

Minimum Wage

Date of Adoption: July 12, 2002

Date of Expiration: July 12, 2005

Preamble: Whereas the majority of minimum wage earners are primarily adults 19 years of age or older; *and*

Whereas minimum wage helps protect society's most vulnerable workers including women, children and students; *and*

Whereas other trends in the economy influence employment levels to a much greater extent than do minimum wage levels, *and*

Whereas the minimum wage is an important tool in raising the floor for low income earners and lowering minimum wage primarily leads to cheaper labor, not more jobs; *and*

Whereas the BC Ministry of Skills Development and Labor, under the BC Liberal Government, instituted a "first job" wage rate at \$2 below the general minimum wage rate on November 1, 2001.

Resolution: Therefore, be it resolved that the Kwantlen University College Student Association oppose student, youth or training wages that are below the general minimum wage rate in British Columbia; *and*

Be it further resolved that the Kwantlen University College Student Association encourage provinces to adopt clear criteria for setting the minimum wage, so that both workers and businesses know the rules and can plan for increases; *and*

Be it further resolved that the Kwantlen University College Student Association encourage provinces to adopt minimum wages that are high enough to ensure that individuals working full-time will not find themselves in poverty.



Abortion and a Woman's Right to Choose

Date of Adoption: May 16, 2003*

Date of Expiration: May 16, 2006

Preamble: Whereas, according to the Action Life (<http://www.actionlife.org/>) website, 83% of Canadian women who had abortions in 1998 were not currently married at the time of their abortion, and according to the Allan Guttmacher Institute (<http://www.agi-usa.org/>), more than 13,000 women have abortions every year because they were raped or were victims of incest; *and*

Whereas, according to the Allan Guttmacher Institute (<http://www.agi-usa.org/>), more than twenty (20) million abortions are obtained illegally worldwide every year; *and*

Whereas abortion is often chosen due to a woman's own personal health concerns regarding pregnancy-related risks, concerns regarding the health of the fetus, and other concerns regarding a woman's own physical or mental well being; *and*

Whereas abortion is often chosen due to socio-economic barriers, including but not limited to: the financial burden of raising children; a lack of support from a woman's partner and / or family; unemployment and the disruption of a woman's education, be it at the secondary or post-secondary levels; *and*

Whereas user fees, tribunals and other barriers to the accessibility of abortion violates a woman's rights as laid out in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and subsequently reaffirmed in R v. Morgentaler; *and*

Whereas every woman should have access to quality health care, family planning, and counseling services that meets their needs, and allows them to make informed decisions about their own body; *and*

Whereas there are women who experience contraceptive failure due to, but not limited to: improper use of contraceptive materials, the failure of contraceptives to work properly, as well as the consideration that contraceptives are not always available or affordable to all women; *and*

Whereas every woman deserves the right of choosing whether or not to have a child; *and*

Whereas every child has the right to be wanted.

Resolution: Therefore, Be it Resolved that the Kwantlen University College Student Association support a woman's right to decide what choice is best for her in regards to pregnancy and childbearing; *and*

Be it Further Resolved that all women who choose to have an abortion should have safe abortion services available to them, regardless of geographic location or socio-economic status.

* **Note:** A motion to support pro-choice and a woman's right to have an abortion was passed on this date. This policy was subsequently drafted and approved at some point in 2003, but the exact date of the meeting at which this happened is currently unknown.



Unilateral Military Action and US Foreign Policy

Date of Adoption: July 25, 2003

Date of Expiration: July 25, 2006

Preamble: Whereas the United States (US) did not have the approval of the United Nations (UN) to defensively invade Iraq thus making it a unilateral military action of the largest military nation against a country suffering from years of economic sanctions; *and*

Whereas the U.S has admitted that it has a destabilization plan for Iraq (2); *and*

Whereas the UN Security Council imposed comprehensive economic sanctions against Iraq on August 6, 1990 , as a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait , and have not lifted the sanctions to this day. There sanctions were imposed in order to reach other goals of Iraqi disarmament, return of prisoners of war etc. The US and UK governments pledged to block the lifting of sanctions as long as Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was in power (1), even though Saddam Hussein was put in power by the US (1), and became president of Iraq in 1979 (3); *and*

Whereas the UN sanctions created a humanitarian crisis in Iraq in which between 1990-1999, over 1.7 million people in Iraq died, 250 die each day and every child in Iraq suffers from some degree of malnutrition as a direct result (2); *and*

Whereas the U.S. has employed the same strategy many times: from 1950 to 1953 against the elected government of Mossadegh in Iran, leading to its overthrow and the bloody reign of the Shah; in 1954 against the democratically elected government of Arbenz in Guatemala, leading to a U.S.-engineered military coup and the subsequent slaughter of over 100,000 Indian people; from 1970 to 1973 against a democratically elected government of Salvador Allende in Chile which ended in the coming to power of the dictatorship of General Pinochet and the murder of 30,000 Chileans. In each case, those governments were replaced by U.S. puppets that looted the countries' land and resources for the benefit of Western corporations and transformed the territory into a staging ground for CIA operations in the respective regions (2); *and*

Whereas the UN stated that Iraq , while not cooperating fully with inspections, did not have weapons of mass destruction only some missiles that could travel further than the UN approved, which was 170km versus 150km; *and*

Whereas the Canadian government did not support a military invasion of Iraq without UN approval.

Whereas no weapons of mass destruction have been found in Iraq , and the existence of such weapons was the central reason for military action.

Resolution: Therefore be it resolved that the Kwantlen University College Student Association condemns the unilateral military action of the US and Britain in their Invasion of Iraq, and condemns the actions of these governments as a gross violation of human rights and unjustified.

Be it further resolved that the Kwantlen University College Student Association condemn U.S. foreign policy that seeks to violently overthrow governments.

References

1. From the Global Policy Forum web site www.globalpolicy.org.
2. From the INTERNATIONAL ACTION CENTER on the UNICEF report released Thursday, August 12, 1999 on the continually increasing mortality rates for children in Iraq .
3. February 18, 1998 , "WHERE DID SADDAM COME FROM? PART I" Memo To: Chairman Jesse Helms, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, From: Jude Wanniski, Re: Where did Saddam Hussein come from? Published on-line: <http://www.polyconomics.com/searchbase/02-18-98.html>



Housing

Date of Adoption: August 8, 2003

Date of Expiration: August 8, 2006

Preamble: Whereas homelessness in Canada is a national disgrace, with an estimated 100,000 Canadians living without homes; *and*

Whereas Canada is the only industrialized country in the world without a national housing strategy; *and*

Whereas housing is a human right set out in Article 25(1) of the International Declaration of Human Rights; *and*

Whereas housing costs make up the largest portion of cost of living, making it a leading barrier to perusing a post-secondary education.

Resolution: Therefore be it resolved that the Kwantlen University College Student Association urge the federal government to adopt a national housing strategy and housing supply program, in co-operation with the provinces that recognizes housing as a human right and meets the goal of providing an additional 1% of federal budgetary spending to meet basic housing needs in Canada.

Therefore be it further resolved that the Kwantlen University College Student Association supports the use of crown land for low cost housing on and off campus, as well as the creation of rent controls.

Therefore be it further resolved that the Kwantlen University College Student Association lobby the provincial government to increase social housing in the Lower Mainland.



Save Burns Bog

Date of Adoption: August 8, 2003

Date of Expiration: August 8, 2006

Preamble: Whereas Kwantlen University College Student Association has traditionally been concerned with its surrounding community and environment; *and*

Whereas Burns Bog is the largest raised peat bog on the West Coast of the Americas, and home to over 150 blue and yellow-listed species of birds, 28 sensitive, vulnerable, or managed species of mammals and countless species of plants and insects; *and*

Whereas this 4000-hectare urban wilderness is an ecosystem that provides some of the worlds most effective ecological services including atmospheric cleansing, climate regulation, absorption of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases; *and*

Whereas the integrity of Burns Bog is under constant threat from developers, as it is not a fully protected area.

Resolution: Therefore be it resolved that the Kwantlen University College Student Association supports the protection of Burns Bog in its entirety, and urges the provincial government, and municipal governments to protect Burns Bog for future generations' enjoyment and benefit.



Public Transportation

Date of Adoption: September 5, 2003

Date of Expiration: September 5, 2006

Preamble: Whereas public transportation is essential to urban society and without it people could not easily move about any city, to and from work, school or to the grocery store; *and*

Whereas the purpose of private companies is to turn a profit, which increases the overall cost of providing a service, *and*

Whereas public transportation should remain as inexpensive as possible so that it is most accessible to low income people, *and*

Whereas methods of transportation must meet the needs of all people disabled or otherwise, *and*

Whereas bicycle riding should be encouraged because of it is an environmentally friendly, cost effective and healthy alternative to driving a car, *and*

Whereas a Public Transportation System is an essential service used by thousands of low and middle income people and students, and is more environmentally friendly than an individual vehicle.

Resolution: Therefore be it resolved that the Kwantlen University College Student Association support allowing bicycles on all Skytrain lines.

Be it further resolved that the Kwantlen University College Student Association believes that public transportation should remain a public service and should not be contracted out or privatized in any way.



OFFICIAL POLICY

Richmond-Airport-Vancouver Skytrain Line

Date of Adoption: September 5, 2003

Date of Expiration: September 5, 2006

Preamble: Whereas the Skytrain is part of the public transportation system that relies on support from the bus system and if the bus system is malfunctioning or run poorly the Skytrain will suffer, *and*

Whereas the Millennium Line is drawing money out of the transit system because it does not have adequate ridership to turn a profit, causing the number of busses servicing suburban areas to decrease, and fares to increased, *and*

Whereas the Vancouver City Council and Greater Vancouver Area District Council opposed the creation of the RAV Line as a public private partnership (P3), but the TransLink Board voted for the project to be a P3, *and*

Whereas the public transportation system needs to be improve because of pollution caused by the ever increasing number of commuters, *and*

Whereas the RAV line will draw further funding out of the already ailing bus system.

Resolution: Therefore be it resolved that the Kwantlen University College Student Association support the creation of the RAV line but not as a Public Private Partnership.

Be it further resolved that TransLink cease development of the RAV line until bus services in the Lower Mainland can be increased and the millennium Skytrain line can financially stand on its own.



OFFICIAL POLICY

Opposition to the Significant Projects Streamlining Act - Bill-75

Date of Adoption: January 23, 2004

Date of Expiration: January 23, 2007

Preamble: Whereas BC Bill 75, the Significant Projects Streamlining Act, allows the provincial government to bypass local zoning without local government debate and without making a motion to the provincial cabinet; *and*

Whereas Bill 75's lack of specification as to what would be potentially designated a "Significant Project" would allow the province to make any project a significant project without consultation with local municipalities that would be effected; *and*

Whereas Bill 75's lack of clarity on what represents an "Approval Authority" could allow the legitimate concerns of arms-length bodies (such as the Labour Relations Board, or the provincial Land and Water BC) to be quashed or overturned; *and*

Whereas municipal and provincial governments should work together to create the best province from the local and provincial perspective; *and*

Whereas local and provincial concerns can only be dealt with through open debate, and this legislation will stifle discussion and examination of the true impacts of development; *and*

Whereas municipalities should have primary control over local development, and Bill 75 is designed to run roughshod over local interests, zoning controls, Official Community Plans and environmental protections.

Resolution: Therefore be it resolved that the Kwantlen University College Student Association oppose the Significant Projects Streamlining Act, and support external groups that hold a similar opinion such as; the UBCM (Union of British Columbian Municipalities), and the GVRD (Greater Vancouver Regional District) in their opposition to the legislation.



OFFICIAL POLICY

LGBT Equal Rights and Human Rights

Date of Adoption: May 14, 2004

Date of Expiration: May 14, 2007

Preamble: Whereas LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered) individuals are victims of crime and are discriminated against in the areas of equal rights, human rights, job security, housing, marital recognition, child rearing, spousal benefits, education and various other social areas, *and*

Whereas the need for equal rights and human rights for LGBT individuals is not without a sense of urgency and importance, in a society where many Canadians still have misinformation and still hold myths about sexual orientation and gender identity; *and*

Whereas many right-wing politicians, religious leaders and organizations continuously attempt to strip away the equal rights and human rights of LGBT individuals; *and*

Whereas the Kwantlen University College Student Association recognizes the many contributions that LGBT individuals make in all areas of life.

Resolution: Therefore, be it resolved that the Kwantlen University College Student Association supports the equal rights and human rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered individuals within the Kwantlen Student Association, Kwantlen University College and society at large; *and*

Be it further resolved that the Kwantlen University College Student Association condemns the actions of individuals who attempt to remove equal rights and human rights from Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered individuals.



OFFICIAL POLICY

Voting

Date of Adoption: April 15, 2005

Date of Expiration: April 15, 2008

Preamble: Whereas youth voter turnout has reached an all-time low; *and*

Whereas students are often the most open-minded segment of the population and have historically acted as the social conscience of nations, constantly pushing for progressive social policy; *and*

Whereas this trend cannot continue as access to a post-secondary education is limited; *and*

Whereas not voting allows those who do vote the capacity to decide the future of our nation taking away some degree of democracy.

Resolution: Therefore be it resolved that the Kwantlen University College Student Association support encouraging students and the public to vote in all federal, provincial and municipal elections and referendums



Provincial Elections

Date of Adoption: April 15, 2005

Date of Expiration: April 15, 2008

Preamble: Whereas the political scene is often dominated by a labour unions and business; *and*

Whereas many issues take a back burner in light of this political fight; *and*

Whereas Kwantlen Student Association supports lowering and eventually eliminating tuition fees; *and*

Whereas education is the backbone of society; *and*

Whereas a more educated work force is needed to fill future economic requirements; *and*

Whereas people with a post-secondary education are more likely to vote, and hold fewer prejudice views than people without a post-secondary education; *and*

Whereas prejudice views cause political and social strife ultimately causing the quality of life of all people in the nation to decrease; *and*

Whereas one measure of a healthy democracy in voter turnout (higher turnout, better political health); *and*

Whereas post-secondary graduates make more money over the course of their lives than non-graduates; *and*

Whereas it is within the best interests of all members of Canadian society to have more education so that they have a higher quality of life, healthier democracy and can earn more money over the course of their lives; *and*

Whereas public opinion polls often state the public's support of a high quality, affordable, accessible post-secondary educational system, but will not take action to ensure this on their own unless students themselves are fighting for it.

Resolution: Therefore be it resolved that the Kwantlen University College Student Association organize public awareness campaigns during all provincial elections to educate the public on the need for lower tuition fees and higher public funding.



Electoral Reform and BC-STV

Date of Adoption: April 15, 2005

Date of Expiration: April 15, 2008

Preamble: Whereas the current political system, commonly referred to as the "first past the post system" allows government officials to be elected with less than the majority of the popular vote; *and*

Whereas the "first past the post system" allows majority governments to be formed with less than half the popular vote, termed a false majority government; *and*

Whereas when majority governments are formed they assume a mandate consistent with their platform which is not necessarily supported by a majority of the people; *and*

Whereas when a false majority government's mandate is used to make decisions contrary to public opinion it becomes 'justified' because they form government, in this way political parties rule over the public as tyrants; *and*

Whereas the system described above has lead MLAs and MPs to become representatives of their party or government to their constituents, as opposed to being their constituent's representatives to government in a particular party; *and*

Whereas a system of government in which political parties control public policy is not a democracy but instead a kind of dictatorship; *and*

Whereas no country of peoples should live in a dictatorship; *and*

Whereas the current electoral system allows political parties to gain all or none of the political or legal power in any election, and very rarely a portion of the power, *and*

Whereas the Citizens Assembly on Electoral Reform (formed in 2004) recognizes all of the above stated problems with the current electoral system and have made a recommendation to change the electoral system in BC to a special form of the single transferable vote system called BC-STV or BC Single Transferable Vote; *and*

Whereas the Citizens Assembly's proposed electoral system would take power away from political parties and place it back into the hands of the public, by creating an electoral system that forces political parties to share power unless it is truly the will of the public, thus forcing them to be more responsive to the public.

Resolution: Therefore be it resolved that the Kwantlen University College Student Association supports adopting BC-STV as the electoral system in BC,

Be it further resolved that the Kwantlen University College Student Association supports changing BC's and Canada's electoral system to a proportional system.

OFFICIAL POLICY



OFFICIAL POLICY

2005 Provincial Election

Date of Adoption: April 15, 2005

Date of Expiration: April 15, 2008

Preamble: Whereas the Kwantlen Student Association supports organizing public awareness campaigns during all provincial elections to educate the public on the need for lower tuition fees and higher public funding; *and*

Whereas the Kwantlen student Association supports encouraging students to vote in all elections; *and*

Whereas the Kwantlen student Association supports BC-STV; *and*

Whereas Kwantlen Student Association supports lowering and eventually eliminating tuition fees; *and*

Whereas it is within the best interests of all members of Canadian society to have more education so that they have a higher quality of life, healthier democracy and can earn more money over the course of their lives; *and*

Whereas public opinion polls often state the public's support of a high quality, affordable, accessible post-secondary educational system, but will not take action to ensure this on their own unless students themselves are fighting for it; *and*

Whereas the Kwantlen Student Association has a Provincial Election policy calling for the Kwantlen Student Association to hold awareness campaigns during provincial election campaigns; *and*

Whereas the Kwantlen Student Association supports lowering and eventually eliminating tuition fees.

Resolution: Therefore be it resolved that the Kwantlen University College Student Association organize public awareness campaign during the 2005 provincial election to educate the public on the need for lower tuition fees and higher public funding.

