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COR-NB PLATFORM

THE CONFEDERATION OF REGIONS PARTY
PROPOSES
THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS BE
AMALGAMATED:

Environment & Municipalities Culture
and Housing

Human Resources Development &
Advanced Education & Labour

Economic Development & Tourism &
Intergovernmental Affairs

Health & Community Services & Income
Assistance

Natural Resources & Energy, &
Fisheries & Aquaculture

WPK

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GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

The long term goal of the Confederation of Regions Party is to see the complete union of the Maritime provinces into one political entity.

This logical step would result in over \$236 million being returned to taxpayers annually, and we would still have a higher number of MLAs per capita than the province of Alberta.

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We would also have the same number of public employees as the other nine provinces, at a ratio of 7.42 employees per 1,000 individuals.

This does not take into account the, unexaggerated, millions of dollars which would be saved in the private sector, such as the Insurance Bureau of Canada as well as the trucking industry have mentioned.

In 1991, the Confederation of Regions - New Brunswick Party campaigned on the issue of smaller government, elimination of duplication and more privatization. It is interesting how C.o.R. -NB forced its agenda through the legislature, even though it was the official opposition.

Premier McKenna says that he is committed to small business. If that's the case, why did he eliminate \$2.4 million from the "Small Business Directorate" in this year's budget?

To associate the McKenna Liberals with fiscal responsibility is a delusion.

Although the Liberals are taking \$1.2 billion more in provincial revenue than they did in 1987, our debt continues to rise and our services drop. C.o.R. - NB sees that there is, supposedly, a \$68 million surplus on the operating account. However, let me tell you, it was gained on the backs of the working poor, the handicapped, and others less fortunate.

This year's budget will see the New Brunswick Works program slashed by \$2.3 million. The Special Needs Benefits, a program that provides for extra needs of those on welfare, will be cut by \$1.9 million.

Municipal grants are cut by \$2.5 million. And, there's a cut of \$4 million in benefits for longer-term welfare recipients.

A young New Brunswicker told me just the other day, "when you see the Premier looking out the window of his expensive campaign bus, as he drives by, you can almost hear him say....."get a job you welfare bum".

Government figures tell us that there is a savings of \$60 million per year, if we eliminate duality in the Higher Education Commission, in the Department of Education and in the Department of Advanced Education and Labour. The author of the Byrne report readily admits that New Brunswick should never have had duality in education.

See report

The \$60 million savings will be returned through lower taxes, under a C.o.R. - NB government. The Confederation of Regions Party will eliminate the provincial tax on lodging and prepared meals, and ^{we} ~~it~~ feels that the increase in activity will result in somewhere between 2,000 and 4,000 New Brunswickers being hired in the service sector. Net loss of \$32 million in revenue can be covered by the \$68 million surplus realized this year.

We will reduce the size of Cabinet by 5,

~~with the total elimination of the~~

~~Department of Intergovernmental Affairs.~~

We will undertake to pass legislation to deal with the profit from crime. There must be no benefit in the commission of a crime, and we will make sure that the proceeds from crime are returned to the province.

A privately run youth correctional centre bears closer scrutiny. Nevertheless, we already have a facility at Kingsclear, with a caring and professional staff.

We will further the bonds between the Maritime provinces in all possible ways. Our Federal/Provincial agreement on language promotion will be used for language training only.

Authority to expose dangerous offenders in the community will be explored with emphasis on local police force discretion.

Video lottery terminals have been a negative force in many families. Alcohol abuse has also been a primary reason for many family breakups, yet these two vices, (video gambling and alcohol) are a fact of our society.

We will undertake to remove video lottery terminals in all establishments other than those licensed for alcohol and entertainment. *Valcourt stand.*

Government revenues from video lottery terminals will go towards alcohol and drug dependency treatment. This will, of course, cut down on the campaign by the McKenna Liberals to plant flowers ^{over 2M} along the highways and we sincerely hope that it will eliminate flowers at grave sites due to the above vices.

Lean Controls

As the election campaign unfolds, we will release more details of our agenda for New Brunswick.

BACKGROUND

Revenue Loss:

Sales tax lost - \$55.3 million

Benefits:

Increased wages from the tax cut programme - \$40 to \$50 million. (This does not include profits to firms or sales of intermediate goods)

New jobs created between 2 to 4
thousand

Additional sales tax from extra
business - \$9 to \$12 million

Additional provincial personal income
tax - \$7 to \$9 million

There will be a net loss on revenue of
\$32 million which will be more than
covered by the \$68 million surplus on
the operating amount.

Greg Hargrove

Leader