**SSUNS 2016 position paper**

**Committee: Canadian Confederation**

**Person: Oliver Mowat**

**Topic one: Institutional design and regional diversity**

The British and the French settled colonies had many differences spanning from political systems to religion. A necessary reform was therefore inevitable in what was New France after the British conquest. Directly following the conquest, people of the French culture mostly populated New France, and therefore reforms moved slowly if at all. I believe in provincial representation, decentralization of power and representation by population.

In efforts to create a polity that is beneficial to everyone residing in the British territories of North America I will move multiple resolutions with the goals of changing and gaining provincial rights, which would allow more independence to better serve the populations within each province. I will make numerous other policies allowing more diversity within the region. Finally I will attempt to pass resolutions giving provinces sovereignty within their due restrictions.

Within this conference, while many politicians with more conservative opinions and loyalty to England, like John a Macdonald, will suggest otherwise, Oliver Mowat would like this committee to consider two measures: A further decentralization of power as well as an amendment of the union act allowing decisions to be population based.

It is vital for the survival of the provinces to manage themselves independently. The confederation must recognize the fact that each province has different people and different cultures. Not all laws are universally beneficial to every province. England has seen considerable success managing its other colonies separately depending on where they are in the world. The same should be done for each province. If each province is able to make its own decisions it will be able to better manage any issues that it faces within its borders and make better improvements to itself through a better management of money as well as better understanding of any potential problem due to proximity. The decentralization of power would benefit everyone, including England, which would reap the benefits of the economy of multiple well-managed provinces. It is important that the confederation approaches this issue as one of the economy and of population contentment rather than one symbolizing the way England is perceived in this colony.

The union act currently does not support population-based decisions. Instead, it has each province get one say, regardless of how many people inhabit them. It also forces them to agree with anything unanimously or else it cannot be passed. All of this creates an inefficient system, which is neither representative of its citizens and that can't react quickly nor make any large change. Decisions voted directly by the people or with votes being weighted differently depending on regions that they represent would allow more improvements to be made as well as pass laws that truly help more people.

While Oliver Mowat considers decentralization and integration two issues of the utmost importance he recognizes Britain's fear that these reforms could lead to an eventual loss of power. As such, any resolution agreed upon in this committee must make it clear that Canada remains a British Colony.

**Topic two: Economic policy, regional markets and colonial Expansion**

Canada’s economy has been expanding in the past decades since Britain ended its mercantile system. The economic expansion is due mostly to the fact that Canada can now trade with more regions than before. As I believe in provincial representation and a more decentralized government I stand in agreement of a trade union between colonies that would make us less dependent of Britain.

Because I strongly believe in the progress of the provinces I will push for resolutions giving Canada more economic independence from Great Britain in hopes that it will allow us to be more productive. I am very hopeful that the province of Canada (Ontario and Quebec) will be able to expand, allowing it to grow its economy and better serve its new peoples as well as the old ones. Finally I believe in a linking of colonies through a rail system that will permit better trade between us, this will be facilitated through hopeful free trade.

Within this conference, I hope to join forces with George Brown and to oppose John A Macdonald by proposing two measures: A joining of the provinces’ economies to promote free trade, and an expansion of the province of Canada.

It is in the best interest of all of the colonies to be unified through trade. A trade union will allow major economic advancements allowing indebted provinces to regain economic control and the other states to further advance. As well, a unified group is a stronger one. A union of the provinces through trade will encourage mutual protection from any attack from the United States. Finally, if the provinces are unified in trade we can be further ourselves from Britain and ensure that our economy is independent even if we are a colony.

An expansion of the province of Canada into the Red River colony would be ideal as it is a well-connected region thanks to the Hudson Bay Company and its existing trade. As well, Canada and the British colonies need space, and need to expand. The Red River colony is directly to the west of Canada and a western expansion would be the easiest to obtain. Colonial expansion is favorable both for the colony and Britain thanks to its economic benefits. There is no disadvantage to this financially and prevents a further expansion of the United States which is already a legitimate threat.

As I have made clear in both the previous topic and sections of this one, although I believe in the importance of independent states as far as trade and economy, in no way do I want to be separated from Britain. Any motion I vote for must make it clear that Canada remains a colony. I expect top encounter opposition from john a Macdonald and the support of George Brown.

**Topic 3: Foreign policy and protecting our borders**

The expansion of the United States has always been a threat to British North America since the war of 1812. Although Britain is more inclined to support the confederate states a war would not be ideal as British North America is underprepared. I believe in a more independent British North America and a current conflict would force British help and create dependence.

I hope to have a province of Canada that is tied to Britain only by name, I will push to expand the province in unclaimed territories but shall not attempt to the land of the United States. England does not want too much of its military in British North America and I hope to rely less on Britain. I will push to have a Canadian military created in order to defend the provinces. Because the military is not yet established I will draft resolutions that avoid any direct conflicts with our neighboring county.

For this topic of discussion I hope to keep Canada safe from any invasion by proposing two measures centered on my aforementioned opinions. Firstly, the creation of a Canadian army force and secondly, creation of an official peaceful and neutral political stance towards the United States assuring we peace is wanted.

Armed forces under the control of the provinces would be beneficial to the empire altogether. Britain has made it very clear it would like to keep a minimal amount of troops in Canada. Canada however, still fears an invasion from the United States. A provincial force would satisfy both parties, keeping British soldiers being forced to cross the Atlantic at a minimum while still ensuring protection from our southern neighbors. As well as serving to protect this force would also be a clear symbol of further provincial independence.

A politically neutral stance towards the United States is imperative to ensure the provinces’ safety. Although we would receive help from Britain and be able to push back the United States in an eventual conflict it would create two problems. Firstly, British reinforcements would take time to arrive and during the interim opposing troops could advance, causing damages. Finally, it would create bad relations with our only neighbors: the northern states. A war is unnecessary and would not be beneficial for a more independent province, nor for its economy nor production in general. Neutrality allows us time to build up as a nation while avoiding any setbacks.

To conclude, foreign policy must be kept to avoid conflict, including in the case of immigration, which can only bring gains to an expanding province of Canada. A military force is however imperative. I will look favorably upon any resolutions that can put both of these ideas into place.