

NICK,  
If I had sent it back & said it  
was O.K., you would have known I didn't  
read it. I hope my comments are of use  
to you. Jim Gere

Alberta Liberal Party

Policies and Platform 1986

With an Introduction

by

Nick Taylor,

Party Leader

INTRODUCTION

During the course of the last decade, since declaring its independence from the Liberal Party of Canada, the Alberta Liberal Party has developed a series of policies that reflect and promote the needs and aspirations of the people of this province within the context of Confederation. Our highly-individual approach to development of policies for Alberta, at the same time, has been guided by a number of basic party principles. These include:

an objective of supporting  
and encouraging steady economic  
growth and broadly-based  
individual prosperity

fair and equal opportunity for  
education and employment

free enterprise and a level  
of taxation that will  
encourage, rather than dampen,  
individual initiative

policies designed to leave  
our environment as healthy  
as we found it, and  
  
standards of education and  
health care that lead the world.

I AM NOT CONVINCED  
THAT PROPERTY RIGHTS  
WULD BE IN THE  
SITUATION, THESE  
RIGHTS ARE NOW IN THE  
DISDICTION OF THE  
COURT. TO PUT THEM  
IN THE CONSTITUTION  
WULD BE THEM FROM  
PARLIAMENTAL LEGISLATION  
MAKES THE FINAL  
DECISION ONE OF THE  
COURT RATHER THAN  
THE PEOPLE. I  
WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE  
OF THE FEAR THE  
COURT OF THE  
LEGISLATURE.

Our party's position has not always been clearly, or  
fairly, presented to the people of Alberta. We have been the  
victim of "red-scare" tactics that have led people to  
overlook the facts of our policy record, that Alberta  
Liberals have always been dedicated free enterprisers and  
free traders. We have taken the leading position in this  
regard. It should be noted that the Liberal Party supported  
from the outset the entrenchment of property rights in the  
Canadian Constitution, an action in effect vetoed by the  
Conservatives.

J.A.L.

The policies put forward in this document are the  
product of research projects sponsored by the party, debate  
on resolutions presented at conventions and work by hundreds  
of concerned individuals on party committees. In short, they  
represent the views of a large cross-section of Albertans as  
well as my own views.

They have been organized into four general categories:  
Agriculture and the Environment; Education and Employment;  
Social Programs; and, The Economy  
and Diversification.

It is not our objective to "rule" Alberta, but to govern in partnership with the people of Alberta.

-- N.W. Taylor, Leader, Alberta Liberal Party

AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Let future generations say, "they left their environment as healthy as they found it."

Water

1. Undertake a comprehensive water resources study with a view to establishing the probabilities of supplies and demand for the next 50 or 100 years.

2. Encourage new industries consuming large volumes of water to locate in the Athabasca and Peace River basins where the water is, rather than in the water-short southern sections of the the province.

S PROPOSAL IS  
NICELY SOUND.  
E.C.A REPORT  
AND MAIN RIVER.  
DUBT IT IS  
TYPICALLY SOUND.  
THAT THERE  
LOT MORE  
BUT THE  
N OPPOSE IT.  
VER, IT MAY  
HAS BEEN

3. Stop work on the Three Rivers damsite in southern Alberta. Not only is this project inefficient for the purposes of irrigation and potentially damaging to the immediately-adjacent environment, but it will destroy the recreational potential of three sports-fishing rivers. The alternative is to meet irrigation requirements through development of a series of off-stream storage ponds.

BE ACADEMIC AS I DONT THINK A SUITABLE SITE HAS BEEN FOUND.

4. Clean up the rivers by working with municipalities

to build tertiary sewage treatment plants. Water should be clean upstream and down from our cities and towns. Central collection and sewage treatment should replace settling ponds for small towns.

5. Non-potable fossil water from deep wells and treated sewage water should replace surface water for many industrial uses. Secondary oil recovery projects, for example, use an estimated one million barrels per day of surface water.

THE GOAL WITH EFFLUENT IS TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE & IS BEING ECONOMIC. AFTER 5 YEARS A PROBLEM EXISTS MORE IN COLLECTION.

THIS AIM IS HARDLY UTOPIAN. IT HAS BEEN SHOWN TO BE FEASIBLE. I KNOW OF STUDIES WHICH HAVE DEMONSTRATED ACID RAIN PROBLEMS IN ALTA. & I KNOW MANY WHICH SHOW A LITTLE NORTH EAST IS VERY A SENSITIVE AREA.

Air AGRICULTURAL LAND OR CROPS IN ALBERTA HAVE NOT BEEN SHOWN TO SUFFER FROM SO<sub>2</sub> & IN SOME CASES BENEFIT.

Alberta should establish the priority of becoming the first stackless jurisdiction in the world. Air standards should be made tougher to guarantee a healthy downwind environment for citizens of Alberta as well as protecting downwind agricultural land from acid rain fallout.

WORK IS TO BE DONE. NEEDS TO BE WATCHED VERY CLOSELY IF MORE TARS SALES.

Land

ALTHOUGH I AM BIASED, I BELIEVE THE ECA LAND USE PANEL SHOULD PUT FORWARD A PROPOSAL WHICH DOES NOT REQUIRE REGULATIONS WITH "TEETH" BECAUSE THESE ARE NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO ENFORCE. FURTHER, ALBERTANS DON'T WANT THEM, & WON'T SUPPORT THEM.

1. Land-use regulations with teeth should be established to halt the loss of prime agricultural and recreational lands to residential and industrial uses.

2. Establish a land-use policy preventing removal of Class 1,2 or 3 farmland from food production. At the same time authorize purchase of development rights to compensate

THE "DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS" SYSTEM HAS BEEN TRIED IN SOME JURISDICTIONS IN THE US, IE MARYLAND & N.J. HAS REQUIRED AN ARMY OF PLANNERS TO DETERMINE WHERE "DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS" COULD BE SOLD & WHERE THEY WOULD BE NEEDED. FOR

BUT THE BUREAUCRACY IS THE PROBLEM. THE B.C. LUMP  
RESERVE SYSTEM IS BETTER. WE THINK OUR ECA REPORTS  
IS BETTER YET. Page 7

farmers then unable to sell their property for urban development.

THIS IS OK, BUT FORESTRY DESPERATELY NEEDS MORE  
EEDING + SELECTION RESEARCH TO  
PROVE THE  
TRES BEING  
CUTTED.  
3. Step up reforestation so that not only are trees replaced as they are cut, but increase planting so that within 10 years the program will have replaced every tree ever cut in Alberta.

The most serious flaw in the environmental protection system in Alberta is cabinet intervention. Excellent examples of political decisions by cabinet which are poor resource management decisions are Mount Allan, Slave River Dam and the Oldman River Dam (Three Rivers). The Alberta Liberal Party would require the department of the environment to report to the Legislature on all public enquiries and policy recommendations in order to assure cabinet accountability.

### Agriculture

WE HOPE!  
Alberta has entered the period of its Second Agricultural Revolution. The first was the transition from production of beef and buffalo to production and shipment of grain at a set of statutory freight rates. Now, with an end to the "Crow" freight rates, we enter a period of transition from growing and shipping to growing, processing and shipping a value-added product.

1. Encourage development of world-class agricultural processing plants, including meat packing and milling, that can compete efficiently in a free-trade environment with anyone in Canada, the U.S. or overseas. This will stabilize the agricultural economy and create agriculture-related industrial jobs.

QUESTION THE WISDOM OF "LONG TERM" LOANS FOR INTERMEDIATE TERM NEEDS. I THINK IT IS TRUE THAT MANY FARMERS NEED AN INFUSION OF CAPITAL. IT NEEDS TO BE EQUITY CAPITAL. NOT LOANS, I THINK THERE ARE WAYS OF DOING THIS WITH RISK CAPITAL SPECULATING ON LAND. I WOULD BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS THIS FURTHER.

2. Extend long-term loans to farmers at 6% p.a. payable out of income and for use in purchase of livestock, machinery or grain and not of land.

ISN'T BAD  
- A PUTS  
- GOVT. IN  
LAND BUSINESS.  
THINK THERE  
AREAS WHERE  
S IS GOOD, TO  
GOVT. CONTRACTS  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
IONS, OTHER  
D SHOULD HAVE  
DON'T BUY BACK,

3. Offer farmers the option of selling their land to the provincial government (Heritage Trust Fund) and taking out a lifetime leaseback, transferable to their heirs. The lease arrangement, at a percentage of the crop raised, would free capital for operating costs. These are policies designed to stabilize farm incomes at a time of depressed commodity prices while, at the same time, helping maintain the institution of the family farm.

4. The Alberta Liberal farm package also includes: elimination of the differential between urban and rural power and gas rates; establishment of a debt adjustment board so that no owner-occupied farm could be foreclosed without arbitration; removal of provincial taxes from fuel and fertilizer; elimination of barriers to interprovincial free trade; implementation of the Senator Sparrow report on soil erosion and preservation; expansion of markets for farm

BE CAREFUL  
DON'T MAKE IT  
TOUGH THAT  
TAL WITHHELD  
IN AGRIC.

VERY IMP.  
BUT MAY  
REQUIRE  
SEPARATION  
FROM EAST

IMPORTANT  
NEEDS  
IMPLEMENTATION  
CAREFUL EXPLANATION



product through creation of a special food strategy fund supporting projects such as well-situated storage facilities, storage units, processing plants and increased market research and information systems required by the modern farmer.

I THINK THE ECA 6. Cut down or eliminate the sale of public lands to  
RECOMMENDATION private persons and corporations; and when such sales do  
RANGE take place, require announcements and open, competitive  
MANAGEMENT bidding.  
REBMENTS IS HERE.  
THE ANSWER  
READ IT!

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

We want people to say, "...Alberta is a great place to find a job, a great place to bring up a family."

Our basic policy is creation of fair and equal opportunity for education and employment.

Jobs

1. De-emphasise megaproject development in favor of encouraging growth of the service industries. These include processing of agricultural products, development of the tourist industry and incentives for the small job-producing companies supporting the oil and gas industry, (which will continue as the mainstay of the economy and be treated as such.)

2. Develop an imaginative program of salary subsidies and loans for on-the-job training and retraining.

3. Create a program to attract major job-producing research projects.

4. Use the tax system as a means of stimulating job-producing economic activity. It has been estimated that two-thirds of all spending is consumer spending. Cut

taxation of persons earning \$35,000 or less by 33 per cent to stimulate the job-producing retail trade. Maintain a low rate of taxation as an incentive to small business.

### Education

"We can create educational institutions in Alberta that are among the finest in the world." -- Nick Taylor

HERE IS  
STUDENTS.

A DEFENSIBLE ARGUMENT FOR SUBSIDISING FOREIGN  
WHEN THEY GO HOME, THEY KNOW ENGLISH, THEY UNDERSTAND  
AKTA. CUSTOM:  
PRODUCTS, +  
TECHNOLOGY,  
AND CONSEQUENTLY MAKE AN  
EXCELLENT POTENTIAL MARKET.  
VERY IMPORTANT + LOTS OF EXAMPLES

1. Expand post-secondary institutions to educate all those who wish and are capable plus foreign students who will pay for their instruction.

2. Protect the independence and integrity of the post-secondary system from such pressures as government attempts to use the universities as instruments of industrial policy. We require educated individuals, not people trained to function as robots in industries which may well be doomed to become obsolete.

3. The public school system has served us well. Assure that it receives continued adequate financing and that its role is not eroded by public financing of schools run by special interests, cults or the rich who would have their private schools subsidized.

4. Encourage variety and competition in education by providing the right to establish private schools and by

*diverting a fair allocation of tax support to these schools, providing they meet curriculum standards.*

*5. The burden of education financing should be transferred from property taxes to income taxes.*

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

The Liberal party is the party that enacted legislation for perhaps the world's finest system of social programs, including old age security, unemployment insurance, medicare and family allowances. Our present policies include:

elimination of medicare premiums

elimination of double billing by doctors, but with assurance of fair compensation

eliminate hospital so-called user fees

public hearings into the continuing problems concerning the practices of Alberta Social Services in respect to children.

introduction of a denticare program for children up to 18

Government

I AM LUKE  
WARM TO SOME  
OF THESE PROPOSALS

BUT I NEED TO  
KNOW MORE ABOUT  
THEM BEFORE I  
COMMENT

The size of government and the relationship of the government to its municipalities is a continuing problem.

The Alberta Liberal program:

1. Tie municipal financing to a formula related to natural resource revenues. This will assist municipalities in their financial planning and allow them increased flexibility in designing social programs to meet local conditions, although minimum provincial standards would be maintained. It would also help eliminate the "Rip van Winkle Effect," which occurs when the government wakes up every four years to bail the municipalities out with pre-election grants of their own money.

I CERTAINLY AGREE!

2. An Alberta Liberal government would decentralize authority and reduce the over-all size of government. While the municipalities would have access to more money, they would also have to take on more responsibility.

Labor

STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS PROPOSAL BECAUSE A PUBLIC SERVICE UNION IS MUCH STRONGER AT THE BARGAINING TABLE THAN MANAGEMENT SIMPLY CAUSE MANAGEMENT ISN'T PAY THE WS, CONSEQUENTLY IS LIKE A HOLE IN THE DAM, CAUSE SOME PROTECTION BUT IS NOT THE WAY!

Fair labor and employment legislation would include:  
the right-to-strike for all truly non-essential government employees, essential being only skeleton staff required to assure public safety; legislation providing part-time workers benefits proportional to full-time workers; removal of excessive government control of arbitration and other dispute-resolving mechanisms regarding public servants;

removal of legislative loopholes allowing one-day lockouts to terminate collective agreements.

The Alberta Liberal Party wishes to encourage each individual regardless of race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability to achieve their greatest potential. The principal of equality of opportunity without discrimination should be the foundation of dealing between the government and its staff, civil servants and such persons or firms that the government deals with.

I DON'T  
SEE A  
PROBLEM.  
WHEN AN  
AGREEMENT  
IS OVER,  
ISN'T IT  
OVER FOR  
BOTH SIDES?

THE ECONOMY/DIVERSIFICATION

A free, competitive society works better and cheaper with the government as a referee, not as a player.

The Alberta Liberal Party has established programs and priorities for the economy designed to encourage broadly-based economic growth and individual prosperity.

1. Alberta's economic strategy must emphasize renewable resources, agriculture, agricultural value-added processing, communications, research, administration and tourism. and our educational institutions must receive the support needed to turn out graduates to fill the jobs formed by this new strategy.

2. It is time to restore confidence in Alberta financial institutions as a result of the failure of the Alberta Government and its inspection system and regulatory authorities to anticipate or adequately investigate the failures of Canadian Commercial, Dial Mortgage; Northwest Trust, Tower Mortgage, Fidelity Trust and Alberta credit unions. An adequate inspection system should be established in order to prevent unsound management practices as well as possible self dealing and conflict of interest.

HAVE A  
CERN ABOUT  
MUCH GOVT.  
PECTION, IT  
MS THAT  
FEDERAL  
-EM WAS NO  
EITHER, I  
D OPPOSE  
OVTS.



3. Natural gas reserves owned by many small and medium-sized companies are shut in because of lack of markets. A system of pro-rating production, which has been successfully used for oil development since 1949, should be adopted for natural gas. Improved cash flow would allow these company to continue or resume exploration activity.

4. The Alberta government should "bank" its Heritage-Fund share of natural gas in the ground until such time as markets expand and prices improve.

5. Cut the Alberta oil and gas royalty by five per cent, tied to reinvestment in exploration. This will help maintain the level of income and financing for exploration companies that will lose vital Petroleum Incentive Program grants.

6. Terminate the marketing of our natural gas resources at fire-sale rates.

7. Cut government spending and cut taxes now. It is time to leave more money in the hands of ordinary people. They will spend it on goods and services, providing a push for the economy. High taxes stifle individual and corporate initiative.

NO.

Property Rights Amend the Canadian Charter of Rights to include a guarantee of property rights.

I DON'T THINK WE CAN ROLL BACK THE CLOCK, WHAT IS A NON-STATUS INDIAN? WERE DO WE DRAW THE LINE? WAS BORN IN ALBERTA.

Aboriginal Rights Amend the Canadian Charter of Rights so that aboriginal rights for all aboriginal peoples--status and non-status Indians and Metis--cannot be annulled or limited.

Freedom of Information An Alberta Liberal government would introduce, as an immediate priority, a Freedom of Information Act opening the way for an era of open government replacing the most secretive administrative practices in our history.

AT ONE TIME DID I SACRIFICE MY RIGHTS FOR THE SINS OF MY FOREFATHERS? REAL OR IMAGINED,

I AM IN FAVOR OF ASSISTING THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

BUT I QUESTION LOCKING IN A SET OF "RIGHTS" WHICH WILL LEAVE THEM IN A DISADVANTAGED POSITION, TO BE EXPLOITED FOREVER, CHRIST! DID WE NOT LEARN ANYTHING IN OVER 100 YEARS OF ADMINISTERING THE INDIAN ACT?