

HANDOUT 10: Legislative Bills for Model Parliament

Bill 1: “An Act to amend the minimum and maximum ages for young offenders.” This bill proposes a change to the ages for young offenders from the present age of 12-17 years to the age of 10-18 years. Cost of the bill: \$23,000,000

Bill 2: “An Act to amend the *Immigration Act* to include specific quotas for non-English speaking applicants”. Second language classes, skills training, employment limitations and educational attainment are impacting the economic development of the nation. An increased emphasis on employable, skilled and educated immigrants will increase our economic development and reduce up-front social benefits costs. Cost of the bill: \$12,000,000

Bill 3: “An Act to create a trans-Canada high-speed railway linking Montreal, Quebec, with Vancouver, British Columbia.” This bill proposes the construction of a high-speed railway for passenger service across Canada. Terminals will be placed in most major cities from BC to Quebec but will not include Nova Scotia or New Brunswick. The service will be constructed in stages over 10 years and funding will be allocated on a progressive basis to a maximum of \$25,000,000,000 in any one year. Cost of the bill: \$250,000,000,000

Bill 4: “An Act to impose an excise stamp on all tobacco products manufactured or imported in Canada”. An excise stamp is a tax and also a means of identifying illegal or counterfeit cigarettes and tobacco products. Much like the security features on our currency, the stamp would be near impossible to manufacture and make it difficult to import counterfeit tobacco products. In 2007-2008 this amounted to almost \$2.4 billion in lost government revenue through taxes paid on tobacco sales. Cost of the bill: \$168,000,000

Bill 5: “An Act to increase the military defence budget by 20% to allow for improved equipment and additional personnel”. Canada’s commitments to NATO, the United Nations and national security require an increased investment in military equipment and personnel. The previous government reduced military budgets to basic service levels therefore much equipment is antiquated and personnel understaffed. Cost of the bill: \$3,650,000,000

Bill 6: “An Act to explore and develop natural gas and other resources in Canada’s Arctic region.” The Arctic is rich in mineral resources and fossil fuels. Canada’s energy needs and economic growth depend on new discoveries and the production of such resources. Cost of the bill: \$458,000,000