



**Conservative
Party of Canada**
Stand up for Canada

**POCKET
POLICY**

ELECTION 2005-06

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This document is intended as a general guide for candidates regarding Conservative policy positions and the Liberal record. It is not the official platform of the Conservative Party of Canada for this election.



CONSERVATIVE PARTY'S TOP PRIORITIES

"Canadians have grown tired of a Liberal government that has no new ideas and that is mired in corruption. Canadians want a government that is focused on real issues that matter to real Canadians – cutting the GST, cracking down on crime, and cleaning up government. Canadians want a government that understands families are working longer, paying more in tax, and finding it harder to save." - *Stephen Harper*

Priorities:

- Clean up government by passing the Federal Accountability Act
- Provide real tax relief to working families by cutting the GST
- Make our streets and communities safer by cracking down on crime
- Help parents with the cost of raising their children
- Work with the provinces to establish a Patient Wait Times Guarantee

ABORIGINALS

Conservative Plan

It is a Conservative Party priority to improve the living conditions of aboriginal Canadians in terms of economic opportunity, health, education, and community safety.

The following principles should govern the administration of existing federal Aboriginal programs:

- The need for a legislated framework for federal aboriginal expenditures;
- A framework for self-government under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms;
- Transparency with regard to finances of First Nations bands; and
- A framework for the settlement of comprehensive claims and self-government agreements.

Talking Points

- In the past 12 years, the Liberals have done very little to improve the lives of Aboriginal Canadians. The Liberal government's incompetence in the administration of programs concerning Canada's Aboriginal people has resulted in lost economic opportunities, frustration, and social damage.
- The Conservative Party of Canada agrees with the objective of reducing aboriginal poverty as part of a 5- to 10-year plan, as well as other targets, as discussed at the 2005 First Ministers Meeting in Kelowna.
- The Conservative Party supports the development of a property regime that would encourage lending for private housing and businesses. This will promote economic opportunity and individual freedom.
- The Conservative Party proposes, where available and agreed to by all parties including provincial authorities, to offer choice in schooling for First Nations.

Liberal Record

- The Liberals are spending in excess of \$10 billion per year for aboriginal programs and services but can't even provide basic sanitation and drinking water. In October 2005, the Liberals failed to properly address a two-year water problem for the Kashechewan First Nation reserve of 1,900 people, in which the e-coli tainted water crisis forced them to be evacuated for medical care. (*CP Wire*, October 20, 2005)

ABORTION

A Conservative Government will not initiate or support any legislation to regulate abortion. (*Conservative Policy Declaration*, voted on March 19, 2005 at the Montreal Policy Convention)

On issues of moral conscience, the Conservative Party acknowledges the diversity of deeply held personal convictions among individual Party members and the right of Members of Parliament to adopt positions in consultation with their constituents and to vote freely.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Conservative Plan

A Conservative government's first piece of legislation will be the Federal Accountability Act, the most sweeping ethics reforms ever proposed to clean up government in Ottawa. It will:

- End the influence of big money in politics by banning corporate and union political donations, and limiting individual donations to \$1000.
- Create tough new lobbying rules that will put an end to the revolving door that allows former ministers, political aides, and top bureaucrats to turn around and lobby the government.
- Give more power and teeth to independent watchdogs such as the Auditor General and Ethics Commissioner.
- Protect whistleblowers from reprisal.
- Strengthen access to information laws to give citizens the right to know.
- Create an independent Director of Public Prosecutions to protect criminal prosecution from political interference.

Liberal Record

- Justice John Gomery confirmed that millions of taxpayers' dollars were stolen and redirected to the Liberal Party of Canada.
- Finance Minister Ralph Goodale and his office are part of an investigation by the RCMP with regards to alleged leaking of information prior to an income trusts announcement.
- David Dingwall quit as head of the Royal Canadian Mint under a cloud of extravagant expenses, illegal lobbying fees, and a proposed severance package from the Prime Minister.
- Paul Martin's shipping company Canada Steamship Lines (CSL) avoids taxes in Canada by using the Barbados flag, but has collected at least \$161 million in grants and contracts from Canadian taxpayers.

Paul Martin has:

- Given significant patronage positions to 11 former Liberal MPs, including John Harvard, Allan Rock, Karen Kraft Sloan, Bob Kilger, Sophia Leung, Sarkis Assadourian, Art Eggleton, Stan Keyes, Dennis Dawson, Francis Fox, and Yvon Charbonneau.

- Shut down the Public Accounts Committee's investigation into the Sponsorship Scandal and called an election before Gomery's hearings even began.
- Voted against his own promise to appoint an independent ethics commissioner. "I had a lot of difficulty with this particular vote." (*Ottawa Citizen*, July 13, 2002).
- Engaged in at least 33 blind trust meetings and phone calls before revelations surfaced with regard to his business, CSL.

AGRICULTURE

Conservative Plan

Canada is dependent on a strong, vibrant farm sector that provides security of income to families dependent on farming, and food security for Canadian families. A Conservative government will:

- Work with the provinces to replace the CAIS program in order to make income stabilization more responsive for average producers, and introduce a separate disaster relief program.
- Require an average of 5 percent renewable fuel content in Canadian fuel by 2010.
- Ensure agricultural industries that choose to operate under domestic supply management remain viable.
- Give western grain farmers the freedom to make their own marketing and transportation decisions and allow them to voluntarily participate in producer organizations.
- Defend Canada's agricultural sectors, including the supply-managed sectors, when negotiating international trade agreements.
- Work toward a comprehensive program of research and development targeting new and emerging markets and technologies throughout the world.
- Continue farm improvement loan guarantees and implement any necessary changes, such as an extension of the program to new farmers.
- Support initiatives approved by Parliament and honour commitments made in the budgets, including the \$755 million in emergency federal assistance to grain and oilseed producers announced by the government on November 23, 2005, and the extension of Spring Credit Advances and Advance Payments initiated by Bill C-69.

Talking Points

- The Liberals' total and utter refusal to fight for Canadian cattlemen resulted in the border being closed to Canadian beef for 18 months. Due to Liberal failure on the file, the Conservatives have been forced to act on behalf of an absentee government.

Liberal Record

- On March 20, 2001, Paul Martin voted against a

motion to provide \$400 million in emergency aid to Canadian farm families.

- On May 28, 2002, Paul Martin voted against a motion to provide assistance to Canadian farmers to support them against foreign subsidies.
- On March 9, 2004, Paul Martin voted against reallocating money from the gun registry and sponsorship program to assist farmers.
- On December 7, 2004, Paul Martin voted against providing assistance to farmers hard hit by the mad cow crisis.

ARTS AND CULTURE

Conservative Plan

Arts and culture make essential contributions to our national identity. A Conservative government will:

- Ensure that the CBC and Radio-Canada continue to perform their vital role as national public service broadcasters

CHILD CARE

Conservative Plan

- A Conservative government will introduce a new \$1,200 per year Choice in Child Care Allowance for children under six, starting in 2006. The plan will apply to an estimated 2 million children of pre-school age.
- In addition, we will introduce an annual \$250 million Community Child Care Investment Program to help employers and communities create child care spaces in the workplace or through cooperative or community associations. Our program will create an estimated 125,000 new child care spaces over five years to reduce wait times for childcare.

Talking Points

- Our plan provides money directly to parents. The Liberal plan sends money to provincial governments. Under our plan, all families with young children benefit.
- The total cost of our plan will be \$10.9 billion over five years, which is \$4.7 billion more than the Liberals are planning over the same period of time.
- The Liberals oppose choice in child care. They want a national system of 9-to-5 institutional day care. Their proposal does not help shift workers, low-income parents, rural Canadians, stay-at-home parents and families stuck on child care waiting lists.
- A Conservative government will honour the government's existing one-year bilateral commitments to provinces for institutional childcare.
- Our plan will actually create child care spaces.

Liberal Record

- The Liberals have repeatedly promised a National Child Care Strategy since 1993.
- Paul Martin's Communications Director Scott Reid said parents would "blow" a proposed \$1,200 per child allowance on videos, popcorn, and beer (December 11, 2005), while Liberal strategist John Duffy agreed, saying that parents might spend the money on cars rather than their kids.

DEFENCE

Conservative Plan

As part of a "Canada First" defence strategy, a Conservative government will:

- Strengthen Canada's sovereignty, providing strength at home and confidence abroad within our multilateral peacekeeping role.
- Create new defence capabilities as well as expand and transform existing capabilities in every region of Canada.
- Recruit 13,000 additional regular force personnel (to 75,000) and 10,000 reserve force personnel to bring current units up to strength and to create new units.
- Increase the National Defence budget base in each of the next five years, amounting to \$5.3 billion above currently planned levels.

Regional

- **Arctic:** Station icebreakers and a deep-water docking facility in Iqaluit.
- **Ontario:** Provide new strategic and tactical airlift fleet, station a new airborne army battalion in Trenton.
- **Quebec:** Establish a regular army presence in the Saguenay region (battalion).
- **West:** Recruit 500 navy personnel and restore regular army presence in B.C. (battalion).
- **Atlantic:** Recruit 1,000 navy personnel and establish regular army presence in Labrador (battalion).

Liberal Record

- After years of neglect under the Liberal government, Canada does not have sufficient capacity to fulfill our national and global defence responsibilities. Budgets have declined, equipment is in disrepair, and troop levels are too low.
- Canada relies on the U.S. and East European companies for strategic airlift rentals or loans to meet our national and global responsibilities.
- Canada has fallen behind in peacekeeping. Our contribution to UN peacekeeping operations is 32nd out of 107 in the world, with only 382 personnel deployed, and is worse than that of the U.S.

- Canada lacks basic capabilities to defend Canada's sovereignty in the Arctic, such as ships or a northern deep water port.
- Canada has no regular army presence in British Columbia and Newfoundland and Labrador.
- The Senate Defence Committee and the Conference of Defence Associations recommend that the Canadian Forces regular force personnel levels increase to 75,000.

DEMOCRATIC REFORM

Conservative Plan

A Conservative government will introduce a process for electing senators, establish a four-year election date cycle, and clean up the process for nominating federal election candidates. The Conservative plan for democratic reform includes:

- Establishing a federal process for electing senators. Currently the Prime Minister holds a virtually free hand in the selection of senators.
- Introducing legislation modeled on the British Columbia law requiring fixed election dates every four years, except when a government loses the confidence of the House of Commons.
- Ending “parachute” candidacies by requiring that a party’s candidate have the approval of the local constituency association.

Talking Points

- While Canada has historically led the world in shaping vibrant democratic institutions, today our democratic institutions have not kept up with Canadians’ expectations for more accountable government.
- The Liberal Party uses the democratic process for its own partisan gain. Liberal Prime Ministers have called unnecessary early elections, parachuted so-called “star candidates” into ridings, and used Senate seats as patronage appointments.
- Paul Martin has broken every promise to enact democratic reform. Martin has contributed to the democratic deficit by ignoring the will of Parliament and refusing to allow free votes for his MPs.
- A Conservative government will act quickly and decisively to clean up corruption and re-establish integrity and accountability. It will set high standards for democracy in Canada.

The Liberal Record

- On June 23, 2005, the Liberals passed a budget containing billions in new spending by limiting debate on Bill C-48 to one hour through a rare procedural tactic. (*Hansard*, June 23, 2005)
- Martin sat at the Cabinet table of Jean Chrétien's government which invoked closure, thereby stifling debate a record 80 times. (*Hansard*, 1993 - December 12, 2003)

- Paul Martin's government invoked closure to cut off debate after only six days in office. (*Hansard*, February 10, 2004)

EDUCATION AND SKILLED TRADES

Conservative Plan

Education:

- A tax credit for post-secondary students or their parents of up to \$500 to help cover the costs of textbooks.
- Cooperation with the provinces to increase family income thresholds for student loan eligibility.
- Exemption of the first \$10,000 of student scholarship or bursary income from taxation.
- Dedicated transfer to provinces to fund education and training.

Trades:

- A Tools Tax Deduction for up to \$500 spent on tools.
- A \$1000 Apprenticeship Investment Grant for two years for apprentices in approved programs.
- An Apprenticeship Job Creation Tax Credit of 10 percent of an apprentice's wages for two years to a maximum of \$2,000.

Talking Points

- The Liberals transfer money from one politician to another. We are putting money directly into the hands of students, their parents, and tradespeople.
- The Conservative plan helps Canadians by making it easier for them to obtain the tools and financial assistance needed to further their education.
- The Liberal government has failed to address the serious shortage of skilled trades workers in this country. The Conservative plan will help to attract new apprentices into trades.

Commentary on Conservative Plan

- Stephen Harper's Conservatives are on the right track with a new plan to trim taxes for small business while encouraging job creation in the skilled trades, says a lobby group for Canadian entrepreneurs. These are just the kind of thing that business people have been calling for, said Garth Whyte of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business that represents about 100,000 small and mid-sized firms across the country. (*CP, Belleville Intelligencer*, December 8, 2005)

- "Today's announcement by Mr. Harper is a positive step towards recognizing the importance and value that skilled tradespeople bring to the Canadian economy," stated Michael Atkinson, President of the Canadian Construction Association. "Such incentives — long promoted by CCA — will go a long way to convincing Canadians, particularly younger Canadians, that a career in the trades is a worthy pursuit." (Canadian Construction Association Press Release, October 13, 2005)

Liberal Record

- As Finance Minister, Paul Martin drastically cut funding for post-secondary education. Under his direction, post-secondary education funding became a part of the lump sum CHST payments, and was drastically cut. Between 1994-95 and 1998-99, the federal government cut annual CHST cash entitlements to provinces by \$25 billion.

ENVIRONMENT

Conservative Plan

- Introduce a Transit Pass Tax Credit to give Canadians a tax credit for the cost of transit passes, a measure which could increase transit ridership by 25% to 50%.
- Develop a Clean Air Act to legislate the reduction of smog-causing pollutants such as Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x), Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), and particulate matter.
- Address the issue of greenhouse gas emissions, such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), with a made-in-Canada plan, emphasizing new technologies, developed in concert with the provinces and in coordination with other major industrial countries.
- Ensure high water quality by addressing environmental issues such as the need for aquifer mapping, protection of the Great Lakes Basin, banning interbasin water transfers, imposing substantial penalties for illegal bilge oil dumping, and ensuring adequate watershed management and methods to ensure water quality and quantity.
- Clean up federal contaminated sites and encourage the private sector to clean up brownfields.
- Require 5 % average renewable content in Canadian gasoline and diesel fuel, such as ethanol and biodiesel, by 2010, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 4 million tonnes a year when implemented.
- End the dumping of raw sewage into the Halifax Harbour and Strait of Juan de Fuca.

Liberal Record

- Canada rates 28th out of 30 OECD countries in environmental integrity. (Canwest, October 19, 2005)
- Since signing Kyoto, Canadian greenhouse gas emissions have gone up 24% over 1990 levels – that's 30% above target. (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change report entitled Key GHG Data)
- Water quality has become an issue with hundreds of boil-water warnings across the country.
- Canada is ranked 35th out of 40 nations in a recent UN progress report of original Kyoto signatories.
- Canada will have to spend billions buying carbon

credits from foreign countries such as Russia to meet Kyoto targets.

- Paul Martin is jetting around in a Boeing 727 – one of the world's noisiest and most environmentally unfriendly, gas-guzzling aircraft.

Conservative Plan

Promoting the unity of the country while recognizing the legitimate responsibilities of the provinces is one of the most important responsibilities of any federal government. A Conservative government will:

- Support the creation of new intergovernmental mechanisms to encourage federal-provincial cooperation, and create a new Charter of Open Federalism.
- Work with the provinces in areas such as culture, environment, and trade.
- Encourage provincial participation in the development of the Canadian position in bilateral or international trade negotiations where provincial jurisdiction is affected.
- Work with permanent provincial international trade offices to promote and develop trade opportunities.
- Support the work of the Council of the Federation in strengthening intergovernmental and interprovincial cooperation, expanding the economic and social union in Canada, and promoting the development of common standards and objectives of mutual recognition by all provinces.
- Allow Québec to play a role in international institutions, such as UNESCO, where its cultural responsibilities are at stake, based on the model of the Francophonie Summit, and allow similar consideration for other provinces that have unique interests (e.g. Atlantic province participation in fisheries issues).

Liberal Record

- The federal Liberals have hurt the cause of federalism in Quebec. Due to the sponsorship scandal, support for separation has risen from about 40% to well over 50% during Paul Martin's term in office.
- The Liberals have divided province against province, attacking some provinces and negotiating one-on-one deals with others that have encouraged divisions among Canadians.

FISCAL IMBALANCE

Conservative Plan

In the last eight years, the federal government has amassed enormous surpluses. Meanwhile, many provinces have seen reduced revenues and have had to run deficits in order to pay for education, health, and other social programs. While some sectoral and ad hoc agreements with provinces have temporarily reduced the financial pressure, it is time for a comprehensive agreement. A Conservative government will:

- Work with the provinces in order to achieve a long-term agreement which would address the issue of fiscal imbalance in a permanent fashion.
- Ensure that any new shared-cost programs in areas of provincial/territorial responsibility have the consent of the majority of provinces to proceed, and that provinces are given the right to opt out of the federal program with compensation, so long as the province offers a similar program with similar accountability structures.
- Work with the provinces to achieve permanent changes to the equalization formula which would ensure that non-renewable natural resource revenue is removed from the equalization formula to encourage economic growth. We will ensure that no province is adversely affected from changes to the equalization formula.

The Liberal Record

- Paul Martin cut transfer payments to the provinces designed to pay for health care and other programs by over \$25 billion during the 1990s. It was these cuts that have contributed to the fiscal imbalance and to increased medical wait times.
- Despite motions of the House of Commons passed by all three opposition parties calling on the federal government to resolve the fiscal imbalance, the Liberal position is that the imbalance does not exist.

FISHERIES

Conservative Plan

A Conservative government will protect the fisheries following 12 years of Liberal neglect. It is a vital industry to Canada as it generates approximately \$2.2 billion in landed value and \$4.5 billion in export value. (Canadian Council of Professional Fish Harvesters, August 2005). A Conservative government will:

- Assist fishermen by scrapping the capital gains tax for transfers of fishing assets within a family. Tax provisions already provide a \$500,000 exemption for such transfer for farmers and woodlot owners. A Conservative government will extend this exemption to fishermen and apply it to the value of fishing licences.
- The Conservatives will also give the coastal provinces – particularly Newfoundland and Labrador – an increased role in the management of the fisheries. The Newfoundland and Labrador House of Assembly has requested greater involvement in the management of the fisheries around the province. This has been strongly supported by the province's Conservative MPs.
- Invest more in fisheries science and research.
- Establish an independent judicial inquiry into the collapse of sockeye salmon stocks in the Fraser River in British Columbia.
- Extend the 200-mile limit to the edge of the Continental Shelf, the nose and tail of the Grand Banks, and the Flemish Cap in the North Atlantic, and exercise Canadian custodial management over this area.

Liberal Record

- Under 12 years of Liberal mismanagement, cod stocks have collapsed in the Atlantic and salmon stocks are threatened in the Pacific. The provinces need to have a greater role in managing these resources.
- The employed fish harvester labour force in Canada dropped from 32,415 in 1991 to 26,620 in 2001, a decline of 18%. The employed labour force in British Columbia shrank by 41% over the same period. In Newfoundland & Labrador and Nova Scotia, the two provinces that bore the brunt of the groundfish collapse, employment dropped by 20%. (Canadian Council of Professional Fish Harvesters, August 2005)
- On the West Coast, average incomes for masters/officers and skippers/fishermen were more

than 20% lower in 2000 than in 1990. The number of fish harvesters working 13 weeks or less increased by 30% on a national basis, but in the Pacific Region, it rose more than 70% over the decade while the number working 14 to 26 weeks fell by 60%. (Canadian Council of Professional Fish Harvesters, August 2005)

Conservative Plan

- Advance Canada's values of freedom, democracy, rule of law, human rights, free trade, and compassion for the less fortunate on the international stage.
- A Conservative government will make Parliament responsible for exercising effective oversight over the conduct of Canadian foreign policy and the commitment of Canadian Forces to foreign operations.
- Before entering into any new major international treaties or undertakings, a Conservative government will ensure that Parliament is fully informed and consulted before binding action is taken.
- We will increase spending on Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) beyond the currently projected level and move towards the OECD average level.
- We will provide Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) with authority to monitor and report on expenditure and implementation of all official development assistance dollars.

Liberal Record

- After a decade of foreign aid cuts to levels not seen since the 1960s, Canada's aid contributions today are well below the OECD average and are roughly half of Conservative government levels in the 1980s and early 1990s.

Conservative Plan

- Invest \$1 billion over five years to support Canada's softwood industry, including fighting the spread of the pine beetle in BC forests and help struggling forestry communities.
- Insist that the U.S. lumber interests conform to the NAFTA rulings on softwood lumber, work to repeal the Byrd Amendment, and work to return more than \$5 billion in illegal softwood lumber tariffs to Canadian producers.
- Guarantee repayment of illegally imposed softwood lumber tariffs through Export Development Canada.
- Ensure adequate support for displaced forestry workers and their communities.
- Help pay the legal bills of Canadian businesses that are fighting American softwood lumber tariffs. We will support displaced forestry workers.

Liberal Record

- Rather than standing up to the U.S. on the softwood lumber issue, it actually took Paul Martin 64 days to call the U.S. President, despite promising Premier Campbell he would do so right away. \$255 million in additional duties were collected in that time.
- For five years, Paul Martin and the Liberals have dithered and delayed, failing the Canadian softwood lumber industry and costing the industry over \$5 billion.
- While Paul Martin said he raised softwood lumber with President Bush when they met in March, his own Industry Minister, David Emerson, admitted that, in fact, the issue had not been raised. (*Vancouver Sun*, March 24, 2005)
- Only on the eve of an election did Martin finally rush out a last-minute, hastily thrown-together program to assist the industry.

Conservative Plan

- A Conservative government will cut the GST immediately to 6 percent. This will give \$4.5 billion back to Canadian taxpayers in the first year.
- Over the next five years, a Conservative government will further cut the GST to 5 percent.
- A GST cut means tax relief for all – tax relief that you can see each and every time you buy gas, go to the store, or pay your phone bill. A tax cut that no politician will be able to take away without people noticing.
- In New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Nova Scotia, the HST reduction will be the same – one per cent right away, and a further one per cent over five years.

Talking Points

- A cut to the GST is one of the most beneficial tax cuts for lower-income Canadians.
- The GST is a regressive tax, since lower income families spend more of their income on consumption.
- As a 2004 National Anti-Poverty Organization discussion paper said, “Since most of the federal taxes paid by low-income people are commodity taxes, it makes sense to look at ways of reducing these taxes. The easiest route would be to simply cut the rate at which the GST is levied.”

Liberal Record

- In 1993 the Liberal Party campaigned on a promise to eliminate the GST. The Red Book, co-authored by Paul Martin, called for the tax to be replaced. Jean Chrétien said, “We hate it and we will kill it.”
- Since 1994, the GST burden on Canadians has doubled, from \$15.9 billion to \$31.8 billion. (Finance Department data)
- Since 1993, total taxes and other revenues collected by the federal government have risen by \$2,233 per person. (Finance Department data) Paul Martin has flip-flopped on the GST, previously saying, “the GST is a stupid, inept and incompetent tax.” (*Hansard*, November 28, 1989)
- Total income taxes collected have doubled, and personal income taxes are up 82 per cent. (*Finance Department data*)

- While the cash income of the average family has increased by 37 per cent since 1993, that same family is paying 50 per cent more in income tax to government. (*Calgary Sun*, December 21, 2005)
- GDP per worker rose by 21.8 per cent over the past 15 years, yet real after-tax incomes per worker remained virtually stagnant: just a 3.6 per cent gain over the entire 15-year period. (TD Bank Financial Group, January 2005)

Conservative Plan

The Conservative Party believes that the key to addressing the shortfall in health care is through the reduction of patient waiting lists. More and more Canadians are avoiding waiting lists by crossing the border or seeking private clinics in Canada to get the service they need.

This crisis recently came to the attention of the Supreme Court of Canada, which concluded that many Canadian patients are suffering, and some even dying, while they wait for necessary medical treatment. In fact, the Court said, "Access to a waiting list is not access to health care." A Conservative government will:

- Work with the provinces to develop a Patient Wait Times Guarantee to ensure that all Canadians receive essential medical treatment within clinically acceptable waiting times.
- Comply with the principles of the Canada Health Act in our universal, publicly funded health care system.
- Treat all patients equally for essential health care services, regardless of ability to pay.
- Increase the number of doctors and nurses by working with the provinces and territories to expand educational programs for health care professionals.
- A Conservative Government will commit \$260 million to implement the five-year Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control to improve screening, prevention, and coordination of resources among the federal government, cancer advocacy groups and the provinces.
- In co-ordination with the provinces, we will also work to develop new disease-specific strategies for other major diseases, including mental illness and heart disease.

Liberal Record

- From 1994-1999, Paul Martin cut health transfers to the provinces by \$25 billion.
- Since the Liberals took power, the time that patients wait to be seen by a specialist has almost doubled — from 9.3 weeks to 17.7 weeks. (Fraser Institute, *Waiting Your Turn*,

October 2005)

- Canada ranks 26th out of 30 Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) members, with 2.1 doctors for every 1000 people, putting us almost at the bottom of the pack. (*Canadian Health Care Manager*, February 2005).
- Most caregivers of the terminally ill were shut out of the federal Compassionate Care program for two years, until the eve of the election when the Liberals decided to expand the definition of a caregiver. The cost of administering this program during its first two years of operation was seven times the amount paid in benefits to caregivers during that period. (Order Paper Question No. 197, 38th Parliament, www.parl.gc.ca, November 2, 2005, and Health Council of Canada, Analysis and Evaluation — Compassionate Care Benefit, December 2005)

HOUSING

Conservative Plan

All Canadians should have a fair chance to own or rent their own home. A Conservative government will:

- Work with the provinces and municipalities to develop tax incentives for private-sector builders so that low-income city dwellers will have improved access to affordable housing. Specifically, on an experimental basis to supplement existing programs, we will establish a low-income housing tax credit program.
- Beginning in 2007-08, we will set aside \$200 million annually in the form of federal tax credits to encourage developers to build or refurbish affordable rental units.

Liberal Record

- In 1996 Paul Martin refused to fund a national housing program, instead downloading affordable housing to the provinces. As Prime Minister, he eliminated the Secretary of State position responsible for housing.
- Just under 16 per cent of Canadian households (an estimated 1.7 million households) were in core housing need in 2001. (CMHC.ca)
- In 2001, the incidence of core housing need among single parents was at 42.3 percent. (CMHC.ca)
- In 2001, the incidence of core housing need among Aboriginal households living in rental housing was 37.8 per cent. (CMHC.ca)
- Core housing need is also prevalent among single seniors, at 53.3 per cent. (CMHC.ca)

Conservative Plan

A Conservative government will stand up for a fair and sensible immigration plan that works for Canada. We are committed to helping new Canadians find jobs appropriate to their skills, training, and experience. A Conservative government will:

- Immediately cut the \$975 Right of Landing Fee in half and continue to reduce it over our mandate as the fiscal situation allows. Immigrants and their families can better use this money to cover the costs of getting life started in Canada.
- Create a Canadian Agency for Assessment and Recognition of Credentials, to provide pre-assessment of international credentials and experience. We will work with the provinces and professional associations to ensure foreign-trained professionals meet Canadian standards while getting properly trained professionals working in Canada quickly.
- Support Canadian parents who adopt foreign-born children by extending automatic citizenship to these children once the adoption is final.

Liberal Record

- Paul Martin introduced the \$975 Right of Landing Fee in 1995. He had a number budgets to reduce the fee as Finance Minister, but did nothing. And as Prime Minister, he had three budgets to reduce the expensive Right of Landing Fee. He did nothing. Any promise from Paul Martin on the Right of Landing Fee is simply not believable.
- The Conference Board of Canada estimates that the failure to recognize immigrants' education and credentials costs new Canadians in the range of \$3.4 billion to \$5.0 billion dollars a year in lost earnings. ("Immigration: A New Deal for Newcomers," Michael Bloom, Chapter 5, *Performance and Potential 2004-2005: How Can Canada Prosper in Tomorrow's World?* Conference Board of Canada, October 2004)

Conservative Plan

By cutting funding to the provinces, the Liberal government forced them to reduce support to municipalities for essential services such as roads and sewers. A Conservative government will:

- Maintain the funding for the New Deal for Cities and Communities and fully implement the transfer of the equivalent of five cents per litre of gasoline to cities and communities by 2009-10 for municipal infrastructure.
- Allow all cities and communities to use gas tax transfer dollars to build and repair roads and bridges, instead of requiring that they be used on other projects.
- Negotiate a new infrastructure agreement with the provinces to provide a stable, permanent fund to support the development of highways and border infrastructure, focusing on the National Highways System.
- Maintain the existing federal infrastructure agreements that have been entered into between the federal government, the provinces, and municipalities.
- Support the development of the Pacific Gateway Initiative, maintaining all federal funding designated to Canada's Pacific Gateway, but giving greater freedom to British Columbia and the other partners to designate their priority projects without federal interference.

Liberal Record

- The Conservative Party has long supported the idea of using gas tax revenues to fund infrastructure, while Paul Martin consistently opposed the idea when he was Finance Minister.
- As Finance Minister, Paul Martin long opposed a dedicated transfer of gas taxes for infrastructure: "There would be a fundamental difficulty with earmarking taxes for specific purposes like highways, so-called dedicated taxes, because they limit our fiscal flexibility to redirect activities in light of changing priorities." (Paul Martin, Standing Committee on Transport, December 4, 1996)
- "I don't think really we are in favour of dedicated taxes.... It's difficult enough to administer the nation's finances and, to the extent that we can stay away from dedicated taxes, I think that's the course to adopt." (Paul Martin, Address to Big City Mayors'

Caucus, February 19, 2002)

- Under the Liberals, the municipal infrastructure deficit has increased to \$60 billion (Federation of Canadian Municipalities, 2004) while the infrastructure deficit to repair the National Highways System alone was estimated at \$17.4 billion in 1998 (Council of Ministers Responsible for Transportation and Highway Safety, 1998)
- Paul Martin promised “a new deal” for cities would be in place by the end of 2004. However, no deals were in place by the end of the year. Only with an election imminent has Martin finally managed to sign several deals – nearly a year after his own deadline.

MARRIAGE

Conservative Plan

We believe that Parliament alone, based on a completely free vote, should be able to determine the definition of marriage.

- A Conservative government will hold a truly free vote on the definition of marriage in the next session of Parliament. If the resolution is passed, the government will introduce legislation to restore the traditional definition of marriage while respecting existing same-sex marriages.

Liberal Record

- In 1999, the House of Commons voted 216 to 55 in favour of the traditional definition of marriage, including Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Liberal cabinet ministers Paul Martin, Anne McLellan and many others.
- As late as 2003, Paul Martin said, "I do believe we've got to look at other options. One of the options that has been put forth is a civil union." (*Globe and Mail*, August 21, 2003)
- Paul Martin said that if, "some kind of decision came down that was going to force, you know, churches, synagogues, mosques or temples to redefine marriage in a way that that particular religion did not want to, then I would use the notwithstanding clause." (*CBC Radio*, December 18, 2003)

Conservative Plan

- A Conservative government will retain tax incentives such as the super flow-through share program. These measures are critical to Canada's vibrant and effective financial market for mining.
- We will streamline regulatory processes related to the mining industry. We will also implement the recommendations of the External Advisory Committee on Smart Regulation related to mining, such as a "single window" approach to federal regulatory bodies in the North for the oil and gas and mining sectors.

Conservative Plan

Canada's official languages constitute a unique social and economic advantage that benefits all Canadians. The federal government has a responsibility to encourage the protection and flourishing of both English and French throughout Canada. A Conservative government will:

- Support the Official Languages Act, ensuring that English and French have equality of status and equal rights and privileges as to their use in all institutions of the Parliament and Government of Canada.
- Work with the provinces to enhance opportunities for Canadians to learn both official languages and to ensure the viability of minority language communities within the provinces.
- Establish a Francophone Secretariat within the Department of Canadian Heritage. Language is an integral part of culture and heritage and should form the basis of decision making for the Francophone cultural and artistic community.

Talking Points

- Stephen Harper has said consistently that English and French have equal status.
- The Conservative Party believes that Canada's official languages constitute a unique and significant social and economic advantage that benefits all Canadians.

Conservative Plan

To encourage children to be more physically active, a Conservative government will extend a tax break to parents who register their children in sports and other physical activities. A Conservative government will:

- Allow the parents of young people under 16 years old who register their children in organizations that promote physical fitness to claim a federal tax credit on registration fees to a maximum of \$500 per year per child.
- Offer a tax credit that will apply to all children under 16. There are approximately 6.1 million children in this age bracket. The credit will apply to actual registration costs, to a maximum of \$500 per child. There is no limit to the types of activities that parents and children may choose, provided that they support physical fitness.

PROPERTY RIGHTS

Conservative Plan

The 1960 Bill of Rights, introduced by the Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker, confers the protection of property rights on Canadians. However, property rights are not mentioned in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. A Conservative government will:

- Propose an amendment to the Constitution to include the right to own property, as well as guarantee that no person shall be deprived of their just right without the due process of law.
- Enact legislation to ensure that full, just, and timely compensation will be paid to all persons who are deprived of personal or private property as a result of any federal government initiative, policy, process, regulation, or legislation.

Conservative Plan

The Conservative Party is committed to improving Canada's capacity to perform research by increasing funding of innovation, technology and research through the granting councils. We recognize the importance of private sector investment in research and development of commercial applications, and will work with this sector to improve their R&D performance. A Conservative government will:

- Invest an additional \$500 million over the next five years supporting university-based research through the national granting councils, including the indirect costs of research.
- Recognize the success of the Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) tax credit in spurring private investment in research and development, and work with stakeholders in all fields of research and various industry sectors to explore expanding this tax credit.
- Ensure our automotive sector is strongly supported in key areas outlined by our Conservative Party Auto Caucus and the Canadian Automotive Partnership Council (CAPC) :
 - Customs and Borders;
 - Large Scale Investment;
 - Research and Innovation;
 - Regulatory Harmonization;
 - Human Resources

Liberal Record

- "Canada's lagging behind the United States in funding for companies that produce revolutionary new products," (Paul Martin, *CBC*, Sept. 18, 2003)
- Canada ... spends proportionately less (than the U.S.) on R&D and trains a smaller share of scientists and engineers at a postgraduate level. (*The Economist*, Dec 1, 2005)

SECURITY

Under the Liberals, gun, drug, and gang crime has increased and border, port, and airport security has been soft. A new government must toughen criminal justice, impose mandatory minimum prison sentences for serious crimes, and strengthen our border security.

(GENERAL)

Conservative Plan

- Institute mandatory prison sentences for serious drug trafficking, weapons, and violent offences, and end house arrests for violent, sexual, and other serious offences.
- End the wasteful long-gun registry and use the savings to hire more front-line police officers.
- Protect women and children from sex offenders through a mandatory DNA data bank, raise the age of sexual consent from 14 to 16 years old, and end all defence loopholes for child pornography.
- Strengthen border port and airport security, consolidate security services under a new National Security Commissioner, and quickly deport non-citizen criminals.
- Provide our border officers with sidearms and the training required for their use, and ensure for the safety of these officers that there are no "work alone" posts.

Liberal Record

- The Liberals have spent in the order of \$9 billion on security since September 11, 2001. Liberal Senator Colin Kenny says that Canada remains unprepared to respond to national emergencies. (*Vancouver Sun*, September 12, 2005)
- Despite calls from the union representing Canada's border guards, the Liberals have refused to provide our border officers with sidearms necessary for their own protection. (CEUDA submission to the Standing Senate Committee on National Security and Defence October 31, 2005)

(DRUGS)

Conservative Plan

- Ensure offenders involved with trafficking, importing/exporting, or producing the most addictive drugs such as heroin, cocaine, crystal meth, and large amounts (over 3 kg) of marijuana or hashish, face mandatory minimum prison sentences of at least two years.
- End conditional sentencing (house arrest) for all indictable drug offences. Increase fines for drug traffickers or producers to reflect the street value of drugs, with escalating fines for repeat offences.
- Prevent the decriminalization of marijuana.
- Make precursor chemicals of crystal meth more difficult to obtain. For example, medications containing pseudoephedrine would have to be placed behind pharmacy counters.
- Introduce a national drug strategy with particular emphasis on youth. This strategy will encompass all drugs, not just marijuana, in implementing a nationwide awareness campaign to dissuade young people from using drugs.

Liberal Record

- The rate of drug incidents increased 11% in 2004. Cannabis possession incidents increased 15%. Cannabis cultivation cases – marijuana grow operations – have doubled from 3,400 incidents in 1994 to over 8,000 incidents last year. Cocaine-related incidents increased by 17% in 2004 to almost 17,000; heroin-related incidents were up 19% in 2004 to almost 800; and drug-importation offences were up 45% in 2004 to almost 1,000. (*Statistics Canada*, July 21, 2005)
- The Liberals have attempted to decriminalize marijuana, while the NDP and the Young Liberals have promoted outright legalization.
- The criminal justice system under the Liberals has not responded to increasing drug crime. Justice Canada statistics show that less than half of convicted drug traffickers go to jail, and the median prison sentence for traffickers is only 87 days. (Nathalie Quan, "Drug Use and Offending," *Justice Canada*, February, 2003)
- Justice Minister Irwin Cotler has resisted Conservative calls to bring in mandatory minimum prison sentences for serious drug offences. Cotler has repeatedly stated that he opposes these measures, which most police officers support, saying "Philosophically, I've never

been in favour of it," (*New Brunswick Telegraph Journal*, December 2, 2004) and that they are "neither a deterrent nor are they effective." (*Vancouver Sun*, August 12, 2005)

(GUNS)

Conservative Plan

- Institute mandatory minimum prison sentences of five or ten years for major firearms offences, including five years for possession of a loaded restricted or prohibited weapon such as a handgun, and put an end to revolving door bail and parole policies.
- Fill more than 1,000 unfilled RCMP positions and working with provinces and municipalities to hire at least 2,500 more police officers across the country.
- Take measures to crack down on firearms smuggling and toughen security at Canada's border crossings, including giving our customs agents the support and equipment they need to do their job.
- Invest \$50 million over five years in programs to promote crime prevention and assist youth at risk.

Liberal Record

- Under Paul Martin's watch we have seen the worst gun violence in Canada's history. Martin has done nothing to stop the flow of thousands of illegal handguns across the borders, and has done nothing to stop the Liberal revolving door sentencing system that has put dangerous criminals on our streets.
- Despite the fact that handguns have been virtually banned in Canada since 1934, Liberal leader Paul Martin announced he will ban them once again.
- Our communities are less safe than they were a generation ago. Statistics Canada confirms that in 2004, "The violent crime rate was ... 35% higher than 20 years ago." (*Statistics Canada*, August 2, 2005)
- There are still 1,059 unfilled RCMP positions across Canada, and years of Liberals budget cuts to law enforcement have put public safety at risk. (Tabled in Parliament on November 14, 2005 by Public Safety Minister Anne McLellan)
- In 2004, the homicide rate in Canada was up 12%, with 622 homicides reported, compared to 549 in 2003. (*Statistics Canada*, July 21, 2005)
- Burglary and break and enter rates are higher in Canada than in the United States – roughly 908 per

100,000 in Canada compared to 741 per 100,000 in the U.S. in 2001 ("Crime Comparisons Between Canada and the United States," by Marie Gannon, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 2001)

- **Edmonton Police Service on Paul Martin's handgun ban:** "It's just stupid. I don't see that this would make any difference whatsoever. The legal gun owners aren't the problem. I can't recall the last time a legally registered gun owner committed a crime with it. It's very, very rare." Acting Inspector Brad Doucette (*Edmonton Sun*, December 9, 2005)
- **London Police on Paul Martin's handgun ban:** "We've got laws now. Unfortunately, the people that have handguns don't care about our laws." – Police Chief Murray Faulknerwhose (*London Free Press*, December 9, 2005)

SENIORS

Conservative Plan

- Double the pension income tax amount that is eligible for a federal tax credit to \$2,000 and eventually increase it to \$2,500 per year. We believe in letting seniors keep more of their hard-won gains, and we will be putting over \$2.2 billion back into seniors' pockets.
- Confirm our commitment to the CPP, OAS, and GIS as fundamental guarantees of income security in retirement years with no reductions of any kind to present or future benefit levels.
- Appoint a Seniors Council, comprised of seniors and representatives of seniors' organizations, to advise the minister responsible for seniors on issues of national importance.
- Stop the Liberal attack on retirement savings, and preserve income trusts by not imposing any new taxes on them.

Liberal Record

- As Finance Minister, Paul Martin cut funding from health care and other social services and considered moves to dramatically change Old Age Security.
- A senior Liberal aide to Finance Minister Ralph Goodale called the Associate Executive Director of CARP "old and confused" (*CTV.ca*, December 9, 2005)
- The Liberals repeatedly threatened the planned increase to the Guaranteed Income Supplement in the lead-up to the election, even though Parliament had already passed it.
- According to Statistics Canada, the number of people aged 65 years of age or more will rise from 13 per cent of the population in 2001 to 20 per cent in 2021.
- After promising a national pharmacare program during the election, Martin now says that the Liberals only promised a plan for catastrophic drug coverage, despite a letter that Martin sent to PEI Premier Pat Binns openly endorsing a national pharmacare plan in June. (*Globe and Mail*, August 17, 2004)

SMALL BUSINESS

Conservative Plan

- Raise the small business threshold from \$300,000 to \$400,000.
- Lower the small business tax rate from 12 to 11 per cent over five years.
- Create an Apprenticeship Job Creation Tax Credit for employers hiring apprenticeships in any of the 45 Red Seal trades as an incentive to hire more apprentices.

Talking Points

- Small and medium-sized businesses account for nearly one-half of Canada's GDP.
- Six out of ten Canadians work for a small or medium-sized business.
- Approximately three-quarters of all new jobs are created in small or medium-sized businesses.

Liberal Record

- Overall government support to businesses was cut by 60 percent in Martin's 1995 budget.
- In *A Record of Achievement*, the Liberals actually acknowledged that they did not keep their Red Book promise to create a small business program for the hiring of engineers, technologists, scientists, and industrial designers.
- Paul Martin's 1993 Red Book promised to "replace the GST with a system that ... is fairer to consumers and to small business, [and] minimizes disruption to small business."

STANDARD OF LIVING

Liberal Record

- Canada recorded zero productivity growth in the second quarter of 2005. As a result, Canadians' standard of living is now about 80% of that of the U.S.
- Labour productivity growth in the United States has increased at twice the rate of Canada's since 1993.
- Unemployment rates in Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, and several regions in Québec are all over 10%. (Statistics Canada)
- "129,000 manufacturing jobs have been lost in Canada in the last year." (Reuters, December 1 , 2005)

TRADE

Conservative Plan

- Bring more security to existing trade-related jobs. To create new employment opportunities, our trade agenda will focus on diversifying both the products we sell abroad and the markets into which we sell those products.
- Secure access to international markets through a rules-based trading system.
- Strive to maximize the benefits we have as a free trading nation, emphasizing the need to establish trading relationships beyond North America.
- In future rounds of trade negotiations, vigorously pursue reduction of international trade barriers and tariffs.
- Pursue the elimination of trade-distorting government export subsidies within clearly established time limits.
- Seek a clear definition of what constitutes an export subsidy.
- Move to find new markets for Canadian goods and services by emphasizing development of trade ties with emerging markets.

Promote Asia-Pacific trade with BC

- Deliver at least the five-year federal funding commitment of \$591 million for the Pacific Gateway Initiative.
- Expand trade agreements with Japan and India and other democratic trade partners in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Create an investment, regulatory, and security environment for our western ports to handle dramatically higher Pacific trade.
- Remove the borrowing limits of the Port of Vancouver.

Liberal Record

- After a decade of mismanagement of the Canada-U.S. trade relationship, important Canadian industries such as softwood lumber are facing harmful U.S. protectionism. The Liberal government has failed to improve trade relations with Canada's largest trading partner.
- The Liberal government has failed to secure new market access for Canadian exports in major foreign markets, such as India and Japan.

Conservative Plan

- Introduce a tax credit for transit users that will be worth 16 per cent of the actual, receipted amount spent on public transit. The average commuter will save \$153 annually. The tax credit is fully transferable between spouses and dependent children.
- The transit plan will boost transit ridership and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Conservative Party supports the combined transit funding as outlined in Bills C-43, C-48 and C-66, including the \$800 million over the next two years for public transit infrastructure.

VETERANS

Conservative Plan

- Enact a Veterans' Bill of Rights enforced by an independent Veterans' Ombudsman, who will recognize the contribution of our Aboriginal veterans, reform the Department of Veteran Affairs, and treat our veterans with the respect they deserve.
- Appoint an independent Veterans' Ombudsman to enforce and uphold the bill, in cooperation with the Royal Canadian Legion and other veterans' organizations.
- Fix the Veterans' Review and Appeal Board – which has been tainted by Liberal patronage – by appointing qualified medical, military, and veteran members who are capable of adjudicating appeals on an informed basis rather than a political basis.
- Recognize the contributions of Aboriginal veterans, and redress 60 years of inequity by implementing the April 6, 2005 resolution of the House of Commons to acknowledge the historic inequality of treatment and compensation for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit war veterans.
- Conduct a complete review of veterans' health care services.

Liberal Record

- André Marin, the former ombudsman for National Defence and the Canadian Forces has criticized the federal Liberal government because soldiers at the Department of National Defence have an independent ombudsman while disabled and often unemployable veterans do not. Marin said, "Denying to veterans access to the Ombudsman...makes little practical sense. The door should not close on them once the scope of their problem reaches into the realm of Veterans Affairs Canada." (*Esprit de Corps*, July 2005)

YOUTH AT RISK

In 2005, Stephen Harper met with community leaders who work on the front lines with youth at risk as part of the consultations organized by our Conservative Party Task Force on Safe Streets and Health Communities.

Conservative Plan

- Invest in more front-line police officers.
- Address the need for alternative opportunities for young people – creative, healthy outlets for their natural energies, especially during the vulnerable after-school hours of 3 to 6 PM.
- Support and strengthen the family. A positive, supportive home environment is one of the best defences against many of the risks that Canadian youth face.
- One of the most pressing problems is protecting young Canadians. We must help young people avoid crime and avoid becoming the victims of crime. The Conservative plan recognizes the need for youth programs – especially in the after-school hours. We will commit \$50 million over five years to these initiatives.

PAUL MARTIN'S BROKEN PROMISES

- Martin promised to leave “no stone unturned” in the sponsorship scandal, but had no problem shutting down the Public Accounts Committee before it heard from key witnesses.
- Martin’s grand promises of giving Parliament a role in reviewing appointments to the Supreme Court instead resulted in a rubber-stamp process, where the appointees didn’t even appear.
- Martin promised to put an end to patronage and cronyism, but has gone ahead and appointed many former Liberal MPs and defeated Liberal candidates to a variety of patronage positions.
- Despite promising to address the democratic deficit and respect Parliament, Martin ignored Parliament when it passed a motion calling on him to rescind the appointment of Glen Murray as head of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy. (<http://pm.gc.ca/eng/news.asp?id=418>)
- Martin promised to put donations from companies implicated in the sponsorship scandal into a trust fund, then the Liberals voted against doing so on April 19, 2005. (Hansard, April 19, 2005)
- Martin promised that the Gomery Inquiry would have no limits. However, Clause K makes it clear that Gomery is restricted from naming names or finding responsibility.
- Paul Martin promised transparency and accountability. He promised to change how Ottawa worked. However, his government issued a contract that required that no paper trail be left in government offices. (*Vancouver Province*, October 11, 2005)

Phone Numbers

**For candidates and campaign managers
*only:***

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Conservative Party of Canada
1-866-808-8407**

Stand up for Canada

Accountable Government that will get things done – for all of us.

Stand up for Accountability

Stand up for Opportunity

Stand up for Security

Stand up for Families

Stand up for Our Communities