

Prairie Manifesto Project

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Province: Alberta Saskatchewan Manitoba

Party: LIB Election Year: 1952

AA = Alberta Alliance
CON = Conservative Party
LP = Liberal-Progressive Party
PC = Progressive Conservative Party
SKP = Saskatchewan Party
UFM = United Farmers of Manitoba

CCF = Cooperative Commonwealth Federation
LIB = Liberal Party
NDP = New Democratic Party
SC = Social Credit
UFA = United Farmers of Alberta
WCC = Western Canadian Concept

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AB = Alberta
SK = Saskatchewan
MB = Manitoba

UofA = University of Alberta
UofC = University of Calgary
UofR = University of Regina
UofS = University of Saskatchewan
UofM = University of Manitoba
BU = Brandon University

PARC = Provincial Archives
LEG = Legislative Library
SPC = Special Collections
ULIB = University Library

Liberalism

A Free Way of Life

- ③ Liberalism is more than a political creed, it is both a philosophy and a way of life. Its watchwords are liberty, equality, and democracy. It is a recognition of the supreme worth and dignity of the human personality and that the family is the basic institution of a desirable human society.
- ③ The first principle of Liberalism is a concern for the social and economic welfare of the common people. It seeks the application of humanitarian principles and Christian ethics to all human relationships.
- ③ Liberalism insists that the state and all other social institutions exist to promote the happiness and well-being of the individual.
- ③ Liberalism seeks to preserve and to promote the following inalienable rights — freedom of speech and press, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion, opportunity of education, freedom in selection of employment, right to justice in the courts and equality before the law, and participation in all governmental activities.
- ③ Fundamental principles of Liberalism are the private ownership of land, property, business and industry and the full and free use of individual and co-operative enterprise and initiative in the use of such possessions; subject only to such restrictions and regulations as are necessary to prevent exploitation of other human beings, waste of our natural resources and other anti-social activities.
- ③ The maximum amount of local autonomy in the control and administration of local affairs is not only a basic essential of democracy but the most efficient and successful instrument of government in local matters.
- ③ Every person has a right of access to properly constituted and impartial courts and no powers customarily resident in the courts should be usurped by any boards, commissions or other similar bodies.

The Liberal Program

These pages present the Saskatchewan Liberal party's program as adopted by the provincial convention in 1950 and subsequently added to or amended.

On the basis of this program of security, progress, and reform—without the sacrifice of human freedoms—the Liberal party invites the support of electors in the forthcoming provincial election.

AGRICULTURE

Realizing the paramount importance in our economy of the great agricultural industry the Saskatchewan Liberal Party adopts the following programme respecting agriculture.

Immediate inauguration of a provincially-subsidized farm electrification scheme similar to Manitoba's where power is made available at lower rates, and farm connections are made without any cash outlay by the farmer.

Immediate abolition of the public revenue tax, without reducing increased school grants.

Immediate abolition of the acreage mineral tax on the farmer's mineral rights.

Immediate abolition of the education and hospitalization tax on farm fuels and greases.

Reduced land taxation through increased school, road, municipal and sanatorium grants.

Reduction of licenses on farm trucks and liberalizing of the regulations regarding the use of such trucks.

A policy under which the individual landowner where mineral rights are held by the crown, and in all other cases where possible, would receive an amount equal to at least one-fifth of the royalty in the event of the discovery and production of gas or oil on land owned by him on which he holds no mineral rights, over and above compensation for actual loss for surface damage.

Abolition of the land tenancy policy of the C.C.F. government and restoration of the fundamental right of the individual to acquire ownership of the land. Present leases, at the option of the holders, to be converted into purchase agreements with all payments made on the leases credited as payments on purchase agreements.

A farm settlement scheme to provide assistance to prospective farmers, and particularly young people, in taking up farming.

A survey of the northern parts of the province to decide what areas are suitable for forest or for agricultural development. Areas suitable for agriculture to be cleared and opened to settlers chosen without political bias. A programme of assistance to settlers with the aim of providing for their security and their ownership of the land.

Adequate protection for farm debtors without making it difficult for farmers to sell their land and for purchasers to buy on easy terms.

Security for grazing lease holders by fair fees and rights of renewal and transfer of leases.

Extended research and experimentation, and the distribution of useful information to farmers and farm women.

Vocational courses in agriculture and home economics to equip young men and women for farm careers.

A permanent policy of adequate floor prices for agricultural products.

Full co-operation with the Federal Government in securing for farm products the widest markets and best possible prices.

Continuation of the Canadian Wheat Board as the best method of marketing grain and extension of the powers of the Board to include full control over the marketing of all grains with adequate representation of producers on this and other such boards.

A Board of Livestock Commissioners to aid and protect farmers in marketing their livestock.

Necessary financial and other assistance by the Provincial Government to supplement adequately Federal Government aid in crop failure areas.

Co-operation with the Federal Government in developing the South Saskatchewan River and other irrigation and power development projects and full utilization of all available water for irrigation purposes, together with a provincial programme to supplement the Prairie Farmers' Rehabilitation Assistance provided by the Federal Government.

Restoration as soon as possible of the car order book for shipping grain.

EDUCATION

The Saskatchewan Liberal Party, believing that the interests of our children and young people can best be served by placing our school system on a stable economic basis and by progressive educational policies, adopts the following platform on education.

A thorough revision of school grants legislation to provide grants equal to the differences between the revenue from a standard rate of local taxes and the costs of a basic standard of education. This basic standard to provide for teachers' salaries based on qualifications, experience and other data, and in addition for other operation costs depending on the classification of the school. Grants to be increased by assigning a larger proportion of Federal subsidies to meet the rising costs of education and at the

same time lower the burden of taxation on land and homes.

Energetic measures to remedy the teacher shortage situation, such measures to include increased normal school accommodation and financial assistance to students generous enough to encourage young people to take teacher training courses.

Greater security for teachers by provision for salary schedules and grants large enough to assure payment of these salaries.

The Liberal Party will advocate larger Federal grants to expand the present Federal policy of assisting in regard to special phases of education such as vocational, technical and scientific education, and assisting deserving students by bursaries, and scholarships to obtain the education for which they are fitted.

Provincial Government where necessary to build and equip, or generously assist in building and equipping schools.

Immediate end of the present discrimination against schools not in larger units in the payment of grants.

Student financial aid by grant or loan to be available for deserving students taking secondary, vocational, normal, nursing, university or post graduate courses. The aim to be to assure that family economic circumstances prevent no young person receiving the education for which he or she is fitted.

Improved security of tenure for teachers to be maintained as a constant objective in consultation with the Saskatchewan School Trustees' Association and the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation.

The Provincial Government to assist in providing more satisfactory living conditions for teachers in rural areas.

The teachers' superannuation fund to be placed on a sound actuarial basis with no reduction in pensions now paid, and the act to be amended after consultation with the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation to include benefits for dependents of deceased teachers.

Standards of teaching to be raised by higher entrance and graduation qualifications for normal schools and by selecting students on the basis of character and aptitude as well as academic standing.

More thorough training in English language, reading, writing and elementary mathematics to fit young people to take further courses or fill occupations.

Vocational and technical training facilities extended to meet the needs of young people living outside the larger centres and the establishment of a pro-

gramme of agricultural and home economics courses.

Scholarships to assure more teachers of home economics and the restoration of home economics as a compulsory subject in normal schools.

Expansion of services of the Department of Women's Work of the University to provide more assistance to rural women in modern organization of rural homelife.

Physically and mentally handicapped persons aided to become self-supporting and well adjusted members of the human family.

Changes in the system of school administration to be made only after properly conducted votes of the electors concerned, without pressure exerted by the Department of Education.

Trustees of larger unit boards to be elected directly by the ratepayers.

Interprovincial department of education conferences with the object of achieving greater uniformity of curricula and texts.

We condemn the use of the Adult Education Branch of the Department of Education and the use of other of our educational facilities for partisan political propaganda purposes.

HEALTH

The Saskatchewan Liberal Party; having by its legislation pioneered local health insurance schemes for a rural economy which provided hospital, medical and surgical services outstanding for their high standard and moderate costs, services which rapidly extended within the province to serve a large proportion of the people; and having as its objective the extension of such services until they serve the whole province; and having also established invaluable diagnostic, preventative and treatment services for tuberculosis and cancer control; will, upon its return to power, continue and augment health services within the province to provide:

Continuation of the present hospitalization plan with the elimination of defects to achieve greater efficiency. More use of local autonomy to do away with present costly centralization.

Financial assistance for the construction and equipment of approved hospitals to provide essential services as close to the people as possible.

Relief of present overcrowding of hospitals by provision of special institutions for the care of the chronically ill.

A steady extension, in co-operation with municipalities, the Federal Government, and existing health agencies, of contributory health insurance with the ultimate objective of providing a prov-

ince-wide scheme of medical, surgical, nursing, dental, pharmaceutical, and optometrical services.

Administration of health insurance by a central commission with adequate representation of those providing the services, those receiving the services, and the government; such representation to be appointed only with approval of the groups concerned.

Abolition of the \$10 charge for examination by cancer clinics and re-establishment of free diagnosis and treatment as provided by the Liberal government in 1944.

SOCIAL WELFARE

The Saskatchewan Liberal Party adopts the following programme on social welfare.

Co-operation with the Federal Government to provide old age pensions without a means test for all persons 70 years of age and over and pensions for needy persons aged 65 to 70. Payment of full supplementary allowances, and provision of medical and related services for those over 70 who would have qualified under the former law and for all those aged 65 to 69 who qualify for old age assistance.

Mothers' allowances large enough to enable mothers to care for their children in their own homes.

Encouragement and assistance to church, charitable and benevolent institutions in establishing homes for the aged, crippled or underprivileged who are unable to care for themselves.

Treatment, care and training for physically and mentally handicapped persons to assist them in becoming self-supporting and well adjusted members of the human family.

Aid to those who in rural and urban areas wish to own their own homes by co-operation with federal and municipal governments, by making greater use of the provisions of the National Housing Act and by negotiating with lending institutions for the financing of both modern and non-modern homes.

A Metis re-establishment programme in consultation with the Metis to improve living conditions, provide vocational training adapted to the needs of their young people with additional colonies where desirable.

Better care and treatment of women prisoners in the Prince Albert Gaol by implementing the recommendations of the Saskatchewan Penal Commission Report of 1946, commonly known as the Laycock Report, and in particular:

1. A building for women in a suitable area removed from the main goal with adequate grounds for gardening, recreation, and other outdoor activities.

2. Facilities for re-training in home government boards.

care, handicrafts, etc.

3. Adequate staff to supervise care and training.

4. Adequate provisions for the care of delinquent girls up to the age of 21 separate from older women prisoners.

VETERANS REHABILITATION

The Saskatchewan Liberal Party being deeply appreciative of the services rendered by the men and women of the armed forces, adopts the following programme:

Full co-operation with the Federal Government and veterans' organizations in re-establishment and care of ex-service men and women.

Veterans to be permitted to buy provincial crown lands and thus own their farms and homes. Present leases, at the option of the veterans, to be converted into purchase agreements with all payments made on the leases credited as payments on purchase agreements. The purchase price of such land not to be in excess of the fair value of the land at the time the veteran first entered into possession under his existing lease.

Assistance in clearing and breaking land for settlement by veterans.

LABOUR

The Saskatchewan Liberal party, believing that workers are entitled to economic security, a fair share of the revenue of production, and good working conditions, and desiring to promote co-operation of workers, management and the community, adopts the following programme:

The right of employees to organize and bargain collectively with maximum freedom and without government intervention.

Faith in personal initiative and private ownership individually or collectively exercised.

Security of employment through an ever-expanding industrial program and the encouragement of the investment of private capital.

Both management and workers responsibility to the community and concern of all to raise the standard of living of the Canadian people.

A labour minister with a labour code, and adequate labour boards to administer labour laws in the interest of the employee, the employer and the public.

Promotion of good employee and employer relations by the encouragement to adopt labour and management committees; and by maintaining conditions favourable to fair wages, vacations with pay, and improved working conditions for employees.

Adequate representation of labour on

Improved apprenticeship and trade training.

Encouragement of contributory pensions to supplement old age assistance and old age pensions.

FINANCE AND TAXATION

Reduced costs of government by business-like administration, by eliminating present waste and extravagance and by discontinuing the expenditures of public funds for political propaganda purposes.

Reduced local taxation by increased municipal, school, and sanatorium grants.

Payment of municipal taxes on government-owned industries and businesses.

Immediate abolition of the Education and Hospitalization Tax on fuels, oils, and greases used by farmers and as soon as possible the complete abolition of this tax.

Immediate abolition of the Public Revenue Tax.

Reduced farm truck licenses.

Exemption of farmer's land from the 3 cents per acre mineral tax and return to farmers of the mineral rights taken away from them by the C.C.F. Government.

Endorsation of Liberal policy of financial agreements with the provinces whereby Federal payments are made to the provinces in lieu of provincial income, corporation and estate taxes; and adoption of the principle that statutory provincial subsidies be increased to and maintained at the amount necessary to give them the same actual value in purchasing power as when brought into effect, the objective being that the provinces shall be put in a financial position to discharge adequately their constitutional duties and responsibilities.

NATURAL RESOURCES

A scientific programme of conservation to protect our natural resources and to perpetuate the lumbering, fishing and trapping industries.

An end of the socialist regimentation and compulsory marketing laws and regulations which have resulted in the ruthless exploitation of workers in the lumbering, fishing and trapping industries. Those engaged in these industries to market their products as they wish.

Development of private industry in fishing to provide an adequate supply of fish at prices our people can afford to pay and at the same time guarantee to our fishermen their full share of the consumer's dollar.

Conservation and development of the wild life of the north in the interests of the people resident in northern areas.

Fair royalties on forest products.

A more energetic programme for the destruction of predatory animals.

Information and encouragement to farmers and farm communities to establish domestic woodlots.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Saskatchewan Liberal Party, conscious that C.C.F. Socialism has seriously retarded industrial development in our province, and believing that a diversified and expanding economy will provide more employment, better wages and a source of public revenue to finance social services, adopts the following platform on industrial development.

Development of our natural resources by the energetic encouragement of the investment of private capital to provide an expanding and diversified economy.

Removal of the present threats of government competition, confiscation and expropriation.

Investigations of all agreements, leases and permits granted by the C.C.F. Government and such action taken as may be necessary to safeguard the interests of the people of our province.

A policy under which the individual landowner where mineral rights are held by the crown, and in all other cases where possible, would receive an amount equal to at least one-fifth of the royalty in the event of the discovery and production of gas or oil on land owned by him on which he holds no mineral rights, over and above compensation for actual loss for surface damage.

Utilization of water, oil, gas and coal resources in an integrated scheme to provide cheaper power for industrial development.

Efficient administration and sound extension of utilities and services.

Skilled technical personnel encouraged to locate in Saskatchewan.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

A new highway policy to fit the needs of all the people of Saskatchewan and the building of properly constructed highways and bridges.

Provincial highways to be improved and maintained.

Full maintenance of secondary highways and upkeep and rebuilding of government-built bridges by the Provincial Government.

Provincial Government responsibility for building and maintaining highways passing through towns and villages.

Substantially increased municipal grants to enable rural municipalities to improve and gravel main market roads without adding to land taxation.

Increased road and air transportation facilities to provide better access to Northern mining areas, thus assuring the people of Saskatchewan an opportunity to share to the greatest possible extent in the development and processing of the great wealth of mineral resources within our own Province.

Highways agreement for construction and maintenance by the Federal Government of hard surfaced highways as part of a national system.

Continuance of the Crows Nest Pass rates on grain and flour and such rates to remain statutory and under the control of Parliament.

Every possible encouragement of the building of branch railway lines in northern and other parts of the province where required.

The Transport Act to be amended to add Highway Transport Carriers as a class of person who may appear and be heard on the consideration of an application for the approval of an agreed charge before the Board of Transport Commissioners.

Federal Government review of the "agreed charges" provision of the Transport Act with a view to seeing it is not used to eliminate competition and create monopoly conditions on transportation in Western Canada.

We commend the Federal Department of Transportation for securing longer shipping seasons and reduced insurance for the port of Churchill and we urge that governments, the Canadian Wheat Board and others make the fullest possible use of the Hudson Bay Route, that the diversion charge in respect to Churchill be abolished and that insurance rates for this route be placed on a basis equal with those of the St. Lawrence route.

CO-OPERATIVES

The Liberal Party, having pioneered in the developing of the co-operative movement in Saskatchewan, will:

Continue to promote the growth and development of co-operative enterprises.

Respect the important Rochdale principle of the political neutrality of co-operatives and not seek to use them for partisan political purposes.

GOVERNMENT

A Liberal Government will be the willing servant of the people and not seek to be their master and will:

Restore responsible government by returning to the elected representatives the powers which they should exercise in a democracy and which have been usurped by the cabinet and boards of irresponsible planners.

Restore rights and powers of local governments and alter school or municipal units only after votes by those concerned.

THE CIVIL SERVICE

Amend the Public Service Act to relieve civil servants from political intimidation. No civil servant who is efficiently and faithfully carrying out necessary public duties need fear dismissal.

See that civil service appointments are made on qualifications with due consideration given to veterans.

See that civil service promotions are made on the basis of merit and seniority.

Recognize the right of civil servants to organize and bargain collectively.

EQUAL STATUS OF WOMEN

The Saskatchewan Liberal Party reaffirms its acceptance of the following principles and undertakes to make them effective:

The principle of equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value to be implemented by legislation.

The appointment of qualified women to boards, commissions and committees.

AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Removal of the inequities, such as inadequate payments of death and disability benefits respecting housewives, from the compulsory automobile insurance scheme.

TRADE

The Liberal Party will do all possible to lower tariff barriers, remove other restrictions and promote trade.

We recommend the establishment of a department or branch of the Provincial Government to administer legislation affecting manufacturing and wholesale and retail trade in the province.

IMMIGRATION

A vigorous provincial immigration policy, in co-operation with the Federal Government, to bring in suitable immigrants and enable Saskatchewan to share in the humanitarian work of providing homes for refugees and displaced persons.

Authorized by
SASKATCHEWAN LIBERAL ASSOCIATION
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