



**MANITOBA
LIBERAL**

Policy Resolutions

- 2020 Annual General Meeting

Compiled by the MLP Policy Committee and Considered at AGM

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1.0 Health Care Resolutions

1.0 Professional Social Workers to be Registered

Whereas Recommendation 33 of the Phoenix Sinclair Inquiry Report recommended that anyone who practices social work in Manitoba under any title, must be registered with the Manitoba College of Social Workers; and,

Whereas the Social Work Profession Act was proclaimed in November, 2014 to come into effect April 1, 2015, with the Government of Manitoba indicating that over 400 employees will be eligible and required to register as social workers; and,

Whereas in March, 2015, just prior to the April 1st effective date, then Minister of Family Services, Kerri Irvin-Ross intervened to state that only those with the “job name” Social Worker would be required to register, resulting in hundreds of social work practitioners withdrawing or failing to renew their application for registration with the Manitoba College of Social Workers; and,

Whereas both the Office of the Children’s Advocate and the Honourable Ted Hughes, author of the Phoenix Sinclair Inquiry Report consistently maintains that ALL social work practitioners in the Province of Manitoba must be registered with the Manitoba College of Social Workers; and,

Whereas given the critical role child welfare workers, in particular, provide with respect to skilled assessment and the planning and intervention for children in the care of Child and Family Service Agencies, it is incumbent upon the Province of Manitoba to ensure accountability for the profession by requiring all social work practitioners to be registered with the Manitoba College of Social Workers;

Be It Hereby Resolved that a Manitoba Liberal Government will ensure that all social work practitioners in the Province of Manitoba must be registered with the Manitoba College of Social Workers.

Sponsored by MLP Policy Committee

Moved by Kathryn Braun Seconded by Chris Barsanti

Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM

1.2 Restorative Justice and Treatment Centre for Dauphin

Whereas the NDP promised to build a new Dauphin Jail, but never did. The PCs closed it; and,

Whereas Manitoba needs to modernize its penitentiaries, mental health and addictions treatment, while ensuring quality care for people across the province.

Be It Resolved That a Manitoba Liberal Government will build a Restorative Justice and Healing Centre in Dauphin to serve the Westman area; and,

Be It Resolved Further That a Manitoba Liberal Government will partner with Indigenous and other communities to implement and expand the use restorative justice.

Sponsored by MLP Caucus

Moved by Leamber Kensley Seconded by Brenda St. Clair

Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM

1.3 Lead Impacts on Children

Whereas lead in water, in the air and in soil represents contamination and pollution and is involved in the poisoning of children and adults; and,

Whereas substantial evidence shows that lead exposed children with a blood level of 0.24umol/L and above have learning difficulties including difficulties learning to read and do math, have behavioural difficulties including impulsive and hyperactive behavior and difficulties in self-control, are more likely to drop out of school, are more likely to have addictions and mental illnesses and are more likely to be involved in juvenile delinquency and in crime; and,

Whereas other jurisdictions do much more screening of blood lead levels in children; and,

Whereas the Canadian Pediatric Society has recommended that strong interventions be undertaken in any child found to have a blood lead level higher than 5 ug/ml (0.24 umol/L) including a thorough investigation of the source of the lead and measures to reduce lead exposure; and,

Whereas standard interventions being used which have been shown to reduce arrests for crime include dramatically reducing any lead exposure, addressing nutritional issues which can impact lead absorption and addressing behavior and/or learning issues; and,

Whereas a recent report from the Manitoba Liberal Caucus – “Lead and Crime in Manitoba: Urgent Action Needed” provides much more detail with respect to these issues.

Be It Hereby Resolved that a Manitoba Liberal Government will implement as soon as possible a Manitoba Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program designed to fully eliminate the lead poisoning of children in Manitoba; and,

Be It Hereby Further Resolved that a Manitoba Liberal Government, as part of this program will implement mandatory screening of children between ages 1 and 3 for high blood lead levels in any area of Manitoba where there exist concerns about lead exposure; and,

Be It Hereby Further Resolved that a Manitoba Liberal Government, as part of this program, will implement a public awareness program to alert Manitobans to the dangers of lead exposure; and,

Be It Hereby Further Resolved that a Manitoba Liberal Government, as part of this program, will require all schools and childcare centres to promptly and periodically thereafter, test for lead in the drinking water and that the Department of Sustainable Development publicly report the results of these tests and

corrective action taken as recommended on September 28, 2020 by Manitoba's Auditor General; and,

Be It Hereby Further Resolved that a Manitoba Liberal Government will develop and implement a more effective approach for screening children at age 3 to enable early detection and treatment of children with behavioural and learning disabilities, and that any child found to have a behavioural or learning disability at age 3 be screened for lead poisoning; and,

Be It Hereby Further Resolved that a Manitoba Liberal Government will work with the City of Winnipeg to improve enforcement of atmospheric lead pollution in the St. Boniface Industrial area and mandate the enclosure of the outdoor shredder in this area to reduce such pollution.

Sponsored by the MLP Caucus

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Adopted/Not Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM

Not Considered due to time limit and priority level as determined by delegates *

2.0 Seniors

2.1 Seniors Care

Whereas aging in place is critical to Senior's housing and well-being, housing options are lacking designs and supports to meet these objectives; and,

Whereas Senior's housing is not sufficiently well integrated or designed to address socialization and HealthCare needs; and,

Whereas there are programs such as those of some Scandinavian countries where integration of multiple family types in neighbourhoods means caregivers can be your neighbour and reduce nursing home admissions. The healthcare programs can save millions per annum;

Be It Hereby Resolved that a Manitoba Liberal government will undertake measures to address these shortcomings in Healthcare Services and Housing options.

Sponsored by the MLP Seniors' Association

Moved by Cathy Scofield-Singh Seconded by Leamber Kensley

Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM

2.2 COVID-19 and Seniors' Health

Whereas it is evident from the Canadian experience with COVID-19 that the Elderly in Long Term Care facilities are especially vulnerable; and,

Whereas it is imperative that significant changes occur.

Be It Hereby Resolved that a Manitoba Liberal government will institute the following measures to address current shortcomings in services to seniors:

1. Every LTC facility (privately or publicly run) must advertise to whom family members of residents can speak about their concerns and must have a patient liaison officer who must submit data in an annual report about what steps have been taken to resolve patient or family concerns; and,
2. Every staff member, nurse, nursing aide, or recreation coordinator must participate in annual continuing education; and,
3. There must be a minimum number of nursing aides per ten patients; and,
4. There must be adequate personal protective gear on site, so that every staff member can access it; and.
5. Staff concerns about cleanliness, personal protective gear, shift lengths and personnel numbers must be given in writing not only to the administration head of that facility, but also by confidential copy to the provincial ombudsman and union representative; and,
6. The province must take staff concerns seriously to avoid disastrous walk outs as happened in Quebec; and,
7. Retribution against staff who express concern must not be permitted, but staff negligence by one or more persons should be recorded by administration and be grounds for appropriate progressive discipline.

Sponsored by the MLP Seniors' Association

Moved by Mark Malloy Seconded by Jean Paterson

Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM

2.3 Establishment of the Office of Seniors' Advocate and a Seniors' Bill of Rights

Whereas it is essential for the Manitoba Legislative Assembly to implement the Manitoba Liberal Party's vision of establishing a Seniors Advocate as an Independent Officer of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba at the earliest opportunity; and,

Whereas Manitoba Liberals have been calling for the creation of a Manitoba Seniors Advocate who can report on and investigate the treatment of seniors and how they are affected on issues ranging from housing to health.

Be It Hereby Resolved that a Manitoba Liberal Government will enact legislation creating the Office of the Seniors' Advocate with the authority to:

- investigate both individual and systemic problems,
- monitor, review, audit, and conduct research for the purpose of making recommendations for systemic improvements to seniors' care across the province,
- release reports that do not require the approval of any government or body or ministry,
- support a more accessible, transparent, and accountable approach to addressing the interests and issues of those in Long-Term Care,
- advocate for seniors' issues and provide meaningful change to improve the quality of life for seniors, and,
- address broader issues outside of health care including challenges around transportation, housing, access to the arts, or the impacts of aging on regional planning.

Be It Hereby Further Resolved That with a Manitoba Liberal Government the Office of the Seniors' Advocate shall be appointed by and report to all the elected members of the Legislative Assembly and shall be funded through designated funds; and,

Be It Hereby Further Resolved That in addition to creating an office of the Manitoba Seniors Advocate, a Manitoba Liberal Government will create an enforceable Seniors' Bill of Rights – to achieve dignity, housing and health.

Sponsored by the MLP Seniors' Association/MLP Caucus

Moved by Leamber Kensley Seconded by Brenda St. Clair

Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM

2.4 Seniors' Housing

Whereas Seniors are significant consumers of rental accommodations in Manitoba; and,

Whereas Seniors are often on Fixed Incomes; and,

Whereas Seniors are often living in Provincially Social Housing; and,

Whereas increases in housing costs impact a senior's deciding to purchase food &/or medicine or pay rent

Be It Hereby Resolved That:

- 1) A Manitoba Liberal Government will discontinue the selling off Public Housing to private interests leaving renters with little control over changes to the cost and/or condition of rental properties.
- 2) A Manitoba Liberal Government will recognize that Social housing, such Co-ops, have become difficult to maintain as costs rise yearly and OAS, and CPP cannot keep up.
- 3) A Manitoba Liberal Government will recognize that any further financial adjustments should be contingent on Rent Assist being readily available and indexed year over year to prevent affected persons having to move to cheaper and less desirable housing.

Sponsored by the MLP Seniors' Association

Moved by Cathy Scofield-Singh Seconded by Mark Malloy

Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM

2.5 Investments in Seniors' Housing and Elder Care

Whereas Personal Care Homes in Manitoba have faced funding freezes for the last 15 years, and the PC government has refused to help personal care and seniors homes with the cost of adjustments for Covid-19; and,

Whereas for years seniors have been warehoused instead of being cared for. Staff have been overworked and underpaid; and,

Whereas more residents of personal care homes now have more complex care needs such as dementia, increasing the hours of care is very important; and,

Whereas inadequate staffing can lead to adverse health outcomes for residents ranging from resident falls and medication errors, to mortality and increases the potential for violence, emotional exhaustion and cynicism in personal care homes; and,

Whereas non-salary operating costs have increased over the last 10 years while funding for personal care homes has remained largely stagnant; and,

Whereas personal care homes have opted to control expenses by limiting the hiring of staff, limiting most staff to part time status to avoid paying benefits and livable wages. This means existing staff are overworked, working more than one job, and unable to provide adequate care to residents; and,

Whereas personal care homes have opted to control expenses by postponing less urgent repairs and infrastructure maintenance. This means total future capital needs are increasing; and,

Whereas the physical layouts of some personal care homes need to change to accommodate the treatment of people with dementia and to decrease resident and staff risks; and,

Whereas the current Service Purchase Agreement (SPA) require any surplus generated over 2% to be returned to the regional health authority, which prevents personal care homes from raising enough for capital projects.

Be It Hereby Resolved that a Manitoba Liberal Government will adopt the recommendations from the Long-Term Care Association of Manitoba (LTCAM) and the Manitoba Association of Community Care Homes for the Elderly (MARCHE) including the following; and,

Be It Hereby Further Resolved That a Manitoba Liberal Government will provide stable and predictable funding for personal care homes including making a change to the Manitoba guideline of 3.6 *paid* hours of care per resident per day (HPRD) which translates to approximately 3.2 *worked* HPRD to implement the expert recommended benchmark of 4.1 *worked* HPRD, which better ensures the health and safety of residents; and,

Be It Hereby Further Resolved That a Manitoba Liberal Government will place more emphasis on a holistic care model so that seniors recovering from knee or hip surgery can have rehabilitation so that they can be ambulatory, and so that other supports are available in areas like to attend to the broader needs of residents; and,

Be It Hereby Further Resolved That a Manitoba Liberal Government will follow through on a commitment to fund COVID-19 expenses by personal care homes caused by Public Health Orders and Shared Health Directives, and that such support be extended to independent or assisted living housing which offers services similar to personal care homes; and,

Be It Hereby Further Resolved That a Manitoba Liberal Government will review operating, infrastructure and capital costs for personal care homes, eliminate the 2% cap on what a personal care home can retain to ensure good planning for needed capital expenditures and implement a model which provides stable and sustainable funding in these areas; and,

Be It Hereby Further Resolved That a Manitoba Liberal Government will lift the PC-NDP freeze on seniors personal care homes and increase staffing so that workers have the time to properly care for seniors, including feeding, bathing, and oral care.

Sponsored by the MLP Caucus

Moved by Ernie Nathaniel Seconded by Leamber Kensley

Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM

3.0 Nutrition

3.1 Northern and Indigenous Diabetes Epidemic

Whereas northern and indigenous communities are suffering from high rates of diabetes; and,

Whereas diabetes is a result in part of a lack of high protein food that is appropriate to traditional indigenous diets;

Be It Hereby Resolved that a Manitoba Liberal government will work with other levels of government and indigenous communities to address current diabetes related dietary deficiencies.

Sponsored by MLP Policy Committee

Moved by Mike Bagamert

Seconded by Chris Barsanti

Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM

3.2 Food Growing in Urban Areas

Whereas significant opportunities exist for food growing within urban areas;

Whereas potential food growing areas include vacant lots and commercial building roof tops; and,

Whereas such areas contribute to environmental challenges such as urban heat islands and poorly managed rain water run off;

Be It Hereby Resolved that a Manitoba Liberal government will pass legislation to remediate the soil and mandate the use of such areas for the growing of food.

Sponsored by MLP Policy Committee

Moved by Trish Rawsthorne

Seconded by Chris Barsanti

Friendly amendment to add “remediate the soil and” Moved by Jean Paterson

Adopted with Friendly Amendment at the October 2020 MLP AGM

4.0 Support for Indigenous Families

4.1 Support for Indigenous Local Economic and Community Development

Whereas indigenous communities lack opportunities for local economic development and employment, and;

Whereas there is a need for financing and leadership development towards community self-sufficiency and cooperation;

Be It Hereby Resolved that a Manitoba Liberal Government will work with indigenous leaders and other levels of government to address current deficiencies and inadequacies, as determined by indigenous leaders.

Sponsored by MLP Policy Committee

Moved by Richard Davies

Seconded by Cathy Scofield-Singh

Friendly amendment to add “as determined by indigenous leaders” Moved by Jean Paterson

Adopted with Friendly Amendment at the October 2020 MLP AGM

4.2 Traditional Gun Rights

Whereas Manitoba Liberals recognize and respect the use of traditional firearms - shotguns and bolt-action rifles - in hunting and harvesting; and,

Whereas Over the years, many other types of weapons and firearms have been developed based military gear - semi-automatic weapons with high magazine capacity that were never used for hunting or harvesting in the past.

Be It Hereby Resolved That a Manitoba Liberal Government will work in partnership with First Nations, Indigenous Groups, and Hunters and Fishers to achieve common sense gun regulation and introduce a buy-back program for non-traditional weapons.

Sponsored by MLP Caucus

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Adopted/Not Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM

Not Considered due to time limit and priority level as determined by delegates *

5.0 Manitoba's 150 Celebration

5.1 A New Flag for Manitoba

Whereas following the adoption of the modern Canadian flag, the people of Manitoba engaged in their own short but turbulent debate about the creation of a unique provincial flag. On 12 May 1966, in a ceremony ensconced in imperial symbolism that emphasized the British presence in Manitoba during the preceding 300 years, the newly minted flag of Manitoba was raised for the first time at the Manitoba Legislative grounds; and,

Whereas the new Manitoba flag was created to remind Manitobans, and Canadians, that while Canada may be charting a course towards reconciliation, in Manitoba, Britishness took precedence, a relic from the days of our former British colonial heritage an ignores the roles that Indigenous, French and multicultural historical traditions have played in the founding of this province; and,

Whereas a group of experts from the North American Vexillological Association graded all 72 North American provincial, state and territorial flags as part of a NAVA flag survey in 2001. Manitoba came in 44th place, the worst ranking of all provincial flags. The province's flag is criticized for bearing a close resemblance to Ontario's, which placed 43rd; and,

Whereas Manitoba's flag is often confused with Ontario's flag, with the only difference being a bison instead of three maple leaves. Both provinces' flags are similar to the Red Ensign that Canada used as a national flag prior to adopting the maple leaf design in 1965. There is a red background, a Union Jack in the upper left corner, and a provincial symbol toward the bottom right corner; and,

Whereas the Red Ensign, has recently taken on a darker symbolism, adopted as Canada's equivalent of the Confederate flag by some extremists.

Be It Hereby Resolved that a new Manitoba Liberal government will form an all-party flag committee to study a new provincial flag, hold a competition, and approve a new provincial flag in its first mandate.

Sponsored by the Constituency Association of Roblin

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Adopted/Not Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM

Not Considered due to time limit and priority level as determined by delegates *

6.0 Community Safety

6.1 Addressing Crime

Whereas crime has risen sharply under the PC government, including property crime, violent crime and murders; and

Whereas the City of Winnipeg has been continually voted the most unsafe urban center in Canada, with crime increasing annually in every neighborhood in Winnipeg; and;

Whereas Winnipeg holds the dubious honour of being the violent crime capital of Canada, with a rate of 153.5 violent crimes per 100,000 people; and

Whereas the PC government has failed to take any preventive measures to warn Manitobans about the dangers of meth and other deadly drugs; and

Whereas the PC government has cut, dismantled and undermined community programs that prevent crime;

Be It Hereby Resolved that a Manitoba Liberal Government will support municipalities in employing Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CEPTED) programs, and work with Manitoba Hydro to improve community lighting; and,

Be It Hereby Further Resolved that a Manitoba Liberal Government would fund anti-crime and anti-gang community safety programs, and anti-drug campaigns in the public and in schools, and create drug stabilization units in Winnipeg, Brandon and across the province.

Sponsored by St. Boniface Constituency Association

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Adopted/Not Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM

Not Considered due to time limit and priority level as determined by delegates *

6.2 Lead Remediation

Whereas for decades, tests have shown that neighbourhoods throughout Winnipeg and across Manitoba have had serious contamination from lead and other heavy metals; and,

Whereas, for decades, PC and NDP governments alike have performed tests that showed serious levels of toxic metals, and failed to notify the public or act to inform residents or fix the problem; and,

Whereas there are concerns that in some neighbourhoods, like St. Boniface, industrial processes are adding to new pollution;

Be It Hereby Resolved that a Manitoba Liberal Government will commit to addressing and ending current pollution, will create a remediation plan for affected communities, and dedicating funds to ongoing remediation, which we will invite the Federal Government to fund as a partner.

Sponsored by St. Boniface Constituency Association

Moved by Leamber Kensley

Seconded by Mike Bagamery

Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM

6.3 Ban on Government Advertising on Platforms with Hate Speech

Whereas in the last years, there has been an explosion in content that is unquestionable hate speech on many social media and other tech platforms; and,

Whereas the content includes racist conspiracy theories, holocaust denial, and hate directed against women, people of different faiths, nationalities and ethnic backgrounds; and,

Whereas this content is hosted not just on small sites, but on major platforms, including Google, Facebook and YouTube; and,

Whereas the common thread, along with hate, is that these “platforms” are not responsible for what they publish. They claim not to be “publishers” at all; and,

Whereas this is contrast to publishers - newspapers, radio, TV and web publications that take legal accountability for what they print.

Be It Resolved That a Manitoba Liberal Government will not buy advertising on platforms unless they are “publishers” and are accountable for the content they print. We will purchase advertising in local media outlets instead.

Sponsored by MLP Caucus

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Adopted/Not Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM

Not Considered due to time limit and priority level as determined by delegates *

6.4 Police Reforms

Whereas Manitoba Liberals recognize the essential role of oversight in policing. Since ancient times, societies have had to ask the question “Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?” - who shall guard the guardians; and,

Whereas in Manitoba, civilian oversight of police has been implemented but still lacks teeth; and,

Whereas we need a commitment to meaningful oversight.

Be It Resolved That a Manitoba Liberal Government will introduce legislation and regulation to ensure that:

- Police Boards must be able to set policy and budgets
- Manitoba has province-wide police standards on use of force and de-escalation
- We will follow the recommendations of the MMIWG Inquiry to integrate First Nations and Indigenous viewpoints and knowledge
- Work in Partnership with First Nations to develop and expand FN policing

Sponsored by MLP Caucus

Moved by Trish Rawsthorne

Seconded by Wendy Bloomfield

Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM

7.0 The Charter and Human Rights

7.1 Notwithstanding Clause

Whereas the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms forms the foundation of our society; and,

Whereas these same fundamental Rights and Freedoms are threatened by Section 33 of the Charter, commonly called the Notwithstanding Clause; and,

Whereas each time that the Notwithstanding Clause has been used or threatened to be used, it has been a matter of convenience and not necessity; and,

Whereas the Notwithstanding Clause has been most recently used in Quebec in a way never intended by the makers of the Charter to allow a gross violation of human rights; and,

Whereas we must now assume that a precedent has been set and that the Notwithstanding Clause can be abused by any Province, including Manitoba.

Be It Hereby Resolved That a Manitoba Liberal Government will introduce legislation in the Manitoba Legislature requiring a two thirds majority vote to invoke Section 33 of the Charter, known as the Notwithstanding Clause.

Supporting documentation:

<https://www.thelawyersdaily.ca/articles/17897/cba-urges-better-regulation-of-immigration-consultants-denounces-bill-21-religious-discrimination>

The relevant passage from the article states: "As well, the CBA agreed to ask federal and provincial governments to establish guidelines limiting the use of the s. 33 "notwithstanding" clause in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to situations where: the proposed legislation has been vetted by courts and there has been "meaningful and transparent" prior public consultation, along with a two-thirds majority vote in the legislature or Parliament."

Sponsored by Lakes Region

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Adopted/Not Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM

Not Considered due to time limit and priority level as determined by delegates *

8.0 Pandemic Recovery and Creating Wealth

8.1 A Development Bank for Manitoba

Whereas businesses and individuals often have difficulty accessing financing for initiatives for new jobs and wealth creation; and,

Whereas COVID-19 has increased such challenges for businesses and individuals; and,

Whereas institutional and life circumstances such as Indian Act restrictions and immigration status make it difficult businesses and individuals to access financing and build wealth; and,

Whereas Manitoba Liberals have already committed to creating a Manitoba Business Development Bank for the purpose of providing access to capital for start-ups, scale-ups and new businesses; and,

Whereas one of the fastest job creators are small businesses and start-ups, especially in the first five years; and,

Whereas one of the single greatest obstacles facing entrepreneurs in Manitoba is access to capital; and,

Whereas this been identified over and over by entrepreneurs and Chambers of Commerce: under the NDP and PCs alike, there has been a capital drought in Manitoba.

Be It Hereby Resolved that a Manitoba Liberal Government will further explore and identify new and potential financing mechanisms to address current gaps; and,

Be It Hereby Further Resolved that a Manitoba Liberal Government will create a \$100-million Entrepreneur's Equity Fund to build strong Manitoba companies, with dedicated funds for small communities to build new, strong Manitoba small businesses.

Sponsored by MLP Policy Committee/MLP Caucus

Moved by Harold Davis Seconded by Richard Davies

Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM

8.2 Debt Restructuring for Families, Individuals and Farmers

Whereas One of the major challenges for businesses and individuals throughout the pandemic has been crushing debt payments; and,

Whereas The level of personal debt for students, families, farmers and even seniors is too high; and,

Whereas Many families are facing a terrible burden because of debt due to a COVID-19 related business failure; and,

Whereas Reducing the burden of private debt is essential to a strong recovery for all Manitobans.

Be It Resolved That a Manitoba Liberal Government will create a Manitoba Debt Adjustment Board to work with families, individuals and farmers to reduce, refinance, or cancel unjust or burdensome debt.

Sponsored by MLP Caucus

Moved by Cathy Scofield-Singh Seconded by Leamber Kensley

Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM

8.3 Service Equity for Northern and Rural Manitoba

Whereas for many years, NDP and PC governments alike have cut local health services, police, and education, while centralizing more and more services in Winnipeg; and,

Whereas these policies have accelerated rural depopulation, and created a vicious circle of cuts, followed by population reductions, followed by cuts; and,

Whereas it must be recognized that Manitobans who live outside Winnipeg's perimeter are not second class citizens; and,

Whereas it must also be recognized that public infrastructure, health and education are the foundation on which communities are built; and,

Whereas we need to recognize that the cuts and freezes that have taken place have not reduced overall costs to Manitobans. They have simply downloaded the burden and cost to rural and northern Manitobans.

Be It Resolved That a Manitoba Liberal Government will recognize these extra costs and create a formula to ensure that rural and northern education, health care and infrastructure are funded equitably.

Sponsored by MLP Caucus

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Adopted/Not Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM

Not Considered due to time limit and priority level as determined by delegates *

8.4 Study: Carbon Fibre, Hydrogen from Manitoba's Oil Patch

Whereas as we transition to a lower-carbon future, there is a number of important ways in which we can repurpose oil production; and,

Whereas research in Alberta has shown that it is possible to convert oil into two highly useful products that contribute to energy efficiency and green fuel: carbon fibre and hydrogen.

Be It Hereby Resolved That a Manitoba Liberal Government will fund a viability study into the development of a carbon fibre manufacturing plant and hydrogen fuel plant based in Western Manitoba.

Sponsored by MLP Caucus

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Adopted/Not Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM

Not Considered due to time limit and priority level as determined by delegates *

8.4 Free Admission to Manitoba's Parks

Whereas the PCs decided to outsource the sale of Manitoba's park passes to a U.S. company based in Texas; and,

Whereas the result has been worse service and higher costs for Manitobans; and,

Whereas Manitoba's parks should not be privatized as they belong to all of us.

Be It Hereby Resolved That Manitoba Liberals will make admission to all provincial parks free.

Sponsored by MLP Caucus

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Adopted/Not Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM

Not Considered due to time limit and priority level as determined by delegates *

8.6 “Buy for Later” program to support Manitoba businesses, especially the hospitality industry

Whereas to date, the PCs assistance programs for Manitoba’s Small Businesses have been dismal failures; and,

Whereas thousands of small businesses across Manitoba are facing bankruptcy because the Manitoba Government has refused to step up with assistance; and,

Whereas it is unfair for the government to force businesses to close, at the risk of corporate and personal bankruptcy, without stepping up to provide help; and,

Whereas pandemic measures have choked off revenue, and therefore work. For that reason, wage subsidies do not solve the problem; and,

Whereas government could buy vouchers and certificates for hotel rooms, meals from restaurants to be used for the public good to house first responders, individuals and families requiring self-isolation, health-care workers, seniors, and people in vulnerable situations, or re-sold at a later date so government can recover its investment.

Be It Hereby Resolved That a Manitoba Liberal Government would act as a “buyer of last resort” - creating a fund to buy up vouchers for Manitoba-owned and operated businesses’ products and services, which can either be re-sold, or used for the public good.

Sponsored by MLP Caucus

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Adopted/Not Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM

Not Considered due to time limit and priority level as determined by delegates *

8.7 Fix Crown Land Leases

Whereas the PCs overhaul of Crown Lands leases has been a disaster that has driven families out of business, placed farms and equity in jeopardy; and,

Whereas in introducing a new system, the PCs have placed small family ranches at risk by deliberately choosing to drive up the cost of leases, and therefore the cost of production.

Be It Hereby Resolved That a Manitoba Liberal Government will immediately freeze the current state of Crown Land Leases and develop a system that preserves intergenerational equity while ensuring small family farms stay competitive.

Sponsored by MLP Caucus

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Adopted/Not Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM

Not Considered due to time limit and priority level as determined by delegates *

9.0 Matching Federal Funds

9.1 Missed Opportunities

Whereas the Government of Canada has offered financing to the provincial government to address the needs of Manitobans, including health care supports and infrastructure assistance; and,

Whereas the Government of Manitoba has refused or been slow to access such assistance resulting in missed opportunities; and,

Whereas Manitobans have not been able to access the federal funds for such as health care and infrastructure improvements for active transportation that have been available in other provinces.

Be It Hereby Resolved that a Manitoba Liberal Government will work with the Government of Canada to address the needs of Manitobans.

Sponsored by MLP Policy Committee

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Adopted/Not Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM

Not Considered due to time limit and priority level as determined by delegates *

10.0 Education and Childhood Care

10.1 K-12 Education Review

Whereas K-12 education in Manitoba does require a review; however, Manitobans need a review that will support Manitobans and work to improve education in this province; and,

Whereas a proper review involves the careful input by all stakeholders; transparency and upfront actions need to be part of the equation; and,

Whereas a new Manitoba Liberal Government will meet with all stakeholders to ensure the Education Review is completed properly; involving Teachers, teachers' union; and with input by all regions of Manitoba; and,

Whereas the P.C. Government has prematurely closed the Education Library Services Branch; this has eliminated the equitable access to services for students and educators in communities in and outside of Winnipeg; it has reduced access to resources to remote communities; and,

Whereas the P.C. Government has frozen public sector pay increases to public educators; while certain sectors (some have been allowed to have raises going against the core of this bill); this proposed Bill has never been passed; making this freeze unconstitutional, illegal, and negative to the economy in Manitoba.

Be It Hereby Resolved that a new Manitoba Liberal government will conduct a Comprehensive K-12 Education Review properly by involving input by all stakeholders; and,

Be It Hereby Further Resolved that a new Manitoba Liberal government will involve/consult with teachers and the teaching union (Manitoba Teaching Society); and,

Be It Hereby Further Resolved that a new Manitoba Liberal government will "Re-Open" the Education Library Services Branch providing educators with equitable access to teaching materials and resources.

Sponsored by Parkland Region CA

Moved by Harold Davis

Seconded by David Engel

Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM

10.2 Making Early Childhood Education a Priority

Whereas for years under the NDP and PCs alike, Early Childhood Education has been underfunded and workers have been underpaid; and,

Whereas instead of being under the department of education, it has been seen as an extension of the department of families.

Be It Hereby Resolved That a Manitoba Liberal Government will move Early Childhood Education under the department of education, ensure fair wages for Educators and cooperate with the Federal Government to create a national childcare plan.

Sponsored by MLP Caucus

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Adopted/Not Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM

Not Considered due to time limit and priority level as determined by delegates *

10.3 Creation of a Manitoba Child Abuse Response Centre

Whereas currently, Manitoba has no centralized unit for dealing with children who are victims of sexual abuse; and,

Whereas Manitoba and Winnipeg need a central hub to support children and families, and where Crowns, police, social services, and mental health workers can work together.

Be It Hereby Resolved That building on models and success of comparable centres in Kelowna, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon and Vancouver, a Manitoba Liberal Government will provide sustained funding for the Manitoba Child Abuse Response Centre.

Sponsored by MLP Caucus

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Adopted/Not Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM

Not Considered due to time limit and priority level as determined by delegates *

11.0 Cannabis Policy

11.1 Cannabis Revenue for Municipalities

Whereas when the Federal Government offered to split Cannabis revenues 50/50 with provinces, provinces disagreed, claiming that costs of the change required more funding; and,

Whereas one of the central purposes of the legalization of cannabis was to reduce the black market in cannabis, and deprive criminals and gangs of revenue; and,

Whereas the Federal Government amended the revenue sharing formula, to offer a further 25% to provinces, on the condition that that funding go to municipalities; and,

Whereas the PC Government has been collecting revenues but has refused to share it with municipalities; and,

Whereas Manitoba has among the highest prices for cannabis across Canada; and,

Whereas statistics show that the customers for legal cannabis in Manitoba skew to older groups; and,

Whereas the PC government has claimed there will be no revenue from cannabis, but has provided no evidence whatsoever for this claim; and,

Whereas MLLC has projected that it will have \$95-million in revenue from cannabis, a figure that does not include the other taxation revenues; and,

Whereas younger consumers may be purchasing lower-cost black market cannabis.

Be It Hereby Resolved that a Manitoba Liberal Government will share 25% of the federal excise revenue with municipalities; and,

Be It Hereby Further Resolved that a Manitoba Liberal Government will review cannabis taxation to see whether lower prices will reduce the black market, and act according to the findings.

Sponsored by St. Boniface Constituency Association

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Adopted/Not Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM

Not Considered due to time limit and priority level as determined by delegates *

12.0 Women's Policy

12.1 Full Day Kindergarten and Improving Child Care

Whereas the employment gap between men and women is greater in cities with high daycare fees; and,

Whereas three quarters (75.8%) of those working part-time in 2015 were women and one-quarter of women reported caring for children as their reason for working part-time; and,

Whereas women represent 35 percent of managerial positions, 28 percent of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) graduates, 23 percent of STEM workers, 20 percent of small business owners, and 29 percent of elected officials, but they take on 64 percent of unpaid care work in the home and represent 80 percent of single parents; and,

Whereas advancing women's equality in Canada has the potential to add \$150 billion in incremental GDP in 2026, or a 0.6 percent increase to annual GDP growth. Manitoba stands to gain between 4.7 % percent each year.

Be It Hereby Resolved that a Manitoba Liberal Government will implement policy to Increase women's labour force participation rate; increase the number of hours women work; and raise women's productivity relative to that of men by adding more women to high-productivity sectors; and,

Be It Hereby Further Resolved that a Manitoba Liberal Government would endeavor to match child care demands and study the implementation of full day kindergarten as a mix of both curriculum and play.

Sponsored by St. Boniface Constituency Association

Moved by David Engel Seconded by Richard Davies

Amendment to add "as a mix of both curriculum and play" to last resolution line.

Moved by Wendy Bloomfield Seconded by Leamber Kensley

Adopted with Amendment at the October 2020 MLP AGM

12.2 Getting More Women Elected

Whereas women make up 50.1% of the total population of Manitoba, yet only have 24% representation in the legislature.

Whereas potential women candidates are 15 times more likely to be responsible for the child care in their homes — and six times more likely to shoulder the majority of housework; and,

Whereas women are much less likely to have others encourage them to run for office; and,

Whereas there is still stereotyping of women's roles and abilities; demonstrable media imbalances in the treatment of women politicians; and rampant sexist perceptions of women's conduct and behavior.

Be It Hereby Resolved that the Manitoba Liberal Party will put aside a portion of incoming donations to be distributed among woman-identified candidates from the Sharon Carstairs Fund and support events and policy put forward by the women's committee.

Sponsored by St. Boniface Constituency Association

Moved by Leamber Kensley

Seconded by Judy Hardy

Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM

12.3 Equal Pay

Whereas the employment rate for women in Manitoba is 10% less than that for men; and,

Whereas women earn \$0.87 for every dollar earned by men, largely as a result of wage inequality between women and men within occupations; and,

Whereas across Canada, gender parity at all levels in the workplace "improves profitability, workplace culture and the economy as a whole," PwC noted in a study last year. It estimated that Canada would likely see \$105 billion in GDP growth if it closed the wage gap and boosted female work-force participation; and,

Whereas the government of Manitoba studied gender pay inequality in the 1980's yet made no effort to close the gap for Provincial Employees.

Be It Hereby Resolved that a Manitoba Liberal Government would study wage inequality in provincial departments and close the gap.

Sponsored by St. Boniface Constituency Association

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Adopted/Not Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM

Not Considered due to time limit and priority level as determined by delegates *

13.0 Immigration

13.1 Rural Issues Related to Immigration

Whereas rural communities can benefit from the arrival of immigrant newcomers with skills that are needed; and,

Whereas there is often a lack of translation services; and,

Whereas Internet services are lacking; and,

Whereas English/French education for children and adults is needed; and,

Whereas public transportation services are needed; and,

Whereas employment opportunities for spouses are limited; and,

Whereas Manitoba has an established target of 7% for Francophone immigration and immigration is critical to the vitality of the province's Francophone minority, including in rural areas.

Be It Hereby Resolved That a Manitoba Liberal Government will work with all levels of government and with local community organizations, including Francophone communities, to leverage the opportunities that immigration provides for the province and address the challenges faced by immigrant newcomers arriving in rural Manitoba.

Sponsored by MLP Policy Committee

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Adopted/Not Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM

Not Considered due to time limit and priority level as determined by delegates *

13.2 “Head Tax”

Whereas immigrant newcomers are charged \$500 per person; and,

Whereas the charge lacks a clear purpose and has a questionable cost/benefit; and,

Whereas the income is allocated to general revenues rather than immigrant services; and,

Whereas the charge is class discriminatory and favours those with more wealth.

Be It Hereby Resolved That a Manitoba Liberal Government of Manitoba will work with all levels of government towards eliminating the current \$500 per person charge to immigrant newcomers arriving in Manitoba.

Sponsored by MLP Policy Committee

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Adopted/Not Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM

Not Considered due to time limit and priority level as determined by delegates *

13.3 Professional Credentials Recognition

Whereas several barriers exist that limit immigrant newcomers achieving their full potential in their chosen professions, such as:

- Professional bodies' limited support for immigration,
- The need for at least partial recognition of prior credentials,
- Employers' support for cultural considerations and language training,
- The availability of training for required skills,
- Addressing the public's perception of immigration costs and benefits,
- Improving Federal/Provincial collaboration/cooperation regarding immigration supports.

Be It Hereby Resolved That a Manitoba Liberal Government will work with all levels of government and recognized accreditation bodies towards supporting immigrant newcomers' achievement of professional recognition.

Sponsored by MLP Policy Committee

Moved by Kathryn Braun

Seconded by Ernie Nathaniel

Friendly Amendment to add "and recognized accreditation bodies"

Moved by Jean Paterson

Adopted with Friendly Amendment at the October 2020 MLP AGM

13.4 Immigration Misconceptions and Program Limitations that Need to Be Addressed

Whereas there are several misconceptions and lack of support that limit immigrant newcomers achieving their full potential and recognition within Canadian society, such as:

- The sense that immigrants get the “rotten” jobs,
- Ensuring that immigrant skills are matched to the communities and jobs where they are needed,
- Building on skills useful within immigrants’ original contexts,
- Endeavouring to match incoming foreign students’ training to the job market,
- Demonstrating that newcomers are not taking jobs away from Canadians,
- Directing newcomers to jobs that are “socially” useful,
- Supporting newcomers as they gain Canadian/Manitoba credentials such as citizenship, professional status, drivers’ licenses, etc.

Be It Hereby Resolved That a Manitoba Liberal Government will work with all levels of government towards addressing current immigration misconceptions and program limitations

Sponsored by MLP Policy Committee

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Adopted/Not Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM

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Not Considered due to time limit and priority level as determined by delegates *

14.0 The Environment/Economy/Infrastructure

14.1 Inter-Provincial Power Grid

Whereas Manitoba Hydro has extensive facilities and capacity to supply the electrical needs of north western Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta; and,

Whereas current and anticipated needs are being addressed through low efficiency and carbon emitting facilities; and,

Whereas the government has stated the desire to lessen northern dependency on these low efficient, carbon emitting fuels; and,

Whereas Manitoba Hydro provides a cost effective, environmentally sound and climate change cognizant option to supplying these needs; and,

Whereas much of Canada' excess production today is being sold to the United States at less than market prices and this would be a difficult agreement to amend if Canada Experiences a shortage of power.

Be It Herby Resolved That a Manitoba Liberal Government will encourage the Government of Canada:

- to facilitate and support negotiations and funding towards the establishment of a Northern inter-provincial electrical grid.
- Establish a Sustainable Development Agency to ensure sustainable electric power to all regions of Canada

Sponsored by MLP Policy Committee

Moved by Ernie Nathaniel Seconded by Trish Rawsthorne

Adopted at the October 2020 MLP AGM