

Toronto Centre Federal NDP Riding Association General Meeting – Sunday, December 10, 2017

Resolutions submitted by Toronto Centre Members

1. Iran and Saudi Arabia (Tayaz Fakhry)

BE IT RESOLVED

- 1) that the New Democratic Party strongly believes in reversing the Conservative government's decision that closed all diplomatic ties with Iran and commits to facilitate the process of resuming diplomatic engagement with that country.
- 2) That the New Democratic Party strongly believes in reversing the Federal government's decision for allowing arms exports to Saudi Arabia, which is widely denounced as one of the World's worst abusers of human rights.

2. End Paradise Tax Evasion (Rob McBean)

WHEREAS the federal government is losing about \$10-15 Billion a year in revenue from offshore tax havens alone, not to mention billions more lost due to tax loopholes and gifts to the rich;

BE IT RESOLVED

- 1) that the NDP actively campaign for the imposition of severe penalties against tax evasion to include confiscation of untaxed profits, seizure of assets of equivalent value held by tax outlaws, along with jail time for the culprits and their accomplices.
- 2) that the NDP actively campaign for a progressively steep increase in taxation of personal incomes above \$250,000 a year, corporate profits above \$1 million a year, personal inheritances above \$1 million, and all stock market financial transactions, while phasing out exemptions for capital gains and regressive taxes like the HST.

3. For Rapid Conversion to Renewable, Green Energy. No New Pipelines. (Rob McBean)

WHEREAS the big drop in the price of oil presents a golden opportunity to oppose pipeline construction, to re-tool, and to go for green energy conversion (wind, hydro, wave energy, solar, geothermal and biomass);

BE IT RESOLVED

- 1) that the NDP actively campaign in opposition to all new pipeline construction, and for a rapid conversion to renewable, green energy systems, recognizing that in order to fund such a gigantic energy shift it will be necessary to conscript the enormous accumulated wealth of the resource corporations by nationalizing Big Oil and Gas under workers' and community democratic control, while fully respecting indigenous peoples' rights.

4. For Pharmacare Fully Integrated into Medicare (Rob McBean)

WHEREAS a national drug plan will save Canadians over \$7 billion, and is urgently needed to improve public health, especially of seniors and the poor;

BE IT RESOLVED

- 1) that the NDP actively campaign for a national drug plan that would be an integral part of public medicare for all residents of Canada – not just making the federal government a central bulk purchaser of pharmaceuticals, but also a producer of generic drugs through a publicly-owned corporation, and making free provision of medication a feature of public health care and a matter of right for all patients

5. Championing Voices of Women at Convention - Constitutional Amendment (Paula Willis)

WHEREAS the New Democratic Party is proud of its long tradition in championing the advancement of women and equity seeking groups;

WHEREAS Conventions are the supreme governing body of the Party;

BE IT RESOLVED

- 1) that Article V, Section 6 (Delegates to Convention) of the Constitution be amended to include

6 (b) iv. Gender parity shall apply when electing or appointing delegates.

6 (c) iii. Gender parity shall apply when electing or appointing delegates.

6 (d) iv. Gender parity shall apply when electing or appointing delegates.

6 (e) viii. Gender parity shall apply when electing or appointing delegates under subsections

6 (e) iv - vii.

6. 2018 Convention Housing Resolution (Jon Weier)

BE IT RESOLVED

That section 3.5 of the NDP policy book be amended as follows:

New Democrats believe in:

- a) Ensuring that the purpose of housing is to provide homes for the many and not investment opportunities for the privileged
- b) The right of all Canadians to have secure, adequate, accessible and affordable housing
- c) Ending homelessness, and providing those unable to afford their homes with public, social and co-operative housing.
- d) Working in partnership with provinces, municipalities and Aboriginal communities to ensure that our policies and land use regulations create healthy, accessible and environmentally sustainable communities
- e) Implementing a national housing strategy that will actually:
 - a. stimulate the supply of adequate housing
 - b. produce a mix of housing choices
 - c. assist all those who cannot afford adequate housing
 - d. recognize and address the systemic racism in our housing system
 - e. remove incentives that gentrify our communities and destroy affordability
 - f. provide special attention to the needs of Aboriginal and marginalized communities

7. Urban Indigenous Communities Resolution (Suze Morrison)

WHEREAS more than 56% of Indigenous people in Canada live in urban communities.

WHEREAS Urban Indigenous communities face unique barriers to accessing mainstream programs and services including health, education, employment, child and youth programs, social services and more.

WHEREAS Urban Indigenous communities have developed a support infrastructure through the Friendship Centre Movement across Canada to provide culturally-based programs and services for urban Indigenous people.

BE IT RESOLVED that the following statement be added to section 5.7 of the policy book:

- Enhancing and funding culturally-relevant, Indigenous-led programs and services for Urban Indigenous people.

8. Equitable funding for First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples (Suze Morrison)

WHEREAS federal programs and services for First Nations, Inuit and Métis people is funded at inequitable rates when compared to the same programs and services provided to non-Indigenous people provincially.

WHEREAS funding inequities exist across many sectors including health, education, and child welfare.

BE IT RESOLVED that the following statement be added to section 5.7 of the policy book:

- Eliminating inequitable funding formulas for federally-provided services for First Nations, Inuit and Métis people where the equivalent provincially-provided service is funded at a higher rate.

9. Truth and Reconciliation (Suze Morrison)

WHEREAS the truth and reconciliation Commission of Canada has made 94 Calls to Action in order to redress the legacy of residential schools in Canada.

BE IT RESOLVED that item 5.7 (b) of the policy book be amended as follows:

- Implementing the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and Jordan's Principle.

10. Government Borrowing and the Bank of Canada (Jason Baines)

WHEREAS all levels of government spend billions annually on interest payments to private banks;

WHEREAS the intention of the Bank of Canada was to provide low interest loans to all levels of government;

WHEREAS privately owned banks aim to accumulate profits and have little incentive to favour the public interest;

BE IT RESOLVED

That the following clause be added to Section 1.8 of the policy book:

h. Using the Bank of Canada to provide public financing to the federal government and to extend this opportunity to all levels of government.

Resolutions from NDP members outside Toronto Centre

11. Federal Party Support for Candidates from Equity Seeking Groups

WHEREAS the NDP has long fought for a Parliament that is more reflective of Canada

WHEREAS our caucus needs more representation from persons living with disAbilities, youth, women, and LGBTQ+, racialized, and Indigenous individuals,

WHEREAS more candidates from these equity-seeking groups will run if they know will they have support

BE IT RESOLVED

1) that Federal Council be directed to work with the YND, POVM Commission, Aboriginal Peoples Commission, LGBT Commission, Women's Council, and Persons Living with disAbilities Commission to set up funds to support candidates from these equity seeking groups

2) that the Women's Council's existing Agnes McPhail fund, the Aboriginal Commission's existing Victory Fund, and all other funds are to be financed at least in part with direct funding from the federal party

3) that Federal Council work with the equity commissions to set up these funds for the 2019 Federal Election.

(French translation available)

12. Palestine

WHEREAS the NDP supports human rights and a principled foreign policy;

WHEREAS the military occupation of the Palestinian Territories has lasted for 50 years;

WHEREAS 84% of New Democrats and 66% of Canadians believe it is reasonable to sanction Israel for its military occupation and settlement program;

BE IT RESOLVED that the following text replace Policy Manual's Clause 4.1.f:

f. Pursuing peace in Israel/Palestine by:

- Urging all parties to abandon violence and negotiate a resolution grounded in international law, particularly UNGA Resolution 194 and UNSC Resolution 242;
- Calling upon Israel to end its occupation and settlement program, lift the Gaza blockade, recognize its Arab-Palestinian citizens' right to full equality, and address refugee claims fairly;

- Banning settlement products from Canadian markets, and using other forms of diplomatic and economic pressure to end the occupation;
- Opposing parliamentary efforts to undermine non-violent movements seeking a just resolution.

13. Internal Democracy Resolution 1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following be added to section 2.a of Article VI of the Constitution:

- (iv) notifying all EDA Presidents of an upcoming Council meeting and its subject matter;
- (v) circulating Council minutes to all EDA Presidents;
- (vi) adding to Council's agenda any item that three or more EDA Presidents wish discussed or voted on;
- (vii) ensuring that Members have access to the names and emails of all members of the Federal Council, and that the Policy Manual is available to the public, at all times.

14. Free tuition and guaranteeing the treaty right to education

WHEREAS post-secondary education is required for 70% of new jobs,

WHEREAS the average student debt upon graduation exceeds \$30,000 and public student loan debt has exceeded \$28 billion,

WHEREAS tens of thousands of indigenous people have been denied funding for their education due to deliberate underfunding since 1996,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Section 3.2 of the NDP Policy book be amended to insert the following (new text in bold):

- d. Eliminating tuition fees by working in collaboration with provincial governments.
- e. Redirecting existing education tax credits into up-front needs-based grants.
- f. Eliminating student debt through 0% interest rates for student loans, and the creation of debt relief and forgiveness programs.
- g. Guaranteeing the treaty right to education for indigenous people by removing the funding cap on programs such as the Post-Secondary Student Support Program, closing the indigenous education funding gap, and facilitating indigenization & decolonization in post-secondary institutions.

15. AGAINST THE TRANS MOUNTAIN PIPELINE

WHEREAS gas and oil pipeline projects deny respect for Indigenous peoples, breach federal NDP climate goals and threaten existing jobs in British Columbia and Alberta while creating few local jobs,

BE IT RESOLVED that this Convention express solidarity with and support for the Indigenous communities; municipalities; forest, fishing and tourism industry workers and the British Columbia Government in defending jobs, the environment and health and safety against the Trans Mountain Pipeline and its inevitable destructive impact;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the federal NDP support the present Alberta Government's efforts to transition away from the waning carbon industry to a green, prosperous, climate-friendly future

through government intervention and investment in eco-tech research and development, massive clean-energy job-creation and support for workers transitioning out of the petro-sector without leaving a single oilworker jobless.

16. MOBILIZE OUR RANKS

WHEREAS implementing our leader's goal to see Canada reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 30% of 2005 levels by 2025—five years earlier than the Liberals aim for—requires the active participation of New Democrats in the Climate Justice movement;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Party leadership mobilize its rank and file through the Electoral District Associations to participate in actions of solidarity with pipeline, fracking and climate justice protests across the country.

17. ENDORSE THE VISION OF LEAP

WHEREAS the Leap Manifesto contains an overarching vision of climate justice that has united, in an unparalleled way, the country's most impressive civil society organizations including Indigenous groups, the labour movement, social justice and environmental groups;

BE IT RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party supports the broader social change community in its efforts to win climate justice by promoting the vision contained in the Leap Manifesto in all its future electoral endeavours.