

OUTCOMES OF THE POLICY RESOLUTIONS DEBATES

2012 Annual General Meeting

SOCIAL POLICY

Importance of continuing to establish Canada's educational brand internationally ADOPTED WITH AMENDMENTS

Recommendations

That the federal government continue to allocate a minimum of \$1m per year to DFAIT in its annual budget 2013-2017, in order that it can continue to establish Canada and its provinces and territories as a preferred destination for international students looking to pursue their education abroad.

SUBMITTED BY THE WHISTLER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Canadian Education Initiative DEFEATED

Recommendation

That the federal government (Human Resources and Skills Development Canada) work with the CMEC, business leaders and education professionals on a Canadian Education Initiative that would establish world-leading goals and standards for Canada's K-12 and PSE systems, and that these standards be designed on outcome-based objectives in order to compete in the global economy.

SUBMITTED BY THE ST. JOHN'S BOARD OF TRADE AND THE SAINT JOHN BOARD OF TRADE

First Nations Student Education ADOPTED

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Within the current federal funding envelope, act to rapidly implement the recommendations of the National Panel on First Nation Elementary and Secondary Education, focusing on how the 2 per cent cap on the Post-Secondary Support Program can be lifted or – at minimum – increased.
2. Encourage – but not compel – Canada's First Nations to co-operate in establishing a new First Nation education structure, with federal funding, to provide First Nation students with an educational opportunity equal to that already provided to all other Canadian students by the provinces/territories.
3. Make Canadians aware of the historic discriminatory and inadequate education provided to First Nation children; and thus gaining support for more rapid implementation of First Nation education reform.

SUBMITTED BY THE MANITOBA CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND CO-SPONSORED BY THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF BRANTFORD-BRANT

Meeting Canada's Labour Needs by Attracting and Retaining International Students ADOPTED WITH AMENDMENTS

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Change the length of time for which a post-graduation work permit can be valid, from the current status of valid for no longer than three years, to five years, especially in the fields that will be in high demand in Canada in the following decades, so long as graduation is obtained from an accredited Canadian educational institution.
2. When considering applications for permanent residency, take into account the working experience that an international student gains through working off campus, working on campus or participating in co-op or internship programs.
3. Speed up processing for overseas study permit applications and for permanent residency applications from international students who graduate from a Canadian institution, and are currently employed in Canada.
4. Through Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), will recognize when an international student completes an educational program that lasts at least eight (8) months as equivalent to one (1) year of study to allow for the student to gain a full year of professional experience in their skilled discipline.

SUBMITTED BY SPRUCE GROVE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. CO-SPONSORED BY THE EDMONTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Attracting Global Talent Key to Canada's Economic Future ADOPTED WITH AMENDMENTS

Recommendations

That the federal government works with provincial and territorial governments to:

1. Place a greater emphasis on the overall potential for economic and employment stimulus in LMO criteria and in Temporary Foreign Worker Unit applications by evaluating the following criteria: the potential number of jobs created, total amount of investment by the company, potential for investment by the company, whether a unique or new service or product is being offered, the effect on the company's ability to remain globally competitive, and the effect on other Canadian companies.
2. Develop an accelerated application option for LMO, temporary foreign workers, Federal Skilled Worker and Canadian Experience class programs for organizations willing to pay affordable cost recovery fees to reduce application turnaround time.

SUBMITTED BY THE GREATER VICTORIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Resolving Canada's Skills Crisis: Removing Barriers of Migration and Immigration POSTPONED

Citizenship and Immigration Canada Regional Settlement ADOPTED

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Ensure that there is a regional strategy to apply fairly the resources required to meet settlement needs for newcomers in all regions of the country.
2. Enforce the current level of service in the new structure so that all areas of the country are able to access skilled employees.

SUBMITTED BY THE GREATER SUDBURY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Address Issues in Foreign Worker Programs ADOPTED

Recommendations

That the federal government and the provincial/territorial governments work together to:

1. Use the Temporary Foreign Worker Program as a true temporary worker program for immediate shortages while enabling foreign workers to use other immigration programs for permanent residency.
2. Develop permanent solutions to chronic labour shortages by expanding pathways to permanent residency, including negotiating with the federal government to expand the Canadian Experience Class to give low- and semi-skilled temporary foreign workers the right to apply for permanent residency after three years of work experience with his/her employer, based on employer recommendations, satisfactory background check, appropriate prior experience in country of origin and minimum language proficiency requirements.
3. Implement a process by which employers are notified of any changes to processes or information utilized in the calculation and submission of their initial LMO application, permitting employers the opportunity to update applications and avoid costly delays, particularly in the case of prevailing wage rates.
4. Implement a timely, responsive appeal process for employers and temporary foreign workers who are denied applications, with a report to be provided to both levels of government as a means of improving operating efficiency and effectiveness, while remaining responsive to industry specific labour shortages.
5. Allow an open work permit to be the official entry document into the country rather than the current additional visa requirement for certain temporary foreign workers, similar to the process in the United States.
6. Improve processing efficiencies by recommending that Service Canada create a temporary foreign worker (TFW) industry specific labour pool where semi-skilled or skilled TFWs who have been terminated without cause, can register with an open work permit, from where other qualified industry specific employers from across Canada have the opportunity to recruit from this "pool."
7. Review National Occupation Classification (NOC) Code processes in all provinces, and establish flexible, responsive practices that incorporate rural, urban and regional labour market needs.
8. Amend the advertising criteria for LMOs to allow companies from the same sector to jointly advertise rather than as individual organizations.

SUBMITTED BY RED DEER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. CO-SPONSORED BY THE GRANDE PRAIRIE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE MEDICINE HAT AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE BROOKS AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE SPRUCE GROVE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE CALGARY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Aboriginal Governance ADOPTED WITH AMENDMENTS

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Facilitate and encourage the gradual devolution of functional decision-making authority, including the power to tax and spend, to appropriate Aboriginal governments.
2. Shift federal funding and oversight from a program-specific, contingent funding model to block grants, contingent upon addressing administrative capacity.
3. Support the transfer of practical decision-making authority to Aboriginal governments while ensuring an adequate separation of powers, in particular a distinct separation of the political leadership from the day to day running of community business.
4. Encourage the creation of objective, transparent and non-political dispute resolution mechanisms in Aboriginal communities.
5. Support capacity building and the sharing of best practices for Aboriginal communities to achieve the above objectives.
6. Encourage the creation of effective legal and financial structures to guide commercial activity such as the First Nations Tax Commission.

SUBMITTED BY THE GREATER SASKATOON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CO-SPONSORED BY THE CALGARY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Métis ADOPTED WITH AMENDMENTS

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Prioritize improving the educational outcomes of the Métis, focusing on high school completion and workplace training, in partnership with business.
2. Ensure equity in federal funding for Métis education and employment programs, relative to other Aboriginal groups. This funding will originate from within existing federal budget envelopes.
3. Work to ensure that any employment, education and economic development policies are designed to reflect the unique characteristics of the Métis.
4. Work pro-actively and in collaboration with Métis groups to clarify Métis rights, responsibilities and representation, thus spelling out the “rules of engagement” for government, business and Métis organizations.

SUBMITTED BY THE SASKATOON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. CO-SPONSORED BY THE CALGARY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Reforming the Canadian Health Care System BOARD REFERRAL PROPOSED BY MANITOBA CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Recommendations

That the federal government, in an effort to improve patient care and outcomes:

1. Work with the provinces and territories to ensure that meaningful reform of the Canadian health care system is undertaken, in part guided by the more successful health care models in some

European countries that have demonstrated that universal, publicly funded health care systems can operate more efficiently at a lower cost and involve the private sector more fully to produce superior outcomes, with no appreciable waitlists.

2. Change the Canada Health Act as required and work to persuade the provinces and territories to change their legislation to allow greater involvement of the private sector to meet the rights of Canadians to access timely and high quality health care, while overturning government rationing of health care services that is achieved in part by effectively prohibiting privately offered diagnostic and surgical services and private insurance to pay for those services.
3. In accord with the 2005 decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in the Chaoulli case, strive to ensure that the prohibition of private insurance and payment for health care does not continue.
4. Stimulate action to ensure that competition is introduced to the Canadian health care system to achieve progress towards greater efficiency and productivity, particularly in the provision of surgical and other services usually provided in a hospital setting.
5. Work with the provinces and territories to encourage the private sector to establish centres of specialization or centres of excellence offering particular treatments or surgeries so as to ease the load on public sector facilities and provide these services with greater efficiency.
6. Encourage the provinces and territories to change the current system of determining hospital funding to recognize the need to provide incentives for increasing the volume of patients treated rather than leaving hospitals with a need to restrict patient volumes so as not to exceed funds available in their budgets.
7. Continue to work with the provinces and territories towards achieving a uniform and integrated health care information system to increase the efficiency, productivity and reliability of the health care system.
8. Encourage the revision of rigid scope-of-practice rules to make health care professionals and support staff more productive and explore other mechanisms to address labour shortage issues in the health care system.

SUBMITTED BY THE ABBOTSFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Economic Policy Committee believes this is a very complex issue that requires significant provincial/territorial input and, therefore, will not comment.

The Special Issues Committee has not had the time to review this resolution (this version was received July 5).

This is a 2009 resolution that is falling off the books.

TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Addressing Canada's Public Infrastructure Challenge

APPROVED

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Ensures that the new long-term infrastructure plan includes a comprehensive review of best practices in infrastructure finance, the development of innovative fiscal tools, planning for the required investments and enabling legislation.
2. Ensures that the new long-term infrastructure plan includes targeted investments in Canada's major economic hubs, gateways and public transit systems.
3. Ensures that the new long-term infrastructure plan includes a mechanism to evaluate federally funded capital projects as potential P3s.
4. Ensures that all relevant public sector employees are able to efficiently manage P3s and deliver quality P3 investment in a timely manner.

5. Commits to reviewing the funding levels in the gas tax program every four years to ensure that infrastructure investment objectives are being met.

SUBMITTED BY THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Minimizing the Impact of Community Development on Transportation Activity- Duty to Notify and Consult

DEFEATED

Recommendation

That the federal government make the necessary legislative changes to require land developers and municipal authorities to notify federally regulated transportation service providers of proposed changes in land use or zoning. Notice would be required in respect of lands in the vicinity of property used for transportation activity.

SUBMITTED BY THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

MOTION - Delete the current recommendation and replace it with: "That the federal government require that all federally-regulated transportation service providers be notified of proposed development in respect of the land immediately adjacent to, and no farther than 100 feet from the transportation activity. Upon receiving such notification, allow transportation service providers 30 days to comment on the proposed development, zoning or change in land use."

Ensuring Competitiveness for Canada's Marine Transportation Industry in the Great Lakes Region

ADOPTED WITH AMENDMENTS

Recommendations:

That the federal government:

1. Take leadership by working with the relevant stakeholders to develop harmonized environmental standards for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway.
2. Facilitate the development and adoption of a pact between Great-Lakes States (New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Indiana, and Wisconsin), the Province of Quebec and the Province of Ontario with advice from the marine transportation industry that commits to a clear and aligned set of environmental standards related to marine transportation.
3. Work with the Canadian marine transportation industry and United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to develop and adopt clear and balanced phase-in timelines for new vessels and technologies to meet emissions standards, ballast water treatment standards, and prevent the discharge of invasive species.
4. Work through the Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) to expedite the establishment a Canada-U.S. safety and security framework for the St. Lawrence Seaway and Great Lakes system.

SUBMITTED BY THE GREATER NIAGARA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE BOARD OF TRADE OF MONTREAL.

Completion of an All-Weather North-South Trans Canada Highway p. 27

ADOPTED

Recommendation

That the federal government:

1. Fund the completion of an all-weather north-south Trans Canada Highway through the Mackenzie Valley from Wrigley to Tuktoyaktuk in the NWT to achieve several priorities:
 - Speed Canada's recovery from the recession.
 - Fuel economic development across Canada.
 - Enhance Arctic sovereignty as climate change makes the North and its resources much more accessible.
2. Move ahead with this project immediately as a means of improving the economics of increased resource exploration and future production infrastructure.

SUBMITTED BY THE NORMAN WELLS AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE INUVIK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. CO-SPONSORED BY THE EDMONTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Harmonize the CBSA boater reporting system with the USA

ADOPTED

Recommendation:

That the federal government boater reporting laws be harmonized immediately to be the same as presently in use by the United States along Canadian shared international waters.

SUBMITTED BY THE SARNIA LAMBTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

INDUSTRY

The Competition Act

ADOPTED WITH AMENDMENTS

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Ensure full and open consultation with stakeholders when undertaking any amendments to the Act, to permit meaningful dialogue by all interested stakeholders.
2. Direct the Commissioner of Competition to continue to enhance the transparency and predictability of the interpretation and enforcement of the Act through the issuance of Policy Statements, ensuring full and open consultation with stakeholders to permit meaningful dialogue by all interested stakeholders.
3. Direct the Commissioner of Competition to take a measured and reasonable approach to asserting any exceptions to the general confidentiality protection afforded by the Act.
4. Direct the Competition Bureau to evaluate and carry out its communications strategy in a manner that is consistent with transparency objectives yet fair to parties to enforcement proceedings.

SUBMITTED BY THE COMPETITION LAW AND POLICY COMMITTEE

This resolution updates and replaces a 2009 version by the same name.

Addressing Intellectual Property Rights Theft ADOPTED WITH AMENDMENTS

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Make the needed legislative changes to ensure Canadian law enforcement and border agencies have both the authority and resources to proactively confront the growing reality of counterfeiting and intellectual property piracy. The implementation of effective trade-mark provisions and border measures should be treated as an urgent priority. CBSA needs the authority to search and seize suspected counterfeit goods at Canada's border points in a timely manner.
2. Strengthen existing statutes, such as the *Criminal Code*, *Federal Court Act* and *Trade-marks Act*, either individually or through a dedicated anti-counterfeiting statute. Initiatives that should be taken in relation to this are:
 - a. Enact criminal legislation that expressly targets IPR crimes.
 - b. Amending the *Criminal Code* to properly define "counterfeiting" as a special criminal offence, thereby making it a criminal offence to manufacture, reproduce, distribute and/or import or offer for sale counterfeit products for commercial purposes.
 - c. Amending the *Federal Court Act* to provide for expedited civil proceedings for cases involving counterfeit products and other IP infringement, such as copyright, trade-mark and patent infringement.
 - d. Adding counterfeit goods to the proceeds of crime regime, making it possible for law enforcement officers to seize the illicit wealth of counterfeiters, similar to that of copyright crimes.
3. Creating a government task force or central resource to oversee the advancement of IP in Canada with the necessary representation from all relevant stakeholders, and to guide, coordinate and lead anti-counterfeiting and anti-piracy efforts in Canada.
4. Work domestically and through existing trade agreements and ongoing trade negotiations to improve Canada's IP regime in order to harmonize key aspects of Canadian statutory and regulatory protections for the life sciences sector with that of our major trading partners in order to foster innovation, grow trade and economic ties, and to facilitate research and development in Canada
5. Work with the business community to find effective solutions and undertake a public awareness campaign to highlight the benefits of IP protection and the damage that is caused by counterfeiting and piracy, including both economic and public health.

No to Overregulation of Drinks, Food Products, Fast Food and other Consumer Products ADOPTED

Recommendation

That the federal government avoid over-regulating certain food products, including carbonated beverages and chips, in a discriminatory fashion, and apply to these products, based on scientific data, normal labeling rules in order to fully inform the consumer about nutrients and caloric value.

SUBMITTED BY THE FÉDÉRATION DES CHAMBRES DE COMMERCE DU QUÉBEC

Intensifying the Fight Against Contraband Tobacco

ADOPTED

Recommendation

That the federal government develop a contraband tobacco strategy that would:

1. Collaborate with provincial/territorial, municipal and state governments as well as and U.S. federal government to tackle this issue.
2. Fulfill its election commitment to create a minimum sentence for repeat contraband offenders and create a RCMP taskforce.
3. Expand police powers to fight contraband; modeled on Quebec where local police and courts are able to conduct contraband investigations.
4. Require tougher licensing of non-tobacco manufacturing materials. There are many parts to making cigarettes, apart from tobacco. They should be more strictly regulated and licensed.
5. Report annually on the results of the implementation of the contraband tobacco control strategy.

SUBMITTED BY LA CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE ET D'INDUSTRIE DE ST-LAURENT

Ensuring Canada's Economic Success Using Information and Communications Technologies

ADOPTED WITH AMENDMENTS

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Act as a leader, and provide its services online. Almost every transaction that Canadians make with the government should be able to be completed online.
2. Accelerate investments in next-generation networks by amending tax policies to stimulate investments on a geographically and technologically neutral basis.
3. Continue to rely on private sector investment and competitive market forces to drive the roll-out of broadband networks and facilities in Canada.
4. Ensure that any initiatives designed to help facilitate access to broadband facilities by Canadians in rural and remote areas, where market forces are not sufficient, are introduced in the least market-distorting manner possible by working with relevant not-for-profit organizations, utilities, and service providers.
5. Promote digital literacy as a critical aspect of skills development.
6. Increase engagement with the private sector to accelerate e-business adoption among SMEs, especially given the increasing growth rate in this sector.
7. Systematically identify and eliminate regulatory barriers to the use of digital technologies by business.

SUBMITTED BY THE INNOVATION COMMITTEE.

Restoring Balance in Sector Applicability of SR&ED

ADOPTED WITH AMENDMENTS

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Review the existing legislation to make sure that the changes do not favour labour-intensive industries over capital-intensive industries.

2. Provide clarity when it comes to innovation. Responsibility should be assigned to a single minister, supported by government and stakeholders working with provincial and territorial governments.
3. Eliminate traditional overhead calculation, and reintroduce recognition of capital and leased expenditures and the full value of expenditures eligible for SR&ED deduction and Investment Tax Credits, ultimately achieving the desired “revenue neutral” changes and removing the current bias against capital-intensive research and development.
4. Monitor carefully the pilot pre-approval process.

SUBMITTED BY THE THUNDER BAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE KAMLOOPS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Improving the Accuracy and Timeliness of the Scientific Research & Experimental Development (SR&ED) Program

ADOPTED

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Establish a “SR&ED Claim Certification Program” that CCPC’s can voluntarily apply to.
2. Set up a specific department (from within existing structure) to work with CCPCs that are certified to the “SR&ED Claim Certification Program”.
3. Set up a preferential and expedited claim and payment process for CCPCs that are certified to the “SR&ED Claim Certification Program”, allowing claims to be processed within a guaranteed first three months of CCPCs fiscal year.
4. Establish an Administrative Monetary Penalty System that promotes compliance for CCPCs that are certified to the “SR&ED Claim Certification Program”.
5. Ensure SR&ED eligibility and evaluation criteria for federal funding programs are clearly defined and specific to appropriately and effectively establish the intended recipient pool.
6. Ensure all funding programs have clearly defined submission and evaluation protocols to provide for a fair and transparent evaluation process.
7. Ensure all funding programs have pre-screening mechanisms to provide timely guidance to prospective applicants as to the potential for success in the evaluation process.
8. Ensure that only necessary application support is requested of applicants and minimize on-going reporting requirements to reduce the administrative burden associated with the submission process.
9. Ensure programs and funding are available to appropriately address the needs of existing Canadian business as well as those being pursued in identified strategic priority industries.

SUBMITTED BY THE WINDSOR-ESSEX REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE MISSISSAUGA BOARD OF TRADE.

From Innovation to Commercialization – An SME Strategy

ADOPTED WITH AMENDMENTS

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Create tax incentives (i.e. angel investment tax credits) that will aid in the development and adoption of new innovation by providing access to capital for Canadian start-up businesses.

2. Focus on reducing the risk associated with adoption of innovative technologies and products to incent adoption by larger companies by leveraging in advisory capacity arms-length sector specific organizations to mentor and serve as commercialization advocates for start-up companies.
3. Develop a public sector procurement policy that focuses on value creation through the adoption of new technologies.
4. Consult with industry on developing specific public policy that would optimize the effectiveness of the measures highlighted in recommendations 1-3.

SUBMITTED BY THE MISSISSAUGA BOARD OF TRADE

Support to Ranchers in the Removal of Specified Risk Material (SRM)

ADOPTED

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Work with the cattle industry to determine a cost-effective solution to the removal of Specified Risk Material until a time when the Canadian Food Inspection Agency discontinues its current policies for disposal of dead stock cattle and their associated Specified Risk Material, to ensure processors are not operating at a competitive disadvantage relative to their American counterparts.
2. Ensure that the Canada-United States Regulatory Cooperation Council prioritize the harmonization of specified risk material regulations in Canada and the United States.
3. Work with the United States Government to harmonize regulatory standards in both Canada and the United States for Specified Risk Material.

SUBMITTED BY MEDICINE HAT & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Counteracting the Growing Productivity Gap: Call for the Public Debate

ADOPTED WITH AMENDMENTS

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Develop a long-term, comprehensive productivity strategy for the country that would take into account the changing international environment Canada is operating in.
2. Increase funding for R&D projects and research centres so that Canada can compete on equal terms with the most innovative economies.

SUBMITTED BY THE SPRUCE GROVE & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND CO-SPONSORED BY THE NIAGARA REGION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

SOCIAL POLICY

Resolving Canada's Skills Crisis through Increased Immigration ADOPTED AS AMENDED

Recommendation

The federal government must increase the number of annual immigrants to Canada in the economic streams. We recommend three specific initiatives:

1. Increase the number of economic immigrants over the next 4 years to this country to at least double the current rate commensurate with need.
2. Renegotiate and sign new memorandums of understanding with each of the provinces and territories to increase provincial caps for Provincial Nominee Programs. The Canada-Manitoba Immigration Agreement of June 2003 – the country's strongest PNP program – should serve as the starting point for these agreements.
3. Ensure that local Citizenship and Immigration Canada offices are adequately staffed to meet demand and alleviate the labour market crisis.

FINANCE AND TAXATION

Fiscal Policy

ADOPTED AS AMENDED

Recommendations

That the federal government:

Re: Debt Management

1. Balance the federal books by 2015.
2. Ensure that the debt-to-GDP ratio falls below 30 per cent by 2016.

Re: Program Spending

3. Limit growth in program spending to an average of 2.1 per cent per year through 2016-17.
4. Continue to examine new ways to reduce costs, modernize how government works and ensure value for taxpayers' money, including in the areas of service delivery, corporate asset management, travel and administrative systems.

Re: Tax Policy

5. Ensure that Canada's tax system is as neutral, simple, efficient and fair as possible.
6. Avoid ad hoc changes to tax legislation, like the constant addition of special provisions and targeted tax benefits.
7. Appoint an advisory panel (similar to the Advisory Panel on Canada's System of International Taxation) to identify ways to reduce the complexity of Canada's tax system. This should include a comprehensive review of the hundreds of exemptions, deductions, rebates, deferrals or credits that are part of the federal tax system to determine which ones are inefficient and wasteful. The panel should be supported by a secretariat and rely on the Department of Finance, the Canada Revenue Agency and the Auditor General of Canada for information and data regarding the current system.
8. Reduce Canada's heavy reliance on more damaging, high-cost sources of taxes, namely income and profit taxes, and rely more on consumption-based taxes, like the GST/HST.
9. Strive to achieve a neutral business tax system – one that does not distort business decisions by favouring particular industries, investments or activities.

10. Once the books are balanced, reduce the 15 per cent rate that applies to the first \$42,707 of taxable income (2012) to 14 per cent, and the 22 per cent rate that applies to taxable income between \$42,707 and \$ 85,414 to 21 per cent. Raise the threshold at which the top federal marginal personal income tax rate kicks in to \$200,000 from \$132,406. As a result, income in the \$128,800 and \$200,000 range would be taxed at a rate of 26 per cent, down from 29 per cent.

SUBMITTED BY THE ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE, CO-SPONSORED BY THE TAXATION COMMITTEE.

Taking Advantage of External Expertise in Federal Departments and Agencies ADOPTED AS AMENDED

Recommendation

That the federal government, through the Department of Finance and the Canada Revenue Agency, actively expand opportunities to draw on the experience and advice of non-government experts from law, accounting firms and industry through exchanges, advisory committees, selective reviews or executive interchange programs that reflect regional economic interests. Where required, confidentiality agreements could be considered to ensure that the advice being sought and provided is treated with the level of sensitivity required.

SUBMITTED BY THE ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE, CO-SPONSORED BY THE TAXATION COMMITTEE.

Simplification of the Taxing Statutes ADOPTED

Recommendation

That the federal government immediately establish a royal commission to undertake a comprehensive review of taxing statutes with the objective of identifying, recommending and ensuring the implementation of ways and means to simplify tax legislation, reduce compliance costs and ensure Canada's tax system is as neutral, simple, efficient and fair as possible. In support of the commission a standing committee should be established to continuously monitor changes and publicly report progress at least annually.

SUBMITTED BY THE EDMONTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Taxation of Not-for-Profit Organizations (NPOs) WITHDRAWN - CRA ACTED ON THE RECOMMENDATION

Recommendations

That the federal government, namely the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), reconsider and/or clarify its position with respect to the issuance of "education letters" that notify not-for-profit organizations that they are in breach of the *Income Tax Act* (and urging them to make adjustments in their activities to comply) despite no conclusions having been reached with respect to the application of the *Act*.

SUBMITTED BY THE TAXATION COMMITTEE

Canada Revenue Agency Impact on Small Business ADOPTED AS AMENDED

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Instill flexibilities into Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) systems to allow frontline staff to manage communications between CRA streams on behalf of small business owners, and take initiative to resolve small issues in a timely fashion, maintaining a client-oriented, customer-service approach.
2. Assign a case officer, with the appropriate training, to small business files to make compliance faster, cheaper and simpler.
3. Instruct the CRA to correct and respond regarding CRA errors within 30 days of notification by the taxpayer or taxpayer's representative.

SUBMITTED BY THE CAMROSE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CO-SPONSORED BY THE RED DEER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Fair Tax Process for Small Business ADOPTED

Recommendation

That the federal government review the Canada Revenue Agency's (CRA's) internal policies for small business and implement common administrative law practices into its procedures so that there is assistance for small business to resolve conflicts with the CRA with the protection of due process.

SUBMITTED BY THE BURLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Non-Residents Performing Services in Canada Policy – Waivers from Withholding Obligations Under Regulations 105 and 102 ADOPTED

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Eliminate Regulation 105.
2. Introduce legislation to all non-resident employers to administer a Regulation 102 blanket waiver process for employees working in Canada below a specified number of days.
3. In the alternative, introduce legislation to permit a non-resident employer with non-resident employees working in Canada during a particular year to make a single Regulation 102 filing within [90] days following the end of the year, together with Regulation 102 remittances (including interest but not penalties) for any of its employees who were ultimately taxable in Canada for the year.
4. Revise the requirements for registering, collecting and remitting GST to ensure that non-residents exempt from income tax under a tax treaty with Canada, are also not required to register, collect and remit for GST purposes. Annual information return reporting of payments to non-residents should be continued to ensure the CRA's ongoing ability to audit non-residents providing services in Canada.
5. Institute an information return for non-residents employing people in Canada.

SUBMITTED BY THE SHERWOOD PARK AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CO-SPONSORED BY THE EDMONTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE TAXATION COMMITTEE

A Better Way to Fund Training ADOPTED

Recommendation

That the federal government remove the training component from EI and fund all training and active employment measures through a general revenue-funded transfer to the provinces/territories to ensure that all workers in need of training are able to access it.

SUBMITTED BY THE FÉDÉRATION DES CHAMBRES DE COMMERCE DU QUÉBEC

**Employment Insurance Premium Rate Setting
DEFEATED**

Recommendations:

That the federal government:

1. Restructure the EI Program to be a true insurance program that focuses primarily on providing employment related benefits, and fund current EI social program benefits through general program spending.
2. Introduce a variable premium payment system, whereby higher premiums are paid in geographic regions where higher benefits are paid (similar to a true insurance program), thus removing disincentives for employers and employees to find solutions to chronic regional unemployment challenges.
3. Set EI premium maximums based on an approach that is proportionate and responsive to regional employment conditions.

SUBMITTED BY THE CALGARY CHAMBER

**Strengthening Canada's Workforce through Tax Indexing
ADOPTED**

Recommendation

That the federal government apply indexing to all exemptions, deductions and contribution limits applicable in the *Income Tax Act* so Canadians and businesses are not unfairly taxed.

SUBMITTED BY RED DEER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**Increasing Rental Inventory Through Fair Tax Treatment
ADOPTED**

Recommendations

That the federal government, when fiscal conditions allow:

1. Enact deferral of capital gains tax on the sale of real property, including rental property, when the proceeds of sales are reinvested within a six-month period into other real property investments.
2. Defer the recapturing of the value of depreciated capital cost allowances on real property.
3. Include rental income under the definition of "active business income" for CCPCs in the ITA legislation.
4. Allow a 100 per cent refund of GST paid by businesses investing in rental housing.
5. Zero-rate rental housing operations to allow landlords to claim ITCs on their expenses.

SUBMITTED BY THE GREATER VICTORIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ADOPTED

**Support Future Mineral Exploration and Mining in Canada
ADOPTED**

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Make the Mineral Exploration Tax Credit (METC) permanent, as it has been repeatedly renewed since 2000, which would provide greater certainty to the exploration industry and investment community.

2. Encourage good corporate social responsibility and environmental practices by undertaking a review, in consultation with industry, of the tax rules governing the extent to which community consultation and environmental compliance costs are eligible for the Canadian Exploration Expense (CEE) deduction.

**RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE THUNDER BAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
ADOPTED**

**GST Exemption for Medical Service Providers
ADOPTED**

Recommendation

That the federal government exempt all medical service providers, as outlined above, from charging GST on medical services rendered in their facilities once the federal budget is in balance.

SUBMITTED BY THE WHISTLER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**Mitigating the Negative Effects of the New Tax Exemption Limits for the Canadian Retailers
on the U.S.-Canadian border
ADOPTED AS AMENDED**

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Eliminate the outdated tariffs on finished goods entering into Canada.
2. That Canadian border officials enforce all tax exemption limits for all travellers returning to Canada.

**SUBMITTED BY THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NIAGARA FALLS, CANADA. CO-SPONSORED BY THE
SPRUCE GROVE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE SURREY BOARD OF TRADE.**

**Pooled Registered Pension Plans
ADOPTED**

Recommendations

That the federal government make it a top priority to work with provincial and territorial finance ministers to expedite Pooled Registered Pension Plan legislation at the provincial/territorial level that will allow more small and medium-sized businesses across Canada to offer retirement plans to their employees

**SUBMITTED BY THE GREATER KITCHENER WATERLOO AND CAMBRIDGE (ONTARIO) CHAMBERS OF
COMMERCE
THE SME Committee and the Special Issues Committee support this resolution.**

**Severance Transfers to RRSPs
ADOPTED AS AMENDED**

Recommendation

That the federal government:

1. Reinstate provisions allowing for the rollover of severance to an RRSP, without impacting the employee's otherwise earned RRSP room.

2. Update the amount of severance an employee is allowed to transfer to an RRSP by reference to today's contribution limits.
3. Immediately permit employees to contribute \$5,500 per year of service with an employer, plus an additional \$9,000 per year that they were not a member of an employer's registered pension or deferred profit sharing plan, with annual indexing thereafter.

SUBMITTED BY LEDUC REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CO-SPONSORED BY THE EDMONTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Federal Alignment of Liens Policies with Provincial Counterparts

ADOPTED

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Immediately allow for the removal of federal liens against a property by establishing and maintaining lien policies that are in alignment with those of provincial/territorial governments.
2. Work collaboratively with provincial/territorial governments to establish and maintain a nationally consistent, coordinated approach to removing Crown liens and tax arrears on qualified properties.

SUBMITTED BY THE TIMMINS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Enhancing Canada's Trade Relationship with Asia Pacific and, in particular, with Japan

ADOPTED AS AMENDED

Recommendations

That the federal government works to:

1. Strengthen the engagement with Asia-Pacific countries through enhanced government engagement with Japanese and other governments in the region and ensure reciprocal market access for Canadian companies.
2. Enhance Canada-Japan economic relations through bilateral discussions, TPP forum and conclude the Canada-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations on a priority basis.
3. Continue to emphasize the role that Canada can play in Japan's reconstruction effort with respect to energy, engineering and other high demand areas.
4. Offer enhanced support by tracking and providing briefings to the business community on fast track approvals and other pertinent information related to Japan's reconstruction effort.

SUBMITTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Developing a New Direction for the Canada-U.S. Trade Relationship

ADOPTED AS AMENDED

Recommendations

That the federal government works to:

1. Define specific impediments to open trade and facilitate enhancements for trade and investment with the U.S. while simultaneously focusing on diversifying Canada's trading partners, targeting markets with the greatest promise.
2. Deliver a more open border that will ease the movement of goods, services and people and deliver on the commitments made in the Beyond the Borders and Regulatory Cooperation Actions Plans.
3. Continue to work within the framework of our existing membership in TPP to emphasize the foreign policy importance of Canada as an Asia-Pacific partner.

4. Move forward on an integrated approach by strengthening IP rights and copyright protection and demonstrating progress in other areas of trade reform that the U.S. is seeking from Canada.
5. Continue to emphasize the role that Canada can play with respect to energy security by reducing America's dependence on energy from unstable suppliers.

SUBMITTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Canada's Free Trade Agreements - a New Dynamic ADOPTED

Recommendations

That the federal government works with the private sector, provinces and territories to improve the development of FTA's by:

1. Undertaking continued/expanded consultation with business that will help to establish the goals and objectives of any Free Trade Agreement.
2. Creating a clearly designed and defined repository of tangible benefits that will accrue to Canada's domestic suppliers of goods and services with an overall benefit to Canada's economy. (e.g. new jobs, export capacity, lower cost imported inputs, stability and transparency of trade environments etc.)
3. Seeking to improve the availability of access and information on current Canadian FTAs. This includes those already in force, which ones are predicted to come on line in the future, and the rationale that was or will be used for the development of these FTAs.
4. Ensuring greater transparency in the process and the inclusion of a full cost benefit analysis prior to drafting and conclusion of FTAs. These findings should be developed and shared in consultation with relevant stakeholders.
5. Conducting continued research into ways and means to improve trade not only within FTAs but between existing FTAs such cross cumulation: a known convergence methodology that encourages better and more efficient use multiple FTAs.

SUBMITTED BY THE LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

New Border Pact- Beyond the Border Action Plan ADOPTED AS AMENDED

Recommendations

That the federal government work with the provinces, territories and U.S. government to:

1. Implement improvements in cross-border transactions to support the principle that people, goods and services are deserving of equitable treatment irrespective of whether the transaction is southbound or northbound across our mutual international borders.
2. Address the current existing inequities between regulatory and interpretative aspects of Canada - U.S. border impediments which negatively impact the legitimate flow of people, goods and services across the Canada/U.S. border and undertake these in conjunction with implementing improvements under the new "Beyond the Border Action Plan".
3. Establish the criteria contained in the 1991, the U.S. Department of Commerce pamphlet entitled "U.S. - CANADA Free Trade Agreement After-sales Service and Repair Questions and Answers" as the baseline for expansion of after-sales service rules and formulation of after-lease service rules, and as a model for a new bilateral publication reflecting the Beyond the Border after-sales and after-lease service agreements.
4. Review and clarify CBP's use of expedited removal against Canadians to ensure that expedited removal will no longer be used against Canadians requesting admission to the U.S. at Ports of Entry for business or pleasure
5. Ensure that all CBSA and CBP guidance and training materials and enhanced operational manuals are made available to stakeholders prior to finalization to allow stakeholder feedback, and that all current guidance and training materials and current operational manuals be shared with stakeholders as soon as possible.

6. Advance the cause of free trade agreement generally through demonstrated removal of existing flaws within the prevailing NAFTA system through implementing harmonized revisions under provisions of the “Beyond the Border Action Plan.”

SUBMITTED BY THE BC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Canada Border Services Agency - Customs & Immigration Programs

ADOPTED

Recommendations

1. That the federal government and in particular the Canadian Border Services Agency:
2. Move immediately to remove the discriminatory cost recovery mechanism for Customs and Immigration services and provide these services on the same basis as they are provided in other areas of the country and at the same cost to Canadians.
3. Where new services are required in any region of Canada, the provision of such services should meet a legitimate business case that is a net benefit to Canada.
4. Develop and publish an after-hours service policy on a cost recovery and this basis should reflect actual costs of coverage; not HQ and regional overhead.
5. Post all its fee schedules, including on call services, on its website and set-up a direct collection methodology.

SUBMITTED BY THE KAMLOOPS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Supporting Canada’s Responsible Resource Development

ADOPTED AS AMENDED

Recommendations

That the federal government, in cooperation with provincial , territorial and aboriginal governments:

1. In consultation with the private sector, lead the development of a comprehensive and adequately funded system consistent with the principles set out in the 2012 Budget, that enables the completion of regulatory reviews in a timely manner while ensuring environmental protection.
2. Work closely with provincial, territorial and aboriginal governments to facilitate alignment with the implementation of regulatory changes and that information and expertise is shared in an efficient manner.

SUBMITTED BY THE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, CO-SPONSORED BY THE PRINCE GEORGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Energy Market Diversification

ADOPTED

Recommendations

That the federal government works with the provinces and territories to:

1. Support the development of key energy infrastructure to improve Canada’s access to global energy markets and increase west-east oil trade flows within the country.
2. Develop a pan-Canadian policy framework that improves the development of an environment that fosters an increasing share of the processing of natural resources to value added products while being mindful of market forces.
3. Explore opportunities to enhance interprovincial electricity trade by improving transparency of provincial and territorial pricing.
4. Encourage US decision-makers to a further integrate Canada’s hydroelectricity as a low cost, low emissions power source.

5. Continue to improve the regulatory review process to ensure it is timely, efficient and effective.

SUBMITTED BY THE SARNIA LAMBTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND CO-SPONSORED BY THE CALGARY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Northern Gateway Pipelines Project ADOPTED AS AMENDED

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Demonstrate strong support for the Northern Gateway Pipelines Project including appropriate participation in the Joint Review Panel process.
2. Encourage all provincial and territorial governments to support the Northern Gateway Pipelines Project in the spirit of national best interest and the development of a pan Canadian Energy Strategy.
3. Coordinate with other relevant governments and agencies to provide to the project proponents whatever permits, licenses and permissions that may be necessary to ensure the project moves ahead as soon as possible, following due process for such permits, licenses and permissions, upon conclusion of the hearings and as expeditiously as possible.
4. Respect the Joint Review Panel schedule, independence and authority and restrict any challenges brought forth outside the formal comment/input/appeal process.

SUBMITTED BY THE EDMONTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Support for a Canadian Energy Strategy ADOPTED AS AMENDED

Recommendations

That the federal government, recognizing the roles of the provinces, territories and municipalities, facilitate the development of a Canadian Energy Strategy by:

1. Participating in discussions with provincial, territorial and municipal governments on the creation of a Canadian Energy Strategy that will form a shared vision for Canadian energy production and use, and provide mechanisms to facilitate coordination and cooperation across governments.
2. Supporting the development of key energy infrastructure to improve Canada's access to global energy markets, while continuing to improve the regulatory review including Aboriginal consultation processes.
3. Enabling the development and utilization of cleaner technologies through supportive policy, regulatory and financial frameworks, and collaborative innovation.
4. Facilitating energy literacy in the Canadian public through information sharing and outreach.

SUBMITTED BY THE CALGARY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Future of Canadian Nuclear Research & Development ADOPTED AS AMENDED

Recommendations

That the federal government in co-operation with its territorial and provincial counterparts, support:

1. In consultation with all stakeholders (i.e. business, education, labour), including the provinces and territories, ensure that Canada employs a 'made-in-Canada' nuclear energy strategy that will continue to remove barriers, provide jobs, encourage investment and foster economic strength for the Canadian economies in the coming decades.
2. Ensure that the strategic framework is national in scope, and encompasses (but is not limited to):
 - Research and Development, and the commercialization of technology

- Fiscal Policy
- Skills Policy, for the education of the Canadian workforce
- Innovation Policy
- Trade and Infrastructure issues (the cross-border movement of goods and services)
- Education and information campaign

SUBMITTED BY GREATER OSHAWA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

An Integrated Approach to the Management of Waste and Recyclables ADOPTED AS AMENDED

Recommendations

That the federal government, recognizing the roles of the provinces, territories and municipalities, adopt the following guidelines in the planning, promotion and implementation of programs for the management of wastes and recyclables:

1. Work with provinces and territories to eliminate duplication and reconcile the patchwork of unique regulatory initiatives across the country that add unnecessary administrative costs for Canadian consumers and stifle innovative approaches to waste management.
2. Foster pollution prevention and waste minimization through appropriate funding within the existing budget. The primary focus of funding for the first two years should be on educating businesses on their responsibilities under the current regulations and any future regulations that come into effect.
3. Ensure that consumers are aware of the costs of the various waste management methods through labeling that is transparent, fully-costed and related to waste quantities rather than hidden or blended into other costs.
4. Continue to support Canadian business' efforts to develop, manufacture, market and distribute innovative and world-class waste minimization, management and recycling technologies.
5. Continue to advocate the use of a range of appropriate waste management tools, including non-regulatory commitments, before prescriptive regulations.
6. Build upon the Canadian Council of Minister's of the Environment 2009 *Canada-Wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility* by ensuring that program design principles are:
 - Widely-applied during program development using consistent definition of EPR, and
 - Draw on a strong evidence-base as to the effectiveness of EPR policies
7. Ensure that government policy regarding waste management programs take into account a balance of environmental, economic and societal considerations by, for example, exempting recyclables from any definition of waste and recognizing that products can be created from by-products that might otherwise be considered waste.

SUBMITTED BY THE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Accelerating Domestic Styrofoam Reuse and Remanufacture For Environmental and Economic Gain ADOPTED

Recommendation

That the federal government actively promote the domestic reuse and remanufacture of waste Expanded Polystyrene (EPS), by convening or initiating a dialogue with, Canadian plastics industry companies and research institutions to explore and develop ways to stimulate and encourage research into, and development of, competitive and/or high value, job-rich products made in Canada, from recycled EPS.

SUBMITTED BY THE SURREY BOARD OF TRADE

Reduce Costs to Improve Federal Buildings

ADOPTED AS AMENDED

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. When building new structures, renovating or adding on to existing buildings, the government require proponents and design teams to demonstrate critical evaluation of sustainable and lowest impact material solutions using recognized evaluation tools such as the LEED Certification Process
2. Take steps to amend the National Building Code to include measurement criteria for assessing the sustainable and environmental impact of building materials including the adoption/identification of appropriate life cycle assessment tool(s) that fulfills federal government objectives.
3. Meet competitive and sustainable funding formulas for federal building set by the federal government.

SUBMITTED BY THE KELOWNA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Involvement of Foreign Foundations in Canada's Domestic Affairs

ADOPTED

Recommendations

That the federal government enact legislation requiring that Canadian registered charitable organizations wishing to participate in a regulatory process be required to satisfy the same set of criteria as other organizations for establishing a 'good standing' as a participant. At minimum the 'good standing' criteria for all organizations seeking standing must include:

- full and complete disclosure of both the source of all funds raised (foreign and domestic) as well as the amounts contributed by those sources as proof of majority Canadian interest and funding
- clear demonstration that the organization is operating within its objects of incorporation
- proof that the organization is within the 10% threshold legal restriction on political activity/lobbying
- demonstration of a direct interest in the outcome of the proceedings or a "public interest" basis for their participation
- provision of some unique evidence or perspective that is of direct relevance to the regulatory issues

SUBMITTED BY THE BRITISH COLUMBIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CO-SPONSORED BY THE EDMONTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.