

SHAWMUN
2014
HOUSE OF COMMONS



House of Commons

Introductory Letter

Dear Members of Parliament,

Welcome to ShawMUN 2014, and congratulations for being awarded a seat in the House of Commons of Canada. The House is shaping up to be one of the best committees at ShawMUN. This year we have a fantastic staff that is going to make this committee as exciting as it can be. Hopefully you can match the staff's level of enthusiasm and use your interest in diplomacy and your knowledge of Canadian politics to create passionate debate.

The topic in this year's House is "Achieving Economic Prosperity". This brings up many interesting topics, from northern development to the Enbridge pipeline. This topic is at the heart of debate in the real Canadian House of Commons and you will have a chance to put yourself in the shoes of the representatives that work day in day out to create solutions for these pressing issues. You will have to heckle other members, motion for bills and most importantly vote to change Canada.

I am very much looking forward to reading all your Private Members Resolutions and watching you passionately debate these in the House. The bills that you bring forward will change the way that Canadians live. Remember you are representing the people and you not only have to do yourself justice but do your constituents justice. Stand for what you believe in, scream yeas for the bills you approve and yell nae for the ones you don't.

The Canadian House of Commons will be what you put into it so good luck with you PMR's and do your constituents proud.

Again welcome to the House of Commons of Canada.

Craig Everett

Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada

To help you prepare for this committee, we have prepared this topic backgrounder. We recommend that you at least read the general backgrounder segment, but for those of you who really wish to excel in the House, you should also read the three standing committee guides that follow.

1. Economic Development
2. Social and Environment
3. Defence and Foreign Affairs

Each of you will be assigned a standing committee based on your portfolio, so you should also attempt to read the standing committee guide that you think you fall under. You should also make sure to read the Standing Orders, which are the official rules of the House (don't worry though – you will learn these as we go along!). Research well; because it is not only your success that rides on how prepared you are, but the success of your party as well.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTIONS (PMRS)

If you've been to other Model UNs, you will be familiar with the concepts of Position Papers and Resolutions. The House of Commons works differently from other committees in that you will not need to write a Position Paper, but instead will write a resolution before the conference. These prewritten resolutions, or Private Member's Resolutions as they're called, will be the subject of debate. Your PMR will be combined with those of your party, to form a single PMR that represents the collective interests of your party. In the House, each party will present its PMR, and each PMR will be heavily debated by all MPs and then improved upon through amendments.

Your PMR should represent your position on Achieving Economic Prosperity in Canada and should focus on the following:

1. Party
2. Portfolio
3. Constituency

WRITING YOUR PMR

The PMRs will form the backbone of your party's stance in the House, and should be written with the utmost care and consideration. PMRs consist of these parts:

Name

Constituency

Portfolio

Party

The above should have been given to you as your 'country assignment' by the staff of ShawMUN.

Title: The full title of your PMRs should be something that you feel summarizes the point of the PMR. It should always begin with "An Act to" and then be followed by a short sentence.

(e.g. An Act to Achieve Economic Prosperity in Canada)

Short Title: In addition to the full title, a PMR must also include a short title that makes it easy to refer to in casual conversation. It will usually end in the word "Act."

(e.g. The Prosperity Act)

Pre-ambulatory Clauses: These will serve as an intro to your resolution and state some of the problems that your resolution aims to deal with. Each clause must begin with the word *whereas*, consist of only one sentence, and end in a semi-colon (;). Since they are designed to enlighten the other MPs on the problems that you are trying to fix, they should often include statistics about the problems you describe.

Enacting Clauses: These clauses are the actions that will be taken to improve the current state of affairs described by your pre-ambulatory clauses. Enacting clauses must be practical and focus on achieving goals that are feasible for the federal government. They should also be specific, and adhere to the following guidelines:

- Always cite the appropriate Federal agencies or departments to execute actions (e.g. Department of Fisheries & Oceans will use the Coast Guard to...).
- When amending or repealing previous Acts of Parliament, specify the clauses of the Act affected (e.g. Clause 23(2) of the Canada Act is replaced with...).
- All clauses are numbered and in full sentences ending with a period.
- Sub-clauses are also to be in full sentences and are listed alphabetically.

Guidelines:

Your PMR will require the following:

- At least four (4) Pre-ambulatory clauses and Enacting clauses relevant to your portfolio.
- At least one (1) clause inspired by your constituency (e.g. Critic of foreign affairs has a clause on expanding international trade, etc.).

Please adhere to the following formatting rules:

- Typed in 12pt Times New Roman
- Typed on a letter-sized template with 1-inch margins
- No images, diagrams, symbols, watermarks, decorative borders, etc.
- Saved as a Word or pages document named [Political Party], [Constituency], [Short Title] e.g. New Democratic Party, Dartmouth - Cole Harbour, Prosperity Act.

SUBMITTING YOUR PMR

All PMRs must be submitted by Sunday, April 6, 2014. Please email to surquhart@shawnigan.ca & ceverett@shawnigan.ca

SAMPLE PMR

Liberal Party: Papineau, Cannabis Legalization Act
Kevin Dada
Member for Papineau
Critic of Youth
Liberal Party

An Act Regarding the Legalization, Regulation, and Taxation of Cannabis

Cannabis Legalization Act

Pre-ambulatory Clauses:

Whereas: prohibition of cannabis, resulting in 475 000 Canadians being detained for cannabis related charges;

Whereas: the prohibition of cannabis has cost Canadian taxpayers an estimated \$500 million dollars since 2006;

Whereas: millions of Canadians throughout Canada consume marijuana and other cannabis products on a regular basis recreationally;

Whereas: prohibition of marijuana has been ineffective, costing billions of dollars to fund insufficient implementation which has resulted in the unnecessarily damaging and expensive crowding in the judicial system;

Whereas: the current criminal restrictions of cannabis are jeopardizing Canadians' safety by creating substantial resources for gang-related criminal activity along with weapon smuggling. However, this can be reduced and prevented by regulating and legalizing Canada's marijuana industry;

Enacting Clauses:

1. Legalizing marijuana and establishing its regulation, taxation, production, dispersal, and usage by:
 - a. Guaranteeing that Law Enforcement prevent and halt illegal trafficking, illegal importation and exportation, and impaired driving.
 - b. Enacting severe penalties for committing such crimes.
2. Fund programs which aim to educate and indorse awareness of possible health risks and consequences of using marijuana; including dependency especially amongst Canadian youth.
3. Pardon all Canadians which have been previously sentenced of simple and minimal cannabis possessions, along with assuring the elimination of criminal records regarding such convictions.
4. Cooperate with provincial, territorial, and municipal governments in order to organize a monitoring methodology to cannabis that allows noteworthy federal responsibility for marijuana control while maintaining the admiration for provincial health authority along with specific regional concerns.

Resources:

<http://petition.liberal.ca/end-prohibition/>

<https://bc.liberal.ca/files/2013/01/DRAFT-Marijuana-Policy-Paper-Jan-13.pdf>

SET TOPIC: ACHIEVING ECONOMIC PROSPERITY IN CANADA

OVERVIEW

Canada is the second largest country and is the eleventh-largest economy in the world and a member of the 'G8'. Our economy thrives from our primary sector, which revolves around the extraction of oil and logging. Like many of the world's most developed nations however, our Tertiary sector is the main driving force of our economy, and employs three quarters of the

Canadian workforce. We also have a significantly sized manufacturing industry based in central Canada, from which automobiles and aircraft are prominently produced. Canada also has the 8th largest commercial fishing and seafood industry in the world. Another large portion of the Canadian economy is made of the international trade of natural resources, as well as that of manufactured goods. Since 2009, Canada has seen a steady increase in exports to other countries, from 367,210.8 million in 2009, to 477,363.3 million in 2013.

Despite these advances, Canada still suffers from issues such as economic disparity in the North, and high unemployment rates, and an overall declining rate of growth during the latter half of the 20th century, among many others. Economists predict that the degree of international competition will continue to grow at an increasing rate in the coming years. According to some, this means that in order to remain as a leading nation in the world, Canada will need to step up its economic policies and improve its overall economy. Thus, political parties in Canada are very much divided on these issues, each having its own stance on which is the true path to achieving economic prosperity for all citizens of Canada. Will the government succeed in raising the standard of living for Canadians, or will the conflicting interests of the parties tear this country apart? We will soon find out in the upcoming session of the House of Commons.

TIMELINE

Year	Event
1821	The fur trade had developed and upper and lower Canada had developed an immense trade in timber.
1871	Canada's main industries were still dispersed throughout the countryside and small towns.
1900	Growth into new industries including; cars, aluminum, pulp, paper, radio and home appliances. Halifax became a local financial centre.
1900-14	Construction of the Canadian Northern Railway and Grand Trunk Pacific Railway led to rapid development and urbanization.
1914-18	First World War
1923-33	The Great Depression
1929	Prairie provinces created growth in wheat production
1939	Economy prospects improved as the issue of large scale emigration was no longer a problem
1939-45	Second World War- period of decline for the Canadian economy.
1945	Resource based development and urbanization made for dramatic increases in standards of living.
1947	Large scale immigration from Italy and Central Europe began.
1967	Exploitation of Alberta's oil began.
1985	Discovery of offshore oil and gas in commercial quantities.
1987	Economy had become urbanized and the service industry became far more important than manufacturing. Alberta developed a petrochemical industry

1989	The Canada- US Free Trade Agreement was implemented.
1994	The North American Free Trade Agreement superseded the Canada- US trade pact.
2001	Canadian Dollar hits a low of 64 cents US.
2002	Height of power for the Canadian Dollar when it came on par with the worth of the US Dollar.
2007	Harper’s government introduced the pursuit of new free trade agreements.
2013	One in five Canadian jobs was linked to exports.
2013	The Harper government implemented the Comprehensive Economic Trade agreement
2014	Saint John and New Brunswick being transformed into major energy points for North America.
2014	Proposal for the Enbridge's Northern Gateway and Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain Expansion, all projects are still in the Canadian regulatory process.

A HISTORY OF THE PARTIES



Conservative Party of Canada:

The conservative party of Canada originated from a merger of fundamentally right wing political parties. Winning their minority government then a majority government, the conservatives have been and still are the superpower in the political system in Canada. For over 145 years, this party has been focused on building a safer, stronger and more prosperous Canada. Some major Conservative achievements include Confederation, the Canadian Bill of Rights, women’s suffrage and the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement.



New Democratic Party of Canada:

Born 1961 in Ottawa, the New Democratic Party (NDP) was formed by the merger between the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation (CCF) and the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC). The NDP has its impactful foundations in its first leader the famous Canadian Tommy Douglas, who first introduced the concept of Universal Health Care to Saskatchewan and is considered the

father Medicare. After Douglas's tenure, the NDP has been led by David Lewis, Ed Broadbent, Audrey McLaughlin, Alexa McDonough, Jack Layton, and the current leader Thomas Mulcair. The NDP has formed many provincial governments including the provinces of British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario, but has never formed the Government of Canada. However, in the 2011 election the NDP secured 103 seats in the House of Commons, therefore becoming the official opposition for the first time in the party history. This was due to the party's historic success in the Quebec where the NDP won 59 out of 75 seats.



Liberal Party of Canada:

The Liberal Party was formed in 1861 from an alliance between the *Parti Rouge* and the Clear Grits. Some of the most famous founding members include George Brown, William Lyon Mackenzie, and Louis-Joseph Papineau. With only one exception, the party stayed as the official opposition for 29 years, before Alexander Mackenzie King used the Pacific Scandal to remove the Macdonald government from power. During Mackenzie's time in office, the Liberals brought in many reforms, including today's method of voting with secret ballots instead of open voting. It is Wilfred Laurier that is often credited with transforming the Liberal Party into the modern political force that it is today. He reached out to Quebec and won the 1896 election, becoming Canada's first Francophone Prime Minister. After losing the 1917 election, the Liberals elected William Lyon Mackenzie King as Laurier's successor. Mackenzie King, among other achievements, was the one who recommended an ambassador to Washington be appointed, pushing for diplomatic ties with the US, and less reliance on Britain. Lester B. Pearson was next in line, and while he did suffer one of the worst political defeats in Canadian history in the 1958 election (Progressive Conservatives: 206, Liberals: 48, out of 265 seats), he led the Liberals to a minority government in 1963 and held office for several years. Pierre Trudeau followed Pearson, and became famous for the *Official Languages Act*, as well as his accepting policy on immigrants. Unfortunately, one of the greatest legacies that Trudeau left behind was federal debt. In the final year of his office, debt had doubled since he had come into office. John Turner was the next to take up the torch, however, due to suspected patriotism; he lost the trust of Quebec, and so suffered the worst defeat in Liberal history: a 95 seat loss that left them only 40 seats in the House. After regaining another 43 seats in 1988, but having a majority Conservative government implementing the Canada-US Free Trade Agreement, he resigned in 1989. Fortunately, Jean Chrétien was the next Liberal leader, leading the party to a 177 seat majority, the third best in party history. Giving the Progressive Conservatives only 2 seats, the Liberals dominated Canadian politics for the next decade. However, since 2003, the Liberal Party has failed to reclaim government. With Paul Martin's **sponsorship scandal**, the failed **Green Shift** policy by Stéphane Dion, and the absolute **worst defeat in Liberal history** under Michael Ignatieff, the Liberals have not stood to their legacy. The current leader of the Liberal Party of Canada is Justin Trudeau, son of Pierre Trudeau. The Liberals currently hold 34 seats.



The Bloc Québécois:

The Bloc was formed in 1991, by Lucien Bouchard, when members of parliament broke from the Progressive Conservative Party. It was originally intended as a temporary party with the singular purpose of promoting Quebec's sovereignty from Canada, but after the famous referendum of 1995 decided to remain a party indefinitely. In its first election, the Bloc won 54 of the seats in Quebec. Due to the split vote between the Reform Party, the Progressive Party, and the NDP, the Bloc barely managed to obtain the position of official opposition to a Liberal government. After a decline in popularity and losing most of the Quebec ridings to the Quebec Liberal Party, Quebec finally regained its 54 seats in the 2006 election, taking many of the Liberals seats, who had lost popularity due to the **sponsorship scandal**. In 2011, the Bloc attempted to co-operate with the NDP and Conservative Party to change parliamentary procedure, but the effort ultimately failed when Jack Layton accused the Conservatives of trying to replace Paul Martin with Stephen Harper as Prime Minister. 2011 was also the year that the Bloc Québécois suffered a massive loss in that year's election, even losing their status as an official party (they failed to retain the minimum of 12 seats), meaning that they must sit in the back of the House, and are treated as independents. The Bloc Québécois currently hold 4 seats in Quebec, and are led by André Bellavance.



Green Party of Canada:

Around the time of the 1980 federal election, Elizabeth May, and ten other candidates announced that they would be running along similar party lines, all calling for a transition to a non-nuclear, conserver society. It was not until 1983 however, that the Green Party of Canada was officially founded. Lead by Dr. Trevor Hancock, it ran 60 candidates in the 1984 federal election. The party initially found support in Quebec, but were eventually abandoned in favor of the Bloc Québécois. Under its second leader, Joan Russow, organization of the party improved, and in 1997, it ran its first bilingual campaign, however still failed to do well in the 2000 election. Under its third leader, Jim Harris, things began to look up. In 2004, the Green Party became the fourth party in Canada ever to run candidates in all of the ridings. It also managed to receive 4.3% of the popular vote, qualifying it for party financing. In 2006, Elizabeth May was elected as party leader, and ran in the election in the riding of London North Centre, Ontario, finishing second to the Liberal candidate. In 2008, Blair Wilson became the first ever Green MP. He did so by breaking from the Liberal Party, sitting as an independent for almost a year, and then finally joining the Green Party during the House's summer recess, meaning that he never sat in the House as a Green MP. May's leadership was called into question after some of her comments were misrepresented by the media during the 2008 election. With a 74% vote, the Green Party decided to conduct a leadership review before May's term had ended, but ultimately May

continued to lead the party. In the federal election of 2011, Elizabeth May became the first Green Party candidate to win a seat in the House of Commons.

PARTY POSITIONS

Conservative Party of Canada:

With Stephen Harper as the Conservative Party of Canada’s leader, it is suffice to say the Conservatives have by far the most pragmatic, efficient and realistic approach to getting the economy back on track post-2008. Unlike other parties, the Conservatives realize a tax and spend approach to fixing the economy simply doesn’t work. The Conservatives main focus post-recession is correcting deficit and reestablishing Canada as the international ambassador for a thriving economy. As shown through several past months, this party has been producing a federal surplus, essentially proving our plan is working. Here are the key features we are striving for to strengthen Canada economy:

Hiring Credit for Small Business, Keeping Taxes Low to Create Jobs, Skills Training Opportunities for Students, Foreign Credentials Loans for New Canadians, Canada-Europe Free Trade, Canada-India Free Trade, Canada-U.S. Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness, Help Manufacturers Invest and Create Jobs, Digital Economy Strategy, Federal Tourism Strategy, Long-Term Plan for Infrastructure Renewal, Canadian Securities Regulator, Reaching a Tax Harmonization Agreement with the Government of Quebec.

New Democratic Party:

As a social democratic party, the NDP strongly believes moderate socialism and a mixed economy which involves government planning (crown corporations) in order to provide jobs and services. Furthermore, the NDP is a strong proponent of social security, universal health care, old-age pensions, workers’ compensation, and employment insurance to act as mediums to lower class inequality. Other stances include national dental-care, child-care programs, favoured higher taxes on corporations and the rich, along with larger government spending in expanding social services for Canadians. The NDP policy on the economy follows the general ideology that the economy should not be built by means of large corporations focusing power on capitalism, rather through flourishing small businesses, local community development, and cooperative enterprises. In regards to natural resource and the manufacturing sectors of the economy, the NDP wish to support these sectors, but implement environmental or “green” regulations.

Liberal Party of Canada:

The Liberals sit just left of the center on the political spectrum. Their principles include responsibility, human dignity, a just society, political freedom, religious freedom, equality of opportunity, cultural diversity, bilingualism, and multilingualism. The Liberal Party of Canada was responsible for legalizing same-sex marriage and the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes in Canada. The Liberals most recent set of policies include reforming the Canadian pension plan, more investment in higher education, reduced spending on consultants and advertising, reducing the current deficit of GDP, renewable energy production, support for Canadian farmers, and introducing family care plans to assist families with supporting ill family members.

Bloc Québécois:

The Bloc was created as a means to promote Quebec sovereignty on a federal scale. Their party platform remains largely the same to this day. During the time that they were the official opposition, most of the question periods were devoted to debate on Canada's unity, showing an unwavering diligence to the belief that Quebec should be its own nation. When not advocating for separation, the Bloc's interests primarily circulate around the interests of Quebec, instead of the interests of Canada as a whole. It is for this reason and others that they have only ever run Candidates in Quebec. One of the things that the Bloc takes interest in outside of Quebec is the level of French that is spoken as our second official language, and will often advocate for higher levels of French to be taught in lower levels of school.

(Note to the BQ: Unfortunately, the House at ShawMUN will be run in English alone, and all PMRs and debates must be written and spoken in English).

Green Party:

The Green Party has become famous for its titular policies on the environment and economy. They advocate for the adoption of green technologies in industry and in the home, including significantly shifting to an investment in renewable energy. They are also pushing for increasing tax on, and cutting subsidies for polluting industries. They support family owned farms, and maintaining a competitive corporate tax rate. In addition to their headline policies, the Greens also value government transparency and free public access to information. They are mostly against genetic engineering for agriculture purposes, with their most recent stand being against GE alfalfa. Because of this, the Green Party advocates for the mandatory labelling of all GE foods and ingredients in the market. The Green Party also wishes to cut military spending back to its 2005 levels with a focus on peacekeeping, and would be determined to do so if they ever came into power.