

CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF CANADA POLICY DECLARATION



As amended by the delegates to the
National Convention September 9, 2023

As consolidated by the National Policy
Committee and approved by National Council

occurrences, should be automatically designated as a dangerous offender and should bear the onus of proving that they are not a danger to society. This would not preclude the Crown from pursuing dangerous offender status for any other offender deemed to fit the criteria.

We believe that the government should seek Dangerous Offender Status (and mandatory life sentences) for any person convicted of a second serious violent offence, criminal organization offence, terrorism offence or serious drug trafficking offence.

124. Sex Offender Registry

The Conservative Party supports the registration of all convicted sex and designated dangerous offenders. Such registration should be retroactive to the date of first conviction.

The registry and its services should provide:

- i. mandatory DNA sampling and banking;
- ii. a registry information network, available to all police and parole services to assist in locating (and tracking) registrants; and
- iii. a system to incarcerate registrants who break the terms of release prior to trial.

125. Protecting Pregnant Women

The Conservative Party supports legislation to ensure that individuals who commit violence against a pregnant woman would face additional charges if her unborn child were killed or injured during the commission of a crime against the mother.

126. Sentencing

The Conservative Party supports:

- i. mandatory minimum sentences for violent and repeat offenders and for those convicted of sexually assaulting a minor;
- ii. requiring that sentences for multiple convictions be served consecutively;
- iii. eliminating statutory (automatic) release;
- iv. ensuring that the community and victims have input on National Parole Board decisions;
- v. requiring applicants for parole to demonstrate to the National Parole Board that they have been rehabilitated;
- vi. no longer requiring judges to treat imprisonment as a last resort.

127. Firearms

A Conservative Government is committed to cost-effective gun control programs designed to keep guns out of the hands of criminals while respecting the rights of law-abiding Canadians to own and use firearms responsibly.

Measures will include: mandatory minimum sentences for the criminal use of firearms; strict monitoring of high-risk individuals; increased enforcement and prosecution of smuggling; safe storage provisions;

firearms safety training; a certification screening system for all those wishing to acquire firearms legally; and putting more law enforcement officers on our streets.

We recognize the legitimacy of private ownership of firearms and will resist any domestic or international pressure to the contrary.

A Conservative government will not deprive Canadian Citizens of legally owned firearms.

A Conservative government recognizes that civilian firearms ownership is a Canadian Heritage.

A Conservative government would streamline Firearms classification by adopting the Simplified Classification System.

A Conservative government would order a review of firearms related laws to identify parts of those Acts that have no public safety value.

128. Organized Crime

The Conservative Party recognizes that organized crime is growing throughout Canada, that international criminal organizations are active in Canada in money laundering and drug trafficking and that this phenomenon crosses boundaries. To fight this trend and to ensure the safety of all Canadians, a Conservative government will:

- i. adopt, in collaboration with the provinces and municipalities, a national strategy on the fight against organized crime, including the creation of a joint national task force on security. This task force will concentrate on keeping illegal firearms out of the hands of the criminal gangs through increased efforts to curtail smuggling and the distribution of contraband firearms;
- ii. increase the financial resources allocated to the RCMP to help them to fight against those activities in all regions of the country;
- iii. propose an amendment to the Criminal Code to reverse the burden of proof, so that members of a criminal organization (and not the Crown) will have to prove at the time of seizure that the goods were not acquired through criminal acts committed for organized crime. Specific criteria will govern this measure to respect the principle of the presumption of innocence of the accused; and
- iv. strengthen the legislation to prosecute any person who knowingly engages in counterfeit activities by manufacturing, reproducing, and distributing, importing, or selling counterfeit goods.

We believe the government, in collaboration with the provinces and territories, should develop prevention strategies in the fight against street gangs.

129. Young Offenders

The Conservative Party supports introducing measures to hold young lawbreakers accountable to their victims and the larger community. We believe the government should introduce measures to ensure that violent or serious repeat offenders 14 and over are tried as adults.

We encourage the government to work with the provinces and territories to ensure that the early identification and intervention strategies for youth at risk continue to work. The justice system for young people will provide effective punishment that deters criminal behavior, instils a sense of responsibility in young offenders for their behavior; and gives young people better opportunities for rehabilitation.

130. Family Violence

The Conservative Party believes the consequences of family violence are harmful to all of society. We support sentences for crimes of family violence that reflect our belief in the serious nature of violent criminal activity, its effect on individuals, on families and on communities. The protection of children and spouses in family violence situations is paramount.

131. Child Protection

The Conservative Party supports stronger legislation against sex-offenders, pedophiles, human trafficking, and child pornography for the protection of children through the elimination of all defences that are used to justify both the possession of child pornography and engaging in predatory conduct to prepare a child or young person for sexual activity at a later time ('grooming').

We will oppose any effort to lower the age of protection below 16 years of age.

We believe that government should fight the cyber-stalking of children by allocating more resources for Internet monitoring, by increasing the penalty for cyber-stalkers, and by taking measures to raise awareness among all Canadians (particularly young Canadians) about the importance of protecting their privacy online.

We support legislation to ensure that any child born alive shall receive the full benefits of life-saving care, and neo-natal intensive care to give every opportunity possible for the child to sustain life.

132. Missing Persons Registry

The Conservative Party supports the creation of a national missing persons' registry to assist in the location and identification of persons reported missing. The registry would operate in conjunction with the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) and DNA databanks currently in place.

We support streamlining and improving the existing computer systems, including DNA databanks, CPIC and the sex offender registry.

We believe the government should fight human trafficking by providing the RCMP with the personnel and resources needed to effectively combat this problem, and by instituting tougher sentences for all those involved in this form of human exploitation.

133. Sexual Exploitation in Canada

The Conservative Party rejects the concept of legalizing the purchase of sex. We declare that human beings are not objects to be enslaved, bought or sold.

We shall develop a Canada specific plan to target the purchasers of sex and human trafficking markets through criminalizing the purchase of sex as well as the acts of any third party attempting to profit from the purchase of sex.

134. Charter of Victim's Rights

The Conservative Party shall undertake to:

- i. promote the adoption of a Charter of Rights for victims of criminals' acts, reuniting the whole of the current rights of victims contained within the federal legislative corpus;

- ii. add new rights to such a Charter; and
- iii. make this Charter legislation-based, notably, on the rights of victims to restitution, access to information, and representation and safety.

135. Courts of Cultural and Religious Persuasion

In areas of federal jurisdiction, the Conservative Party of Canada will not endorse religious or cultural courts in Canada. In each province and territory in Canada there shall be one law for all Canadians, with courts for criminal matters.

136. Rural Crime

The Conservative Party of Canada will make reducing the rate of rural crime a priority.

N. COMMUNICATIONS

137. Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

The Conservative Party believes in a stable Canadian presence in a varied and vibrant broadcasting system. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC/SRC) should offer a wide range of Canadian and international programming, while being respectful of Canadian content. The system should provide audiences with maximum choice and have the ability to utilize new technologies to achieve its public and private objectives.

The CBC/SRC is an important part of the broadcasting system in Canada. It must be a true public service broadcaster, relevant to Canadians. We will accordingly ensure the CBC/SRC:

- i. rationalizes any programming that overlaps or competes with private sector equivalents;
- ii. reduces its reliance upon government funding and subsidy;
- iii. reflects regional and demographic diversity of Canada in its role as a public broadcaster;
- iv. responds and is accountable to its audience;
- v. supplies balanced and non-partisan programming.

We recognize the vital role played by the private broadcasters of Canada through their local and regional programming that reflects the language and multicultural realities of our country. Private sector broadcasters and service-providers first and foremost are businesses and must be able to compete in an ever-increasing fragmented and global market. We recognize the need for both regulatory flexibility and predictability.

Broadcasting policy in Canada must be relevant in today's communications environment and responsive to the demands of Canadians. We believe the government should review and update the Broadcasting Act to ensure its relevance in today's technological environment. We believe the government should establish clear, national policy directions and a framework that will maximize the freedom of choice and ensure that freedom of speech is respected. The CRTC's role in content regulation should be reduced to eliminate duplication where other legislation exists.

We believe that control and operations of the CBC/SRC could be best accomplished through establishing distinct budgets for the operations of the internet, TV, and radio broadcast functions.



CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF CANADA

66 Slater Street, Suite 1800, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5H1

Toll free: (866) 808-8407 Phone: (613) 755-2000 Fax: (613) 755-2001