

YUKON LIBERAL PARTY

***YUKON 20/20: A
VISION FOR THE
FUTURE***

Discussion Paper

Forward

The world of 2010 is a very different place than in 2000 or 1990. The rapidity with which change has occurred over the past 3 to 5 decades is immense. The 1959 Royal Commission on Canada's Economic Prospects (the Gordon Commission) could not have foreseen the dramatic evolution of a country moving forward to the 1980s. Likewise, the crystal ball used by the Royal Commission on the Economic Union and Development Prospects for Canada (the MacDonald Commission) in 1984 was insufficient in seeing through to the end of the 1900s and into this present century.

During this same 30 to 50 years, Yukon's society and economy have changed dramatically. We are now a province in all but name. We have settled Land Claims and Self-government Agreements covering most of Yukon and a majority of First Nations' Citizens. The territorial government along with First Nations governments, share the awesome responsibility for the future direction and pace of growth and the proper management of the gifts we enjoy as Yukoners who own this incredible part of Canada.

With these responsibilities comes the need to "do better". There are daunting social and economic challenges facing us. The political parties that have formed to bring collective beliefs to the business of governing are called upon now more than ever to "get it right". We in the Liberal Party of Yukon, take this very seriously, and to this end are calling upon Yukoners to join us for a full discussion on topics requiring our attention, and the reshaping and renewal of our policies so as to address the challenges before us.

I welcome you to our May 15th policy discussion, and look forward to working with everyone on the important business of this day.

[A message from the President of the Yukon Liberal Party]

The Preamble to Yukon Liberal Policy

Liberal (from the Latin *liberalis*, "of freedom") is the belief in the importance of liberty and equality of all citizens.

We as Liberals are directed, shaped and molded in our policy development and beliefs by the inherent dignity of every person, with social justice for all. It is good governance and ethical practice that helps to preserve and strengthen the public's confidence in its governmental institutions and agencies.

Liberals believe that transparency, accountability, and ethical and trustworthy behaviour are the cornerstones of public trust. We trace our heritage as the descendants of the 19th century Canadian reformers who helped to build community; we are the party of progressive social policy and beliefs. We assert that a liberal state should provide jobs, health care, and education while simultaneously expanding civil rights. We view the good of the community as harmonious with the freedom of the individual.

We affirm the principles of: human rights, free and fair elections, multiparty democracy, social justice, tolerance, social market economy, strengthening cultural institutions and environmental sustainability.

We champion balanced budgets and sound fiscal management as a tool to ensure that we have the means and resources needed to address the needs of all Yukoners.

We join with that great liberal thinker John Locke in our belief that ***"The end of law is not to abolish or restrain, but to preserve and enlarge freedom. For in all the states of created beings capable of law, where there is not law, there is no freedom"***

We stand with William E. Gladstone in saying ***"All the world over, I will back the masses against the classes"***

#1 Pillar - Good Governance and Ethical Practice

We Believe: That Good Governance and Ethical Practice preserves and strengthens the public's confidence in its governmental institutions and agencies. These underlying sets of principles and policies serve to reinforce the common understanding of transparency, accountability, and ethical and trustworthy behavior by the government.

This will be achieved by spot lighting the strong practice of integrity, effectiveness, efficiency, durability, and inclusiveness of policy development and services as delivered to the citizens of Yukon.

There are six elements of Liberal policy development which achieve these expressed goals and objectives. They are:

1. Openness and Accountability

The statement: We believe that the public interest is best served by a government which is open and accountable to its citizens. Good governance and ethical practices are only seen when the actions of government are open to scrutiny in the Legislative Assembly and by all residents of Yukon.

The expectation is that by being open, transparent, and accountable, decisions made by Government can be observed, seen and understood, and that Government is held accountable for the actions it undertakes.

We further believe that effective public scrutiny and oversight allow interested citizens to get directly involved in the decision-making process of their Government.

“The role of the Yukon Liberal Party is to demonstrate to Yukoners a contrast between us and the Yukon Party, to present Yukoners with a clear choice, a better option, for truly open and accountable government.” Arthur Mitchell

“Harmony and understanding, sympathy and trust abounding, no more falsehoods or derisions, golden living dreams of visions... and the mind's true liberation, Let the sunshine, let the sunshine in...” 5th Dimension Aquarius/Let the sunshine in.

“We will not jump in behind closed doors and work to subvert process. We will work together responsibly to make process work.” Arthur Mitchell

2. First Nation and Community Relations

The statement: We believe in cultivating mutually beneficial partnerships as the foundation for strong and effective relationships with Yukon First Nations; these are needed in the development of a consistent intergovernmental framework that will foster self determination. There needs to be the ability for each First Nation to negotiate, with the governments of Canada and/or the Yukon, to assume responsibility for programs and services for their people.

Yukon Liberals recognize that, honoring and respecting Yukon First Nation Final and Self Government Agreements and the continuing work required to strengthen the working relationships with all Yukon First Nation governments is achieved by the sharing of knowledge, building partnerships and improving capacity. This will ultimately benefit our territory as a whole and lead to prosperous communities.

We further believe that there is an evolving nature to these government-to-government relationships with First Nations. We acknowledge that there is the need to ensure that First Nations have the capacity to act and govern themselves. Further we recognize the importance of a successful negotiated Financial Transfer Agreement (FTA) with the Government of Canada as a major tool to achieve these goals.

Community Relations -

The statement: We believe that healthy communities have a coordinated program and service delivery agenda which is focused on empowerment of the local government to create the economic, social, cultural and environmental framework necessary to enable them to determine and manage their own lives and futures.

Guided by the virtues of justice and hard work we recognize and support the unique characteristics in the makeup of every sustainable community and respect the values and priorities and goals, they have set to achieve vibrant and healthy communities.

Our due diligence will ensure that the present service delivery initiatives remain a shared responsibility, and will strive to reflect the principles of comprehensive community health, self government empowerment and transparency as well as provide for the best quality of programs and services possible, with the delivery of these programs taking place as close to the people that are served.

“We believe in working with our self-governing First Nations to fully implement their land claims and self-government agreements in the spirit in which they were written and signed, and we believe in consulting in advance of making decisions, rather than litigation afterwards” – Arthur Mitchell

“We cannot do right unless we first see correctly” - Richard Gula

“We understand that a healthy community is a happy community and a prosperous one. Prosperity cannot just be measured in dollars. It can only truly be measured in our quality of life. This quality of life is not only for individuals but for all people and all communities.” Arthur Mitchell

3. Representative and Accessible

The statement: We believe that good governance is predicated on the Government being representative of and accessible to the general population. The aim of Government is to achieve fairer and more accessible government programming and services for all Yukoners.

The expectation is that Government will provide open and effective communication; provide fair and responsive services to clients; provide for effective and transparent accounting of its actions; and provide a whole-of-government approach to issues of accessibility.

We further believe that this will be achieved by the establishment of a framework in which the government’s performance will be reviewed against the specific criteria of responsiveness, communication, accountability and leadership. Further, we believe that the Government must be reflective of the people it serves, through its elected officials, public servants, boards, and committees.

“We will not jump in behind closed doors and work to subvert process. We will work together responsibly to make process succeed” Arthur Mitchell

“After all, I have spent the better part of my adult life insisting that government be open... that government be accessible... and that government be held accountable to people who voted us into office.” Roy Barnes

“The Liberal party was the only party that committed to striking an independent commission to investigate Electoral reform in the 2006 election” Arthur Mitchell

4. Professional Public Service

The statement: We believe that Yukon’s public servants are charged with the diligent execution of the public interest. Good governance and ethical practice by Government are predicated upon a professional public service, serving the needs of all Yukoners.

The expectation is that sound, reasoned advice will be provided by the public service to the Government they serve. This is achieved by vigorous review, research, and

debate, and a statement of the options and impacts they would have for all Yukoners.

We further believe that political interference in the operations of Government Departments is detrimental to good governance and ethical practice. Professional public service, given the parameter of sound and clear policy direction, results in good government for all Yukoners.

“Government, in the last analysis, is organized opinion. Where there is little or no public opinion, there is likely to be bad government.” William Lyon Mackenzie King

“We believe that Yukon’s public servants are charged with the diligent execution of the public interest. They are committed, hard-working professionals who have, in many cases, provided a lifetime of service.” Arthur Mitchell

5. Service to Yukoners

The statement: We believe that Government should be in service to Yukoners, delivered through the public sector, working in consort with Non-Governmental-Organizations, for the betterment of all. Government support for the development and enhancement of institutions, agencies and public bodies with a mission to community service will ensure that all will benefit.

The expectations are that a Government dedicated to service will help to serve the public good.

We further believe in the call for service for Yukoners through the volunteer sector in cooperation with Government and its agencies. This will ensure that all Yukoners will benefit from sound governance and ethical practices.

“Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country.” John F. Kennedy

“I am grateful for the opportunities I have been given to participate in that work as a representative of my country...” Lester B Pearson

6. Policy Development

The statement: We believe that the development of sound and rational policies will guide the Government decision-making process and achieve rational outcomes. This is predicated upon wide public participation in the development of policy which we view as a right, especially for those affected by the policy being developed.

The expectation is that sound, rational policy formed with input from all segments of society will result in better governance and will address areas of concern for all Yukoners.

We further believe that policies which are developed with “people first” goals and objectives will set the agenda and provide the future vision for Yukon to 2020 and beyond.

“Speak your truth quietly and clearly, and listen to others, even the dull and the ignorant, they too have their stories to tell.” Max Ehrman

“We believe that Government Policy must be built from the ground up, not be directed from the top down.” Arthur Mitchell

“Yukon Liberal are committed to a government that will listen to Yukoners, that won’t be afraid to let the people we serve, know what we are up to.” Arthur Mitchell

#2 Pillar - *Economy and Growth* -

We Believe: That Government should support and nurture a vibrant and diversified economy, evolving to a greater self sufficiency.

This will allow each citizen who wishes to make Yukon his or her home, the opportunity to be productive, responsible, and a self-reliant member of society while leading personally rewarding lives in a rapidly changing world.”

There are five elements of Liberal Policy development which achieve these expressed goals and objectives. They are:

1. Energy and Water

The Statement: We believe that energy and water are vital components of sustaining quality of life for an increasing population that relies on non-hydrocarbon based energy sources.

It is important to look strategically at hydro sources for the production of energy to feed a population growth rate of 20 percent per annum and support for light industrial growth and contribution to the mining industry which will continue to be a significant contributor to Yukon’s medium-term economic future.

This will continue to be a foundation challenge in a world that will increasingly look north for land and sustenance for a world population facing significant adaptation challenges due to climate change.

“Man is a complex being: he makes deserts bloom - and lakes die.” Gil Stern

“As we watch the sun go down, evening after evening, through the smog across the poisoned waters of our native earth, we must ask ourselves seriously whether we really wish some future universal historian on another planet to say about us: "With all their genius and with all their skill, they ran out of foresight and air and food and water and ideas," or, "They went on playing politics until their world collapsed around them." U Thant

2. “Green” Diversification

The Statement: We believe that diversification of the Yukon’s economy must be done in a way that does not contribute to the net drain of global resources, a drain that relies on the use of energy and materials that are not renewable. In our current

world this includes agricultural production which, to feed a population of almost 7 billion people, relies on hydrocarbons to produce sufficient food to feed these souls.

We must be smart about the investments we make today to ensure that our economy moves in sustainable directions. Continued reliance on Ottawa for our economic base is not sustainable, but nor is reliance on non-renewable resources. We must build on the medium-term gains enjoyed due to exploitation of non-renewable resources by using the revenues and royalties to move into “green” economic industry and business.

"Canada is poised to be a leader in sustainability. If it can't happen here, it can't happen anywhere." Lynn Oliphant

"There are no passengers on Spaceship Earth. We are all crew." Marshall McLuhan

3. Vibrancy

The Statement: Yukon is reliant on one “industry”, that being the “pipeline” of revenue from the Government of Canada. This reduces the drive of citizens to build an economy that is less dependent on the riches of other Canadians who pay taxes and generate wealth that ultimately feeds our territorial economy.

We have a strong, self-reliant and dynamic population, and we must find ways to encourage those with ideas to step forward to pursue their dreams through hard work and determination.

Tax options and incentives need to be reviewed to determine the best mix of government support to unleash this vibrancy nascent in the Yukon economy.

"We need to dream big dreams, propose grandiose means if we are to recapture the excitement, the vibrancy, and pride we once had" Coleman Young

"We no longer see the world as a single entity. We've moved to cities and we think the economy is what gives us our life, that if the economy is strong we can afford garbage collection and sewage disposal and fresh food and water and electricity. We go through life thinking that money is the key to having whatever we want, without regard to what it does to the rest of the world." David Suzuki

4. Innovation and Technology

The Statement: We believe that in order for Yukon to maintain a vibrant economy it needs to diversify its economy while maintaining high paying jobs. This is best achieved by focusing on new innovative developments in science and technology.

The expectation is that we must create a climate of success in growth areas of the new economy, and ensure that Yukon's education system is focused on high scholastic goals so that its graduates are visionaries equipped with the business skills to succeed in the new economies.

Further we believe that by encouraging highly skilled innovators and scientists to look at Yukon as a centre of excellence that encourages brilliance and originality we will grow our economy.

Supporting a climate attractive to innovators and scientists requires investment in the necessary science and technology tools and infrastructure by government and by encouraging similar investment by the private sector.

“We believe that Economic Justice can best be won by free men through free enterprise” Jaycee Creed

“Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower” Steve Jobs

“The world leaders in innovation and creativity will also be world leaders in everything else.” Harold R McAlind

5. Responsible Development

The Statement: We believe that we must respect the values we enjoy with the immense riches of Yukon -- land, non-renewable and renewable resources – and develop these in ways that ultimately provide for ourselves and contribute to a world population that will increasingly rely on Canada and other northern countries and regions for survival.

This will mean accurately assessing our current inventory of resources, and strategically consider how to use these in ways that over the long term support the territory permanently.

Short term gains around non-renewable resources must be used to support a long-term comprehensive responsible strategy for a strong renewable economic base. This includes managed growth that does not result in a Fort McMurray scenario where community quality and vibrancy is lost due to uncontrolled rapid exploitation of resources.

“The forces that are in play on climate change essentially revolve around the generation of power, the transportation of goods and services and people, and the sorts of materials that we use to fuel the whole of our civilization.”

Peter Garrett

“Economies are supposed to serve human ends, not the other way round. We forget at our peril that markets make a good servant, a bad master and a worse religion.”

Amory Lovins

“The real source of wealth and capital in the new era is not material things ...it is the human mind, the human spirit, the human imagination, and our faith in the future”

Steve Forbes

“I believe that the quantum of our knowledge will increase considerably in the coming years and that scientists will continue to be amongst the brave voices speaking out”.

Peter Garrett

#3 Pillar - Environment -

We Believe: In a balanced and sustainable approach that respects our environment and mitigates the negative aspects of development. Just because there is a potential economic benefit does not mean we should pursue each opportunity. We have an opportunity and responsibility to ensure that as the current stewards of the environment that we pass these riches on to future generations.

Land Use Planning will result in more certainty for present and future land use. We believe that we can have responsible resource extraction for the benefit of society.

We recognize that Government, in open consultation with all Yukoners, is the ultimate trustee of this public resource and can bring certainty to the use and enjoyment of the environment while mitigating negative impacts.

There are five elements of Liberal Policy development which achieve these expressed goals and objectives. They are:

1. Certainty in Land Use

The Statement: We believe that our greatest gift in Yukon is the immense productive lands that provide for healthy eco-systems we all enjoy.

To move forward, we must understand the strengths and limitations of the wide-ranging ecological systems at work in all regions of the territory, and bring sensitivity and understanding to our treatment of the variety of ecologies found in the territory.

This means that in some areas we must take assertive action to protect fragile systems, and understand clearly our impacts in areas where development is supported and encouraged.

We cannot look at ourselves as separate from the ecology within which we live, and therefore we must ensure that we understand our current and potential impact. Our 450,000 + square kilometers of land is a great wealth, and government has the responsibility to ensure that it is managed carefully.

“Suburbia is where the developer bulldozes out the trees, then names the streets after them.” Bill Vaughn

"Land use planning means the scientific, aesthetic, and orderly disposition of land, resources, facilities and services with a view to securing the physical, economic and

social efficiency, health and well-being of urban and rural communities” Canadian Institute of Planners

2. Sustainability

The statement: We believe sustainability is critical for success of our society and economy over the long term. This depends on the well being of our environment and the responsible use of Yukon’s natural resources.

The expectation is that through the development of solid set of policies and programs and the establishment of protocols related to our impact on the environment, Yukon will be able to ensure the sustainability of our ecosystems.

Further we believe that Government should be the leading catalyst in sustainable development and initiatives. Through innovation and pilot projects Yukon must be a leader in addressing the impacts on our environment.

“Treat the Earth well. It was not given to you by your parents. It was loaned to you by your children” Kenyan Proverb

Liberals believe in a Yukon that actively works to have a healthy environment, even when that means making difficult choices about which resource extraction projects can go forward and which ones not. We believe in developing a strong diversified 21st Century economy, one that is sustainable over time, and not just the short term.”

Arthur Mitchell

“I say the debate is over. We know the science, we see the threat and we know that the time for action is now.” Arnold Schwarzenegger

3. Water Resources

The statement: We believe that we have both an opportunity and a responsibility to ensure that we, as the current stewards of water resources, can pass this on to future generations. We must never give up control of this most precious resource to any private or third-party interest, as that would be selling the birthright of future generations of Yukoners.

The expectation is that the protection of our water resources will ensure the continued use of natural clean water, for drinking, recreational pursuits, irrigation and generation of electrical power, for this and future generations.

Availability and protection of fresh water is also of fundamental importance to the health of the wide-ranging eco-systems found throughout Yukon.

We further believe that this is a basic human right of Yukoners to have and maintain this resource. We believe that each Yukoner must have access to and protection of this water resource, as it is necessary for life.

“A Liberal Government will recognize that our most valuable natural resource is our water” Arthur Mitchell

“Water, water everywhere, nor any drop to drink” Samuel Coleridge

“Water has become a highly precious resource. There are some places where a barrel of water costs more than a barrel of oil.” Lloyd Axworthy

4. “Green” Infrastructure

The Statement: We believe that there is potential for Yukoners to rely increasingly on our “green” resources as we work to reduce our vulnerability to outside economic forces, and to this end can focus infrastructure investment on “green”. This includes hydro, wind, solar and bio-mass opportunities that, if comprehensively managed, will ensure that our “footprint” on the planet remains small.

Our infrastructure is enjoyed today by a small population, and has been pushed to its current limits. If we assume that there will be significant growth of population we must think through today what we need to support a population of tomorrow that will inevitably be much larger.

Today’s investment in planning and implementation will pay off over the long term.

*“The world we have created today as a result of our thinking thus far has problems which cannot be solved by thinking the way we thought when we created them.”
Albert Einstein*

*“We must reinvent a future free of blinders so that we can choose from real options”
David Suzuki*

5. “Green” Energy and Consumption

The Statement: We believe that the current rate of energy consumption in Yukon is not sustainable. We rely on hydrocarbons to support our energy needs, largely because of lifestyle decisions that require large energy demand.

Government must bring attention to and assist in providing solutions to the challenge of reducing our reliance on energy to provide for warmth and mobility, the two key consumptive needs.

“I realized that you cannot fix environmental ills in isolation. No amount of single-species rescue can address the harm we do day to day. There's only one species we need to manage — the human species. Before human impact, everything else was taking care of itself” Lynn Oliphant

“The universe is not required to be in perfect harmony with human ambition.” Carl Sagan

“Our fellow Canadians in the future will value our natural abundance of clean, fresh water for drinking, for recreational opportunities, for irrigation, and for the potential to generate hydro electrical power.” Arthur Mitchell

“There is job growth in renewables, there is job growth in energy efficiency and there is job growth in developing innovative industries and technologies to successfully meet the challenge of climate change.” Peter Garrett

#4 Pillar - *Social Justice*

We Believe: In a just society based on social justice, entered into through a social contract with citizens, which is reflected in the basic structures of society, economy and political institutions. The moral test of a Government and society is how it treats its most vulnerable members.

This is achieved by striving and advocating social justice, civil rights and tolerance for the least privileged among us. We recognize and respect the rights and privileges enjoyed by minorities as enshrined in law.

We recognize that Government is the ultimate trustee of social good providing for the welfare of all its citizens, and we believe in the inherent dignity of every person.

There are five elements of Liberal Policy development which achieve these expressed goals and objectives. They are:

1. Supporting Diversity

The statement: We believe that Yukon is a place where racial, cultural, ethnic, religious, sexual, and linguistic diversity is our strength. Our quality of life and openness as a welcoming, peaceful, caring society is based on our individual uniqueness.

The expectation is that a heterogeneous society in which all of its members are taught tolerance and acceptance of others who are different in some way from each other, is one in which all are valued for the talents they bring forward to better build Yukon society and the promotion of social justice.

We further believe that Government policies should celebrate diversity which in turn will bring about greater knowledge, understanding and peaceful coexistence leading to respect and appreciation of the things which make us different from each other. This is our strength.

***“We take the position that there is no place for the state in the bedrooms of the nation”
Pierre Trudeau***

“A healthy community does not judge others by their colour, ethnic background, religion, or sexual orientation. A healthy community is a caring one” Arthur Mitchell

“There is no such thing as a model or ideal Canadian. What could be more absurd than a concept of an all Canadian boy or girl? A society which emphasizes uniformity is one which creates intolerance and hate” Pierre Trudeau

2. Building Community

The statement: We believe that quality of life for Yukoners begins with building communities, as community life is the social fiber which sustains us. It is neighbour helping neighbour and looking out for each other which form the basis from which Government can build people-focused initiatives.

The expectation is that programs and initiatives related to community development will ensure that social disintegration and the emergence of harmful behaviors will be minimized. This will bring about increased individual well being, increased social justice, and will help to build healthy communities.

We further believe that Government alone cannot do all that is needed to build communities, but by helping to strengthen individuals, community groups and organizations, collectively we can build community.

“We understand that a healthy community is a community where children are safe, where there are ample recreational facilities and opportunities for families to experience quality of time together, and the community is free of the scourge of illegal drug use and of those who inflict it upon us.” Arthur Mitchell

“You must be the change you wish to see in the world” Mahatma Ghandi

3. Violence Prevention

The statement: We believe that Government must be in the forefront of implementing policies and programs to prevent violence and make communities safer for all. Government through community-based programs and initiatives will reduce the risk factors correlated with violence.

The expectation is that all Yukoners must feel safe in their homes, their schools, their work places and in their community. Further it is important that all Government agencies and departments work cooperatively with community NGOs to reduce violence.

We further believe that we need to go beyond law enforcement and the criminal justice system to take on the root causes of violence. This is a more appropriate, not to mention cost effective, means of addressing this issue and of breaking the cycle of violence.

“The survival of democracy depends on the renunciation of violence and the development of nonviolent means to combat evil and advance the good.” A.J. Muste

“We understand that a healthy community is a happy, prosperous, and safe one. A safe community enhances the quality of life for all individuals. We understand that a

healthy community is one in which children are safe in their homes, their daycare, and their schools and that are ample recreational facilities and opportunities for all to enjoy” Arthur Mitchell

4. Kids at Risk

The statement: We believe that a healthy community which is dedicated to social justice is predicated on child safety. We understand that a healthy community is one where children are safe in their homes, in their daycare centres and their schools.

The expectation is that Government will work with the NGO sector and Agencies to ensure that the issue of kids at risk is aggressively addressed. This will be achieved by developing quality of life indicators to be able to evaluate and measure kids at risk in an accountable manner.

Further we believe that developing ample recreational facilities for youth to build personal confidence is one tool in addressing Youth at Risk. Another is ensuring that all Government departments and related agencies work cooperatively to resolve and address key threats to Social Justice.

“We believe youth should be free of the scourge of illegal drug use and those who inflict in upon them, further Liberals believe in a Yukon where no young person should be forced to couch surf or trade their bodies and their dignity for a place to sleep” Arthur Mitchell

“Oran a azu nwa – it takes a village to raise a child” Nigerian Igbo Proverb/Hillary Rodham Clinton

5. Restorative Justice

The statement: We believe that Government must focus on the needs of the victim and the larger community, and that offenders must take responsibility and make restitution for their acts. Crime and wrong-doing harm not only individuals, but also the communities in which the offender lives.

The expectations are that Restorative Justice will focus on the dialogue between victim and offender to provide satisfaction to the victim, and make the offender truly accountable for his or her actions.

We further believe that community participation in the process will more likely lead to offenders taking responsibility for their actions, full restitution for victims, and reduced recidivism in the community.

"Liberalism is the philosophy of our time, because it does not try to conserve every tradition of the past, because it does not apply to new problems the old doctrinaire solutions, because it is prepared to experiment and innovate and because it knows that the past is less important than the future" **Pierre Trudeau**

"A true revolution of values will cause us to question the fairness and justice of many of our present policies. We are called to play the Good Samaritan on life's roadside, but that will be only an initial act. One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho Road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life's highway. True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring." **Martin Luther King**

"A healthy community does not judge others by their colour, ethnic background, religion or sexual orientation. A healthy community is a caring one" **Arthur Mitchell**

"Pierre Trudeau dreamed of a society that afforded all of its citizens an equal opportunity to succeed in life -- whatever their background or beliefs, whether rich or poor" **Jean Chretien**

#5 Pillar - Family Wellness

We Believe: In a progressive, people-focused government that will assist all Yukoners in having meaningful and fulfilling lives.

This is achieved by providing every child with an environment that will allow him or her to maximize the full extent of their abilities. We recognize that trying to develop a strong economy without succeeding in creating a healthy society based on family wellness is not the definition of “success.”

We will work towards and help facilitate the development of a society in which community members look out for each other.

There are four elements of Liberal Policy Development which achieve these expressed goals and objectives. They are:

1. Health

The statement: We believe that personal attention to maintaining a healthy lifestyle is critical to a long and rewarding life. Healthy and caring communities and their governments provide citizens with assistance in good lifestyle choice through education and prevention support, and timely and consistent access to health care and the professionals who care about and understand their patients’ needs. Health contributes to quality of life and is a basic right of all Yukoners.

The expectation is that a healthy community is one where the sick receive timely and compassionate treatment, and where government works cooperatively with health-care providers and NGOs in preventing and treating sickness.

We further believe that government is required to provide first-rate affordable publically-funded health care without the imposition of means tests, user fees, or premiums and that prevention and education are the best means to reducing health care costs.

“I came to believe that health services ought not to have a price tag on them, and that people should be able to get whatever health services they require irrespective of their individual capacity to pay.” T. C. Douglas

“The greatest wealth is health” Virgil

2. Lifelong Learning

The statement: We believe that every child should have the expectation that if they work and study hard they will succeed in their chosen field. In education we provide each new generation with the support for lifelong learning. This ensures that each individual can play the important roles that society demands resulting in healthy homes and communities.

The expectations are that our students will be provided with a toolbox of skill sets needed to ensure their success, and that they will indeed complete their schooling, with a love of learning.

Further, we believe that post-secondary education and a commitment to lifelong learning will ensure that we are equipped and ready to meet the challenges of the rapidly changing societal needs of the future.

“Liberals understand that education encompasses every part of our lives. We know that education is much more than schools, books, curriculum and report cards. In education, we prepare our next generation to build our healthy communities” Arthur Mitchell

“All of us recognize that we owe our children more than we have been giving them” Hillary Clinton

3. Lifestyle and Family Support

The statement: We believe in the importance of providing support to Yukon families. The human family in all of its dimensions and groupings is the basic structural cornerstone of society. To support family means the protection of the youngest and most vulnerable among us, as well, the appreciation and honouring of our seniors and elders.

The expectation is that by supporting families in difficult circumstances we ensure that children grow up as well-rounded individuals who contribute to society. By protecting the elderly and the frail, we ensure that the necessities required to maintain healthy and safe homes are continued throughout a Yukoner’s life.

Further we understand and appreciate that lifestyles are a means of forming a sense of self. In strengthening the family, we will ensure that healthy lifestyle choices are made which help to build society and protect the most vulnerable individuals from unhealthy environments.

“Nobody has ever before asked the nuclear family to live all by itself in a box the way we do. With no relatives, no support, we've put it in an impossible situation.” Margaret Mead

“Liberals will never abandon those who have fallen by the wayside, whether it be from sickness or lack of educational opportunity or difficult family circumstances – regardless of the cause, we don’t write people off.” Arthur Mitchell

“Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family. Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one.” Jane Howard

4. Culture and Language

The statement: We believe that our cultural diversity is our strength and is of great importance to Yukoners. Governments at all levels must play a significant role in the preservation, development, and interpretation of our rich cultural heritage and linguistic Yukon tapestry. The Yukon Government must lead because a strong society made up of diverse cultural groups, and strong heritage and linguistic fabric contributes to healthy resilient Yukon communities.

We recognize that language is one of the most tangible symbols of a culture and group identity, that language shapes how a person sees and responds to the world around him or her. Yukon has a dynamic society where English and French heard commonly around the territory give a sense of our Canadian dynamic. The preservation and enhancement of Aboriginal languages is, as well, an immense contribution in a society that recognizes the importance of language to cultural and heritage roots.

Further, we recognize that our territory is a rich amalgam of cultures, languages and people from across the globe and we welcome newcomers to be part of our unique, open and diverse society.

As Yukon liberals we believe that people of all cultures, religions, ethnicity and beliefs should be free to retain their languages and culture, and have the freedom to express themselves, whilst participating in our continually evolving and developing milieu.

We will accomplish this guided by the development of policies and programs to strengthen our culture and celebrate our diversity, and communicate these policies and programs to Yukoners, governments, First Nations and our neighboring jurisdictions.

“Jii nan yeendo nokwah K’eejit Kat eenjit gwiinzii vak’atranah tyaa” (We will look after the land good for the young people of the future” Mary Jane Moses

“I believe a constitution can permit the co-existence of several cultures and ethnic groups with a single state” Pierre Trudeau

“In Education we prepare our next generation to build healthy communities” Arthur Mitchell

“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.” World Health Organization, 1948
