

# CONSERVATIVE CONVENTION



# 08

## **POLICY FLOOR RESOLUTIONS**

### **CANADA'S SOCIAL AND DEMOCRATIC FRAMEWORK**

**TO BE DISCUSSED IN ROOMS 2 and 3 NORTH, GROUND FLOOR ON  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2008**

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

## **RESOLUTION P-201**

### 8. Supreme Court Judge Appointments

A Conservative Government will ensure that nominees to the Supreme Court of Canada will be ratified by a free vote in Parliament, after receiving the approval of the Justice Committee of the House of Commons.

### **Fixed Supreme Court Terms**

PROPOSED BY CALGARY SOUTH EAST

A Conservative Government will ensure that nominees to the Supreme Court of Canada will be ratified by a free vote in Parliament, after receiving the approval of the Justice Committee of the House of Common, **and for a fixed term limit of 10 years with eligibility for reappointment.**

**RESOLUTION P-202**

12. Parliament and the Courts

- i) A Conservative Government will ensure that Parliament is the law-making body of Canada rather than abdicating that responsibility to the courts.
- ii) A Conservative Government will establish a Judicial Review Committee of Parliament to prepare an appropriate response to those court decisions which Parliament believes should be addressed through legislation.

**Affirm Charter**

PROPOSED BY CALGARY WEST

**iii) The Conservative Party re-affirms the legitimacy of the entire Charter of Rights and Freedoms including Section 33 (Notwithstanding Clause).**

**RESOLUTION P-203**

12. Parliament and the Courts

- i) A Conservative Government will ensure that Parliament is the law-making body of Canada rather than abdicating that responsibility to the courts.
- ii) A Conservative Government will establish a Judicial Review Committee of Parliament to prepare an appropriate response to those court decisions which Parliament believes should be addressed through legislation.

**Modify HRC Jurisdiction**

PROPOSED BY VICTORIA AND KELOWNA - LAKE COUNTRY

**iii) The Conservative Party supports legislation to remove authority from the Canadian Human Rights Commission and Tribunal to regulate, receive, investigate or adjudicate complaints related to Section 13 of the Canadian Human Rights Act.**

**RESOLUTION P-204**

NEW

**Fiscal Accountability**

PROPOSED BY BRANT

**The Conservative Party believes that the surest way to ensure accountability in government is to achieve the maximum possible openness and transparency in government spending. Access to Information must be expanded to ensure that the public has timely access to all information about government spending. Exceptions should be few and be limited to those areas where a clear case can be made for exemption (eg. certain military and security matters).**

**RESOLUTION P-205**

New

**Enhance Arctic Sovereignty**

PROPOSED BY YUKON, NWT, NUNAVUT

**Arctic Sovereignty**

**The Conservative Party believes that demonstrating Canada's presence in the Arctic requires both political and economic development in Northern Canada. The Conservative Party believes that the government should:**

- i) work with the territories to streamline regulatory processes;**
- ii) make substantial strategic investments in the Territories, particularly in transportation infrastructure; and**
- iii) fast-track the devolution of "provincial type" responsibilities to the territories from Northern Development and other Federal Departments.**

**RESOLUTION P-206**

NEW

**Elect Northern Senators**

PROPOSED BY YUKON, NWT, NUNAVUT

**Democratic Representation for the North:**

**The Conservative Party believes the government should establish a procedure to elect Senators from the territories.**

**RESOLUTION P-207**

NEW

**Protecting Pregnant Women**

PROPOSED BY PRINCE ALBERT AND SASKATOON HUMBOLDT

**The Conservative Party supports legislation to ensure that individuals who commit violence against a pregnant woman would face additional charges if her unborn child was killed or injured during the commission of a crime against the mother.**

## **RESOLUTION P-208**

### 61. Student Loans

- i) A Conservative Government will revamp the federal student loan program to eliminate the inclusion of parental income and assets in the assessment of loan applications.
- ii) A Conservative Government will provide greater flexibility to students paying back federal student loans by implementing Income Contingent Loans and provide a preferred interest rate on student loans post-graduation.
- iii) As the Millennium Scholarship Program currently only assists six per cent of students, a Conservative Government will channel these funds into the student loan program to help more students obtain post-secondary education.

### **Student Loans**

#### **PROPOSED BY CROWFOOT**

A Conservative Government would revamp the federal student loan program to eliminate the inclusion of parental income and assets in the assessment of loan applications.

~~ii) A Conservative Government will provide greater flexibility to students paying back federal student loans by implementing Income Contingent Loans and provide a preferred interest rate on student loans post-graduation.~~

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

**RESOLUTION P-209**

62. Employment Insurance

A Conservative Government will encourage the establishment of an independent employment insurance system, with a self- accounting fund administered by employees and employers, the surplus of which being used to increase workers' benefits or reduce contributions.

**EI for Summer Student**

PROPOSED BY TROIS-RIVIÈRES

A Conservative Government will encourage the establishment of an independent employment insurance system, with a self- accounting fund administered by employees and employers, the surplus of which being used to increase workers' benefits or reduce contributions.

**The Conservative Party supports abolishing employment insurance contributions paid by students when they have a summer job.**

**RESOLUTION P-210**

63. Family and Marriage

- i) The Conservative Party believes that the family unit is essential to the well-being of individuals and society, because that is where children learn values and develop a sense of responsibility. Therefore government legislation and programs should support and respect the role of the Canadian family.
- ii) The Conservative Party believes in the right and duty of parents to raise their own children responsibly according to their own conscience and beliefs. We believe no person, government or agency has the right to interfere in the exercise of that duty except through due process of law.
- iii) The Conservative Party believes that Parliament, through a free vote, and not the courts should determine the definition of marriage. A Conservative Government would support the freedom of religious organizations to determine their own practices with respect to marriage.
- iv) A Conservative Government will support legislation defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

**Family and Marriage**

PROPOSED BY CYPRESS HILLS GRASSLANDS

iii) The Conservative Party ~~believes that Parliament, through a free vote, and not the courts should determine the definition of marriage~~ **respects the freedom of religious organizations to maintain the traditional definition of marriage as a union between one man and one woman.** A Conservative Government will support the freedom of religious organizations to determine their own practices with respect to marriage.

iv) ~~A Conservative Government will support legislation defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman.~~

## **RESOLUTION P-211**

### 63. Family and Marriage

- i) The Conservative Party believes that the family unit is essential to the well-being of individuals and society, because that is where children learn values and develop a sense of responsibility. Therefore government legislation and programs should support and respect the role of the Canadian family.
- ii) The Conservative Party believes in the right and duty of parents to raise their own children responsibly according to their own conscience and beliefs. We believe no person, government or agency has the right to interfere in the exercise of that duty except through due process of law.
- iii) The Conservative Party believes that Parliament, through a free vote, and not the courts should determine the definition of marriage. A Conservative Government would support the freedom of religious organizations to determine their own practices with respect to marriage.
- iv) A Conservative Government will support legislation defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

### **Polygamy**

PROPOSED BY THUNDER BAY - RAINY RIVER, THUNDER BAY - SUPERIOR NORTH AND EDMONTON EAST AND CHARLESWOOD ASSINIBOIA

- iii) The Conservative Party believes that Parliament, through a free vote, and not the courts should determine the definition of marriage. **The Conservative Party believes that religious organizations should not be forced to perform marriages which are against their beliefs.** ~~A Conservative Government would support the freedom of religious organizations to determine their own practices with respect to marriage.~~
- iv) ~~A Conservative Government will support legislation defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman.~~
- (v) The Conservative Party opposes polygamy.**

**RESOLUTION P-212**

66. Child Care

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

**Child Care**

PROPOSED BY CHATHAM KENT ESSEX

Delete all.

## **RESOLUTION P-213**

### 67. Women

The Conservative Party supports gender equality through all policy and legislative considerations.

- i) The Canadian workforce has evolved to include more women than ever before. The Conservative Party believes all Canadians have the right to freedom from discrimination in the workplace and equality of opportunity.
- ii) Individuals should be only judged on skills, qualifications and merits. Women must be entitled to equal pay for work of equal value.
- iii) The Conservative Party recognizes the value of the caregiver. We will examine measures within the tax system to help offset economic costs without discrimination.

### **Women**

#### PROPOSED BY CAUCUS MEMBER(S)

The Conservative Party supports ~~gender equality through all policy and legislative considerations~~ **the full participation of women in the social, economic, and cultural life of Canada.**

- i) The Canadian workforce has evolved to include more women than ever before. The Conservative Party believes all Canadians have the right to freedom from discrimination in the workplace and equality of opportunity.
- ii) Individuals should be judged on skills, qualifications and merits. Women must be entitled to equal pay ~~for work of equal value~~ **equal work.**

## **RESOLUTION P-214**

### 70. Housing and Homelessness

- i) The Conservative Party believes that all Canadians should have a reasonable opportunity to own their own home and to have access to safe and affordable housing.
- ii) A Conservative Government would develop a policy of broad based tax relief, income support programs and tax incentives, to make home ownership and rental accommodation more attainable and accessible.
- iii) A Conservative Government will address homelessness by assisting in the provision of shelters and by recognizing, addressing and seeking solutions to contributing factors of homelessness.
- iv) A Conservative Government will partner and link with the respective jurisdictions of provincial, territorial and municipal governments, business initiatives and the work of social agencies and non-profit organizations, in dealing with housing, homelessness, social infrastructure and related support services, such as skills development, literacy, substance abuse treatment, health and social development.
- v) A Conservative Government will work with the provinces and municipalities to develop framework agreements that help low-income city dwellers access affordable housing, through the use of tax incentives for private sector builders. The Conservative Party recognizes that most renters live in urban centres, and that the pressures of population growth as well as certain economic factors have made it increasingly difficult for many renters to find housing.

### **Split Housing and Homelessness**

PROPOSED BY SAANICH - GULF ISLANDS

### **70. Housing ~~and Homelessness~~**

- i) The Conservative Party believes that all Canadians should have a reasonable opportunity to own their own home and to have access to safe and affordable housing.
- ii) A Conservative Government would develop a policy of broad based tax relief, income support programs and tax incentives, to make home ownership and rental accommodation more attainable and accessible.
- ~~iii) A Conservative Government will address homelessness by assisting in the provision of shelters and by recognizing, addressing and seeking solutions to contributing factors of homelessness.~~
- ~~iv) A Conservative Government will partner and link with the respective jurisdictions of provincial, territorial and municipal governments, business initiatives and the work of social agencies and non-profit organizations, in dealing with housing, homelessness, social infrastructure and related support services, such as skills development, literacy, substance abuse treatment, health and social development.~~
- v) A Conservative Government will work with the provinces and municipalities to develop framework agreements that help low-income city dwellers access affordable housing, through the use of tax incentives for private sector builders. The Conservative Party recognizes that most renters live in urban centres, and that the pressures of population growth as well as certain economic factors have made it increasingly difficult for many renters to find housing.

### 71. (renumbering the rest as appropriate) **Dealing with Homelessness**

- i) The Conservative Party believes that strong action is needed to address the social problems that exist on the streets of many Canadian cities, resulting from homelessness, addiction and mental illness.**
- ii) The Conservative Party believes the government should work with provincial, territorial and local governments, as well as social and health organizations, to identify and implement effective and timely solutions to these problems. Key to these solutions is reliable, appropriate funding by all levels of government over a long term.**

## **RESOLUTION P-215**

NEW

### **Urban Issues**

PROPOSED BY VANCOUVER QUADRA

#### **URBAN ISSUES**

**The Conservative Party supports the development of innovative urban policies to tackle the complex problems and challenges in Canada's urban centers. We support working with other levels of government in a positive and collaborative effort to improve the quality of life in our urban cores.**

**The Conservative Party believes the government should:**

- a) enhance existing partnerships with provinces, territories and municipalities to prevent crime, with a focus on guns, drugs and gang activity;**
- b) support and value community partnerships and involvement in prevention and intervention projects such as substance abuse programs;**
- c) deal with issues of homelessness and mental health as causes of street crime;**
- d) give priority to issues involving youth, women and aboriginal peoples at risk;**
- e) support community based education, vandalism reduction and mentoring programs designed for youth at risk; and**
- f) encourage multi ethnic education to help immigrant and refugee youth to adapt and productively participate in Canadian society.**

**RESOLUTION P-216**

NEW

**Fighting Fraudulent Mass Marketing**

PROPOSED BY LAVAL

**Fighting Fraudulent Mass Marketing**

**The Conservative Party believes that the government should work with the provinces and territories to provide more resources and regulatory support in the fight against telemarketing and mass marketing fraud.**

## **RESOLUTION P-217**

### 87. Canadian Broadcasting System

- i) The Conservative Party believes in a stable Canadian presence in a varied and vibrant broadcasting system. The Canadian broadcasting system 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.
- ii) The CBC-SRC is an important part of the broadcasting system in Canada. It must be a true public service broadcaster, relevant to Canadians. The Conservative Party will focus the CBC-SRC services on its mandates as public broadcasting services.
- iii) The Conservative Party recognizes 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. The Conservative Party recognizes the need for both regulatory flexibility and predictability.
- iv) Broadcasting policy in Canada must be relevant in today's communications environment and responsive to the demands of Canadians. The Conservative Party will review and update the Broadcasting Act to ensure its relevance in today's technological environment. The Conservative Party will 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 will be reduced to eliminate duplication where other legislation exists.

### **Wireless Telephone Industry**

PROPOSED BY LAVAL-LES ÎLES

**v) The Conservative Party believes the government should promote competition in the wireless telecommunications industry and should develop a national wireless strategy based on mobile content.**

## **RESOLUTION P-218**

### 89. Diversity Principles

The Conservative Party believes that Canada's multicultural society is a valued reality and accepts the need to foster understanding and equality of opportunity while promoting common values across Canada.

### **Diversity Principles**

PROPOSED BY VICTORIA AND PRINCE EDWARD - HASTINGS

The Conservative Party believes that Canada's multicultural society is a valued reality and accepts the need to foster understanding and equality of opportunity, while ~~promoting common values across Canada~~ **expecting Canadians to adopt Canadian common values such as equality, democracy, and the rule of law.**

## **RESOLUTION P-219**

### 94. Amateur Sport

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

### **Amateur Sport**

#### PROPOSED BY CAUCUS MEMBER(S)

The Conservative Party recognizes the value of promoting amateur sport as a means of building legacy and heritage in local communities, and as a means of serving future generations of athletes. International success in sport projects **like the Olympics and Paralympics** also creates a positive view of Canada and of the success of Canadian society. We will help develop tax incentives to support and increase participation in local and top-tier international sporting events. An investment in amateur sport is an investment in future Canadian leaders and builds Canadian representatives around the world.

## **RESOLUTION P-220**

### 94. Amateur Sport

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

### **Amateur Sport**

PROPOSED BY EDMONTON CENTRE

**The Conservative Party believes amateur sport and physical recreation assist in developing good health and well-being in Canadians of all ages. Participation in such activities is encouraged in schools, institutions of further and higher education and sports organizations, thus reducing healthcare costs. The Conservative Party supports tax incentives to encourage participation in local and top-tier international sporting events and providing funding for national sports centers in partnership with provinces and territories.**

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

## **RESOLUTION P-221**

100. Immigration Principles

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

...

vi) upholding Canada's humanitarian tradition of providing safe haven for refugees.

### **Genuine Refugees**

PROPOSED BY NEWTON NORTH DELTA

vi) upholding Canada's humanitarian tradition **to accept genuine refugees and immigrants only after a thorough screening. Those found to have a criminal record or with ties to extremist or terrorist groups must not be accepted.** ~~of providing safe haven for refugees~~

**RESOLUTION P-222**

NEW

**Temporary Workers**

PROPOSED BY CAUCUS MEMBER(S)

**Immigration by Temporary Workers**

**The Conservative Party recognizes that temporary workers can be a valuable source of potential immigrants because of their work experience in Canada. The Conservative Party believes the government should:**

- i) continue development of pilot projects designed to address serious skills shortages in specific sectors and regions of the country, and that attract temporary workers to Canada;**
- ii) examine ways to facilitate the transition of foreign workers from temporary to permanent status;**
- and**
- iii) work to ensure that temporary workers, especially seasonal workers, receive the same protections under minimum employment standards as those afforded Canadian workers.**

## **RESOLUTION P-223**

### 72. Aboriginal Affairs Principles

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

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

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

### **Program Coordination and Outcome Audits**

PROPOSED BY VANCOUVER ISLAND NORTH

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

**Policy Floor Resolutions - Conservative Convention 2008**

- viii) The federal government should work with the provinces, territories and 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; and**
- ix) 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 aboriginal services.**