



<DRAFT>

THE NEED FOR CHANGE

Guidelines for The Canadian National Congress

Abstract

Canada needs an alternative political party that roots its policies across the political spectrum and returns the aspect of social control to the people of Canada.

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is twofold.

The first is to engage the reader to present what we believe to be eight pressing issues in Canada today while also putting forth a new vision for governing whereby the policies and positions of the government are always reflective of the people. It also offers a way for the people to connect with government on matters that are paramount to the social fabric of Canada.

The second is to solicit constructive feedback to help advance the policies and positions of the Canadian National Congress with the sole intent to make it the first federal political party that is the most representative of the people of Canada. The founding principle of the Canadian National Congress is to conduct the affairs of government in a sensible way while putting the needs of the people of Canada first.

We would love to hear from you! Please send any comments, suggestions and constructive criticism to guidelines@canadiannationalcongress.ca Please also include your contact information and indicate whether we can contact you to discuss your feedback in more detail.

Please note:

- that this document is in a **draft** status and is being updated often as we continue to receive feedback and ideas from Canadians.
- This is a guidelines document that provides the direction for the eventual creation of refined policy along with implementation.

INTRODUCTION

Canada is a great country! There is no other way of saying it. Canadian culture is rich, vibrant and firmly rooted in all aspects of personal freedoms and liberties. During its long history, Canada has garnered an impressive reputation for being a sensible nation that offers its citizens opportunity, freedom and a unique sense of community and purpose. This reputation has been earned by successive generations of hardworking Canadians that have made our country what it is today.

To keep Canada moving forward in a way that is sustainable we must always evaluate what we are doing in context of its purpose and effect. Put another way, we need to fix things that are broken and change other areas that no longer serve the interests of the country and its people. Sometimes the problem or issue is acute and the change required is small and can be implemented easily. However, sometimes those problems are systemic and the resulting changes required can be overwhelming and disruptive.

We believe that there are many issues facing Canadians today and most of those issues will have a specific and profound impact on their daily lives. Opinions vary as to the root cause, but what doesn't vary is the belief that these systems and policies must be corrected to ensure the long-term viability of Canada for future generations.

Although there are many areas of challenge, our research has uncovered that the following eight represent the largest challenges that we face in Canada:

Our Economy

Our Aging Population

Our Provincial Relationships

Our Youth

Our Environment

Our Social Fabric

Our Ability to Speak

Our National Apathy

None of these challenges are insurmountable if the government has courage of conviction and begins to take a longer term pragmatic view of its policies measured against what is in the best interests of the people.

THE DOMESTIC CHALLENGES

What follows is what we believe are the main domestic issues that are facing Canadians. The poor showing of past governments over the past four decades is the reason why we are here today, why this document is being written and why this political party has been created. These issues are pervasive and must be solved in a meaningful way to secure Canada's future.

OUR ECONOMY

The economy is the core foundation of any country. Out of everything that government is responsible for, the effective management of the economy along with defence are at the top of the list and are of paramount importance.

Deficit financing was introduced as a general measure to Canada by the late Pierre Trudeau in 1974 to support the spending program at time and Canadians seemed to agree with this approach as the benefits were tangible and furthered the growth of the country. Additionally, the deficits and resulting debt relative to population and GDP were easily managed. However, the dangers of this approach didn't take too long to manifest and were highlighted in the late 70's early 80's whereby the debt had increased by 1000% and the deficit was 8.7% of GDP. The 80's also gave us hyperinflation, an economic recession and a falling dollar. At the time of this writing this overall approach with minor exception hasn't changed. However, what has changed, is that the tangible benefits to the country and its citizens have become increasingly difficult to find, if they exist at all.

The systematic increase in national debt also comes with a systematic increase in interest payments to service that debt. The money to service this debt comes from you, the citizen, as governments, irrespective of level (federal, provincial and municipal) only have one real form of revenue - the power of taxation.

As the debt rises, so does the interest payable on that debt and so too, must the level of taxation to compensate. Canada's debt and subsequent interest payments are at record levels and there is no evidence that the current government has any intention of changing this. In fact, the current Liberal government, in its first year in office will be running a projected deficit for the 2015/2016 period of approx. 32 billion and per numbers from Revenue Canada, this amount represents almost 10% of the gross revenue of the whole of Canada. Further, the deficit is currently projected to be approx. 125 billion over the next 4 years, which will bring our national debt close to 700 billion federally. When combined with the ongoing increase in provincial debt, Canada as a nation is indebted more than 1.3 trillion dollars. This is a staggering amount when you consider that our population is only 38 million people.

Without change, the result will be the financial servitude of future Canadians who will struggle under the punitive measures that will invariably be required to solve this problem.

OUR ENVIRONMENT

The environment is one of those areas of public policy where it is difficult to gain consensus. Nowhere is that more apparent than in the debate over climate change. The reader will be able to find many scientific papers that are claiming that climate change is man made with the root cause directly linked to the high emissions of carbon gases. Conversely, the reader is also able to find a similar amount of scientific papers claiming that climate change is a naturally occurring cyclic process.

The current approach of the western world has been to take the path of the former by stating climate change is man-made and therefore we must limit or eliminate our emissions of carbon to save the planet. The best solution that government can come up with is to introduce a punitive tax on Canadians which in the short, medium and long term will do nothing to accomplish its goal for the simple reason that by all accounts Canada's emissions are a paltry 1.6% of the total. Even if Canada reduces our emissions to zero, it still wouldn't have any net positive impact on global emissions.

Although the scientific data does present a compelling case that climate change is occurring, what is not compelling is what the root cause is. Therefore, we think it is best to reframe this issue around common sense and what is best for the people.

To accomplish this goal, we simply need to do the right things as a society such as:

- Expand recycling programs.
- Do not dump raw sewage into waterways.
- Protect sensitive areas of diverse ecology.
- Enact sensible limits on fisheries and hunting.
- Eliminate chemicals that are destructive to the environment
- Research and commoditize energy sources that are cost effective and have an energy output equal to or better than fossil fuels.
- Stop the urbanization of our lands – we need to keep more greenspaces.

There are many more things that can be done, but by moving this conversation to a different stage we can avoid the confusion and argumentative approach while accomplishing much more.

OUR AGING POPULATION

There is no doubt that our population is aging. Reports and statistics confirmed some time ago that the death rate in Canada surpassed the birth rate. This reality is not unique to Canada as the same trend is occurring across the western world.

There are many opinions as to why this is happening and the reality is likely a combination of most of them. The result however, remains the same. The population base will begin to shrink which will put increased pressure on governments.

While there are key pressures that will present the largest challenges those pressures will all share the same underlying reality - a smaller population equates to a smaller pool of taxpayers from which to draw tax revenue. Governments will need to either cut spending (unlikely) or borrow more, thus adding to the overall economic problems.

There are mainly two ways to deal with this:

1. You create the climate whereby you can grow the population organically from within. This amounts to the existing population being able (physically and financially) to have more children. This approach, over time, will return the population to sustainable levels. It also serves to preserve the existing social culture and behavioural norms.

2. You increase immigration and grow the population by importing people from other parts of the world. Although the country's that make up the western world generally have the same social culture and behavioural norms, those countries are facing the same indigenous population challenges as Canada therefore immigration from those countries will be challenging. The only alternative is to import peoples from other areas of the world.

Governments in the western world have exclusively chosen the second option and this represents some significant challenges to overcome. Immigration has two key components, the first is **economic** and the second is **social**.

Both components are tightly interconnected and one cannot supplant the other however the current Liberal government policy is doing just that and in the context of their plan both components are being eroded.

OUR SOCIAL FABRIC

For many decades Canada, has been a multicultural society and to a large degree that has served the interests of Canada well. New citizens to our country relished in the opportunity to participate in a free, open and inclusive society without fear of persecution. They also adopted the values and perspective that embodied what it meant to be Canadian.

However, in recent years this has begun to change. Immigrants are no longer adopting the values or culture of Canada. Further they are also not seeking to integrate into the established social mosaic. Indeed, the exact opposite is taking place across the country whereby new immigrants, almost exclusively from the Middle East, are seeking to remake Canada into something very different and wholly incompatible with established Canadian social practices and accepted norms.

These changes have ironically been moved forward by elected officials who have been all too eager to acquiesce and change our traditions while also providing unreasonable accommodation to the minority, at the expense of the majority. This phenomenon has been labelled "political correctness" over the years, but it has morphed into something far worse. We believe that we have entered an era of "neo-liberalism".

OUR PROVINCIAL REALTIONSHPIS

Meaningful and productive relationships with the provinces that make up Canada is an imperative for all Canadians irrespective of background, beliefs or location to have a prosperous future. Provincial relations have always had their highs and lows with the most notable low during the government of Pierre Trudeau and its more recent highs under Stephen Harper. Under the current Justin Trudeau Liberal government, it is seemingly worse than ever and thus, the specter of secession has once again been brought to the forefront of discussion. Some readers will recognize this as nothing inherently new – this has happened before. While the reader who makes, this observation would be correct things are markedly different this time, especially in Quebec.

For Quebec, the issues are largely centered around culture and the erosion of their identity in the wake of mass migration and the ongoing perception that the differences between French and English speaking Canadians is a divide that simply can't be overcome. In the past, this movement was largely brought forward by Francophones, while the Anglophones strongly supported remaining in Canada. Today, this has changed. Not only are Francophones once again advocating the need to separate from Canada, but their Anglophones counterparts seem to agree.

For the western provinces, nothing has changed. They continue to feel they are being taken advantage of on several topics, but the main points of challenge are largely the same.

- The requirement to transfer what is believed to be unfair amounts of wealth out of the western provinces to be redistributed within Canada to balance the social equation.
- Lack of consultation and representation within Parliament which is a direct result of seat distribution within the country.
- The ongoing vilification of the province of Alberta for their main economic foundations of natural resources, which is the export of oil and petroleum based products.

With so much support for separation starting to coalesce in Quebec and the western provinces, the next 2-3 years heading into the 2019 election will be of paramount importance.

OUR ABILITY TO SPEAK

The ability to put forth ideals in a respectful and thoughtful way without fear is the very underpinning of free speech. However, today that ability is quickly being eroded by the political left and those who have adopted the cause and the moniker of a “Social Justice Warrior”.

This phenomenon has become so pervasive that anyone offering a dissenting view point, no matter how rational or reasoned is quickly described as “racist” if that view is in opposition to what the political left and modern “liberalism” mandates the topic of that dissenting opinion to be.

Topics such as Islam’s compatibility with western social norms, gender pronouns and their meanings, gender equality and immigration/citizenship reform seem to quickly send all manner of elected officials and SJW’s running for their “safe spaces”. Nowhere is this more apparent than within our institutions of higher learning and the true irony of this reality is that these are exactly the places where open and frank discussions on any topic should take place!

So, when did the act of offering opinions based on fact become so wrong? When did, Canadian’s lose the right to offer dissenting opinions without being subjected to name calling, or the threat of having fines levied against them, or to the extreme, being imprisoned?

OUR YOUTH

Every generation that enters the workforce has its challenges. However, with the advancements in technology and the social changes that today’s youth have adopted the challenges that they face are unique and new. Although there are many areas of challenge, the following seem to be the main focal points:

- Access to quality education that is affordable and meaningful becomes more challenging each year. Students who can finish their studies are generally saddled with enormous debt while the prospects of permanent employment become less certain with each passing year.
- The cost of living is simply getting more and more expensive. This is a direct result of existing fiscal policy which has served to lower overall purchasing power while causing significant inflationary pressures on goods and services.
- Youth realize that the stewardship of the country and the planet under the leadership of the older generations has been very poor and that they will inherit unprecedented problems.

OUR NATIONAL APATHY

At no other time in history has the apathy of the people been so apparent. The people of Canada, and indeed other countries have consistently lowered their expectations as to what a government was meant to be and how it conducts itself.

This overall mood is pervasive and has led to an overall feeling of helplessness as people continue to feel betrayed by the elected officials that say one thing and then do another while only serving to further entrench the belief that governments only serve the elite and that politicians are corrupt.

In terms of provincial relationships, this national apathy is one of the main reasons why the western provinces along with Quebec are actively seeking to leave Canada. They simply don't trust the agenda and policies that come from Ottawa.

On the personal side, this apathy only furthers to disenfranchise the people, but also serves as a deterrent to those who truly believe that public service is a noble goal and who sincerely want to participate in a meaningful way.

OUR VISION

The vision of the Canadian National Congress is to return government to being a servant of the people, not its master. Government must empower and enable while being an instrument for the people and it should never become an obstacle.

We envision a Canada whereby government:

- accepts the fact that we are Canadians first
- accepts the fact that Canada is a sovereign nation state with inherent freedoms and liberties
- accepts the fact that Canada has a rich and vibrant culture that is original and uniquely Canadian
- always acts in the best interests of all Canadians in every province/territory
- always tackles issues head on with reasoned purpose and singular conviction.
- returns the power to the people concerning matters of social conscience and morality
- return to the ideals where people are accountable for their actions
- return to the ideals where a difference of opinion isn't considered a hate crime, but a chance to learn from the perspective of others.
- return to the ideals where groups of people aren't special or have additional rights and privilege over someone else.
- return to the ideals where the meaning of equality is "equality of opportunity" and not "equality of results"

THE CANADIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

The Canadian National Congress is a federal political party that was founded to become a viable alternative that Canadians want and to tackle the challenges that we are collectively facing as a country.

IDEOLOGY

The overall ideology of the Canadian National Congress crosses the conventional lines of the modern political spectrum. Specifically, the Canadian National Congress is neither left, right nor centrist as those terms are defined today. We seek to take the best ideas from all perspectives and political ideologies and use them to create a framework that yields policies that are in the best interests of the people.

THE BIG CHANGE

To achieve our vision a marked change of how government works today will be required. Specifically, the current paradigm must be shifted from the singular, whereby the citizens only real interaction with the democratic process is on voting day, to a duality whereby the citizens not only interact on voting day but also directly interact on matters that are deemed to be part of the social fabric.

This duality could be described as two foundational pillars which support all government actions. The first would be **government by policy** and the second would be **government by society**. Both are described further in this document.

OUR GENERAL POSITIONS

The following section outlines the general positions of the Canadian National Congress on several topics and they are listed in no specific order. It is important to note that these statements are turned into specific policies, but should give the reader a general overview of where we stand on various issues.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Science agrees that the climate is changing but the cause of that change has no consensus. Politicians, special interest groups and the media are making this issue even more confusing and are drowning out the science for selfish reasons. Until the science can take its place above the confusion it is impractical and potentially destructive to enact any policy, especially one based around taxation.

DEFENCE

The need to defend our country is arguably one of the most important roles a government has. This not only includes in time of war, but also in time of peace. Canada must be able to defend its borders and airspace on its own without being reliant on others. It must also be able to protect the people from all manners of threat including technological.

ECONOMY & FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The economy is the driving force of any country and its overall health along with fiscal responsibility is paramount. The government **must** ensure that inflationary pressures because of debt/interest or the meaningless dilution of the money supply doesn't happen. Deficit financing should only be used for capital projects for renewal or expansion and must be paid off before the next project. Tax dollars must be spent at home first to solve our challenges before leaving the country. Governments must also return to borrowing money from a national central bank without interest.

ELECTORAL REFORM

We support electoral reform whereby government is chosen based on a clear representation of the people across the country and **is never controlled** by a pure popular vote, for to do this, would aggregate all the political power to regions of the highest population density and would only serve the interests of those regions. This is the exact problem we have today with so many people wanting to leave and the systemic failure of governments to enact policies that are truly reflective of the people.

ENVIRONMENT

The environment is perhaps the most important aspect of our lives in the coming decades. There are many laws on the books to protect the environment but they are not being enforced. Protecting the environment starts with enforcing those laws and aggressively prosecuting those who break those laws. We also **must** continue with developing sources of renewal energy that is cost effective and meaningful.

FOREIGN AID

Foreign aid must be limited to events of natural disaster and the impacts of true war/genocide and this aid must be in the context of whether Canada can afford it.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Freedom of speech is a foundational element of a free and just society. Although we believe that free speech has boundaries we also believe that those boundaries **must** be very wide. If people get offended

because they don't agree with what someone else has said, all that means is that there is a difference of opinion – nothing more. Therefore, the boundaries of free speech **must** be defined as:

“speech that seeks to subjugate or call for the physical harm of a person or group of people.”

Citing facts on a given topic, is never to be considered hate speech or racism or any other form of derogatory name – facts are facts and must never be ascribed an emotion. If the facts of a situation are offensive to some people, then perhaps those people should reflect on their position.

GUN CONTROL

Canada's existing gun laws are more than adequate and there is no requirement to strengthen them. In fact, there is a case to be made to loosen some of the laws around transporting restricted weapons from the home to the gun range and their use on private property. However, we certainly support the aggressive background checks that are in place.

IMMIGRATION

Immigration must represent value to Canada and its people and mass immigration does not meet that criteria. People seeking to come to Canada must already speak at least English, be financially stable and possess specific skills and/or knowledge that Canada needs to grow and succeed.

NATIONAL AND DEMOCRATIC CHANGES

Any changes to our national symbols and institutions must be put the people via referenda.

PROPERTY RIGHTS

While there are no specific property rights in Canada, we advocate that the applicable statutes in our Constitution and legal system be made to bestow property rights, including the right to defend property for all Canadians.

RELIGION

Freedom of religion is a basic human right and while it must be protected it must also operate within the confines of the established social and behavioural norms of Canada. While everyone is free to practice any lawful religion in Canada, once a person leaves their home or place of worship, they are a Canadian citizen first and are bound to Canada's legal system and its social and behavioral norms.

SOCIAL ISSUES

The people of Canada hold dominion over social matters. The government can never hold any moral authority over what the social values should be for the people. The people must decide how they want and expect the social fabric of Canada to evolve and grow.

TAXATION

Taxation is an inevitable function of government and is meant to service the needs of the people. However, the system of taxation **must** represent real value and never be punitive. Taxation must be broken down into two broad categories of general and specific. Each tax in a group **must only** be used for that purpose. For instance, the revenue that is generated by taxes that are introduced for specific purposes such as healthcare or road maintenance must only be used for those purposes and **must** never

make their way into general revenue. This is the only way that the people can gain the value from the taxes that they pay.

UNITED NATIONS

While the United Nations was founded with a noble purpose, in recent times we feel it has lost its way and no longer serves the interests of Canada. Thus, we believe Canada's role in the UN must diminish over time. Further, we would advocate for the creation of a North American version of the UN where Canada, The United States and Mexico could jointly collaborate on the issues impacting the people of North America.

PILLAR ONE – GOVERNMENT BY POLICY

Government by policy is defined by the areas of accountability that cover the whole of society in context of the primary role of government. Put another way, this has little to do with the citizens' direct interaction with the government other than on voting day. The policies and ensuing legislation are part of the day to day management of the country on behalf of the citizens.

POLICY FOUNDATION

There are many ministries and portfolios that make up modern government. However, these portfolios can be logically grouped together in a tiered system which each successive tier built upon the foundation of the preceding tier. The intent by aggregating these portfolios into a tiered structure is to help bring focus and define importance. For example, the ministerial portfolios that are part of the Tier 1 are the foundation that everything else is built upon. If that foundation is weak or ill-conceived then the other tiers which are built on top of them are in jeopardy of collapse.

TIER 1 POLICIES

The Tier 1 policies and their associated ministries make up the foundation of any government. When government gets these right, the country prospers and when the government gets them wrong, the country recedes. All the ministries that are considered foundational have a somewhat symbiotic relationship as they are all inter connected. This reality means that they **must** be crafted and managed collectively and holistically and **never** in isolation of each other. All Tier 1 portfolios are non-discretionary items under fiscal policy, therefore will be fully funded in each year.

FISCAL POLICY

This policy broadly covers the general financials of the country including the ongoing management of the money supply. This portfolio is arguably the most important since everything relies on it in some form. Therefore, the following will guide the Canadian National Congress:

- Policy must be conducted in such a way as to prevent the dilution of the money supply thereby preventing the inflationary pressures on goods and services, while also preventing the decline of the real purchasing power of the currency.
- Policy must be conducted in such a way that the government must put forth a balanced budget and can account for the budget in an **identical** fashion to the accounting and reporting laws that govern all businesses in Canada.
- Policy must be conducted in such a way that if there is a need to run a deficit in each year, then the government **must** hold that deficit to no more 1.0% of gross revenue and the reason for the deficit must result in a tangible benefit to the people. If this cannot be achieved, then the government **must** seek approval from Canadians. The reason for this approval is that additional deficit will incur additional borrowing costs along with further dilution of the money supply. Therefore, the citizens should be made to choose whether the planned spending is worth the increased inflation and higher costs of goods and services.
- Policy must be conducted in such a way that expenses are minimally broken down into discretionary and non-discretionary categories with funds being allocated in full to non-discretionary items. Whatever remains is then allocated to discretionary items.
- Policy must be conducted in such a way that monies that are collected for a specific reason are **only** used for that reason. For example, the gas tax is supposed to be used for infrastructure

purposes related to roads and transportation, therefore this revenue **must** only be used for this purpose.

- Policy must be conducted in such a way that prevents citizens being burdened with unnecessary and punitive tax measures.
- Policy must be conducted in such a way that causes the government to assess public holdings for economic viability using industry standard evaluation techniques and divest of those assets if they present an undue burden on society. When in doubt, ask the citizens.

DEFENCE POLICY

This policy broadly covers how Canada will defend itself and its citizens (indigenous or naturalized). Along with fiscal policy, the ability to defend the people is one of the most important duties of a government. Therefore, the following will guide the Canadian National Congress:

- Policy must be conducted in such a way that the country can reasonably defend its borders, waterways and air space against both domestic and foreign threats without the aid of the United States or other international bodies.
- Policy must be conducted in such a way that Canada's role in the world is in keeping with its long-standing tradition of being peace keepers, however we should be able to adapt to a combat role if needed.
- Policy must be conducted in such a way that Canadian citizens who are abroad will continue to be protected in a meaningful way.
- Policy must be conducted in such a way that military assets are current and maintained in a ready state.

FOREIGN POLICY

This policy broadly covers how Canada relates to the rest of the world and our place in it. Therefore, the following will guide the Canadian National Congress:

- Policy must be conducted in such a way that aligns with Canadian values.
- Policy must be conducted in such a way that does not put any Canadian citizen at risk needlessly.
- Policy relative to Foreign Aid must be conducted in such a way that:
 - Foreign Aid is only available when Canada can integrate it into the budget without incurring debt or otherwise putting forth a deficit in addition to what is described in the Fiscal Policy. To disregard this requirement would require approval from the people.
 - Foreign Aid is only available for humanitarian crisis caused by verified natural disasters.
 - Foreign Aid is only available for humanitarian crisis caused by war or other forms of violence after consultation with the Canadian people pursuant to point 'A' above. However, the government can use executive discretion where **'time is of the essence'** and act in an appropriate manner relative to the specifics of the situation.
- Policy must be conducted in such a way that appropriately represents Canada in world bodies, such as the UN. That representation must never seek to abdicate the sovereignty or freedoms of Canada or its citizens in any way. Should there be a need to do this as part of a larger global initiative then the government **must** seek approval from the people via referendum.
- Policy must be conducted in such a way that diplomatic immunity cannot be used as a protective shield for foreign countries involved in a capital crime, such as rape, torture, murder etc.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

This policy broadly covers how we must treat our environment. This will eventually become the most prolific portfolio in the coming years and the one we can't afford to get wrong because if we do, then it doesn't matter how great our financial, foreign or immigration policies are. Therefore, the following will guide the Canadian National Congress:

- The existing environmental laws **must** be enforced!
- Violators of environmental statutes **must** be prosecuted
- Violators of environmental statutes **must** be fined and those fines should be levied as a percentage of between 1% and 5% of the gross income of the organization that broke the law. The level of fine must also be reflective of the severity of the action and applies to private and public organizations equally.
- Policy must be conducted in such a way as to prevent sale of bodies of water.
- Policy must be conducted in such a way to protect water ways, ecologically sensitive areas and agricultural areas.
- Policy must be conducted in such a way that the impact of large actions must be studied relative to geography, wildlife, water and weather.
- Policy must be conducted in such a way that the movement of natural resources is performed in a safe way within minimal risk to the environment.
- Policy must be conducted in such a way that the reliance on petroleum based fuels be reduced and supplanted by renewable sources of energy in a cost-effective manner for all citizens at the earliest opportunity.
- Policy must be conducted in such a way that products or services that negatively impact the health of the people are not allowed. Examples of products with toxic paint, carcinogenic compounds etc.
- Policy must be conducted in such a way that recycling and composting should be mandatory across Canada. This can be achieved in several ways and starts with our food supply relative to how items are packaged.
- Policy must be conducted in such a way that sensitive lands and ecosystems are protected with a moratorium on any development or encroachment by industrial or commercial projects.
- Local hydro/aquaponics micro farms should be encouraged and nurtured.
- Food providers (grocery stores and restaurants as an example) should be mandated to donate unused produce and other forms of safe and viable food without fear of punitive measures.
- The use of disposable plastics for consumers should be unavailable when possible and subject to heavy taxation when it is made available.

NATIONAL SOCIAL POLICY

This policy broadly covers how treat and manage symbols, institutions along with social values that represent the national identity. Therefore, the following will guide the Canadian National Congress:

- Policy must be conducted in such a way that the family comes first. Parents who want to have more than one child should be able to do so without undue or punitive financial hardship. This does **not** mean putting additional stresses on existing social programs, such as child benefits or social assistance.

- Policy must be conducted in such a way that that indigenous peoples of Canada are respected relative to their way of life. Focus must be placed on resolving all the issues that have been brought forward in recent years.
- Policy must be conducted in such a way that that Canadians veterans receive the support (financial, medical etc) that they require. They deserve to be treated with the respect that they deserve and have certainly earned.
- Policy must be conducted in such a way that there can be no change to symbols or institutions that are clearly identified with Canada without consultation and approval from the people. Examples of this, would be the national anthem and the Canadian flag.
- Policy must be conducted in such a way that provides better support for **all** amateur athletes. Some suggestions are:
 - Provide increased funding to athletes.
 - Fully support a sport/team that is associated with the Canadian identity.
 - Provide additional tax incentives for businesses to support athletes
 - Provide additional tax incentives directly for athletes.
- Policy must be conducted in such a way that the values of Canada are clearly understood. Examples of this are:
 - Human rights are absolute.
 - Men and women are created equal.
 - There can be no discrimination based on gender, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, sexual identification or ethnicity.
 - Religious freedom and tolerance within the following confines:
 - Any religion that advocates the harm or subjugation of another person or group of people, for any reason, shall not be considered a lawful religion in Canada
 - Once you leave your **home or place of worship** you are a Canadian first and are subject to Canadian laws and the value system of the Canadian social fabric.
 - Although Canada doesn't have a specific law for the separation of church and state, the creation of legislation and indeed the act of governing must be performed in the absence of religious doctrine of any kind and should always be done with a view of what is best for Canadians irrespective of religion. This includes providing funding as religions and their institutions must be self-sufficient **without** government aid.
 - The wearing of religious clothing and assorted accessories is secondary to areas of security and identification.
- Policy must be conducted in such a way that the social programs of Canada are respected, available and sustainable. At some point, everyone needs helps and the social programs of Canada were created to do that. Examples of this are:
 - Social programs are there for the benefit of Canadian citizens.
 - Social programs, such as social assistance are temporary and should be used by those in need as a safety net only.
 - Programs for our veterans must be fulfilled and are a Tier 1 policy.
- Policy must be conducted in such a way that the boundaries of free speech are tested, but always respected and never subjugated. Put another way:
 - We **must** move away from the current trend of shutting down discussion because we don't agree with someone else's point of view and needing a "safe space". You cannot purport to believe in free speech then try to take that right away from someone else because their opinion is different than yours.

- The word “racist” has a specific meaning – make sure you understand its true meaning before you decide use it. A campaign slogan on a baseball cap doesn’t qualify!
- Differences of opinion are healthy and should always be viewed as a learning opportunity.
- The only exception is if that person/group or ideal is **true** ‘hate speech’. We define this term in the classic sense as “speech or actions that promote the physical harm or subjugation of a person or group of people”
- If a person can’t defend the position they have taken on a topic, they should spend time reflecting on why they have taken that position, rather than resorting to name calling and other derogatory actions. This is especially true in academia.

INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY

This policy broadly covers infrastructure, specifically its creation and maintenance. Therefore, the following will guide the Canadian National Congress:

- Infrastructure policy is subject to the requirements of environmental policy
- Infrastructure planning will be performed over a minimum 5-year cycle. Where assets have a projected lifespan of greater than 5 years then maintenance dollars must be accounted for each year, with major maintenance items also being accounted for. For example: if a new bridge has been built in 2020 with a project lifespan of 25 years, with annual maintained costs of 1% per year, then the maintenance cost must be added to the annual budget. Further, the replacement cost of the bridge must be added to the 2045 budget.
- Infrastructure planning **must** consider healthcare policies and account for alternative modes of transportation, such as public transit, cycling, walking etc.
- Educational materials must be reviewed and updated every two years and **must** consider current research.

HEALTHCARE POLICY

This policy broadly covers how the healthcare system **must evolve**. However, since Healthcare is largely the jurisdiction of the provinces, there would need to be consensus. Therefore, the following will guide the Canadian National Congress:

- Timely delivery of healthcare. Focus must be on medical specialists along with broad based access to diagnostic technology.
- Focus is on prevention, not symptom management.
- Research is a focus and everything is ‘on the table’
- Scientific method is paramount.
- Better integration between provincial and federal policies and jurisdictions.

PROVINCIAL POLICY

There are fundamental economic realities that each province faces that are unique to that province. The main role of the government should be to work with the provinces and help them make the most of the resources/products that they have. Further the government needs to ensure:

- That the delivery of those products is environmentally friendly as the environment is one area that would be under federal jurisdiction.
- The current system of equalization needs to be looked to ensure fairness and flexibility. When the country prospers, we all win. When we hit hard times, everyone needs to do their share.

- The current seat distribution within parliament needs to be studied. Representation by population is appropriate in theory, but it can't become centralized whereby one or two provinces hold dominion over the country.
- Areas of overlap between federal and provincial ministries must be reviewed to ensure both levels of government are doing the right things.

AGRICULTURE/FOOD SUPPLY POLICY

<< Pending >>

TIER 2 POLICIES

The Tier 2 policies and their associated ministries build upon the success of those in Tier 1. Tier 2 policies and ministerial portfolios have broad impact on the people and therefore **must** be crafted and managed collectively and holistically and **not** in isolation of each other. Tier 2 portfolios are considered discretionary items under fiscal policy unless otherwise noted.

IMMIGRATION POLICY

This policy broadly covers how Canada manages new migrants who are seeking to become part of Canada. Therefore, the following will guide the Canadian National Congress:

- Immigration policy will be classified as a non-discretionary item as part of fiscal policy.
- Policy must be conducted in such a way that requires the government to ensure that immigration is the correct course of action. For example, dealing with a crisis via the asylum process may be the better approach or deploying our armed forces to provide protection.
- Policy must be conducted in such a way that new migrants add specific and tangible value to Canada. Specifically, it must solve a quantifiable problem within Canada.
- Policy must be conducted in such a way that new migrants must have the financial means to support themselves and/or have a familial support structure to help them. Put another way, migrants cannot depend on the government for financial support thereby adding to the strain of social programs.
- Policy must be conducted in such a way that the new migrant(s) must be expected to adopt the values and culture of Canada, the first of which is to learn the language.
- Policy must be conducted in such a way that requires the government to consult with the citizens for any mass immigration activity.
- Policy must be conducted in such a way that defends the citizens. Migrants who are criminals, or seek too subject or subvert Canadian social values and/or government must be denied entry.
- Policy must be conducted in such a way that citizens who migrated to Canada and have been convicted of a serious crime **must** be deported.

SENIORS POLICY

This policy broadly covers how the people of Canada treats our seniors. Therefore, the following will guide the Canadian National Congress:

- Seniors who receive OAS and/or GIS will be entitled to annual increase equal to twice the published rate of the CPI
- Seniors who have an annual income of less than \$40,000 will be except from provincial or federal sales tax, including the HST.
- Seniors who have an annual income of less than \$35,000 will be except from provincial or federal income tax.
- Seniors who have an annual income of less than \$30,000 will receive free prescription and pharmacies will not be allowed to charge a dispensing fee.

VETERANS POLICY

This policy broadly covers how the people of Canada treat our war veterans. There should never be an instance where a veteran is denied the services that they need or otherwise be made to struggle with life.

They have earned the highest level of respect that a country can give. Therefore, the following will guide the Canadian National Congress:

- Veterans policy will be considered a non-discretionary item under fiscal policy.
- Veterans policy **must** provide for the medical and financial needs of all veterans.
- Veterans policy **must** ensure support structures and retraining opportunities are made available and are easy to obtain.
- Veterans policy **must** make post-secondary education available to those veterans who qualify.

INDIGINEOUS PEOPLES POLICY

This policy broadly covers how the people of Canada treat our indigenous peoples. Therefore, the following will guide the Canadian National Congress:

- Indigenous policy will be considered a non-discretionary item under fiscal policy but will be re-evaluated on an annual basis.

TECHNOLOGY & RESEARCH POLICY

This policy would be a new one relative to what Canada currently does. Technology is increasingly becoming indispensable and woven into almost everything we do. Canada must be at the forefront of this field and become a world leader not only in the application of technology, but also in the ongoing research and development of technology. Therefore, the following will guide the Canadian National Congress:

- Technology policy must create the climate of technological excellence in computer science, automation and all aspects of the environment.
- Technology policy must aid various Canadian based open source programming initiatives, specifically those that are immersed in infrastructure, such as operating systems, network security and middleware.
- Research Policy must include a component where the big challenges of the day can be researched with the outcome being cost effective solutions for real world applications that can be exported to the world. Some examples are:
 - Renewable and sustainable energy
 - Waste Management
 - Petroleum Product transportation
 - Sustainable construction methods
 - Sustainable agriculture
 - Sustainable roads and transportation.
 - Sustainable co-habitation between humans and animals.
 - Sustainable management of our natural resources (forests, fish stocks, minerals etc)

JUDICIAL POLICY

This policy broadly covers how the laws of Canada are created, enforced and ultimately tested against the backdrop of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Therefore, the following will guide the Canadian National Congress:

- Innocent until proven guilty.
- People **are accountable for their actions**. There is too much victim enablement in our society. If a person commits a crime they are accountable for the consequences – no one else.

- The rights of the victim are equal to the rights of the criminal.
- The rights of the victim supersede the rights of the convicted.
- No special accommodation to insulate a prisoner.
- Prisoners are not allowed to vote. They were removed from society for a reason, they don't get a say in how society moves forward.
- Certain court judgements should be subject to some form of peer review. Main intent here is to ensure that the punishment is in line with the crime. This is especially true of domestic violence and cases of sexual assault.

EDUCATION POLICY

This policy broadly covers how the education system **must** be changed to prepare our youth for the realities of life in addition to offering a vehicle to specific skills and training that a person wants to learn. Although Education Policy is mainly the purview of the provincial governments, federal policies must be considered. Therefore, the following will guide the Canadian National Congress:

- Post-Secondary education must be affordable and available to all Canadian citizens. This can be achieved in a variety of ways such as:
 - interest free loans
 - expanded grant/scholarship programs
 - a lottery system that recognizes talent and potential
 - more community involvement
 - altering the corporations and banking acts to required Fortune 1000 companies to create and maintain youth academic and/or scholarship programs.
- Students **must** complete a mandatory civics program, which will begin in elementary school and conclude in high school. There will also be a mandatory, more advanced continuation in post-secondary.
- Students **must** complete a mandatory personal financial management program, which will begin in elementary school and conclude in high school. There will also be a mandatory, more advanced continuation in post-secondary.
- Students **must** complete a mandatory environmental program, which will begin in elementary school and conclude in high school. There will also be a mandatory, more advanced continuation in post-secondary.
- Students **must** complete a mandatory health/wellness program, which will begin in elementary school and conclude in high school. There will also be a mandatory, more advanced continuation in post-secondary.
- Students **must** complete a mandatory physical education program, which is application at all levels of education from up to and including grade 12. The form of that physical education **must** be structured to entice involvement. There are many ways to get people to get involved, from yoga, strength training, cycling, running, track, hockey, water sports etc.
- High school curriculum's must be reflective of the goals of students and should allow for specific tailoring for known career paths in senior grades (11 & 12). For example, a science oriented career should have more options available to further the students' progress and prepare them for the challenges of post-secondary.
- The role of the teacher's assistant should become a mandatory position for elementary school.
- Various publicly funded school boards should be amalgamated to realize cost savings and ensure consistent delivery of curriculum.

FIREARMS POLICY

This policy broadly covers how Canada manages new migrants who are seeking to become part of Canada. Therefore, the following will guide the Canadian National Congress:

- Unlike the United States, Canada doesn't not have specific law or clause in the Charter that grants the explicit right to 'bear arms'. We would like to see a Canadian equivalent of the US Constitutions of the 2nd Amendment.
- Crimes committed involving guns are by far and away the result of illegals guns that have been smuggled into Canada and perpetrated by those who would never have passed the background checks in this first place. Put another way, Canada has good gun control already – there is no need to be punitive.

PILLAR TWO – GOVERNMENT BY SOCIETY

OVERVIEW

Government by society is an approach whereby you have two main foundational elements the impact the people is similar yet different ways. The intent is to codify the separation between policy, which is the discretionary position of a government within the confines of social/cultural norms. Those social/culture norms are derived by the people and used by government as the framework from which to operate in with respect to policy formation.

Within that context, we derive the following elements:

1. Democratic Systems -> To ensure that the formation of government and our institutions are truly representative of the people and not based on population density of a geographic area.
2. Social Conscience -> To have direct engagement of the citizens on matters of broad social policy. The values of a society are a direct result of the people that make up a society, not with the position or personal beliefs of the current sitting government. To that end, society **must** have direct input to those issues that have a material impact to society and the overall social fabric which Canadians conduct themselves.

DEMOCRATIC SYSTEMS

The systems that government is based upon must be strong, representative and have measures inherently embedded within them to prevent abuse and allow the people to have direct input.

ELECTORAL PROCESS

FIRST PAST THE POST

Canada's current system for electing officials is based on our heritage to the British Parliamentary System. It is called "First Past The Post" and essentially means, whoever gets the most votes, wins the riding and whoever gains the most ridings (seats) will form the government. If a party wins enough seats, they will have a majority government and can rule relatively unencumbered for the duration of their mandate.

There are two fundamental problems with this approach.

1. In Canada, there are more than two political parties – there are currently 4 mainstream parties and therefore the votes within a given riding are not a simple majority between two choices. Indeed, it is quite common for a political party to successfully contest an election within a given riding with less than 40% of the popular vote. Put another way, a political party can secure a riding (seat) even though 60% (or more) people votes against them.
2. As in many countries there are regions of Canada that have a much denser population than other areas. With the current seat distribution in Canada, the aggregate political representation is in Southern Ontario and Southern Quebec as those two parts of the country have the densest population, especially the GTA (Greater Toronto Area) in Ontario. A political party only need to win those two areas of the country to secure a parliamentary majority and govern relatively unchallenged for the duration of their mandate.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

There are many countries that successfully operate within an electoral system that is representative of the people irrespective of population density. There are many forms of proportional representation and we are in favour of either of the following:

1. Mixed Member Proportional is a system whereby the members of parliament are chosen based on the party's overall popular vote. So, if a party garnered 39% of the popular vote, then that party would hold a maximum of 39% of the seats in parliament. There is a great explanation along with an example at Fair Vote Canada -> <http://www.fairvote.ca>
2. The United States has a unique system whereby the president and overall representation in Congress are determined by the electoral college. The electoral college concept was put in place to avoid the scenario of a government purely by popular vote as the architects realized that areas with a high population density could potentially overwhelm the electoral process resulting in representation that was concentrated in a few locations.

Neither system is perfect nor do they address every potential problem. They are however a much better system than what Canada currently has. Either approach would need to be refined to suit the realities of Canada's geographic/population makeup but both represent a good starting point to making our government much more reflective of the people.

GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

In some ways, this links directly to one of the eight domestic challenges – our national apathy. The public perception is that our members of parliament, once elected are no longer accountable to the people. There are many examples of questionable actions by past governments where no one was held accountable. Billions of dollars have been wasted over the past several decades and the people had to shoulder the burden in several ways.

Oversight of government spending and accountability has historically been the purview of the Auditor General. However, the office of the Auditor General has limited power outside of reporting and some would say, even the reporting is controlled to favour the government.

Accountability can mean many things, but the context here is that accountability means being accountable to the people and the law. Therefore, the following will guide the Canadian National Congress:

1. The Auditor General should be an elected position and **must** report directly to the Governor General, not the PM or the PMO.
2. The office of the AG must be able to have open access to all areas of government. The only exception may be areas of national security.
3. The office of the AG must have increased legal powers to either refer cases directly to the RCMP for investigation and/or can directly prosecute.
4. The office of the AG can be directly engaged to provide an unbiased third part of review for the awarding of contracts. To do this, that part of the AG office must be at 'arm's length' and disassociated from the department who is seeking to award a contract.

PARLIAMENTARY ETHICS

The actions of members of government must be conducted within the rules of common sense, ethics and respect for the people.

- The act of ‘crossing the floor’ **must** not be allowed to happen. If an MP feels that they can no longer support the party that they are affiliated with, then that MP **must** do the following
 - Communicate with their constituents advising them of what is happening, and make his/her case as to why they can no longer support the party and lay out their plan for what they want to do.
 - If the constituents agree, then the MP is free to move forward.
 - If the constituents do not agree, then the MP must continue as their elected official in the capacity of the political party that the MP was elected under.
 - If the MP cannot move forward, for whatever reason, then the MP must resign which would force an election in that riding.
 - If the MP chooses to disregard the will of the people, then the people invoke the recall system.
- All members of parliament must be subject to a recall mechanism that will allow the people to hold their elected official accountable, and if necessary force a new bi-election to replace their member of parliament.
- The Speaker of the House, must use all the tools at the disposal of the position to ensure that all parliamentary sessions are conducted in a such a way as the wheels of democracy can freely turn and serve the interests of the people. Nowhere is this needed more than “Question Period”. The sanctity and relevance of “Question Period” must be restored. This is a session between the sitting government and the opposition whereby the government must answer the questions that are asked in a truthful and meaningful way. However, the reality is that for the past few decades, sitting governments have stopped answering questions, and instead resort to spin, rhetoric and pure deflection thus defeating the purpose of “Question Period” and reducing the effectiveness of having an opposition.

THE CBC

Journalists and the media outlets that are created to support them comprise a foundational element of a democracy. However, journalists also assume a heavy responsibility for their role as they are often the main source of information for society.

The Canadian Broadcast Corporation has been the subject of debate for many years. That debate has spanned the spectrum. Some consider it to be perfect the way it is, while others believe it should be abolished and/or sold. Most however believe it serves a needed purpose but needs reform. So, the following reforms would be made to the CBC:

- The CBC **should** remain publicly funded.
- The CBC **must** maintain **true independence** from government.
- The CBC **must** return to traditional journalism, specifically that journalism must:
 - be absent of politics and be neutral. Its role is to inform not preach or illicit a certain response based on the journalist’s ideology or political motivations.
 - Ensure all news stories including opinion pieces are fact based and represent meaning news and information.

- All activities must be conducted with integrity. There should never be a reason to question the motives of a journalist.
- Since the CBC is funded with taxpayer money it would be subject to independent oversight outside of government.
- The CBC **must** not compete with private media companies
- The CBC **must** stay true to its mandate of pursuing public affairs programming for all Canadians.

SOCIAL CONSCIENCE

To have an effective and truly democratic society, then the citizens **must** be engaged **and** participate. A true democracy is not merely defined by the right to vote and then allowing you to sit back for the next 4-5 years. The citizens must be engaged, informed and answer the questions when called upon to shape the social fabric that they want to be part of.

HOW WILL THIS WORK

Generally, this will work by calling a referendum and presenting the questions that the government needs guidance on. It doesn't have to be more complicated than that. Ideally the dates for these referenda would be fixed on an annual or bi-annual basis. I am not suggesting that this process be burdensome or imply that government should be running to the people for every issue. Items that need input by the people will be hard to miss and its almost always an issue that is polarizing and induces widespread discussion among the population. Polling can also be used to gauge if a topic requires input from the citizens.

Initially, the process would be carried out the old fashioned by paper ballot but there is no reason that technology cannot be leveraged to provide a safe, secure and available means for the people to provide their input when needed.

The questions **must** be clear, concise and be of the yes/no variety. An example may be: 'Should doctor assisted suicide be legal in Canada?' The details of the implementation are left to the government but **must** be in keeping with the spirit of the question. For example, moving the above question forward by making it nearly impossible to perform in a legal capacity would be in violation of what the people stated.

WHAT IS A MAJORITY

This should be just as easy – you let the people decide. During the first referendum, the first question is what will constitute a majority. Example:

What would you consider to constitute a majority vote on social issues?

- A. 55%
- B. 60%
- C. 65%
- D. 70%

Once the votes are in the government carries forward actions that support the vote. Since the government has the support of the people then that legislation, if required, should be able to move through the process irrespective of whether a sitting government holds a majority or not. The key here is that the government works for the people, not the other way around. The feelings of the government and the political parties are irrelevant – the people speak and the government obeys.