

RESOLUTIONS

22nd BIENNIAL CONVENTION

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF CANADA

QUÉBEC CITY, SEPTEMBER 8-10, 2006

4. STANDING UP FOR WORKING FAMILIES

A ECONOMY

4 A1

WHEREAS the GST represents taxation on consumption; and

WHEREAS the GST puts middle and lower income Canadians at a greater financial disadvantage by taxing consumables necessary to sustain life; and

WHEREAS the NDP recognizes that water, electricity and heat are essential services to a basic standard of living in Canada,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a NDP government would eliminate the GST from essential products and services, including household utilities, books, and hygiene products.

LONDON-FANSHAW NDP

4 A2

WHEREAS corporate economic power and political influence have flourished in the globalized economy; and

WHEREAS rather than respond to these anti-democratic developments by acting to protect the interests of both individual Canadians and Canadian society generally from the excess of corporate power, Liberal and Conservative governments have dismantled our system of public interest regulation in many areas of the economy and fundamentally weakened that system in other areas; and

WHEREAS public services cuts, commercialization of formerly public services and contracting out of public services provision have caused the public economy to shrink and weakened our ability to manage and control services that are vital both to individual Canadians and to our society as a whole; and

WHEREAS funding cuts and regulatory changes have weakened the ability of public interest groups, social justice organizations and unions to act as a democratic counterbalance to corporate power; and

WHEREAS Liberal and Conservative policies have led to increasing inequalities of income and power in Canada, and rising levels of corporate power with limited accountability; and

WHEREAS the effects of this abdication are evident everywhere in our economy, from government inaction in the face of gasoline price gouging, to minimum wages that are far below the poverty line, to the erosion of hard-won gains in pay equity; and

WHEREAS increasing the level of democracy in our economic life is critical for social justice, good governance, and our future prosperity,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP is committed to democratic reforms in the public interest, in Canada through:

- Strengthened workplace regulation, including support for a charter of workers' rights, based on International Labour Organization Conventions and including rights to: organize, free collective bargaining, strike, adequate minimum wages and to equal pay and equity in employment;

- Strengthened consumer protection, including the establishment of a national anti-gouging policy aimed at protecting consumers from unjustified energy price increases;
- More effective business regulation and competition policies to control the monopolistic power and anti-competitive policies of large corporations, and to promote the public interest in key areas, including environmental protection, health and safety, transportation and communications;
- Funding for the promotion of community economic development and co-operatives, expanded powers for credit unions and the application of community re-investment requirements for financial institutions;
- A broadened mandate for the Canada Pension Plan to account for general economic and social objectives;
- The use of other public investment vehicles, including infrastructure funds and Crown Corporations to promote economic, environmental and social well-being;
- A more open, democratic and participatory federal budgetary process, with a greater involvement for the public and Parliamentarians in setting priorities and proposing amendments;
- Democratic reform of the Bank of Canada, with a board that includes representatives from the major regions and sectors of the economy, policies that reflect its legislated mandate, and greater transparency in its operations; and
- Greater corporate accountability and disclosure requirements to at least match those in the United States, including: increased reporting requirements, strengthened shareholder rights and tougher prosecution and penalties for white-collar crime; and around the world, through:
- Inclusion of labour, social and democratic rights in all international trade agreements;
- Suspension of the investor-state rules that favour corporations over governments in NAFTA (Chapter 11) and other trade agreements; and
- Democratic reform of international financial institutions, including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization.

BURNABY-DOUGLAS NDP

B INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

4 B1

WHEREAS depleted uranium (DU) is a waste-metal by-product of the nuclear industry, which greatly enhances the penetrative effectiveness of bullets and shells and is a prized component of the U.S. Military arsenal; and

WHEREAS the dust formed when DU munitions explode is both poisonous and carcinogenic and as such is a threat to human and ecological health on a large scale; and

WHEREAS there is a concern about the health of Canadian Service men and women and their families who may have been exposed to DU dust on foreign soil or on military training bases in Canada,

1. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Federal New Democratic Party support the following:
 - a) The banning of the importation and use of depleted uranium (DU) munitions including the testing and showcasing of DU munitions anywhere in Canada.
 - b) Providing an opportunity to test for traces of DU in all service personnel returning from duty in all overseas operations since 1991, and including all future deployments.
 - c) Follow-up studies on the health of children conceived by service personnel returning from areas where DU munitions have been used.
 - d) A worldwide ban on the use of munitions containing DU, and any other use of DU that would result in contamination by DU dust.

NEW BRUNSWICK SOUTHWEST NDP

C. SOCIAL POLICY

4 C1

WHEREAS a child that attends a daycare pre-school will have many advantages; and

WHEREAS the childcare system of Quebec appears to be a good model for the rest of the country to follow; and

WHEREAS direct payment to parents does not create guaranteed quality childcare,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the federal government work to increase the number of childcare spaces across Canada, which will bring about a chance for many children to fully develop due to the proper diet and guidance that is provided in these facilities by trained, dedicated staff members.

SCARBOROUGH CENTRE NDP

4 C2

WHEREAS the poor in Canada are worse off today than 20 years ago; and

WHEREAS child poverty in Canada has been identified by the United Nations as a disgrace for such a rich Country,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the poverty line be adjusted up and that it be tied to the cost of living within geographic regions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a catch-up increase in the Federal Child Tax Benefit be put in place so that the child poverty may be eased; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the minimum wage scale be tied to the cost of living so as to benefit those who are trapped as the working poor and have no benefits to assist them with health care expenses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that child poverty be eliminated by the year 2010 in Canada.

SCARBOROUGH CENTRE NDP

4 C3

WHEREAS the cost of post-secondary tuition has skyrocketed in recent years; and

WHEREAS many students are now graduating from post-secondary institutions with student debt of over \$50,000 each,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP actively campaign to ensure that federal funding for education impose requirements on the provinces to immediately freeze tuition, and through annual reductions, eliminate tuition completely within five years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NDP actively campaign for a more equitable and progressive taxation system that would allow such increased funding to take place.

TORONTO-DANFORTH NDP DURHAM NDP

4 C4

WHEREAS Canadians are increasingly anxious about whether they will have enough money to live on during their retirement; and

WHEREAS in far too many cases employer pensions promised as deferred wages have been threatened or reduced because of underfunding allowed by lax federal and provincial regulation; and

WHEREAS public pensions such as the Canada/Quebec Pension Plan and Old Age Security, which could provide the soundest way to ensure dignity in retirement for all Canadians, still offer replacement of less than half of pre-retirement income; and

WHEREAS corporations have already signaled their intention to dismantle defined contribution pension plans wherever legislation allows them to,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the federal government must overhaul its regulation of pension plans to ensure security of employer funded pensions, including a requirement that employers fully fund pension plans on termination; top priority for pension obligations in bankruptcy cases; an end to rules that require contribution holidays; and establishment of a federal Pension Benefit Guarantee Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government should move to increase the portion of pre-retirement income by Old Age Security benefits and the Canada/Quebec Pension Plan.

USW LOCAL 8412

USW LOCAL 1998

USW LOCAL 13173

USW LOCAL 838

NORTHUMBERLAND QUINTE WEST NDP

USW LOCAL 8300

4 C5

WHEREAS the Canada Social Transfer is a federal block transfer to the provinces and territories in support of post-secondary education, social assistance and social services, including early childhood development and early learning and childcare; and

WHEREAS the Canada Social Transfer is expected to fund post-secondary education as well as many other pressing social needs; and

WHEREAS the federal government contributes about 7% of post-secondary education costs, less than half the level of 10 years ago; and

WHEREAS the decline in federal transfers has significantly weakened the capacity of the provinces to make necessary investments in colleges and universities across Canada; and

WHEREAS the new federal government has made a commitment to remove post-secondary education funding from the CST and create a dedicated transfer for post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS a dedicated federal post-secondary education transfer is supported by many interested groups including the Canadian Federation of Students and the Canadian Association of University Teachers,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that that this Convention call on the new federal government to begin immediately to implement its' commitment to create a separate post-secondary education and training funding transfer to the provinces; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the new post-secondary education transfer include a substantial increase in federal support for post-secondary education; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the new post-secondary education transfer be developed with appropriate consultation with the provinces.

**SAINT BONIFACE NDP
MYND**

4 C6

WHEREAS the Canada Pension Plan, in response to pressure from Canadians, in particular women's advocacy organizations and the New Democratic Party, has come to recognize parental responsibility as a legitimate reason for temporarily taking time out of the paid workforce to care for children under seven years of age through the 'child rearing drop-out'; and

WHEREAS taking time out of the paid workforce to fulfill caregiver responsibilities currently penalizes Canadians through reduced Canada Pension Plan benefits; and

WHEREAS providing care to loved ones presents a further legitimate reason for reducing or taking full time out of the paid workforce,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party actively advocate for the addition of a 'caregiver drop-out' provision within the CPP to permit the removal of time spent in caring for loved ones from the calculation of CPP benefits.

WINNIPEG NORTH NDP

4 C7

WHEREAS the changes to the Canada pension Plan introduced in 1997 eliminated the Canada Pension Plan Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS the role of the CPP Investment Board is restricted to investment practices, leaving no comprehensive body to advise the government on the CPP issues of concern to Canadians; and

WHEREAS the CPP Advisory Board, through representatives of pensioners and organized labour, provided a channel for communicating the views of working Canadians and retirees on CPP matters,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party actively advocate for the re-establishment of the CPP Advisory Board.

WINNIPEG NORTH NDP

4 C8

WHEREAS the Old Age Security program is a universal social program to which all Canadian citizens should be entitled upon reaching the age of 65; and

WHEREAS there should be one class of Canadian citizen, whether born here or naturalized and without regard to country of origin; and

WHEREAS claiming OAS benefits is currently dependent upon the length of time Canadians have resided in Canada – a requirement that systemically discriminates against naturalized citizens – and further varies depending on the existence of bilateral social security agreements between Canada and the naturalized citizen’s country of origin,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party seek legislative changes to remove any qualifications other than citizenship to ensure that Old Age Security benefits are available equally to all Canadian citizens at age 65.

WINNIPEG NORTH NDP

4 C9

WHEREAS Canadians have traditionally supplemented their OAS/CPP-based retirement security through negotiating and contributing to workplace pension plans; and

WHEREAS the current Canadian pension regulatory system overseeing these plans is increasingly failing to protect the retirement security of Canadian workers,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party pursue improvements to better protect workplace pensions for the workers who have contributed to them through such means as:

- Creating a National Pension Benefits Guarantee Fund;
- Amending the Income Tax Act (s. 147.2) to raise the ratio needed to trigger a pension contribution holiday from 110% of assets to 130%;
- Amending the Pension Benefits Act to ensure full pension funding on the termination of pension plans;
- Amending the Companies’ Creditors Arrangement Act so that employer pension obligations continue to be met during the initial application court orders stage of insolvency and bankruptcy proceedings; and
- Continuing to seek amendments to the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act to ensure that employer obligations to workers, including pension benefits, are given priority over other creditor payments in cases of insolvency and bankruptcy.

WINNIPEG NORTH NDP

4 C10

WHEREAS the care of a family member experiencing terminal or serious illness has been recognized as a legitimate grounds for compassionate leave under the Employment Insurance Act; and

WHEREAS the Employment Insurance Act provision for compassionate leave has such a narrow definition of family – parents and children – that it has failed to meet the objective of offering support to any significant number of Canadians with fatally ill loved ones in need of care; and

WHEREAS the federal government has severely cut the amount budgeted for the program because so few Canadians can access the program,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federal New Democratic Party seek to amend the Employment Insurance Act's definition of family to include sisters, brothers, other family members and in-laws, foster parents, guardians and wards and other persons considered as family by the gravely ill person or their representative.

WINNIPEG NORTH NDP

4 C11

WHEREAS minimum wage in Canada will range from \$6.50 to \$8.50 per hour when Alberta's change comes into effect and a person working 40 hours per week earn \$13,520 to \$17,680; and

WHEREAS the current basic federal tax credit for 2005 was only \$8,648; and

WHEREAS minimum wages are being raised across the country and this will contribute to a raise in living expenses for individuals earning minimum wage,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federal NDP urge the government of the day to raise the basic federal tax credit to \$12,000 to minimize the tax paid by individuals working for minimum wage.

KILDONAN ST. PAUL NDP

4 C12

WHEREAS a decline in long-term interest rates and a normalization of investment returns has created solvency deficiencies in many workplace pension plans; and

WHEREAS employers, after decades of using surpluses for contribution holidays, now are seeking relief from their pension funding obligations,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party oppose any change in the regulations governing pension funding which reduce the security of earned pension rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any changes which reduce employer contribution requirements must be offset by compensating measures to increase pension security, including:

- An employer obligation to fund shortfalls on plan windup;
- A pension benefits guarantee funding;

- Limits on contribution holidays; and
- Higher priority for pension deficits in bankruptcy proceedings.

IAMAW

4 C13

BE IT RESOLVED that the federal government legislate an end to the claw-back by the provinces of the Child Tax Credit.

PETERBOROUGH NDP

4 C14

BE IT RESOLVED that the federal government reintroduce national standards for the delivery of social assistance, similar to standards contained in the Canada Assistance Plan.

PETERBOROUGH NDP

4 C15

WHEREAS the cost of post-secondary tuition has skyrocketed in recent years; and

WHEREAS many students are now graduating from post-secondary institutions with student-debt of over \$50,000 each,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP actively campaign to ensure that federal funding for education impose requirements on the provinces to immediately freeze tuition, and through annual reductions, eliminate tuition completely within five years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NDP actively campaign for a more equitable and progressive taxation system that would allow such increased funding to take place; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NDP campaign for supplementary funding for persons with disabilities to ensure their equitable access to Canada's post-secondary institutions of learning.

TRINITY-SPADINA NDP

4 C16

WHEREAS 1.1 million Canadian children lives in poverty. A shockingly high and unacceptable figure of one in six children; and

WHEREAS 40% of those who accessed food banks are children; and

WHEREAS poverty is more severe in Aboriginal, women, minority, and youth populations; and

WHEREAS 373,200 children in Canada – or 31.1% of all low-income children – lived in families with at least one parent working full-time full year, yet were still in poverty; and

WHEREAS UNICEF's second report, Child Poverty in Rich Countries 2005, continues to rank Canada a dismal 19th out of 26 OECD countries in a global survey of child poverty rates in industrialized countries; and

WHEREAS in 1989 Ed Broadbent led a unanimously-adopted motion to end child poverty by the year 2000. Yet there are more children going hungry today than there were nearly two decades ago,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP strive to end child poverty in Canada by demanding:

- a) An increase to the Canada Child Tax Benefit to \$5,000 per child;
- b) To re-instate the federal minimum wage with inflation indexation and establish a Federal-Provincial Living Wage Commission;
- c) The construction of affordable housing; and
- d) The engagement of Aboriginals, women, minority, and youth populations in the design and implementation of community a poverty reduction strategy.

TRINITY-SPADINA NDP

4 C17

WHEREAS high quality childcare is a benefit to all children enhancing health and school readiness, reducing family poverty, and promoting social inclusion and workforce productivity; and

WHEREAS there has been no significant expansion of public childcare in a decade, outside of Quebec. The less than 20% of children in a regulated, public childcare facility pales in comparison to most other members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), where the majority of preschool children have access to publicly funded early learning and care programs; and

WHEREAS every Canadian social program, from Medicare and public pensions to employment insurance, is rooted in and anchored by dedicated federal legislation. It is simply not possible to build a childcare program to meet the needs of Canadians on the basis of federal/provincial/territorial agreements that, as we know, are entirely vulnerable to shifting political winds; and

WHEREAS legislation is also fundamental to ensure accountability for the expenditure of public funds,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP make it a priority to pass a Canada Childcare Act that would create a universal childcare and early learning system with multi-year funding from the federal government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Act set out the terms, criteria and conditions of federal funding for childcare services programs that adhere to the principles of quality, universality, accountability, educational development, access, and affordability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NDP will work to ensure that every community in every region of the country has holistic, integrated children services that incorporate pre and post-natal care, before and after school activities, early learning and childcare, and supports parents both at home and in the labour market.

TRINITY-SPADINA NDP

WHEREAS current government policy, regulations, and law are failing to provide Canadian seniors with the quality of life that they deserve; and

WHEREAS on June 15th 2006 the House of Commons passed the NDP Motion to adopt a Seniors Charter and create a Seniors Advocate,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, the Federal NDP ensures that the Seniors Charter is implemented to recognize older Canadians as creative, active and valued members of our society, and that this Charter enshrines the right of every senior living in Canada to the following:

- a) Income security, through protected pensions and indexed public income
- b) support that provides a reasonable state of economic welfare;
- c) Housing, through secure accessible, and affordable housing;
- d) Wellness, through health promotion and preventative care;
- e) Health care, through secure, public, accessible, universal health care
- f) including primary care, dental care, homecare, palliative and geriatric care, and pharmacare;
- g) Self-development, through lifelong access to affordable recreation,
- h) education and training; and
- i) Government services, through timely access to all federal government
- j) services and programs, including family re-unification; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Federal NDP ensures that, as directed by the NDP Motion, a Seniors Advocate is created who will:

- a) Conduct public education and awareness initiatives on the rights of
- b) seniors;
- c) Ensure that all new or revised policies and programs affecting seniors
- d) receive public input from older persons;
- e) Require that all new policies and programs affecting seniors are
- f) announced with specific timelines for implementation and;
- g) Act as an Ombudsman for seniors with respect to all government services
- h) and programs making recommendations as appropriate and that this Seniors Advocate publish and report annually to Parliament on government policies and programs affecting seniors, including the effectiveness of federal funding related to the needs of older persons.
- i) Report annually to Parliament the findings of these reviews.

HAMILTON MOUNTAIN NDP

4 C19

WHEREAS post-secondary tuition fees in BC have in recent years risen beyond the capacity of the average Canadians ability to pay; and

WHEREAS there should be equal access to post-secondary education across Canada,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the federal government be urged to develop programs for equalizing access to post-secondary education for students across Canada.

VANCOUVER ISLAND NORTH NDP

4 C20

WHEREAS the cost of post-secondary tuition fees have skyrocketed in recent years; and

WHEREAS students are now graduating with unmanageable amounts of student debt,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP will actively campaign for a dedicated post-secondary education transfer fund to the provinces; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NDP will actively campaign to increase funding to the provinces for post-secondary education through the dedicated transfer payment under the agreement that provinces will use the increased funding to reduce tuition fees in the given provinces; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NDP will actively campaign to remove all legislation that infringes on post-secondary graduates to claim bankruptcy on students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NDP will actively campaign to eliminate tuition fees in Canada; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we invite provincial NDP governments to implement these policies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NDP will actively campaign to immediately review the Millennium Scholarship Fund and Canada Students Loan Program to determine whether changes are necessary to improve these programs for the benefit of these programs for students.

EDMONTON-STRATHCONA NDP

4 C21

WHEREAS the current minimum wage is far too low to support a single person, let alone a family; and

WHEREAS the current minimum wage unfairly punishes the young, and food/beverage servers,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP actively campaign for, and seek to legislate, the elimination, in areas of federal jurisdiction, of distinctions in the minimum wage law based on age or occupation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NDP actively campaign for, and seek to legislate an increase in the minimum wage to a living wage over a four year period, and include a permanent, annual cost of living adjustment to keep pace with inflation.

EDMONTON-STRATHCONA NDP

4 C22

WHEREAS the idea of a guaranteed annual income was proposed by Martin Luther King and others as long ago as the 1960's; and

WHEREAS it was implemented on a small scale in the "Manitoba Mincome" experiment from 1974-1977; and

WHEREAS the data from this experiment have only recently begun to be analyzed in depth; and

WHEREAS many diverse groups including some bank economists are beginning to show support for the concept; and

WHEREAS children in single parent families are more likely to be living in poverty and could benefit most from the implementation of a GLI; and

WHEREAS the present patchwork of income support programs is inefficient and perceived as unevenly administered in different parts of Canada; and

WHEREAS major administrative savings could be realized by streamlining the system,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the federal government immediately start work, in cooperation with the provinces, to replace all income support programs such as OAS, GIS, EI, and social assistance with a single Guaranteed Livable Income, adequate to provide basic necessities such as secure housing and healthy nutrition.

SAANICH-GULF ISLANDS NDP

4 C23

WHEREAS the cost of post-secondary education is a growing burden on students and families of average income or less; and

WHEREAS many undergraduates drop out of school today for financial reasons; and

WHEREAS the federal government has responded only by increasing the amount that students can borrow;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP work toward the implementation of free post-secondary education to eliminate the burden of fees for all qualified students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that post-secondary students be allowed to deduct reasonable lodging expenses from their income taxes.

SAANICH-GULF ISLANDS NDP

WHEREAS government under-funding of post-secondary education and research has increasingly forced universities and colleges to turn to the private sector for new revenue sources. In addition to increased fees, many universities are relying upon and more actively encouraging closer ties between researchers and commercial interests; and

WHEREAS in this process, Canadian universities are becoming less a public institution and more a private one, less accountable to the public interest and more beholden to private interests; and

WHEREAS such developments have a negative impact on intellectual freedom within the university setting, tend to impact the type of research pursued to the prejudice of the social sciences, arts and humanities, and also tend to inhibit the timely publication of research because of patent concerns; and

WHEREAS a renewed commitment on the part of the federal government to adequately provide public funding in the form of core operating grants to universities and colleges is urgently needed to counter these trends; and

WHEREAS a renewed commitment on the part of the federal government to provide adequate funding to the public research agencies will help ensure that research remains free from the influence of private commercial interests; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Consortium for Research (CCR), a coalition of 15 national organizations representing researchers in a variety of disciplines has urged the federal government to significantly increase its spending to support the core operations of post-secondary institutions through a dedicated transfer and to the three federal research granting agencies: the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR),

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP supports efforts to increase the funding for the core operations of post-secondary institutions through a dedicated transfer of funds which shall contain accountability mechanisms and be based on a percentage of the GDP; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NDP support efforts to increase the funding for publicly supported research by:

- Strengthening social, human and cultural research in Canada by increasing the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council's funding to \$460 million by 2008-2009, (noting that while more than half of all faculty and graduate students work and study in the social sciences and humanities, SSHRC's budget is less than half of that of the other agencies);
- Increasing the budget of the Canadian Institutes for Health Research to \$1 billion by 2008-2009;
- Increasing the budget of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council to \$1.2 billion by 2008-2009; and
- Permitting all three agencies to carry forward unused funds from one year to the next.

LONDON NORTH CENTRE NDP

WHEREAS Canada's social policy must be broadly framed to achieve the overall health and well-being of Canadians and all who live here; and must affirm the right of access to high quality, universal social programs as basic rights of citizenship; and must be designed to decrease the gap between the wealthy and the poor; and

WHEREAS as a country we have historically prided ourselves in how we looked after each other, welcomed the stranger and wove a net of support, particularly for those most fragile and at risk, and New Democrats have always defended, and will continue to defend and advocate for social and economic justice, fairness and the advancement of our human potential, not as a mere instrument of the market place and pursuit of profit, but in the development of a society based on human worth, value and respect for our environment; and

WHEREAS these goals are supported by Canada's international commitments to uphold the tenets set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1976) and the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1976); and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada, needing to comply with those international covenants, must answer for its failure in the area of social assistance and, more particularly, for its violation of international human rights obligations by permitting manifestly inadequate social assistance rates across Canada; and

WHEREAS social policy under the neo-liberal and neo-conservative agenda has been characterized by a massive assault on the poor, on working people and on the middle class, through successive and unrelenting attacks on social programs, such as the elimination of universal programs for the family, including the family allowance program, the refundable child tax credit and tax exemptions for children (1993), the elimination of the Canada Assistance Plan (1995), the abandonment of social housing (1993), draconian changes to Unemployment Insurance (1996) and claw-backs of the National Child Benefit Supplement; and

WHEREAS Canadian welfare policy over the past 15 years has been characterized as "an utter disaster" by the government's own advisory body; and our once famed social safety net is an inefficient and incoherent mess with most Canadians without work not qualifying for Employment Insurance, those on welfare forced to dispose of most of their assets, if any, and many once in the welfare system find it difficult to climb back into the workforce; and

WHEREAS first the Canada Health and Social Transfer (CHST) (1995) and now its successor, the Canada Social Transfer (CST) (2004), have been vehicles for a massive shift in Canadian social policy resulting in: unprecedented downloading by the federal government in the areas of health, post-secondary education and social welfare; as well as the loss of national standards or accountability mechanisms for how this money is spent; and

WHEREAS 2006 international and Canadian reports document that poverty still harms too many Canadians, for example, that Canada's minimum wages are inadequate for workers and their families to enjoy a decent standard of living, that 11.2 per cent of Canadians, more than one in 10, still lived in poverty in 2004, that significant differences in levels of poverty persist between Provinces and Territories and nearly a third of Canada's low-wage workers can't make ends meet, including a disproportionate number of women, Aboriginal People, persons with disabilities; and

WHEREAS neo-Liberal and neo-conservative approaches to social policy have produced greater inequality and growing stress on Canadian families, creating a climate of division, where poor people are unfairly divided into 'deserving and undeserving' of assistance or compassion; and

WHEREAS this climate of division creates an environment where poor bashing is tolerated and even perpetuated by the federal government, and where programs that blame the poor, like "workfare" are justified.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all New Democrats work aggressively and in solidarity with labour, social justice movements and NDP provincial governments to:

- Oppose the right-wing agenda and its attack on Canada's social programs and people;
- Oppose workfare programs by working for national standards and objectives that will prohibit governments from developing and implementing such programs;
- Educate, mobilize defend and affirm universal social programs as a key foundation of a nation committed to social justice and greater equality;
- Advocate for the inclusion of social condition as a prohibited ground of discrimination in the Canadian Human Rights Act;
- Advocate for the right to social security in the Canadian Human Rights Act and in legislation, based on United Nations covenants;
- Seek to eliminate child and family poverty, through full employment and adequate income support programs;
- Pressure all governments within the framework of the social union to:
 - i. index the Child Tax Benefit and extend it to all families without discrimination on the basis of welfare status, ensuring that Provinces and Territories shall have a child benefit platform for all low-income families that will integrate seamlessly with the National Child Benefit;
 - ii. live up to commitments for a comprehensive, universal, early learning and childcare program that is accessible, affordable and publicly administered;
 - iii. end the claw-backs of the National Child Benefit;
 - iv. immediately restore transfer levels to the provinces and territories under the CST to reverse the cuts to the CHST and CST since 1995;
 - v. revamp the Employment Insurance program and broaden coverage to return the system to a true insurance program for the unemployed, including reducing excessive qualification requirements for new entrants and re-entrants into the job market;
 - vi. establish independent bodies with representatives from employers and labour in provinces and territories to periodically review and recommend changes to the minimum wage;
 - vii. establish broad social policies that recognize and value the overall well-being of children and the development of a healthy and socially supportive environment for the diversity of the Canadian family in all of its forms whether parent(s) are paid or unpaid;
 - viii. expand parental and maternity leave by extending the length of supported leave for either parent to one year, eliminating the waiting period for both parents; easing eligibility provisions, and increasing the benefits rate to 90 per cent; and
 - ix. enact universal tax measures that recognize the value of child-rearing in all families.

4 C26

WHEREAS the Canadian Labour Congress estimates that Canadian workers lost more than \$10 billion in employment insurance benefits from 1993-2001 due to changes in the eligibility requirements for EI benefits,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the NDP support the following measures to ensure EI fairness for all Canadian workers:

- the reduction in the number of hours required to qualify for EI benefits to 360 and the application of this requirement uniformly across all of Canada;
- the extension of the maximum benefit period to 50 weeks; and
- benefit payments based on 60 per cent of average earnings for the best 12 weeks of earnings.

YORK SOUTH-WESTON NDP

4 C27

WHEREAS the Canadian Labour Congress estimates that Canadian workers lost more than \$10 billion in employment insurance benefits from 1993-2001 due to changes in the eligibility requirements for unemployment insurance benefits,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the NDP support the following measures to ensure unemployment insurance fairness for all Canadian workers:

- the reduction in the number of hours required to qualify for unemployment insurance benefits to 360 and the application of this requirement uniformly across all of Canada;
- the extension of the maximum benefit period to 50 weeks;
- benefit payments based on 60 per cent of average earnings for the best 12 weeks of earnings;
- the extension of benefits to all regardless of age;
- the extension of benefits to all unemployed workers regardless of reasons for termination;
- exemption from unemployment insurance deductions for those who have reached 50 years of age and have never accessed the benefit.

YORK SOUTH-WESTON NDP

4 C28

WHEREAS the Canadian Labour Congress estimates that Canadian workers lost more than \$10 billion in employment insurance benefits from 1993-2001 due to changes in the eligibility requirements for EI benefits,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP support the repeal of the legislation implementing EI in 1993 and campaign for the reinstatement of the previous legislation regarding unemployment insurance.

YORK SOUTH-WESTON NDP

4 C29

BE IT RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party demand the federal government either exempt part-time workers from EI deductions, or improve eligibility requirements so that part-time workers are able to collect EI benefits if unemployed.

BC FEDERATION OF LABOUR

4 C30

BE IT RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party demand the federal government to change the Employment Insurance legislation to ensure workers who have no insurable earnings during periods of total disability are able to maintain full entitlement to EI benefits.

BC FEDERATION OF LABOUR

4 C31

BE IT RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party demand the federal government change the legislation so that vacation pay and severance are not used as income to disqualify claimants from Employment Insurance benefits.

BC FEDERATION OF LABOUR

4 C32

WHEREAS all the great evils of man from slavery to child labour were ended not by reform attempts but only when they were simply outlawed; and

WHEREAS the present Charter of Rights, supposedly guaranteeing security of the person, has not proved useful in guaranteeing the rights of all Canadians to an adequate standard of living; and

WHEREAS it is a well-known defect of the Charter of Rights that its provisions against discrimination do not include discrimination by source of income; and

WHEREAS prior to 1995 Canada had a Canada Assistance Plan whose language included a right to adequate assistance without condition and based on the fact, not the cause, of need; and

WHEREAS the right to an adequate income is a civil liberties issue and not an economic issue; and

WHEREAS opinion research has shown that most Canadians would support the two concepts of a guaranteed income and freedom from discrimination based on source of income; and

WHEREAS the present so called amending formula to the Canadian Constitution is nonsense and the appropriate way of making Constitutional amendments is through referenda,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a constant aim of the Federal NDP will be to pass an amendment to the Charter of Rights to make explicit the right to an income adequate to sustain health and well-being without conditions, and to freedom from discrimination based on source of income.

TORONTO CENTRE NDP

4 C33

BE IT RESOLVED that the Federal NDP develop a progressive policy to strenuously lobby and support legislation to support the concept of a guaranteed livable income.

VICTORIA NDP

4 C34

WHEREAS new 2006 international and Canadian reports document more poor people in Canada, including working poor, and worsening gaps between rich and poor; and

WHEREAS there are countless vulnerable children and families whose daily struggle to achieve basic needs, and experience dehumanizing poverty, hunger, homelessness and other crises; and

WHEREAS women, significant nurturers of family and community, are disproportionately poor; and

WHEREAS the NDP's "Working Families Agenda" includes the working poor, i.e. those working full-time for a full year who still find themselves below low income cutoff levels; and

WHEREAS we are convinced of the fundamental dignity and worth of each and every human being, without qualification, and that every person in Canada deserves by right of citizenship or residency sufficient wages or social assistance to achieve an adequate livelihood to pay for food, clothing and shelter,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP make reducing and ending poverty in Canada an integral part of its policy and platform both in Parliament and during election campaigns, including but not limited to supporting:

- Designating the huge federal surpluses to be invested in stewardly ways to help eliminate the scandals of homelessness, hunger and poverty across Canada;
- A guaranteed annual income; and
- A strengthened Canada Social Transfer with standards of accountability, measuring of outcomes and guarantees that money transferred to provinces and territories are spent on the specified goals of the CST.

CARLETON MISSISSIPPI MILLS NDP

4 C35

WHEREAS the New Democratic Party holds firm to the belief that the dignity and freedom of the individual is a basic right and must be maintained and extended; and

WHEREAS the New Democratic Party believes in the abolition of poverty; and

WHEREAS a Guaranteed Adequate Income program would be a tremendous step into attaining those beliefs; and

WHEREAS the New Democratic Party has adopted the policy of a Guaranteed Adequate Income at two different federal Conventions (1983 and 1987); and

WHEREAS with the application of proper democratic socialist principles, a Guaranteed Adequate Income is quite feasible,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party initiate a Guaranteed Adequate Income as one of its main planks in the platform and campaign in the next federal election.

ESQUIMALT-JUAN DE FUCA NDP

4 C36

WHEREAS the Canadian work week is among the longest throughout the industrialized world, which has shown to cause increased stress, illness and lower productivity; and

WHEREAS tens of thousands of new jobs would be created if the work week was reduced to a more appropriate length,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a NDP government reduce the work week throughout Canada to 32 hours and abolish mandatory overtime.

OAKVILLE NDP

4 C37

WHEREAS the NDP recognizes that post-secondary education and skills training are public goods that must be accessible to all Canadians, so as to provide equal opportunity regardless of income level, cultural background, and place of residence; and

WHEREAS Canadians from low-income, rural, Northern, and Aboriginal backgrounds face considerable financial and other barriers to access post-secondary education and skills training; and

WHEREAS the share of post-secondary education funding by all levels of government has declined from 80% in the mid-1980s to 57% in 2004; and

WHEREAS federal cash transfers to post-secondary education, as a percentage of GDP, has declined from 0.56% in 1983-84 to 0.19% in 2004-05; and

WHEREAS this now-chronic federal government under-funding has led to a crisis in accessibility and quality of Canada's post-secondary education system, in which:

(i) Average undergraduate tuition rates have soared by 135% and medical school tuition has more than tripled since 1994;

(ii) The average undergraduate student debt load now exceeds \$20,000;

(iii) The national student to faculty ratio has risen by 26% since 1993; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Federation representing the provinces and territories has called for the restoration of \$4.9 billion in federal funding for post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS a consensus exists amongst stakeholders in post-secondary education – students, teachers, institutions, and provinces – in favour of a dedicated transfer for post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS the current student financial assistance system has proven to be unreasonably complicated, inefficient, inflexible, and unfriendly to student borrowers; and

WHEREAS the NDP believes that the federal government has a legitimate role in protecting and enhancing the social rights and equity of all Canadians,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party continues and amplifies its insistence that immediate action be taken to enhance the accessibility and quality of post-secondary education and skills training in Canada, specifically by:

1. Increasing and stabilizing long-term, core funding for post-secondary education and skills training, specifically through a dedicated, transparent post-secondary education and skills training transfer to the provinces and territories;
2. Work with the provinces and territories to stop and reverse the dramatic rise in tuition rates to a level that achieves accessibility and quality of post-secondary education;
3. Work with the provinces and territories to encourage and support all Canadian high-school students in choosing the type of post-secondary education that fits their interests, be it university, college, apprenticeship or other skills or trades training program;
4. Create a national system of needs-based grants, especially targeting students from low-income, rural, Northern, and Aboriginal backgrounds; and
5. Overhaul the student financial assistance system to make it more simple, flexible, and responsive to the needs of student borrowers; and
6. Adopt a Post-Secondary Education Act that enshrines stable federal funding for post-secondary education in law, and establishes national standards of accessibility, quality, public administration, not-for-profit, and academic freedom for post-secondary education in Canada.

BRITISH COLUMBIA SOUTHERN INTERIOR NDP

4 C38

WHEREAS the NDP believes that any Canadian employment strategy must principally lead to better and more secure jobs; and

WHEREAS 42% of Canadians of working age lack the sufficient literacy skills to fully participate in the Canadian economy and society, according to international standards; and

WHEREAS financial, logistical, and other barriers prevent many adult Canadians from accessing quality learning and training opportunities to enhance their skills in their current career or in transition between careers; and

WHEREAS the aging Canadian workforce and other factors have created a serious skills shortage, identified by business and labour leaders, in numerous key sectors of the Canadian labour market; and

WHEREAS the NDP believes that the federal government has a legitimate role in protecting and enhancing the social rights and equity of all Canadians,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party formally recognizes that Canadians of all ages and backgrounds have a lifelong right to learn; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party will work toward the establishment of a pan-Canadian strategy for lifelong learning and skills training – in coordination with the provinces and territories, and business and labour stakeholders – that includes but is not limited to:

1. Formal recognition by the federal government that all Canadians have a lifelong right to learn;
2. Stable, long-term federal funding for post-secondary education and skills training, specifically through a dedicated post-secondary education and skills training transfer to the provinces and territories;
3. Access for all Canadians to quality learning opportunities to enhance their basic skills, and to maintain, enhance or transform advanced skills;
4. Access for all Canadians to information about adult learning and training opportunities that is easy to understand and navigate;
5. Investment in the ongoing collection and dissemination of high-quality labour market information to all labour market stakeholders – students, parents, teachers, labour and business;
6. Facilitating clear pathways for youth to the labour market;
7. Facilitating the back-and-forth transition between learning and work for all Canadians; and
8. Incentives for employers to support training of their employees.

BRITISH COLUMBIA SOUTHERN INTERIOR NDP

4 C39

WHEREAS the cost of post-secondary tuition has skyrocketed in recent years; and

WHEREAS many students are now graduating from post-secondary institutions with student-debt of over \$50,000 each; and

WHEREAS this situation discourages Canadians from seeking education, denies university students many opportunities, and contributes to the unprecedented level of personal debt among Canadians,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP actively campaign to ensure that federal funding for education impose requirements on the provinces to immediately freeze tuition, and through annual reductions, eliminate tuition completely within five years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NDP actively campaign for a more equitable and progressive taxation system that would allow such increased funding to take place.

KITCHENER CENTRE NDP

4 C40

WHEREAS a high quality and affordable public early learning and childcare system, accessible to all, benefits children, their parents, and the community,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP restore the 2005 funding arrangements and work towards increasing federal funding for childcare to levels that reflect the need for quality regulated early learning and childcare; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NDP work to pass legislation that establishes a framework for a national childcare and early learning system with a permanent commitment for the federal government and standards for a network of high-quality, licensed, non-profit care for children.

CUPE

4 C41

WHEREAS wait times are a key measure of the performance of a public health system; and

WHEREAS the final report of the Federal Advisor on Wait Times proposes many public sector solutions and innovations that will alleviate the wait times problem; and

WHEREAS many private, for-profit health care providers rely on long wait times in the public system to make profits,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP support public sector solutions to health care wait times; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these solutions include programs to increase health human resources within the public system.

CUPE

4 C42

WHEREAS federal funding for post-secondary education has been severely cut since the 1990's resulting in increased tuition, deteriorating campus infrastructure, a contingent workforce, and increased privatization and corporate influence,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP work to increase the federal transfer to postsecondary education by \$4.9 billion through a dedicated transfer to post-secondary education along with a funding formula to ensure stability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that federal funding conditions ensure provinces move to decrease tuition fees, make improvements in access and quality through public services.

CUPE

WHEREAS only 38% of unemployed persons qualify for unemployment insurance; and

WHEREAS only 32% of women qualify for unemployment insurance; and

WHEREAS the current program discriminates against women, young people, seasonally employed workers and older workers; and

WHEREAS this has devastating repercussions on both the persons affected and their communities; and

WHEREAS the surplus in the unemployment insurance fund has increased to more than \$49 billion, and

WHEREAS the major role played by unemployment insurance in stabilizing the economy, preserving jobs during economic down turns and maintaining skilled labour during layoffs has been seriously eroded; and

WHEREAS the program now includes several levels of severe and unjust penalty rates, intended to blame workers who have lost their jobs, for their loss; and

WHEREAS billions of dollars of unemployment insurance training-assistance revenues have been cut and diverted to grants for businesses and for privatizing our public training institutions; and

WHEREAS the Constitution Amendment, 1940 – which made unemployment insurance, exclusively a federal responsibility – has given the federal government principal responsibility for the unemployed,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a New Democratic government will modernize Canada's unemployment insurance system to protect workers in all types of work, strengthen unemployment insurance as a Canadian income insurance program for unemployment, pregnancy and parental leave, short-term illness, compassionate leave and income support during training and that a New Democrat government will end unemployment insurance discrimination against women, young people, older workers and workers in seasonal industries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Canadian unemployment insurance program be modernized by:

- a. Decreasing the number of hours needed for eligibility during the previous 52 weeks from 910 to 360;
- b. Providing an extra week for each 30 hours worked during the preceding year;
- c. Providing 66% of the 12 weeks of highest insurable earnings during the preceding year, rather than the current average of 55 % based on the last 26 weeks;
- d. Increasing insurance coverage to \$49,400 compared to \$39,000 currently;
- e. Providing two additional weeks of extended coverage for every 1% by which the local unemployment rate exceeds 4 %, and 5 additional weeks when the unemployment rate exceeds 10 % ;
- f. Providing up to 26 weeks of increased social benefits for older workers;
- g. Covering all self-employed workers;
- h. Allowing workers access to U.I. sponsored training without first having to be laid off
- i. Reducing waiting times before receiving benefits after interruption of earnings and removing the conditions that apply to them;

- j. Treating training like an employment search in terms of the benefits structure. Taking training funds from general revenue for non-claimants of unemployment insurance to ensure access for all workers to high quality, public and non-profit training. Repealing part II of the Unemployment Insurance Act which would include abolition of skill upgrading loans from unemployment insurance along with the training voucher systems and halting the use of money from unemployment insurance for hidden grants to businesses and workfare programs;
- k. Repealing measures, such as the index guide, the intensity rule and the benefit claw-back, that blame labour for job losses;
- l. Paying additional unemployment insurance benefits when unemployment rises above 4 %;
- m. Abolishing unjust penalties for people who have been laid-off or who have left their jobs for “just cause”. Extending “just cause” and restoring the “burden of proof” from the beneficiary to the Commission;
- n. Providing sponsors to claimants to help workers file their claims, advise them of their rights and assist them during appeals;
- o. Establishing a comprehensive, publicly administered, one-stop service – that includes a registry of available jobs that meets the varying needs of workers and the unemployed;
- p. Excluding severance pay and pension income from insurable income;
- q. Establishing new ways to protect older workers through unemployment insurance; and
- r. Establishing a more transparent, arms length, unemployment insurance fund. Restricting use of workers’ and employers’ unemployment insurance premiums, using only income insurance and unemployment insurance money that may not be diverted for federal debt reduction, tax cuts or government program costs. Clearly establish the responsibility of the Unemployment Insurance Commission to workers as well as increasing the Commission’s independence and authority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above clauses apply to persons filing applications under the maternity, illness, compassion and training clause.

ACADIE-BATHURST NDP

4 C44

WHEREAS the New Democratic Party has always fought for social justice; and

WHEREAS there is growing inequality between the rich and the poor; and

WHEREAS governments and society need to understand and address the causes of poverty in order to resolve the consequences of poverty; and

WHEREAS the following factors are crucial in closing the gap between the rich and poor; an even distribution of wealth and income services and income support that help the poorest families meet their basic needs adequate annual incomes; and

WHEREAS political decisions can either increase or decrease the gap between the rich and poor regardless of the economic growth or decline; and

WHEREAS poverty is a human creation and therefore can be and must be resolved; and
WHEREAS in 1989 there was a unanimous resolution in Parliament to eliminate child poverty by year 2000; and
WHEREAS today in 2006 there is almost twice as many children living in poverty; and
WHEREAS if there are poor children there must be poor families and inadequate incomes,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party hold discussions with its social partners and labour to see if there is any concerns in establishing a guaranteed annual income well above the poverty line, in order to provide for families and individuals basic needs but for a good quality of life; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party start an awareness campaign and lobby the government for a law establishing a guaranteed annual income.

ACADIE-BATHURST NDP

4 C45

WHEREAS when a company goes into bankruptcy, closes or is sold, the decisions taken by corporations can trigger a series of changes that can affect workers pensions; and
WHEREAS Canadian bankruptcy laws are outdated and unfair to workers, especially as it pertains to under funded pension plans; and
WHEREAS workers are always the last to be paid by a bankrupted company; and
WHEREAS the size of the pension of a bankrupted company and whether or not it's large to cover all, none or part of the pensions earned by workers,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party of Canada start an awareness and lobby campaign to inform the public and convince all levels of government that there must be laws for proper checks and balances in place to protect workers pensions and that workers pensions monies are the first to be paid when a company goes bankrupt.

ACADIE-BATHURST NDP

4 C46

COMPOSITE OF 4 C13, 4 C16 AND 4 C21

WHEREAS 1.1 million Canadian children lives in poverty. A shockingly high and unacceptable figure of one in six children; and
WHEREAS 40% of those who accessed food banks are children; and
WHEREAS Poverty is more severe in Aboriginal, women, minority, and youth populations; and
WHEREAS 373,200 children in Canada – or 31.1% of all low-income children – lived in families with at least one parent working full- time full year, yet were still in poverty; and
WHEREAS UNICEF's second report, Child Poverty in Rich Countries 2005, continues to rank Canada a dismal 19th out of 26 OECD countries in a global survey of child poverty rates in industrialized countries; and

WHEREAS in 1989 Ed Broadbent led a unanimously-adopted motion to end child poverty by the year 2000. Yet there are more children going hungry today than there were nearly two decades ago,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP strive to end child poverty in Canada by demanding:

- a) An increase to the Canada Child Tax Benefit to \$5,000 per child;
- b) An end to the claw back by the provinces of the Child Tax Credit;
- c) The re-instate the federal minimum wage with inflation indexation regardless of employee, age or occupation and establish a Federal-provincial Living Wage Commission;
- d) The construction of affordable housing; and
- e) The engagement of Aboriginals, women, minority, and youth populations in the design and implementation of community a poverty reduction strategy.

TRINITY-SPADNIA NDP
PETERBOROUGH NDP
EDMONTON-STRATHCONA NDP

4 C47

COMPOSITE OF 4 C4, 4 C6, 4 C7, 4 C8, 4 C9, 4 C12, AND 4 C45

*NOTE: Resolution 4 C24 is now combined with a composite motion 4 C37 under "Making Ends Meet".

WHEREAS Canadians are increasingly anxious about whether they will have enough money to live on during their retirement; and

WHEREAS a decline in long-term interest rates and a normalization of investment returns has created solvency deficiencies in many workplace pension plans; and

WHEREAS employers, after decades of using surpluses for contribution holidays, now are seeking relief from their pension funding obligations; and

WHEREAS public pensions such as the Canada/Quebec Pension Plan and Old Age Security, which could provide the soundest way to ensure dignity in retirement for all Canadians, still offer replacement of less than half of pre-retirement income; and

WHEREAS corporations have already signaled their intention to dismantle defined contribution pension plans wherever legislation allows them to,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party oppose any change in the regulations governing pension funding which reduce the security of earned pension rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government must overhaul its regulation of pension plans to ensure security of employer funded pensions. The following immediate reforms to federal pension regulations and bankruptcy law should be sought immediately:

- Make pension plan sponsors liable for all funding shortfalls on plan wind-up;
- Amend the federal *Income Tax Act* (s. 147.2) to raise the ratio triggering contribution holidays from 110% to 130%, and end any practice of required contribution holidays;

- Investigate the option of a national pension benefit guarantee fund, one provinces could opt into, to protect workers pensions in the event of funding shortfalls;
- Amend the Companies Creditor Arrangement Act so employer pension obligations continue to be met during initial court order stages of bankruptcy and insolvency proceedings; and
- Continue to seek a “super priority” for unfunded liabilities in pension funds under bankruptcy law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government should encourage the following progressive reforms to public pension policy:

- Increase the portion of pre-retirement income by Old Age Security benefits and the Canada/Quebec Pension Plan;
- The addition of a ‘caregiver drop-out’ provision within the CPP to permit the removal of time spent in caring for loved ones from the calculation of CPP benefits;
- Advocate for the re-establishment of the CPP Advisory Board as a representative body of pensioners, civil society groups, and the labour movement; and
- Seek legislative changes to remove any qualifications (other than citizenship) to ensure that Old Age Security benefits are available equally to all Canadian citizens at age 65.

IAMAW

USW LOCAL 8412

USW LOCAL 1998

USW LOCAL 13173

USW LOCAL 838

USW LOCAL 8300

NORTHUMBERLAND QUINTE WEST NDP

WINNIPEG NORTH NDP

ACADIE-BATHURST NDP

F. LABOUR, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

4 F1

WHEREAS the Canadian work week is among the longest in the industrialized world, a situation proven to cause increased stress, illness and lower productivity; and

WHEREAS tens of thousands of new jobs would be created if the work week was reduced appropriately,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP actively campaign to reduce the work week for federally-regulated employees throughout Canada to 32 hours, without loss of pay or benefits to workers, and to outlaw mandatory overtime.

TORONTO-DANFORTH NDP

4 F2

WHEREAS the current minimum wage is far too low to support a single person, let alone a family; and

WHEREAS the current minimum wage unfairly punishes the young, and food/beverage servers,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP actively campaign for, and seek to legislate, the elimination of distinctions in the minimum wage law based on age or occupation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NDP actively campaign for, and seek to legislate an increase in the minimum wage to a living wage (currently equivalent to approximately \$12.50/hour) over a four-year period, and include a permanent, annual cost of living adjustment to keep pace with inflation.

OAKVILLE NDP

TRINITY-SPADINA NDP

DURHAM NDP

KITCHENER CENTRE NDP

4 F3

WHEREAS the new federal government of Prime Minister Paul Martin has failed to live up to its promise to establish a respectful and cooperative relationship with employees of the federal public service and the Parliament of Canada, but instead has shown nothing but contempt for its workers with talk of program cuts, privatization, public-private partnerships and hiring freezes; and

WHEREAS the federal government's approach to its current negotiations with the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) is a perfect illustration of the lack of value and respect the government places on public services and the workers who deliver those services across Canada; and

WHEREAS another clear example of the federal government's disrespect it holds towards its workers is its continuous refusal to proclaim the sections of the *Parliamentary Staff Relations*

and *Employment Act* (Bill C-45) dealing with occupational health and safety standards for Parliamentary employees, forcing the union representing Parliamentary employees to take court action against the federal government; and

WHEREAS PSAC currently has over 30,000 of its members employed with Parks Canada and the Canada Revenue and Customs Agency involved in strike action and another 95,000 members in two Treasury Board groups and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency will be in a position to strike on October 8, 2004; and

WHEREAS the federal government refuses to present a fair and just offer to PSAC and its members, providing PSAC and its members with no choice to take strike action; and

WHEREAS the President of the Treasury Board already publicly announced that his government will consider back-to-work legislation if PSAC members exercise their fundamental right to strike; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada is signatory to the International Labour Organization's (ILO's) Constitution, Conventions and *Declaration of Fundamental Rights at Work*, which guarantees all workers the right to freedom of association, including the right to organize, bargain collectively and take strike action; and

WHEREAS Canada has been cited more than any other of the 181 member states of the ILO for violating fundamental freedom of association principles of the ILO; and

WHEREAS this represents a major international embarrassment for Canada,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federal Caucus and Council of the Federal New Democratic Party of Canada (NDP) strongly support the efforts of the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) to obtain fair and just settlements for its members,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Federal Caucus of the NDP do everything in its power within the House of Commons to:

- Oppose any attempt by the federal government to introduce back-to-work legislation;
- Pressure the federal government to proclaim the occupational health and safety provisions of the *Parliamentary Staff Relations and Employment Act*;
- Pressure the federal government to live up to the international labour standards of the International Labour Organization to which Canada is a signatory; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NDP Federal Council encourage Party members from across the country to show support and solidarity with PSAC members by participating in picket line support and other community activities in support of PSAC's negotiations.

FEDERAL COUNCIL – OCTOBER 2004

4 F4

WHEREAS based on the premise that labour rights are human rights, Canadian workers have seen a major erosion of their human rights in the past 25 years as evident by the 175 pieces of labour legislation proclaimed by the federal and provincial governments since 1982 that have restricted and/or denied their right to collective bargaining; and

WHEREAS the federal and most provincial governments are failing in their responsibility under international labour and human rights standards to protect workers' rights by their continuous legislative attack on workers' rights to organize, bargain collectively and take strike action; and

WHEREAS over half of all labour legislation passed in Canada since 1982 have been found by the International Labour Organization (ILO) to violate its freedom of association principles,

which the Government of Canada has committed to “respect, promote and fully implement throughout its territory”; and

WHEREAS there are only four other member States of the ILO – Argentina, Colombia, Peru and Greece – that have been found to violate ILO freedom of association principles more than Canada; and

WHEREAS the ILO has repeatedly asked the Government of Canada to take necessary steps to ensure that the federal and provincial labour legislation is amended to comply with rulings of the ILO Governing Body; and

WHEREAS this disregard towards the ILO Governing Body’s rulings has led the ILO to request the Canadian government to consider allowing an ILO Study and Information Mission to come to Canada and investigate the large number of complaints from Canadian unions and the lack of responsiveness by the federal and provincial governments to the ILO Governing Body’s rulings,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federal New Democratic Party and its Parliamentary Caucus:

- Continue to condemn the use of labour laws that restrict or deny the fundamental rights of workers;
- Make progressive labour law reform a central focus of its policy platform;
- Create public awareness around the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining; and
- Pressure the federal government to take necessary steps to ensure that the federal and provincial labour legislation is amended to comply with rulings of the ILO Governing Body.

NUPGE

4 F5

WHEREAS the Canadian work week is among the longest in the industrialized world, a situation proven to cause increased stress, illness and lower productivity; and
WHEREAS tens of thousands of new jobs would be created if the work week was reduced appropriately; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP actively campaign to reduce the work week throughout Canada to 32 hours, without loss of pay or benefits to workers, and to outlaw mandatory overtime.

TRINITY-SPADINA NDP
KITCHENER CENTRE NDP

4 F6

WHEREAS Wal-Mart workers in Quebec democratically chose to unionize and still seek a just collective agreement, only to be faced by union-busting Wal-Mart management and its decision to shut the organized store on spurious grounds,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP support the effort to unionize Wal-Mart by means of an action-oriented campaign, including protests directly aimed at Wal-Mart locations

wherever possible, and seek legislation at all levels to outlaw the shut down of operations as a business response to unionization by its employees.

**TRINITY-SPADINA NDP
DURHAM NDP
KITCHENER CENTRE NDP**

4 F7

WHEREAS workers acting upon their duty to the Canadian people by reporting wrong doing by their employers or public officials often suffer persecution, retribution and retaliation both on and off the worksite as a result,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party support Whistle Blower Legislation to protect both public and private sector workers in Canadian society.

NEWTON NORTH DELTA

4 F8

WHEREAS the Federal Standards Commission appointed in 2004 will report in the fall of 2006; and

WHEREAS the lack of work-family balance was one of the three reasons for the review; and

WHEREAS employees with family responsibilities are subject to great stress and fatigue; and

WHEREAS this stress falls particularly severely on the lowest paid employees; and

WHEREAS neither the Federal Labour Standards nor any provincial or territorial jurisdiction allow employees to be absent while caring for families or relatives without protection of forfeit of wages; and

WHEREAS there are many other recommendations that the Commission will recommend to the government,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP Caucus reviews the Report of the Federal Labour Standards Review Commission when published in the fall; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Caucus work with constituency leaders and WOR-Family activists; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Caucus presses for the implementation of Family Responsibility Leave in Federal Labour Standards to allow for 8 to 10 days of family responsibility leave (with 5 days as paid leave) in order to relieve stress and fatigue currently experienced with family responsibilities, particularly the lowest waged employees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all provincial and territorial jurisdictions be encouraged to adopt similar Codes.

SASKATOON-WANUSKEWIN NDP

4 F9

WHEREAS since 1982, Canada's record with respect to the number of ILO complaints against restrictive labour legislation is the worst of any of the ILO's 177 member States with Canadian unions filing more complaints than the national labour movements of any other country; and

WHEREAS the federal and provincial governments have completely ignored the rulings of the ILO Governing Body; and

WHEREAS this disregard towards these rulings have led the ILO to request the Canadian government to consider allowing an ILO Study Mission to Canada to investigate the large number of complaints and the lack of responsiveness by Canadian governments to the ILO Governing Body's rulings,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federal NDP call upon the federal government to allow the ILO to conduct their study mission to Canada and to ensure that the federal and provincial governments implement all current and outstanding ILO recommendations with respect to the various laws found not to be in conformity with ILO's freedom of association principles.

UFCW CANADA

4 F10

WHEREAS of the 185 Conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO), Canada has only ratified 30; and

WHEREAS of the seven core Conventions of the ILO, Canada has only ratified five; and

WHEREAS of the 30 ILO Conventions developed since 1982 – all of which Canada voted for at the ILO's Annual Conferences – Canada has only ratified two of them,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federal NDP call upon the federal government to:

- Immediately ratify the ILO's core Conventions: No. 98 – the Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining Convention and No. 138 – the Minimum Age Convention; and
- Establish an ongoing consultative process with the labour movement and provinces with respect to the ratification of ILO Conventions that Canada has voted for at the ILO's Annual Conferences; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a NDP Government would act immediately to ratify the ILO's core conventions and develop a plan to ensure all levels of government have labour legislation that comply with the ILO's freedom of association principles.

UFCW CANADA

4 F11

BE IT RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party demand the Marine Facility Restricted Area Access Clearance Program respect the privacy rights of workers and that workers have full appeal rights, including the right to know the case against them.

BC FEDERATION OF LABOUR

4 F12

BE IT RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party continue to support the rights of all workers to free collective bargaining; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party continue to condemn the use of labour laws that restrict or deny the fundamental rights of workers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party continue to support unions faced with back-to-work legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party make progressive labour law reform a central focus of the Party's agenda and create public awareness around the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party demand the federal government compel the BC provincial government to implement the ILO recommendations with respect to the various BC labour laws found to be in violation with the ILO's freedom of association principles.

BC FEDERATION OF LABOUR

4 F13

BE IT RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party demand the federal government ensure the Canada Industrial Relations Board adjudicate workers' issues in a timely manner.

BC FEDERATION OF LABOUR

4 F14

BE IT RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party demand the federal government enact legislation to ensure that workers, their unions and their collective agreements are not compromised because of corporate mergers or acquisition.

BC FEDERATION OF LABOUR

4 F15

WHEREAS there are upward of 1,000 workers who die annually from workplace causes and there are more than 1,000,000 who suffer workplace injuries; and

WHEREAS April 28 has been recognized as a National Day of Mourning to both reflect on the great loss of workers and the importance of a safe and healthy workplace; and

WHEREAS Canada must show greater recognition and respect for its working citizens who risk their lives every day,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federal NDP advocate for the implementation of April 28 as a legal holiday to recognize the National Day of Mourning for Workers Killed on the Job.

VANCOUVER EAST NDP

4 F16

WHEREAS governments increasingly seek to erode, restrict or eliminate workers' right to strike, falsely arguing that unions and strikes pose a threat to public health and safety, including through the cynical use of "essential services" legislation where it clearly does not apply, while governments themselves trample human needs by de-regulating capital, privatizing public services, and facilitating growing corporate control over all facets of life,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP actively campaign for, and seek to legislate the unfettered right to strike for all working people, and that the Party respect the integrity and competence of unions to safeguard public health and safety, and provide for the delivery of genuinely essential services during a strike by their members.

KITCHENER CENTRE NDP

4 F17

COMPOSITE OF 4 F4, 4 F9 AND 4 F10

WHEREAS based on the premise that labour rights are human rights, Canadian workers have seen a major erosion of their human rights in the past 25 years as evident by the 175 pieces of labour legislation proclaimed by the federal and provincial governments since 1982 that have restricted and/or denied their right to collective bargaining; and

WHEREAS the federal and most provincial governments are failing in their responsibility under international labour and human rights standards to protect workers' rights by their continuous legislative attack on workers' rights to organize, bargain collectively and take strike action; and

WHEREAS over half of all labour legislation passed in Canada since 1982 have been found by the International Labour Organization (ILO) to violate its freedom of association principles, which the Government of Canada has committed to "respect, promote and fully implement throughout its territory"; and

WHEREAS there are only four other member States of the ILO – Argentina, Colombia, Peru and Greece – that have been found to violate ILO freedom of association principles more than Canada; and

WHEREAS the ILO has repeatedly asked the Government of Canada to take necessary steps to ensure that the federal and provincial labour legislation is amended to comply with rulings of the ILO Governing Body; and

WHEREAS this disregard towards the ILO Governing Body's rulings has led the ILO to request the Canadian government to consider allowing an ILO Study and Information Mission to come to Canada and investigate the large number of complaints from Canadian unions and the lack of responsiveness by the federal and provincial governments to the ILO Governing Body's rulings,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federal New Democratic Party and its Parliamentary Caucus:

- Continue to condemn the use of labour laws that restrict or deny the fundamental rights of workers;
- Make progressive labour law reform a central focus of its policy platform;
- Create public awareness around the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining; and
- Immediately ratify the ILO's core Conventions: No. 98 – the Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining Convention and No. 138 – the Minimum Age Convention; and
- Establish an ongoing consultative process with the labour movement and provinces with respect to the ratification of ILO Conventions that Canada has voted for at the ILO's Annual Conferences; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a NDP Government would act immediately to ratify the ILO's core conventions and develop a plan to ensure all levels of government have labour legislation that comply with the ILO's freedom of association principles.

**NUPGE
UFCW CANADA**

G. HEALTH

4 G1

WHEREAS the rapidly rising cost of prescription drugs puts their accessibility beyond many Canadians and threatens to undermine Medicare,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP campaign vigorously in the next election for a national Pharmacare program based on the four principles espoused by the Canadian Health Coalition of Access, Safety, Cost Controls and Affordability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the program be based on first dollar coverage and if there is a phase-in period that children, seniors, disabled and low income be covered by first dollar immediately and that it be financed on the basis of the federal government paying 25%, provinces paying 50% and employers paying 235% through a Pharmacare premium; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governments establish a formulary to determine which drugs are covered and that they bargain with pharmaceutical companies on the price to be paid.

CONGRESS OF UNION RETIREES OF CANADA (CURC)

4 G2

WHEREAS it has now been almost a year since the release of the Romanow Report on the Future of Health Care; and

WHEREAS most of the recommendations of the Romanow Report remain unfilled, including the creation of a Health Council to provide accountability for health care spending and to encourage reform of the health care system; and

WHEREAS pro-privatization provincial governments, such as Alberta and Ontario, continue to hold up the creation of the Health Council, while the NDP governments of Saskatchewan and Manitoba have supported such a Council; and

WHEREAS the federal Liberal government has suggested that it may withhold \$2 billion in promised health care funding to the provinces; and

WHEREAS at the most recent federal/provincial/territorial Health Ministers meeting, Anne McLellan set a seven-week deadline for provinces/territories to name representatives to the Health Council,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Federal Council encourage the Federal NDP Caucus to continue its demands that the federal government fulfill the recommendations of the Romanow Report; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of Federal Council, as well as NDP MPs, encourage Provincial Sections to lobby provincial governments to support the Health Council and appoint representatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Federal Council encourage the Federal NDP Caucus to call upon the federal government to ensure that all members of the Health Council support the five principles of the Canada Health Act and are committed to a public, comprehensive, universal, portable and accessible health care system.

FEDERAL COUNCIL – SEPTEMBER 2003

4 G3

WHEREAS the rapidly rising cost of prescription drugs puts their accessibility beyond many Canadians and threatens to undermine Medicare,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP campaign vigorously for a national Pharmacare program based on the four principles espoused by the Canadian Health Coalition of Access, Safety, Cost Controls and Affordability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the program be based on first dollar coverage and if there is a phase-in period that children, seniors, disabled and low income be covered by first dollar immediately; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governments establish a formulary to determine which drugs are covered and that they bargain with pharmaceutical companies on the price to be paid.

OTTAWA CENTRE NDP

4G4

WHEREAS drug and alcohol addiction-driven social problems are an increasing crisis and concern in many working-class communities; and

WHEREAS Addiction Service Agencies often face frozen funding from governments with no national treatment plan in place; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP will push Parliament to form a permanent standing committee on Drug/Alcohol Treatment in Society to report on programs and progress in treatment, interdiction and education. Furthermore that the NDP will formulate and promote a policy with the principle that just as we have universality in health care there needs to be a universal timely access to frontline drug treatment across Canada. Also that a self-sustaining funding model (like "A Penny a Drink") is needed to correct the current funding crisis.

OTTAWA CENTRE NDP

4G5

WHEREAS all the Health Ministers and all the Premiers agreed for the first time on pan-Canadian, evidence-based, benchmarks and are all taking aggressive action to reduce wait lists; and

WHEREAS the Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservative government has promised to work with the provinces to develop a Health Care Guarantee that ensures patients receive essential medical treatment within clinically acceptable waiting times; and

WHEREAS the federal Conservatives also promised that the guarantee will protect Canada's public health care system, complying with the principals of the Canada Health Act, treating all patients equally for essential health care services regardless of ability to pay, and maintaining a single-payer, publicly funded health care system; and

WHEREAS the Conservatives did not commit any new funding for the care guarantee plan in their election campaign platform; and

WHEREAS federal funding for health care to the provinces is still below historic levels necessary to sustain the system,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federal NDP urge the federal government to continue to support the national agreement on wait times and support the existing progress being made by all provinces on those agreements; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Federal NDP lobby the federal government to ensure that there is adequate funding to the provinces for them to support any new national direction on wait times.

**SAINT BONIFACE NDP
MYND**

4 G6

WHEREAS Zonolite is the trade name for an asbestos-laden vermiculite insulation that was widely used in residential and commercial construction across Canada including Military bases and Indian Reserves; and

WHEREAS the federal government promoted and subsidized the installation of Zonolite through the Canadian Home Insulation Program from 1977-1984 and is therefore partly responsible for its widespread use; and

WHEREAS hundreds of thousands of homes are now devalued and made dangerous by the presence of this asbestos-laden material,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP calls upon the federal government to undertake a comprehensive abatement program to help homeowners defray the costs of testing for, and removing asbestos-laden Zonolite insulation wherever it is found; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CMHC be urged to require full disclosure of the presence of Zonolite in a home or building upon sale or transfer of ownership.

WINNIPEG CENTRE NDP

4G7

WHEREAS there is no safe level of asbestos exposure; and

WHEREAS on January 01, 2005 the European Union officially joined other developed nations such as Australia and Japan and banned asbestos and asbestos products; and

WHEREAS Canada continues to be one of the world's leading producers and exporters of asbestos, often exporting this deadly product into third world and developing nations where lax health and safety standards put workers' lives at risk, including allowing workers to handle asbestos without being informed of the risks; and

WHEREAS Canada has signed ILO Convention 162 on the safe handling of asbestos but still exports to countries that have not signed this Convention, which deals with protective measures required for workers handling asbestos; and

WHEREAS Canada has attempted to stop other countries from banning asbestos by filing complaints at the WTO and opposing asbestos being listed under the Rotterdam Convention as a material whose use requires informed prior consent,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP calls on the Government of Canada to:

- a) Immediately stop exportation of asbestos or products containing asbestos to

- b) any country that has not signed ILO Convention 162, which requires signatory
- c) countries to take protective measures for workers handling asbestos;
- d) Support and encourage independent medical research to facilitate
- e) improved diagnosis and treatment of asbestos-related diseases;
- f) Provide transitional measures for employees whose jobs will be affected
- g) by any effect on the asbestos industry caused by limiting exports of
- h) asbestos, including early retirement, re-training, other bridging measures
- i) to accommodate re-entry to the workforce, and economic development
- j) initiatives for the communities of affected workers; and
- k) Join with other countries around the world and declare the first day of April to
- l) be Asbestos Disease Awareness Day.

WINNIPEG CENTRE NDP

4 G8

WHEREAS the Liberal MP for Huron-Bruce, Paul Steckle, introduced the new abortion Bill C-338, 'An Act to Amend the Criminal Code' restricting later abortions by imposing a prison term of up to five years, and/or a fine of up to \$100,000 on anyone who "uses any means or permits any means to be used" to perform an abortion past 20 weeks, once again criminalizing women's health care; and

WHEREAS each woman has a fundamental right to choose when and whether she will bear children; and

WHEREAS in 1988, the Supreme Court removed abortion from the Criminal Code of Canada, making abortion a decision of the woman and her doctor, available in free standing clinics and hospitals,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party of Canada renew its commitment to women's right to choose, by strenuously protecting and promoting the 1988 removal of abortion from the Criminal Code; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party of Canada promote the policy that includes abortion as fully funded, universally accessible medical procedure under the Canada Health Services Act in each and every province and territory of Canada.

ETOBICOKE CENTRE NDP

4 G9

BE IT RESOLVED that Federal Parliament enact legislation to prohibit a medical doctor from practising medicine anywhere in Canada while that doctor has been suspended or permanently lost a license to practise medicine in any region of Canada on the basis of any sexual misconduct. This prohibition shall be enforced for as long as the medical doctor's license is revoked or suspended in any region of Canada on the basis of any sexual misconduct.

BRANT NDP

WHEREAS the prevalence rates of children born in Canada who are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder is currently 1 in 166 and increasing at an alarming rate; and

WHEREAS autism is a pervasive neurological disorder that causes 90% of those untreated persons who are diagnosed to become institutionalized as lifelong wards of government, at great public cost; and

WHEREAS the cause and cure of autism are not yet known to the medical scientific community; and

WHEREAS health researchers and practitioners in Canada, and around the world, including, the chief medical officer in the United States—the U.S. Surgeon General, widely recognize that there is only one effective treatment for autism that substantially improves the person's ability to function, known in the scientific literature as Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) or Lovaas-type Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA); and

WHEREAS in every province in Canada, Canadians diagnosed with autism are currently excluded from publicly funded health care under Medicare for their core health need; and

WHEREAS physician referrals for those with autism whom require occupational therapy and speech therapy is denied; and

WHEREAS this abandonment of families in desperate need of assistance to help their disabled children constitutes an unconscionable abdication of responsibility by the state and Canada's Medicare program; and

WHEREAS an Ipsos-Reid scientific public opinion poll in 2004 indicated that the overwhelming majority of Canadians (84%) believe that the core health need of children with autism should be covered under Medicare; and

WHEREAS the "best and brightest" of Canadians are now leaving for higher education in the United States to attain advanced degrees and training in Intensive Behavioural Intervention for autism, and most are not returning, thus causing a serious "brain drain" of autism treatment capacity flowing out of Canada,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party of Canada urge the federal government to amend the Canada Health Act to explicitly forbid discrimination in Medicare and to mandate the inclusion of children diagnosed with autism in Medicare for full coverage for their core health needs of medically required autism treatment for those requiring it; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party of Canada urge the federal government to establish a Disability Discrimination Act, a Mental Health Act, Special Needs and Learning Disability Education Act and Health and Social Care Act to ensure that all disabled persons needs are met throughout their lives by means of treatment, education, social development, housing, employment and transportation requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party of Canada urge the federal government to establish an academic chair in each province in Canada so as to educate and train a wholly Canadian echelon of qualified autism treatment professionals, appropriately skilled in the delivery of effective, medically necessary treatment.

SACKVILLE-EASTERN SHORE NDP

4G11

WHEREAS Canadians with mental health issues are one of the few medically affected people, who often lose their job, despite having the ability to work; and

WHEREAS loss of employment is often followed by loss of home, family and eventually homelessness,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federal NDP introduce legislation that would, in collaboration with the provinces and labour unions, reform the mental health system, to allow suitable jobs opportunities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bill would adhere to health and safety regulations and Labour laws to ensure the safety of all involved and the bill would also protect existing rights.

OTTAWA VANIER NDP

4G12

WHEREAS decades of scientific advances have lead to recent breakthrough cures for terminal illnesses; and

WHEREAS a number of Canadians must suffer long and sometime fatal waiting periods, while medical human trials of new procedures are delayed because of under funding,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federal NDP introduce legislation that would set-up a one-time emergency medical research fund to speed up human trials for promising new procedures.

OTTAWA VANIER NDP

4G13

WHEREAS physical activity and sport have been shown to, among many positive individual and national effects,

- reduce obesity;
- improve cardio-vascular health;
- create a sense of community;
- reduce delinquency in youth;
- inspire national and civic pride;
- demonstrate leadership on an international stage; and

WHEREAS health issues are most efficiently resolved through prevention rather than healing or palliative care; and

WHEREAS Infrastructure for physical activity has been repeatedly found to be limited at both the grass roots level and the progression to high performance; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a NDP government would dedicate 1% of the federal health budget to physical activity and sport.

OTTAWA VANIER NDP

4 G14

WHEREAS Canada has an aging population and our public health care system is not presently keeping pace with the health needs of our seniors with respect to long-term care, surgical wait lists and the upgrading of health care infrastructure; and

WHEREAS the Canada Health Act guarantees universal access to health care, regardless of income or circumstance,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federal NDP promote an increase in health transfer payments to the provinces which are targeted and tied to increased health care facilities for our seniors.

VANCOUVER ISLAND NORTH NDP

4 G15

WHEREAS tuberculosis rates in communities across Canada continue to be high; and

WHEREAS some Northern and Aboriginal communities have tuberculosis rates that are higher than sub-Saharan Africa; and

WHEREAS this has resulted from causes such as poverty, poor health and overcrowded housing; and

WHEREAS it is a national disgrace that so many Canadians continue to be at risk from a disease that has almost been eradicated in the developed world,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP call for a national strategy to assist tuberculosis affected communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Canada undertake immediate action to deal with the underlying causes of tuberculosis by ensuring all Canadians have access to a decent income, adequate housing and proper health care

CHURCHILL NDP

4 G16

WHEREAS our Canadian system of universal health care is under increasing attack from proponents of private for-profit health care including some provincial governments and;

WHEREAS claims that our public health care system is not sustainable are not supported by the facts (In 1980-81, 39% of taxes went to health care compared to 34%, 20 years later) and;

WHEREAS private surgical companies have found fertile ground especially in BC and Alberta since the 1990's, in violation of the Canada Health Act;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federal NDP urge the federal government to:

- Strictly enforce the Canada Health Act;

- Move to strengthen and enhance publicly funded and publicly delivered health care services; and
- Allocate federal funds for wait list reduction exclusively to public surgery clinics.

SAANICH-GULF ISLANDS NDP

4 G17

WHEREAS all Canadians should have equal access to the drugs necessary for their health; and

WHEREAS Canada and the U.S.A. are the only two industrialized countries without a national public drug plan; and

WHEREAS we urgently need a new system that would be accessible, safe and affordable to replace the current patchwork of public and private drug plans that now consume 16.6% of health expenditures in Canada; and

WHEREAS as part of a national strategy on prescription drugs, patent laws need to be reviewed to allow earlier introduction of cheaper generic drugs; and

WHEREAS a national public Pharmacare plan would have the negotiating strength to obtain lower prices for drugs,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federal NDP call for the creation of a national Pharmacare strategy including the establishment of a national Pharmacare program that would provide equal access to prescription drugs, be publicly-funded and controlled and cover essential drug costs in the same way Medicare now covers the cost of hospitals and physicians.

SAANICH-GULF ISLANDS NDP

4 G18

WHEREAS the prevalence rates of children born in Canada who are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder is currently 1 in 166 and increasing at an alarming rate and at this time Canada has no active surveillance mechanism in place for monitoring the increased prevalence of autism; and

WHEREAS autism is a pervasive neurological disorder that causes 90% of those untreated persons who are diagnosed to become institutionalized as lifelong wards of government, at great public cost; The cause/prevention or cure of autism are not yet known, but within the medical and scientific communities we know treatment exists and is effective 48% of the time when delivered early and intensely; and

WHEREAS health researchers and practitioners in Canada, and around the world, including, the chief medical officer in the United States—the U.S. Surgeon General, widely recognize that there is only one effective treatment for autism that substantially improves the person's ability to function, known in the scientific literature as Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) or Lovaas-type Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA); and

WHEREAS in every province in Canada, Canadians diagnosed with autism are currently excluded from publicly funded health care under Medicare for their core health needs; to deny one of their core health needs is unconstitutional and denies those with autism the opportunity

to have an improved quality of life. The abandonment of families in desperate need of assistance to help their disabled children constitutes an unconscionable abdication of responsibility by the state and Canada's Medicare program; and

WHEREAS physician referrals for those with autism who require Applied Behaviour Analysis, occupational therapy and speech therapy is denied in most provinces,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party of Canada call for the creation of a *National Autism Strategy* that would:

- Create national standards for autism treatment;
- End discrimination in the care of persons with autism in Canada;
- Ensure that the needs of all persons with autism are met throughout their lives;
- Recognize that effective treatment for autism exists but is currently denied to Canadians based on their location, age and wealth;
- Include an active surveillance mechanism to monitor the autism crisis in all parts of Canada;
- Provide increased funding for autism research; and
- Establish an academic chair in each province in Canada so as to educate and train a wholly Canadian echelon of qualified autism treatment professionals, appropriately skilled in the delivery of effective evidence based treatment.

**NEPEAN-CARLETON NDP
PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES COMMITTEE**

4 G19

WHEREAS Canada spends shockingly little on prevention of disease and disability; and

WHEREAS Canada's health care system stands to save vast sums of money by having healthier Canadians,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP support the creation of a Ministry of State for Public Health with a mandate to:

1. Expand research identifying the causes of illness and disability, paying attention to:
 - pollutants: vehicular, industrial, chemical;
 - work place hazards;
 - medical practices, drugs;
 - impact of poverty;
2. Rectify problems at their source by:
 - stringent inspection of foods, water;
 - clean-up of industrial and agricultural discharges;
3. Advancing fuel use and emission standards for vehicles and machinery;
4. Support research on:
 - efficacy and safety of nutritional supplements;
 - alternative and holistic medicine;

5. Further a public relations and education program to;
 - publicize information on nutrition and activity;
 - financially support participation in sports and the arts;

LONDON-FANSHAWE NDP

4 G20

WHEREAS Emergency Contraception, commonly known as the “Morning After Pill” is a safe and effective way to prevent unplanned pregnancies – with estimates that it can prevent up to 75% of pregnancies; and

WHEREAS many countries, such as Sweden, make emergency contraception easily available by not requiring a prescription and placing the product “in front of the counter”; and

WHEREAS Canada has recently made progress on this issue by moving emergency contraception to non-prescription status, but still requires women to ask pharmacists for access as it is placed “behind the counter”; and

WHEREAS this has resulted in restricted access to emergency contraception because women are questioned in public by pharmacists about their sexual histories; there is now a higher cost for the product as a result of pharmacists charging fees for “drug counseling”; and some pharmacists are refusing to provide emergency contraception on “moral grounds”;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federal NDP work with its’ provincial counterparts; community organizations and regulatory bodies to improve access to emergency contraception by:

- Lobbying the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) to put emergency contraception on non-scheduled status so that it’s available “in front of the counter”;
- Ensuring that emergency contraception be made available free of charge or at low cost so that access is not impeded by income level; and
- Providing funding to community organizations to run educational campaigns on the use of emergency contraception;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Federal NDP Caucus work to bring about a review of federal pharmaceutical policy that would include the decision-making process regarding drug scheduling so that the public interest is made central, instead of the interests of professional bodies.

OUTREMONT NDP PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN COMMITTEE

4 G21

WHEREAS Canada’s organ donor rate remains among the lowest in the western world; and

WHEREAS approximately 4,000 Canadians are waiting for organ transplants and every year several hundred people die waiting; and

WHEREAS as of 2001, 96% of Canadians approved of organ donation but only 45% had signed a donor card or otherwise registered as donors, and even then family members often remain unaware of their loved one's wishes; and

WHEREAS organ donation from deceased donors has typically been permitted only in cases of brain death, which represent a small proportion of all deaths; and

WHEREAS many international jurisdictions allow for organ donation after cardio-circulatory death and some Canadian provinces are moving forward in that direction,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP sponsor legislation to establish a national comprehensive and integrated organ donation and transplantation system in Canada; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NDP will promote awareness of organ donor/transplant issues at the riding and community levels, including expansion of the criteria for organ donation such as allowing for donation after cardio-circulatory death, in order to increase the awareness of Party members and all Canadians of these important issues and encourage them to become organ donors.

PARKDALE HIGH-PARK NDP

4 G22

WHEREAS serious illnesses and conditions leading to disability and often death may be ameliorated or cured through new technologies; and

WHEREAS the NDP Persons Living with Disabilities Committee has approved full support for stem cell research and development, including human embryonic stem cells, for research into creating cures for a number of human ailments and treatment for same; and

WHEREAS the Persons Living with Disabilities has reviewed the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) guidelines, the basis for the current regulatory environment, and found them too restrictive given the needs of our scientific, medical community and patients worldwide; and

WHEREAS the Persons Living with Disabilities has serious concerns that the Conservative government of the day may be working towards the curtailing of key stem cell research and treatment,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the NDP, officially support creating stem cells for research and treatment by combining donated sperm and eggs in a Petri dish, cloning, or by extracting a cell from an early embryo, under suitable medically and scientifically controlled conditions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our Members of Parliament urge the government of the day to support legislation permitting the creation of stem cells for research and treatments by combining donated sperm and eggs in a Petri dish, cloning, or by extracting a cell from an early embryo, under suitable medically and scientifically controlled conditions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NDP publicly advocate for the use of human embryonic stem cells for research and treatment in all appropriate ways; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NDP embark on an educational effort to educate our lay leaders and membership regarding the importance of this medical technology.

PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES COMMITTEE

4 G23

WHEREAS most who smoke cigarettes will die prematurely, whether from cancer, emphysema, premature heart disease or numerous other diseases; and
WHEREAS despite the above, in our market society cigarettes continue to be sold freely, and warnings on packages trivialize the risk of smoking, with the result that there is little reduction in the prevalence of smoking and young people are continuing to adopt the habit,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a New Democratic government will require that all cigarette packages bear a *large* label “Death”, to correspond with the fate of those who smoke.

DURHAM NDP

4 G24

BE IT RESOLVED that the Federal NDP incorporate policies to formally address on a federal level the release of private Canadian citizens’ medical records to any agency, organization or corporation outside Canada.

VICTORIA NDP

4 G25

WHEREAS the health risks and social harm related to the use of currently illegal substances can best be minimized with the use of non-punitive, harm-reduction techniques; and

WHEREAS the BC NDP has passed resolutions formally supporting the expansion of Vancouver’s Safe Injection Site to 24-hours a day, opening similar health services where required, the creation of a “Safe Smoking Site” research project, and implementation of other harm minimization approaches for illicit drugs,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP support expanding Vancouver’s successful Safe Injection Site to 24-hours a day and support the opening of a similar health services where required in other Canadian communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NDP support in principle the creation of a “Safe Smoking Site” research pilot project, for users of smoked illicit substances to be operated under rigorous scientific assessment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NDP support research and implementation of other harm minimization approaches for illicit drugs, including medically supervised replacement and maintenance therapy.

VANCOUVER EAST NDP

4 G26

WHEREAS the New Democratic Party of Canada has championed preservation and enhancement of universal health care for many years,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party reaffirm its commitment to universal public health care in Canada and with public organizations such as the Canadian Health Care Coalition and others, vigorously challenge any attempts to compromising standards and encroachment of privatization of health care through ventures such as P3 projects, private for-profit health centres; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party campaign for and in through Caucus in the House of Commons demand sustainable funding be provided to provinces for health care with standards preserved rather than watering down of the Canada Health Act under the guise that the provinces should be able to create their own “home grown” programs which will surely be as per whatever ideology the party in power promotes.

NORTH VANCOUVER NDP

4 G27

WHEREAS there is growing evidence that investing in home care can save money while improving care and the quality of life for people who would otherwise be hospitalized or institutionalized in long-term care facilities; and

WHEREAS home care support generally includes professional services such as nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy; personal care including assistance with the activities of daily living such as bathing, toileting, transferring, and grooming; home making and support and home support to assist with the activities of daily living such as cleaning, doing laundry, and meal preparation; and

WHEREAS many provinces do not cover palliative care as a core home care service, and

WHEREAS the people of Canada, predominantly women, provide at least 80% of the home care on an informal unpaid basis as family and friends; and

WHEREAS the time has come to integrate home care more fully into the continuum of care for the people of this country,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP support in every way possible the establishment of public funding and public delivery of all components of home care delivery, thereby ending means testing, denial of home care service, private payments, inequity in the home care provision of services in this province.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR NDP

4 G28

WHEREAS the 2004 F/P/T Health Accord agreed to the establishment of a Ministerial Task Force to develop and implement a national pharmaceuticals strategy; and

WHEREAS Canadian prescription drug costs have risen 62.3% in the last 10 years; and

WHEREAS death by adverse drug reaction is the 4th to 7th leading cause of death in Canada; and

WHEREAS the negative influence of pharmaceutical industry on our health care system is a threat to the sustainability of Medicare and the health of all Canadians; and

WHEREAS we urgently need a new system that is accountable, transparent, cost-effective, accessible, equitable, and puts safety first; and

WHEREAS a national public drug plan would further strengthen the competitive advantage Medicare provides to Canadian businesses and would replace the expensive, complex to negotiate, and source of increasing strikes and disputes issues now faced by business; and

WHEREAS a national public Pharmacare plan would bring our health care services up to the standard that exists in every other developed country except the U.S.A.,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP work federally and with provinces and territories to establish a national universal single-payer Pharmacare plan for Canada that would provide equal access to prescription drugs, be publicly funded and controlled, and cover essential drug costs in the same way that Medicare now covers hospitals and physicians; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the program provide all Canadians with access to essential medicines they need, regardless of where they live or their financial status; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the program would include drug regulation that puts safety and efficacy first, provide for patent reform, truly regulate drug promotion and marketing, establish a public drug information system, and regulate for ethical conduct in clinical trials and research.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR NDP

4 G29

WHEREAS therapy for children with autism is not covered under Medicare; and

WHEREAS this can lead to major hardship for children with autism and their families,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party of Canada support the inclusion of complete coverage of costs of autism therapy under Medicare.

BURNABY-NEW WESTMINSTER NDP

4 G30

WHEREAS the principles of the *Canada Health Act* are being eroded by private, for-profit health care clinics and health care providers seeking a greater share of the Canadian health care market; and

WHEREAS the federal government has not enforced the *Canada Health Act*; and

WHEREAS Canadians continue to rank public health care as a top priority for the government to preserve,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP commit itself to ensuring that the *Canada Health Act* is enforced and health care services are publicly funded and publicly delivered.

CUPE

4 G31

WHEREAS the cost of prescription drugs is the fastest growing cost driver in the health care system threatening the sustainability of our public health care system; and

WHEREAS Canadians currently have a patchwork of public and private drug plans, or no drug plan at all; and

WHEREAS a public, universal Pharmacare plan would be advantageous to employers and all Canadians,

BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP commit itself to implementing a public Pharmacare plan with a formulary where all essential approved drugs are available to Canadians on a first dollar basis.

CUPE

4 G32

WHEREAS it has been shown that cleanliness is the best defense against the threat of infection in health institutions, and the spread of infection increases when these services are curtailed and contracted out to private, for-profit providers; and

WHEREAS trained workers in ancillary services such as laundry and housekeeping are key to providing a clean health environment,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP support the public delivery of all health care services including support services as a matter of good public health policy in the fight against institution acquired infections and as a preparedness measure to prevent and curtail illnesses such as SARS.

CUPE

4 G33

BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP of Canada co-operate with Canada and Quebec central labour bodies, community groups and all citizens in order to:

- promote a free, universal, transferable, accountable, and accessible public health system for all of Canada's citizens. A health system that can provide all the services needed in a timely manner;
- express its common rejection of any kind of privatization of the health systems in Quebec and the rest of Canada;
- review the replacement of actual private services with public services;

- express its common concerns regarding the dangers of international trade agreements on health services and their impact on the health systems of Quebec and the rest of Canada;
- adopt a Quebec charter ensuring the right of Quebec citizens and permanent residents to accessible, free, transferable and universal health care.

QUEBEC SECTION

4 G34

COMPOSITE OF 4 G1, 4 G3, AND 4 G28

WHEREAS the 2004 F/P/T Health Accord agreed to the establishment of a Ministerial Task Force to develop and implement a national pharmaceuticals strategy; and

WHEREAS Canadian prescription drug costs have risen 62.3% in the last 10 years; and

WHEREAS death by adverse drug reaction is the 4th to 7th leading cause of death in Canada; and

WHEREAS the negative influence of pharmaceutical industry on our health care system is a threat to the sustainability of Medicare and the health of all Canadians; and

WHEREAS we urgently need a new system that is accountable, transparent, cost-effective, accessible, equitable, and puts safety first; and

WHEREAS a national public drug plan would further strengthen the competitive advantage Medicare provides to Canadian businesses and would replace the expensive, complex to negotiate, and source of increasing strikes and disputes issues now faced by business; and

WHEREAS a national public Pharmacare plan would bring our health care services up to the standard that exists in every other developed country except the USA,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP campaign vigorously in the next election for a national Pharmacare program based on the four principles espoused by the Canadian Health Coalition of Access, Safety, Cost Controls and Affordability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NDP work federally and with provinces and territories to establish a national universal single-payer Pharmacare plan for Canada that would provide equal access to prescription drugs, be publicly-funded and controlled, and cover essential drug costs in the same way that Medicare now covers hospitals and physicians, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the program be based on first dollar coverage and if there is a phase-in period that children, seniors, disabled and low income be covered by first dollar immediately; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the program provide all Canadians with access to essential medicines they need, regardless of where they live or their financial status, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the program would include drug regulation that puts safety and efficacy first, provide for patent reform, truly regulate drug promotion and marketing, establish a public drug information system, and regulate for ethical conduct in clinical trials and research.

CONGRESS OF UNION RETIREES OF CANADA (CURC)
OTTAWA CENTRE NDP
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR NDP

COMPOSITE OF 4 C41 AND 4 G16

WHEREAS our Canadian system of universal health care is under increasing attack from proponents of private for-profit health care including some provincial governments and;

WHEREAS claims that our public health care system is not sustainable are not supported by the facts (In 1980-81, 39% of taxes went to health care compared to 34%, 20 years later) and;

WHEREAS private surgical companies have found fertile ground especially in BC and Alberta since the 1990's, in violation of the Canada Health Act;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federal NDP urge the federal government to:

- Strictly enforce the Canada Health Act;
- Move to strengthen and enhance publicly funded and publicly delivered health care services;
- Allocate federal funds for waitlist reduction exclusively to public surgery clinics; and
- Include programs to increase health human resources within the public system.

CUPE

SAANICH-GULF ISLANDS NDP

H. ENERGY

4 H1

BE IT RESOLVED the New Democratic Party urge the federal government to act to maintain lower costs of heating fuels.

BC FEDERATION OF LABOUR

J. ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

4 J1

WHEREAS most health issues are directly linked to diet, lifestyle and environmental pollution. The second greatest killer of Canadian children is cancer, and diet/environment/life style related maladies such as asthma, diabetes, obesity and heart disease are rising at alarming rates. And 80-90% of all cancers are linked to environmental pollutants; and

WHEREAS the costs of public health care, for mostly preventable illnesses, are becoming too burdensome, fortifying impetus to privatize health care; and

WHEREAS Canada is amongst the top five nations in creating per capita garbage and amongst the lowest in reducing, or reclaiming, or recycling its waste. Amongst the top contributors to Canadian waste are food and drink packaging and disposable items (food wraps, plastics, napkins, cups, paper towels...); and

WHEREAS the removal of household, commercial and industrial waste costs in the millions, and the subsequent transportation, burial, incineration and shipping abroad of this waste creates ever more land, ground water, and air pollution, after already having done so in the initial manufacture of the waste items; and

WHEREAS decades of promoting recycling has only resulted in a false sense of socially responsible behaviour, producing greater consumption of heavily processed foods and drinks and disposable items; and

WHEREAS the manufacture, distribution, and disposal of the packaging of processed foods and drinks are all heavy users of fuel and other natural resources, greatly contributing to land, water, and air pollution, and global warming; and

WHEREAS climate change due to global warming has been directly linked to human activity, producing extreme and unpredictable weather, infestations (pine beetle), "disease" (West Nile virus, severe hay fever, asthma...), desertification of farm lands, habitat, species and cultural extinction, environmental refugees and more; and

WHEREAS organic farming, and ethical non-human animal husbandry, improve the quality of the food, the farm land, and the ground water. The consumption of whole foods and drinks (natural or minimally processed, organic, low on food chain) improves health and wellbeing while improving the quality of the environment, lowering medical, social and environmental costs. Furthermore, once consumed, the chemicals in "junk" foods and drinks are eliminated into the global communal water with every flush; and

WHEREAS one trillion dollars are spent annually on militarization, promoting wars for control of natural resources, a large quantity of which supply the processed foods and drinks industries, disposables industry, and waste removal industries. Additionally, the armed forces are the single largest contributor to pollution worldwide; and

WHEREAS local, national, and international agreements and accords on the planetary environment have failed to significantly address environmental issues; and

WHEREAS as Canada's social conscience it is the responsibility of EVERY NDP member to model the desired social justice behaviour, as well as lobby for change in legislation,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

A) NDP events become Garbage Free Zones (G.F.Zs)

- by banning disposables, "junk" food and non-natural drinks;

- by making recycling containers for paper, glass and metal (discouraging use of plastics), and compost containers when needed;
- by using caterers able to provide minimally processed or whole foods/drinks.

B) The NDP embark on a national educational campaign to first educate its membership on the links between personal food/drink choices, the health of the planetary biosphere, the rising rates of illness, the rising health care costs, militarization, and the subsequent immeasurable social costs.

C) The NDP propose and pursue legislation to reduce or eliminate taxation on organic foods, fresh produce and natural drinks, while increasing taxation on processed foods and drinks, incrementally increasing with the degree of processing (for both the manufacturer and the end user); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NDP, in cooperation with other progressive agencies, then embark on a national educational campaign raising awareness of the above links, in order to expedite fulfillment of our global environmental commitments, protect public health care, reduce militarization and wars, and be a world leader in serving the true wellbeing of an entire nation of people.

SOUTH SURREY – WHITE ROCK – CLOVERDALE NDP

4 J2

WHEREAS occupational exposure to chrysotile and other forms of asbestos is a direct cause of asbestosis, lung cancer, mesothelioma and other serious illnesses; and

WHEREAS some of the highest rates of asbestos related disease are reported in Canada; and

WHEREAS asbestos is no longer a major generator of employment and revenue in Canada; and

WHEREAS Canada exports 95 percent of the asbestos it produces, mostly to developing countries with few if any safeguards to protect workers, little or no training or information in the use of asbestos, and little access to medical care or benefits; and

WHEREAS Canada has consistently blocked efforts to add chrysotile to the list of chemicals requiring Prior Informed Consent under the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and continues to promote the export of chrysotile to developing countries,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federal New Democratic Party demands that the federal government:

- Immediately stop promoting the production and export of asbestos in any form;
- Withdraw all financial and political support for the asbestos industry;
- Advocate the addition of chrysotile to the list of chemicals requiring Prior Informed Consent under the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, and strongly support other domestic and international efforts to protect workers, their families, communities, and the environment from exposure to asbestos;
- Support a world-wide ban on the use of and trade in all forms of asbestos;

- Assume responsibility for the harm done to workers, their families and their communities where Canadian asbestos has been used by providing the necessary financial resources for the health and compensation of asbestos victims; and
- Develop and implement a program of Just Transition in line with the CLC policy on Just Transition for workers in the Canadian asbestos industry and those employed in industries that use Canadian asbestos.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ALBERTA CFR

4 J3

WHEREAS chrysotile is an asbestos fibre that is different from those used 40 years ago and from amphiboles (contained for example in the zonolite insulation); and

WHEREAS chrysotile is not part of the hazardous product list established by the Rotterdam Convention; and

WHEREAS chrysotile can be used safely, and occupational safety and health standards and practices have significantly evolved; and

WHEREAS chrysotile can be used safely, for example in chryso-cement and outer reinforcement of waterworks pipes; and

WHEREAS the safe use of chrysotile may be beneficial for our environment and the Kyoto Agreement; and

WHEREAS more harmful substitutes are being used; and

WHEREAS many Quebec localities depend on the production of chrysotile,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP vote in favour of the safe production and responsible use of chrysotile; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NDP propose to invest in research and development to make sure chrysotile use complies with stringent health and security, and environment standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NDP support product processing and economic diversification projects for concerned areas.

QUEBEC SECTION

P CONSUMER AFFAIRS

4 P1

BE IT RESOLVED that the Federal NDP set up a task force to examine the implications of the CODEX plan to get all food supplements transferred to the pharmaceutical industry.

VICTORIA NDP