

Liberal Party of Canada
81 Metcalfe Street, Suite 400
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6M8

October 3, 2008

Wendy Fucile, RN, BScN, MPA, CHE
President
Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario
158 Pearl St.
Toronto Ontario M5H 1L3

Dear Ms. Fucile,

Enclosed, please find the Liberal Party response to your questionnaire.

For more information on the Liberal Party of Canada's vision for Canada, please take a moment to review our platform online at www.liberal.ca. This document provides details on Liberal goals and priorities.

On behalf of our Leader, Stéphane Dion, and the entire Liberal team, thank you for writing to identify the major concerns of your membership. We appreciate your interest in the Liberal Party's policies as they relate to the issues which affect you.

Sincerely,

Doug Ferguson, President
Liberal Party of Canada



A Liberal Response to the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario

- 1. Will you and your Party commit to develop and implement a comprehensive anti-poverty strategy with the target of a 25 per cent reduction in the national child poverty rate over the next five years and a 50 per cent reduction over 10 years?**

Yes **X** No

- 2. Will you and your Party commit to achieve deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions of at least 25 per cent from 1990 levels by 2020 and get Canada back on track to meeting its international obligations under the Kyoto Protocol?**

Yes **X** No

Climate change may well be the most pressing challenge of our time. But it also presents a rare opportunity. By encouraging energy-efficient and clean technologies and practices today, Canada can be a leader in the economy of tomorrow. The Liberal Green Shift is the foundation of a national climate change plan, one that puts a price on carbon and addresses the carbon pollution that is produced by all sectors of our economy and is stored in our natural spaces.

To set a clear path for ourselves, and be taken seriously internationally, we need to establish firm targets to cut emissions in the short, medium and long term. A Liberal government will:

- respect our commitments and international obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions to at least 20 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020, and increasing this goal to at least 25 per cent if other countries make comparable efforts;
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 40 per cent below 1990 emission levels by 2035
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 60 to 80 per cent below 1990 emission levels by 2050.

These targets are tough but achievable. They are also consistent with those of other leading jurisdictions. Most important, they are what scientific experts tell us is required to avert the dangers of climate change and protect human health. Inspired by that goal, a Liberal government will enact a plan to ensure that Canada reaches these targets, making Canada a world leader in global environmental citizenship.

3. Will you and your Party commit to safeguarding Canadians' food supply by hiring 1,000 additional inspectors and veterinarians to improve compliance and by placing an immediate moratorium on industry self-regulation?

A new Liberal government is committed to investing an additional \$50 million to build a more robust food safety net. This will include the hiring of an additional 100 inspectors who will ensure our food is safe when it reaches store shelves.

In addition, to ensure the long-term strength of the food safety system a new Liberal government will conduct a food safety review. This will also ensure that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has the right number of inspectors and resources on an ongoing basis.

By recruiting more inspectors, ensuring inspectors have access to the best technology and expanding inspection efforts of both home-grown and imported foods, Canadians will be able to have greater faith in the food they and their families eat. More inspection means more safety for all Canadians.

4. Will you and your Party commit to enforcing the *Canada Health Act* and stopping the growth of two-tier health-care by using the federal government's power to withhold health transfers when violations occur?

Yes No

5. Will you and your Party commit to introducing a national, publicly funded and publicly controlled pharmacare program covering essential drugs so Canadians can be protected from skyrocketing drug costs?

Yes No

6. Will you and your Party commit to invest the \$135 million per year required to expand nursing education and \$250 million to create the 10,000 new full-time RN positions needed across Canada?

A new Liberal government will invest \$420 million to create a Doctors and Nurses Fund to help ensure all Canadians have access to a medical professional. The Fund will be used to:

- increase the capacity to train and graduate doctors, nurses and medical technicians;
- remove bottlenecks that currently slow the process of licensing new health care professionals;
- provide financial support to assist foreign-trained health professionals in obtaining their Canadian qualifications more quickly; and,

- reward medical students choosing needed specialties such as family medicine, rural medicine, and geriatrics.

To help under-serviced communities attract more doctors and nurses, a new Liberal government will also provide incentives to health care professionals who agree to serve in those communities.

7. Will you and your Party commit to ensure all international and inter-provincial trade and investment agreements include strong protections for health care, environment, human rights, social programs and labour standards and do not restrict governments' ability to regulate in the public interest?

Yes No

The Liberal party agrees that trade negotiations have to be conducted in a transparent and open manner. Rest assured that we will protect our standards in health care, environment, human rights, social programs and labour and will not throw away our ability to stand up for the public interest.