

Socialist Caucus Resolutions for 2013 Federal NDP Convention

The NDP Socialist Caucus Federal Conference adopted the following resolutions in preparation for the NDP Convention in Montreal, April 12-14, 2013. Please widely circulate these resolutions and propose them for adoption at meetings of NDP riding associations, NDP Youth clubs and affiliated unions, for the purpose of debate and vote at the Federal NDP Convention. The deadline for submission to the NDP federal office is February 11, 2013. Please let us know when any of our resolutions is adopted, in whole or in part, by any organization.

NDP Socialist Caucus

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1. Campaign against CETA, TPPA and FIPA

Whereas the latest proposed so-called 'free trade' deals, like their predecessors, would privatize and de-regulate the economy, worsen labour conditions, empower corporations to sue and obtain compensation from Canadian governments that 'interfere' in their ability to maximize profits, and would place further obstacles in the path of social ownership and public spending;

Be It Resolved That the NDP actively campaign against the Canada-European Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA), and the Canada-China Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPA).

2. Support Campaigns to cancel student debt and fees

Whereas the federal NDP should take a principled stand on this issue, which is one of fair access and social justice, which transcends the issue of jurisdiction.

Be It Resolved That the NDP actively campaign for cancellation of student debt and post-secondary education fees, and vigorously support student campaigns and strikes to rapidly reduce and abolish fees, following the lead of the massive student strike in Quebec in 2012.

3. Stop the Pipelines

Be It Resolved That the NDP oppose energy resource pipeline construction, west to east, or in any direction, and that the party counterpose to fossil fuel extraction, shipment and use, the alternative of green energy generation, such as by wind, solar, hydro and geo-thermal means.

4. Restore Relations with Iran

Whereas Iran does not have nuclear weapons,

And whereas the USA and Israel pose a much greater nuclear weapons danger to the Middle East and to humanity,

And whereas Iran has the right to defend itself against foreign intervention.

Be It Resolved That the NDP actively campaign to restore full diplomatic relations between Ottawa and Tehran.

5. Oppose the Sale of Resource Firms for Democratic and Environmental Reasons

Be It Resolved That the NDP actively campaign against the sale of natural resource firms to Chinese and other foreign investors, not on the basis of Canadian nationalist arguments, but on democratic and environmental grounds, and actively campaign for public ownership under workers' and community control of Canada's resource extraction, development and marketing industries.

6. Break the Siege of Gaza

Whereas the eight-day bombardment of Gaza by Israel, uncritically supported by the Harper government in Ottawa, again demonstrates the brutality of the Zionist state and Canadian complicity with the oppression of the Palestinian people;

And whereas former NDP MP Jim Manly was recently arrested on the high seas and jailed by the Israeli military for participating in a peaceful Aid to Gaza mission;

Be It Resolved That the NDP actively support efforts to break and lift the seige of Gaza, and actively promote the international campaign to impose boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel until it dismantles the apartheid wall, allows refugees to return home, and ends its occupation of Palestinian lands.

7. NATO Hands off Syria!

Whereas the mass uprising of the people of Syria is part of the wave of popular democratic revolt sweeping the Arab world, but the opposition to the Assad regime has many different components, including pro-imperialist forces;

And whereas Washington, Ottawa, London and their NATO allies seek to control Syria's future;

Therefore be it resolved that the federal NDP actively campaign against any U.S., Canada or NATO intervention in Syria, demand the withdrawal of Canadian war ships from Mediterranean waters and air space, and demand an end to Canadian firms selling/exporting military equipment, munitions and supplies to the region.

8. Make CPP Benefits a Decent, Living Income for Retirees

Whereas ongoing pension problems at Nortel and General Motors are indicative of far reaching problems in both the liquidity and accessibility of many private company pension plans in Canada, and

Whereas sufficient savings to ensure an adequate pension through an RRSP is beyond the capacity of most Canadians, and

Whereas the Canada Pension Plan involves the least risk and has the lowest administration cost of any pension plan,

Therefore be it resolved that the NDP actively campaign for: An immediate doubling of the combined Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement minimum benefit, An increase of 15% to the Canada Pension Plan benefit, phased in over five years and supported by an adequate increase in Employer and Employee Premiums; Creation of a Federal Pension Insurance Fund to guarantee pensioners personal benefit income of up to \$2,500 per month, Ensuring that all benefit pension programmes be indexed to the real cost of living, Reform of the Federal Pension Insurance Board to ensure that a majority of the Board members are working class people selected by unions and progressive grass roots community organizations, And reform of the Canada Pension Plan Investment regulations leading to divestment from companies that are involved in the arms industry, that pollute the planet, or that are involved in unfair labour practices.

9. Legalize Cannabis

WHEREAS simply decriminalizing marijuana would still leave possession as an offence punishable by a fine, and would leave all the other harms associated with prohibition intact,

Therefore be it resolved that the federal NDP actively campaign for the elimination of all fines and criminal penalties for personal cultivation and possession of cannabis, for an amnesty for all persons convicted of same, and for the establishment of a taxed and regulated framework for production and distribution of cannabis to adults;

Therefore be it further resolved that the NDP actively campaign for a broad federal review of the impacts and harms caused by current drug prohibition policies, to select the best model for the government to implement a non-criminal, regulatory approach to psychoactive substance use that is based on reducing risk and harm, by emphasizing prevention, public education, health promotion and safety.

10. Restore Food Safety; Rebuild the Public Service

Whereas the large multinational agri-food companies have received considerable provincial and

federal government financial supports to expand their markets and have benefited from deregulation;

And whereas small and medium sized food producers and processors are part of their communities yet are unable to remain competitive;

And whereas the disastrous foodborne illness outbreaks at Maple Leaf Foods and XL Beef are the result of government down-sizing and dismantling of regulatory systems designed to protect the environment and food safety;

And whereas people are increasingly fearful for the safety of their families as a result of the deterioration in the safety of the food supply and the environment;

Be it resolved that the NDP actively campaign for and seek to implement:

- government support of small and medium sized enterprises to assist them in meeting food safety and environmental standards;
- a rural strategy to encourage the growth of small and medium sized local production and processing enterprises, to protect farm land, and to rebuild public transportation, water and sewage systems;
- government action to rebuild a professional public service, including the hiring of food production plant inspectors, and to reverse the contracting out and privatization of public protection programs.

11. Raise the Minimum Wage

Whereas the current minimum wage is far too low to support a single person, let alone a family; And whereas the current minimum wage unfairly punishes the young, and food/beverage servers;

Therefore Be it Resolved that the NDP actively campaign for, and seek to legislate, the elimination of distinctions in the minimum wage law based on age or occupation.

Be it further resolved that the NDP actively campaign for, and seek to legislate an increase in the minimum wage to \$17/hour, and include a permanent, annual cost of living adjustment to keep pace with inflation.

12. Nationalize U.S. Steel

Whereas U.S. Steel locked out Local 1005 of the United Steelworkers and forced steelworkers to accept an inferior Pension Plan for all new hires and to put an end to indexing of pensions for present retirees.

And whereas U.S. Steel reneged on commitments for production and employment levels it made when it took over the former Steel Company of Canada, Stelco, in 2007.

And whereas generations of Hamilton area steelworkers created many of the conditions of prosperity for all of Ontario since 1910, with spill-over jobs in the railway, construction and auto industries, just to name a few.

Therefore be it resolved that the Hamilton Works-U.S. Steel Canada be put into public ownership, under workers' and community democratic control, and that the Canada Pension Plan divest itself of all U.S. Steel shares it holds, and instead be used as the vehicle for this purchase of U.S. Steel at no more than the price of \$1.2 Billion for which it was sold in 2007.

13. Phase-out the Alberta Tar Sands

Whereas the Alberta Tar Sands are the fastest growing source of greenhouse gas emissions in Canada and are the single greatest obstacle to Canada meeting its global climate change responsibilities. And whereas producing a barrel of Tars Sand oil emits three times more greenhouse gases than producing a barrel of conventional oil, making Tar Sands oil some of the dirtiest on the planet. If current development plans proceed, by 2020 the Tar Sands will release twice as many greenhouse gases as are currently produced by all the cars and trucks in Canada. And whereas the boreal forest is one of the largest, most intact old-growth forests left on Earth, containing more carbon per hectare than any other ecosystem, it provides ecosystem services that are globally important in mitigating climate change. The more forest disturbed for the Tar Sands, the more stored carbon released.

Therefore be it resolved that development of the Alberta Tar Sands be halted and rapidly phased out, that public subsidies cease, and that profits from the tar sands industry be conscripted to develop and implement environmentally-friendly, green energy alternatives.

14. Proportional Representation Within the NDP

Whereas elections within the party often reveal the existence of different political tendencies and currents, but all too often such elections produce 'winner take all' results, excluding or marginalizing minority currents and points of view, thus minimizing vital and ongoing debate in the leading bodies of the party, and alienating activists from the party;

And whereas the NDP position for proportional representation in Parliament would be consistent if the party practised proportional representation within the party;

Therefore be it resolved that party democracy be strengthened by making constitutional provision for proportional representation within the councils and executive bodies of the party for distinct, self-declared, policy-based tendencies, slates and caucuses within the party. This means that a majority of seats on party councils and executives would be reserved for members

of competing slates of candidates apportioned on the basis of the percentage of votes received by each slate at the election venue.

15. Support the Cochabamba Protocols

Whereas thousands of environmental and aboriginal activists gathered in Bolivia in April 2010 at the World Peoples' Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth and issued a declaration aimed at addressing the threats posed by capitalism and its so-called free market to nature and to the survival of all species on this planet,

Therefore be it resolved that the NDP actively campaign for implementation of the Cochabamba Protocols, including: the establishment of an International Climate Court to prosecute polluters; rejection of the market mechanism of 'Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation' (REDD), which violates the sovereignty of peoples; rejection of the carbon market as a lucrative business of commercializing nature, instead of tackling climate change; recognition, implementation and integration of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in climate change negotiations; that leading industrial countries cut carbon emissions by 50 per cent of 2010 levels by 2030; that natural resources be protected and used rationally through public ownership and democratic control; and adoption of the Andean peoples' concept of 'living well' instead of striving to 'live better' by consuming more, regardless of the cost to people and our environment.

16. Canada out of NATO, NATO out of Afghanistan

Whereas NATO is a relic of the Cold War and a tool of US aggression in pursuit of corporate interests and militarism;

And whereas Canadian forces in Afghanistan are engaged in combat against national resistance forces, to prop up a US-puppet government of human rights abusers, drug traffickers and warlords, to occupy and control a region of the country for the purpose of constructing through it a lucrative oil/gas pipeline, and to justify aggressive militarism increasingly allied to Washington's global corporate agenda;

Therefore be it resolved that the NDP actively campaign to get Canada out of NATO, to get NATO out of Afghanistan, and to disengage Canadian forces from any support role for the U.S. and its client regime in Iraq, from the training of Iraqi soldiers in Jordan, and policing the shipping lanes of the Persian Gulf.

17. Canada Out of Haiti

Whereas the people of Haiti have endured persistent human rights abuses, including the internment of political prisoners and deadly military raids by the Canadian-trained Haitian National Police and the United Nations forces;

And whereas the people of Haiti are suffering a deep economic and social crisis;

And whereas under pressure from foreign governments and lending institutions, the Haitian government has embarked on a program of privatization of public enterprises;
And whereas foreign governments, including Canada, bear a heavy responsibility for the crisis and abuses in Haiti due to their participation in the removal of Haiti's sovereign government in 2004;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the NDP will actively campaign for:

The release of political prisoners and the wrongfully detained.

Substantial and meaningful assistance to social and economic development in Haiti, with such aid to be delivered to, and extended in cooperation with the duly-elected and sovereign Haitian government.

The withdrawal of the foreign police and military presence from Haiti.

An independent investigation of the raids by United Nations military forces into Cite Soleil on July 5, 2005 and December 22, 2006 that resulted in the deaths of dozens of Haitians.

An independent inquiry into Canada's role in the overthrow of Haiti's elected government in 2004, with such inquiry to release the full documentation of the 'Ottawa Initiative on Haiti' meeting held at Meech Lake, Quebec on January 31 to February 1, 2003.

18. Justice for Palestinians, Boycott Apartheid Israel

Whereas there can be no lasting peace in Palestine/Israel, or the surrounding region, without social justice;

Therefore Be it Resolved that the NDP actively campaign for the Right of Return for all refugees, an end to the Israeli settlements and Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands, a halt to the armed aggression, the bulldozing of homes, the destruction of olive groves and farms, the assassination of political leaders and activists by the Zionist state, and the removal of the apartheid wall across the West Bank.

Therefore Be it Further Resolved that the NDP call for restoration of aid to the Palestine Authority, demand a halt to military aid, investment and economic trade with Israel until all the above demands are met, and that the NDP campaign for an end to the rule of apartheid laws that make Israeli Arabs and Palestinians second and third class citizens under occupation.

19. Nationalize the Auto Industry

Whereas the Big 3 North American auto companies have ignored consumer needs, shown

reckless disregard for the environment, and squandered enormous wealth, workers' pension funds and community well-being;

And whereas corporate CEOs demand, and get, government bail out money in the billions, huge labour concessions, while arrogantly expecting to maintain control, at public expense, of an industry they drove into the ground;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the NDP actively campaign for nationalization of the Big 3 auto companies, to be operated under workers' and community control, and advocate a shift towards building small, fuel-efficient, affordable and environmentally sustainable cars and other vehicles designed to meet society's transportation needs.

20. Nationalize the Big Banks and Insurance companies

Whereas the giant banks are a central pillar of the failed world capitalist system, substituting lies and manipulation for genuine production, squandering untold wealth, and plunging millions into destitution and misery;

And whereas large banks and insurance monopolies in Canada are preoccupied with maximization of profits and bigger dividends for shareholders at the expense of citizens, small business persons and farmers;

And whereas private ownership of banks and insurance companies generates wasteful advertising, duplication of services, higher transactions costs, and thus higher costs for consumers;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the NDP actively campaign for nationalization of the big five Canadian banks and major insurance companies (including life, home and auto insurance firms), to be operated under public democratic control, with compensation to the former owners in the form of low-interest, long-term bonds;

Be it further resolved that democratic management be exercised by an elected council of bank workers, consumers, small business folk, family farmers and the labour movement as a whole.

21. Nationalize Big Oil and Gas

Whereas giant oil and gas corporations in Canada have reaped billions in profit, while despoiling the environment, and ignoring the urgent need to invest substantially in making the shift towards a new green energy efficiency;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the NDP actively campaign for nationalization of the energy industry, under workers' and community control, to guarantee domestic supply and to furnish the basis to rebuild industry, and to create hundreds of thousands of jobs, especially in renewable energy and mass public transit.

22. No NDP coalition with Business Class Political Parties

Whereas placing just demands on a capitalist minority government does not entail or require entering into Cabinet with capitalist parties,

And whereas the NDP's identity, purpose and existence depends on its independence from the parties of the business class which seek to subordinate the NDP, unions and the working class to a business agenda and the exigencies of the capitalist system.

Therefore Be It Resolved that the NDP shall never enter a coalition government with the Liberal Party, the Bloc Quebecois, the Green Party or any party that is linked to the business class, and will seek alliance instead only with forces organically linked to the organizations of working people, and/or those based on a Workers' Agenda, such as Quebec Solidaire.

23. For More Policy Discussion at Conventions

Whereas substantially greater democracy and political pluralism are an urgent necessity within the NDP;

Therefore Be It Resolved that this party mandate and provide more accessible, more democratic, membership and delegate-driven party conventions, with low/minimal registration fees, and with at least 80% of convention time dedicated to debate and voting on resolutions from grassroots organizations.

24. For Democracy and for Leadership Accountability

Whereas the NDP suffers from the legacy of federal and provincial NDP leaders who violated NDP policies and principals adopted at conventions;

Therefore Be It Resolved that adopted policies and priorities are binding on party elected officials and staff for implementation, and that NDP leaders be subject to recall and replacement for violation of party principles, and for failure to implement policies and priorities democratically adopted by convention or federal council.

25. End 'One Member One Vote' superficial decision-making

Whereas voting mechanisms like One Member One Vote for leadership selection and/or policy determination have further atomized the party membership, and reduced collective debate, discussion and movement building in favour of an exercise in top-down, electronic polling strongly influenced by the business media;

And whereas Leader selection by delegates at a party convention is more democratic;

Therefore Be It Resolved that this party rejects and removes One Member One Vote as a decision-making mechanism.

26. Democratic Control of the Telecommunications Industry

Whereas the telecommunications industry in Canada is controlled by a small number of corporations who dominate the market, destroy competition and engage in price fixing and profiteering;

Whereas social ownership is a necessary precondition for democratic control of the economy, genuine free expression, full employment and an equitable distribution of income and power;

Be it resolved that an NDP government place the telecommunications industry (including phone and cable companies) under public ownership, with compensation to the former owners in the form of low-interest, long-term bonds;

Be it further resolved that the new publicly owned industries be democratically controlled by their workers, instituting direct election of managers and enterprise directors, with the right of recall by their electors, and have significant and meaningful consumer and community participation in the decision-making process.

27. Hands off Migrant Workers

Whereas half of all people arriving in Canada today are on temporary visas without a path to permanent immigration status, and over half a million others live without any status, and are denied education, health, shelter or food while working and paying taxes,

And whereas Canada uses detentions, deportations, temporary work programmes and US style immigration raids to tear families apart, create fear amongst and against non-status peoples and pit workers against one another,

And whereas Canadian capitalism, including some of the worst mining companies in the world, are responsible for causing migration by stealing the livelihoods of millions, forcing them off their land, and the Canadian state is occupying Afghanistan and Haiti, and supporting state terrorism in Iraq, Columbia, Palestine and Tamil Eelam which increases the displacement and migration of peoples,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the NDP actively campaign for an end to raids and deportations targeting migrant workers, fight for equal human and civil rights for migrant workers, demand recognition of the foreign credentials of immigrants and migrants, demand abolition of the 'live-in' requirement for domestic workers, demand that the Live-In Caregiver Program be scrapped, and continue to press for a national child care program.

28. Fair and Democratic Trade

Whereas the so-called 'free trade' agreements of the FTA, NAFTA, GATS, the FTAA and the institution of the WTO are undemocratic and driven by the corporations and banks to maximize private profits and make the worldwide movement of money easier;

Whereas this corporate agenda is a serious threat to social programmes, the environment, human and labour rights, and the goals of democratic socialism;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the New Democratic Party is committed to actively campaign for abrogation and withdrawal of Canada from NAFTA, the FTAA, FTA, GATS and the WTO.

Therefore Be It Further Resolved that the NDP is committed to developing and promoting a democratic and participatory system of trade that supports and protects the rights, freedoms and interests of working people, unions, women, Aboriginal peoples, farmers and peasants, seniors, and the poor, dispossessed and marginalized peoples.

29. Elimination of Tuition and Student Debt

Whereas the cost of post-secondary tuition has skyrocketed in recent years;
And whereas many students are now graduating from post-secondary institutions with student-debt of over \$50,000 each.

Therefore Be it resolved that the NDP actively campaign to ensure that federal funding for education impose requirements on the provinces to immediately freeze tuition, and through annual reductions, eliminate tuition completely within five years.

Therefore Be it further resolved that the NDP actively campaign for a more equitable and progressive taxation system that would allow such increased funding of education to take place.

30. Build Social Housing

Whereas homelessness is unacceptable, and,

Whereas many people are living in marginal housing and are on the verge of becoming homeless and,

Whereas homelessness has increased in the last ten years and homeless people are dying on the streets and,

Whereas developers are not interested in creating affordable housing,

Therefore be it resolved that the NDP in government will take initiatives, with the cooperation of the municipalities and the provincial governments, to create universally affordable and accessible cooperative and social housing through a new public sector construction industry,

Be it further resolved that the NDP demand a moratorium on evictions, mortgage foreclosures, and utility cut-offs due to unemployment,

And be it further resolved that the NDP actively campaign for the demand that the federal government allocate 2% of federal expenditures for cooperative and social housing renovation, maintenance and construction.

31. Repeal the Clarity Act

Whereas the Liberal government's federal Clarity Act, which arrogates to Parliament the unilateral right to determine, after the fact, whether a future referendum vote for Quebec sovereignty has a sufficient majority, and a sufficiently clear question, and thus constitutes a gross violation of Quebec's national right to self-determination;

Therefore Be it Resolved that the NDP actively campaign for repeal of the Clarity Act.

32. Share the Work, Shorten the Work Week

Whereas the Canadian work week is among the longest in the industrialized world, a situation proven to cause increased stress, illness and lower productivity;

Whereas tens of thousands of new jobs would be created if the work week was reduced appropriately;

Therefore be it resolved that the NDP actively campaign to reduce the work week throughout Canada to 32 hours, without loss of pay or benefits to workers, and to outlaw mandatory overtime.

33. Defend and Extend the Right to Strike

Whereas governments increasingly seek to erode, restrict or eliminate workers' right to strike, falsely arguing that unions and strikes pose a threat to public health and safety, while governments themselves trample human needs by de-regulating capital, privatizing public services, and facilitating growing corporate control over all facets of life;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the NDP actively campaign for, and seek to legislate the unfettered right to strike for all working people, and that the party respect the integrity and competence of unions to safeguard public health and safety, and provide for the delivery of genuinely essential services during a strike by their members.

34. Building the Party as a Mass Movement of the Working Class and Allies

Whereas the NDP must restore and expand its links to the working class, including the

unemployed, the under-employed, and the non-waged workers, and to the social protest movements that battle the depredations of globalized capitalism;

And whereas NDP links to labour unions, including its receipt of their financial contributions, proudly distinguish the NDP from the parties of big business as the democratic political expression of the workers' movement in this country;

And whereas we can learn much from the legacy of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation (CCF), predecessor to the NDP, which was founded as a Federation of local clubs, farmers' unions, cooperatives, labour and socialist parties, workers' unions, intellectual societies, and other grassroots working class organizations, united initially on the basis of the Regina Manifesto in 1932-33.

Therefore Be It Resolved that the NDP actively campaign to increase union affiliation to the party and invite progressive social movements and groups of activist individuals to form clubs and to affiliate to the party. The party actively promotes the idea of an expanded movement of affiliates which would enjoy direct in-pu to conventions and councils of the NDP, and which would constitute an expanded working class and activist base on which to build the party as an instrument for democratic socialist transformation of society.

35. Party Internal Financing

Whereas the NDP cannot carry a progressive message to Canadians unless it is present within the communities,

Whereas party building is a grassroots activity that should focus on creating viable riding associations, especially where we have shown electoral promise but don't have a strong base,

Whereas too many NDP federal riding associations do not have reasonable and healthy funding to cover the costs of membership newsletters, meetings, and other organizing activities,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Party transfer directly to each riding association for the purpose of building the local riding organization, not less than twenty-five per cent of the public funding per vote that the NDP receives from the government for the NDP candidate in that riding.

Be It Further Resolved that this revenue transfer would be in addition to funds that are currently provided from the party centre during federal election campaigns.

36. Solidarity with Cuba

Whereas the United States government continues to enforce its war-like economic embargo of Cuba, causing increased suffering to the population;

Whereas Cuba's socialized economy, extensive social equity achievements, and quality social services ensure that human needs are put first, in stark contrast to rapacious global capitalism;

And whereas the loss of the Cuban socialist project would constitute an historic setback for working people everywhere;

Therefore Be It Resolved That the NDP express its solidarity with Cuba, encourage party members to visit the island, demand the immediate release of the anti-terrorist Cuban Five framed and imprisoned in the U.S., demand an end to the U.S. embargo, an end to the U.S. occupation of Guantanamo, and an end to U.S.-backed efforts to destabilize and sabotage Cuba's socialist gains and national sovereignty.

37. Defend Venezuela and Bolivia

Whereas the government led by Hugo Chavez has acted to expand democracy and public services, to improve access to health care, education and land for poor farmers, and to raise general employment, living standards and income levels for the majority of Venezuelans

And whereas the government of Bolivia, led by Evo Morales, has exercised its sovereign right to take control of the country's natural gas and oil industries in order to foster development and meet human needs;

And whereas the United States has a long, dishonourable and violent record of interference in the affairs of governments that take control of their resources in order to raise living standards and end foreign domination;

Therefore be it resolved that the NDP actively campaign to prevent or halt economic, political, and military intervention by the United States and its allies against the people and governments of Venezuela and Bolivia, and call on the government of Canada to oppose any U.S. and allied foreign intervention which undermines the sovereignty of those countries, and further demand that Canada facilitate increased solidarity, improve bilateral relations, and positively recognize the efforts of the Venezuelan and Bolivian peoples to exercise their self-determination.

38. Social Ownership and Economic Democracy

Whereas large corporations and financial institutions are undemocratic and hierarchical, seeking profits and power over and above the interests of citizens and the environment;

And whereas social ownership is a necessary precondition for democratic control of the economy, full employment And an equitable distribution of income and power;

And whereas workers' control would contribute greatly to economic justice, greater efficiencies, and most importantly, improve the quality of life of working people and our allies;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the NDP is committed to actively campaign for and implement social ownership, including but not limited to the following industries: banking, manufacturing, communications, energy, health care, insurance, medical drugs, natural resources, and mass transportation;

Therefore Be It Further Resolved that these industries be democratically controlled and managed by their workers, by instituting direct election of plant managers and enterprise directors, with the right of recall by their electors, and integrate significant and meaningful consumer participation in the decision-making process.

39. Social Ownership of Primary Industries

Whereas Canada's primary industries such as forestry, mining, and fishing are vital to economic development and job creation, especially in smaller communities;

Whereas many of these industries continue to be controlled by small groupings of powerful shareholders who seek profits and power over and above the interests of citizens, workers and the environment;

Whereas these industries, under private ownership, threaten smaller communities with de-investment and capital flight;

Therefore be it resolved that an NDP government socialize all major primary industries in Canada, with compensation to the former owners in the form of low-interest, long-term bonds;

Be it further resolved that an NDP government place all public enterprises under democratic control by their workers, instituting direct election of plant managers and enterprise directors, with the right of recall by their electors, and have significant and meaningful participation in decision-making by consumers, environmental groups and local communities.

Be it further resolved that public enterprises undergo a 'green screen' and move towards the use of environmentally friendly forms of energy, the building up of resource capacities and other varieties of sustainable development.