong building codes to improve infrastructure and communities to withstand the impacts of climate change;
- Develop a national extreme heat strategy;
- Create guidelines for tree canopy percentage in urban areas and provide funding to meet guidelines by 2035;
- Conduct a survey of the coastal regions and steps to preserve, move or adapt coastal infrastructure, industries and community.

4 Weeks of Paid Vacation: An Overdue Reform to Catch up to Canada's Industrialized Peers and Bring our Work-life Balance into the 21st Century | 434

Sponsor: Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)

WHEREAS a large majority of Canadians, and 65% of millennials, state that they lack an adequate work-life balance.

WHEREAS the federal government has committed to improving work-life balance in the industries under its jurisdiction.

WHEREAS additional paid vacation time has been shown to be beneficial for the health of workers, the tourism sector and the economy at large.

WHEREAS Canada is one of only three out of twenty-one industrialized countries with less than four weeks of mandated annual paid vacation.

WHEREAS The federal government's consultations on modernizing federal labour standards in 2018 showed that a majority of stakeholders were in favour of adding more paid vacation days for employees.

WHEREAS peer nations of Canada, such as Germany, the UK and Australia, passed legislation mandating at least four weeks of annual paid vacation between the 1970's and the 1990's.

Be IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to amend the *Canada Labour Code* to provide a basic entitlement of 4 weeks of paid vacation for every completed "year of employment" up from the current 2 weeks. After 5 consecutive years of service with the same employer this should go up to 5 weeks and after 10 consecutive years up to 6 weeks. This will:

- Reduce burnout and the massive economic costs of absenteeism, support Canada's tourism sector and improve employee happiness, health and productivity
- Finally bring Canada up to the same level as a vast majority of its industrialized peers

Sound Debt Management and a Return to Balanced Budgets in Canada | 435

Sponsor: Liberal Party of Canada (Quebec)

WHEREAS Canada incurred high levels of spending during the COVID-19 crisis and its debt has increased extraordinarily and unprecedentedly in times of peace.

WHEREAS the federal debt has risen from 30% of GDP in 2015/2016 to almost 50% of GDP in 2021/2022 and while it remains proportionally reasonable compared to other G7 countries, this is of concern to many Canadians.

WHEREAS these Canadians will undoubtedly place significant importance on the presence of a debt reduction and balanced budget program when they choose a party to govern Canada in the next election.

WHEREAS the Conservative Party will have a proposal to that effect.

WHEREAS it is therefore important that the Liberal Party present a reasonable and costed proposal for a return to balanced budgets in their next election platform.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT:

- The Liberal Party of Canada develop a clear, costed proposal for a return to balanced budgets.
- This proposal should be part of the Liberal Party of Canada's election platform for the next election.

A Green Transition for the Prairie Provinces | 436

Sponsor: Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)

WHEREAS the greatest challenge facing many countries today is the transition to a green economy, particularly for regions that are more petroleum-dependent, such as the prairie provinces of Canada;

WHEREAS there are many examples throughout our federation where frequent high-level conversations among the levels of government have produced desirable results, notably during the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS inequities exist within the prairie provinces in key areas such as bus service, intermittent and lackadaisical railways, increasing reliance on small charter planes and the effect of a transition to a zero-emission economy on jobs creation;

WHEREAS significant opportunities exist in the region in areas such as electrified public transportation, emission reduction through green-based electrification, re-establishing and strengthening transportation links for communities with limited options for commuting, transferring from the oil industry, and the emergence of new energy industries; and

WHEREAS the prairie provinces have lower populations and a remoteness to the centre of Canada that fosters a sense of alienation with respect to the Government of Canada;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to develop a high-profile taskforce to coordinate local engagement and cooperation in federal programs to facilitate the transition to a green economy on the Prairies while addressing alienation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in developing the framework, the government consult with provincial governments, municipal governments, Indigenous governing bodies, the private sector, and labour representatives in the respective sectors of transportation, environment, agriculture and employment.

Truth in Politics | 437

Sponsor: Liberal Party of Canada (Alberta)

WHEREAS Canadians are facing an onslaught of political disinformation and deliberate misrepresentation;

WHEREAS political deception erodes public trust, decreases voter turnout, increases polarization, and leads to a rise in uninformed and extreme views and movements;

WHEREAS Canada has no federal laws to prevent politicians from deliberately misleading the public;

WHEREAS political advertising is currently exempt from false advertising restrictions; Canadians are entitled to fair, accurate and truthful political expression, especially during elections, so they can make informed decisions when exercising their *Charter* right to vote;

WHEREAS misleading and deceptive conduct is regulated in many other contexts, to protect the interests of consumers, shareholders and others who rely on honest information;

WHEREAS other jurisdictions with Westminster-based parliamentary systems have enacted, with wide public support, laws relating to inaccurate or misleading political statements made during elections;

WHEREAS solving the political disinformation problem requires a multi-faceted approach;

WHEREAS Canada's Chief Electoral Officer published a report regarding the use of a code of conduct for political parties as a tool to strengthen democracy;

WHEREAS Manitoba has had a code of conduct since 1999; it provides that candidates, elected officials and others should strive at all times to make accurate public statements;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada (LPC) urge the Government of Canada to develop truth in political advertising legislation, to be administered by an

independent body (including consideration of scope, duration, and sanctions for breach).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to direct the Chief Electoral Officer to develop a model code of conduct for federal political parties, candidates and third parties.

Mandatory Voting | 438

Sponsor: Liberal Party of Canada (Saskatchewan)

WHEREAS every Canadian over age 18 has the right to vote;

WHEREAS voter turnout in Canada is low, with less than 70% of registered voters casting their ballot in federal elections;

WHEREAS in some ridings, the “victor” in our first past the post system would be the non-voters, if they were considered as a vote for a particular candidate;

WHEREAS efforts at voter suppression have taken place in Canada (for example, through the *Fair Elections Act* enacted under Prime Minister Harper in 2014 and around the world, in particular in the United States);

WHEREAS negative politics can cause voter suppression;

WHEREAS the most common reason cited for not voting in Canadian federal elections is a lack of interest in politics;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada (LPC) urge the Government of Canada to: make voting in federal elections mandatory for all Canadian citizens over age 18;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LPC urge the Government of Canada to allow all eligible voters to vote at any polling station on election day(s);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the LPC urge the Government of Canada to extend voting for federal elections over multiple days (to make voting as easy as possible);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LPC urge the Government of Canada to make failure to vote in a federal election result in a small monetary penalty in line with other democracies with mandatory voting.

A Citizen's Assembly on Electoral Reform | 439

Sponsor: Liberal Party of Canada (British Columbia)

WHEREAS: A 2014 resolution prioritized by the LPC called for “an all-Party process be instituted, involving expert assistance and citizen participation, to report to Parliament within 12 months with recommendations for electoral reforms including, without limitation, a preferential ballot and/or a form of proportional representation, to represent Canadians more fairly and serve Canada better.”

WHEREAS: The 2015 Liberal election campaign included a promise to end the first-past-the-post electoral system.

WHEREAS: The 2016 Report of the Standing Committee on Electoral Reform [1] observed that a majority of the experts who testified recommended proportional representation. The government stated it would “undertake a period of comprehensive and effective citizen engagement before proposing specific changes to the current federal voting system”.

WHEREAS: A Leger poll conducted in September 2020 [2] showed that 76% of respondents supported a move to proportional representation and 80% supported the idea of striking a non-partisan, independent citizens' assembly on electoral reform.

WHEREAS: In 2021, the Procedure and House Affairs Committee passed a motion to undertake a study of a National Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform [3].

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to establish a non-partisan National Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform to continue the work started in 2014.

Northern Energy Solutions | 440

Sponsor: Liberal Party of Canada (Nunavut)

WHEREAS electrical generation in Nunavut is 100% reliant on an aging network of isolated diesel-powered generation plants in each remote community;

WHEREAS the cost and maintenance of these plants is significant, as are the carbon emissions;

WHEREAS due to the remote nature of Nunavut communities, an electrical grid does not exist and each community must maintain its own stand alone powerplant;

WHEREAS climate change is affecting the Arctic in many ways from weather to the erosion of animal habitat that Inuit rely on for food;

WHEREAS alternative sources of energy generation such as wind, solar and tidal are not always a reliable or feasible alternative in remote and northern communities;

WHEREAS additional sources of energy generation such as geothermal and hydrogen cell technology also need to be considered;

BE IT RESOLVED that the LPC urge the Government of Canada to co-develop and fund a northern energy strategy that focuses on geothermal, hydrogen cell technology and the feasibility of compact/modular nuclear reactors in addition to wind, solar and tidal.

Modernizing the Canadian Justice System | 441

Sponsor: Indigenous Peoples' Commission

WHEREAS: The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples made over 440 recommendations calling for sweeping changes to the relationship between the Government of Canada and Indigenous Peoples as defined by Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*;

WHEREAS: The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the National Inquiry and Final Report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice call for the modernization of Canada's legal system to address systemic discrimination, violence towards, and the over-incarceration and overrepresentation of, Indigenous Peoples within Canada's justice system.

BE IT RESOLVED:

- That the Government of Canada immediately implement legislative and fiscal reforms supported by the TRC Calls to Action, MMIWG Calls for Justice, RCAP, and UNDRIP, to establish permanent regions and distinctions based seats in the Senate to be held by Indigenous Peoples, to establish an Elders Advisory Council for Cabinet, and to establish a permanent National Reconciliation Council for the House of Commons.
- That the Government of Canada immediately modernize all necessary legislation to expand the Supreme Court of Canada to create three new seats to be permanently held by Indigenous knowledge holders and Indigenous legal practitioners, similar to those seats held for Civil Law practitioners, to ultimately advance reconciliation and Nation-to-Nation relationships.

Free Movement Between Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom | 442

Sponsor: Young Liberals of Canada

WHEREAS on March 24, 2022, Canada and the UK launched negotiations for a new post-Brexit free trade agreement (FTA), but the Canadian objectives had little to say on easing travel barriers;

WHEREAS public consultations for the FTA saw two thirds of individual participants express interest in free movement with the UK with the eventual inclusion of Australia and New Zealand as well;

WHEREAS this idea sees more support in the UK than joining the Schengen Area, and many in Australia and New Zealand suggest it could help them compete with growing Asian economies;

WHEREAS free movement provides a combined 135 million people access to new global markets from multicultural cities filled with international entrepreneurs like Toronto, Sydney, and London;

WHEREAS Canada has an existing door to Europe in the UK, its second-largest partner in bilateral services trade, and easier travel to Australia and New Zealand could create a Pacific foothold; and

WHEREAS geography is often cited as a barrier to this free movement proposal, but Canada hosts twice as many British immigrants compared to Americans despite the UK being an ocean away.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to establish a free movement area between Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the UK allowing citizens to travel, work, and live in the four countries with minimal restrictions; and Cooperate with Quebec in attracting the 19% of British citizens reporting the ability to converse in French who may have sought employment in Europe prior to Brexit.

Helping Farmers Transition to More Sustainable Farming Practices | 443

Sponsor: National Women's Liberal Commission

WHEREAS Canada's National [GHG] Inventory Report, "does not accurately account for all agricultural emissions sources, and ... fails to capture [some] significant mitigation practices";

WHEREAS many progressive farmers have been left out of government agricultural and environmental programs;

WHEREAS in the 2021 Guelph Statement federal, provincial and territorial ministers of agriculture identified the number one priority for the next Agricultural Policy Framework as "Tackling climate change and environmental protection to support GHG emission reductions and the long-term vitality of the sector;";

WHEREAS the Farmers for Climate Solutions's 2022 report *Rooted in Climate Action* identifies beneficial management practices that:

- reduce GHG emissions, sequester carbon and increase resilience on Canadian farms
- are cost "competitive compared to the government's [carbon] pollution price and measures in other sectors"
- are already in use in Canada
- are supported by peer-reviewed studies or survey data
- ensure that farmers "have access to programs ... fostering greater diversity and inclusion in agriculture;";

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to incentivize and support farmers interested in transitioning to more sustainable farming practices by implementing the "system-wide" approach outlined in the Farmers for Climate Solutions's report *Rooted in Climate Action*, which includes:

- measures to improve nitrogen, manure, livestock, soil, wetland and tree management, and
- recommended policy/program changes to support:
 - climate-related programming that is accessible to all farmers
 - help for farmers to develop their Environmental Farm Plan
 - low-emissions farming
 - publicly funded education and support services that are independent from industry
 - improved data collection, assessment of program outcomes, identification of emissions sources, and mitigation strategies.

Save Lives – Keep Seniors Home | 444

Sponsor: Senior Liberals' Commission

Endorser: Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario)

WHEREAS aging is not a disease, so institutionalization is not the answer;

WHEREAS one third of those in LTC (pre-COVID) were forced into LTC because of unavailability of home support;

WHEREAS seniors consistently reject LTC;

WHEREAS the ever-increasing proportion of older adults in Canada results in escalating pressures on health care costs;

WHEREAS elder care models – focused on keeping Seniors well enough at home to look after themselves – offer the best solutions to Canadians;

WHEREAS community support enabling Seniors to stay well at home, will result in longer lives, improve older adult wellness, both physical and mental and lower Healthcare costs;

WHEREAS Canada has one of the lowest levels of comparable Home Care spending in the OECD;

WHEREAS aging Canadians, with divergent needs and geographic locations should have equal access to supports for aging in place;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to introduce new Federal legislation on Elder Care that:

- Provides adequate homecare funding within the Federal Health transfer that meets the average GDP homecare ratio of the top five OECD countries;
- Ensures homecare funding is conditional on transparency, adherence to national standards and public accountability;
- Engages the Provinces, Territories and stakeholders to shift focus from institutional care to Home Care models that include community supports and addresses improvements for personal care workers;

- Ensures equity of access to support in their homes for Canada's diverse population, whoever they are and wherever they live.

Affordable Housing | 477

Sponsor: Liberal Party of Canada National Caucus; Indigenous Peoples' Commission;
Liberal Party of Canada (Northwest Territories)

Endorser: National Women's Liberal Commission

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has the goal of building 160,000 new homes; improving access to safe, stable, sustainable and affordable housing; and reducing chronic homelessness by 50 percent by 2027–28.

WHEREAS shelter is a human right, providing Canadians stability and security, and UNDRIP, the TRC Calls to Action and National Inquiry and Final Report on MMIWG's Calls for Justice emphasize the need for safe housing options for Indigenous Peoples;

WHEREAS approximately 20% of the homeless population in Canada is comprised of youth ages 13–24.

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

- Create more affordable housing by disposing of 30% of all federal land and property that could be used for affordable housing at a nominal value.
- Build new rural housing by including funding for the acquisition of land and existing buildings able to be converted into housing in the next phase of Rapid Housing Initiative, to substantially increase funding for the RHI, and to ensure grants are aimed at quick actions that reduce housing need and homelessness, creating more non-market housing.
- Allocate 20% of all funding for housing towards youth up to the age of 30 and request that a Parliamentary committee undertake a study to investigate the challenges and systemic barriers facing youth who are or are at risk of becoming homeless.

- Immediately change the National Housing Strategy to stop emphasizing loans for private rental development, and shift the focus towards non-market housing to provide guaranteed and accessible affordable housing for low and middle-income Canadians, and accelerating public-private housing projects with Provincial, Territorial, and Indigenous Governments