

**2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
POLICY DEBATES
RESULTS**

SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

Stop the Harmful Tax Changes on Private Corporations

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Extend the current consultation period beyond October 2, 2017 to ensure broad participation by Canada's SME community.
2. Establish a royal commission to undertake a comprehensive review of taxing statutes guided by the principles of simplification and modernization, as well as having the goal of reducing compliance costs to make Canada a competitive tax regime once again.
3. Establish a standing committee with active representation from the SME community to support the commission by continuously monitoring changes and publicly reporting progress at least annually.

Adopted as amended.

INDUSTRY

02. Engage SMEs in the Design, Testing and Communications of Federal Programs Designed for Them

Recommendation

That the federal government engage – either directly or through associations - small and medium-sized companies in a comprehensive consultation process that defines the goals, objectives, success evaluation criteria, and the design, testing and communications planning for the budgetary initiatives targeted towards them.

Adopted as amended.

03. Reforming Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL)

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Immediately undertake a thorough and open review of CASL as prescribed by section 65 of the Act that includes studies examining the economic impacts CASL has on Canadian businesses and our economy. The review should also address the ambiguities in CASL such as Section 6.6 and how CASL has impacted Canada's scores on the international "*Ease of Doing Business*" indexes.
2. If no review is to occur/following the review, make CASL easier for companies to comply with while still protecting consumers by performing the following three, simple amendments to the electronic messaging provisions:
 - a. Change the definition of "implied consent" to simply read "where one party voluntarily provides their contact information to another party by any means".
 - b. Eliminate the 2-years and 6-months existing business relationship purge date rules.
 - c. Consider any two people who are voluntarily connected on any form of two-way, electronic communications to have formed implied consent.

Referred to the Board

05. Addressing the Challenges of Canada's Largest Economic Sector: Small Business

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Create a concierge service, by June 2018, to provide single-window, one-on-one, customized consultations for small business to guide them through the regulatory process and achieve compliance.
2. Integrate the concierge service into an existing government organization, agency or program, such as the Canada Business Network, so that no new agency or bureaucracy is created.
3. Develop interconnectivity between municipal, provincial, and federal concierge services to enable knowledge-sharing and to ensure that each is able to provide the best guidance and expertise to its clients.

Adopted.

06. Adopt a Common and True Open Data License for Canada

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Adopt one of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC-BY), CC0, or Open Data Commons Public Domain Dedication and License (ODC-PDDL) models for its open data portals
2. Encourage other levels of government to adopt either the CC-BY or CC0 license or the ODC-PDDL standard for their own open data portals as appropriate
3. Encourage other levels of government to adopt a true open data policy and to make all permissible public data available under it

Adopted as amended.

07. Digital Broadband: The Essential Utility

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Undertake a national broadband feasibility study that lays out minimum service levels, delivery models, cost structures, funding, regulatory models that support facilities and service-based competition, and implementation timelines for 100% digital inclusion and work with all jurisdictions and the private sector to determine action required and implementation staging plans. Furthermore, the strategy should also address ongoing operations
2. Evaluate funding mechanisms help realize the recent CRTC ruling declaring broadband¹ download speeds of at least 50 megabits per second and upload speeds of at least 10 Mbps will now be considered a “basic telecom service.”

Adopted as amended

¹ <http://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/2016/2016-496.htm>

08. Assisting Small Business with Minimizing the Risk and Recovery from Cybercrime

Recommendation

That the federal government allow SMEs to write off 100% of their business investments in cybersecurity-related software, equipment and other costs (support services and outsourcing costs) in the year those investments are made.

Adopted as amended.

09. Driving Innovation in Canada

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Implement for 2018-2019 an “innovation box” approach to encourage more business investment in innovation processes in Canada.
2. Consult with senior business leaders/technologists to define what intellectual property would qualify, e.g. patents, copyright, industrial design
3. Ensure that any such regime adopted in Canada delivers the clarity and simplicity that encourages participation in innovation from both SMEs and large companies.
4. Develop a Canada-wide “My First Patent” program using the Quebec-model as a guideline.

Adopted.

10. Amending and Replacing Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation

Recommendations

That the federal government, in an effort to alleviate the Canadian business community from the most damaging aspects of CASL:

1. Amend CASL immediately to:
 - a. Permit the use of commercial electronic messages (CEMs) to seek consent for sending customers future commercial electronic messages (CEMs).
 - b. Exempt all business-to-business communications from the consent requirements entirely, not just for organizations that "have a relationship."
 - c. Abolish the two-year and six-month expirations for implied consent completely and make implied consent based on a customer purchase or inquiry permanent until an unsubscribe request is made.
2. Commence consultations with the business community and other stakeholders on the creation of a new law to govern and regulate electronic communications and fight spam which would then replace CASL.

Referred to the Board.

11. Re-evaluate the Definition of Small Business

Recommendations

That the federal government re-evaluate the existing business categories identified by number of employees to determine if the current definition of small business is accurately reflected by fewer than 100 employees.

Adopted as amended.

FINANCE AND TAXATION

12. Getting Canada Back to Fiscal Balance

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Maintain a level of debt of no more than 30% debt to the average GDP of the 5 preceding years if GDP is expected to grow over the forecasted period. In years of declining GDP maintain a Debt/GDP ratio of no more than 30%. This will act to curb future deficits and maintain a much slower increase in the level of debt.
2. Apply more rigor to regularly mandated program reviews across all ministries and departments that re-examine the programs, services, and operations of government, ensuring that these are aligned with citizens' expectations of government. Furthermore, these reviews should begin with the mandatory questions: Should government be engaged in this activity? Is this policy accomplishing what we want? How do we know? Are there other programs across government that are duplicative? The conclusions of such reviews should be tied directly to any continued funding.
3. That the Ministry of Finance implement a cash pooling arrangement within and between all departments and ministries whereby any annual budget surpluses (or unspent money) could be allocated by the Finance Minister to either pay down debt or re-allocated to other departmental/ministerial projects instead of borrowing to finance them. Departments/ministries would then be able to re-apply for that money in the following budget year.

Adopted as amended.

13. Make Loan Capitalization of Aboriginal Financial Institutions an Annual Federal Budget Item

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Restore loan capitalization of Aboriginal Financial Institutions (AFIs) in the 2018-19 federal budget.
2. Make loan capitalization of AFIs an annual budget item thereafter with annual increases of no less than the rate of inflation.

Adopted.

14. Update Federal Small Business Financing Program to Better Serve Remote SMEs

Recommendations

That the federal government amend the Canada Small Business Financing Act by:

1. Eliminating the requirement for on-site visits by financial institutions to SMEs in remote locations as defined in the Canada Revenue Agency's list of prescribed zones for each province and territory and permitting the use of bar codes, photographs, videos and e-mails.
2. Extending the verification timeline following the final disbursement of funds to 180 days for SMEs in remote locations to allow for sufficient time for the shipping /transportation of equipment/materials and their installation.

Adopted.

16. Small Business Deduction

Recommendation

That the federal government remove the \$10 million taxable capital limitation to the Small Business Deduction.

Adopted.

17. Maintaining Tax Exemptions for Private Health and Dental Plans

Recommendation

That the federal government maintain the current tax exemption on private health and dental plans.

Adopted.

18. Private Campground Tax Classification Leaves Owners Out in the Cold

Recommendations

That the federal government change the classification of private campgrounds' "principal purpose" from "specified investment business deriving income from property" to that of "service provider".

Adopted.

19. Child Care Credits For Small and Medium Size Businesses

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Permit the owners of Canadian Controlled Private Corporations (CCPCs) receiving non-eligible dividend income to claim childcare expenses against that income.
2. Permit CCPC owners receiving non-eligible dividend income to transfer childcare expenses to the higher income earner of a family.

Adopted.

20. Eligibility for Small Business Tax Rate

Recommendation

That the federal government define a share ownership percentage of 10% or higher for the non-arm's length party with respect to specified corporate income.

Adopted.

21. Federal *Budget 2017*^[1] Policy

Recommendations

That the federal government:

Economic Diversification and Innovation

1. Distribute “supercluster” funding to a limited number of emerging industries, not limited by geographic location, ensuring funds are sufficiently focused to create significant economic spin-off.

Investment Attraction

2. Monitor tax changes and other investment attraction tools being undertaken in the United States, ensuring that Canada remains a strong competitor in global trade.

Infrastructure

3. Through Canada’s Trade and Transportation Corridors Initiative, work strategically with other orders of government and owners of the corridor (utility, railway, pipeline operation, etc.) to secure transportation / utility corridor rights of way throughout Canada with the potential for rapid transit, freight networks, telecommunications, transmissions lines and pipelines, which will improve access to national and international markets for all Canadian products.
4. Promote and provide information on alternative infrastructure funding models for Canadian provinces and municipalities, such as public-private partnerships and the proposed Canada Infrastructure Bank.

Fiscal Responsibility

5. Establish a long-term plan to achieve a balanced budget by limiting operational expenditure growth. Maintain this policy until Canadian economic performance is generating sustained government revenues sufficient to support increased spending with overall rates of taxation and fee collection at levels similar to the existing regime.
6. Negotiate government labour agreements due for renewal with a target of no operational cost increase.
7. Achieve and maintain a debt-to-GDP ratio below 30% with financial contributions to debt reduction as necessary to sustain that position.

Adopted as amended.

² <http://www.budget.gc.ca/2017/home-accueil-en.html>

22. Fiscal Regime Beneficial to a Progressive Transfer of Companies

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Remove any fiscal inequity for family businesses and introduce provisions allowing full capital gains exemption in the case of business transfers among related persons.
2. Adjust fiscal rules by taking into account financing constraints on business buyouts and, in particular, by facilitating progressive share transfers.

Adopted.

24. Renovation Tax Credits - Improving Canada's Housing Stock

Recommendation

That the federal government:

1. Re-introduce the Home Renovation Tax Credit, allowing the provinces/territories to continue with their own GHG emission reduction initiatives.
2. Ensure that multi-family residential buildings are included in the program.

Adopted as amended.

25. Enhancing Access to the Registered Disability Savings Plan for Disabled Employees

Recommendations

That the provincial/territorial and federal governments:

1. Investigate and implement a cross-linked application process to enable those with recognized disabilities to have access to both a provincial/territorial disability support program and the DTC under one application;
2. Review all existing recipients of a provincial/territorial disability support program to determine eligibility of the DTC based on timing of the last tested application; and
3. Create a national program to provide employers a workable linkage to the RDSP program for employees with disabilities.
4. Amend the 10-year rule for the clock to start when the RDSP is opened, from 10 years past the last grant installment.

Adopted.

26. Fines and Penalty Reform for Businesses

Recommendations

That the Canada Revenue Agency, in conjunction with the Department of Finance:

1. Charge small business a modest flat late remittance for missed payment deadlines. Interest then accrues if payment is not made within 7 days of the due date or 14 days for locations in prescribed northern zones.
2. After the “Late Remittance Fee” is applied, then subject businesses that consistently and repeatedly miss payment dates to increasing fines and/or stiffer penalties with every missed payment.

Adopted as amended.

27. The Locked-In Estate Trust - A Response to Canada's Retirement Income Challenges

Recommendation

That the federal government convene a special committee to determine the feasibility of implementing a Locked-in Estate Trust in the context of Canada's overall pension plan framework and that this study and review be completed within a 2- or 3-year period.

Adopted.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND IMMIGRATION

29. Manufacturing a Skilled Workforce

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Develop an easily accessible and understood portal to the tax credits and grants currently available for individually-funded and employer-sponsored education expenditures,
2. Expand tax credits and grants and be more flexible to assist businesses fill diverse and specific skills gaps as they emerge.

Adopted as amended.

30. Marijuana and the Workplace: Ensuring the Safety of Workers and Businesses

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Create a standard testing protocol to detect marijuana impairment, with legal limits for both traffic safety and workplace safety prior to the legalization of marijuana.
2. Work with provinces and territories to ensure consistent regulation across Canada.
3. Provide clarity for employers by developing regulations concerning the use of medical marijuana in the workplace and its impact on health and safety procedures in conjunction with relevant provincial and territorial regulators,
4. Consult with industry, business and their representative associations to identify standardized policies and processes to deal with medical marijuana requirements and recreational usage that may lead to impairment in the workplace, in a manner that balances the rights and responsibilities of employers with the privacy and rights of employees.
5. Allow a two-year implementation window to address the workplace safety recommendations contained within the Framework for the Legalization and Regulation of Cannabis in Canada.

Adopted.

31. Restoring Secret Ballot Voting for Union Certification

Recommendation

That the federal government ensure transparency and fairness in the union certification process by requiring secret ballot voting for union certification by introducing legislation to repeal the provisions of Bill C-4 and restore the provisions of Bill C-525.

Adopted.

32. Improving the Canada Summer Jobs Grant

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Align the amount of approved weeks of funding with the needs of the employer.
2. Make the current application submission in December and inform businesses in February of the result of their application
3. Allow the criteria for eligibility to include any full-time student of any age, returning to full time studies in the following year.

Adopted as amended.

33. Attracting and Retaining International Students through Canadian Work Experience

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Allow international students to qualify for the Canada Summer Jobs program.
2. Modify student permits to allow international students to participate in co-op terms and internships without obtaining a separate work permit.
3. Extend post-graduate job-search period from 90 days to 6 months, thereby eliminating the need for a 'bridge' extension study permit.
4. Count all time spent in Canada as an international student towards citizenship eligibility (i.e. increase from half time to full time).
5. Change the length of time for which a post-graduation work permit can be valid to five years (from the current three years), regardless of the program of study, so long as it was at a recognized Canadian academic institution.
6. Expedite the process for international students to receive visas as well as the processing times for their permanent residency applications so long as they graduated from a recognized Canadian institution and are currently employed within Canada.

Adopted.

34. Creating a National Employer-Driven Immigration System

Recommendations

That the federal government address the demographic and labour skills needs of Canadian business by:

1. Building upon the early success of the Atlantic Immigration Pilot by extending the pilot on a national basis in 2018;
2. Applying lessons learned from these pilot programs nationally to help develop permanent flexible and streamlined employer-driven programs that meet immigration and labour skills needs on a provincial/territorial basis;
3. Including provisions in the program to further partner with business when establishing settlement plans, and to expedite financial support for integration services and other retention programs to match demand to ensure the long-term success of immigration efforts in all provinces and territories.

Adopted as amended.

35. Invest in Labour Market Information to Close the Skills Gap

Recommendations

That the federal government, in collaboration with the Forum of Labour Market Ministers (FLMM):

1. Continue to expedite the planned creation of a new organization, such as the proposed Future Skills Lab, focused on collecting and analyzing Labour Market Information (LMI) so that it is operational no later than December 2018.
 - a. The business community should continue to be consulted throughout its development, as well as involved in overseeing the operations of this organization and providing ongoing direction.
2. Through the Future Skills Lab (or equivalent), and other existing organizations, expand national understanding of the supply side of the labour market and educational attainment relative to employment demand by leveraging the data that already exists within post-secondary institutions. This would be achieved by:
 - a. Reviewing and sustaining the National Graduate Survey and the Five-Year Follow-up of Graduates on a longer-term basis, and extending data on work-integrated learning, and better tracking alternative pathways to education.
 - b. Expanding Projects such as the Educational Policy Research Institute's methods of linking student records to tax data³
 - c. Working with provincial and territorial governments to request additional student survey and employment data from publicly funded post-secondary institutions
 - d. Investing in timely, careful analysis of this education data, with a particular focus on learning outcomes, pathways, and quantity of students/graduates in high demand occupations
 - e. Invest in applying and expanding tools that are currently available to the government, namely:
 - i. The Job Vacancy Survey which could be improved to reflect vacancies by occupation at the local level, and/or supplemented by means of job bank data, with an aspirational goal of reaching "real time" job vacancy data.
 - ii. The Workplace and Employee Survey, which could be reintroduced and upgraded
 - iii. The Youth in Transition Survey, which could also be renewed and run on a regular predictable schedule.
 - f. As a matter of priority, reviewing and reporting publicly within one year.

³ Educational Policy Research Initiative, EPRI-ESDC Tax Linkage Project, <http://www.epri.ca/tax-linkage>

3. Improve the relevance of the National Occupation Classification (NOC) by reviewing it comprehensively every five years rather than every 10 years.
 - a. Further, examine the potential impact of competency-based and skill-based occupational measurement systems, to better examine the skills available in Canada's labour force and the requirements of various jobs, separate from formal qualifications.
4. Improve the dissemination and marketing of all available data, including those available from provincial, territorial and local sources, and integrate existing data from employers, educators and jobs banks.
 - a. Ensure that the data be made accessible/available/public to Canadians, especially Canadian employers, but also to learners, parents, career development practitioners (CDPs) in public schools, post-secondary institutions and career and employment centres. Local Chambers of Commerce can have a potential role in explaining the benefits of these resources and helping businesses navigate through them.
5. Establish formalized partnerships between provinces, business, industry, academic institutions and the public sector to share labour market data, avoid duplication and to collaboratively strategize on labour market challenges. The Forum of Labour Market Ministers should have a role in facilitating this coordination.
6. Require either ESDC and/or Statistics Canada to begin collecting and publishing more localized and regionally based labour market information. Specifically, ensure labour market indicators are collected at the census metropolitan area (CMA) level.

Adopted as amended.

36. Improving the Temporary Foreign Worker Program

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Ensure that any further changes to the TFWP reflect the needs of the economy on both a regional and a sectoral basis.
2. Modernize LMIA applications and feedback by:
 - a. Increasing the use of online applications with streamlined forms.
 - b. Instituting an appeal process for denied LMIA applications.
 - c. Giving clearly detailed explanations to applicants when LMIA applications are denied.
 - d. Removing restrictions for full-time employment on the LMIA application.
 - e. Setting a maximum processing time for all LMIA applications.
3. Implement Recommendations from the September 2016 HUMA TFW Report by:
 - a. Reviewing the LMIA process to increase speed and efficiency.
 - b. Implementing a “Trusted Employer Program” to reduce processing times for applications.
 - c. Permitting contract modifications for TFWs if both parties consent, to alter agreed-upon wages or change duties.
 - d. Exempting high-wage TFWs from the Transition Plan requirement.
 - e. Reviewing pathways to permanent residency for any TFW fulfilling a permanent labour market need.
4. Expand the use of Global Skills Strategy categories for occupation-specific work permits for TFWs that are excluded from the requirement to apply for an LMIA.
5. Include industry representatives in TFW Working Groups prescribed in the Annex Agreements.

Adopted.

37. Increase Apprenticeship Completions in the Skilled Trades

Recommendation

That the federal government create a financial incentive for those employers who retain apprentices in their third or fourth year of training, to support the policy goal of increasing the number of certified trades workers. This incentive should be in addition to (and not in lieu of) the existing tax credit for employers for their level 1 and 2 apprentices.

Adopted.

38. Supporting the Labour Needs of Today and Tomorrow – Provincial Nominee Programs

Recommendations

That the federal government work with provincial governments to:

1. Ensure PNPs' annual nomination limit is aligned with labour requirements,
2. Allow unused allocations to be transferred between provinces/territories,
3. Develop streams for other sectors, such as technology, engineering, and skilled trades, and
4. Collect data on secondary migration patterns to support the attraction and mobility of immigrants to smaller centres throughout provinces/territories.
5. Promote immigration in non-urban regions.

Adopted as amended.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

39. 24-Hour Commercial Border Crossing Access

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Accelerate dialogue with U.S. counterparts to provide support for border initiatives and ensure that the hours and services of our border crossings consistently match the U.S. in both traveler and commercial services.
2. Ensure that provinces with high volumes of bilateral trade and corridor traffic have access to sufficient commercial border services and that all provinces have more than a single 24-hour full service commercial port of entry.
3. Ensure border crossings are equipped with efficient and effective security and technology measures, such as full Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) equivalency.

Adopted.

40. Establish a New Proactive Trade Policy in Canada

Recommendations

That the federal government in the model of the Trade Estimates Report by the U.S., conduct an annual inventory of the most important foreign barriers affecting Canadian exports of goods and services, foreign direct investment by residents, and protection of intellectual property rights. Such an inventory will improve awareness and transparency of these trade barriers and allow the business community to collaborate towards improving competitiveness.

Adopted as amended.

41. Securing North American Steel Production and Products through a Unified Position on Section 232 of NAFTA

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Under NAFTA section 232, stress that free and full access to each other's market is the key to avoid reciprocity of a "Buy America" trade stance.
2. Stress to all levels of US Government that a disruption to Canadian markets creates uncertainty in the US market.

Adopted as amended.

42. The Crucial Necessity to Negotiate a Renewed Softwood Lumber Agreement - Supplemental to the 2016 Policy “The Need for a Renewed Softwood Lumber Agreement”

Recommendation

That the federal government:

1. Work closely with provincial/territorial governments to ensure that high value (value added) products, including finger jointed lumber, are exempt as part of any softwood lumber agreement.
2. Must take into account the specificities of the forestry regimes of each province in the context of a possible softwood lumber agreement.

Adopted as amended.

44. Renegotiate a NAFTA Suited for Modern Business and Trade

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Ardently opposes any move toward greater protectionism within NAFTA.
2. Work to modernize NAFTA, recognizing modern business practices and the important contributions of the knowledge economy to Canada's GDP and exports;
3. Seek more, not less trade liberalization among the NAFTA partners.
4. Look to relieve administrative burdens to North America's businesses, with regulatory cooperation and trade facilitation being two important areas for improvement.

Adopted as amended.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

45. Carbon Pricing: An Urgent Need to Balance Competitiveness for Future Sustainability

Recommendations

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

1. Establish a threshold of no-cost emissions based on industry and product specific benchmarks in order to assist in preventing a shift of production to other jurisdictions outside of the country.
2. Implement the study of the rate of carbon leakage by region and sector in order to assess the global impact of our carbon policies.
3. Ensure, interim to the above, that measures to reduce carbon output, put into motion, are supported by a mechanism that relieves industry of carbon costs.

Adopted as amended.

46. Let the Provinces Decide on Transitioning to a Low-Carbon Economy

Recommendations

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce urges the Government of Canada to:

1. Let the provinces decide on how best to approach transitioning to a low carbon economy and refrain from imposing the federal carbon pricing benchmark and backstop.
2. In provinces and territories where a carbon pricing mechanism has already been established, encourage and support cost mitigation programs/policies for affected businesses.

Referred to the Board.

47. Species at Risk: Canadians Working Together to Strike a Balance

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Complete a socio-economic impact assessment prior to listing the species and in conjunction with a scientific assessment being conducted.
2. Ensure stakeholder interests are understood and considered, and inform the development of the plan and its implementation. Stakeholders include all those impacted, including, but not limited to: industry, ENGO's, First Nations and Metis, municipal governments and community-based organizations.
3. Consider a multi-species approach to planning.
4. Include climate change projections within range plans.
5. Include in evaluations and assessments, factors related to population trends including predators, disease and other natural environmental impacts.

Adopted as amended.

48. Improving Federal Environmental Assessment Processes

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Develop a framework fully supporting a “one project, one assessment” approach, that recognizes equivalency when appropriate, for projects that trigger environmental assessment requirements at both the federal and provincial/territorial levels.
2. Respect provincial/territorial jurisdiction by maintaining the current scope of effects considered within federal environmental assessments, and preventing new federal environmental assessment requirements from being created for categories of projects already captured by provincial/territorial assessment requirements.
3. Improve timelines and reduce duplication for environmental assessments by:
 - a. enhancing coordination with provincial/territorial governments,
 - b. working with industry to identify potential efficiencies, and
 - c. adequately resourcing federal scientific support for provincial/territorial governments and federal departments as required throughout the process.
4. Make all information generated during environmental assessments accessible to the public through an online library or registry, which should also provide information about post-assessment monitoring and enforcement.
5. Ensure Indigenous peoples have the capacity to participate in the environmental assessment project review process by enhancing funding for participation and by developing strategies to build longer-term capacity within communities.
6. Engage potentially impacted Indigenous communities as early in the process as possible and jointly determine desired outcomes for consultation and participation.
7. Retain the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* 2012 definition of “interested parties” of public hearing participants as being those directly affected by a given project or those with relevant information or expertise.
8. Coordinate efforts to reform the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* with ongoing efforts to reform the National Energy Board, *Fisheries Act*, and *Species at Risk Act* to ensure appropriate integration between the various reforms, avoid duplicate or conflicting regulatory changes, and prevent harm to Canada’s investment environment.

Adopted.

50. Modernizing the National Energy Board

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Re-examine the role and decision-making criteria of project assessment bodies, in order to update them according to new economic realities.
2. Create an efficient regulator, benefitting from access to technical expertise and industry knowledge, by keeping the headquarters of the NEB in Calgary.
3. Ensure that the NEB's authorization scheme is known, standardized, coherent and, mostly, predictable;
 - a. That it minimizes the number of intermediaries the promoters must contact within various ministries and organizations and avoids duplicating existing processes;
 - b. That it guarantees access to credible data based on fact that do not take into account ideological and minority positions;
 - c. That it makes it possible to support promoters through the life cycle of the project;
4. That it does not focus on the Canadian government's social engagements and fight against climate change within federal authorization procedures for particular projects.

Adopted as amended.

51. A National Competitiveness Strategy for Canada's Natural Resources Industries

Recommendations

That the federal government work with the province and territories to establish a national strategy for the competitiveness of Canada's natural resource industries. This strategy should include:

1. Ensuring that regulatory efficiency and the principle of one project, one regulator remain core to any new federal environmental assessment legislation and processes.
2. Conducting a Pan-Canadian assessment of the costs of doing business in Canada and working with provinces to find areas to reduce costs.
3. Launching discussions on competitiveness impacts of the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change with provinces, business and other stakeholders before 2020.

Adopted as amended.

52. Fair Competition Among Canada's Certified Forests in Green Building

Recommendations

That the federal government Continue to support the use of green building principles and criteria in the construction of new federal buildings, renovations, additions or such projects funded by the federal government (in whole or in part).

Adopted as amended.

53. Protecting Canada's Fresh Waters from Zebra and Quagga Mussels

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Fully engage in the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region's Invasive Species Working Group to help implement the recommendations in the framework for Advancing a Regional Defense Against Zebra and Quagga Mussels in the Pacific Northwest.
2. Institute mandatory inspections of all watercraft entering Canada from the United States.
3. Establish full-time seasonal inspections at major provincial crossings in Banff and Jasper National Parks.
4. Support provinces that are already mussel-infested (Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba) to develop and implement a containment-at-source strategy for invasive mussels.
5. Match provincial spending on invasive mussel inspection stations dollar for dollar.
6. Prioritize research and education in relation to invasive-mussel prevention, containment, control and eradication methods.

Adopted as amended.

54. The Importance of Expanded Oil Pipeline Infrastructure to the Economy

Recommendations

That the Federal Government, working with the Government of British Columbia and the Government of Alberta:

1. Continues to supports the Trans Mountain Expansion Project to ensure that the project meets its commitment to deliver jobs and economic benefits and fulfills its regulatory requirements during the construction and operation of the pipeline; and
2. Engages Chambers and other organizations from communities hosting the pipeline to maximize opportunities for Canadian businesses during construction and operation of the project, including increased opportunities for First Nations participation.

Adopted.

SOCIAL POLICY

55. A Focus on a National Youth Entrepreneurship Strategy

Recommendation

That the federal government work with provincial and territorial governments to create a comprehensive national youth entrepreneurship strategy, using best practices such as those recommended by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Policy Guide.

Adopted.

57. Enabling and Protecting the Next Generation of Entrepreneurs

Recommendations

That the federal government, working with the provincial government:

1. Create a vehicle to allow entrepreneurs under the age of majority to more fully participate in the management and governance of a company;
2. Investigate options to ensure the appropriate level of protections are put in place for youth and the public, with an emphasis on working with insurance providers on D&O insurance options;
3. Based on level of participation and protection (if not full participation), a mechanism to transition at age of majority.

Adopted as amended.

58. RCMP the Line of First Defence and Resource of Last Resort

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Conduct a thorough analysis to ensure that funding of the RCMP is adequate, fair and equitable for rural, municipal and indigenous communities; and
2. Together with the RCMP and the provincial/territorial governments, work diligently and with urgency to examine and alleviate those issues that have an impact on the productivity of the Force as well as the wellbeing of their members.
3. Collaborate with the provinces managing provincial forces – Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador and Ontario – on addressing operational issues within the RCMP, Sûreté du Québec, Ontario Provincial Police, and Royal Newfoundland Constabulary.

Adopted as amended.

59. First Nations Land Title Initiative

Recommendations

That the federal government collaborate with First Nations to develop:

1. Land Title Initiative legislation in which they would have the option to adopt to improve land tenure certainty for their undisputed lands; and
2. Systems to support First Nations choosing to opt into the legislation.

Adopted.

SPECIAL ISSUES

60. Supporting Canadian Agri-Food to Meet Global Demand

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. In cooperation with the provinces/territories, construct a science-based, risk-based and balanced regulatory regime across the national agri-food sector;
2. Establish an Agri-Food Economic Growth Council to formulate a national strategy for economic growth with representation from the provinces and territories;
3. Ensure alignment with the provinces, post-secondary institutions and other related agencies to optimize research capabilities and maintain consistency with domestic and global priorities;
4. Increase exports of food processing technology through advanced manufacturing and growing processes applied in other sectors of the Canadian economy.
5. Adopt the recommendation of the Advisory Council on Economic Growth that the Canadian Agri Food Sector work to become a global leader in providing trusted safe nutritious food to the world while minimizing impact on national capital
6. Establish a mechanism to facilitate private sector leadership and align it in support of this vision
7. Conduct a review of the regulatory process of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Health Canada with a view to improving timeliness of reviews of new products without compromising health and safety of citizens.

Adopted as amended.

61. Improving Regulatory Processes to Support the Growth of Agribusiness

Recommendations

That the federal government work collaboratively with provincial/territorial and federal inspection agencies to effect positive changes to food safety outcome inspections, enabling processors to compete more efficiently in both domestic and international markets:

1. To support a single industry food-safety outcome that can be implemented with consistency and cost effectiveness across Canada by the provinces/territories, with each provincial/territorial regulator subject to Canadian Food Inspection Agency oversight.
2. The food safety regulations need to be reviewed for relevancy and modified/broadened if current criteria are unnecessarily restrictive and insensitive to sound business interests.
3. The implementation must be consistent and cost-effective throughout the food distribution chain, without compromising Canada's reputation for high food safety standards
4. To encourage the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and provincial/territorial agencies to shift away from a rules-based regulatory regime to an outcomes-based food safety discipline.
5. Reassess inspection and regulatory costs and how they are allocated, to enable processors to trade across provincial or national borders, without being at a competitive disadvantage.

Adopted.

62. Revisit the 30-Year Old Health Act to Address Looming Crisis

Recommendations

That the federal government in partnership with provinces and territories

1. Renew the Canada Health Act to provide an up to date framework that will support a sustainable and modern health system including expanded treatment options, access to private sector services, and the possibility of an income-based health services deductible.
2. Review accountability measures, defined and designed to reduce or eliminate inappropriate or excessive use of health services in the Canadian system. There must be however no barrier to access and defined exceptionality to reduce exposure to catastrophic cost.
3. Collaborate on purchasing and regulation to reduce prescription drug costs in an effort to ensure that all patients can benefit from the full therapeutic effects of pharmaceutical treatment, irrespective of income levels or province of residence.

Adopted as amended.

65. Attracting International Tourists to Benefit Canada's Regions and SMEs

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Review the market efficiencies between Destination Canada, provincial/territorial and local/regional organizations in order to maximize the returns on total funds invested.
2. Move Destination Canada from Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada to Global Affairs Canada to ensure a better focus on tourism as an export commodity.
3. As a result of the review, establish a globally competitive tourism budget that encourages private sector investment, public private partnerships and leverages provincial, regional and local public monies invested in advancing tourism.

Adopted as amended.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

66. Supporting Bill S-229: Underground Infrastructure Safety Enhancement Act

Recommendation

That the federal government support Bill S-229: Underground Infrastructure Safety Enhancement Act.

Adopted.

67. Keep Pacific Gateway Business Moving

Recommendations

That the federal government work with the provincial government to:

1. Recognize the priority of the Fraser Valley portion of Hwy. 1 as a major economic enabler and establish a higher priority timetable for necessary widening and upgrades from 264th Street in phases to Whatcom Road in Abbotsford and then to Hope.
2. Ensure that a funding commitment is made by both levels of government to ensure timely project completion.
3. Revise and update the Pacific Gateway Transportation Plan to reflect the shifting base of industrial and commercial activity into the Fraser Valley.

Adopted.

68. Supporting New Investment in Infrastructure to Enhance Canada's Asia Pacific Gateway Initiative

Recommendations

Therefore, this Resolution proposes that the Gateway be reinvigorated by the following action items:

1. That the following recommendation from Chapter 3, Linking Trade and Transportation, of the 2016 Canada Transportation Act Review (known as The Emerson Report) be implemented: "the Government of Canada renew the Ministerial mandate for Gateway and Corridor strategies in order to provide leadership on efforts to link trade and transportation and consider budgetary allocations to support investment in transport corridors"
2. That the Government of Canada review the past ten years of the APGCI and strategic investments to reinvigorate the Asia Pacific Gateway Canada Initiative from the perspective of leveraging opportunities outside of the existing corridor to provide resiliency, mitigate environmental impacts and create wider-reaching economic impacts.
3. That the Governments of Canada and British Columbia invest in key strategic infrastructure improvements and developments related to inland ports and multimodal hubs that offer opportunities to attract investment such as the proposed new Port Alberni Transshipment Hub ("PATH") located south of Port Alberni BC.
4. That the Governments of Canada and British Columbia develop a reinvigorated and revitalized new APGCI Strategy to meet the evolved needs of the Gateway and international trade.

Adopted as amended.

69. Empower Municipalities to Maintain Essential Infrastructure and Link Investments to Economic Growth

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Develop an infrastructure strategy that ensures that the criteria for Phase 2 funding is evidence based so that core infrastructure investments are linked to productivity performance and enhancement, economic growth and job creation;
2. Deliver an increased share of the existing federal infrastructure funding through programs like the Gas Tax Fund so municipalities can invest in local and evidence-based priority projects;
3. Recognize the many years of critical capital planning and prioritization work already undertaken by municipal asset management plans and work with both the provincial and municipal governments on a flexible approach by not imposing “incrementality” requirements for project eligibility;

Adopted as amended.

70. Protecting the National Economy by Managing the Lower Fraser River

Recommendation

That the federal government bring together relevant stakeholders to develop a collaborative strategy to address long term funding and management requirements to maintain the continuous flow of commerce to and from foreign markets and maintain, protect, and further improve the sustainability of marine transportation resources such as the Lower Fraser River and other nationally significant port authorities.

Adopted as amended.

71. Port and Major Airport Share Capitalization

Recommendations

That the Federal Government:

1. Engage directly with stakeholders and industry experts before any further discussions regarding changes to the governance models of Canada's major transportation infrastructure;
2. Maintain a competitive and responsibly governed transportation industry by refraining from forced share capitalization of these assets; and
3. Focus government attention on improving the competitiveness of our airports and ports cost structure, including appropriate funding programs to ensure safe and secure operation of our nation's transportation infrastructure.

Adopted as amended.

72. Obsolescence of Canadian Icebreakers

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Meet the interim needs of the CCG while awaiting the construction of new vessels by ensuring that its next budget includes enough money to allow the CCG to raise the availability level of the icebreaker fleet across the nation so that the actual service level meets required standards.
2. Secure the icebreaker services of European countries, an interim solution relatively fast to deploy.

Adopted as amended.

73. Reduce Costs to Improve Canadian Aviation Competitiveness

Recommendations

In order to improve the competitiveness of Canada's aviation sector, the federal government must:

1. Immediately examine the cost structure of government-imposed fees on the airlines and airports in Canada with the goal of reducing costs and stimulating the aviation sector.
2. Halt the offloading of additional costs onto Canada's aviation sector and its travelers.
3. Develop policies designed to mitigate the impact of the transportation surcharges and fee differentials in Canada by incorporating the results of the examination (as per recommendation number one).
4. Move immediately to eliminate airport rents where they still exist.
5. Revise the Airports Capital Assistance Program with a view to improving the quality of regional airport services, expanding air service to regions and ensuring economic development.

Adopted.

74. Trucking Disruption of Terminal Operations at Port of Vancouver

Recommendations

That the federal government with the relevant provincial/territorial governments:

1. Undertake a comprehensive rapid review of the 2014 *Joint Action Plan* to develop a long-term sustainable solution;
2. Ensure that revisions incorporate relevant data transparency and mutual accountability of supply chain participants to optimize efficiency and improve cost competitiveness for the entire supply chain; and
3. Include relevant industry representation throughout the review and implementation process in order to provide the necessary context and help ensure the resulting revisions are practical and will achieve long-term stability.

Adopted.

75. First Nations Infrastructure Institution

Recommendation

That the federal government collaborate with First Nations to develop legislation for a First Nations Infrastructure Institution dedicated to improving the process of developing infrastructure on First Nations lands.

Adopted.

76. Facilitating the Development and Deployment of Autonomous Vehicles in Canada

Recommendations

To support the development and deployment of autonomous transportation technologies in Canada, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce recommends that the federal government:

1. Work with provinces, municipalities, and industry to develop a national regulatory and standards framework that provides flexibility for the testing and deployment of autonomous vehicles in Canada. The Framework should provide a platform for cross-jurisdictional discussions about emerging policy issues related to autonomous transportation including, but not limited to, privacy and Canada's preparedness and response to cyber threats.
2. Prioritize autonomous transportation in the government's innovation agenda to help coordinate research initiatives, guide Canada's long-term investments in transportation technologies and create smart incentives to private sector investment in transportation innovation and technology.
3. Include an innovation lens in federal infrastructure programs to inform public and private infrastructure investment decisions that will facilitate the introduction of innovation and technology in the transportation sector, including but not limited to autonomous vehicle deployment.

Adopted.

Selection Criteria for Federal Offices

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Direct public services and procurement Canada (PSPC) to establish clear performance criteria for federal facilities in rural communities.
2. Submit an economic impact analysis to PSPC and consult with impacted communities prior to any decision by a federal department on relocating a federal facility.

Adopted.