



Conservative Party of Canada

# POLICY SUBMISSIONS

March 18-20, 2021

GET READY TO **CONNECT**

## 1. CRIMINAL JUSTICE – A – 1302

Sponsoring EDA: Etobicoke Centre

### Section M - 107. Organized Crime Additions (MODIFICATION)

The Conservative Party recognizes that organized crime is growing throughout Canada, that international criminal organizations are ~~more and more~~ active in Canada in money laundering, and ~~illicit~~ drug and firearms smuggling and that this phenomenon crosses boundaries.

To fight ~~against~~ this trend and to ensure the safety of all Canadians ~~in their communities~~, a Conservative government will:

1. Adopt, in collaboration with the provinces and municipalities, a national strategy on the fight against organized crime, including the creation of a joint national task force on security, this task force will concentrate on keeping illegal firearms out of the hands of the criminal gangs through increased efforts to curtail smuggling and the distribution of contraband firearms.
2. Increase the financial resources allocated to the RCMP to help them to fight against those activities in all regions of the country;
3. 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;
4. Strengthen the legislation to prosecute any person who knowingly engages in counterfeit activities by manufacturing, reproducing, and distributing, importing, or selling counterfeit goods.

We believe the government, in collaboration with the provinces and territories, should develop prevention strategies in the fight against street gangs.

## 2. HEALTH – A – 1760

Sponsoring EDA: Parry Sound—Muskoka

### Section J - Public Health Emergency Preparedness (NEW)

The CPC recognizes that public & health emergencies demand a Canada-based rapid-response plan, including domestically available biomedical, pharmaceuticals, vaccines, & PPE assets, with best-practices to mitigate illness/death and collateral societal disruption/economic damage. Partnering with provinces/territories, investments in health R&D and domestic manufacturing creates good jobs while safeguarding Canadians' health.

### **3. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY – A – 1369**

**Sponsoring EDA: North Okanagan—Shuswap**

#### **Section B - Three Strikes, You're Out - Empowering the Ethics Commissioner (NEW)**

The Conservative Party believes in empowering the Ethics Commissioner with more punitive options for repeat offenders of the Conflict of Interest Act as it applies to MPs and Senators to ensure compliance.

### **4. FISCAL – A – 1362**

**Sponsoring EDA: Northumberland—Peterborough South**

#### **Section E - Income Tax Review (NEW)**

The tax system is fundamental to a competitive environment, inclusive growth, and a fair society. The Conservative Party supports the creation of an independent committee to work on comprehensive tax review.

### **5. SOCIAL POLICY – A – 1698**

**Sponsoring EDA: Thunder Bay—Rainy River**

#### **Section K – 80. Child Care - Adoption (MODIFICATION)**

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 parents who opt to raise their children in the family, social, linguistic, and religious environment that they judge to be best for their own families.

A Conservative Government will create a National Adoption Strategy including an awareness campaign to promote domestic adoption and work with the provinces to ensure equal access to adoption for all children.

We believe domestic adoption should be tax refundable and support the use of tax incentives for those who adopt.

We believe that support should go to all parents and families raising children, especially to lower and middle income parents. We strongly support a program such as the Universal Child Care Benefit, which provides an equal level of assistance to parents, regardless of residential area, work schedule or choice of childcare format.

## 6. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – A – 2334

Sponsoring EDA: Calgary Centre

### Section F - 42. Long-Term Energy Framework - Energy Development Framework (MODIFICATION)

The Conservative Party believes that Canada has a natural economic advantage due to an abundance of ~~fossil fuels, uranium, renewable sources of biomass fuel, hydro power generation, and some of the world's best wind regimes~~ natural resources that support Canadian prosperity with an affordable and sustainable mix of Canadian energy resources including hydrogen, renewables, uranium, lithium, hydrocarbons, water, biomass and hydroelectric.

We believe that government should 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.

We believe that strengthening global energy market integration will ensure greater reliability and affordability of energy supplies across Canada. We encourage the government to explore ways to reduce barriers to the movement of energy products across provincial and other borders. The government of Canada should provide leadership and work closely with Indigenous peoples, provincial and territorial governments to align energy goals in the best interests of all Canadians and seek to achieve a positive impact on energy infrastructure development, energy supply and energy demand in Canada by removing artificial barriers to interprovincial and international energy trade.

We continue to support hydrocarbon exploration ~~for fossil fuels~~, pipeline construction, transportation efficiencies and plant improvements to increase energy conversion efficiencies and reduce pollutant and greenhouse gas discharges.

We support the application of nuclear energy and its associated industries to provide energy to Canadians while reducing negative impacts on the environment.

We believe the government should support and encourage the private development of alternative sources of energy and fuels, including wind, solar, and geothermal sources of energy; alternative transportation fuels including bio-diesel from oil seed crops and methanol, ethanol or methane from biomass and organic waste; fuel cell technology and the use of hydrogen as transportation fuel.

We believe that pipelines provide ~~effective and efficient~~ safe and economical transportation ~~of fossil fuels~~ and will work to insure that Canada has an efficient pipeline network, and that legislation implemented ~~through the National Energy Board ensures any liability from pipeline operation and abandonment is assumed by the operator of the pipeline and not the public, or the property owner through which the pipeline passes~~ ensures timely application processing, encouraging the long-term return on investment needed for energy projects.

## 7. NATIONAL DEFENCE AND SECURITY – A – 2318

Sponsoring EDA: Kildonan—St. Paul

### Section V - 154. Veterans - Covenant should be the First Line of our Veterans Policy Statement (MODIFICATION)

The Conservative Party of Canada recognizes and accepts unreservedly the existence of a Social Covenant between the Government of Canada and those who have served in the Armed Forces of Canada (The Military Covenant).

The Conservative Party believes the government ~~should be~~ is obligated ~~committed~~ to ~~providing~~ provide the best possible services and benefits for veterans and their families, in recognition of their service to Canada. We support the Veterans Ombudsman Office. We are also committed to keeping the memory of Canadian veterans' achievements and sacrifices alive through the promotion of public awareness and memorials.

We support the Veterans' 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 regards this as an important component of the national commitment to treating our veterans with respect.

[...]

## 8. NATIONAL DEFENCE AND SECURITY – A – 2700

Sponsoring EDA: Chicoutimi—Le Fjord

### Section V - 157. Streamlining Defence Procurement - National defence and investment obligation (MODIFICATION)

The Conservative Party believes in streamlining, reducing timelines and removing bureaucratic impediments from the procurement interests of the Canadian Forces and the Department of National Defence.

Canada should strive to adopt a model similar to Australia with a non-partisan committee of Parliamentarians with advice from qualified experts to bring forward equipment solutions for approval with the primacy of military effectiveness in Canada's national interest.

## 9. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – A – 1912

Sponsoring EDA: Avalon

### Section F - 37. Regional Development - Natural Resources Beneficiary (MODIFICATION)

The Conservative Party recognizes that regional development policies are an important part of any comprehensive strategy to assist the regions of Canada to meet the opportunities of the new global economy. Regional development agencies, like ACOA, WED, FEDNOR and CED-Q, must be depoliticized and focused on attracting new private sector investments.

The very essence of economic development, nation building, and regional development is the free flow of resources. The Conservative Party supports the extension of Canada's pipeline network to Atlantic Canada as a means of creating Canadian jobs and reducing our dependence on foreign oil.

The Conservative Party believes it is essential to the economic survival of provinces and territories and the financial stability of Canada that provinces and territories are the principal beneficiary of their natural resource developments and exports.

## 10. ENVIRONMENT – A – 2340

Sponsoring EDA: Portneuf—Jacques-Cartier

### Section I - 53. Environmental Principles - Research and Development - Green Technologies (MODIFICATION)

In order to have a strong economy and maintain good health, Canada must have strong, coordinated and achievable environmental policies.

The Conservative Party believes that responsible exploration, development, conservation and renewal of our environment are vital to our continued well-being as a nation and as individuals.

We believe 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.

We believe that all environment and energy initiatives should be reviewed.

We believe 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.

We believe that Canada should create a program to heighten public awareness to the economic benefits of environmental solutions which minimize the waste of resources.

We recognize that climate change is real. The Conservative Party is willing to act

We believe that Canadian businesses classified as highly polluting need to take more responsibility in implementing measures that will reduce their GHG emissions and need to be accountable for the results.

We believe in supporting innovation in green technologies. We need to become a world class leader and to use innovation as a lever of economic development.

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

We believe that the federal and territorial governments should make joint investments to study and address climate change adaptation in the North.

## **11. DEMOCRATIC REFORM – A – 2900**

**Sponsoring EDA: Vancouver Centre**

### **Section C - Protecting Free Speech on Canadian Campuses (NEW)**

The Conservative Party of Canada will incentivize federal funding to Canadian universities that have implemented Chicago Principles. Such a mandate would mean schools must abide by and protect freedom of expression as it is described in the Charter. Failure to protect free expression would result in losing federal funding.

## **12. ENVIRONMENT – A – 2101**

**Sponsoring EDA: Chicoutimi—Le Fjord**

### **Section I - 54. Clean Air and Smog Reductions - Pan-Canadian Low Carbon Aluminum Purchasing Policy (MODIFICATION)**

The Conservative Party supports the legislated emissions caps to reduce smog-causing pollutants such as nitrogen oxide, sulphur dioxide, and volatile organic compounds, ground level ozone and particulate matter.

We support stringent vehicle fuel efficiency and exhaust emission standards and the adoption of a pan-Canadian low carbon aluminum purchasing policy.

## **13. FISHERIES – A – 3165**

**Sponsoring EDA: South Shore—St. Margarets**

### **Section S - Marine Protected Areas (NEW)**

We support the protection of marine biodiversity through the creation of Marine Protected Areas, balanced in distribution across Canada's three oceans, where there are no renewable

and non-renewable resource extraction presently occurring and after a socio-economic impact analysis on the coastal economy and communities has been conducted.

## 14. HEALTH – A – 1403

**Sponsoring EDA: Saskatoon—University**

### Section J - 71. Euthanasia - update to current (MODIFICATION)

~~The Conservative Party will not support any legislation to legalize euthanasia or assisted suicide. In principle, the Conservative Party opposes euthanasia and assisted suicide.~~

~~The Conservative Party of Canada opposes~~ Furthermore; we oppose the extension of euthanasia and assisted suicide (MAID) to minors, to people who are not competent, and people who live with psychological suffering.

## 15. FISHERIES – A – 2724

**Sponsoring EDA: New Brunswick Southwest**

### Section S - Seasons for a Reason (NEW)

We support a sustainable fishery with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans as the single regulator and enforcement body; with all commercial fishers, non-indigenous and indigenous, operating under the same regulations and seasons scientifically set out for each species in compliance with the Supreme Court of Canada's Marshall decisions.

## 16. COMMUNICATIONS – A – 2091

**Sponsoring EDA: Northwest Territories**

### Section N - 117. Canadian Broadcasting System - Re-Imagining the CBC (MODIFICATION)

Canadian Broadcasting ~~System~~ Corporation

The Conservative Party believes in a stable Canadian presence in a varied and vibrant broadcasting system. The Canadian Broadcasting ~~System~~ Corporation (CBC) should offer a wide range of Canadian and international programming, while being respectful of Canadian content. The system should provide audiences with maximum choice and have the ability to utilize new technologies to achieve its public and private objectives.

The CBC-SRC is an important part of the broadcasting system in Canada. It must be a true public service broadcaster, relevant to Canadians. We will accordingly ensure ~~focus~~ the CBC-SRC ~~services on its mandates as public broadcasting services. :~~

- rationalizes any programming that overlaps or competes with private sector equivalents;

- reduces its reliance upon government funding and subsidy;
- reflects regional and demographic diversity of Canada in its role as a public broadcaster;
- responds and is accountable to its audience;
- supplies balanced and non-partisan programming.

We recognize the vital role played by the private broadcasters of Canada through their local and regional programming that reflects the language and multicultural realities of our country. Private sector broadcasters and service-providers first and foremost are businesses and must be able to compete in an ever-increasing fragmented and global market. We recognize the need for both regulatory flexibility and predictability.

Broadcasting policy in Canada must be relevant in today's communications environment and responsive to the demands of Canadians. We believe the government should review and update the Broadcasting Act to ensure its relevance in today's technological environment. We believe the government should establish clear, national policy directions and a framework that will maximize the freedom of choice and ensure that freedom of speech is respected. The CRTC's role in content regulation should be reduced to eliminate duplication where other legislation exists.

We believe that control and operations of the CBC could be best accomplished through establishing distinct budgets for the operations of the internet, TV and radio broadcast functions.

## **17. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – A – 1708**

**Sponsoring EDA: Calgary Midnapore**

### **Section F - 37. Regional Development - Cutting Red Tape for Pipeline Upgrades (MODIFICATION)**

The very essence of economic development, nation building, and regional development is the free flow of resources. The Conservative Party supports the extension of Canada's pipeline network to Atlantic Canada and the modernization of Canada's existing pipeline infrastructure as a means of creating Canadian jobs and reducing our dependence on foreign oil.

## 18. FISHERIES – A – 2952

Sponsoring EDA: Egmont

### Section S - Marine Wharf Infrastructure (NEW)

Canada's wharves are the highway infrastructure of our commercial fishing industry. We will implement the investment called for by the House of Commons Fisheries Committee to the Small Craft Harbour Program to ensure the sustainable growth and jobs of the industries dependent on them.

## 19. HEALTH – B – 1890

Sponsoring EDA: St. John's East

### Section J - Potable Water (NEW)

The CPC recognizes that clean drinking water is a basic necessity of human life. The federal government must work with provinces, territories, municipalities, and First Nations to develop an actionable solution with an agreed upon timeline to deliver access to safe and affordable potable water to all Canadian communities.

## 20. ENVIRONMENT – B – 1586

Sponsoring EDA: Saskatoon—University

### Section I - 55. Alternative Energy and Transitional Fuels - Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (MODIFICATION)

The Conservative Party believes the government should promote alternative energy (such as wind, solar, geothermal), transitional fuels (such as biodiesel, ethanol, natural gas), and the development 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.

We believe the government should enhance tax incentives for energy efficient measures, which lead to a cleaner environment.

We believe the government should work with the provinces and territories to promote the development of ecological recycling plants, using incinerators that capture waste gas and transform it into energy.

The Conservative Party believes we should promote Nuclear energy through new technologies such as Small Modular Nuclear Reactors, to offer a viable solution for meeting both our growing electricity needs and meeting our carbon emission targets. The CPC will pursue legislation incentivizing communities to implement this new and promising technology.

## 21. SOCIAL POLICY – B – 1574

**Sponsoring EDA: Montmagny—L'Islet—Kamouraska—Rivière-du-Loup**

### **Section K - 77. Employment Insurance - Critical illness: Employment Insurance should better cover Canadians (MODIFICATION)**

The Conservative Party of Canada believes fundamentally in a strong, secure national employment insurance fund to support Canadians when they need it most. To this end, the Party believes funds contributed by employers and employees to the EI fund should only be used to provide benefits to recipients; these funds should not be used for other government program spending.

We also believe that Employment Insurance should better cover Canadians by extending the benefit period to fifty-two (52) weeks in the event of "critical illness".

## 22. FISCAL – B – 1175

**Sponsoring EDA: Etobicoke—Lakeshore**

### **Section E - 23. Supporting Families - Joint Tax Filing (MODIFICATION)**

The Conservative Party recognizes the need to support families and children. We believe 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.

We support tax fairness for families by eliminating inequities between single and dual income families ~~and introducing a deduction for dependent children.~~ A Conservative government will permit spouses to electively report income on a joint or household basis so that progressive rates apply to income of families, rather than individuals, as the taxing unit.

We support the elimination of all tax disadvantages to families including those who care for children at home. This recognizes the economic value of stay at home parents, and supports the introduction of tax fairness measures such as income splitting for couples with children.

[...]

## 23. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – B – 1974

Sponsoring EDA: Lévis—Lotbinière

### Section F - Long-term Strategic Energy Commission (NEW)

The CPC believes that Canada has an economic advantage as it is a country rich in natural resources, such as crude oil, natural gas, hydropower, nuclear power, shale gas and oil, coal, solar, wind and bio-mass energy.

We believe the government must establish a National Commission on Energy Security.

## 24. FOREIGN AFFAIRS – B – 1387

Sponsoring EDA: Etobicoke—Lakeshore

### Section U – China (NEW)

The Conservative Party will adopt an assertive foreign policy toward authoritarian dictatorships including the Chinese Communist Party, focused on upholding Canada's values respecting human rights and democratic principles. We will expand trade and military alliances in Asia and strengthen our relationships with like-minded democracies to counteract Chinese government aggression.

## 25. FISCAL – B – 1884

Sponsoring EDA: Milton

### Section E - No Capital Gains Tax on Principal/Primary Residence (NEW)

The Conservative Party shall never tax the capital gains on the Canadian principal residence of its citizens.

## 26. SOCIAL POLICY – B – 1576

Sponsoring EDA: Montmagny—L'Islet—Kamouraska—Rivière-du-Loup

### Section K - 82. Seniors - Workers over 60 years of age: new tax incentive (MODIFICATION)

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.

~~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. We oppose the discriminatory practice of mandatory retirement and believe Canadians should be given the choice of retiring or continuing to work without the loss of federal retirement benefits. We also believe that workers over 60 are a trained and needed workforce in a context of low unemployment. We believe in the implementation of tax incentives that will stimulate their retention or return to employment.

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.  
[...]

## **27. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – B – 2533**

**Sponsoring EDA: Winnipeg South**

### **Section F - National Energy Corridor (NEW)**

Energy independence is key. Securing right-of-ways and permits without successive environmental assessments will enable Canada to develop integrated national resource and utility infrastructure corridors across Canada. Resources will have access to international markets and Canadians will have stable and secure access for their resource and utility needs across Canada.

## **28. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY – B – 2313**

**Sponsoring EDA: Steveston—Richmond East**

### **Section B - Continuously Improved World-Class Access to Information (NEW)**

The Conservative Party advocates regular independent reviews of Canada's access-to-information system, making it world-class: open, timely, and accountable, with greater automatic enforcement, including mandatory penalties payable by any institution subject to the 'Access To Information Act,' for breach of statutory deadlines or complaints upheld by the Office of Information Commissioner.

## **29. COMMUNICATIONS – B – 1254**

**Sponsoring EDA: Calgary-Signal Hill**

### **Section N - Privacy and Personal Data Protection (NEW)**

The CPC believes digital data privacy is a fundamental right that urgently requires strengthened legislation, protections, and enforcement. Canadians must have the right to access and control collection, use, monitoring, retention, and disclosure of their personal

data. International violations should receive enforcement assistance from the Canadian Government.

### **30. COMMUNICATIONS— B – 2217**

**Sponsoring EDA: Dufferin—Caledon**

#### **Section N - Improving access to reliable and affordable internet connectivity (NEW)**

The Conservative Party of Canada recognizes the importance of dependable and affordable internet. A Conservative government will work with provinces, territories, industry, stakeholders and communities to ensure all Canadians have access to reliable and quality internet.

### **31. NATIONAL DEFENCE AND SECURITY – C – 2833**

**Sponsoring EDA: London North Centre**

#### **Section V - National Standard of Training for PTSD Service Dog Trainers (NEW)**

The Conservative Party will create a National Standard of Training for PTSD Service Dog Trainers for Veterans. This standard must be developed to include a standard for PTSD Service Dogs and a standard for training the recipient veteran.

### **32. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY – C – 1245**

**Sponsoring EDA: Vancouver Centre**

#### **Section B - Fiscal Transparency: Open Data to Open Purse Strings (NEW)**

CPC will mandate government inquiries / departments / Crown corporations to broadly increase data published in machine-readable formats, using prevailing open standards.

Furthermore, CPC will add criteria for recipients of public funds to publish outcomes via open data.

### **33. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY – C – 1423**

**Sponsoring EDA: Charlesbourg—Haute-Saint-Charles**

#### **Section B - 3. Public Service Excellence - Reform and Safeguard the Supply System (MODIFICATION)**

The Conservative Party believes that all Canadians deserve an efficient, effective, and independent professional public service. We believe the government should build upon the

whistle-blowing protection legislation to ensure that those who expose corruption and wrongdoing are protected from reprisal. We continue to support any measure that enhances public service effectiveness and accountability.

We believe that Public Service benefits and pensions should be comparable to those of similar employees in the private sector, and to the extent that they are not, they should be made comparable to such private sector benefits and pensions in future contract negotiations.

The Conservative Party of Canada will reform the Supply System to strengthen the criteria in order to prevent awarding contracts to companies who put into play our national security and, in return, consider that there are a number of Canadian firms highly qualified and capable of also accessing contracts.

### **34. SOCIAL POLICY – C – 1430**

**Sponsoring EDA: Provencher**

#### **Section K - Canadian Charities (NEW)**

The Conservative Party recognizes that Canadian charities provide essential services to our communities and that they are well-equipped to enhance the well-being of our communities. As such, we believe that charitable donations should not receive any less favorable treatment than political donations.

## Policy Handout Ballot Amendments (Ad Hoc Section 13.7)

### DEMOCRATIC REFORM

#### Section C - 12. Parliament, the Courts and the Charter (MODIFICATION)

The Conservative Party believes that Parliament, rather than the courts, is the law-making body of Canada.

We support the establishment of a parliamentary judicial review committee to prepare an appropriate response to those court decisions that Parliament believes should be addressed through legislation.

We re-affirm the legitimacy of the entire Charter of Rights and Freedoms including section 33 (notwithstanding clause).

~~We support legislation to remove authority from the Canadian Human Rights Commission and the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal to regulate, receive, investigate or adjudicate complaints related to section 13 of the Canadian Human Rights Act.~~

### OPEN FEDERALISM

#### Section D – 18. Fiscal Imbalance (DELETION)

##### ~~18. Fiscal Imbalance~~

~~The Conservative Party believes that fiscal balance, brought in by Budget 2007, must be maintained.~~

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#### Section F - 44. Long-Term Energy Framework (MODIFICATION)

We believe the government should support and encourage the private development of ~~pipelines. the Energy East pipeline. In 2013, Canada was forced to import 634,000+ barrels of oil every single day, or 42.8% of the oil Canadians used. This was imported from foreign countries at world prices, while we exported oil produced in Canada to the USA at discounted prices. The Energy East pipeline will replace our dependence on foreign crude with Canadian crude to be refined in Canadian refineries. The \$26 billion Canada spent purchasing foreign crude in 2013 would remain in Canada to create jobs for Canadians, taxes and royalties to fund healthcare, education, and prosperity for all Canadians.~~

## TRADE

### Section G - 47. Inter-provincial Trade (MODIFICATION)

The Conservative Party of Canada believes that the inefficiency and economic constraints posed by interprovincial trade barriers should be eliminated to the greatest as full extent as possible. We believe that free trade principles should apply to all sectors of the economy.

We believe the government should take the lead with its provincial partners, especially to 18 modernize and eliminate inter-provincial trade barriers in transportation, commerce, labour, and capital mobility.

The Conservative Party of Canada supports interprovincial harmonization of professional and trades certifications and training to encourage more labour mobility and portability of qualifications within Canada. This will support greater employment and allow the development of a more skilled labour force to train, graduate, and work throughout Canada without impediment.

We believe that the federal government should work with the provinces and territories to ~~modernize the Agreement on Internal Trade~~ renegotiate the Canadian Free Trade Agreement in accordance with international trade agreements, including a national dispute resolution process.

## HEALTH

### Section J - 71. Euthanasia (MODIFICATION)

~~The Conservative Party will not support any legislation to legalize euthanasia or assisted suicide.~~

The Conservative Party of Canada opposes the extension of euthanasia and assisted suicide (MAID) to minors, to people who are not competent and people who live with psychological suffering.

## SOCIAL POLICY

### Section K - 82. Seniors (MODIFICATION)

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.

An increasing number of ~~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. We oppose the discriminatory practice of mandatory retirement and believe Canadians should be given the choice of retiring or continuing to work without the loss of federal retirement benefits.

We believe that those over the age of 65 should only pay Employment Insurance premiums if they qualify to receive Employment Insurance benefits.

[...]

## **SOCIAL POLICY**

### **Section K - 83. Retirement Savings (MODIFICATION)**

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.

We favour 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.

We emphasize the importance of ensuring 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 should be permitted to interfere with the objectives of security and maximum rate of return.

We believe the Tax Free Savings Account must be preserved and enhanced.

~~We believe that the significant increase in the Guaranteed Income Supplement exemption must be maintained.~~

## **ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS**

### **Section L - 99. First Nations Matrimonial Property (DELETION)**

#### **~~99. First Nations Matrimonial Property~~**

~~The Conservative Party supports, in conjunction with First Nations, the creation of a matrimonial property code to protect spouses and children in cases of marriage breakdown.~~

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

### **Section M - 105. Sentencing (MODIFICATION)**

The Conservative Party supports:

- i. mandatory minimum sentences for violent and repeat offenders and for those convicted of sexually assaulting a minor;
- ii. requiring that sentences for multiple convictions be served consecutively;
- iii. eliminating statutory (automatic) release;

- iv. ensuring that the community and victims have input on National Parole Board decisions;
- v. requiring applicants for parole to demonstrate to the National Parole Board that they have been rehabilitated;
- vi. no longer requiring judges to treat imprisonment as a last resort; and
- vii. ~~repealing the "Faint Hope Clause", thus removing the possibility of parole before 25 years for those sentenced to life in prison.~~

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

### Section M - 111. Missing Persons Registry (DELETION)

#### ~~111. Missing Persons Registry~~

~~The Conservative Party supports the creation of 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 support streamlining and improving the existing computer systems, including DNA databanks, CPIC and the sex offender registry.~~

~~We believe the 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.~~

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

### Section M - 115. Marijuana (DELETION)

#### ~~115. Marijuana~~

~~In order to increase the capacities of the authorities, police to combat drug and its negative impacts, particularly among young people, and to lighten the proceedings, we recommend that peace officers can issue tickets for the simple possession of small amounts of marijuana.~~

## AGRICULTURE

### Section R – Canadian Wheat Board (DELETION)

#### ~~129. Canadian Wheat Board~~

~~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.~~

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

### Section U - 146. Foreign Aid – Official Development Assistance (MODIFICATION)

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.

[...]

We believe the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development ~~Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)~~ should be authorized 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 should be responsible for publishing an annual report to the public to maintain public support for increases in ODA, enhance transparency, and increase accountability.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### Section N - 117. Canadian Broadcasting System (MODIFICATION)

#### 117. Canadian Broadcasting ~~System~~ Corporation

The Conservative Party believes in a stable Canadian presence in a varied and vibrant broadcasting system. The Canadian Broadcasting ~~System Corporation~~ (CBC/SRC) should offer a wide range of Canadian and international programming, while being respectful of Canadian content. The system should provide audiences with maximum choice and have the ability to utilize new technologies to achieve its public and private objectives.

[...]

## ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

### Section L - 96. The Resolution of Existing Specific Claims and Lawsuits against the Federal Crown (MODIFICATION)

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~~ Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada Minister and the Specific Claims Policy

contracted to eliminate the inherent conflict of interest of the Federal Crown in the resolution of 'specific claims'.

## **ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS**

### **Section L – 90 – 97 (MODIFICATION)**

The words “Aboriginal” and “Indian” are to be replaced by “Indigenous” in every section:

#### **L) INDIGENOUS ~~ABORIGINAL~~ AFFAIRS**

##### **90. Indigenous ~~Aboriginal~~ Affairs Principles**

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

The Conservative Party believes the following principles should govern the administration of existing federal Indigenous ~~Aboriginal~~ programs:

- i. the need for a legislated framework for federal Indigenous ~~aboriginal~~ expenditures;
- ii. self government – legal and democratic authority;
- iii. transparency;
- iv. respecting the Canadian constitutional framework;
- v. a framework for the settlement of comprehensive claims and self-government agreements;
- vi. the resolution of existing specific claims and lawsuits against the federal Crown; and
- vii. economic sustainability.

We support provisions for property ownership and women’s equality on reserves.

These principles should also govern future legislative reform to the Indian Act and related legislation. They should also form the basis for government decision making in the resolution of rights disputes – whether based upon existing treaties, court decisions or section 35 of the Constitution Act.

##### **91. Legislated Framework for Federal Indigenous ~~Aboriginal~~ Expenditures**

The Parliament of Canada must develop legislation which governs the delivery of federal governmental programs to Indigenous ~~Aboriginal~~ Canadians. Both Indigenous ~~Aboriginal~~ and non-Indigenous ~~Aboriginal~~ Canadians deserve to know the legislative basis upon which the Government of Canada is expending funds on Indigenous ~~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 Indigenous ~~aboriginal~~ Canadians.

## **92. Indigenous ~~Aboriginal~~ Affairs**

The Conservative Party supports the abolition of the Indian Act and proposes a new legislation which recognizes the fiduciary obligation of the Federal Crown while proposing a new deal with First Nations based on autonomy, taxation, capacity, transparency, accountability, and property rights.

## **93. Transparency in Indigenous ~~Aboriginal~~ Affairs**

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

The Auditor General should be empowered to review the spending of Indigenous ~~Aboriginal~~ governments and Indigenous ~~Aboriginal~~ organizations which receive public funds.

## **94. 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 Indigenous ~~Aboriginal~~ rights recognized under section 35 of the Constitution Act 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 Indigenous ~~Aboriginal~~ and non-Indigenous ~~Aboriginal~~ Canadians. Future Indigenous ~~Aboriginal~~ legislation, policies and programs must balance the collective rights of Indigenous ~~Aboriginal~~ Canadians under section 35 of the Constitution Act with the individual equality rights enshrined in the Charter – which protect all Canadians – whether Indigenous ~~Aboriginal~~ or non-Indigenous ~~Aboriginal~~. Indigenous ~~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.

## **95. 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 Indigenous ~~Aboriginal~~ claimants with those of Canada. In particular, negotiated settlements must balance the economic and social needs of Indigenous ~~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.

## **96. The Resolution 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 Indigenous ~~Aboriginal~~ claimants, together with certainty for government, industry and non- Indigenous ~~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 35 Federal Court should be expanded and the arbitrary ambit of the Indigenous ~~Indian~~ and Northern Affairs Canada Minister and the Specific Claims Policy contracted to eliminate the inherent conflict of interest of the Federal Crown in the resolution of ‘specific claims’.

## **97. Measuring Outcomes in Indigenous ~~Aboriginal~~ Affairs.**

The federal government, in consultation with the provinces, territories and aboriginal leaders, should direct an independent audit of all social service providers to indigenous ~~aboriginal~~ communities to determine what, if any, measures of effectiveness are employed and whether the programs provided result in desired outcomes.

The federal government should work with the provinces, territories and indigenous ~~aboriginal~~ leaders to establish a three-party coordinating body tasked with developing a strategy for coordination of all programs and services provided to aboriginal communities.

The Auditor General of Canada and the Auditors General of the provinces should include an evaluation of actual outcomes as well as financial accountability in their audit reports on indigenous ~~aboriginal~~ services.