

CLEAR SOLUTIONS

AN EFFECTIVE ALTERNATIVE

New Democrat Team Election Platform

✓ **Stop the creeping
privatization**
of health care.
Repeal Bill 11.

✓ **A Patient Bill of Rights.**
Health care when you
need it – guaranteed.

✓ **It's your power.**
Stop electrical
deregulation and
lower home
heating bills.

✓ **Investing in
the future.** Smaller
classes and lower tuition.

✓ **A fiscal framework** that
lowers your taxes,
balances the budget
and wisely invests
the surplus.



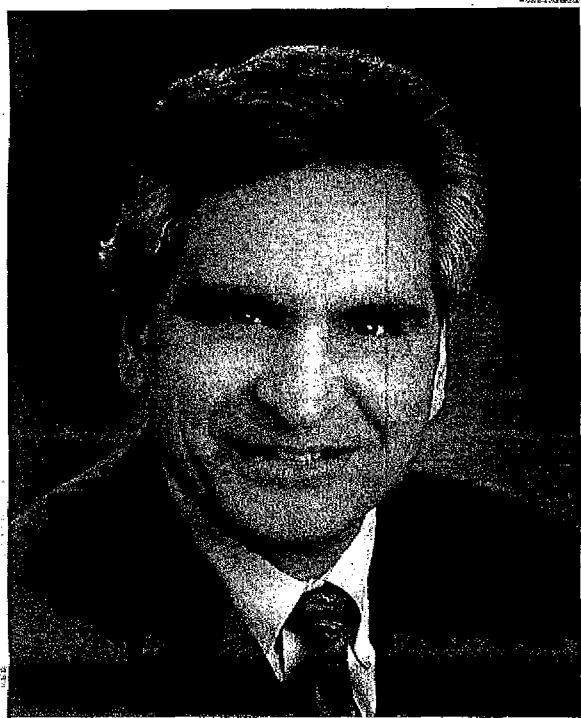
**TOUGH.
HONEST.
COMMITTED.**

**The New
Democrats**

www.newdemocrats.org

The New Democrat Team

Tough.
Honest.
Committed.



Raj Pannu, Leader

The Tories Have the Wrong Priorities

The current Tory government does not have its priorities straight. Their failed power deregulation experiment puts the interests of power companies over the interests of people like you. The Tories siphon tax dollars to private, for-profit health facilities rather than fund our overcrowded emergency rooms.

The government has money to provide a \$1 billion tax cut to corporations, while post-secondary students pay among the highest tuition in the country and young children are crammed like sardines into classrooms. The Conservatives have their priorities all wrong.

The Liberals Have Failed to Deliver

Meanwhile, in eight years as Official Opposition, the Liberals have failed to do the job. They failed to hold the Conservative government accountable on the major issues facing Alberta.

Someone needs to stand up for people like you. Only the New Democrats can be counted on to provide tough, honest, committed representation for you and your family.

The New Democrat Team is committed to bringing your voice to the legislature. We will stand up to defend your pocketbook against rising utility bills. We will fight to stop the privatization of medicare and will advocate reforms to fix the health system and strengthen it for the future.

This election is about electing a government that will get its priorities straight. It is about electing a government that will listen to people like you for a change. And that means voting New Democrat.

A New Democrat Strategy for Alberta

Now that the deficit has been slain, Albertans have a broader range of options of what we want our government to do. We don't have to stay stuck with old ideas. We have the ability to explore new ideas to move Alberta forward into the future.

The pages that follow will outline some of the New Democrat priorities for Alberta. They are new ideas for Alberta and new strategies for making Alberta a 21st century province.

Our priorities will fix our ailing health care system, and ease the pressure on your wallet from rising utility costs. The New Democrat strategy will provide people like you a real tax break without jeopardizing health care and education. And we will be able to provide a new deal for our children and youth.

We commit to maintaining balanced budgets and to pay down the debt in an orderly fashion. Our strategy is affordable.

Mostly, the pages that follow are a strategy to make sure government gets its priorities straight.

We invite you to read our strategy and compare it to the other parties. We think you will find it fresh, engaging and different from what the other parties have to offer.

Sincerely,

Raj Pannu, Leader

The Only Alternative. The Effective Alternative.

Standing Up for Public Health Care

Last year, the Tory government forced the passage of Bill 11 in the face of widespread public opposition. This, the most hated bill in Alberta, will allow private corporations to set up for-profit health facilities and to keep patients overnight – legalizing private, for-profit hospitals.

New Democrats will fight the creeping privatization of health care

The Tory agenda for health care will privatize Alberta's health-care system. We know it won't happen over night. It will be a form of "creeping privatization", where the public system is slowly undermined by a growing sector of private, for-profit health care. Public tax dollars will be siphoned off to the pockets of private health-care corporations. This is money that should be used to provide services in the public system.

Research shows that the public system delivers the highest quality health care at the lowest cost. The New Democrats believe we should be working to fix our ailing public health-care system, rather than siphoning money into a private system.

This is a blatant example of a government that doesn't listen, and doesn't care. The New Democrat Team will work to make sure they get their priorities straight. We will fight for:

- The repeal of Bill 11
- A new *Medicare Protection Act* which will stop the growth of private health facilities
- A guarantee that public tax dollars will not go to private health facilities
- Public funding and timely access to medically necessary MRI scans

The New Democrat priority will be fixing and strengthening our medicare system for the future.

An Affordable Strategy

We can afford to fix and strengthen medicare. The New Democrat Team's strategy can be accomplished under the current fiscal framework, while maintaining balanced budgets.

Strengthening medicare for tomorrow

The New Democrat Team's strategy is to strengthen medicare for tomorrow. The current structure of medicare needs reform, and the holes in the system need filling.

When the prescription drugs you need cost an arm and a leg, when home care results in a heavy burden on family members, the system isn't working for people like you. Health resources can be used more efficiently and in a way that will improve quality health care.

The New Democrat Team will work to strengthen medicare, including:

- A universal drug plan that covers the cost of drugs prescribed by your doctor
- More public support for home care, including:
 - Proper home care funding so patients aren't waiting for care
 - Minimizing extra charges to patients
 - Introducing standards so home care workers are well-trained and paid properly
 - Guaranteeing home care will continue to be publicly administered and, where possible, delivered by public or non-profit agencies
- Redesign primary care to encourage new and innovative ways of delivering health care, including the use of community health centres, teams of multi-disciplinary health providers and alternatives to the inefficient fee-for-service methods of paying health professionals
- Reform Regional Health Authorities: RHAs should be fully elected and fully accountable to Albertans, with boundaries that reflect where people receive their health care
- Implement province-wide standards for ambulance services
- Include midwifery in the list of services paid for by Alberta Health
- Improve dental services for those on low or fixed incomes

The New Democrat Team will work to heal our ailing health-care system. We are the only party with a strategy for reforming medicare to make it stronger.

Guaranteed health care when you need it

Albertans are concerned about the state of our health-care system. They are fearful that quality health services won't be there when they need them. And understandably so. Years of cutbacks by the Conservative government have taken a toll on our medicare system.

When you see reports of emergency rooms turning away sick people; when you hear how some Albertans can't find a family physician because there is a shortage; when waiting lists for MRI scans, joint replacements and other procedures can take months – something different needs to happen.

What is the Conservative government's solution? More private health care. And the Liberals don't seem to have a plan of any kind.

A Patient Bill of Rights

Albertans want to know that health care will be there when they need it. It is easy for politicians to make election promises to fix the system. The New Democrats are prepared to put the promise in legislation. If the government can pass a law requiring balanced budgets, it can pass a law requiring timely access to quality health care when Albertans need it.

A Patient Bill of Rights will include:

- A guarantee that access to a surgery or procedure will not be unreasonably delayed
- Timely access to diagnostic tests, such as MRIs
- A limit on waits for cancer treatment
- No long line-ups in emergency rooms
- Shorter waits for long-term care beds and home care services
- A guarantee of quality health care across all health regions

Legal guarantee that health care will be there when you need it.

Protecting Your Pocketbook I

It's your power. We will fight to lower your utility bills

"Alberta could have the highest electricity costs on the North America continent in 2001." – Canadian Association of Manufacturers and Exporters, December 2000.

"Made in Alberta" **T**he Tory power deregulation experiment has been a total failure. It has caused electricity costs to skyrocket and may lead to greater blackouts and brownouts due to power shortages. The only ones benefiting from deregulation are the power companies. One look at California tells us that electricity deregulation does not work.

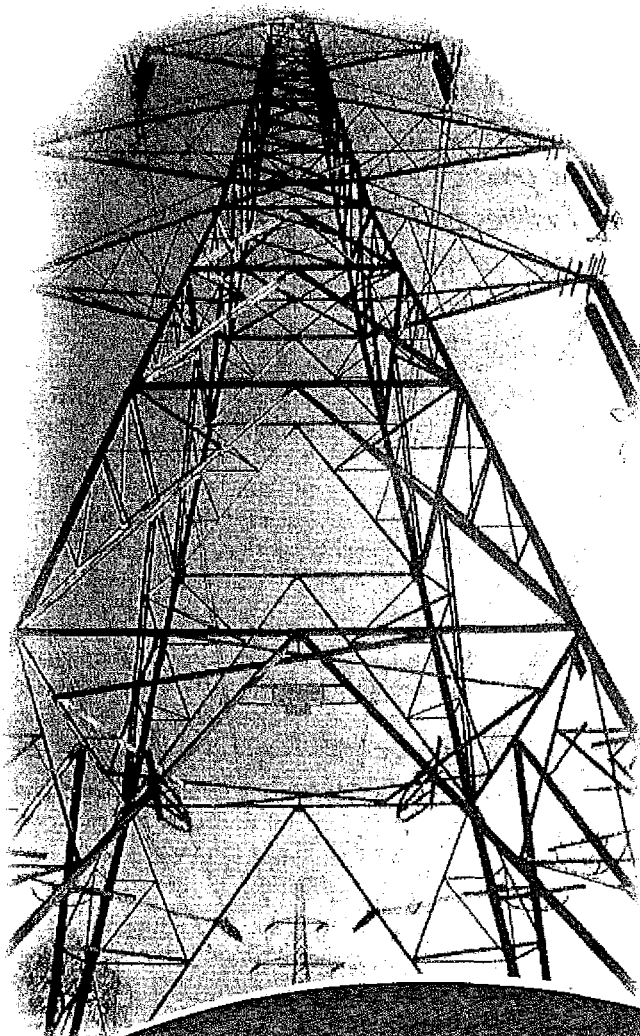
Before the Tory experiment, Alberta had among the lowest electricity costs on the continent. Today we have among the highest. Meanwhile, our neighbours in Saskatchewan, B.C. and Manitoba – who stayed with the regulated system – continue to benefit from lower, stable prices.

The Tories have obviously not learned the old saying: "If it isn't broken, don't fix it". And the Liberals don't have a plan of any kind.

Someone needs to defend the pocketbook of hard-working Albertans. Only the New Democrat Team can be counted on to protect your pocketbook from failed Tory experiments.

The New Democrat Team has a plan to end Tory deregulation and create a new form of regulation to ensure we build "Electricity in the 21st Century":

- Re-integration of the power grid, where a beefed up regulatory agency keeps prices stable and new generation is planned according to the demand for power
- Stable prices will be enforced, with consumers given choice of additional pricing options – "Green Power" packages, long term price contracts and other options to allow more flexibility for consumers
- Incentives for "Green Power". Power produced from environmentally cleaner methods – wind power, solar, micro-hydro, etc. – will be given preferential access to the power grid
- Energy Conservation. Government, in partnership with electrical utilities, will promote and encourage energy conservation measures to reduce our need for new power generation



Putting the Lid on Spiraling Home Heating Costs

The average home natural gas heating bill has gone up 300 per cent since 1997. Albertans are now paying California prices for natural gas. It doesn't have to be that way.

The Conservative government puts a bigger priority on exporting natural gas to the United States than it does on guaranteeing low cost home heating for Albertans. Their priorities are all wrong.

And the Liberals have no plan at all. They have failed to do the job.

It's our natural gas. It belongs to all Albertans. The New Democrat Team believes the first priority should be low cost natural gas for Albertans. The New Democrat Team has a four-point plan to create a long-term solution to the natural gas crisis and to lower your home heating bills:

- A cap on home heating natural gas rates at \$3/gigajoule. The cap will be financed through a small increase in royalty rates. This will save people like you \$1,000 a year over current prices
- Create a Gas Price Stabilization Fund. The government should collect some of its royalties from gas producers as payment in-kind, creating a reserve of natural gas which could be released onto the market when prices are high, shielding Albertans from sharp increases in prices
- Strengthen the powers of the Energy and Utilities Board (EUB). An effective EUB can ensure ATCO Gas and other suppliers follow rules that benefit the average consumer
- Re-institute the "minimum reserve" requirement. This means before any natural gas can be exported, there needs to be a minimum number of years of supply available for Albertans

Why the Tory power rebate program falls short

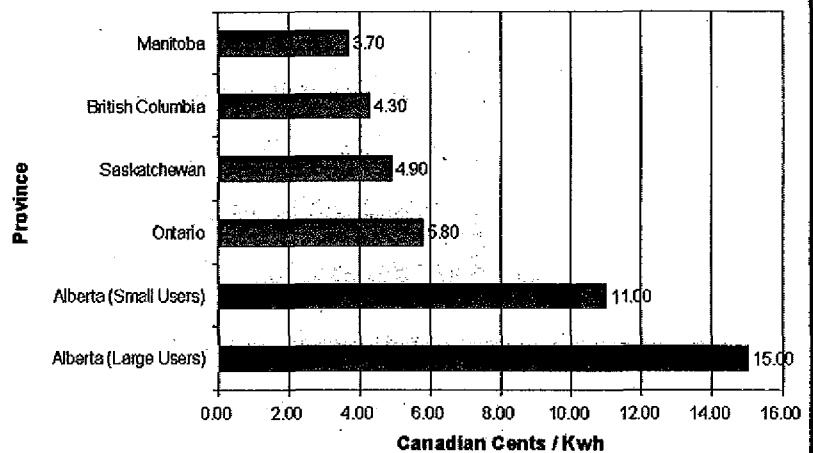
down money that is needed to pay skyrocketing utility bills, the Tory plan falls far short.

- It is a short-term fix. What happens after the rebate runs out? Who will help you with your sky-high bill next winter?
- It squanders the earnings from the power auction. What the government did was sell off up to twenty years of accumulated equity in Alberta's regulated power plants, and rebate it on power bills for this year only, just to keep a lid on power prices until after the election.

Only the New Democrat Team has a strategy to keep your utility bills down over the long term.

The Tory rebate for electricity and natural gas is simply an attempt to get them through this election. You wouldn't need the rebate if they hadn't broken the system in the first place. While no one will turn

Power Prices In Western Canada and Ontario



Source: Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters Association, Industrial Association of Southern Alberta

An Affordable Strategy

We cannot afford to let costly deregulation continue. Prices will remain high under deregulation, costing Albertans millions of dollars. The New Democrat Team's plan is to regulate for the 21st century.

Protecting Your Pocketbook II

Under the Tory Flat Tax someone making \$30,000 saves less than 10 per cent on their tax bill, while someone making \$300,000 saves 30 per cent. Those who need it the least, get the most. The Liberal "Almost Flat Tax" is not much better.

A real tax break for people like you without bankrupting health care and education

Other Tory tax proposals, such as the \$1 billion tax cut to corporations, will jeopardize important people programs like health care and education. Corporations in Alberta already pay the lowest taxes in Canada. Why do they need their taxes cut in half?

And the Liberals are calling for mandatory referendums before implementing a tax increase. This will put funding for vital services at risk.

Only the New Democrats are fighting for a tax system that offers real tax breaks to people like you, while balancing the need to adequately fund medicare and schools. The New Democrat strategy will give lower and middle income earners a bigger tax break by targeting tax cuts to people earning less than \$100,000.

Fair taxes, not flat taxes – plus scrapping health care premiums

We will also scrap health premiums, saving the average Alberta family \$816 a year.

The New Democrat Team's tax strategy will mean fair taxes, not flat taxes:

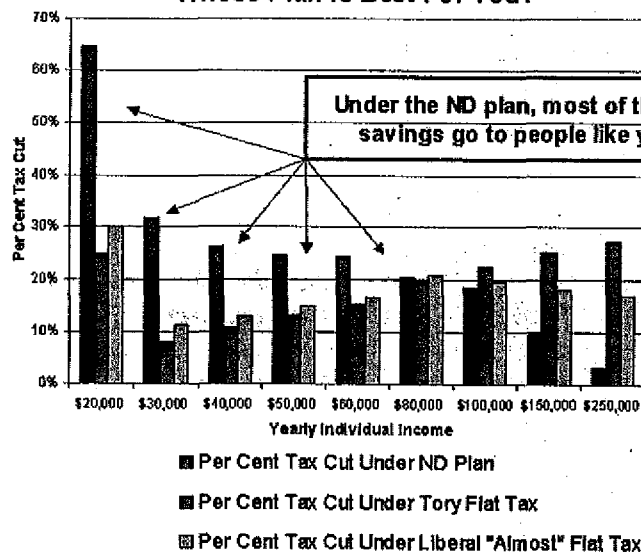
- Scrap health care premiums, saving Albertans \$816 a year.
- Replace the flat tax with a Fair Tax Strategy:
 - Anyone earning less than \$15,000 will pay NO provincial income tax
 - 7% on income between \$15,000 and \$30,000
 - 10% on \$30,000 to \$60,000
 - 12.5% on \$60,000 to \$100,000

- 15% on income over \$100,000
- Eliminate royalty tax credits – an outdated corporate welfare holdover from the 1980s
- Scrap the Tory Corporate Tax Giveaway to large, profitable corporations – saving almost \$1 billion to be used to fund health care and education. We would keep the tax reductions for small business
- Phase out the school taxes on residential property tax bills

An Affordable Strategy

The New Democrat strategy ensures the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share while giving people like you a real tax break. And our strategy won't jeopardize vital services like health care and education.

Whose Plan Is Best For You?



Protecting Your Pocketbook III

The Tories got lucky. Oil and gas revenues spiked just when they promised to eliminate the deficit they created in the first place. And in all their deficit cutting, they created a new kind of deficit – a human deficit.

Guaranteeing balanced budgets and investing the surplus wisely

The Tories have no strategy for tackling the human deficit, while paying the debt. The era of deficits is over. The New Democrats will maintain balanced budgets – we guarantee it. We will also pay down the remaining debt in an orderly fashion that balances the needs of health care and education.

The New Democrat Team has a better strategy for balancing the budget and eliminating the human deficit:

- Retain the requirement to balanced budgets
- Maintain the three-year business plan approach to government
- Repayment of remaining debt over 15 years

- 50% of any unbudgeted surplus will go to either debt repayment or into the Heritage Trust Fund, whichever makes most economic sense
- 50% of unbudgeted surpluses will go to additional funding for priority areas or to targeted tax reductions
- Emphasize the need for longer term funding commitments for essential services

The New Democrat Team will fight for a public education system worthy of our children

Investing in Our Children's Future



Under the Conservative government, education funding and decision-making has been ad-hoc and chaotic. Government cutbacks to schools have forced educators to scramble to pick up the pieces the best they can. The result is a school system with stressed teachers, chronic shortages of supplies and overcrowded classrooms. And the Liberals as Official Opposition have proven they are not up to the job of defending education.

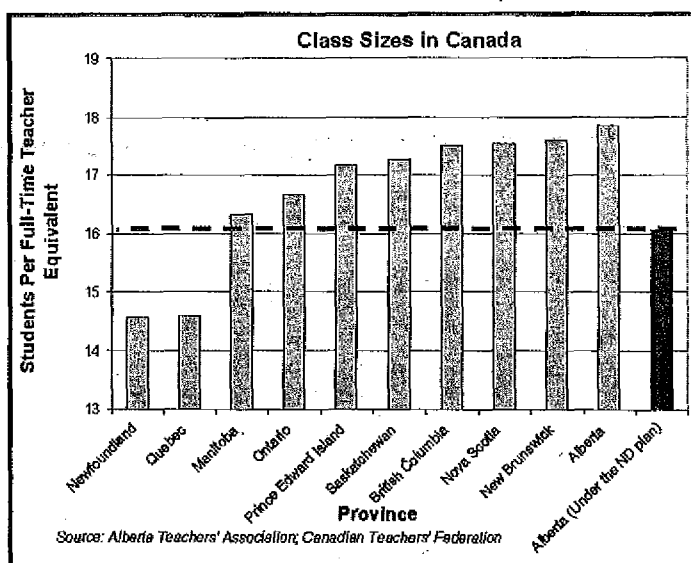
The New Democrats will work for a public school system that works up to its potential.

In particular, class size is a growing issue of concern. When a class is too large, every student loses. The teacher is unable to provide the quality of education they want to provide. The New Democrats will fight to cut class sizes at all grade levels, and especially in the lower grades when kids most need one-on-one attention.

Parents now spend hundreds of volunteer hours fundraising for basic school necessities. We need to fund our education system through public tax dollars, not bingo and chocolate bar sales. School should be about textbooks, not cheque books.

The New Democrat Team will work for investment in the future by investing in our children:

- Cut class sizes by an average of 10% across all grades, including class size cap of 17 from kindergarten to Grade 3
- Address funding shortfalls that force parents to fundraise for necessities



- Allow parent choice and a diversity of programs but minimize destructive competition between schools
- An end to corporate invasion of schools through "sponsorships" and "partnerships"
- Gradual elimination of taxpayer funding for private schools
- Greater integration for early childhood programs and special needs programming into the basic school program
- A new Public Education Renewal Task Force to develop an education vision for the future

An Affordable Strategy

The New Democrat strategy for education means stable funding for our schools and gives parents, schools and school boards flexibility in deciding how they can best serve our children, within a balanced budget fiscal framework.

Investing in Post-Secondary Students

The Conservative government has put college or university out of reach of many Albertans. Tuition for university has tripled during the 1990s and they keep going up. Alberta now has the third highest tuition rates in the country.

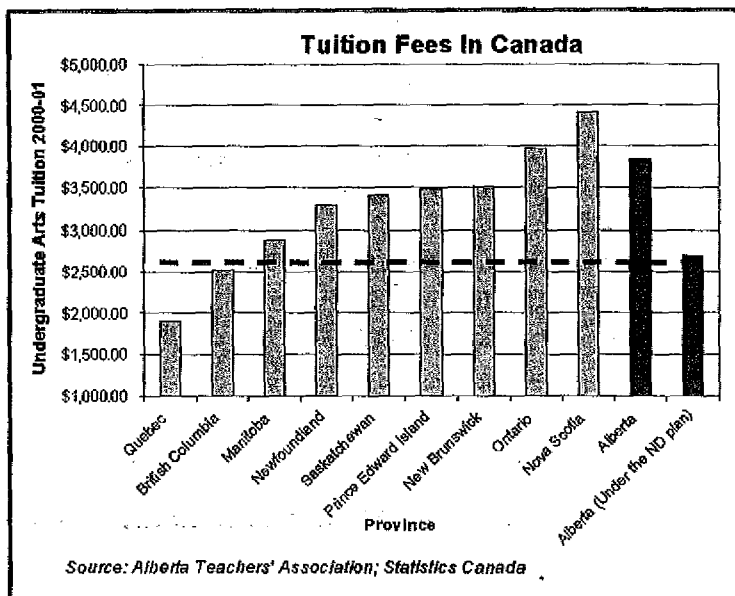


Only the New Democrats will work for a 30% reduction in post-secondary tuition

The New Democrat Team will invest in the future by investing in youth, creating more opportunities for youth:

- 30% rollback of tuition, saving students up to \$1,200 a year. Operating grants would be adjusted to make up the shortfall
- Enhance bursaries to make sure money isn't a barrier to any Albertan who wishes a post-secondary education
- Measures to reduce student debt loads that resulted from the Tories' high tuition policy

Many families simply can't afford to send their son or daughter to college or university anymore. Affordable education is not a Tory priority.



An Affordable Strategy

We should be able to afford to send our children to college or university. The New Democrat Team's strategy will provide greater educational opportunities for our youth, while maintaining balanced budgets.

Investing in Quality Child Care

It shouldn't have to break the bank to go to work — New Democrats will push for affordable daycare, cutting fees in half.

Working families are finding it harder to find affordable child care. At the same time standards at child care centres are dropping and wages for child care workers are sagging.

The Conservative government is not listening to the needs of families with young children. The New Democrats will make sure the government gets its priorities straight by working for more affordable child care options for families.

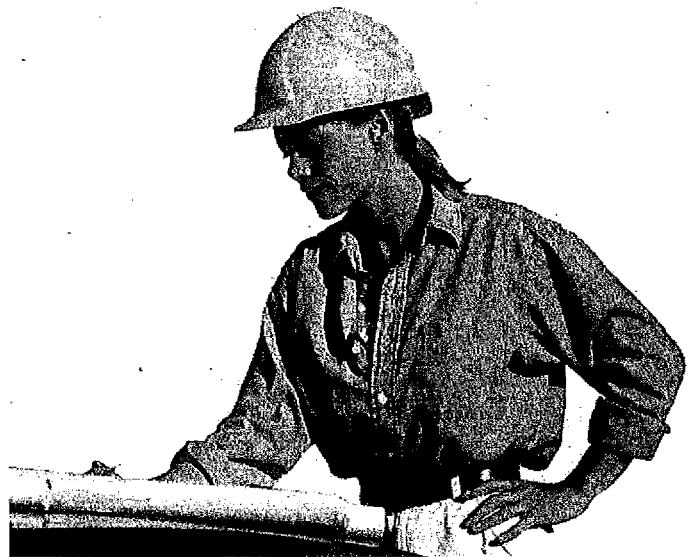
The New Democrat investment strategy will advocate to cut daycare costs in half. Similar programs in Quebec and B.C. have made child care more affordable for thousands of working families in those provinces.

The New Democrat strategy for child care will:

- Provide funding to daycares to cut every parent's daycare fees in half
- Establish a minimum starting wage for child care workers of \$10 an hour, with mandatory raises for additional education and experience. Those caring for children deserve better pay
- Provide training and support to registered family day homes, to increase options for parents looking for quality child care

Fairness in the Workplace

The Conservative government has failed to ensure that Alberta workplaces are fair and safe for employees. They have misplaced their priorities, making workplaces less safe and more unfair.



Getting workplace priorities straight

There has been a lack of adequate enforcement of basic employment standards and health and safety regulations. The result has been unnecessary accidents and tragic deaths.

The New Democrat team is committed to a fair balance in the workplace. We will make sure the government gets its workplace priorities straight:

- Increase the minimum wage to \$7 immediately, to \$8 in a year and linking future increases to the cost of living
- Extending parental leave to 52 weeks
- Introduction of benefits to part-time workers, on a pro-rated basis
- Tougher health and safety regulations, including greater enforcement of those rules
- Ensure employment standards, in particular regarding wages, benefits, hours of work, overtime and split shifts, are strictly enforced.
- Reform the WCB to make sure it properly does its job of compensating workers injured on the job and to make it accountable to the public for how it operates

We will also re-establish a fair balance in labour relations. We will work for:

- A ban on replacement workers
- Amendments to the Labour Code to reflect recent Charter of Rights decisions regarding picketing and the right to associate
- Binding first contract mediation, and empower the Labour Relations Board to impose first contracts when the Labour Code has been seriously breached
- Strengthening the powers of the Labour Relations Board to enforce decisions to ensure the democratic will of workers is respected
- Union certification when 50% of workers choose to join a union
- Ensuring the Labour Relations Board is made up equally of stakeholders involved in labour relations

Reducing poverty and creating affordable housing is a New Democrat priority

Standing Up for Families and Children

The Conservative government is doing nothing to address the persistent problem of poverty and child poverty in Alberta. They are also turning a blind eye to a growing housing crisis in Alberta. Too many families are struggling to find quality housing they can afford.



The government has its priorities all wrong. The New Democrats will fight to make poverty and affordable housing a priority:

- Raise the minimum wage to \$7 immediately, and \$8 a year from now. Future increases should be tied to the cost of living
- Commit to build quality affordable housing. Construct 1,000 new units each year so families can have stable long-term affordable housing
- Give low income working families a boost by increasing the Family Employment Tax Credit by \$250 per child
- Increase social assistance and AISH rates by 11%, returning to 1993 levels
- Set up community-based family resource centres, which will serve as a one-window approach to programs aimed at children and families, bringing together the different government departments responsible for children services

Putting a Priority on Our Environment

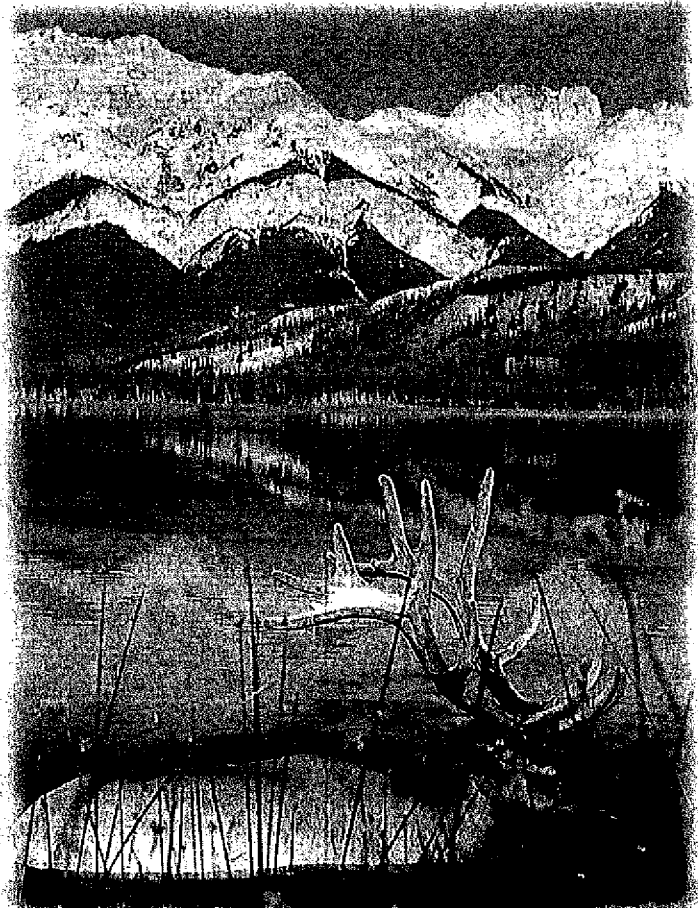
Albertans value the natural beauty of our province. We appreciate our relatively clean air and water. Albertans also know that we need to maintain that healthy environment if we are to maintain our economic good fortune.

New Democrat Team's strategy for the environment

The New Democrats believe that environmental policy is as much about planning for the future as it is acting today to protect endangered species and habitat. Our strategy for environmental protection tackles pressing issues today and sets up a way to ensure our pristine natural beauty is there for our children and their children.

New Democrat priorities for acting to protect clean air, water and wilderness:

- The creation of an Endangered Species Council to protect wildlife in danger of extinction
- Give citizens the right to launch legal action to defend protected areas
- Regulate hog factories and mega-feedlots to guarantee clean, safe water for all Albertans
- Phase out gas flaring over three to five years and reduce sour gas emissions.
- End private operation of provincial parks which is costly and inefficient
- Toughen rules around air and water pollution by industry
- Protection of unique habitat and species, including meeting the target of protecting 12% of Alberta's land area and phasing out resource development in protected areas
- Regular review of stumpage fees to ensure Albertans are receiving good value for forest harvesting



Developing a strategy for a sustainable future:

- Encourage the development of renewable forms of energy such as wind power, microhydro and solar power

- Better city planning to reduce urban sprawl and encourage better land use
- Long term commitment to better public transit, especially expansion of LRTs in Edmonton and Calgary
- Promote improved forestry practices, such as selective harvests, greater protection of streams and rivers and strict regulations for building forest roads
- Create a process to decide how forest lands should be managed which will include forestry companies, workers, environmental groups and individual citizens
- Work with power companies to provide free energy audits to business and homeowners and offer incentives to homeowners to make energy retrofits

Standing Up for Rural Communities

Farmers deserve fair compensation for their work producing food for Albertans. We need to do a better job supporting family farms and making sure rural communities remain vital, vibrant and economically viable places to live.

The New Democrat Team has a strategy to support the family farm and rural communities:

- Push hard for federal-provincial farm income programs to provide family farms with an adequate standard of living
- Support for co-operatives and orderly marketing programs
- Support Rural Electrified Associations (REAs) and rural gas co-ops to make sure rural areas have access to stable energy supplies at stable, affordable prices
- Create incentives for farmers who adopt environmentally friendly farming practices, such as shelter belts, organic farming and maintaining woodlots
- A full review of intensive livestock operations to make sure they don't damage water quality, the environment and they aren't built in the face of community opposition
- Ensure the highest possible quality of water in rural areas
- Ensure rural communities have a high level of social services, including transportation for seniors, child care options and community family support

Committed to Making Our Communities Safer

Steps have been taken in recent years to bring down crime in our communities, but more needs to be done. When we allow poverty and family breakdown to occur, we increase the likelihood of crime in our neighbourhoods.

New Democrats committed to real solutions on crime

The New Democrat Team will work to make sure serious criminals receive the punishment they deserve and we will work to reduce the things that cause crime in the first place. The New Democrats know that a one-winged bird won't fly. We will work on both ends of crime — appropriate justice and crime prevention — to make our communities safe places to live and work:

- Work with local police forces to open more community police stations and more police officers on the street walking the beat in neighbourhoods
- Push the federal government to toughen penalties for home invasions, high-speed chases, drive-by shootings and other criminal gang activities. No community should have to put up with criminal gang activity
- Stronger measures to stop spousal and child abuse
- Greater use of alternative measures such as restitution to victims, community service and "john's school" for non-violent first time offenders
- Involve citizens in crime prevention. Citizen patrols and neighbourhood watch are effective ways to reduce crime
- Curtail the use of private security firms to replace or supplement police work



- Prevent crime before it happens. Measures to reduce poverty and family breakdown — headstart programs, higher minimum wage, more opportunities — will help young people not go down the road to a life of crime

Building Respectful, Tolerant Communities

Every person living in Alberta has the same right to lead a full life in our community. The New Democrat Team will tirelessly defend the rights of every Albertan to be free from discrimination and to be a full participant in our society.

Equal treatment for all

The work of the Alberta Human Rights Commission should receive enough resources to ensure human rights complaints are not unreasonably delayed and to allow it to expand its educational role to promote tolerance and prevent discrimination on any ground.

The New Democrat Team will also stand up for:

- Removing workplace barriers for people with disabilities, including enshrining the duty to accommodate in legislation
- A strengthened privacy law to protect Albertan's personal information



- The right to quality affordable housing
- Amending legislation to ensure equal treatment for all Albertans regardless of race, gender, religion, income, or sexual orientation
- Reducing poverty, which is a barrier to full participation

A Commitment to First Nations and Metis People

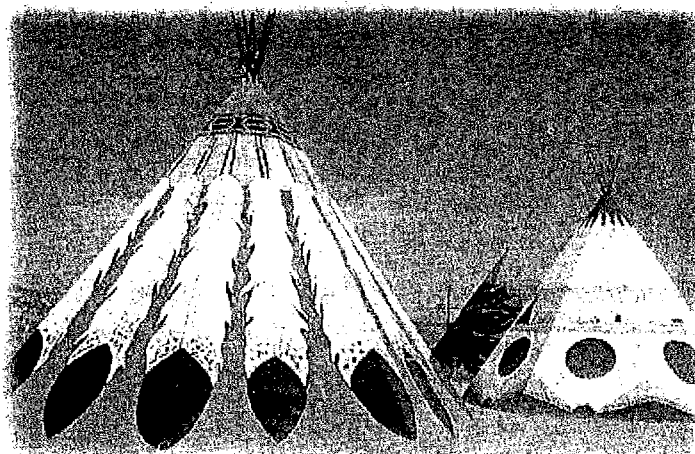
Health and social indicators for Alberta's First Nations and Metis people lag far behind every other community in our province. This situation should be demanding a high priority for our government.

Making Aboriginal issues a priority

The New Democrats would make healing native and Metis communities a priority. We will commit to working with First Nations and Metis communities to develop solutions to strengthen their communities and turn those indicators around.

Our strategy includes:

- Pushing for fair and equitable settlements to unsettled land claims in Alberta, in particular the Lubicon Cree claim



- Work with Aboriginal communities to create local economic development, including encouraging the employment of Aboriginal workers in the government sector, guidelines for Aboriginal hiring in construction and other projects, and economic development loans to foster local economic growth
- Improve housing quality on Metis Settlements
- Promote health and nutrition programs aimed at Aboriginal communities
- Ensure Aboriginal child welfare services are provided by Aboriginal agencies, and Aboriginal homes are found for foster children

Standing Up for Women

Under Conservative government policy, women are the forgotten majority. Women pay the highest price for cutbacks in health care and education. Women are more likely to end up picking up the pieces, by caring for an elderly parent or working another bingo for their child's school.

The Conservatives don't make women a priority. The New Democrats will make sure the government gets its priorities straight when it comes to issues that affect women. The New Democrat Team will push for a three-part strategy:

Women in the workplace:

- Raise the minimum wage to \$7 an hour immediately and \$8 a year from now
- Introduce pro-rated benefits for part-time jobs
- Support pay equity as a required condition for government contracts and push for province-wide adoption of pay equity
- Promote the elimination of harassment in the workplace, so women feel safe in their place of employment

An end to violence against women:

- We would increase funding to women's shelters
- Help women and children who have suffered abuse to find more long-term housing
- Provide counselling and support services

Women and the family:

- 52 weeks of parental leave – matching federal provisions
- Cut daycare fees in half for every parent.
- Improved home care and respite care for family members caring for ill family members
- Women's right to reproductive choice and family planning services, covered by medicare



Standing Up for Alberta's Seniors

Alberta's seniors built this province and gave us the healthy, vibrant communities we enjoy. We need to ensure they continue to be respected and treated with dignity in their golden years.

Unfortunately, the Conservative government has ignored the issues most important to Alberta seniors. The New Democrat Team will work for improvements to services that most affect Alberta seniors:

- Help seniors live independently longer – through increases in home care services
- Save seniors money by eliminating health-care premiums and the school portion of property taxes
- Support for family members who act as primary caregivers of aging relatives. Increased respite care and other services
- Expanded public transportation opportunities, especially in rural areas

Make Government Work for People Like You

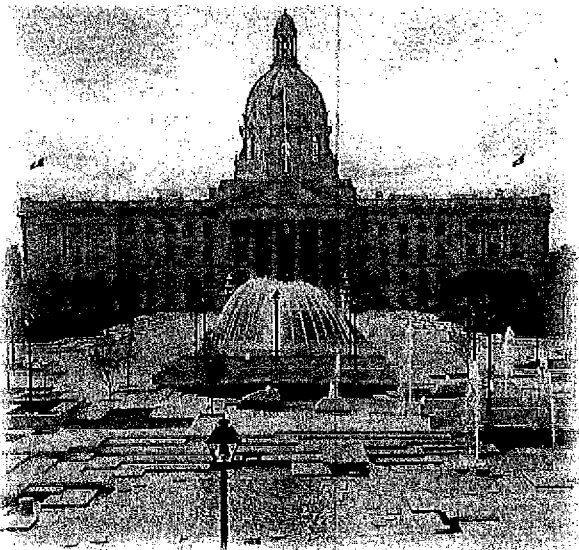
Something is wrong at Alberta's legislature. The voice of people like you isn't heard very often. Bill 11 was passed in the face of widespread public opposition. No one asked for higher utility rates from deregulation, but we got them anyway. It seems a small group of loyal Tories get to make all the decisions for the rest of us. That isn't right.

The New Democrat Team will work to revitalize Alberta's democracy

Elections should be about your priorities, but they aren't. There are no limits to how much a party can spend to win the election. The result is that the party with the most money wins. Alberta needs spending limits for elections.

Our current system of voting unfairly rewards some candidates at the expense of others. The result is that some votes count more than others. We need a system of proportional representation to make sure there are no more wasted votes.

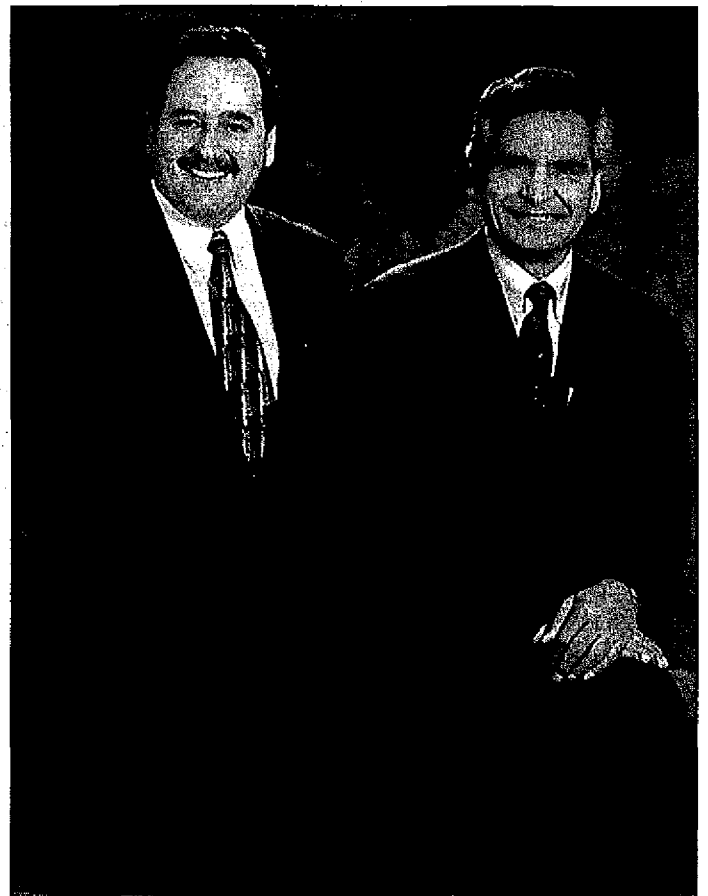
Something needs to change. Only the New Democrats have a package of reforms which will make your vote count and your voice heard in the legislature.



A more effective way to vote

- Election Finance Reform. Elections should be about who has the best ideas, not who has the most money. We need new rules to limit how much parties can spend during an election

- Advocate for a system of proportional representation – where parties are allotted seats in approximate proportion to the number of votes they receive. We will also ensure a form of constituency-based representation is retained



Deputy Leader Brian Mason and Leader Raj Pannu are supported by an effective team of New Democrats.

Making the legislature work for people like you

- An end to closed-door government. Government committees and other decision-making bodies should be open to the public and more accountable to people like you
- Create all-party committees of MLAs to travel around the province to listen to what voters have to say about proposed new laws
- Limits to closure and other debate-ending tactics by government
- Change voting rules in the legislature to allow MLAs greater freedom to vote against party lines

TOUGH. HONEST. COMMITTED.

The New Democrats

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