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**A choice  
for Canadians.**

**Policies of the  
New Democratic Party**

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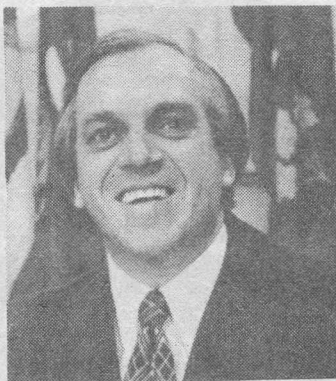


# Canada Today

## New Democratic Party ideas for the problems we must face now.

As Canadians and New Democrats, we have a commitment to Canada's future. We want to pass on to our children a future that is secure – one where everyone has a job, a decent standard of living protected against inflation, a healthy environment. A future where we have control over our own resources.

We do have many problems – rising prices, a declining dollar, rising unemployment, national unity. But there are solutions – real ones. This



NDP Leader Ed Broadbent

booklet outlines some of our ideas.

Canada is a land rich in the strength of its people and its vast natural resources. I believe Canada can rebuild its economy. I know that by working together we can regain our sense of confidence as a nation.

The policies of the New Democratic Party are based on revival and renewal of the good things that make Canada a great place to live. Working together, we can secure our future and our country.

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# ership

## Why not the best?

Most Canadians agree – Ed Broadbent is the man they'd like to see running Canada.

It's easy to understand. After 11 years of Trudeau, Canadians got fed up, switched to the Conservatives, yet they got the same programs of the Liberals: high interest rates, high unemployment, high prices.

Ed Broadbent, the New Democratic Party leader, puts the concerns of the Canadian people first. When the Conservatives threatened to sell off or shackle Petro-Can, Broadbent went on the road everywhere in the country to work to save the national energy company.

When the Liberals were the government they raised interest rates seven times in two years. The Conservatives criticized high interest rates; then in power they raised interest rates four times in seven months.

No wonder Canada looks for an alternative, a real choice, a leader and a program . . . Ed Broadbent.

People have faith in Broadbent. He keeps his promises. In the last election the New Democrats promised to oppose high interest rates, promised to stand for job creation programs, promised to fight

for policies that attacked inflation. New Democrats kept their promises.

Liberals talk a lot; Trudeau promised not to pass wage controls – then a year later he did. He had more than a decade to solve Canada's problems, yet those problems grew worse.

Joe Clark promised tax cuts during the 1979 election campaign. Clark promised help for small business. He promised action on unemployment. He promised to reduce the cost of living.

None of those promises was kept.

But did he have enough time? Sure he did. The Conservatives' budget in December was their chance to say what they'd do.

They brought in a budget that would have raised the cost of living (to 11% this year by their own admission), that would have meant more unemployment (another 110,000 jobs lost by their own calculations). And Clark did nothing while interest rates went higher and higher – four times since the last election.

This time Canadians want a leader who means what he says. This time get what you voted for.

This time Ed Broadbent.

# Prices

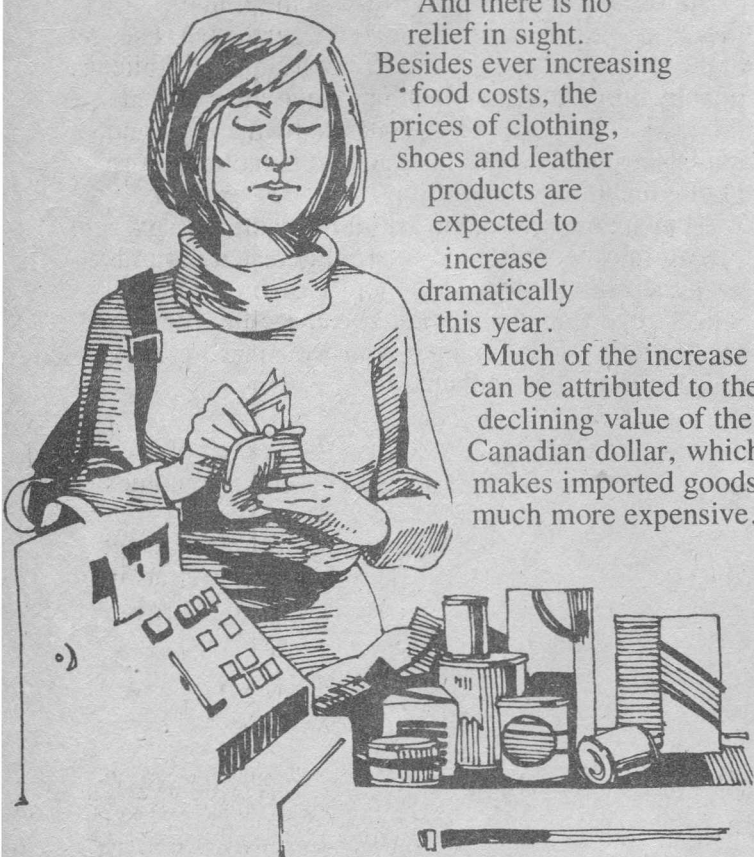
## Inflation: a big word for price hikes.

What Canadians earned in wage increases last year was wiped out by price hikes, especially in housing, food and energy. Interest rates soared to an all-time high as the Clark Conservatives continued the high-interest policies of the Trudeau Liberals.

It's time for action on prices. The New Democrats say let's protect hard-working Canadians and pensioners from the effects of inflation. The average family lost \$300 in purchasing power last year because the government did nothing to hold down the cost of living.

And there is no relief in sight. Besides ever increasing food costs, the prices of clothing, shoes and leather products are expected to increase dramatically this year.

Much of the increase can be attributed to the declining value of the Canadian dollar, which makes imported goods much more expensive.



Corporations have not shared the fate of the average Canadian however. Their profits have increased substantially.

The four biggest oil companies saw their profits go up 55% in one year. Bank profits increased by a record 34% thanks to high interest rates on mortgages and other loans.

But there are some ways to keep prices in line.

### Canada's New Democrats would:

- Start a basic food assistance program to bring back subsidies on flour for bread and for milk, lowering the cost of a quart of milk by 5¢ (and save some families up to \$200 a year.)
- Strengthen legislation against monopolies to give smaller businesses more protection.
- End tax breaks on costly advertising (which we end up paying) that creates artificial demands for junk foods, etc.
- Encourage food co-operatives, consumer associations and credit unions to start projects which will help bring down high prices for food, clothing and other goods.
- Expand Petro-Canada, the government oil company, to give the giants some competition for a change.
- Start a cost-of-living tax credit to help low-income and moderate-income families deal with the rising cost of everything.
- Reduce interest rates to make homes affordable again.
- Provide a Fair Prices Commission to investigate costs, profits and prices and roll back unreasonable increases.
- Encourage food production so that shortages don't drive up prices for meat, milk and other food.
- Take action to expand the housing market and control land speculation.











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# Interest rates

## It costs too much to borrow.

High interest rates are fine if you're a banker. But most people aren't. High interest rates hurt farmers, hurt people who want a house, hurt small business people who want to finance their firms or expand their production. High interest rates hurt most people, and so high interest rates hurt Canada.

Yet the Conservative government seems happy with higher and higher interest rates. We now have the highest rates ever (nearly 15% at the end of 1979).

The four hikes since the Conservatives took office mean an extra \$1,000 a year in the cost of financing an average-priced house, an extra \$240 a year on the cost of borrowing to pay for a standard-sized car.

Farmers paid \$200 million in extra interest payments last year because of the hikes. That makes

farm incomes lower or farm food prices higher – both harmful to Canadians.

So people buy fewer homes and automobiles. The economy goes down. People get laid off. We could have a recession. Does it have to be this way?

No, say Canada's New Democrats. The NDP will:

- Enact a mortgage assistance plan to reduce interest costs to 8% for people earning less than \$25,000 a year, 9% for people earning up to \$30,000.

- Pay mortgage assistance monthly (to an annual limit of \$1,000) so that everyone gets some relief right away.

The Conservatives' plan to deduct mortgage interest from taxes favours people with the biggest homes and does nothing for tenants – does nothing to actually help people get a house in the first place.





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# Cities

## For better cities...better government.

One Canadian in three lives in a major city. Yet too little federal government energy is devoted to making cities better places to live. We cannot let our cities decay, run down and be places people run from.

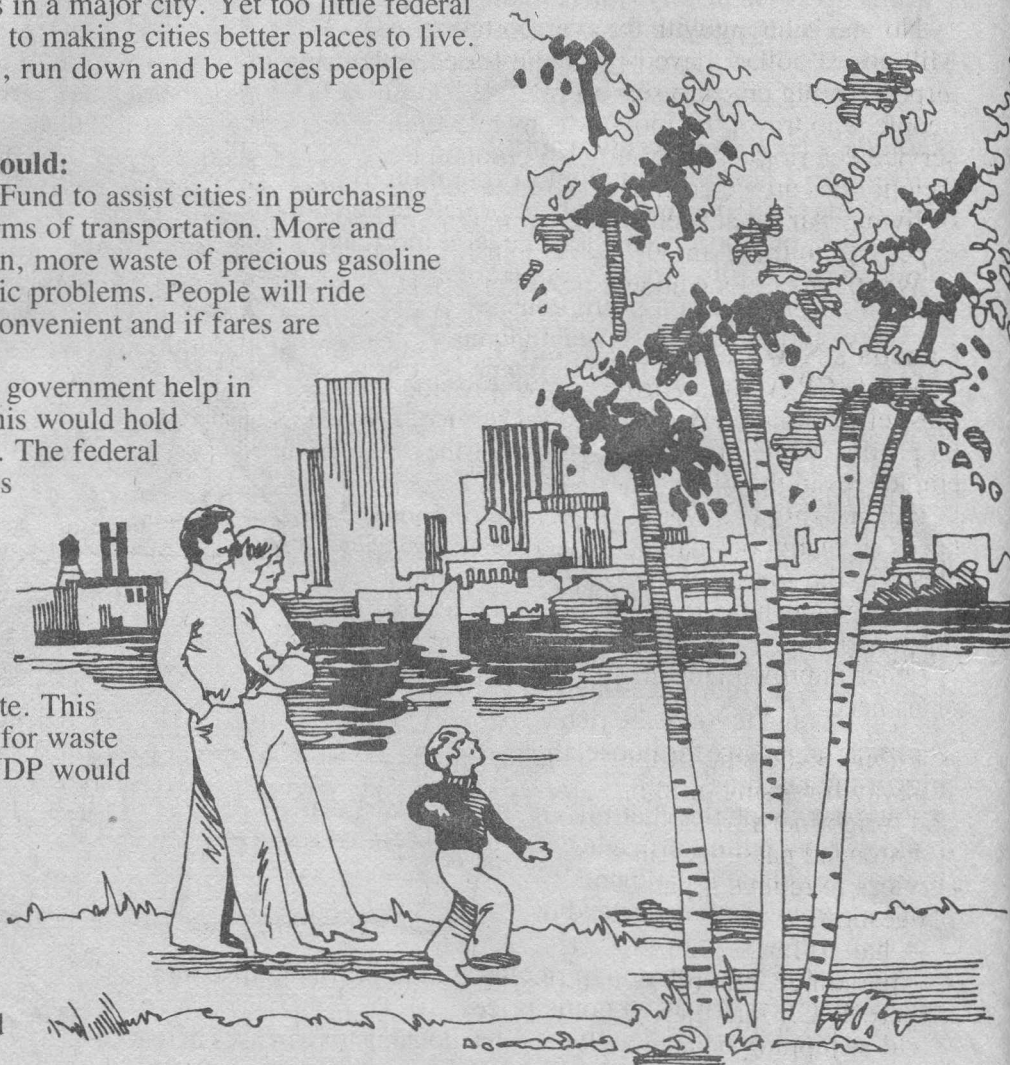
### **Canada's New Democrats would:**

Establish an Urban Transit Fund to assist cities in purchasing buses and improving other forms of transportation. More and more cars mean more pollution, more waste of precious gasoline and more congestion and traffic problems. People will ride public transit if it is fast and convenient and if fares are reasonable.

Municipalities need federal government help in assembling more city land. This would hold down taxes and housing costs. The federal government should assist cities in this worthwhile goal.

We would also make sure more funds are provided to provinces and municipalities for sewage treatment plants and other projects to clean the environment and re-cycle waste. This would hold down rising costs for waste treatment and removal. The NDP would also offer incentives for urban projects using co-generation (a way to save energy).

In the future federal policy should aim to discourage concentration in fewer and fewer bigger cities. Instead, new towns and centres near jobs, schools and recreational facilities should be started to keep cities liveable.





# Transportation

## How to get there from here.

No one is happy with the transportation mess. Millions of dollars have been spent for expensive airports in big cities to serve a relative handful of people who travel the most. Meanwhile train service deteriorates. Westerners complain that freight rates are discriminatory and raise their cost of living. Air fares keep going up, making it too expensive to travel in our own country.

What can be done about all this?

### Canada's New Democrats would:

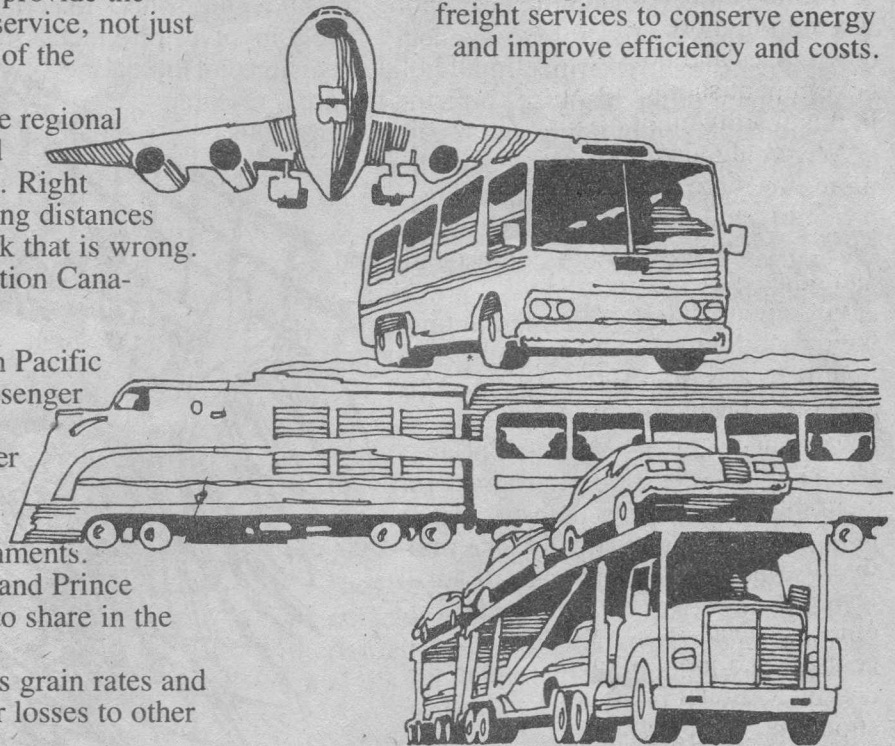
Merge CP Air and Air Canada to provide the most efficient air service, based on service, not just on profits (while protecting the jobs of the employees in the two concerns).

Fair freight rates would emphasize regional needs so that goods can be produced closer to the source of raw materials. Right now, products have to be shipped long distances for processing. New Democrats think that is wrong.

Other improvements in transportation Canadians need:

- Public ownership of the Canadian Pacific Railway for a single, improved, passenger and freight network.
- Extended passenger and commuter services to relieve urban auto congestion.
- A halt to further rail line abandonments.
- Upgrading Churchill, Manitoba, and Prince Rupert, B.C., into major sea-ports to share in the world's shipping business.
- Maintaining the Crow's Nest Pass grain rates and extending the rates and coverage for losses to other western agricultural products.

- Enacting the main Hall Commission recommendations for a Prairie Rail Authority.
- Creation of a Canadian merchant marine to carry goods between ports in this country on Canadian vessels.
- Creating a merchant marine to carry international trade on Canadian ships with Canadian crews.
- Improved air service in remote communities.
- A halt to the construction of more airports until the future need for them can be proved.
- Co-ordination of inter-provincial rail and truck freight services to conserve energy and improve efficiency and costs.



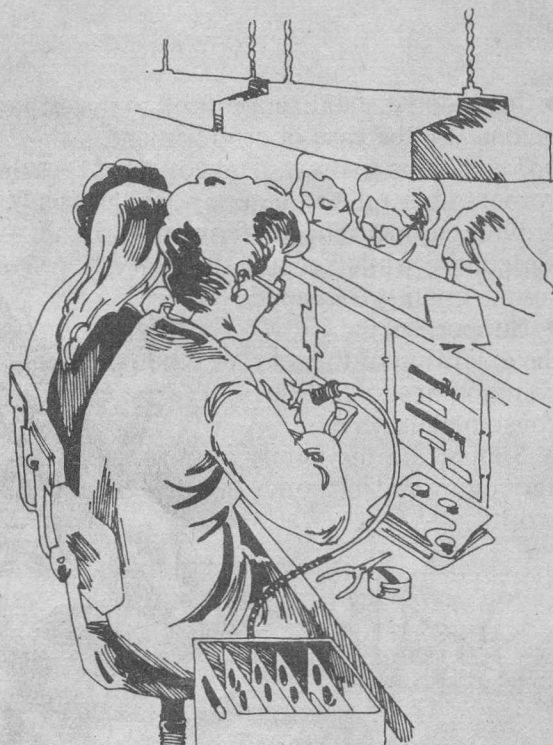




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# Manufacturing

## Let's stop exporting jobs.



Twenty-five years ago, Canada had a dynamic manufacturing sector. Then, one in four Canadians worked in manufacturing. Today, that number has fallen to fewer than one in five. Thirteen per cent of our manufacturing capacity lies unused while our workers remain jobless.

Canada's trade deficit in manufactured goods was about 12 billion dollars last year. If we produced those goods at home, we would have hundreds of thousands more jobs.

It's time to do something.

### Canada's New Democrats would:

- Establish policies which would guarantee a fair domestic market for products produced in Canada. Some Canadian industries will continue to need protection from foreign competition while they readjust to changing markets.
- Set up training programs and assistance through the federal government to help with this readjustment. We'd emphasize apprenticeships for skilled trades so men and women will get the skills they require for the jobs of the future – and the jobs of today. But the only real help is a full employment policy, so that we are not training people for jobs which don't exist.
- Force large multi-national companies operating in Canada, including Canadian ones, to devote a fair chunk of their research and development money to Canada. It is only through R. & D. that we can secure future manufacturing jobs.
- Push our export sales by establishing more aggressive foreign marketing programs under federal government leadership. Some provinces have already done this in the absence of any help from Ottawa.
- Cut taxes immediately for low and middle income families to stimulate demand for Canadian products.
- Establish an investment fund for a portion of corporate profits. Companies that agree to use some of their profits to create jobs would receive tax benefits. If not, they would be taxed in full.

These are some good ideas to help revive our manufacturing sector. We must act now before any more manufacturing jobs disappear, perhaps for good.

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# Farms

## Let's keep our farms working.

Canadian farmers will have lower incomes again this year unless the government does something about it.

Costs are rising faster than incomes, thanks in large part to high interest rates. Farmers paid another \$200 million in interest just because of the rate hikes that came into effect under the Clark government.

The 15-cent-a-gallon excise tax on gasoline in the December budget will hurt, too.

New Democrats would cancel the excise tax, lower interest rates and back up our hard-working farmers with programs like these:

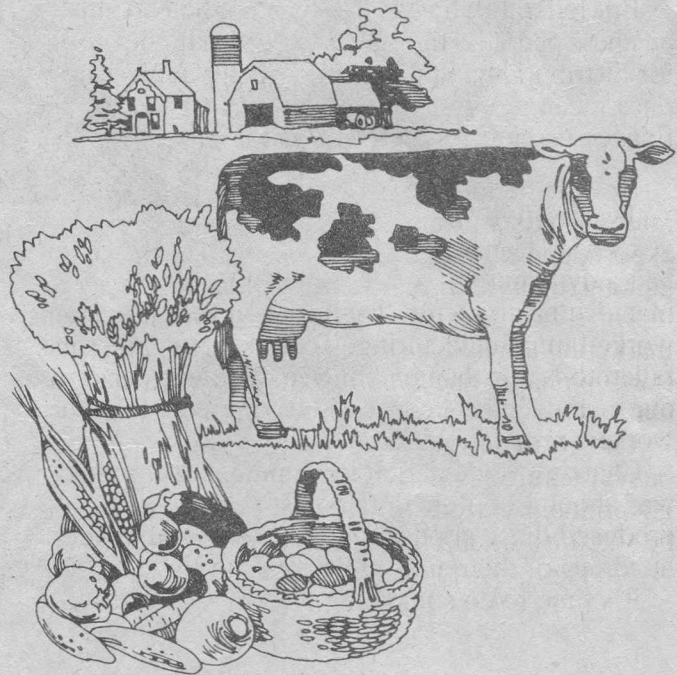
Guarantee farm product prices don't earn less for the farmers than they need to meet the cost of living. We won't make the farmer pay a penalty for producing more of the food Canada and the world need.

Orderly marketing and planned production will reduce the sudden surpluses and shortages that force up prices one season, and drive down farmers' incomes the next. We would make the Canadian Wheat Board the sole marketing agency for western grains. We would end monopoly control over important farm "inputs" such as fertilizers, chemicals and machinery by developing more co-operatives to compete with giant businesses.

Other good ideas:

- Government credit to foreign countries to help them buy our food surpluses and an international grains agreement with other countries to stabilize prices.
- Establishing co-operatives to process, stock-pile and distribute farm products, with low-interest loans to improve farms and help younger farmers keep their families' property.

- An income stabilization fund to insure farm incomes in the case of crop damage.
- Legislation to prevent takeovers of farm land by corporations and foreigners, with land banks to provide compensation to farmers who want to leave agriculture while keeping their land in production for the country's benefit.
- Support for the Crow's Nest Pass grain rates and the extension of the rates to other western commodities to protect farm incomes and consumers' interests.
- Support for the family farm as the basic unit of agriculture and the policy of food for people, not for profit.





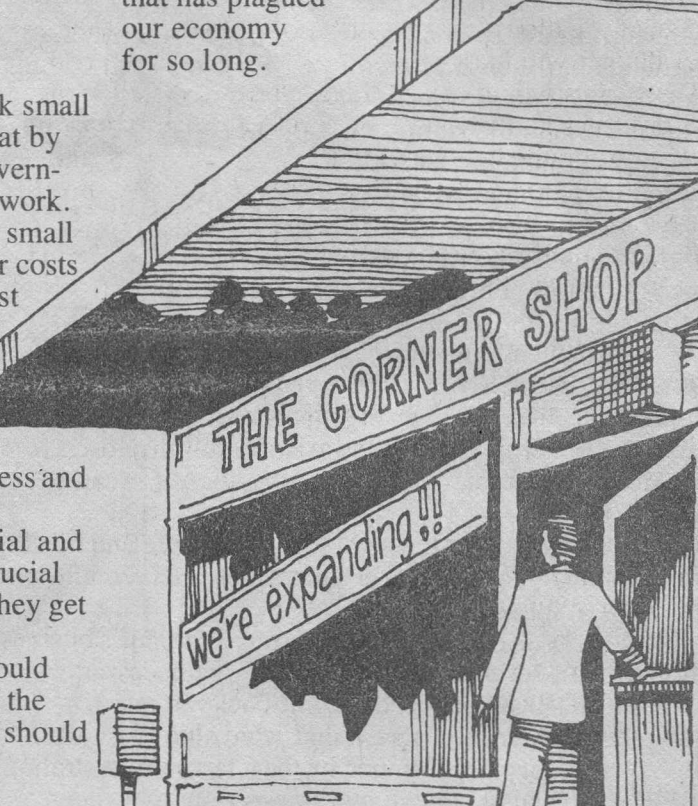
# Small Businesses

business and de-emphasize the kind of "rip-and-run" resource exploitation that has plagued our economy for so long.

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# National Unity

And most important, we'd have a full-employment government. With one-quarter of the country's jobless people in Quebec, it is no wonder many people in Quebec doubt that Canada serves them best.

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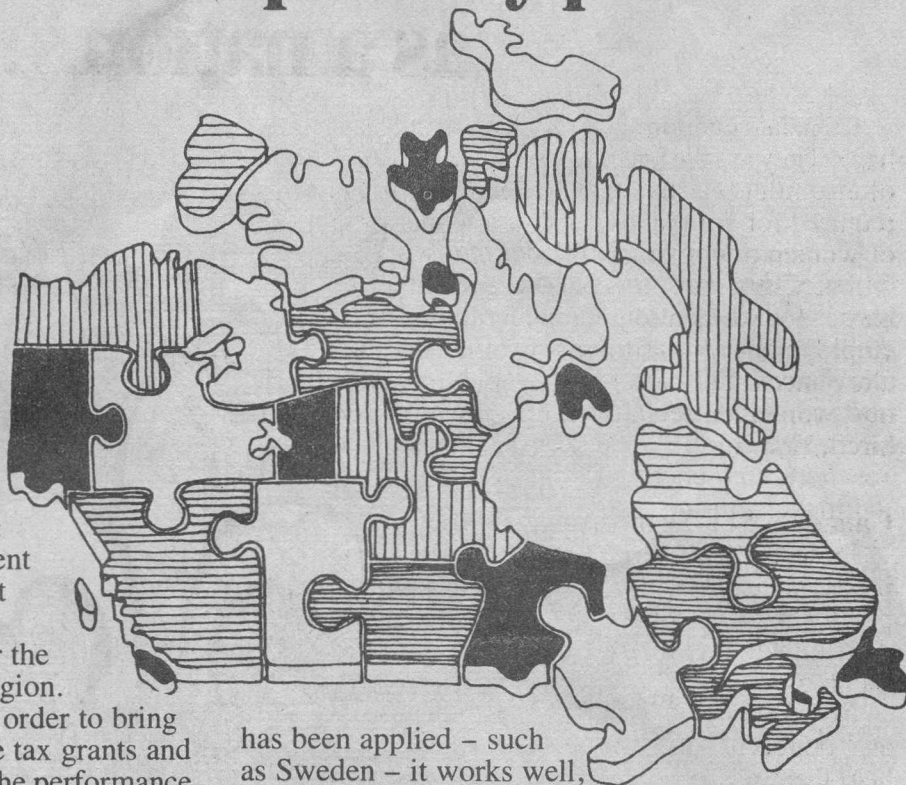
# Regional Development

## Helping Canada piece by piece.

Canada's national prosperity is marred by the stubborn persistence of great regional inequality. Moreover, these disparities further increase at times of high national unemployment and poor national economic growth.

### Canada's New Democrats would:

- Ensure that the federal government commits itself to a full employment program by establishing legislative targets and timetables each year for the number of jobs to be created, by region.
- Implement needed tax reform in order to bring about more sensible tax laws where tax grants and concessions are given in return for the performance of specific tasks of benefit to the economy. Without such reform we cannot hope to end the extensive regional disparities in this country.
- Institute control over investment fund allocation in order to directly influence the timing and direction of private sector investment. Funds would be accumulated in periods of full employment and excess demand; they would be released in recessionary periods. In this way we would avoid overheating the economy in boom times. Investment in regions of high unemployment would be given preference. As we have seen in countries where this



has been applied – such as Sweden – it works well, both for industry and for the country.

- Co-ordinate all aspects of federal and provincial policy so that Department of Regional Economic Expansion aid is not cancelled out, for example, by unfair and discriminatory transportation freight rates.
- Prevent policies which allow multi-national companies in Canada to receive grants from the federal government to open new plants in one place while they lay off workers in another part of the country.
- Give local industries priority over foreign corporations for DREE assistance.



# Women

## Half our population needs a better break.

Canada's economic woes hurt women especially hard. They are the last hired and the first fired. They often don't get a chance to develop the special skills required for some jobs, and so a higher proportion of women than men are looking for work.

The Clark and Trudeau governments made it harder for women to get jobs by reducing employment counselling for women and training allowances. Cut-backs on unemployment insurance hurt women, especially, since they are often "last hired, first fired."

### Canada's New Democrats would:

Protect women's rights because that means protecting everyone's rights; with laws for equal pay for work of equal value and elimination of discrimination in hiring, promotion and training.

New Democrats will make sure there's an "outreach" program for women to help them get jobs in each of the Canada Manpower employment districts.

New Democrats have special ideas for assisting women in remote communities, too.

We would pass affirmative action legislation to require the public service, crown corporations and companies receiving federal contracts to actively seek out women to hire, promote and train.

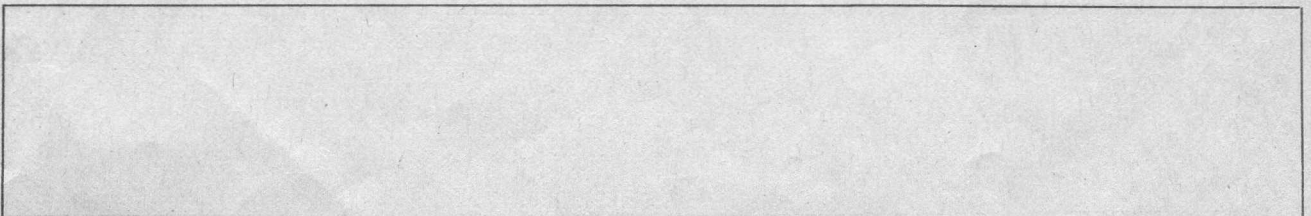
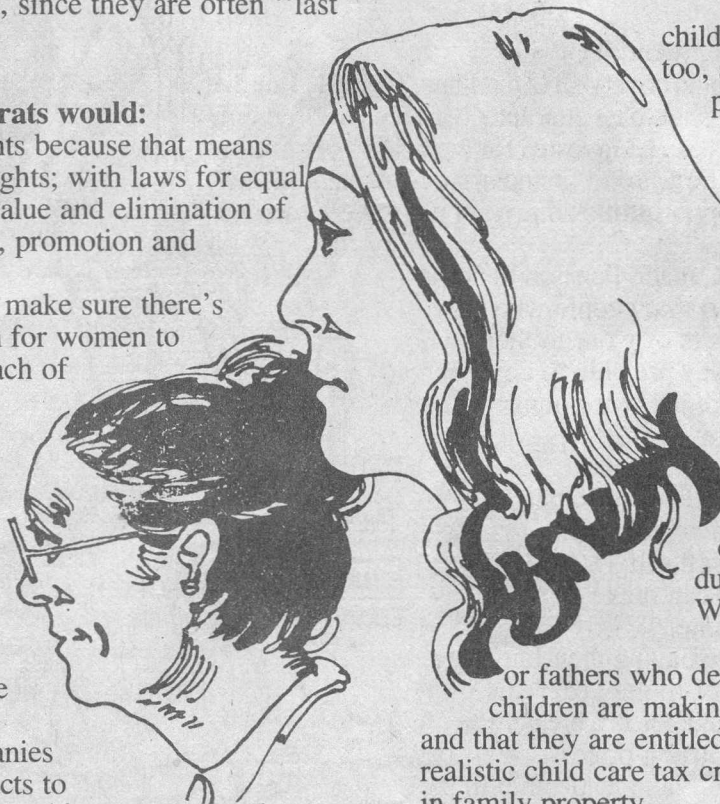
We would also make sure equal treatment is built into the tax and pension systems and into family and property law. It is not right that women who have built up businesses and worked for years in the home can be left with nothing if marriages break down.

New Democrats firmly believe in paid maternity leave to give women the right to return to their former jobs after

their children are born. Fathers, too, should have the right to paid leave to care for new-born children – because raising a family is a job for both parents.

We would expand federal funding for child-care so that working parents will know their children have good facilities and the care of trained, concerned professionals during their working day. We also believe that

mothers or fathers who devote full time to raising children are making an important contribution and that they are entitled to a full pension, realistic child care tax credits, and an equal share in family property.







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# Health

## Good government for your good health.

Our most precious possession is our good health. While most Canadians have their hospital and doctors' bills paid for today, people are still concerned about the high cost of health care. And rightly so. But more can be done to ensure the health of Canadians while keeping costs down. Dental care, for instance, is inadequate and costs the average family hundreds of dollars annually.

### Canada's New Democrats would:

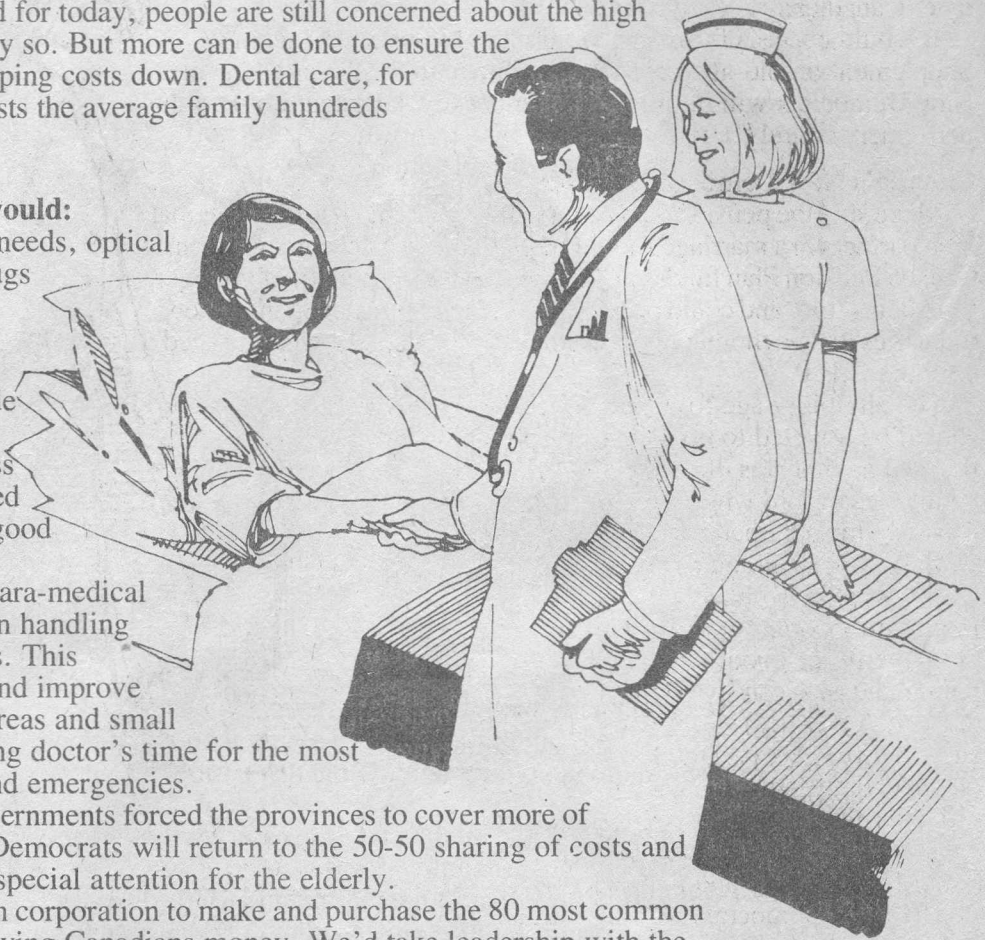
Extend medicare to dental needs, optical care, glasses and essential drugs and surgical appliances.

To watch our health costs we would support non-profit community clinics that provide lower-cost medical services and help people prevent illness before it starts. You don't need more large hospitals to have good health.

We would train workers (para-medical employees) to assist doctors in handling many routine health questions. This would reduce medical costs and improve health, especially in remote areas and small communities, as well as freeing doctor's time for the most essential medical problems and emergencies.

The Clark and Trudeau governments forced the provinces to cover more of Canada's health costs. New Democrats will return to the 50-50 sharing of costs and extend medicare coverage to special attention for the elderly.

We'd also establish a crown corporation to make and purchase the 80 most common prescription drugs, thereby saving Canadians money. We'd take leadership with the provinces to get a single doctor's fee schedule everywhere in the land.



# Native People

## The people who were here first should feel it's still their home.

For many generations native people have suffered from discrimination or from paternalistic treatment by insensitive governments.

### **The New Democratic Party would:**

Recognize the rights of native citizens – settle land claims in the North before any change in the form of government in the Territories. The Clark and Trudeau governments all ignored the rights of native people guaranteed by treaty or legislation. New Democrats would include native people's representatives in discussions about changes in the constitution.

We would restore specific rights such as hunting, fishing and trapping, with the agreement of the native peoples themselves, and compensate them when necessary for any loss of those rights. We can have different ways of living in a country as big as Canada, or else we can't claim to have a truly free country.

An NDP government would work in partnership with native people in developing natural resources in the North, we must respect historic sites and burial grounds before developments go ahead.

We would fulfil treaty promises made by the government. Where treaties are obviously unfair, we will negotiate new agreements with the native people affected by them. Where no treaties exist, we will acknowledge legitimate, hereditary titles and negotiate with the bands or tribes concerned.

We would restore full medical and dental services to reserves that were recently cut back by the federal government.

Canada's New Democrats believe that Indians, Inuit and Métis deserve the same right to a good and healthy life as all Canadians. Because that's fair.





# External Affairs

## Keeping our good name in the world.

Canada isn't the most powerful country in the world, but Canadians can play a valuable role in world affairs by promoting resolution of international disputes.

Canada can help also be attacking the roots of war by eliminating the gross inequality between the richest and poorest countries.

Support for the demands of black Africans for liberation and a ban on trade with the racist regimes in southern Africa. Withdrawing promotional assistance for Canadian business there just isn't good enough.

### Canada's New Democrats would:

Firstly, make our foreign policy reflect the United Nations commitment to a New International Economic Order to ensure the less developed nations fair prices for their commodities and development aid.

New Democrats would work for the reform of trade policies to allow freer and fairer trade, but would safeguard future employment for Canadian workers as trade policies change. We will take the lead in international trade and tariff discussions to promote fair trade policies between Canada, our major trading partners and the less-developed countries.

We cannot turn our back on the rest of the world. New Democrats would reconsider our commitment to expensive organizations such as NATO and NORAD.

We also believe in:

A high priority in working toward world disarmament, curtailing new nuclear weapons development and making sure nuclear reactors or materials don't get into the hands of unstable or repressive governments (such as Argentina and South Korea).

Putting aside the equivalent of 1% of our gross national product (now it's only .5%) for development aid with no strings attached. Our foreign aid now is among the lowest in the world

