

ONTARIO YOUNG LIBERALS

2016 Summer Fling — Prioritized Policies

Provincial

ELIMINATING THE STUDENT MINIMUM WAGE AND GIVING EQUAL PAY TO YOUTH

WHEREAS students in Ontario under the age of 18 who work 28 hours a week or below are paid an hourly rate of \$0.70 less than the general minimum wage;

WHEREAS “The Three-Hour Rule” in Ontario is defined as:

When an employee who regularly works more than three hours a day is required to report to work but works less than three hours, he or she must be paid whichever of the following amounts is the highest:

- three hours at the minimum wage,
- or
- the employee’s regular wage for the time worked;

WHEREAS “The Three-Hour Rule” does not apply to students (including students over 18 years of age);

WHEREAS Ontario is the only province or territory in Canada that currently has a youth or student minimum wage and;

WHEREAS other territories and provinces had youth minimum wages but repealed them after the introduction of the Charter or Rights and Freedoms;

WHEREAS the Canadian Constitution puts it in the provinces and territories control to set and regulate minimum wages;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the government of Ontario changes the law so that students are paid the same hourly minimum wage as non-students and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the government of Ontario changes the law so that “The Three-Hour Rule” applies to all youth and students.

ONTARIO HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN (OHIP) CARD TO BE INSTATED AS A VALID PIECE OF IDENTIFICATION

WHEREAS almost all provinces and territories in Canada accept the health card as a valid piece of identification;

WHEREAS the health card expires on a maximum five year basis which gives enough time for Ontarians age 16 and over to reissue their health cards with the new changes;

WHEREAS the health card is issued with photo identification at the age of 16;

WHEREAS over 1.5 million Ontarians over the age of 16 do not have driver’s licenses and do not keep their Social Insurance Numbers and Passports on hand at all times;

WHEREAS the health card fulfills all the requirements to be valid identification;

WHEREAS Ontarians are not allowed to own both an Ontario Photo Card and an Ontario Driver's Licence as one would cancel the other out.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Health Insurance Plan Card is issued and instated to be a valid form of identification;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the OHIP Card is reinstated with the address and all cards to to be fixed and issued with the new changes by time of the current card’s expiry date;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the OHIP Card is used upon the owner's consent and it is their choice whether to use it as a valid piece of identification.

Federal

HARM REDUCTION THROUGH THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF DRUG POSSESSION

WHEREAS Based on a report written by the Home Office civil servants in the United Kingdom, there is no clear relationship between the toughness of a country's drug possession laws and levels of drug use in that country. In countries where possession has been decriminalized, drug rates have not followed any particular trend of augmentation;

WHEREAS Portugal, a country who decriminalized small drug possession in 2001, documents 3 overdose deaths per million compared to a European Union average of 17.3 (2014). This shows a direct correlation between decriminalization and use of harm reduction strategies. A health based approach to drug addiction would be particularly beneficial to young Ontarians, as 1 of every 8 deaths of Ontarians aged 25 to 34 is related to opioid use;

WHEREAS Drug users are vulnerable to HIV/AIDS due to frequent sharing of needles. With Portugal's model of decriminalization, the rate of new HIV infections have fallen from 1, 016 new cases in 2001 to only 56 in 2012. Many experts believe this reduction could be due to a reduced stigma of drug use after decriminalization;

WHEREAS Possession related offences in Canada result in custody as part of the sentence in 25% of guilty cases. The imposition of a fine occurs in approximately 33% of drug possession cases. In 2013, drug-related violations accounted for approximately 5% of all incidents reported to police, at a rate of 310 per 100, 000 population. Possession charges not only drain our courts and take up a significant portion of the police's resources, they also criminalize and fine vulnerable people;

WHEREAS Canadians with a mental illness are twice as likely to have a substance abuse problem compared to the general population, and people with substance abuse problems are up to 3 times more likely to have a mental illness. Criminalizing drug possession unfairly targets those with mental illness.

BE IT RESOLVED that personal possession of drugs be decriminalized with the goal of eliminating the criminalization of addicts, aiding in the rehabilitation of

addicts, reducing risks related to drug use, and aiming public resources at fighting traffickers in lieu of drug users.

CREATING SHELTERS FOR MALE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

WHEREAS Statistics Canada states that up to thirty-two percent of police-reported domestic violence victims are male and;

WHEREAS there virtually no shelters dedicated to helping male victims of domestic violence in all of Canada;

WHEREAS the federal government and many provincial governments provide funding for shelters dedicated to helping female victims of domestic violence and;

WHEREAS there are six-hundred and twenty-seven shelters for abused women across Canada as reported by Statistics Canada in 2014;

WHEREAS male victims of domestic violence face stigmas preventing them from coming forward and reporting their abuse and are significantly less likely to report to the police than female victims of domestic violence;

WHEREAS creating shelters for male victims of domestic violence would help decrease these stigmas and encourage more male domestic abuse victims to seek help.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the government of Canada commit to funding the creation and sustainability of shelters for male victims of domestic violence in all thirteen provinces and territories in Canada.