

CONSERVATIVE CONVENTION



08

POLICY FLOOR RESOLUTIONS

CANADA'S ECONOMY

**TO BE DISCUSSED IN ROOMS 2GH, 2nd FLOOR ON
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2008**

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Policy Floor Resolutions - Conservative Convention 2008**RESOLUTION P-301**

NEW

National Securities Regulator

PROPOSED BY ST PAUL'S, TRINITY- SPADINA, AND SCARBOROUGH SOUTH WEST

National Securities Regulator

The Conservative Party recognizes that efficient capital markets are vital to Canada's prosperity and that a single, national, securities regulator with robust enforcement powers is the most effective way to fight white collar crime and protect the savings and investments of Canadians. The Conservative Party believes the government should work with the provinces and territories to create such a regulator.

Policy Floor Resolutions - Conservative Convention 2008**RESOLUTION P-302**

16. Fiscal Imbalance

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.

Preventing Fiscal Imbalance**Proposed by: Kelowna-Lake Country**16. **Preventing** Fiscal ~~Imbalance~~ **Imbalances**

The Conservative Party believes the federal government should reduce federal taxes to create fiscal room for the provinces and territories, and thereby preclude any reoccurrence of the fiscal imbalance. ~~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.~~

Policy Floor Resolutions - Conservative Convention 2008**RESOLUTION P-303**

19. Tax Relief

...

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.

...

Capital Gains

PROPOSED BY RENFREW - NIPPISING - PEMBROKE

iii) The Conservative Party believes that government should reduce capital gains tax **and eliminate tax on capital gains that are reinvested.** 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.

Policy Floor Resolutions - Conservative Convention 2008**RESOLUTION P-304****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.

RRSP Mortgage Payments

PROPOSED BY NEPEAN CARLETON

vi) The Conservative Party supports allowing Canadians to use a portion of their annual RRSP contribution to make additional principal only mortgage payments. This will provide Canadians with the ability to make tax deductible principal mortgage payments.

Policy Floor Resolutions - Conservative Convention 2008**RESOLUTION P-305**

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.

Income Splitting

PROPOSED BY CAUCUS MEMBER(S) AND FLEETWOOD - PORT KELLS

ii) The Conservative Party believes the government should 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 **for couples with children.**

Policy Floor Resolutions - Conservative Convention 2008**RESOLUTION P-306**

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.

Tax Code Simplification

PROPOSED BY PRINCE GEORGE PEACE RIVER

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. **The Conservative Party favours a simplification of the federal tax code, to reduce the complexity of tax calculations for ordinary Canadians.**

Policy Floor Resolutions - Conservative Convention 2008**RESOLUTION P-307**

NEW

Innovation

PROPOSED BY OAKVILLE

Innovation

The Conservative Party recognizes the importance of innovation to creating a flourishing Canadian economy. This means providing support for businesses by ensuring low corporate and small business tax rates and enhancing tax credits for companies who do significant Research and Development.

Policy Floor Resolutions - Conservative Convention 2008**RESOLUTION P-308**

32. Labour

- i) The Conservative Party supports the right of workers to organize democratically, to bargain collectively and to strike peacefully.
- ii) A Conservative Government will work with unions and employers in areas of federal jurisdiction to develop a dispute settlement mechanism to minimize or avoid work disruption.

Striking Workers

PROPOSED BY OTTAWA WEST-NEPEAN

- i) The Conservative Party supports the right of workers to organize democratically, to bargain collectively and to strike peacefully **while respecting private property and the decision of fellow workers not to participate.**

Policy Floor Resolutions - Conservative Convention 2008**RESOLUTION P-309****33. Regional Development**

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 de-politicized and focussed on attracting new private sector investments.

Regional development**PROPOSED BY THUNDER BAY - SUPERIOR NORTH**

i) 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 de-politicized and focussed on attracting new private sector investments.

ii) Recognizing that economically strong regions benefit the entire country, a Conservative government will invest in targeted infrastructures to develop and transition economies across a variety of sectors, including but not limited to forestry, mining, fisheries, agriculture and manufacturing, in regions facing economic challenges due to changing regional, national and global realities.

Policy Floor Resolutions - Conservative Convention 2008

RESOLUTION P-310

34. Intellectual Property – Patent Legislation

The Conservative Party will create a process to allow the patent holder to restore time lost on 20 year patent protection due to delays in government approvals.

Intellectual Property

PROPOSED BY BRANDON SOURIS

Delete all.

Policy Floor Resolutions - Conservative Convention 2008**RESOLUTION P-311****36. Northern Development**

The Conservative Party believes it is essential to the economic development of the three northern territories to ensure they have a resource revenue sharing agreement with the federal government immediately.

The Conservative Party is committed to the devolution of responsibilities of the "Northern Development" portfolio from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs to the three territorial governments, Aboriginal governments, and where necessary to the appropriate federal departments. Northerners shall control their own future and the Conservative Party is committed to the orderly devolution of decision making away from Ottawa to the territories.

Invest in Arctic Research**PROPOSED BY LASALLE-ÉMARD**

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The Conservative Party supports investing in scientific infrastructures specializing in polar scientific research in order to increase the body of scientific knowledge on the Arctic region.

Policy Floor Resolutions - Conservative Convention 2008

RESOLUTION P-312

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 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 explore ways to reduce barriers to the movement of energy products across provincial and other borders.

Long-term Energy Framework – Choose

PROPOSED BY RENFREW - NIPPISING – PEMBROKE

i) The Conservative Party believes that Canada has a natural economic advantage due to an abundance of fossil fuels, **uranium, renewable sources of biomass fuel**, ~~an abundance of hydro generation, and some of the worlds best wind regimes and other renewable and non-renewable sources.~~ The Conservative Party will 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 explore ways to reduce barriers to the movement of energy products across provincial and other borders.

ii) The Conservative Party continues to support exploration for fossil fuels, pipeline construction, transportation efficiencies and plant improvements to increase energy conversion efficiencies and reduce pollutant and greenhouse gas discharges.

iii) The Conservative Party supports the application of nuclear energy and its associated industries to provide energy to Canadians while reducing negative impacts on the environment.

iv) The Conservative Party believes 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.

Policy Floor Resolutions - Conservative Convention 2008**RESOLUTION P-313**

New

Capital Cost Allowance

PROPOSED BY MARKHAM - UNIONVILLE

The Conservative Party believes the government should enact measures to promote increasing productivity across the Canadian economy. This includes ensuring that Capital Cost Allowance rates give appropriate incentives to encourage Canadian firms to invest in tools and equipment that enhance productivity.

Policy Floor Resolutions - Conservative Convention 2008

RESOLUTION P-314

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.

International Trade

PROPOSED BY EDMONTON LEDUC

The Conservative Party believes that ~~In an increasingly competitive global economy,~~ **foreign** trade remains the key to future prosperity in Canada. ~~Many Canadian jobs depend heavily upon foreign markets. Those Canadian jobs~~ are placed in jeopardy when other nations make it difficult for our exporters to sell their products. **Our sophisticated economy also increasingly requires better international rules on trading in services, the movements of capital and the appropriate mobility of labour.**

- i) **The Conservative Party believes the government should strive to maintain and enhance the present level and quality and diversity of trade related jobs for Canadians by increasing certainty in international trade regulation.** ~~A Conservative Government will bring more security to existing trade related jobs. To create new employment opportunities, our trade agenda, while focussing on our strengths, will try to diversify the products and services we sell abroad and the markets into which we sell them. A~~ **The Conservative Party believes the government will should** secure access for Canadians 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.~~ **The Conservative Party believes the government should strive to maximize the benefits we have as a free trading nation by establishing a more integrated North American market, and by establishing open trading relationships throughout the world, including with emerging markets.**
- iii) ~~A Conservative Government would move to find new markets for Canadian goods and services by emphasizing development of trade ties with emerging markets.~~
- iii) **In future rounds of trade negotiations, the Conservative Party believes the government should vigorously pursue the further reduction of international trade barriers and tariffs, and the elimination of other international trade related barriers.**
- 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.~~

Policy Floor Resolutions - Conservative Convention 2008**RESOLUTION P-315****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.

Transportation

PROPOSED BY BRANDON-SOURIS

Delete clauses ii, iv, v, viii, ix, xi, xii, xiii

Policy Floor Resolutions - Conservative Convention 2008**RESOLUTION P-316**

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.

Rural Family Businesses

PROPOSED BY EGMONT

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.

The Conservative Party supports policies and initiatives that will strengthen the viability of family operated businesses in areas of agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry.

Policy Floor Resolutions - Conservative Convention 2008

RESOLUTION P-317

NEW

Canada Post – Rural Service

PROPOSED BY PONTIAC

Canada Post

The Conservative Party believes that Canada Post must improve its rural service and improve its communication with Canadians living in rural areas.

Policy Floor Resolutions - Conservative Convention 2008**RESOLUTION P-318****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.

Agricultural Research

PROPOSED BY CYPRESS HILLS GRASSLANDS

v) Research and Development. To ensure a competitive agricultural economy for Canadian producers, the Conservative Party believes the government should support innovative, unbiased research relating to varietal improvements, pest management, and beneficial management practices.

Policy Floor Resolutions - Conservative Convention 2008**RESOLUTION P-319**

96. Agriculture Principles

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...

Food Labelling

PROPOSED BY NORTHUMBERLAND QUINTE WEST AND CHARLOTTETOWN

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The Conservative Party supports implementing a national food policy that ensures accurate labelling of ingredients and country of origin, and leads to more rigorous testing to ensure the safety of food products.

Policy Floor Resolutions - Conservative Convention 2008**RESOLUTION P-320**

96. Agriculture Principles

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- 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.

Promote Agrifood

PROPOSED BY DRUMMOND

v) The Conservative Party believes the government should develop a national strategy to develop and provide assistance to the agrifood processing industry.

Policy Floor Resolutions - Conservative Convention 2008**RESOLUTION P-321**

NEW

Agricultural Trade Agreements

PROPOSED BY CAUCUS MEMBER(S)

Agriculture and Trade.

The Conservative government will continue to seek out bilateral and multilateral trade agreements that will improve market access for Canadian agricultural products and reduce foreign subsidies that distort trade and production.

Policy Floor Resolutions - Conservative Convention 2008**RESOLUTION P-322**

99. Fisheries

- i) A Conservative Government will 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 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 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 invest significantly in increasing our scientific knowledge base and make 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, with any interested coastal 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.
- vi) A Conservative Government will continue to support the Canadian Sealing Industry by working to eliminate unfair international trade bans on Canadian seal products.

Marine Protected Areas

PROPOSED BY CAUCUS MEMBER(S)

vii) A Conservative Government supports the establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) in order to protect and enhance habitat and fish stocks for future generations.