

POLITICS FOR THE NEXT CENTURY

The Green Party of Canada's 1997 Platform

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I **Agriculture and Agri-Food**

The Need to Restore a Green Agriculture

With increasing numbers of Canadians, the Green Party of Canada is concerned that our agriculture has become overcapitalized, unsustainable and unhealthy. More and more family and community farmers, gardeners and fruit growers are forced out of business by unmanageable equipment, land and chemical debts made worse by NAFTA and transnational agribusiness 'globalization'. Consequently, we become more and more dependent on fewer large-scale Canadian and foreign industrial monoculture and factory farms and on even fewer giant multinational corporate equipment, chemical and food distributors.. As farms are consolidated, cleared and managed with ever larger fossil fuel powered equipment and greater varieties of synthetic fertilizers, biocides and genetically altered seed stock, Canadian and offshore farmers and communities lose their livelihoods.

At the same time our air, water and soils are polluted and our native woodlands, grasslands, wetlands, watersheds and plant and animal habitat devastated. Despite or perhaps because of all this mechanization, synthetic chemical and pesticide food culturing and preservation, bioengineering and globalized transportation, more and more Canadians are questioning the quality and healthfulness of their food. An increasing body of scientists and scientific knowledge suggest that there may be cause for that concern in findings relating chemical residues in water and food with possible reproductive and other endocrine abnormalities and higher incidences of certain cancers.

A Green Party government would make the phasing out of chemical farming and the restoration of a community and nationally self sufficient ecological/organic food production system a priority for the next decade. Restoration of our ecosystems would go hand in hand with such a transition to nature-centred agriculture. Greens believe that Canadians still have the ecological foundations and the human will and ingenuity to develop eco-agriculture approaches that will work harmoniously within each of our natural bio-regions.

Platform Steps Toward a Green Agriculture

1 Eco-agricultural Research, Development and Education

A first step will be to develop and communicate these eco-agricultural models and practices from studying and synthesizing principles from the diversity of sustainable, natural and community-centred agricultural approaches created by indigenous peoples and traditional subsistence mixed farmers together with modern sustainable, organic agriculture, regenerative agriculture, permaculture, agro-ecology, and other approaches to farming the natural way, in nature's image. Greens would:

- phase out Agriculture Canada and other federal research support for large-scale agribusiness chemical, pesticide and genetic and other bioengineering practices and refocus support on the development of family and community scale ecological

agriculture models, principles and practices such as biological soil and pest management approaches like soil rebuilding crop rotations, companion planting, inter-cropping, and perennial poly-cultures

- support basic and field research in the natural breeding, field trials, propagation and protection of alternative ecologically adaptable crops such as native perennials, 'heritage' vegetables, grains, legumes and fruits, hemp and quinoa.
- support the establishment of a diversity of public and farm-based model demonstration and experimental stations for extension and education in each of Canada's natural regions
- phase out federal support for college and agency agribusiness educational programmes and refocus supports on family farm and community scale eco-agriculture workshops, distance education, undergraduate and graduate and diploma

2 Establishing, Monitoring and Enforcing Eco-agriculture Standards, Certification and Labelling

- support the efforts of organic and ecological agriculture associations in establishing organic/ecological farm practice codes, standards and certification processes. Included in the principles and standards would be :
 - A the use of naturally bred, non-genetically manipulated plant or animal seed stock; soils, plants and pests managed and grown without synthetic pesticides or significant soil loss or deterioration;
 - B farmstead and fields planned and worked as part of an integral preserved or restored eco-community of native woodlands, grasslands, wetlands and watershed protecting native plant and animal habitat; livestock provided with species-appropriate shelter, space and freedom of movement, clean water, natural foods free of antibiotics, no growth or lactation stimulants and humane treatment and transport.
- establish, monitor and enforce a system of labelling for both domestic and imported foods as to contents, chemicals utilized in cultivation and pest management, seed stock breeding history if genetically engineered, livestock husbandry practices [confined, free run, free range]. An 'organic audit trail' and a regularly monitored and enforced food pesticide residue level process would be required components of this certification system

3 Nutrition Education and Revision of Canada Food Guide

- inform consumers of the excessive amounts of protein, particularly meat protein used by Canadians
- revise the Canada Food Guide to present legumes, vegetables, fruits and grains as a complete alternative to a meat based diet and one which will meet all nutritional needs, including all proteins, while reducing health hazards such as heart, stroke, kidney, urinary, osteoporosis and certain cancers

4 Supporting Farmers Transitions to Eco-agriculture

- cancel or renegotiate completely those aspects of GATT and NAFTA which distort and limit Canada's ability to restore a community and regionally based self sufficient and sustainable ecological agriculture and food provision system. With Greens around the Earth Canadian support each peoples' right to food self sufficiency. Where climatic and other natural limitations restrict the growing of food necessities by Canadians or other peoples, equitable trade will be established directly between producer and consumers. Cooperatives or similar Green structures would replace transnational food cartels.
- 're-invent', refocus and as necessary re-staff Agriculture Canada away from a fixation on large-scale chemical agribusiness and towards the development of regionally adapted and self reliant family and community scaled ecological agriculture
- publicize, educate and encourage agribusinesses and new farmers to move to ecological farming through extension programmes, demonstration farms, and other media
- replace existing agribusiness support programmes and those designed to encourage small farmers to leave the land with eco-agriculture startup and transition supports and taxation incentives and extension knowledge support and training .Redefine 'full time', 'part time' and 'startup' farmers per Revenue Canada taxation. Refocus the Farm Credit Corporation financing priorities on self sufficient urban gardens and orchards, 'inner city' public community gardens, small scale family, cooperative, and community shared gardens, farms and orchards
- phase in disincentives to continuance of anti-ecological agribusiness in the form of: fossil fuel carbon taxes; water and air pollution taxes on pesticide and fertilizer residues and other taxes to add the real health, social and ecological costs of agribusiness food towards a full cost accounting

5 Farm Ecosystems Protection and Restoration

- complete a national Environment Canada/Agriculture Canada GIS Canada Land Inventory-based map zoned for agricultural and ecological integrated use planning and protection
- develop, cooperatively with the provinces, a programme of land use and protection standards and practices, education, incentives, disincentives and expropriation compensation to ensure that land managers utilize and/or protect their lands as per its zoning such that: prime farmland is protected for agriculture from industrial or residential development; endangered plant and animal habitat, and special eco-communities are given perpetual protection; farms are generally developed and operated as part of a sustainable natural community by protecting and/or restoring native woodlands, grasslands, wetlands and watersheds.

II **Canadian Heritage**

The Arts

Northrop Frye wrote, "Painters and writers are not acts of God; they come out of specific communities and are the individual points where those communities have become articulate."

The Canadian Conference of the Arts has said, "Canadian society is built on solid foundation of shared values which are reflected [among other things] in our nurturing of the arts. The government of Canada has recognized the intrinsic value of the arts and culture to the health, vitality and quality of life of Canadians, and to the economic enrichment of the country. (Status of the Artist Act 1992)"

While the cost of funding the arts is relatively low, its social benefits and economic multiplier effects are high. According to the Canadian Conference on the Arts, Canadian cultural industries support \$17 billion in economic activity annually with a federal investment of \$2.9 billion. One quarter of the federal investment is returned in taxes.

- In general, a Green Party government will recognize Canadian cultural expression as an indispensable cornerstone of Canadian society;
 - a) actively promote the arts and cultural industries through Canada's foreign policy;
 - b) commit to legislation to meet the specific tax and social benefit needs of self-employed artists;
 - c) recognize the ownership and control of creators and copyright owners in all media; and
 - d) commit to adequate and stable federal government support for the arts and cultural industries.
- A Green Party government will attempt to increase the share of Canadian programming watched by Canadians beyond the present figure of 4.4%.
- A Green Party government will require the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to promote the cultural diversity of Canadian music, literature, dance and drama, many of which are already funded by Canadian taxpayers.
- A Green Party government will maintain and increase arts funding, especially for smaller, community-based, participatory arts and recreational activities.
- In addition, a Green Party government will eliminate the Goods and Services Tax on books, magazines, newspapers, films, videotapes, audiotapes, compact disks and all other means of artistic expression.
- Under a Green Party government, CBC-TV will be required to produce programs that are educational, thought-provoking, useful and unavailable elsewhere.

The CBC

For over sixty years, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has played a major role in binding the Canadian nation together. By working closely with the Ministry of Finance, a

Green Party government will endeavour to provide stable funding for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation -- both radio and television services.

- A Green Party government will ban advertising on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's television service and maintain a no-advertising policy for the radio service. Under a Green Party government, the CBC will not be allowed to be subject to commercial pressures of any kind.
- The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's international radio service is irreplaceable in its role of defining, explaining and interpreting Canada and Canadians to the world. A Green Party government will strengthen and expand the CBC's international services.
- A Green Party government will support public broadcasting from general revenue in both the radio and television fields in Canada and lend its moral support to it in countries around the world.
- Greens will increase support for the arts in Canada and provide stable funding for the CBC while eliminating commercial advertising from CBC TV.

The CRTC

- Canadian artists are not presently paid for their works played or broadcast by small Canadian radio and television stations. A Green Party government will legislate in this area, requiring radio and/or television stations with gross revenue of under \$1.5 million a year to pay a minimum royalty of \$100 a year.

III National Defence

Defence Reform

The General Assembly of the United Nations has called upon nation states to reduce the military budget and transfer the funds to socially equitable and environmentally sound development.

An elected Green government would:

- support non-military solutions to conflicts. Transferring the military budget to education, health and social equity is a priority of an elected Green government.

The Green Party speaks strongly for consensus and non-violent solutions to conflict. A Green government would renew no agreement with states wishing to use Canadian lands, water or air for military purposes

The World Court recently decided that the use or threat of nuclear weapons is illegal. A Green government would renew no agreement with any government which allows for the visitation of nuclear vessels into Canadian waters or the flight of nuclear-equipped aircraft through Canadian airspace. International training exercises with offensive purposes on

Canadian soil would be terminated by a Green Government. This includes low-level flying exercises in Goose Bay, Labrador, cruise missile testing in Cold Lake, Alberta and submarine training in Nanoose Bay, British Columbia. Canada is the 8th largest arms producer in the world producing \$3 billion worth of military goods annually. Of the 55 countries receiving military hardware from Canada, about 50% engage in gross violations of human rights and/or are involved in wars with neighbouring states. This manufacturing capacity should be converted to sustainable and useful production.

Military Conversion

The world's governments spend \$870 billion per year to support military forces of more than 27 million soldiers. Industrialized countries, including Canada, are responsible for 90% of arms transfers to industrializing nations.

The global proliferation of arms has contributed to inciting and prolonging the world's 44 regional and internal conflicts.

World military spending has declined by 31% since the high of \$1.26 trillion in 1987. Military spending is decreasing on average by only 2% annually in industrializing nations and 4% in industrialized countries.

The cost of Canada's peacekeeping operations is less than \$700 million annually - only 6% of the defence budget.

Given Canadian demographics and the vast destructive power of modern military equipment that is lethal both to the users of high-tech equipment and the victims, organised civil disobedience and other non-violent tactics is probably the only effective way to deter and repel an invading force.

A Green Party government would:

- work for a dramatic reduction of the military budget through a reduction in top military staff levels without compromising effectiveness, and by reducing regular forces and increasing reserve personnel;
- halt low-level flight training in Labrador;
- withdraw from the global arms race;
- phase out nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and land mines;
- close Canadian waters and ports to nuclear armed and/or powered warships;
- end nuclear submarine testing at Nanoose Bay;
- establish a civilian-based national defence program that would train citizens in unarmed national defence initiatives.

IV Elections Canada

Electoral Reform: Proportional Representation

Our current electoral system undermines Canada's democratic integrity as political parties usually win a solid majority of the seats while only capturing a minority of the total votes.

In 1993, the Liberal Party won 60% of the seats with only 41% of the vote. The current system also makes votes unequal depending on who you vote for. For example in 1993, the Bloc Quebecois elected 54 members with 13% of the vote while the Progressive Conservatives won just 2 seats despite having 16% of the electorate supporting them. This means that it took more votes to elect one PC MP than any other party.

As Greens we can say that no party should be victim to this unfair system. We support PR for the sake of democracy.

A Green Party government would reform our current electoral system along the principles of proportional representation where a party receives a number of seats equal to their share of the vote. The Liberals would have won only 41% of the seats as equal to their support and would be forced to find consensus with the other political forces in Ottawa in order to govern. The formation of coalition governments would ensure that governments are responsive to the will of the people.

The Green Party supports proportional representation for its positive effect in electing more women and minorities to parliaments around the world.

Canadians want new ideas and fresh faces in parliament. With proportional representation, Green politics would have a better chance of being represented in Ottawa. Supporting PR means supporting a Green platform.

If elected, the Green Party of Canada would establish a Royal Commission to study changing our electoral system to one based on proportional representation. We would recommend a PR system similar to that used in Germany and New Zealand, where political parties hold seats after passing a 5% threshold of the popular vote.

The Green Party encourages the use of the mixed-member-proportional system where Canadians would vote twice: once for their local representative (as they do now) and once for the party of their choice (which would determine how many seats a party can have). Such a system would ensure Canadians have both personal and political representation. As done in New Zealand, the Green Party would hold a national referendum to determine if Canadians support PR and if they did, what form it would take.

V Environment

Environment and Health

The Green Party would promote an amendment to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms which ensures the right to an ecological heritage and a clean and safe environment, and that political decisions are made on the basis on ecological integrity..

A Green Party would restructure the current environmental assessment review process so that it becomes a legitimate environmental assessment and less a project review mechanism.

A Green Government would undertake the following initiatives when elected:

a) Chlorine

Chlorine and chlorine-based compounds have been scientifically demonstrated to pose serious threats to health. The American government has called for a chlorine phase-out. A Green government would take similar steps to ensure that chlorine-based industry isn't displaced into Canada

b) Labelling of Foods

A Green government would introduce legislation to ensure that if a pesticide is used in the growing of the food product, the name and chemical composition of the pesticide shall appear on the food product label. Similarly, any genetically altered material or hormone used in any product or in any phase of the production of a consumable would be labelled.

The federal government has responsibilities over many aspects of Canadian life and has enormous responsibilities pertaining to the environment. As can be anticipated, a Green Government will act quickly to reverse the unprecedented slide towards ecological chaos which current federal policies are contributing to.

Greenhouse Gases

A Green government will comply with Canada's international commitment to stabilize greenhouse emissions to 1990's level by the end of this decade.

To achieve this commitment:

- The Green government will work with provincial governments to build infrastructures which address pollution arising from the use of the automobile. (promotion of the automobile).
- A Green government will honour Canadian commitments to move away from auto-dependency. Given that a carbon tax, implemented within Canada but not in the USA, is impractical, a Green government will impose a similar tax on the sale of new and used automobiles, automobile advertising, and at the well-head production
- An elected Green government will fund research into alternatives to wood use. The decline of our forest reserves constitutes a significant proportion of the world's carbon sink. A Green government will reduce forest exploitation to sustainable levels, prohibit forest exploitation in old growth, and ban clear cutting. Importation of wood products which do not conform to Canadian standards will not be allowed.

Ozone Depletion

Ozone depletion caused by CFC's and their replacements such as HCFC's constitutes another serious threat to humanity. Methyl bromide and similar constituents of fertilizers pose similar threats. An elected Green government will legislate an immediate ban on production, sale, and distribution of ozone depleting chemicals in Canada, where alternatives to their consumption exist.

Water Quality

Throughout Canada, many existing municipal water supply systems are aging and need to be replaced. An elected Green Government will undertake the important work on water supply infrastructure. The Green Party also recognizes the many threats which exist to domestic water supplies across the country, and propose to protect sources of domestic water supply through a Domestic Water Supply Act.

Sewage

Many Canadian municipalities continue to dump their raw sewage directly into the oceans. The Federal government has a constitutional responsibility to protect these waters, and under a Green Government will use its resources to ensure the sewage is treated and any resource resulting from the treatment is recycled.

Oil Transport

A Green Government will pass legislation which ensures the double hulling of all vessels carrying petroleum products in Canadian waters.

Protected Areas

A Green Government will revitalize the Canadian parks system and reverse the trend towards privatization of the national system. In addition, a Green Government will take the following initiatives:

The Green Party recognizes that the essence of species protection is protection of species habitat. A Green Government will work to protect a system of connected untouched wilderness corridors of high biodiversity throughout Canada. Old growth original forests throughout Canada make up less than 5% of the land base; these forests should become the focus for this network of endangered habitats. Such connected corridors will ensure Canada's parks don't become dwindling pools of genetic conformity.

A Green Government will ensure that similar connected reserves are developed for marine ecosystems.

Mining

Canada's corporate dirty secret is the appalling worldwide human rights and environmental record of many Canadian mining companies. The Green Party recognizes that while mining is necessary to replenish existing mineral stocks, it is also a completely unsustainable activity. A Green government will:

- introduce legislation which promote the reuse or replacement of minerals in industrial production
- ban the use of cyanide leaching process for mineral extraction.

Forests Protection

The federal government has an important role to play in the development of vibrant and diverse forests through the development of standards and the judicious use of export taxes.

A Green Government will use its influence to move the provinces towards alternatives to ecologically degrading forest practices.. Timber cut from clear-cut will be clearly labelled, and will be subject to substantially higher export duties. Timber taken from forests which are sustainably managed will be promoted internationally by a Green Government, and be subject to substantially reduced tariffs.

To keep employment local Greens would discourage the export of logs, pulp and plain sawn boards and encourage the export of finished products only. The Green Party program of taxing resources and reducing income taxes will increase employment in the wood products industry as well as encourage conservation.

Paper products can be recycled up to 10 times and then used for insulation or cattle bedding. To ensure all paper products are recycled, a variety of measures are required including quotas on recycled content for newspapers, taxes on virgin paper, deposits on paper purchases.

Greens advocate the complete reuse and recycling of existing lumber including reuse of building materials. Greens encourage research and development of alternate fibre sources. Hemp and straw provide fibre at much higher rates than trees. Steel frame houses are recyclable, stronger, and more fire resistant.

Greens demand that forestry move toward harvesting systems that take wood fibre while leaving forest ecosystems viable and intact. Modified cutting methods which are tailored to the species. For example, strip-cuts for black and white spruce, and uniform shelter-wood cut for white and red pine. Where the soil base or topography is not adequate to withstand logging or support forest re-growth, harvesting must not be permitted.

Energy

The linkage between air quality and energy consumption is well-documented. An elected Green government will place the attainment of higher energy efficiencies as a priority. The development of solar, biomass, wind, hydro, hydrogen and geo-thermal technologies cannot be advanced without a strong and sustained investment in research, development, and demonstration (RD&D). Such a industrial strategy will be undertaken by a Green Party government.

To encourage conservation, reduce pollution, and support RD&D, a Green will levy taxes at the well head (and the mine head for coal). Well head taxation have many advantages over "end of the pipe" and other consumer taxes on emissions.

Military

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VI Finance, Trade and Corporate Relations Platform

A Canadian Green government would reverse the international, federal and provincial trend of off loading ecological and socio-economic responsibilities from themselves to "partnerships" with the corporate sector. We would immediately seek to reduce Canadian military spending (currently \$10.6 billion a year) in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution and ensure that all corporations paid their fair share of taxes as a means to reverse the federal cuts in transfer payments to health, education and social

programs.

As government Greens would ensure that revenue spending was focussed on guaranteeing the right to healthy food, safe and affordable shelter, universally accessible health care, safe drinking water, restoration of ecosystems, education, socially equitable and environmentally sound employment, and promotion of an economy that uses ecologically sound scientific technology for the peace and benefit of all humanity.

Community Economic Development

The three main pillars of Green government economic development policy would be environmental protection, guaranteed human rights, and social justice:

- a) businesses would be encouraged, through taxation reform, to invest in communities, create local equitable and ecologically sound employment, and create goods and services designed to be lasting, useful, and easily repaired.
- b) Community Economic Development (CED) that promotes local sourcing, revolving community loans, development of bio-regional social and material needs inventories, and matching of those needs with local suppliers and a study of the feasibility of developing local alternative currencies would be encouraged.

Corporate Charters

A Green Party government will require the following conditions be met before a corporate charter is granted to a limited company:

- a) Legislation must be enacted ensuring corporate owners and officers be held legally liable, in criminal and civil court, for any environmental and social harm they cause.
- b) Corporations that damage the environmental, economic and social quality of life of a community will have their charters revoked.
- c) The tax system should be changed to encourage cooperative ownership of companies by employees and/or local citizens.
- d) Corporations in Canada shall be required to pay taxes at least at the level of other OECD Countries.

Debt and Deficit

To deal with the deficit and the debt, A Green Party government:

- a) Will eliminate subsidies to nuclear power and to fossil fuels and/or chemical-dependent sectors and embark on time-bound phasing out of the use of civil nuclear power and fossil fuels.
- b) While maintaining and enhancing existing standards, will reduce overlap between provincial and federal government departments

- c) Will set up a financial transaction tax (FTT).
- d) Will instruct the Bank of Canada to take over a significant portion of the debt as an interest-free loan.
- e) Will develop a corporate tax system designed to reward ecologically sustainable investment and to discourage speculation;
- f) Will allocate that portion of the banking industry's capital held by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to the Bank of Canada which will, in turn, re-loan this to the federal government interest-free.
- g) Will close other corporate taxation loopholes.

Economic Measurement (Genuine Progress Indicator)

A Green party government will replace the Gross National Product with the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI). The GNP excludes social and environmental costs in its accounting, thus facilitating the illusion that community breakdown, crime, the loss of farmland and biodiversity, and unemployment have no economic significance.

The GPI is a measure of societal progress. In addition to measuring how much we produce, it factors in any significant changes in income distribution and accounts for the value of non-monetized (non-market) work contributed by community or household efforts. It also accounts for such "externalities" as the costs of pollution and the disappearance of natural resources.

More Jobs Through Reduced Work Time

A Green party government would institute an average four-day/32-hour work week which would mean that existing jobs could be shared with those now unemployed. A tax on corporations who use overtime will also generate new revenue. Other benefits of a 32-hour work week would include:

- reduced health costs,
- reduced education costs

As government costs are lowered, income and payroll taxes could also be reduced. Consequently, a reduced work week would not result in a significant pay reduction. A Green government would institute a 5 weeks period of vacation per year, job sharing, paid leave for child rearing and educational leave.

Life-cycle Product Stewardship

A Green government would enact product stewardship legislation that would require producers to increase the life span of their products and to assume the full recycling and disposal costs. A Green party government would enforce the "polluter pay principle" along with the reverse onus principle.

Taxation

A Green Party Government would shift taxes away from personal income and onto non-renewable resources, and eliminate taxes on ecologically benign products and processes. Green taxation policies would reward ecologically sustainable practices, socially equitable and environmentally sound businesses and penalize resource-intensive industries, while applying the principle of full cost accounting to all businesses and industries.

Governments should also eliminate subsidies to the fossil fuel and nuclear industries, and eliminate tax write-offs for equipment purchases. We further resolve that a Green Party government would cease involvement in the CANDU owners group and end all subsidies to AECL and cease to sell CANDU reactors internationally,

Fiscal Policies

A Green Party government would:

- a) Revise the tax treatment of renewable energy and energy efficiency investments immediately to factually make them more attractive to investors than investments in conventional energy sources such as oil and gas and investments in other capital assets.
- b) Provide other incentives to renewable energy producers and investors.
- c) Implement a tax or similar type of charge on all carbon based fuels to gradually double the real price of these fuels over a ten year period measure while initiating a time-bound phase out of the use of carbon based fuels. A provision for transportation in the Minimum Guaranteed Revenue would be made so that the poor are not overly penalized by this measure.

Green Energy Procurement for Government Operation

A Green government would tie in within the Framework Convention on Climate Change by:

- Purchase 20% of electricity used by the government from green sources by the year 2005.
- Reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other harmful substances from federal vehicle fleets by 50% by the year 2005 (1995 base).
- Improve the energy efficiency of the total federally owned or controlled building stock by 25% by the year 2000 and 50% by the year 2005 (1995 base).

Energy Research and Development

A Green government would insure that Canada would :

- Spend 50% of energy research and development on renewable energy technologies by the year 2000.
- Discontinue all spending on nuclear energy research, including the subsidy to

- Atomic Energy of Canada, for an annual savings hundreds of millions of dollars.
- Focus programs related to fossil fuel energy supply, production and consumption on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful environmental impacts.
 - Allocate a significant portion of energy research and development spending to support field trials and commercialization of renewable energy technologies to improve their reliability, efficiency and competitiveness in Canadian and international markets and thereby accelerating their adoption by potential clients.

Foreign Aid

A Green Party government would:

- Stop all foreign energy assistance related to energy mega-projects by the year 2000.
- Discontinue all foreign energy assistance related to nuclear and fossil fuel projects by the year 2000.
- Make energy efficiency and renewable energy supply from appropriately sized community planned and driven projects a key focus of overseas development assistance.

Social Programs (Guaranteed Income Supplement)

A Green Party of Canada would advocate the creation of a jointly administered federal/provincial Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) which would replace all current income support programs. A GIS would provide a subsistence income to those who are unable to work and top up the incomes of the under-employed and unemployed, by 50% of the gap with actual revenues toward a target income at, or slightly above the, poverty line.

The Trade Platform

A Green party Government would work for 'fair trade' not "Free trade." To prevent the WTO (formerly GATT) or corporations from blocking the raising of local or international standards and regulations, a Green government would advocate the following measures:

- The establishment of Mandatory International Normative Standards/regulations (MINS) drawn from international principles and from the highest and strongest regulations from United Nations member states harmonized continually upwards. MINS will then drive industry to BEST (best equitable/environmentally sound traditions) practices. These standards/regulations will supersede any bilateral and/or multilateral trade agreements; Thus no state will be penalized for instituting higher standards and regulations. In addition a Green party government would publicize internationally instances where governments relax or change regulations or standards to attract industry, and would lobby for lending under international banks to be conditional on the recipient states guaranteeing human rights,

protecting ecosystems, ensuring social justice, and providing socially equitable and environmentally sound employment.

In the short term, our best option is to insulate ourselves from global trade with tariffs, and to work to restore Canadian self-sufficiency in basic goods and services. Strong and swift anti-dumping provisions are also required. If we wish to maintain international trade, new relationships with trading partners should be set via a multi-tiered tariff arrangement.

Trade partners would be assigned a tariff class based on the following criteria: degree to which wage, environmental, and safety standards are enforced; degree to which union activity is protected; degree to which that trading partner has a balanced economy; degree to which that trading partner has insulated itself from exploitative global trade.

Canada would attempt to avoid establishing these trading rules unilaterally by working for their establishment through the WTO (formerly GATT). Such a policy would help establish ecologically sound and democratic socio-economic policies across the planet.

A Regenerative Economy

Greens want to build an economy that can maintain the same level of employment and production of environmentally sustainable goods and services year after year. This we believe can be achieved through tax reform and greater community control of natural resources. This would lay the foundation for an economy that only seeks to draw off the interest from the natural capital year after year, so that future generations of all living species can coexist alongside each other.

In a Green economy businesses would create products that are designed to last, be easily repaired, with no toxic side effects, and which have built-in recycling and re-use processes at the end of product life. Employment opportunities and profits would be retained for reinvestment in the community through local sourcing, revolving community loans, and development of local inventories for the creation of products that would ensure each citizen a reasonable standard of living and quality of life.

Currently free trade and GATT trading policies are allowing both transnational and Canadian businesses to liquidate natural capital, which is the birthright of future generations, without even guaranteeing the current generation of Canadian citizens the right to be employed in processing those resources into useable and useful products for themselves. Meanwhile subsequent environmental degradation is leading to ecosystem collapse, a deteriorating quality of life, and increasing economic impoverishment, while stock markets and profits climb to dizzying heights.

Green Taxes Instead of the GST

Selective taxation can play a crucial role in establishing an ecological society. The Green Party suggests shifting taxes away from personal income and onto non-renewable

resources, and eliminating taxes on ecologically benign products and processes. Green taxes reward sustainable businesses and penalize resource-intensive industries.

Greens suggest eliminating payroll deductions and employer costs since employers are discouraged from hiring people due to the high accompanying costs. Income taxes and payroll deductions charged to employers for benefits (e.g. vacation pay, health insurance, pensions, employment insurance, dental insurance, long-term disability, drug plans, severance pay) make people expensive to hire.

These costs should be borne by government with funds generated by green taxes (resource taxes, emissions taxes, disposal taxes), and by currency transaction taxes, financial transaction taxes, and inheritance taxes.

Governments should also eliminate subsidies to the fossil fuel and nuclear industries, and eliminate tax write-offs for equipment purchases. We further resolve that a Green Party government cease involvement in the CANDU owners group and end all subsidies to AECL. We further resolved that a Green Party government cease to sell CANDU reactors internationally. A Green Party government resolves also to cease involvement in the CANDU owners group and end all subsidies to AECL;

A Green Party government would:

- phase out income tax, and replace it with green taxes;
- phase out taxes on soft energy systems such as solar, wind and biomass while increasing taxes and eliminating subsidies to nuclear, coal and hydro electric power
- grant tax breaks to manufacturers who abide by the zero-discharge principle and who manufacture products with a long useful life while imposing heavier taxes on companies that pollute and produce disposable products
- tax all non-renewable fuels and resources at the source to promote conservation.
- increase disposal taxes and impose incineration taxes to encourage recycling and reuse, and discourage use disposal in landfills or incineration
- revise the tax treatment of renewable energy and energy efficiency investments immediately to make them at least as attractive to investors as investments in conventional energy sources such as oil and gas and investments in other capital assets. This would require changes to flow through share eligibility to include development costs as well as elimination of the Specified Energy Property rules.
- provide incentives to renewable energy producers and investors with a production credit of \$0.05 per kilowatt hour. This production credit would help to recognize the social benefits provided by renewable energy: reduced environmental damage, reduced health care costs, and job creation.
- implement a tax or similar type of charge (e.g. resource depletion fee) on all carbon based fuels to gradually double the real price of these fuels over a ten year period.

Taxation Based on Full-cost Accounting

Greens would implement a tax or similar type of charge (e.g. a resource depletion fee) on all carbon based fuels to gradually bring the real price of these fuels up to the actual societal cost over a ten year period. The resulting tax pool would be used to re-build a fossil-fuel-free rail and water transportation system for goods and services in the hope that we can reverse the number and maintenance costs of public roads. Particular attention would have to be paid to ensuring that citizens living in rural areas did not bear an undue burden because of this change in energy/transportation policy

Economic Indicators

As a means to refocus citizens and corporations on building an economy that enhances a citizen's health and quality of life, Greens would replace current use of the Gross National Product with the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI). Unlike GNP, GPI measures the full social and environmental cost of economic activity, thus facilitating an increased knowledge in, for example, community breakdown, crime, loss of farmland and biodiversity, and unemployment rates.

More Jobs, More Quality Time

Like the European Union, Greens favour moving to a four-day/32-hour work week with maximum allowable work time set at 48 hours. This it is believed would improve occupational health and safety, and lower government, corporate and citizen health and income assistance expenditures (health insurance, employment insurance, dental insurance, long-term disability, drug plans, severance pay) by reducing workplace accidents and stress, while at the same time opening up more full, shared and part-time employment opportunities.

Citizens, especially those engaged in raising children, would be freer to pursue quality family, recreational and educational activities. Further, as unnecessary government expenditures were reduced, so too could the burden of taxation be brought into better balance - by first eliminating income taxes for those living below the poverty line, and then reducing it for middle income earners.

Since 1970 the number of people employed in manufacturing has dropped from 22% to 14%. Moving to a four-day/32-hour work week would mean that existing jobs could be shared with those now unemployed. While government would receive less tax revenue from those previously employed 40 hours per week, this shortfall would be compensated by savings in employment insurance and welfare costs, as well as infrastructure costs.

Other benefits of a 32-hour work week would include:

- reduced health costs, as both the formerly unemployed and the formerly overworked move to more balanced lifestyles;
- reduced education costs as the number of involuntary students decreases and unnecessary educational qualifications are removed.

As government costs are lowered, income and payroll taxes could also be reduced. Consequently, a reduced work week would not result in a significant pay reduction.

A Green Party government would:

- tax overtime to make up for lower revenues from income tax
- work to legislate a minimum of five weeks vacation per year
- work to promote job sharing, paid leave for raising children, and education or retraining
- not reduce pension benefits of employees working reduced hours during the last ten years before retirement

Corporate Accountability

As a first step towards building a Green economy, the right to corporate charter would be tied to the right of every citizen to hold corporate owners, officers and shareholders legally liable for their environmental and social actions. The basis of such an assessment would be enshrined in a constitutional amendment which would grant each and every Canadian citizen the right to:

- a) clean air and clean water
- b) access to safe and healthy food
- c) know through clear and understandable labelling the level of toxins and additives in food and beverages
- d) have access to public lands for recreation and sustenance
- e) live in naturally regenerating and fully functioning ecosystems

A Green government, with the understanding that the quality of human life and health is dependent on the survival of healthy ecosystems, would also pass legislation to both ensure enforcement of international environmental treaties and ensure the right of all current species residing in the political territory known as Canada to have access to food, clean air and water.

Citizen Ownership and Control of Resources

Greens would also work for enactment of legislation that would encourage cooperative ownership of companies by employees and/or local citizens, including right of first refusal by employees and/or local citizens when a corporation first offers public sale of shares, with the goal of achieving a minimum 50% in region ownership where the corporation is out of the bio-region.

Greens also see it as essential in the reorganization of government and the economy, including deficit and debt reduction, to eliminate subsidies to and investment in nuclear power (AECL), fossil fuel (Petro-Canada) and/or chemical-dependent components of the economy so that individuals and corporations who are developing ecosystem sensitive and

benign products and services can have a level economic playing field.

Social Security: Guaranteed Income Supplement

4.8 million Canadians (17.4%) had incomes below the poverty line in 1988. 20% of children under 18 and 20% of people over 65 live in poverty. 60% of families headed by single mothers live in poverty. Current income assistance programs are a mix of municipal, provincial and federal programs that are not rooted in the community.

Socially valuable activities, such as child-rearing, homemaking, learning, volunteering and starting small-businesses, are not adequately supported. Existing programs such as employment insurance, welfare, arts grants, workers compensation, CPP and student loans are complicated, judgmental and expensive to administer.

A Green Party government would:

- combine all of the above-noted income assistance and transfer programs into a Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS);
- through a GIS, provide a subsistence income, equivalent to welfare, to those who do not work of 50% of a target income (e.g. if the target income were set at \$14,000, \$7000 would be transferred to unemployed persons);
- through a GIS, top up the incomes of the underemployed by 50% toward a target income (e.g. if an underemployed person made \$8,000 per year, an additional \$3,000 would be transferred).

Debt and Deficit

Twenty-five cents of every federal tax dollar goes directly to commercial banks to pay the interest on Canada's \$600 billion debt. To deal with the deficit and the debt, a Green Party government would:

- eliminate subsidies to nuclear power and to fossil fuels and/or chemical-dependent sectors.
- reduce overlap between provincial and federal government departments (forestry, agriculture, education, transportation, etc.)
- set up a financial transaction tax (FTT). Financial transactions in Canada total around \$50 trillion per year. A 1% FTT would generate \$500 billion.

Currency exchange and capital flow restrictions give us the power to ensure that most of Canadian financial wealth remains here. Transnational corporations would undoubtedly dislike firm trade borders in Canada. Nonetheless, most would find they stand to lose more by leaving Canada than by staying, so long as the tax system designed to reward productive investment and to discourage speculation.

- instructing the Bank of Canada to take over a significant portion of the debt as an

interest-free loan. Interest paid on bonds would flow back to the Treasury as Bank dividends. In 1975 the Bank held 20.8% of the federal debt. In 1994 the Bank held 5.4%. That change has cost Canadian taxpayers about \$67 billion in interest and interest on the interest.

- develop a corporate tax system designed to reward productive investment and to discourage speculation;

VII Fisheries and Oceans

A Green Party government would undertake:

- to ratify the Law of the Sea treaty
- to establish a network of Marine parks, and ecological reserves.
- to prevent risks of disease transfer from net cage fish to wild stocks, such as black cod, herring, and salmon
- to address the following outstanding issues in aquiculture, and maintain a moratorium on increased fish farming:
 - a) Risks of introduction of exotic diseases from the continued importation of Atlantic salmon into Pacific waters;
 - b) Pollution from fish sewage, contamination of shellfish, and loss of habitat;
 - c) Death, wounding, and harassment of mammal and bird populations due to shootings, net entanglements, and acoustic deterrent devices;
 - d) Loss of access to traditional fisheries for First Nations people, with increased risks to their health from exposure to drug residues from food collected near net cage operations;
 - e) Competition for spawning beds and genetic interaction between wild and escaped salmon in fresh and salt water;
 - f) Decline of wild stocks Losses of wild fish, such as herring and juvenile salmon, consumed by net cage fish;
 - g) Endangered human health from the increased use of antibiotics and other drugs, which have already led to the spread of fish diseases that are fully resistant to three types of antibiotics.

VIII Foreign Affairs and Immigration

Shifting of Economic Priorities from Defence to Aid

Today the Canadian government spends about \$15 billion annually on foreign affairs, defence, and aid. Unfortunately this is mostly spent by the defence department preparing for war scenarios involving heavy military equipment. Canadian support for development in the Third World is dropping to levels not seen since 1950. Aid is being used as a tool for increasing trade: we are the seventh largest arms supplier to the Third World.

The military defence of nations cannot readily lead to security, yet Canada remains a member of NATO and NORAD. One of the greatest security threats to Canadians is the growing gap between haves and have-nots. A high economic growth strategy based on

cheap resources and exploited labour will not reverse this trend.

Canada's prosperity is not sustainable when based on its exclusive membership in a club of rich nations characterized by high-consumption and short-sighted disregard for the environment.

Green policy would emphasize the interdependence of nations and the need to focus on local food security and human rights rather than competitive advantage. Solidarity, partnership, synergy, and sustainability would be key policy goals. Green policy would be characterized by the willingness to put community priorities above national chauvinism. A policy of common security---the understanding that the security of every community is dependent on and contributes to the security of others---would mean that Canada's foreign affairs, defence, and aid policy would become better integrated and mutually reinforcing.

To improve the quality of aid, Greens suggest:

- a) specific targeting of Canada's aid program to the poorest (now less than one-fifth of Canada's aid dollars go to the poorest communities);
- b) better accountability of Canada's contributions to international financial institutions (currently these institutions use Canadian tax dollars to expand markets without regard for distribution of wealth);
- c) better quality of aid projects by getting local communities involved in design and evaluation (currently projects are designed for rather than with the end-users which means priorities are wrong and development funds ineffective);
- d) new partnerships with community-based Canadian and international NGOs (the private sector and governments are the main partners and beneficiaries of aid today);
- e) using community-based organizations as main purveyor of Canada's aid (currently, NGOs implement less than 10% of Canadian aid projects);
- f) humanitarian aid should be based on the use of local resources and regional responses (emergency aid is now a business that undermines local capacities);

Greens also suggest:

- a) supporting regional and international networks of community-based organizations to build civil society (currently trade and military organizations like NAFTA, Group of 7, and NATO receive most of Canada's support)
- b) supporting local markets, land reform, and self-reliance rather than export cash crops (currently Canada's support for the World Trade Organization undermines local food reliance);
- c) demilitarizing Canada's North and stopping low-level flights (currently, the unique ecosystem of the North and the communities living there are seen as commodities for the use of southern urban centres);
- d) getting out of NATO and NORAD (these are hang-overs from the 1940s and do not address the need for a sustainable future - new types of alliance are needed);

- e) improving Canada's contribution to conflict resolution, and peace building (currently "defence" spending is mostly on heavy equipment and standing forces rather than niche expertise in managing conflict);

Greens suggest that security be achieved through a more productive trade policy that would:

- a) make environmental and social charters the backbone of trade deals (trade deals like NAFTA make no provisions to improve environmental protection or labour rights);
- b) stop all exports of arms from Canada (for the last 5 years Canada has been increasing its arms exports annually);
- c) improve contents regulations for imports to avoid products made with child and slave labour (cheap consumer products sold in Canada may be produced by child labour);
- d) stop all export and national movements of hazardous wastes: you make it, you keep it (currently, nuclear and industrial wastes are exported for dumping in weaker communities);
- e) stop sale of nuclear technology from Canada (technology for dealing safely with nuclear waste does not exist).

Immigration Priorities

The Greens suggest measures to reduce the need for large-scale immigration:

- Rich countries should pay a fair price for third world commodities.
- The arms trade drains poor countries of wealth which would be better spent on social services while the weapons are mostly used to control their own populations.
- Canada should maintain trade sanctions with countries with human rights abuses.
- Canadian aid should encourage bio-regional self-reliance in basic goods and services.
- Debt forgiveness to poor countries and restrictions on wealth transfer from poor to rich countries in the form of corporate profits.

The Foreign Affairs department could also have a part in the role that could be left for Quebec to play in their foreign cultural ties in that it could facilitate the diplomatic contingencies.

IX Health

Personal and Planetary Health From A Green Policy Perspective

The Green Party understands that there is more to health care than medical treatment, and that far more healing occurs within social support networks than within hospital wards. We

would ensure that doctors and hospitals continue to serve their valuable role in our communities while also targeting resources to health promotion and disease prevention strategies. Drugs and surgery would always play a part in the healing arts, but Green Party health policy would use a broader palette to paint an even better picture for Canadians.

Our current health care system concentrates on the treatment rather than on the prevention of disease. Health care is focussed on expensive high-technology machines rather than on people. This approach is expensive and invites unnecessary suffering. There are opportunities for tremendous reduction in disease rates by changing our focus to prevention. This approach would both improve people's quality of life and conserve health care tax dollars. Greens would focus on promoting good nutrition, exercise and stress reduction, providing greater access to alternative health care systems, and on providing treatment facilities that are human-scale, community-centred places of healing.

Canadians are concerned that public health is being jeopardised by the deterioration of our environment. This concern is supported by research which links suppression of our immune system to such pervasive environmental problems as ozone depletion, petrochemical pollution and the bio-accumulation of persistent toxins. Even global warming poses immediate health risks as climactic barriers to the spread of warm climate disease agents are progressively disrupted.

Political parties which owe allegiance to industrial growth ignore convincing evidence that personal and planetary health are inextricably linked. Greens would take action to ensure that both personal and planetary health benefit from health expenditures. The era of hospitals as major sources of hazardous waste would be numbered.

A Green Party government would:

- expand health promotion initiatives to encompass immune system strengthening strategies for individuals, communities and ecosystems.
- ensure that the bulk of health care funding goes toward proven healing aids rather than towards high-tech machinery or construction budgets
- encourage inter-disciplinary home care support teams as both an effective healing intervention and an effective job creation tool.
- while recognising that health service falls largely under provincial jurisdiction, support initiatives to educate the public around lifestyle changes and choices that would contribute to both personal and planetary health.
- revise the role of the Health Protection Branch and set priorities to provide a more stringent review process for new and existing human-made chemicals, technologies, and electromagnetic disruption, while taking a friendlier approach to the use of naturally occurring medicinals.
- draft an Ecological Bill of Rights that would ensure access to pure foodstuffs, air, water and land for future generations.
- acknowledge the distinct biochemical nature of women's physiology as well as the history of inattention to the realities of women's socio-economic disempowerment,

- and would ensure that health research and health services respond to women's needs and reflect the diversity of women's life stages.
- maintain the federal government's commitment to quality care for First Nations.
 - respect the wishes of patients of sound mind as to the manner and duration of their treatments; Green health policy is formulated with acceptance of death as the natural outcome of even the healthiest life and not something to be avoided at all costs.

Canada's universally accessible healthcare system and our great outdoors are sources of pride to most Canadians. We share this pride as well as the concern that many Canadians have about threats to our environment and our health. We intend to build on the strong foundation of the Canada Health Act by making our good system even better. Some of the improvements that Greens would initiate include:

- allocation of significant research funding to healing techniques that complement drugs and surgery;
- establishment of channels to align Canada's research excellence more closely with effective techniques from world medicine and traditional practices;
- ensuring warning labels for all non-nutritive substances and processes affecting our food;
- initiating an effective program of public education about the health benefits of uncontaminated food, water and air;
- encouragement of epidemiological research that factors in all the determinants of health (the medical equivalent of "full cost accounting");
- setting aside ecological preserves that would serve as reservoirs of biological diversity.
- setting of environmental standards that would protect health rather than just promoting trade.
- including the health status of the human population and of the ecosystem as criteria in any scale or method for assessing prosperity.

X Canadian Heritage

Endangered Species

Canada loses one square kilometre of wilderness every hour according to the World Wildlife Fund. Only 4.6% of Canada's land and waters have been protected as wilderness. In 1995, eight species were added to Canada's endangered list of 263 endangered plant and animal species. Ontario has an endangered-species act but neither federal nor provincial wildlife laws require a response when a species becomes endangered.

All of the species of plants and animals in Canada are part of Canada's heritage. If their continued existence becomes threatened or endangered, then part of the heritage of Canada similarly becomes threatened or endangered.

A Green Party government would:

- enact a Code applicable to all lands, waters and air space in Canada detailing the Rights of Species in Canada that would include the right to life, habitat and areas large enough to support species in their natural habitat.
- identify areas of ecological and cultural value and protect these areas with legislation
- establish a program to set aside large percentages of Canada's various ecological zones as wild areas and biological preserves and interconnect them with wildlife corridors.
- negotiate with provinces having similar Acts to place the responsibility for all of Canada's species with the federal government. It also means that the government would cooperate with provincial jurisdictions to satisfy both the letter and the spirit of the federal Act.
- cooperate closely with First Nations in the development of and implementation of an Act Respecting the Rights of Species in Canada.
- make decisions about listing endangered or threatened species of plants or animals with the advice of scientists working in the field and comply with request for inclusion of species made by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC)
- automatically include the habitat of any species listed as endangered and be required to protect the habitat of any and all endangered species
- enact recovery plans for threatened or endangered species
- require an advance review comprising of a thorough environmental impact assessment for any development projects proposed for areas containing, or found to contain, threatened or endangered species. This assessment would be forwarded to COSEWIC, who would then make recommendations to Cabinet. Cabinet would be required to take the recommendations into consideration in its decision-making.
- require the Minister of Canadian Heritage to bring to the attention of the Cabinet and of the Minister of Environment evidence presented by the scientific community that a species is facing imminent threats to its survival.
- allow any citizen to bring private enforcement actions in court where the government is not enforcing the law upholding the rights of species. Where there is an immediate threat to a species' survival, the Cabinet would be required to act immediately.

National Parks

Forests, especially those in National Parks, form part of Canada's heritage. A Green Party government would:

- oppose clear cutting of forests in National Parks.
- revitalize the Canadian parks system and reverse the trend towards privatization

Antarctica World Park

Under a Green Party government, Canada would join with France and Australia in declaring Antarctica a World Park to protect its fragile ecosystem. Of utmost importance is to establish a total ban on mining. A Green Party government would support Antarctica being designated as a World Commons under United Nations auspices. (From 1990 Policy)

Green Forest Field Guide

A Green Party government would produce a "Green Forest Field Guide" for the public on forest issues as a critique of and interpretive guide to public relations statements made by pulp and lumber companies. This would give the public an opportunity to carefully consider information disseminated by the forest industries. (Adapted from 1990 Policy)

XI International Cooperation

- (i) reducing the global military budget and transferring the peace dividend into social equitable and environmentally sound development;
- (ii) ensuring that corporations including transnationals comply with international law;
- (iii) fulfilling the obligation from UNCED to contribute .07% of the GNP to assist in the implementation of Agenda 21 from UNCED;
- (iv) calling upon states to sign and ratify international agreements related to human rights, peace and environment, and to enact the necessary legislation to ensure compliance;
- (v) calling for the instituting of an International Court of Compliance where citizens could take evidence of state non-compliance;
- (vi) preventing or phasing out the production of and transference of all substances that are harmful to human health or the environment [this would include toxic, hazardous, and nuclear materials and waste [including plutonium as proposed for use in CANDU reactors];
- (vii) supporting the elimination of weapons of mass destruction including nuclear weapon, and the converting the military to a program promoting peace and socially equitable and environmentally sound development and peace; and
- (ix) promoting a collaborative decision making process within a framework of overarching principles drawn in part from international agreements.

XII Intergovernmental Affairs

Quebec: Intergovernmental Relations and Sovereignty

Given the ambiguous nature of Quebec's place within the Canadian federation, it falls upon the Green Party of Canada to create a platform which specifically addresses the fallout from the Constitution Act of 1982, wherein the Constitution was repatriated by the federal Liberal government of the day without the consent of Quebec.

A Green Party government would:

- advocate amending the Constitution to include Quebec and by doing so would directly address the concerns of those Quebecois (of which there are many) who wish a partnership with Ottawa that would allow for basic protections of the French language and culture in Quebec.

Since the Quiet Revolution and before, Quebec has expressed its desire for recognition of rights in the following five areas:

- Provincial veto over future Constitutional amendments
- Limiting federal spending powers in programs falling under the exclusive jurisdiction of Quebec
- Appointment of judges from Quebec to sit on the Supreme Court of Canada
- Broader immigration powers
- Constitutional recognition of Quebec as a distinct society

1) Provincial Veto

In the wake of the October 30, 1995, Quebec referendum on sovereignty, Prime Minister Chretien allowed that all regions of Canada be granted a veto on future Constitutional amendments - thus Quebec's long standing concern here is a moot point.

2) Federal Spending Powers

Quebec currently has "opt-out" powers in terms of federal spending in Quebec. The problem is that these guarantees are not constitutionally entrenched.

"A Green Party government would work towards ensuring that the Constitution be amended to entrench Quebec's right to opt-out of federal spending programs. That is to say that Quebec would enjoy the same opt-out powers that it has now, but that they would irrevocably be entrenched in the Constitution."

3) Appointment of Judges

Given that Quebec Civil Law differs from that of the rest of Canada, Quebec has repeatedly requested that it be permitted to submit to the federal government of the day a list of nine Supreme Court judge candidates, from which the federal government would select three to sit on the Supreme Court of Canada.

"The Green Party of Canada would support Quebec's submission of Supreme Court judge candidates, recognizing Quebec's need to be involved in the process with respect to the province's particular judicial character."

4) Broader Immigration Powers

Although Quebec (since 1991) enjoys considerable autonomy in the field of immigration, once again these powers are not constitutionally entrenched.

"A Green Party of Canada government would ensure the constitutional entrenchment of power over immigration for Quebec, recognizing that Quebec's demographics are such that it has (since the mid 1970's) been unable maintain its population due to both lower birth rates and mass sovereignty-induced emigration to other provinces. Thus immigration in Quebec has been centred around maintaining and perpetuating the French language and culture in that province and its immigration policies should provide for that".

5) Quebec as a Distinct Society

Recognizing that protection of the French language and culture in Quebec is essential to its identity as a nation, constitutional protection is unequivocally necessary insofar as Quebec finds itself surrounded by a continent which is primarily anglo-centred. Recognizing also the ambiguity and contention surrounding the phrase "distinct society," it is necessary to clearly define the terms and conditions involved in the constitutional protection of the French language and culture in Quebec.

"A Green Party of Canada government would support constitutional protection of the French language and culture in Quebec on the condition that its definition be clearly defined by Quebecers and the Quebec governments with a view towards avoiding further alienation of the non-French Canadian population of Quebec."

XIII Justice Platform

The Green Party favours substantial reforms to the administration of justice within Canada, in terms of human rights, electoral and government reform, law enforcement and reform of the criminal code. Greens believe in a system of justice which fairly balances the right to due process with collective security and works to reduce crime through prevention, deterrence and rehabilitation. Greens believe in an inclusive electoral political process which represents both minority and mainstream views effectively.

Senate Reform

At present, the Canadian senate is little better than a plush retirement home for the beneficiaries of government patronage. While some Canadians see the senate as a waste of taxpayers' money, others seek a renewal of the senate based on its original role as a "the chamber of sober second thought." A Green Party government would hold a referendum (either by preferential ballot or followed by a series of run-offs) giving Canadians the opportunity to set the direction senate reform should take. While constitutional amendments may be necessary to complete and formalize changes to the senate, virtually all plans for senate reform could commence without constitutional change.

The proposed referendum would include but not be limited to the following choices:

1. Abolition of the Senate

A yes to this option would result in an immediate moratorium on filling any senate vacancies and strong encouragement for sitting senators to retire. This would lead to a gradual reduction in the size of the senate while the government negotiated for a constitutional amendment to abolish the senate completely.

2. Election of the Senate

A yes to this option would result in the government filling senate vacancies through province-wide senate elections held concurrently with provincial elections. In the event of more than one senate seat becoming available, seats would be apportioned based on proportional representation. The government would negotiate for a constitutional amendment creating an elected senate on a similar model to the Australian senate which selects its members in at-large state elections by proportional representation.

3. First Nations Senat 

A yes to this option would result in the government filling senate vacancies by appointing hereditary first nations leaders to fill any vacancies. These appointments would be chosen from a lists forwarded by the Assembly of First Nations. The government would negotiate for a constitutional amendment that converted the senate into an institution similar to the British House of Lords but retaining the senate's historic right of veto.

4. The Status Quo.

Anti-SLAPP Legislation

Currently when corporations' attempts to realize profits at the expense of communities and the environment are thwarted by public participation through blockades, lawsuits, education campaigns and other means of peaceful opposition, corporations have the recourse to sue those organizations and individuals for their pecuniary loss. These lawsuits are known as SLAPPS (Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation); the Green Party believes that individuals must not be intimidated from participating in decisions that affect their communities. A Green Party government would therefore implement anti-SLAPP legislation strictly limiting the rights of corporations to sue groups and individuals for pecuniary loss.

Human Rights

As threats to communities and ecosystems become more and more acute, the Green Party recognizes that in addition to government intervention, communities and individuals need more tools to organize to protect their ecological security. For this reason, a Green Party government would add a new section to the Human Rights Act entitled "Environmental Rights." These rights would include the following rights:

- a) the right to clean air

- b) the right to clean water
- c) the right to uncontaminated food

Canadians whose environmental rights had been violated would then be empowered to take governments, corporations and individuals to court for violation of these rights. A Green Party government would also add the right to adequate food and shelter to the current Human Rights Act.

Youth Rights

At present, the Canadian constitution states that discrimination based on age is legally prohibited; a Green Party government would conduct a thorough review of truancy laws, voting age restrictions, the age of majority, family law and the Young Offenders' Act. This review would involve extensive consultation with youth, a judicial review of the constitutionality of age-based laws by the Supreme Court of Canada and input from educators and parents.

Prison System

At present, Canada's prison system is one of the few expanding post-secondary educational institutions. Unskilled individuals are trained in drug use and the commission of serious and violent crimes by their peers. Rather than acting as a deterrent to re-offending, our prison system facilitates re-offending. And fewer than one in four prisoners currently incarcerated are serving time for violent offences. Furthermore, it costs taxpayers on average 9 times more money per year to maintain a prison inmate than to maintain an individual on parole.

A Green Party government would closely examine the use of sentencing circles, house arrest for non-violent crime, increased community service and civil suits for punitive damages to keep non-violent first offenders out of prison facilities. Effort should be made to keep non-violent individuals who are employed while under house arrest, on parole or performing community service.

A Green government would also work with first nations to delegate more of the administration of first nations justice to first nations governments.

Drugs

Drug abuse is principally a health problem which manifests as a law and order problem. The prison system unnecessarily warehouses addicts in high-security institutions, and stigmatizes the non-addicted portion of the population who use illicit drugs. The Green Party favours a harm-reduction based approach to drug abuse focussed on health and education rather than stigma and persecution. The Green Party recognizes that promoting healthy, drug free lifestyles, while at the same time educating the public in responsible drug use is effective in reducing the rate of drug addiction.

A Vancouver police officer recently observed that it is easier and cheaper for most children to gain access to cocaine than to alcohol. Furthermore, some of the most dangerous mind-altering chemicals such as industrial solvents continue to be legally and cheaply available over the counter to people of all ages. The Green Party is committed to regulating all drugs to better guarantee the health and safety of our youth.

A Green Party government would rationalize drug laws as follows:

- regulating alcohol, tobacco and currently prohibited opiates, hallucinogens, stimulants and depressants (such as marijuana, heroin, cocaine, MDA, MDMA, LSD, etc.) under the same legislation as one another
- phasing-in licensing of tobacconists and currently-operating store front vendors of illicit drugs
- working with provincial governments to expand liquor distribution branches to include other drugs
- removing drug offences from the Criminal Code
- expanding methadone and other addiction treatment programs sponsored by the government
- developing a single tax on drugs which harmonizes alcohol and tobacco taxes
- investing new tax revenues and savings from decreased policing of the drug trade in rehabilitation, treatment and education programs to reduce drug use

Inter-species Rights

The Green Party recognizes that at present, there is inadequate protection of non-humans in current legislation. A Green government would enact a bill of inter-species rights which would guarantee all species native to Canada the following rights:

- a) the right to exist
- b) the right to exist in at least one geographical location without human interference
- c) the right to access to food, clean water and clean air

A Green government would also create a joint taskforce of the agriculture and justice ministries to review current domestic animal treatment legislation with a view to better guaranteeing ethical treatment of animals.

Gay and Lesbian Rights

A Green Party government would institute a series of reforms to put same-sex marriages and common law relationships on an equal footing with heterosexual marriages and common law relationships. This would include mandating that justices of the peace and other government-certified individuals authorized to perform marriages be prohibited from discriminating against same-sex couples.

A Green government would also conduct a full review of government contracts, procedures, statutes and regulations to address other areas in which same-sex couples

face systematic discrimination.

Contempt of Court

At present, court injunctions are an overused and costly mechanism of law enforcement; furthermore they dangerously politicize the courts. While individuals and corporations should continue to have the opportunity to apply for injunctions, a Green Party government take the state out of the business of court injunctions. A Green Party government would require that any provincial government wishing to pursue contempt of court actions be required to exhaust other legal resources for prosecution such as mischief, trespassing and promotion of hatred laws before resorting to prosecutions for contempt.

Private Prosecutions

At present, when the government fails to prosecute an individual, corporation or government department for an offence, a citizen can initiate prosecution to enforce the law. Unfortunately, once a citizen has begun the prosecution, the provincial and federal governments have the right to take up the prosecution without the citizen's consent. Recent glaring abuses include the BC government's take-over of private prosecutions against the Greater Vancouver Regional District by environmental groups; after which time, it dropped the charges. Similarly, the Ontario government's unilateral take-over of Glen Kealey's lawsuit against the Mulroney government for corruption led to the dropping of almost all charges immediately. A Green Party government would:

- cease to take up private prosecutions without the consent of the private prosecutor
- prohibit provincial governments from taking up private prosecutions without the consent of the private prosecutor
- establish a fund similar to the Charter Challenge Fund to subsidize important private prosecutions in areas of human rights and environmental protection

Disallowance

Since 1867, the Canadian federal government has had a power under the constitution known as "disallowance" -- when the federal government feels that a piece of provincial legislation fundamentally compromises Canada's national interests, it has the power to unilaterally repeal such legislation. As a decentralist party, the Green Party of Canada does not favour frequent or excessive use of such legislation. A Green Party government would limit its use of disallowance to instances where provincial legislation was in direct contravention of international agreements signed by the federal government. Thus, if a province enacted a forestry policy which violated international biodiversity or climate change conventions, a Green government would not hesitate to disallow such a policy.

Gun Control

While the Green Party supports, on balance, the Chretien government's gun control

legislation, there are real concerns about the efficacy of the new legislation. Current gun control legislation appears to focus on the enumeration and registration of guns rather than a genuine attempt to reduce the number of guns in Canadian society.

The Green Party favours more stringent limitations on eligibility to purchase hand guns, particularly in urban areas. While opponents of gun control state that gun control will ensure that only criminals have access to firearms, the majority of deaths from gun use are from legally obtained weapons. The Green Party therefore favours redirecting government gun control efforts as follows:

- a ban on all assault weapons
- clearer regulation of gun storage
- a program to phase-out handguns by tightening eligibility requirements over time
- a ban on large capacity magazines

The Charter

Currently, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms is constrained by two important clauses: the "notwithstanding clause" and the "demonstrably justifiable clause." The "notwithstanding clause" is the more well-known, stating that if a provincial or federal government wishes to pass legislation which violates the charter, it may do so if it utilizes this clause which makes the legislation charter-exempt for its first five years. The "notwithstanding" clause has never been used outside of Quebec.

The "demonstrably justifiable" clause is far more sweeping in its ramifications. It states that the rights conferred within the charter may be limited by any government initiative if such a limitation is "demonstrably justifiable in a free and democratic society." Thus, as long as the state can demonstrate that other "free and democratic" societies limit human rights in a particular way, it can violate the charter at will.

A Green Party government would, in any constitutional negotiation, seek the removal of the "demonstrably justifiable" and "notwithstanding" clauses. A Green government would also seek to include any improvements to the Human Rights Act (such as the addition of sexual orientation as an unacceptable form of discrimination) to the charter.

XIV Natural Resources

Sustainable Energy

Hundreds of policy changes are required to encourage the transition to sustainable energy production and consumption, most of which fall into one of the following four categories:

- a) eliminating subsidies for nuclear and fossil fuels and raising taxes on them to reflect environmental costs;
- b) accelerating investment in sustainable energy infrastructure;

- c) redirecting research and development spending to focus on sustainable energy technologies; and
- d) changing the focus of international energy assistance away from mega-projects towards appropriately sized community planned and driven projects; and

The federal government has a role to play in all of these areas through tax policy, energy procurement, energy research and development spending, and foreign aid. Renewable energy reduces environmental damage and health care costs, while increasing employment opportunities.

A Green Party government would:

- immediately revise tax treatment of renewable energy and energy efficiency investments to make them at least as attractive to investors as investments in conventional energy sources (such as oil and gas) including changes to flow-through share eligibility to include development costs and elimination of the Specified Energy Property rules;
- provide incentives to renewable energy producers and investors with a production credit of \$0.05 per kilowatt hour;
- implement a carbon consumption tax to gradually double the real price of these fuels over a ten-year period.

Energy Procurement

Government support and investment is required in order to develop and support sustainable energy infrastructure throughout Canada.

A Green Party government would:

- enact Energy Procurement Legislation requiring the federal government to purchase an increasing percentage of its energy needs from green sources.

This legislation would require:

- a) 20% of electricity from green sources (wind, solar, biomass, small hydro and co-generation of electricity and heat) within ten years;
- b) converting the federal vehicle fleet to electric, propane, natural gas, ethanol, etc., as a means to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other harmful substances by 50% within ten years;
- c) retrofitting and use of other energy efficiency measures to improve federally owned or controlled building stock by 25% within five years and 50% within ten years.

Energy Research

Since government support is required to encourage research and development of

sustainable energy, a Green Party government would:

- implement an Energy Research & Development Act to divert in excess of \$1 billion in annual federal research and development spending to fund sustainable energy research and development;
- spend 50% of energy research and development on renewable energy technologies by the year 2000;
- discontinue spending on nuclear energy research, including the hundreds of million \$ subsidy to Atomic Energy of Canada;
- focus programs related to fossil fuel energy supply, production and consumption on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful environmental impacts;
- allocate a significant portion of energy research and development spending to support field trials and commercialization of renewable energy technologies to improve their reliability, efficiency and competitiveness in Canadian and International markets and thereby accelerate their adoption by clients.

XV Indian and Northern Affairs

Original Peoples

The Green Party of Canada affirms the view -- which aboriginal elders have said -- that land is nature, the basis of life, worthy in itself and sacred; that human life is interdependent with all parts of the ecosystem in which we live; and that all aspects of human life are effected by the interrelationships of "all my relations".

We must remember and acknowledge who where the original inhabitants and owners of this land, and how developed their societies and nations where at the time of European contact -- and what has happened since that contact.

For instance, the Greens draw attention to the Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples which concludes that original peoples were betrayed by a policy of cultural imperialism when cultural genocide was attempted -- and still pursued today -- by the Indian Act enacted shortly after Canada's founding:

- treaties were broken,
- sovereign nations were no longer recognized,
- cultures and institutions were suppressed and outlawed,
- children were forced into residential schools for assimilation,
- nations were fragmented, displaced and dispossessed of their lands,
- reserves, imposed by the government, were relocated and broken up for resource exploitation,
- traditional livelihoods were destroyed by resource exploitation and the settlement of foreigners,
- Band and Tribal councils, conceived and supported by the Canadian government, were, and are still, forced onto original peoples.

The Green Party of Canada recognizes the strength and character of the original nations of North America which have faced such abuses and have arisen to reclaim their rights and assume their responsibilities.

The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples calls for a national conference to discuss the recommendations of its report. As a first step, a Green government will negotiate with all original aboriginal nations to reach agreement on the frame of reference and mandate for that conference, including whether international representatives should be invited to attend; and which methods of decision making and problem solving should be used as part of this conference.

The Greens also recognize the Royal Proclamation of 1763 in its confirmation of original nations as sovereign peoples with inherent rights.

Greens would:

- seek honourable settlements with the successors of original nations that will lead to the creation of culturally and economically self-governing successors of original nations throughout Canada. We would seek nation-to-nation partnerships with the original nations of North America;
- not impose a form of self-government or a frame work of nationhood on the successors of the original nations. Original peoples can best choose the forms of governance appropriate for themselves;
- use its authority to ensure that no resource extraction, economic activity, or settlement occurs on land which is in dispute, unless the successors of the original nations involved consent to such activity starting or continuing.

The fiduciary obligations of the Federal Government to the successors of the original nations, where ever they live in Canada, must be increased during this healing and transition process. Programs flowing from these obligations need to be planned, operated, and controlled by original peoples in their local communities in order to be culturally appropriate and responsive to needs.

The Greens acknowledge and thank the original peoples for helping the Europeans and others to survive during the first periods of settlement.