

**INDIGENOUS  
PEOPLES'  
COMMISSION**

LIBERAL PARTY  
OF CANADA



**COMMISSION  
DES PEUPLES  
AUTOCHTONES**

PARTI LIBÉRAL  
DU CANADA

**Indigenous Peoples' Commission "IPC"**  
formerly Aboriginal Peoples' Commission "APC"  
**Indigenous Policy Resolutions passed at the  
Liberal Party of Canada Biennial Convention 2016**



Winnipeg 2016 Biennial Convention  
Winnipeg Convention Centre,  
375 York Ave, Winnipeg, MB R3C 3J3.

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## **P12 - ACTING ON INDIGENOUS YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION**

**PASSED on LPC Plenary Floor**

Moved by Aboriginal Peoples' Commission of Canada - **Priority Resolution**

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada has previously committed, through policy resolutions, to pursuing proper and adequate mental health care strategies;

WHEREAS Canada's Minister of Health, Jane Philpott, and the Provincial Health Ministers have agreed to the need to tackle mental health issues, funding, and access;

WHEREAS mental health issues impact 20% of Canadians during their lifetime;

WHEREAS suicide is the major cause of death amongst Canadians aged 15-24 and is typically interconnected with mental health issues;

WHEREAS Health Canada research highlights that suicide rates amongst First Nations youth is 5-7 times, and Inuit youth is 11 times, the national average, compared to that of non-Indigenous youth;

WHEREAS the community of Pimicikamak Cree Nation, like many other Indigenous communities, have declared a state of emergency; with Pimicikamak Cree Nation dealing with six suicides in the last two months and over 140 attempts in the last two weeks alone;

WHEREAS the situations facing Indigenous youth are not only mental health related, but also reflective of Canada's colonial history and dismantling of Indigenous cultures, languages, and way of life;

BE IT RESOLVED the Liberal Party of Canada work with Indigenous communities, organizations, and nations on ways to begin healing, reconciling, as well as implementing mental health and suicide prevention strategies;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Liberal Party of Canada continues to work with Indigenous communities, organizations, and nations to restore and assist with the re-establishment of Indigenous cultures, languages, and ways of life.

## **B-08 DEVELOPMENT OF A FIRST NATIONS GOVERNANCE LAW**

Moved by Aboriginal Peoples' Commission of Canada

### **PASSED IN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND THE NORTH POLICY SESSION**

WHEREAS the current Indian Act is silent on Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics for elected First Nations Chiefs and Councils as defined in the Indian Act;

WHEREAS the current Indian Act and the First Nations Finance Transparency Act is weak in addressing accountability of elected First Nations Chiefs and Councils to their membership;

WHEREAS the current process of addressing the governance issues on the conduct of First Nations Chiefs and Councils is a very costly and timely burden to First Nations as well as to the Government of Canada;

WHEREAS on matters relating to the breach of Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics membership are uninformed on each occurrence;

WHEREAS First Nations Chiefs and Councils are void of holding Annual General Meeting of membership to present the Financial Audited Statements and an Annual Program Report;

WHEREAS the feeling of helplessness among First Nations members compounds the social problems in First Nations communities;

BE IT RESOLVED the Liberal Party of Canada acknowledges the reaching out for help from First Nations members;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Liberal Party of Canada will convene a study within its first term as government that includes Indigenous organizations and members from communities on the development of a new Governance Law for First Nations.

## **B05 - DEVELOPMENT OF THE RING OF FIRE (ROF)**

Moved by Aboriginal Peoples' Commission of Canada

### **PASSED IN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND THE NORTH POLICY SESSION**

WHEREAS the RoF is a vast area of traditional lands and treaty territories of First Nations in Northern Ontario;

WHEREAS the RoF is rich in deposits of chromite, nickel and precious metals;

WHEREAS mining companies are committed to working in partnership with First Nations to pursue responsible, sustainable exploration and development;

WHEREAS the Federal and Provincial governments have responsibilities in ensuring equitable wealth distribution, protecting the environment and defending indigenous and treaty rights;

WHEREAS the RoF provides opportunities for value added industrial and manufacturing development throughout Ontario and across Canada;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Federal Liberal Party acknowledges First Nations traditional land uses as an opportunity for them to share in the exploration, planning, development and ownership of RoF projects;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that successful development of the RoF requires cooperative leadership by a federal team working with First Nations, provincial government and mining industry;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that social license requires environmental studies, assessments and planning on a broad regional basis, in consultation with and in support of First Nations, including downstream communities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that provincial and federal infrastructure funds are required for transportation, communication and sustainable energy, to be delivered in planned development phases;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funds and support towards education, housing, health services, potable water and social programs will prepare the skilled, secure workforce required for development of the RoF, tourism and other industries.

## **B06 - GOVERNOR GENERAL INDIGENOUS INCLUSION**

Moved by Aboriginal Peoples' Commission of Canada

### **PASSED IN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND THE NORTH POLICY SESSION**

WHEREAS it is acknowledged the appointment of the role of Governor General is appointed by the Prime Minister;

WHEREAS it has also been traditional to rotate the Governor General appointment between anglophone and francophone;

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada has agreed to implement the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples' including rights to governance;

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada has agreed to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions' calls to action;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada will rotate the appointment of the role of the Governor General between Anglophone, Francophone, and Indigenous.

## **B07 - INDIGENOUS DEFINITION EQUALLY INCLUSIVE OF FIRST NATIONS, INUIT, AND MÉTIS**

Moved by Aboriginal Peoples' Commission of Canada

### **PASSED IN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND THE NORTH POLICY SESSION**

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has a long history of excluding the Métis people from being fully recognized and included as one of the Indigenous Peoples of Canada;

WHEREAS the Métis people advocated, at length, to ensure their inclusion in the Constitution of Canada under Section 35(2), which reads, "In this Act, 'aboriginal peoples of Canada' includes the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada."

WHEREAS many Métis people are concerned that any changes in language when referring to the "Aboriginal peoples of Canada", no matter how well intentioned, may subsequently be used to once again exclude the Métis from full inclusion as an Aboriginal people;

BE IT RESOLVED any reference to "Indigenous", "Indigenous people", or any other such language employed by the Government of Canada, or the Liberal Party of Canada, to replace or update the term "Aboriginal", or any such subsequent term, shall retain the meaning and intent of the definition, as stated in Section 35(2) of the Canadian Constitution, to equally include all the Indian (First Nations), Inuit, and Métis peoples of Canada.

## **B12 - NIHB – FIRST NATIONS AND INUIT HEALTH EQUALITY**

Moved by Aboriginal Peoples' Commission of Canada

### **PASSED IN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND THE NORTH POLICY SESSION**

WHEREAS First Nations have formulated Treaties with the Crown and Canada that included fiduciary responsibilities, such as health care insurance for non-insured health care benefits;

WHEREAS Inuit peoples have concluded a comprehensive land claims, which provides for non-insured health care benefits;

WHEREAS the health of Indigenous peoples in terms of qualitative and quantitative standards is statistically much poorer than that of the average Canadian population;

WHEREAS the Liberal government has stated the relationship between Canada and Indigenous peoples is of high priority and importance;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada supports a review of the process, treatment and accessibility of Health Care, including non-insured benefits such as dental, optical and pharmaceutical, to assess gaps or inequalities that First Nation and Inuit peoples encounter

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the government to provide Non-Insured Health Benefits equal to that as provided by private insurance providers; that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the government to provide non-insured health benefits equal to that as standards provided by private insurance providers;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada encourages the federal government to enact legislation requiring dentists, optometrists, pharmacists and other health care services to accept the Indian Status Card and NTI Card (or other accepted Inuit Land Claim documents) as an upfront way of paying for services rendered;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the federal government to provide an administrative overview of the process of pay for above mentioned services and direct the government to develop a modern system for easy user and business friendly payment.

## **B11 - POLICY ON OFFICIAL LANGUAGES**

Moved by Aboriginal Peoples' Commission of Canada

### **PASSED IN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND THE NORTH POLICY SESSION**

WHEREAS the United Nations recognizes that cultural diversity is as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature and it is generally accepted that language is an integral part of cultural identity;

WHEREAS Article 13 of the United Nations' Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) stipulates that States are required to take effective measures to protect the rights of Indigenous people to use, develop and pass on to future generations their languages. And Article 14 that Indigenous people have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages;

WHEREAS Indigenous treaty rights are entrenched in the Constitution of Canada and Official Languages Act for Nunavut recognizes the Inuit (Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun), English and French languages as the official languages within the territory;

WHEREAS Indigenous languages are not given the same federal protection as guaranteed other minority languages by section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights;

WHEREAS the land and borders that Canada is situated within and upon are the traditional territories and homelands of many Indigenous nations whom have formulated treaties with the Crown and Canada that laid the groundwork for Canada's formation;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party endorse Canada becoming a signatory of UNDRIP;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada will support efforts for Canada to grant official-language status to Canada's Aboriginal languages and to provide the necessary funding for preservation and revitalization efforts.



## **B-10 PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES IN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES**

Moved by Aboriginal Peoples' Commission of Canada

**PASSED IN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND THE NORTH POLICY SESSION**

WHEREAS every Canadian deserves access to a local public library;

WHEREAS an estimated 85% of Canadian First Nations communities do not have a local public library;

WHEREAS most Canadians know that a strong public library provides an opportunity to improve ongoing learning skills, literacy skills and social skills;

WHEREAS most First Nations are dependent on Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada for program funding, and WHEREAS Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada has zero programs to support public libraries;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada supports the establishment of public library services in Aboriginal communities.