

## **Five policy directives to take the country in a better direction**

While we appreciate that there are many issues facing government and that not everything can be addressed at once, should the Conservative Party form the next government, we offer five easy-to-understand policy priorities that, if acted upon, will help to identify a "conservative" worthy of the trust of the Canadian electorate.

We believe these policies will lead to a prosperous Canada, strong and free. *It is no accident that the one unifying theme to these policies is that their enactments are necessary to protect, sustain and nourish Canadian families and ultimately, Canada itself.*

### **i. CBC and Media**

**Policy Objectives:** 1) encourage and strengthen independent media news/entertainment programming; 2) save taxpayer dollars; 3) reduce National Debt; 4) encourage free speech and debate which are essential in a "free and democratic society" free from any suggestion of government interference.

**Policy Action Items:** 1) defund CBC; 2) sell-off CBC assets to maximize return; 3) proceeds of CBC asset sale be applied to reduce National Debt; 4) stop media funding by eliminating media tax credits; 5) eliminate Canada Media Fund and Canada Periodical Fund; and 6) repeal the *Online Streaming Act* (Bill C-11) in its entirety.

### **ii. Economic Recovery**

**Policy Objectives:** to support and ensure a free, dynamic and growing economy; to emphasize and remember that "government money" is taxpayers' money and that government is a steward of that money, with a moral obligation to spend that money wisely, and to be accountable for how it is spent.

**Policy Action Items:** 1) end corporate welfare, no more subsidies; 2) repeal carbon tax; 3) allow development of infrastructure by private sector to encourage energy sectors in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan; 4) no more deficit spending; and 5) downsize government and prioritize government spending so that expenses are equal to revenues.

### **iii. Repeal MAiD**

**Policy Objectives:** 1) stop the institutionalization of death; 2) replace MAiD regime with hospice care and support

**Policy Action Items:** 1) repeal current MAiD regime in *Criminal Code* and re-instate prohibition against assisted suicide to protect the vulnerable; 2) apply s. 33 of the Charter to overturn the *Carter* decision; 3) provide funding under the *Canada Health Act* for expanded hospice care; 4) support and encourage health care professionals education that recognizes that the goal of the health care professions is to first and foremost do no harm which is recognized by preserving and protecting human life, relieving suffering and promoting healing

**iv. Equal treatment for Women**

**Policy Objectives:** support for women and families

**Policy Action Items:** 1) provide funding to advocacy groups—pregnancy crisis centres and pro-family support groups

**v. Restoring Faith in Democratic Institutions**

**Policy Objectives:** 1) restore faith and confidence in Canada's democratic institutions; 2) protect and enhance Canada's sovereignty

**Policy Action Items:** 1) stop lying; 2) independent Public Inquiry into Chinese interference in elections, government institutions, political parties, academic and research facilities and the Trudeau Foundation; 3) stop prosecutions and/or pardon Freedom Convoy leadership and members; 4) eliminate the Court Challenges Programme; and 5) enforce Conflict of Interest laws, including the *Lobbying Act*, and establish a meaningful and legitimate Foreign Agent Registry

**Moving beyond the *status quo***

The above five policy priorities are by no means exhaustive of what needs to be done if Canada is to not only survive but flourish as a free, democratic, and compassionate society. Clearly, some of these priorities overlap, such as CBC/Media reform and restoring faith in democratic institutions.

## Policy Priority - CBC and Media

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**Policy Action Items:** 1) defund CBC; 2) sell-off CBC assets to maximize return; 3) proceeds of CBC asset sale be applied to reduce National Debt; 4) stop media funding by eliminating media tax credits; 5) eliminate Canada Media Fund and Canada Periodical Fund; and 6) repeal the *Online Streaming Act* (Bill C-11) in its entirety.

It is so obvious that we often forget that a free and democratic society can only exist to the extent that its people are free to exchange ideas and debate those ideas without fear of government interference or sanction. In the Public Square, nothing guarantees that “truth will out” more than the freedom to exchange and debate ideas, no matter how repugnant those ideas might be to one’s personal beliefs and opinions.

### Truth is an Objective Reality

Truth, despite the Left’s claims to the contrary, is an objective reality.  $2 + 2$  will always equal 4. There are only two biological sexes. Killing of innocent human life is intrinsically evil.

Science, which by its very nature is never “settled”, is always open to a better understanding of reality. As such, scientific enquiry can only be legitimately undertaken in an environment free from the restraints of “political” agendas—only constrained by such ethical norms as found in the *Nuremberg Code*. One wonders how many scientific breakthroughs are not being made today because of institutional or ideological blinders preventing the questioning of *status quo* beliefs which support *status quo* funding?

The free exchange of ideas is the *sine quo non* to policy development in the public interest and not the interests of a particular political party or lobby. There are far too many competing agenda and backroom dealings prevalent in government policy discussions. The ability to freely criticize those discussions is paramount in insuring that such policies are in the public interest and that government is held accountable.

Political Parties, as much as government itself, *i.e.*, the bureaucracy, have a vested interest in not only getting their narrative (spin) established, but more importantly in controlling that narrative. Control the Press, you control the story. Censorship isn’t only concerned with deleting opposing views, it is also very much concerned with ensuring that your version of events is seen to be the only explanation of reality which ultimately is then used to justify

government “action” and control. When only one version of events is offered as “truth”, that is called propaganda.

### **Canadian Broadcasting Corporation**

Which brings us to the CBC. When the CBC was created in 1936, it was as a radio network that took over existing radio stations established by the Canadian National Railway. CBC Television wasn’t created until 1952. Since then, technology and demographics have rendered the CBC obsolete.

By any reasonable metric, today’s CBC is an abject failure.

Even if you put aside the CBC’s dismal viewership/listenership ratings, the CBC has such a marked left-wing bias that it doesn’t even meet its statutory obligations under the *Broadcasting Act* to “reflect Canada and its regions to national and regional audiences”.

If you think this is an exaggeration, ask yourself when was the last time you saw a conservative or pro-life viewpoint news commentary programme or a programme that positively reflected Judaeo-Christian values, or celebrated Canada’s English/French heritage and founding? Does the CBC produce such shows as “In conversation with Jordan B. Peterson” or how about “Canadian Conscience with Rex Murphy” or similar shows? Of course, it doesn’t.

The CBC is nothing more than a mouthpiece for Club Laurentian and the house organ for the ruling elite. The CBC not only needs to be defunded, its assets, including its lucrative real estate portfolio, needs to be sold off and the proceeds applied directly to reducing the National Debt.

### **Government Funding of Media**

Similarly, as a free and independent press is essential to a free and democratic society, government has no business funding media. Media reportage, if it is to be given any credibility, must be above reproach in terms of its funders and the expectation that necessarily arise from those funders.

In a free and democratic society, the media should compete for its audience/readership. If you produce a good product, be it the proverbial better mouse trap or a newspaper of objective record, people will consume your product. The real problem with the media in this country is very simple: the Legacy Media aren’t producing content that people want to buy, let alone read/listen to. Moreover, the Legacy Media has long ago stopped reporting the “news” and instead have settled to be mere conveyors of the government’s *récit de la journée*.

Moreover, the threat of bureaucratic censorship via the CRTC requires that the *Online Streaming Act* be repealed in its entirety. The current temper tantrums between Facebook and Google on the one hand and the federal government on the other are a sideshow. The real agenda at work here is the complete

control over “news” and the internet that Canadians have or don’t have access to.

### **The Media-Industrial Complex**

It is not paranoia to understand that governments want to control what you read or see—the only way governments can effectively control the narrative is by controlling the means by which the narrative is published. In other words, the best way to achieve control is through funding—he who pays the piper calls the tune!

The only way to expose the lies, falsehoods and fake news being pushed in the Public Square is by the free exchange of ideas and opinions and not by censorship or controlling the narrative.

United States President, Dwight Eisenhower, warned in his 1961 farewell address of the dangers of the “military-industrial complex”—the union of the arms industry and government which endangers freedom and the democratic process.

Sixty-two years later, that military-industrial complex has been mirrored in the media-industrial complex—a collusion between media and government that is so seamless that at times it is difficult to tell them apart. Just as our current Prime Minister’s father once reportedly quipped that “the state has no business in the bedrooms of the nation”; so too, might we quip that “the state has no business in the newsrooms or editorial boardrooms of the nation.”

### **Public Support for Media Defunding and Competition**

Lest those in the Conservative Party get cold feet and think that media defunding is a “no go” amongst Canadians (because they get their “news” from the CBC!), a recent poll (July 13) by Angus Reid indicated that a majority of Canadians oppose government funding of media. In addition, most Canadians believe that the consolidation of news outlets should be discouraged in order to maintain healthy competition in the industry. Government defunding and competition are two objectives that resonate with voters.

When those in media and government already share a sympathetic worldview, together with a tacit agreement as to the role and purpose of the state, it becomes increasingly difficult, if not impossible, for the media to fulfil its essential purpose in a free and democratic society, namely, to hold those in power accountable. The only way to ensure journalistic integrity in fulfilling its mission is ZERO government funding and competition for readership. Clearly two objectives that a majority of Canadians are already in agreement with.

## **Policy Priority - Economic Recovery**

**Policy Objectives:** to support and ensure a free, dynamic and growing economy; to emphasize and remember that “government money” is taxpayers’ money and that government is a steward of that money, with a moral obligation to spend that money wisely, and to be accountable for how it is spent.

**Policy Action Items:** 1) end corporate welfare, no more subsidies; 2) repeal carbon tax; 3) allow development of infrastructure by private sector to encourage energy sectors in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan; 4) no more deficit spending; and 5) downsize government and prioritize government spending so that expenses are equal to revenues.

At the outset, let’s get one thing straight: Government money is taxpayer money. Period. Government does not create wealth; it can only redistribute it. Government doesn’t “earn” money the way ordinary Canadians do—through the voluntary exchange of services for wages or the creation of the “better mouse trap.” No, government “earns” its money through mandatory confiscation of your property.

Governments’ ultimate source of revenue is the taxpayer—money that hard-working Canadians are coerced to pay in the form of taxes (income, excise, PST, GST, HST, carbon taxes, estate taxes, etc.) and user fees. Much to the dismay of statisticians, there is no magic money tree that governments can harvest to raise revenue—governments’ only recourse is to pick the pockets of taxpayers. Thus, when we see or hear advertisements saying that “this message has been brought to you by the Government of <insert level of government here> it really should be “this message has been brought to you by the Taxpayers of <insert level of government here>.”

### **Economic Freedom Inseparably Linked with Political Freedom**

Given the size, levels of, and its taxing power, governments’ impact on the economy and our political freedoms is enormous.

Accordingly, we would do well to remember the simple axiom that political freedom is commensurate with economic freedom. The less economic freedom one has the less political freedom. This means that government interference in the economy through taxation, regulation or the freezing of innocent Canadians’ bank accounts has a direct bearing on political freedoms.

That is not to say that there is not a legitimate role for government to play in the economy, but that role is limited to ensuring that markets are free from manipulation and fraud. Government does not have the wisdom or prescience to pick winners and losers in any sector of economic activity. Government “investment”—whether it is in battery factories, pipelines, or media

newsrooms, is nothing but political graft and corruption masquerading as “government stimulus”. Corporate welfare must stop. Moreover, mandated economic interference such as the Electric Vehicle mandates, need to be rescinded. The most economically efficient way to sort out the viability of EVs is through the free market, unimpeded by false and distorting pricing signals of government subsidies. These fundamental market/social changes ought to be the result of consumer demand, not government dicta.

### **Immorality of Deficit Spending**

Deficit spending means a number of things, including: spending more than you earn; poor allocation of limited resources; corruption; and taxing the next generation(s) for poor decisions made today.

Of the four examples given above, perhaps the last one is the most egregious, that of taxing future generations. Deficit spending represents, in effect, taxation without representation, a direct violation of the requirement of the consent of the governed which is necessary to give government its legitimacy.

Deficits by their very nature are an attack upon not only government’s legitimacy but are also an existential threat to the country’s survival. Running up deficits year after year as the Trudeau regime has done, has consequences. A report (“Examining Federal Debt in Canada by Prime Ministers Since Confederation” July 2022) from the Fraser Institute noted that since Justin Trudeau came to office, federal per-person debt (each person’s share of the national debt) has increased by 35.3% between 2015 and 2022 and now stands at some \$47,070 per person. Given Trudeau’s continuing economic policy disasters and spendthrift ways, that debt will only increase and continue to take the country in a direction that a clear majority of Canadians know to be the wrong direction.

Quite apart from inter-generational legitimacy, a government that can’t meet its debt obligations is a government that can’t be trusted. Trust, whether we like to acknowledge it or not, is the lifeblood of democratic institutions and the country as a whole. The extent to which a government continues and normalizes deficit spending, making promises that future generations will be burdened with is a government that cannot be trusted.

### **Cutting Waste in Government**

The Nobel winning economist Milton Friedman’s observation that “Nobody spends somebody else’s money as carefully as he spends his own” provides a keen insight into the chief problem with government spending: government is not spending its own money.

Moreover, as economic resources are limited, whatever government takes out of the economy through taxes means that there are less resources available in the private sector for spending and saving opportunities. This is true whether

you are a corporation or entrepreneur looking to invest in a new plant or product, or an individual or family looking to save and invest in a house, an education or retirement.

Despite government's incompetence at spending, one thing government does do very well is waste money. Reports from the Auditor General are rife with multiple examples of cost overruns and failed programmes. Indeed, a week does not go by where there are not stories about the latest government boondoggle, whether its failed bilingual targets despite spending \$7.7 billion since 2004, misappropriations in defence spending, or extravagant spending on hotel rooms and travel.

The two easiest ways to stop wasteful government spending are: (1) to stop government spending; and (2) limit government spending to essential areas, such as defence, with appropriate accountability including transparency in bidding and establishment of failure standards to hold politicians and bureaucrats accountable for cost overruns and programme failures.

## **Inflation**

There is no greater "hidden tax" than inflation. Consumers and taxpayers are the hardest hit by inflation. In contrast, government benefits the most from inflation for two reasons. First, because it pushes taxpayers into higher tax brackets (bracket creep). Second, because government "prints" the money, it gets to spend the inflated money first, in effect at its then current value before it begins circulating and subsequently becomes worth less and less due to the increase in the amount of money in circulation.

Apart from defence of the realm, there is no more higher duty or obligation imposed on government than to ensure a stable money supply. Government policies that encourage and promote inflation, such as automatic tax/spending increases and deficit spending, ought to be forbidden, except in time of actual war.

## **Psychology and the Economy**

At the end of the day, a healthy economy is as much a matter of psychology (positive thought) and consumer confidence. Government economic policy ought to be animated to ensure both by cutting government spending, lowering taxes, avoiding deficit spending, and paying off the national debt.

Government policy ought to be focused on growing the middle class, which means stable families and rewarding individual initiative and hard work. One of the most efficient means of signalling government's awareness of its responsibilities to the middle class (which includes lower income Canadians) is not only tax reduction together with the outright elimination of regressive taxes such as the Carbon Tax, excise tax and the new (2022) Underused Housing Tax, but also with meaningful tax reform that eliminates automatic

tax increases and pay increases for members of Parliament (a cause of inflationary pressure) but also aimed at simplifying the paperwork required to file one's annual income tax return.

There is no better path to ensure and promote a healthy economy than by transparency, accountability and a government living within its means. Such a path is discovered and navigated by recognizing two undeniable realities: first, there is a difference between "wants" and "needs". We all want things, but what we need is actually a fraction of what we want; and second, the recognition that government cannot centrally plan an economy to be prosperous—only free individuals meeting their familiar and social obligations through voluntary exchanges of time, talent and value can provide for a healthy, vibrant and sustainable economy.

## **Policy Priority – Repeal MAiD**

**Policy Objectives:** 1) stop the institutionalization of death; 2) replace MAiD regime with palliative care and support

**Policy Action Items:** 1) repeal current MAiD regime in *Criminal Code* and re-instate prohibition against assisted suicide to protect the vulnerable; 2) apply s. 33 of the Charter to overturn the *Carter* decision; 3) provide funding under the *Canada Health Act* for expanded palliative care; 4) support and encourage health care professionals' education that recognizes that the goal of the health care professions is to first and foremost do no harm which is recognized by preserving and protecting human life, relieving suffering and promoting healing

The UK's *Daily Mail* reported on 13 August 2023 that Quebec's *La Commission sur les soins de fin de vie/Commission on End-of-life Care* has "put the brakes" on Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) by suggesting that physicians remain within the law on MAiD. The request was made in the wake of a 55% rise in euthanasia cases between 2021 and 2022 (3,102 cases in 2021 to 4,810 in 2022). According to the *Daily Mail*, "Canada is on track to record some 13,500 state-sanctioned suicides in 2022, a 34 percent rise on the previous year". Similar stories also appeared in the CBC and *National Review*.

The reaction from the pro-death lobby to the Commission's "reminder to stay within the law and guidelines" has been predictable. The president of the Quebec Association for the Right to Die in Dignity, Georges L'Espérance, a neurosurgeon, is reported by the CBC to have been critical of the reminder believing that the Commission's advisory could stigmatize the procedure or even dissuade some doctors from providing it. L'Espérance's expressed concern that "...many doctors will be intimidated by that kind of memo...They will say that they don't want to [administer] any MAiD because they have fear."

### **MAiD No Longer the "Last Resort"**

The Quebec Commission's story provides a timely and disturbing reminder of the inherent dangers of legitimizing state-sanctioned assisted suicide. Instead of allowing assisted suicide as a last resort in specific cases, i.e., for adults who have a serious and incurable illness being in an advanced state of irreversible decline and experiencing constant and unbearable physical or psychological suffering which cannot be relieved in a manner the patient deems tolerable, we are allowing MAiD to become a normal "treatment" option that is anything but a "last resort".

## **Alarming Increase in MAiD Numbers**

Health Canada's own statistics confirm an alarming trend. According to its most recent annual MAiD report from July 2022, MAiD accounted for 10,064 deaths or 3.3% compared to the overall average of deaths in Canada in 2021, with Quebec having the highest number of MAiD deaths in the country at 3,281 deaths, followed by Ontario with 3,102, and British Columbia having the third highest number of MAiD deaths at 2,030.

Health Canada confirmed that the number of cases of MAiD in 2021 represents a growth rate of 32.4% over 2020 with all provinces continuing to experience a steady year over year growth.

Health Canada released a annual report on MAiD for the year 2022. It states: these numbers continue to rise. In 2022, according to the *Institut de la statistique du Québec*, MAiD represented 6.1% of deaths—for 2023, Quebec's MAiD death count is expected to reach 7%, twice the number for Ontario, and 4.5 times Switzerland's rate! In B.C., the B.C. Ministry of Health reported that MAiD deaths accounted for 5.5% of deaths in 2022— as of June 30, 2023 MAiD deaths represented 6.2% of B.C. deaths.

To put the numbers into perspective, according to CDC and FBI statistical bases, in the United States, in 2021 the total firearms mortality rate (including homicides and suicides but excluding justifiable homicides) was 14.13 per 100,000 people. In 2021, Canada's MAiD total was 10,500, for a rate of 27.5 per 100,000 people. Translated into the vernacular, this means that Canada's assisted suicide rate is almost double that of the total American firearms mortality rate ( $27.5/14.13 = 1.95$ ). We are extremely critical of the violence found in our southern neighbour, why are we not equally critical of the violence taking place under the MAiD regime?

## **The Institutionalization of Death**

It wasn't that long ago, 1993 to be exact, that the Supreme Court of Canada, in *Rodriguez v. British Columbia (Attorney General)*, upheld the *Criminal Code* prohibition against assisted suicide as constitutional. And yet, some 22 years later, in 2015, the same Supreme Court (composed of different judges except for McLachlin who also took part in *Rodriguez*) overturned *Rodriguez* and ruled in *Carter v. Canada* that the *Criminal Code* prohibition was unconstitutional. Thus, was ushered in the MAiD regime of assisted suicide.

When the Liberal government of Justin Trudeau introduced amendments to the *Criminal Code* in 2016 to give legislative form to the *Carter* decision and

the MAiD regime, it did so with a view to proscribing fixed limits on its availability.

Unfortunately, such limits have proven to be a pipedream. In response to the 2019 Quebec Superior Court's decision in *Truchon v Canada (AG)* that held the requirement that natural death was "reasonably foreseeable" was unconstitutional, Trudeau's Liberals—in a shocking display of moral cowardness by not appealing the decision, introduced further amendments to the MAiD regime which passed in 2021. The new MAiD regime removed the requirement that a person's natural death must be reasonably foreseeable. Is it any wonder then that MAiD is no longer a last resort but has become increasingly normalized and "accepted" as an alternative to proper end-of-life care?

### **The Slippery Slope of Industrialized Death**

Despite the Supreme Court of Canada's cavalier dismissal of the dangers of the "slippery slope" posed by legalized euthanasia, that is exactly what is happening in Canada as we have moved from a so-called restrictive MAiD regime (2016) to a more progressive and liberal MAiD regime (2021). The statistics regarding the frequency of MAiD are glaring evidence of this degeneracy.

The MAiD regime of Justin Trudeau's Liberal Government has made Canada the "euthanasia capital of the world". The MAiD regime is bad news for both health care professionals and its victims. Medically assisted suicide should never be regarded as "medical treatment"—to do so corrupts medicine and the healing arts making them nothing more than tools of a neo-Nazi ideology—an ideology that promotes a eugenics attitude to solving human "problems."

Canada's MAiD regime is showing all the hallmarks that give credence to such phrases as "slippery slope", "camel's nose" or "thin end of the wedge." Under the guise of being humane and compassionate, MAiD is nothing else but the bureaucratization/institutionalization of state sanctioned death. What was once promoted as being something to use only as a last resort in exceptional dire medical circumstances, MAiD has now become a frequent "treatment" used in situations that are less than dire.

The increasing prevalence of "state sanctioned death" is a grim reminder that the Holocaust did not happen overnight. Before the Final Solution became a matter-of-fact policy, it was preceded by a eugenic euthanasia programme (Aktion T4) which was the normalization of state sanctioned medical-supervised termination for "health" reasons of those who suffered from severe

psychiatric, neurological, or physical disabilities such as schizophrenia, down syndrome, cerebral palsy, blindness, "idiot children," epilepsy, dementia, encephalitis, or "criminal insanity."

### **Organizational Structure Dictates Outcome**

One of the lessons to be learned from the Holocaust is that "Organizational Structure Dictates Outcome." This maxim shows a keen insight into what happened in Nazi Germany and also to what is happening here in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Canada. We should not be so smug or self-righteous as to ignore history or make the claim that "this is Canada, it could never happen here."

Amongst other things, one of the consequences of Organizational Structure Dictates Outcome is that organizations have a life of their own, quite apart from the individuals who find themselves as clogs in the bureaucratic machinery. It is a further dehumanizing of decisions and the objects of those decisions, human beings.

Bureaucracy, with its rules and rigid structures, by its very nature dehumanizes the human person and thereby obscures the essential truth that there is a singular dignity of the human person—that each one of us has a dignity inherent in our humanity that demands respect that makes authentic human interaction, community and flourishing possible. It is a dignity that requires that each individual be treated as an end in themselves and never in an instrumental fashion, as a means to an end.

### **Humanize NOT Institutionalize Death**

Death, like Life, are defining moments for each of us. How well we die is every bit as important as how we have lived our lives.

Bureaucracy's dehumanization tendencies are furthered by our increasingly secularized techno-scientific culture which has the effect of denying the transcendental reality of our nature and existence. Slowly, our Judeo-Christian values and traditions are being replaced by a consumerism and materialism grounded in the cold and calculating utilitarian view of human life and death.

The elderly, those who find themselves in circumstances of serious illness and close to death as well as those suffering from physical and mental disabilities are increasingly becoming marginalized and are most vulnerable to the illusion that MAiD will solve their "problem." This becomes all the more acute in a society that views the worth of human beings in material and utilitarian terms.

## **Time for a New Direction**

The hard reality is that MAiD does not provide a real solution to those faced with dying or life's hardships. Instead, MAiD denies those most in need of compassion and companionship the opportunity to live well, in the face of death. MAiD, by dehumanizing death, makes victims of us all, not just those it kills.

It does not have to be this way! We need to summon the courage and political will to not only once again make assisted suicide illegal, but also to commit the necessary resources to help the vulnerable through Hospice Care or with effective social/mental health services in order to share the journeys of those in dire straits. These are journeys that the state cannot make with us, only our fellow human beings can. Providing funding and support for those who make those journeys with us is something the state can do. Indeed, it is the human, humane and responsible thing to do.

Proposing the ending of MAiD risks the pro-death lobby accusation of being inhumane and cruel, but such accusations are without merit and miss the point entirely. The witness of government ought to be our own witness, one of hope and compassion, not despair and death. We will all die, just as we have all lost, and will lose, those we love and care for, whether to old age and/or disease.

## **Time to Reinstate Prohibition Against Assisted Suicide**

There is a humane and dignified alternative to MAiD, it is called Palliative Care—and that is the strategy that ought to animate federal and provincial policies when it comes to end-of-life care.

Section 33 of the Charter ought to be utilized to overturn the evils of the *Carter* and *Truchon* decisions and the prohibition against assisted suicide re-enacted in the *Criminal Code*. The MAiD regime being subsequently dismantled, funding ought to be made available for not only Palliative Care but also health professionals' education on medical ethics and Hospice Care specialization.

## **Policy Priority - Equal treatment for Women in Crisis**

**Policy Objectives:** support for women and families

**Policy Action Items:** 1) provide funding advocacy groups—to pregnancy crisis centres and pro-family support groups

This proposed policy priority is about providing equality in the delivery of women's health care services so that women in crisis will be provided with an alternative to abortion providing them with care and support. Justice and equality demand nothing less than government funding for Pregnancy Crisis Centres and support for those women who want a viable and accessible option to abortion and abortion counselling.

There is absolutely no legitimate reason to deny this funding.

### **Preventing Harm**

Funding of Pregnancy Crisis Centres isn't merely a matter of equality, it is also a matter of preventing harm.

Studies continually show that a majority of women suffer physical and/or psychological harm in the aftermath of abortions. A recent study from May 2023 (published in the journal *Cureus*), found that of 226 women reporting a history of abortion, only 33% identified it as "wanted", 43% as "accepted but inconsistent with their values and preferences", and 24% as "unwanted or coerced." Only the "wanted abortions" were associated with positive emotions or mental health gains. All other groups attributed more negative emotions and mental health outcomes to their abortions such as feelings of sadness, guilt, and regret after the fact. **Sixty percent reported they would have preferred to give birth if they had received more support from others or had more financial security.**

It is beyond doubt that the State has a legitimate interest in protecting the life of the child *in utero*, as well as the life and health of the pregnant woman.

Time and again, polls continue to show that a vast majority of Canadians oppose late term or sex-selection abortions. If government is funding abortion services, then equality demands that it also fund the alternative provided by pro-life pregnancy crisis centres and services.

### **State Neutrality Myth**

The idea that the state should be a "neutral" actor in society is a myth. All government policies are loaded with moral choices reflecting what policy makers and legislators "think" is in the best interests of the public, or too often, themselves or their particular supporters. Those who argue that the state has no business funding pregnancy crisis centres and services because

the state must be “neutral” and not take sides with those of its citizens who are pro-life are complete hypocrites. They entirely overlook the fact that the state is anything but neutral when funding abortion and abortion counselling services.

Moreover, it is well recognized that the state has a legitimate interest in protecting the life of the unborn. More importantly, as a matter of public health and women’s health in particular, the state has a very real interest in promoting mental health and protecting women from the real harm that comes from obtaining an abortion.

### **Time to Treat All Women Fairly and with Respect**

Funding women’s health services ought to be about providing safe and accessible alternatives. We should not be afraid to support services that respect women as mothers and that expressly aim to help and support women in choosing life over death, hope over despair. Part of being that alternative is found in the fact that there exist organizations that are specially known for not assisting in abortions.

Instead, pregnancy crisis centres offer medically accurate information about abortion and parenting that is supported by the experience and knowledge of perinatal nurses, family physicians, obstetricians and gynaecologists, and medical ethicists. Contrary to the smear campaigns of pro-abortionists, pregnancy crisis centres not only offer women accurate and important information, but also support at a time of stress and uncertainty. Yes, many of these organizations are “faith-based”, but that is not to their detriment, but rather is a credit to the people who operate them, people who bear witness by putting their beliefs into action—practicing what they preach!

The time has come to level the playing field. In direct opposition to Justin Trudeau and his Liberal Party’s platform promise to remove charitable status from pregnancy care centres, a Conservative government ought to celebrate, encourage and support pregnancy crisis centres. Such celebration, encouragement and support starts with proper funding equal to the need.

## **Policy Priority - Restoring Faith in Democratic Institutions**

**Policy Objectives:** 1) restore faith and confidence in Canada's democratic institutions; 2) protect and enhance Canada's sovereignty

**Policy Action Items:** 1) stop lying; 2) independent Public Inquiry into Chinese interference in elections, government institutions, political parties, academic and research facilities and the Trudeau Foundation; 3) stop prosecutions and/or pardon Freedom Convoy leadership and members; 4) eliminate the Court Challenges Programme; and 5) enforce Conflict of Interest laws, including the *Lobbying Act*, and establish a meaningful and legitimate Foreign Agent Registry

The Trudeau years have been a disaster for Canadians both in terms of economic wellbeing, but also political freedom.

To the extent that one can put any credence in polls and news stories, both repeatedly show that a clear majority of Canadians believe that the country is headed in the wrong direction. The *wrong direction* as in destination. The debate is no longer about the route being taken or the vehicle used, it is about the destination that the country is headed towards. That destination, perhaps best identified as "Progressiveville", is one of high taxes, huge deficits, unaffordable housing prices, a stagnant economy and political faction and separation.

To be fair, Canada has been heading towards this destination for years, under *both* Liberal and Conservative governments. While Justin Trudeau's Liberals have certainly been speeding us along, he and his government are merely the latest to be continuing to drive this country off the cliff that leads to self-destruction.

Going in the "wrong direction" doesn't necessitate a variation in route or a change of vehicle, rather it requires, nay, DEMANDS, a change of direction. We need to drive away from the cliff!

## **Renewal of Faith in Responsible Government**

Despite Justin Trudeau's 2016 claim (a claim that showed just how ignorant he is) that "There is no core identity, no mainstream in Canada", mainstream Canada does indeed exist with a very real "core identity". At the level of constitutional government, that core identity is best summed up by the idea of: Responsible Government—meaning that government is accountable to the people.

### **Step One – Stop Lying**

There is a crisis of confidence facing Canadians today, exemplified by the wide, and accurate, belief that government and the media are lying to us.

Indeed, what present Liberal policy isn't premised upon one lie or another? As lies only beget lies, is it any wonder that no matter what file Trudeau touches, from energy to immigration to COVID to National Defence to the economy, they are all unmitigated failures?

As truth in the public square can only be arrived at through the free exchange of ideas via free speech and open debate, Bill C-18, the *Online News Act* must be repealed in its entirety. Any attempts at government censorship of social media must cease. Similarly, government should not use social media to manipulate or otherwise shape a narrative. Transparency in government decision-making starts with the transparency of the information government uses to make its decisions. Politicians and bureaucrats must be held accountable for their decisions. Hiding behind "Cabinet Privilege" is something tyrants do, not servants of the public.

One of the most problematic aspects of the constant stream of lies is that they keep getting more outrageous and absurd. We are very much in danger of realizing a state of affairs, credited Voltaire, where "those who make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities."

Lying not only leads to atrocities, but it erodes the bond of trust between people that is essential for the existence of a free and democratic society. Sure, one lie on its own may seem harmless, but it is never just one lie. As noted above, lie begets lie, and within a generation social civility is destroyed, leaving the state nothing more than an assembly held together by fear and brute force.

It is time to change direction away from the lies toward the truth. Responsible Government requires accountability, and accountability requires truth. Stop the lies.

## **Step Two – Election Integrity**

Not only is it time for the government to stop lying to us, but it is also time we stopped lying to ourselves. For too long, we have lied to ourselves thinking that "my vote doesn't count", "I'm just one person, what can I do?" These lies translate into voter turnouts in the low 60% range. The 2021 federal election was 62%. The 2022 Ontario provincial election was worse, with a voter turnout of only 43.5%. The Alberta 2023 election fared better with a voter turnout of 62.4%. Municipal elections are even more dismal failures for voter turnout. In 2022, Toronto's turnout was only 29%! The 2023 mayoral by-election fared a bit better a 38%. Vancouver's 2022 election, 36%. Calgary 2021 election was 46%. Edmonton 2021, 38%. Montreal 2021 38%

By not voting, Canadians are disenfranchising themselves at an alarming rate. Now there are undoubtedly many reasons why people don't vote. But the failure of the Trudeau government to properly hold a public inquiry into

serious and credible allegations of Chinese Communist interference in not one, but two federal elections (as well as possible interference in provincial/municipal elections) should tell us all we need to know about the accuracy of those allegations.

Election integrity requires transparency and credible results. Without election integrity, Responsible Government is impossible as there is no way of knowing whether the government is truly being held accountable to those eligible to vote, free from election interference and foreign meddling. Who is calling the shots in Ottawa, the Canadian electorate or the Politburo in Beijing?

Only a full, independent, and transparent Public Inquiry can help restore faith in Canada's elections.

### **Step Three – Stop Political Prosecutions**

The prosecution of Freedom Convoy leaders and supporters is nothing but political prosecution in aid of defending Trudeau's indefensible policies. Moreover, such prosecutions are a direct attack on all Canadians and our fundamental freedoms of: conscience; speech; peaceful assembly; and association.

Trudeau's use of the *Emergencies Act* was totally without justification (the fact that Trudeau lacked the votes in the Senate to confirm his declaration speaks volumes with respect to its legitimacy) and represents a major escalation in the loss of trust between those who govern and are governed.

That fundamental trust begins to be regained by stopping these prosecutions, issuing an apology to those affected and taking steps to strengthen civil liberties in the event of a truly legitimate emergency that warrants a declaration under the *Emergencies Act*. It may come as a shock to Trudeau and the Liberals, but the *Emergencies Act* is not there to protect him and his failure of a government.

Responsible Government is about making government responsible to the people, NOT the people to the government!

### **Step Four – Eliminate the Court Challenges Programme**

The Court Challenge Programme (CCP) was introduced by Pierre Trudeau in 1978, long before the Charter enshrined Language Rights, as a means to counter-balance Parti Québécois government's Bill 101 as well as the English unilingualism of other provinces. Thus, Trudeau Senior envisaged the CCP as a means to further protect language rights. Not without a sense of irony, Brian Mulroney's Conservative government expanded the CCP to support the progressive social reform agenda of feminist, and homosexual rights groups. By 1992, that support had grown too politically problematic, so the Conservatives ended the programme.

Of course, the ending of the programme became an election issue with the Liberals promising to re-instate the programme, which they did after winning the 1993 election. Subsequently, Stephen Harper's Conservative government ended the programme in 2006, only to have Trudeau Junior re-instate the CCP in 2017.

The CCP has been contentious over the years and no wonder, given that it has morphed into nothing more than a Liberal Party money-laundering scheme designed to use taxpayers' money to fund left-wing causes. It doesn't take much to appreciate that the revamped programme is nothing more than progressive interest group litigation on the taxpayer's dime.

The CCP is, at heart, undemocratic and subverts the legislative process by taking issues to the courts in order to get a progressive decision that would never receive the support of Parliament if proposed in legislation. This is the way progressives work, both inside and outside of government. It needs to stop if Responsible Government is going to function properly.

### **Step Five – Enforce Conflict of Interest**

Like lies, conflicts of interest are a cancer eating away at the body politic. Indeed, personally profiting or otherwise gaining advantage from any government position strikes at the very heart of what we have, until very recently, called "public service."

Laws curtailing conflict of interest, including laws regulating lobbying activities, are meaningless unless they are enforced. Part of that enforcement mechanism must also include a mandatory, fully accessible, *i.e.* public, Foreign Agent Registry. Lobbyists come in many varieties, both foreign and domestic, and their respective influences are subtle and pervasive.

Having laws regarding conflict of interest/lobbying are not sufficient in themselves but rather need to be supported by a culture that promotes ethical government. In other words, while the more egregious occasions of conflict of interest may rise to the level of criminal conduct, the more subtle shades of conflict of interest are indicative of a moral failing, a failure to put the common good before one's private good. At the very least, it is unethical behaviour, and those caught indulging in such behaviour ought to be held accountable by losing their jobs if not their liberty for a fixed term.

Responsible Government means accountable government and that requires there be consequences for behaviour that is antithetical to purpose of the government: public *service*.

