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A Fresh Start

FOR CANADIANS



A 6 POINT PLAN TO
BUILD A BRIGHTER FUTURE TOGETHER

REFORM



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REFORM'S FRESH START

GUARANTEE

Tired of broken promises from politicians? To demonstrate our accountability to you, Reform is offering a Guarantee. Among other things, our Guarantee gives you the power to fire your MPs if they fail to live up to their election promises. See how it works on page22

A 6 point plan to build a brighter future together

1 We'll reduce the size of government to create more and better jobs

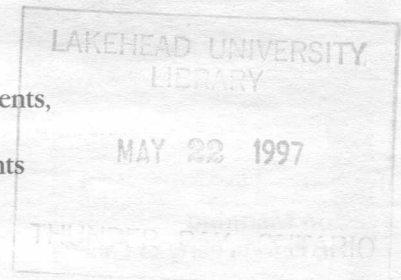
- Create growth, opportunity, and lasting jobs through smaller government, an end to overspending, and lower taxes
- Make government smaller by eliminating waste, duplication and red tape to save \$15 billion a year
- Balance the budget by March 31, 1999

2 We'll give you tax relief

- Lower taxes for all Canadians: \$2,000 by the year 2000 for the average family
- Increase the Basic Personal Amount and Spousal Amount
- Cut capital gains taxes in half, cut employers' U.I. premiums by 28%, and eliminate federal surtaxes
- Flatten and simplify the income tax system

3 We'll make families a priority

- Extend the child care tax deduction of up to \$5,000 per child to all parents, including those parents who care for their children at home
- Enact legislation to fight family violence, get tougher on deadbeat parents who don't pay child support, and crack down on child pornography



4 We'll make our streets safe again

- Enact a Victims' Bill of Rights that puts their rights ahead of those of criminals
- Reform the parole system so that violent offenders serve their full sentence
- Eliminate the Young Offenders Act, replacing it with laws making juvenile offenders accountable for their actions
- Hold a binding national referendum on the return of capital punishment
- Replace gun registration with tougher measures for the criminal use of firearms
- Introduce Two Strikes legislation for repeat violent offenders

5 We'll repair the social safety net

- Add \$4 billion a year to health care and education payments to provinces (using savings from reductions in other programs)
- Return Unemployment Insurance to its original purpose: protection against temporary job loss
- Reform the pension system to give you security and control over your own pension plan

6 We'll end the uncertainty caused by the national unity crisis

- Safeguard the economic and political interests of Canadians in any future referendum on secession
- Affirm the equality in law of all citizens and provinces
- Give greater control to provinces and municipalities through decentralization
- Focus the federal government on ten areas of national responsibility

A Fresh Vision for a New Canada



Preston Manning

Preston Manning
Leader, Reform Party of Canada

We should be doing better

If you're like most Canadians, you're deeply concerned about the economic issues facing our country today. And for good reason. Our chronically underperforming economy, high taxes, and heavy debt load are deeply affecting each one of us as we live our lives day by day.

We are worried about the fact that we have suffered a national pay cut over the last few years. We are worried about our financial future, job security, and the health of our employer's business. We are worried about debt levels, high taxes, making ends meet (often despite two incomes), and carrying record levels of mortgage and personal debt. And we are worried about financing our children's education, their job prospects in the future, and our own pensions.

The facts show that you are worse off

Unfortunately, the facts show that you are worse off now than when the Liberals were elected in 1993.

Here are just a few of the reasons why:

- After four years of what the Liberals call "cost-cutting", we will be over \$107 billion deeper in debt. In total, twenty five years of Liberal and Tory mismanagement have put Canada \$600 billion in debt
- Under the Liberals, annual tax revenues will have increased by \$25 billion in just four years - one of the largest four year revenue increases in Canadian history
- Around 1.4 million Canadians are unemployed, nearly as many as when the Liberals were elected. Another 2 to 3 million Canadians are under-employed. And one-in-four Canadians are worried about losing their jobs

There is hope

There are solutions to these deeply disturbing economic problems. But they are very different from the solutions proposed by the Liberal government. For we believe that the Liberals, and the Tories before them, have put Canada on the wrong track. The wrong track on job creation, taxes, families, justice, social fairness and national unity.

It's time now for a fundamental shift in our thinking. To turn our heads from the old approaches that are eroding the very foundation of our country. And open our eyes to a new vision of what our nation can be.

TWO VISIONS OF CANADA

The old vision just isn't working

The vision of the Liberals and the Conservatives before them revolves around big government and the high taxes that go with it. It is based on the belief that our economy, social services and Canadian unity all need aggressive intervention by a big spending, unfocused federal government.

It is a vision which has us working half the year just to pay the tax bill. It is a vision which promises job creation and social justice, but delivers chronic unemployment and chronic poverty. It is a vision which promises national unity through national programs and national "standards", but delivers friction, disunity, non-accountability, duplication and waste.

It is a vision which trivializes individual, family, and community contributions, by implying that only through government programs, government spending, and government propaganda can this country be held together.

The new vision

The Reform Party envisions a country defined and built by its citizens, rather than by its government. It is a vision of smaller government and lower taxes. It is a vision which reaches out to the initiative, drive and diversity of

Canadians, and calls upon individuals, families and communities to lead the way to growth, progress and unity.

We envision a different country, a new and better Canada. It is a place where tax freedom day occurs in April, instead of June. We envision a country in which the unemployment rate is 5% instead of 10%, thanks to initiative, entrepreneurship, innovation and hard work, not make-work projects and wasteful subsidies.

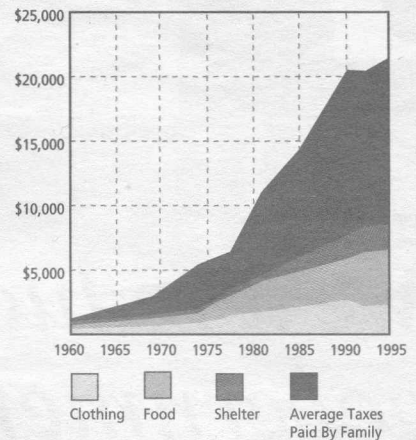
We envision a country where citizens are safer and more secure because families and communities play a stronger role in supporting, protecting and caring for individuals. And we envision a unified federation where regional differences are not only tolerated, but encouraged.

A specific plan of action

But most importantly we have put together a specific plan of action that will enable us to realize this new Canada. So join us now, as we walk you through a plan that will give you the tools you need to take charge of your own future.

A plan that will give you, and all Canadians, a fresh start.

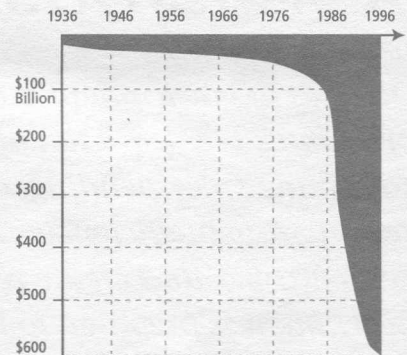
Family tax increases compared to other costs of living



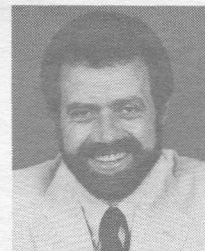
Source: The Fraser Institute: *Tax Facts 9* by I. Horry, F. Palda and M. Walker, 1994

Taxes keep going up and yet the debt hole gets deeper

Canada's deepening debt hole



Source: Public Accounts and Department of Finance: *Budget Plan, 1996*



“Reform’s plan for lower taxes, smaller government and debt reduction will lead to real economic growth.”

Tom Velk

Associate Professor of Economics,
McGill University
Montreal, Quebec

1

A Fresh Start

ON JOB CREATION

We'll reduce the size of government and lower taxes, to create more and better jobs...

"Decades of government building by Liberals and Tories have created a tax burden of unprecedented magnitude. Overspending, over-taxation, and bureaucratic inefficiencies must be eliminated if we are to prosper and create real jobs. A Reform government is prepared to liberate the economy from excessive government, creating a future filled with growth and opportunity."

Preston Manning

OUR COMMITMENT TO CANADIANS

A Reform Government will:

- Create jobs through smaller government, an end to overspending, and lower taxes
- Make government smaller by eliminating waste, duplication and red tape, and by transferring major responsibilities back to individuals, families, and communities
- Balance the federal budget by March 31, 1999
- Launch a debt retirement program to start reducing the \$600 billion of debt built up over 25 years of Liberal and Tory overspending, thereby reducing future interest costs which threaten our valued social programs
- Cap federal spending and enact balanced budget legislation
- Strengthen the export opportunities of B.C. and Atlantic Canada
- Assure free trade among Canadian provinces and expand trade opportunities internationally
- Build on Canada's strengths with policies that support agriculture, fisheries, and knowledge-based industries



Overspending and high taxes cost jobs

Government spending and taxes do not create real jobs. They create short-term, temporary jobs and leave behind long-term debt and high taxes - a recipe for greater poverty and fewer jobs. Twenty-five years of Liberal and Tory governments have shaped an economy that simply does not meet Canadians' needs.

A balanced budget by March 31, 1999

A Reform Government will balance the federal budget within two years. After that, annual surpluses created through growth and reduced interest costs, will be used to re-invest in the Canadian economy (through lower taxes and increased spending on health and education) and to begin to reduce the debt.

Overhaul government operations

Upon taking office, a Reform Government will immediately implement a complete overhaul of government operations, department by department, program by program, position by position.

This overhaul will save about \$15 billion a year, by the end of our first mandate, allowing a Reform Government to spend \$94 billion a year on the things Canadians value most. This compares to \$109 billion the Liberals will spend this year and the \$120 billion spent by the Tories in their last year.

When combined with projected economic growth, our savings will allow us to provide Canadians with about \$15 billion in tax relief, \$4 billion in new health and education funding, and the first down payment towards the national debt. It's a great start toward reversing the damage caused by 25 years of Liberal and Tory overspending and debt.

The following transfer programs will be reformed to make them financially sustainable and to focus taxpayers' money on the highest priority areas:

- Welfare
- Unemployment Insurance
- Equalization

The following departments and agencies will disappear, with any retained programs integrated into a smaller, more streamlined federal government:

- Regional Development Agencies
- Office of Official Languages
- All Secretaries of State
- Canadian Radio Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC)

The following three Crown corporations will be privatized:

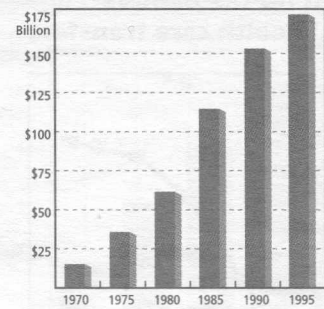
- CBC-TV and SRC-TV [CBC and SRC Radio will be retained, as will NewsWorld and Réseau de l'information (RDI)]
- Via Rail
- Canada Post (in a manner that ensures all Canadians - including rural Canadians - are guaranteed at least the level of service they receive today)

Four major departments will be very significantly reduced in scope, with remaining activities merged into a smaller number of departments. Individual programs in these departments that are essential, which can be shown to be in the national interest, or clearly have broad taxpayer support will be retained.

- Canadian Heritage (Parks Canada, Museums Canada and amateur sports funding will be retained)
- Indian Affairs and Northern Development (treaty obligations to Canada's First Nations will be respected)
- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
- Transport

Liberal/PC Record

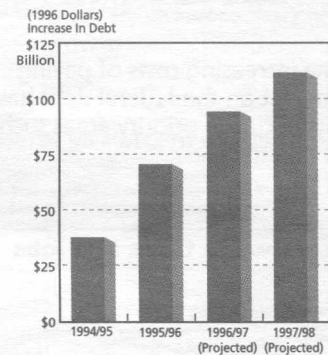
Government spending



Source: Statistics Canada: National Income and Expenditure Accounts, 1996

The Liberal Government has a spending problem, not a revenue problem

Cumulative increase in debt



Source: Department of Finance: Budget Plan, 1996

By 1997/98 the Liberals will have put us \$107 billion more in debt than when they took office



“The current government has spent millions building golf courses, while closing hospitals and schools. Reform's commitment of \$4 billion to education and health is a good plan. It's about time we had a party that was willing to make these two issues a real priority.

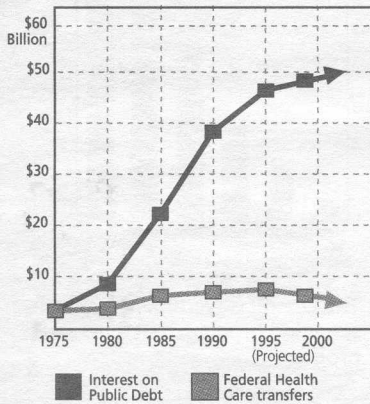
Ruby Banks

Lawrencetown, Nova Scotia

”

Liberal/PC Record

Interest on the debt vs federal health care transfers



Source: Department of Finance: *Economic Reference Tables*, Statistics Canada, Health Canada, 1996

The increasing costs of paying interest on the federal debt has led to cuts in priority areas such as health care

More modest additional savings will be achieved by merging, refocusing, or reducing spending in the following departments and agencies:

- Finance, Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Industry, Justice and Solicitor General, National Defence, National Revenue, Public Works, Treasury Board, Privy Council Office, Parliament, Citizenship and Immigration, Human Resources Development, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Fisheries and Oceans (the Coast Guard will be transferred to Defence)

Attack the national debt

Once we have succeeded in balancing the budget - for the first time in over two decades - we will attack the \$600 billion of government debt that Trudeau, Mulroney and Chrétien have left us.

We will accomplish this through holding the line on new spending and through economic policies that generate growth in the Canadian economy, and by applying a portion of future surpluses to debt retirement.

We will also seek ways to sell surplus federal assets and use the proceeds to reduce federal debt, so that our children — tomorrow's taxpayers — will be free of the nightmare of ballooning public debt.

Stop overspending

Interest payments alone now account for almost \$50 billion of federal government spending. Reform will put a stop to the spendthrift ways of any future governments by constitutionally entrenching a Balanced Budget and Spending Cap Amendment. This will require the federal government to run budgetary surpluses and severely restrict any future tax hikes.

This constitutional amendment, to be enacted under Section 44 of the

Constitution, will bind the federal government and will have the following features:

- A clause making it illegal for the federal government to run a deficit, except in emergency circumstances
- A spending limit, under which the federal government will not be permitted to increase spending above particular levels, except in emergency circumstances
- A requirement that the government's books be calculated using generally accepted accounting principles, in order to prevent future governments from "cooking the books" as a way of running deficits while claiming on paper to have balanced the budget
- A requirement for a 3/4 majority of the House of Commons to temporarily increase spending and deficits in emergency situations, such as natural disaster, war or economic crisis

Eliminate trade barriers

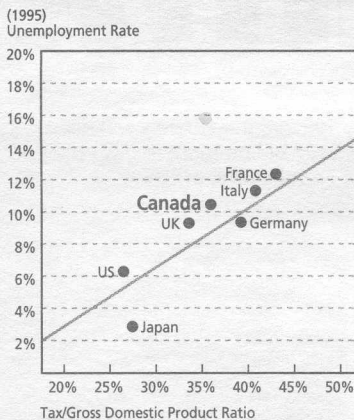
A Reform Government will lead a major initiative to gain provincial agreement to eliminate internal trade barriers. We will create an effective mechanism for dispute resolution.

While negotiating further reductions in international trade barriers, a Reform Government will reduce government spending and taxes so that Canadian tax levels are competitive with those of our trading partners.

Research and development

The Reform Party believes that scientific research and development represents a critical investment in our future. Developing new technologies and new ideas will ensure the international competitiveness of Canadian industry and allow our business and labour to capitalize on opportunity wherever it arises.

The link between taxes and jobs



Source: Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development: *OECD Revenue Statistics, 1965-1995* and *OECD Economic Outlook*, June 1996

The higher the taxation, the greater the unemployment

A Reform Government will recognize the crucial place of research and development in our economy by:

- Increasing current levels of funding for research and development (for Industry, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Fisheries)
- Working with the scientific community to establish stable, long-term funding for basic scientific research
- Promoting the commercialization of scientific research and activity, encouraging grassroots investment in emerging technologies. In part, we will do this by cutting capital gains taxes in half

Making industry, agriculture and fisheries prosper, coast to coast

Our policies are designed to make all our resource, manufacturing and service industries more prosperous and internationally competitive.

A Reform Government will establish measures that provide long-term viability to an agriculture industry that is self-reliant, market-driven, able to face up to the challenges confronting it, and equipped to take advantage of new opportunities. We will support a modern, democratized and market-oriented Canadian Wheat Board in which participation is voluntary. We will ensure the ongoing viability of the supply-managed sector in an increasingly competitive environment. And, we will reduce the regulatory burden on agriculture by placing a priority on cost avoidance and cost-reduction over cost-recovery schemes.

A Reform Government will make fisheries conservation, management and enforcement a top priority. As well, Reform pledges to increase funding and personnel to the department's field services and a large increase in Coast Guard presence for both search-and-rescue and fisheries surveillance.

In order to achieve this, a Reform Government will streamline the Department of Fisheries and Oceans' current operations in Ottawa and refocus personnel to both regional and local offices. Reform will strive to give provinces and stakeholders a greater say in fisheries operations.

Once we take office, we will enhance the economic prospects of **Atlantic Canada** by eliminating internal trade barriers, strengthening the local marketplace and promoting North-South trade. We will also implement policies that will help **British Columbia** become a major economic power in the Pacific.

It's all part of the comprehensive plan we are waiting to put in place. A plan designed to usher in a whole new era of growth and prosperity for Canadians.

Jobs - The bottom line

The end result of implementing these growth policies will be job creation - real, sustained jobs not dependent on taxpayers' support. This is Reform's approach to reducing unemployment, under-employment and fear of job loss in this country.



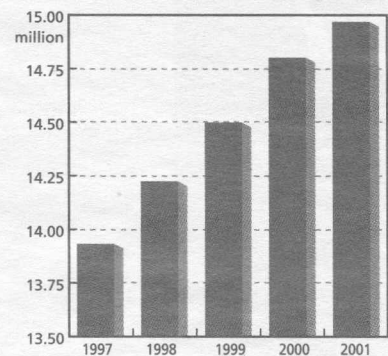
“The Reform Party understands that Canada's ability to participate in the new economy is seriously hampered by its archaic tax system, which discourages risk taking and is a major cause of our high levels of youth under-employment. Youth under-employment will remain high unless the policies of the old parties are reversed.”

Denzil Doyle

President, Doyletech Corporation
Ottawa, Ontario

Liberal/PC Record

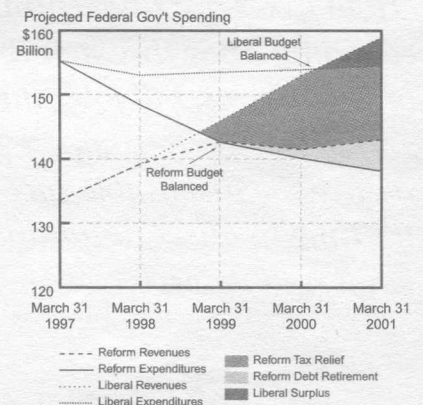
Reform job growth projections



Source: DRI Canada, 1996

Reform has a plan for real job creation based on debt reduction, smaller government, lower taxes and real economic growth

Liberal vs Reform on fiscal plans



Reform's plan will balance the budget sooner and provide both tax relief and debt retirement.

We'll give you tax relief...

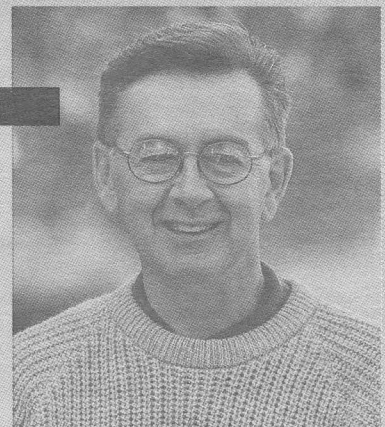
"High taxes are undermining the Canadian economy. They threaten the financial security of Canadians, kill jobs, hurt the ability of our entrepreneurs to compete internationally, and reduce the disposable incomes of families. It's time to give Canadians the tax relief they want and deserve."

Preston Manning

OUR COMMITMENT TO CANADIANS

A Reform Government will:

- Lower taxes for all Canadians: \$2,000 by the year 2000 for the average family
- Increase the Basic Personal Amount from \$6,456 to \$7,900, giving tax relief to every single taxpayer in the country
- Increase the Spousal Amount from \$5,380 to \$7,900, leveling the field for parents who choose to stay at home to look after young children, and helping families meet the needs of a more demanding economy
- Eliminate the 3% and 5% federal surtaxes introduced by the federal Tories as part of our commitment to simplify and flatten income taxes
- Cut employers' Unemployment Insurance premiums by 28%, reducing job-killing payroll taxes in order to create more and better paying jobs. We will also equalize the premiums paid by employers and those paid by employees
- Cut capital gains taxes in half to free up more capital for investment, innovation, entrepreneurship and growth
- Extend the \$3,000-\$5,000 child care deduction to all parents including those who care for their children at home
- Simplify and flatten the income tax system, and replace the GST



We'll reduce your taxes

We are working harder and harder for less money at the end of the day. Twenty-five years ago, one income covered the bills with room to spare. Now, for many families, it takes two incomes to try to stay ahead. Personal debt levels are far too high; and bankruptcies and mortgage defaults have hit record highs with every passing year.

Reform is committed to ending this cycle - to restoring hope and optimism to the Canadian economy - by substantially reducing the taxes Canadians pay. Specifically, the tax bill paid by a family of four will be reduced by over \$2,000 by the year 2000.

Here's what we have planned:

FOR ALL:

- Increase the Basic Personal Amount from \$6,456 to \$7,900, giving every single taxpayer in the country tax relief
- The 3% federal surtax introduced by the federal Tories will be eliminated

FOR FAMILIES:

- Increase the Spousal Amount from \$5,380 to \$7,900
- As part of our commitment to families, the child care deduction of \$3,000 - \$5,000 currently available only to parents using receiptable third-party child care, will be extended to all parents of children aged 12 or younger

FOR JOBS:

- Cut employers' Unemployment Insurance premiums by 28%
- Eliminate the 5% surtax on high income earners
- Cut capital gains taxes in half by reducing the inclusion rate from 75% to 37.5%

Our plan will assist everyone, and be particularly helpful for those struggling hardest under the strain of today's high taxes: families, entrepreneurs, small business and investors.

Tax freedom day

Our long term goal is to increase your disposable income, hold the line on spending, reduce the national debt and interest costs, and work with other levels of government to create a

Canada where Tax Freedom Day falls in April, instead of June. It's time Canadians started working for themselves and their families, instead of for the government.

Less tax means more jobs

There is a relationship between high taxes and high unemployment. Consumer spending accounts for 60% of our economy's activity. So when consumer spending is weak, so is the economy. And that leads to layoffs, downsizing, and uncertainty. Reducing taxes puts more money in your pocket, stimulating consumer spending and investment which is a direct boost to job creation. The fact is, we simply must cut taxes if we want to create real jobs and lasting prosperity.

Simplify the tax system

Canada's Income Tax Act is over 1,300 pages long, with interpretations and rulings adding another 700 pages - and lengthening daily. It contains too many loopholes and deductions. Ordinary Canadians can no longer hope to understand, without professional counsel, whether they are complying with its provisions and taking advantage of all of its intended benefits.

Even worse, the complexity, loopholes, amendments and technicalities have seriously eroded public faith in the federal government's ability to collect taxes fairly.

During its first term in office, a Reform Government will fundamentally reform the Canadian income tax system, with the goal of collapsing the number of tax and surtax brackets from five to one or two, eliminating most loopholes and deductions, replacing the inefficient and complex GST, and restoring public confidence in a fairer and simpler tax system.

Together, we'll see this through

The process of tax reform is never easy, but Reform, working with Canadian taxpayers, will see this through. We will launch a process of public input and hearings into specific tax-reform proposals, and incorporate the advice and feedback of experts

and taxpayers into our final designs. If consensus does not emerge, we will submit the final design to the public for approval.

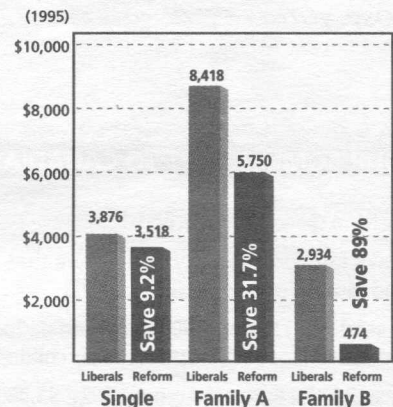
Working in partnership with you, the Canadian taxpayer, a Reform Government is committed to simplifying and flattening the Canadian tax system before the end of our first term in office. And to providing the tax relief all Canadians deserve.

“*The Canadian Federation of Independent Business is pleased that the Reform party is proposing to significantly cut Employment Insurance premiums. Our members have identified cuts to pay-roll taxes as one of the most important conditions necessary to help them create jobs.*”

Catherine Swift
President, CFIB

Liberal/Reform Comparison

The Liberals vs Reform on federal income taxes



Single: He/She has employment income of \$30,000 annually with only the basic personal and UI/ CPP contributions exemptions. He/She does not claim any other credits or exemptions or receive any transfers from government

Family A: Both parents work and earn a combined \$60,000 annually. They have two children under the age of six, but do not claim the childcare expense under the status quo because they are cared for by the children's grandparents. They do not receive any transfers from government

Family B: A two parent - one income family earning \$30,000 with one spouse providing care for their two children under six. Other aspects are the same as Family A.

You will be better off under a Reform Government

We'll make families a priority...

"Because of social and economic changes, many families are facing high debt, stress, bankruptcy and burnout. A Reform Government will recognize the value of families as the most important building block in our society. So you can spend less time under pressure, and more time with those you care about most."

Preston Manning

OUR COMMITMENT TO CANADIANS

A Reform Government will:

- Make families a priority, and ensure that government policies and regulations are family-friendly
- Extend the \$3,000-\$5,000 child care deduction to all parents, including those who care for their children at home
- Increase the Spousal Amount from \$5,380 to \$7,900, leveling the field for parents who choose to stay at home to look after young children, and helping families meet the needs of a more demanding economy
- Help provinces and local governments ensure that deadbeat parents live up to their responsibility to support their children when families break down. And we will ensure that agreements concerning access to children are respected and enforced
- Enact a "zero-tolerance policy" on family violence
- Crack down on child prostitution and child pornography



Make families a priority

While the federal government has been catering to special interest groups, the voice of Canadian families in the policy debate has grown weaker and weaker. This has resulted in social and economic policies that undermine the security of Canadian families, causing unnecessary levels of stress, burnout, and financial hardship.

Family time is not a luxury. It is absolutely essential if we are to preserve health and happiness in our homes. It's time to make families a priority again.

Parenting has real value

Children are this country's key to the future - but more often than not, the policies and programs of the federal government have a negative impact on Canadian families. We must give parents, including single parents, greater freedom to spend time parenting, and to succeed economically while doing so.

That's why Reform will extend the following child care deduction to all parents, including those who care for their children at home: \$5,000 for every child under 7, and \$3,000 for every child 7-12 years of age. And to make this as fair as possible for families of all income levels, we'll turn the deduction into a refundable tax credit, so everyone gets the same savings.

For spousal benefit programs funded or administered by the federal government, a Reform Government will maintain the current federal definition of marriage as a union of a man and a woman as recognized by the state, and define a family as individuals related by blood, marriage or adoption.

Zero tolerance on family violence

The Reform Party believes that family violence shatters the trust that is fundamental to family relationships. A Reform Government will help protect family members by:

- making family assault a separate and more serious offence in the criminal code
- making effective counseling programs a part of any sentence for family assault
- strengthening enforcement of peace bonds and restraining orders

We'll crack down on child prostitution and child pornography

Current laws dealing with child prostitution, child pornography and obscenity in Canada are too weak. While both child pornography and child prostitution are illegal, current laws are insufficient to check the exploitation of children.

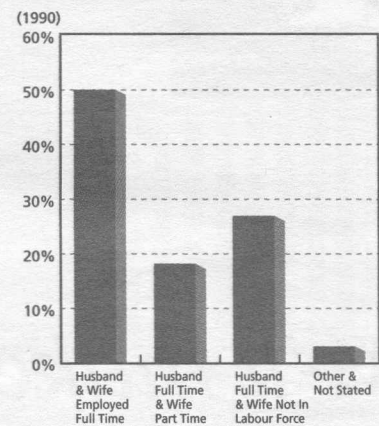
A Reform Government will:

- Set a minimum 10-year sentence for living off the avails of child prostitution
- Introduce tougher sentences for anyone convicted of producing, peddling or promoting child pornography
- Set a minimum two-year sentence for customers of child prostitutes
- Redefine "obscenity" to include the exploitation or glorification of crime, horror, cruelty or violence in materials aimed at children

A Reform Government will always hold families in high regard, and will do everything possible to protect the people within them. There's no better investment in the future of our country.

Liberal/PC Record

Employment status of couples with children under 19 years of age



Source: The Vanier Institute of the Family:
Profiling Canada's Families, 1994

More and more families have both parents working full time



“ We have to level the playing field, making laws and taxes fairer to those parents who decide to work at home, full-time or part-time, while their children are young. And we must stop making stay-at-home parents feel like second-class citizens, beginning with the elimination of public policy that treats them that way. ”

Jack Rigaux
Calgary, Alberta

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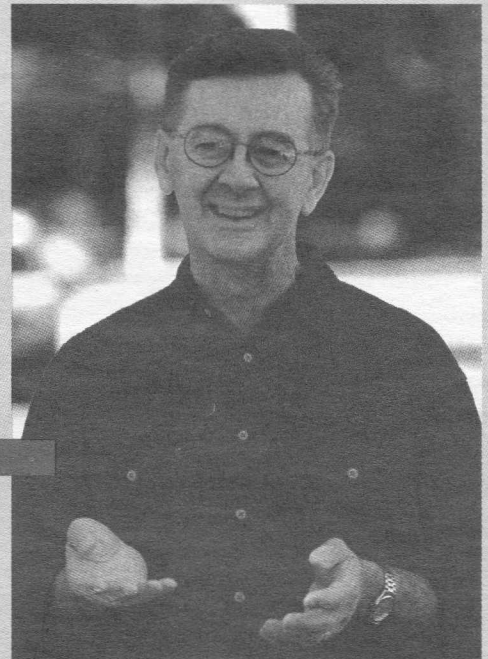
A Fresh Start

FOR JUSTICE

We'll make our streets safe again...

"Canadians deserve to feel that they and their families are safe in their homes, at work, at school, on the street and in their communities. We want to live in a country where our children can play in the park, go to school, and grow up without fear. And we want a justice system that does more to protect law-abiding citizens than it does criminals. Canadians want a country where we can look to the future, instead of over our shoulders."

Preston Manning



OUR COMMITMENT TO CANADIANS

A Reform Government will:

- Enact a Victims' Bill of Rights that puts the rights of law-abiding Canadians ahead of those of criminals
- Reform the criminal justice system to provide you with safer communities, safer streets, and safer homes
- Hold a binding national referendum on the return of capital punishment
- Repeal the Liberals' costly firearm registry (Bill C-68) and replace it with meaningful laws to fight the criminal use of firearms
- Reform the parole system and abolish early release for first-degree murderers
- Replace the Young Offenders Act with measures that hold young criminals accountable for their actions
- Pursue crime prevention through social policies that strengthen families and communities

Crime prevention

Reformers are well aware that crime prevention is absolutely essential to making our country safe for law-abiding citizens. But we believe the key to crime prevention is to strengthen families and communities, rather than rely exclusively on the judicial, parole and prison systems.

No role or recourse

Our justice system has always carefully protected the rights of those individuals accused and convicted of crime. And this is an important part of our democratic society. However, our impersonal system often forgets that crime is not just a matter between the accused and the Crown.

In many cases, innocent victims suffer great physical, emotional and financial suffering, but have no role or recourse in our current justice system.

Shifting the balance

A Reform Government will shift the balance from the rights of criminals to the rights of victims and law-abiding citizens.

If you are a victim of crime, we will put you first, and provide you with specific legal rights within the justice system. We want victims to have:

- The right to be informed at every stage of the process, including being made aware of available victim services
- The right to be informed of the offender's status throughout the process, including, but not restricted to, plans to release the offender from custody
- The right to choose between giving oral and/or written Victim Impact Statements at parole hearings, before sentencing, and at judicial reviews
- The right to know why charges are not laid, if that is the decision of the Crown or police
- The right to be protected from intimidation, harassment or interference

- The right to be protected in situations of family violence
- The right to know if a person convicted of a sexual offense has a sexually transmittable disease
- The right to be informed, in timely fashion, of the details of the Crown's intention to offer a plea bargain before it is presented to the defence

Control youth crime

Youth crime cannot continue to rise at present rates. Since 1990, young offenders have accounted for more robberies than those in the next two older age groups (18-24 and 25-35). And violent crime by youth is increasing too.

To get things under control, a Reform Government will make the following changes:

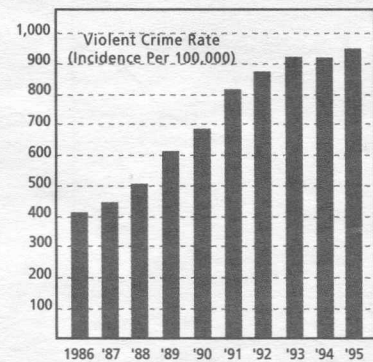
- Support the introduction of programs for the early detection and prevention of youth crime
- Introduce more effective rehabilitation programs emphasizing education and literacy, skills training, discipline and community service
- Replace the Young Offenders Act with measures that better address the serious problem of youth crime
- Redefine young offenders as 10 to 15 years of age. Serious offenders aged 14 and 15, and any offenders over 16, will be tried in the adult system
- Permit publication of the names of all convicted violent offenders

A universal firearms registry is not the answer

In 1995, Liberal Justice Minister Alan Rock introduced C-68, a bill which introduced a universal firearms registry. Unfortunately, this will not prevent gun-related crime because criminals simply do not register their firearms. Instead, C-68 will punish the millions of legitimate gun owners in Canada. And cost many millions of dollars to administer.

Liberal/PC Record

Violent crime by youth aged 12-17 years



Source: Statistics Canada, 1996

Violent crime by young offenders has more than doubled since 1986



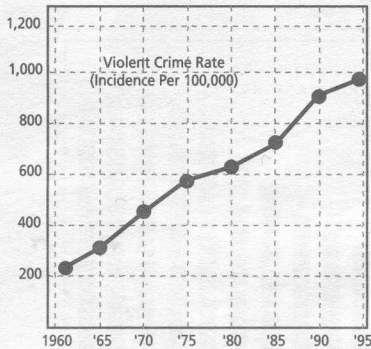
[The Liberal compulsory gun registration plan] will reduce the number of officers and the amount of money available to deal with serious crime. [It] will make the real task of gun control more difficult and more dangerous for the police officers who undertake it, and those provisions will ultimately have no significant impact on violent crime or the use of firearms by violent criminals.

The Honourable
Bob Runciman, M.P.P.
Solicitor General and Minister
of Correctional Services
Government of Ontario

Source: Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, Thursday, September 21, 1995

Liberal/PC Record

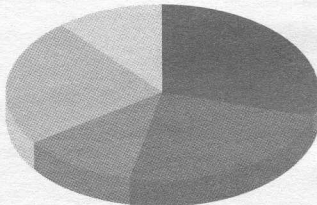
Rise in violent crime



Source: Canadian Crime Statistics: Police Reported Crime in Canada, 1994 and Statistics Canada, 1996

During the last 35 years, violent crime has gone up over 350%

Time served by violent offenders



% of sentence served prior to release

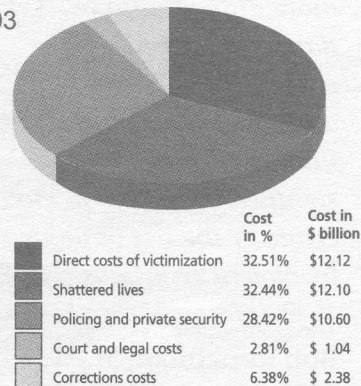
less than 35%	29.6%
35 - 49%	23.8%
50 - 64%	11.9%
65 - 79%	23.5%
80 - 100%	11.1%

Source: Correctional Services Canada, 1996

53% of violent criminals serve less than half of their sentence

Cost of crime in Canada

1993



Source: The Fraser Forum: *The Crime Bill: Who Pays and How Much?* by Paul Brantingham and Stephen T. Easton, 1996

In 1993 alone, crime cost Canada at least \$37 billion

Stop the criminal use of firearms

The Reform Party has actively opposed the idea of registering shotguns and rifles at all stages in Committee, and in the House. That's because we believe that real crime control, and real gun control, should affect the lives of criminals. Not the law-abiding gun owners in this country.

Therefore, universal firearms registration will be repealed under a Reform Government. Instead, we will implement a "zero tolerance" policy for criminal offences involving firearms. We will also:

- Provide for lifetime prohibitions on firearm use or ownership for anyone convicted of a violent crime: "One strike, you're out."
- Provide for progressively more severe penalties for repeat violent and firearms offenders
- Ensure sentences for violent crime and firearm convictions are served consecutively
- Increase the penalty for theft of a firearm to a 3 to 14 year sentence
- Treat crimes with an imitation gun the same as if the gun were real
- Transfer to adult court all young offenders using firearms in the commission of a crime

Change the justice system

- "Truth in sentencing": the sentence given will be the sentence served by all violent offenders
- "Two Strikes" Legislation: violent offenders who commit a second violent crime, such as rape or murder, will be declared dangerous offenders
- Parole will be limited, earned, and tightly monitored
- Dangerous offender status can be sought at any time during a criminal's sentence, not just at the time of sentencing
- The National Parole Board will be reformed and its responsibilities shifted to community Merit Release Committees

- Section 745 of the Criminal Code will be repealed to stop the early release of convicted murderers

The fact is, convicted criminals seldom serve the prison time they are given. According to the National Parole Board, even the most violent offenders serve, on average, only about half their time.

A system that works for you

Canadians generally agree that it is in society's best interest to try to rehabilitate criminals. But the pendulum has swung too far to one side. We will re-establish balance in our corrections system by reassessing prisons and parole with your safety in mind, not the criminals. We will also rely heavily on good old-fashioned work as rehabilitation therapy for criminals. The justice system should get back to working for the people it was created for: the law-abiding citizens of Canada.



"The Reform Party addresses the issue of Criminal Justice, and proposes solutions that will protect the rights of victims, rather than those of criminals. Historically, governments have been unwilling to tackle this contentious issue that is of great concern to law-abiding Canadians."

Barbara A. Redden
Winnipeg, Manitoba

A Fresh Start

FOR SOCIAL FAIRNESS

5

We'll repair the social safety net...

"Thanks to Liberal and Tory overspending, our national debt now stands at \$600 billion and counting. What's more, interest payments of \$50 billion a year are eating the heart out of our health and social programs. A Reform Government will put our fiscal house in order, so we will have the resources required to fund our vital social programs. As Canadians, we all believe deeply in a fair society, and in supporting one another when we need help. To that end, we will take the steps necessary to repair our social safety net, so that it works effectively and efficiently for those who need it."

Preston Manning

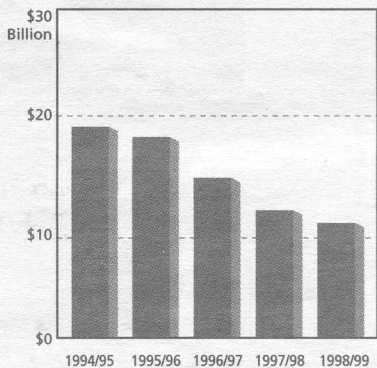


OUR COMMITMENT TO CANADIANS

A Reform Government will:

- Retool social spending around the principles of: individual, family and community responsibility, local accountability, effective targeting to real need, and financial sustainability
- Refocus equalization payments towards Canada's poorest provinces
- Restore welfare to provincial and local governments
- Increase federal spending on health and education by \$4 billion. These funds will come from our government restructuring program
- Rescue the Canada Pension Plan from bankruptcy through Super RRSPs. Full benefits to Canadian seniors will be guaranteed and Canadians will be able to secure their own retirement through mandatory Super RRSP contributions
- Return Unemployment Insurance to its original purpose: a protection against temporary job loss
- Affirm the equality in law of all Canadians and abolish federal affirmative action programs

Canada Health & Social Transfers from Ottawa



Source: Department of Finance: Budget Plan, 1996

The Liberals will have cut \$7 billion from Health and Social transfers by 1998/99



“*The Liberals and Tories have traditionally responded to social needs with major government programs that are top-heavy with bureaucracy, and financially unsustainable. I couldn't be happier with Reform's plan to create a more efficient system that works better for everyone.*”

Ted Lee

Richmond, B.C.

The need for clarity

Canadian social policy has been most effective when action has been taken by a single level of government, and least effective when federal and provincial governments become involved in the same policy area.

- In Health Care, the federal government has used transfer payments to induce provinces to adopt inflexible one-size-fits-all rules coast to coast, without providing the stable funding necessary to support the national standards that it claims to defend
- In the case of the Canada Pension Plan, the federal government has used the surplus funds that were intended to provide secure retirements for Canadian seniors in order to provide over \$40 billion in low-interest loans to provincial governments
- Unemployment Insurance has gradually lost its original function as insurance against unexpected job loss and is now largely a second level of welfare. One result is that some provincial governments have created work programs designed to provide just enough employment to qualify workers for UI

A new emphasis on responsiveness

A Reform Government will restore the vitality of our pension, unemployment insurance, education and health programs. Each of the specific proposals we make is based on three principles:

- If a social program is run by the provinces, it should be designed to be responsive to local need, with any national standards backed by the funds necessary to make those standards workable
- If a social program is run by the federal government, the benefits that it provides should be universal and equal for all Canadians, regardless of place of residence
- In all cases, social programs must be funded in a secure and sustainable manner

\$4 billion more a year for health and education

The federal government's share of funding for Canada's Medicare system has been falling for two decades. The result has been a funding crisis that has led to hospital closures, growing waiting lists, and declining national standards. To end this crisis, a Reform Government will increase federal funding for Health Care. A total of \$4 billion each year in additional federal funds will be injected into Health Care and Post-Secondary Education.

The revenue required to fund this new expenditure will come from savings obtained through our government restructuring program (see A Fresh Start on the Economy, pg.6). By addressing overspending and duplication in other areas, we can afford to adequately fund priority areas, while maintaining our overall fiscal strategy of smaller government and lower taxes.

Stable funding for Canada Pension Plan

The aging of Canada's population means dramatically higher costs for the Canada Pension Plan. Canada needs a new approach if benefits are to be maintained at current levels, but the Liberals and Tories offer no solutions. The Liberals propose to double the CPP payroll tax and invest the surplus money in a huge government-run fund. In their election platform, the federal Tories promise "a combination of higher contributions and lower benefits". Neither option is acceptable to Canadians.

A Reform Government will rescue the CPP through:

- Protection for Seniors - A Reform Government will ensure that every citizen aged 60 or older receives every penny that he or she is entitled to under the Canada Pension Plan
- Super RRSPs - These are mandatory individual RRSPs, which will be funded

by means of employer and employee deductions made directly from each paycheck. Unlike the current CPP, there will actually be real assets backing up pensions. Moreover, the savings in each Canadian's Super RRSP will be individually invested, managed by government-approved financial institutions, and will be the property of that Canadian for his or her retirement and heirs. The Super RRSPs will be safely beyond the reach of politicians

- Recognition Bonds - Pre-retirement age working Canadians will receive recognition bonds equivalent in value to their accumulated CPP contributions
- Protection for Widows - The current CPP provides only a small pension for surviving spouses of CPP contributors. To lessen poverty amongst surviving spouses, 100% of the funds in a deceased individual's Super RRSP would be transferable to a surviving spouse, tax free

A fresh approach to welfare

Despite the fact that social assistance is an area of provincial responsibility under our Constitution, the federal government contributes about \$3.5 billion each year to provincial welfare programs through the transfer payment known as the Canada Health and Social Transfer. A Reform Government will eliminate these welfare payments, and encourage provincial and local governments to develop welfare programs that respond to the needs of their taxpayers and citizens, rather than to bureaucratic directives from Ottawa.

Restructuring Unemployment Insurance

The Globe and Mail has described Unemployment Insurance as 'a deeply rooted, deeply distorted social entitlement.' A Reform Government will end the use of this program as a form of federalized social assistance. We will return UI to its original function - a form of temporary assistance for

workers caught by unexpected job loss.

As unemployment rates have fallen with the end of the recession of the early 1990's, the UI payroll tax has provided an annual surplus of \$5 billion. Rather than lower the payroll tax, the federal government has used the money to finance its deficit spending. A Reform government will end this practice. We will cut employers' UI premiums by 28%.

Equality for all

Over the past two decades, Liberal and Conservative governments have tried to achieve equality by passing legislation that treats different groups of Canadians differently under the law, based on race, gender and other characteristics. Reform believes this special status approach is divisive and leads to intolerance and inequality. We believe in true equality, which allows diversity and promotes tolerance.

Reform affirms the equality of every individual under the law and the right of every individual to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law. The Reform Party believes that discrimination - which in the human rights context is widely accepted to mean differentiation based on irrelevant or unreasonable criteria - harms individuals and must be discouraged, and, where appropriate, restrained by the laws of society.

A Reform Government will ensure that all human rights legislation, including the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, reflects these principles, which refer to equality of opportunity rather than equality of outcome. Equality of outcome requires that the rights and freedoms of some Canadians are violated on behalf of other Canadians; equality of opportunity means respecting the rights and freedoms of all Canadians.

With this in mind, a Reform Government will:

- Discontinue federal affirmative action

and employment equity programs

- Support the repeal of Section 15(2) of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which permits the government to engage in affirmative action and other forms of "reverse discrimination"



“*The Reform Party is taking the first step towards bringing democracy back to the people with MPs who will work on behalf of constituents and be accountable to citizens.*”

Inky Mark

Mayor of Dauphin, Manitoba and Reform Party Candidate



“*No other party has a plan that makes me believe I'll have a pension when I retire.*”

Kelley Sherwood

Former Youth Coordinator, Progressive Conservative Party of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario

We'll end the uncertainty caused by the national unity crisis...

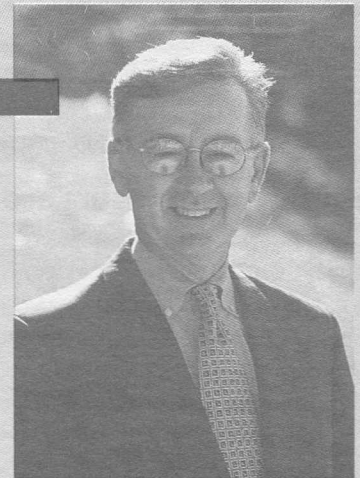
"For the past few decades, Canada has been governed by an ideology which holds that an overpowering, overspending central government is the answer to every problem, including that of national unity. The Reform Party is not afraid to fundamentally rethink the way our government works. Through decentralization and a greater emphasis on local responsibility, we believe we have a realistic plan that will build a stronger, more united Canada. It will help us achieve our common objective of keeping Quebec in the federation."

Preston Manning

OUR COMMITMENT TO CANADIANS

A Reform Government will:

- Lead Canadians in reshaping our country for the 21st century
- Give Canadians the first and last say in Canada's future through citizens' assemblies and constitutional referendums
- Rebalance powers, moving governmental responsibility closer to the people, and strengthening Canada's federal nature and institutions
- Affirm local government as the "first level of government" closest to the people
- Ensure that federal legislation reflects the equality of all Canadians, resisting pressure to undermine this principle by granting special status to any one group
- Offer all Canadians, including Quebecers, a fresh vision of Canada before any future referendum on secession
- Establish a fair process and a just set of principles to safeguard the economic and political interests of Canadians, prior to any future referendum on secession



A new Canada

Instead of offering the empty rhetoric of "Distinct Society" as an answer to our national unity problems, a Reform Government will respond to the desire for change both inside and outside Quebec in three fundamental ways:

- Reduce the size and tax requirements of the federal government; and refocus its powers on ten areas of national importance
- Reform federal institutions to make them more democratically accountable and sensitive to regional interests, including the creation of a Triple-E Senate
- Decentralize other governmental powers to give all provinces the freedom and resources to develop as their citizens choose

A Reform Government will focus federal powers in the following areas: defence, foreign affairs, monetary policy, regulating financial institutions, the criminal code, facilitating national standards, equalization, international trade, domestic trade, and reform of national institutions such as Parliament.

A Reform Government will recognize that responsibility for many important areas of policy should be placed as close to the people as possible. This will eliminate duplication and jurisdictional overlaps between various levels of government. Included among the powers that we will leave to the provinces are all areas designated by the Constitution as exclusive provincial jurisdiction, and also such areas as employment training, social services, language and culture, municipal affairs, sports and recreation, housing, and tourism.

A Reform Government's affirmation of local (municipal) government as the "first level of government" closest to the people will include a provision for municipal representation at federal-provincial conferences and the

adoption of the principle of federal/provincial/municipal resource sharing.

Never again

In the 1995 referendum, separatist leaders took advantage of confusion among Quebec voters. More than 25% of "Yes" voters believed that an independent Quebec would continue to send MPs to Ottawa, and more than 55% thought Quebecers would keep their Canadian passports.

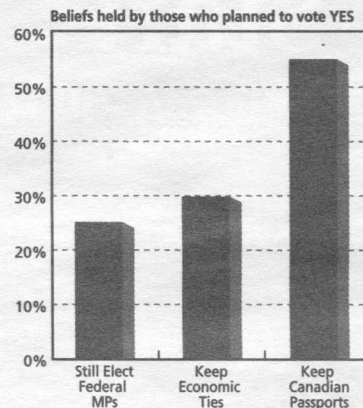
To prevent such misunderstandings from occurring again, a Reform Government will define terms and conditions designed to safeguard the rule of law and Canadian interests in any future secession attempt. These include such conditions as:

- Any secession negotiations must respect the principles of democratic legitimacy, the rule of law, and the interests of Canada
- The right of Canadians within a seceding province to remain part of Canada and to petition Parliament for that purpose must be respected
- A seceding province would have to assume a share of the national debt proportional to its share of Canada's population
- The Canadian citizenship and Canadian passports of people choosing to reside in a seceding province would be revoked
- Full, unhindered rights of transportation and transmission across the territory of a seceding province would be maintained
- Final terms and conditions of any secession agreement would require the approval of Canadians through a national referendum

For a more complete exposition of Reform's proposals for a New Canada and terms and conditions of secession, see the national unity section of the party's Blue Book.

Liberal/PC Record

What did a "Yes" vote mean?



Source: Globe and Mail, Oct. 30, 1995

This kind of uncertainty almost cost us our country



“ I believe the people of Quebec would like to have more control over their own affairs, and less influence from Ottawa. And that's why I think that Reform's plan to give more power to the provinces is the one most likely to keep Quebec in the federation. ”

Gilles St-Laurent

Lawyer
Quebec City, Quebec

A Fresh Start

ON ACCOUNTABILITY

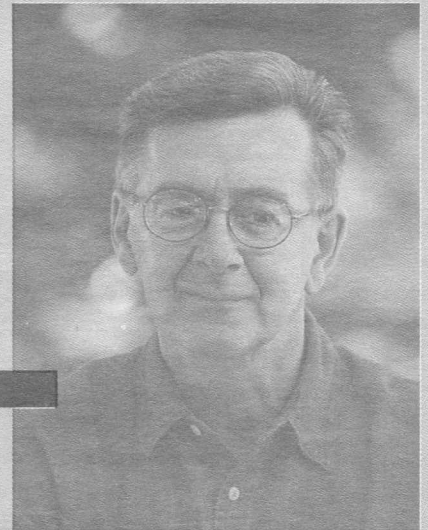
REFORM'S FRESH START

GUARANTEE

"These days, people put little or no faith in the promises of politicians. And for good reason. Every time an election campaign comes around, so do the politicians, making all kinds of promises that are almost sure to be broken when no longer convenient."

"Reform is offering something completely different. Our commitment to implement our platform is not based on promises, but on a real democratic guarantee. We will give you the right to fire any one of our MPs if they do not do what they say they are going to do. We believe it's the fresh approach to politics Canadians are looking for."

Preston Manning



OUR GUARANTEE TO CANADIANS

A Reform Government will:

- Give you the tools to ensure we keep our promises. We will bring in workable recall for federal politicians, to hold us accountable to our constituents for the commitments we make to Canadians
- Provide Canadians with better representation, more direct input into the democratic process, and the ability to hold politicians accountable for their decisions
- Allow freer voting in the House of Commons
- Replace the current undemocratic, unrepresentative Senate with a Senate that is elected, equal and effective
- Give voters direct input into decision-making through referendums and citizens' initiatives on important issues
- Involve citizens directly in our most basic law, the Constitution
- Replace partisan patronage with public review of political appointments and major contracts
- Abolish the Liberal/Tory gold-plated MP pension plan and replace it with pensions comparable to those in the private sector. We are putting all parties on notice. This will apply to all MPs, regardless of how long they have been in the House of Commons

Recall your MP

A Reform Government will enact workable legislation permitting the electors in any constituency to initiate a petition to recall their MP, if they feel that he or she has failed to serve their interests, or that he or she has violated the oath of office. The threshold for recall must be high enough to discourage nuisance or partisan abuse, while providing citizens the means to recall an MP who has clearly lost the confidence of the electors.

Free votes

Since our founding ten years ago, the Reform Party has been a strong advocate of reforming the antiquated structures and institutions of Parliament. Key to such reforms is reducing the power of party discipline over individual MPs and Senators, while strengthening the powers available to citizens.

That's why a Reform Government will implement the practice of free votes by MPs, including free votes on major legislation. It's the only way an MP can truly represent the wishes of the people.

An elected Senate

Given the vast size and regional diversity of Canada, it is imperative that our federal Parliament balance representation by population in the House of Commons, with democratic and effective representation of regional interests in the Senate.

The current Senate is useless and should be replaced by a reformed Senate which is elected, with equal representation per province, and with effective power to represent regional interests. The Reform Party is committed to achieving this Triple-E Senate.

Referendums and citizens' initiatives

Representative democracy is the basis for the Canadian system of government, but on some issues, partisan politics in the House of Commons prevents consensus building. And on these issues, public input should be the determining factor.

We have an intelligent, educated, informed and responsible citizenry. On certain key issues of broad social importance - such as capital punishment, abortion or changes to the Constitution - our citizens must be directly involved. On issues such as these, Reform will give the people the responsibility of making the final decision. Reform will also give citizens themselves the right to initiate binding referendums by means of citizens' initiatives.

More say in the Constitution

A Reform Government will ensure that Canadians are involved in any future constitutional change from the outset, starting with provincial or regional citizens' assemblies. And, under a Reform Government, no changes will be made to the Constitution of Canada unless approved in a national referendum.

No more patronage appointments

Both Liberal and Tory governments have shamelessly abused patronage in making thousands of partisan appointments to key government positions.

Reform will end this practice by ensuring that employment positions and contracts are awarded strictly on the merit principle and subject to open scrutiny by a Parliamentary committee.

No gold-plated MP pensions

The pensions that Liberal, Conservative, NDP and Bloc Quebecois Members of Parliament have created for themselves are unacceptable. Here are just a few of the total lifetime pensions that could be collected by Liberal, Conservative, and NDP MPs (assuming they live to age 75):

• Jean Charest	\$4.26 million
• David Dingwall	\$3.86 million
• Sheila Copps	\$2.84 million
• Bill Blaikie	\$2.7 million
• David Collenette	\$2.31 million
• Nelson Riis	\$1.7 million

50 of 51 Reform MPs have opted out of the MP pension plan.

Deborah Grey personally turned down a guaranteed pension - about \$1.4 million. Deb is not independently wealthy, but she has principles. We need more MPs in Parliament like her.

Reform proposes replacing the gold-plated MP pension scheme with a plan in keeping with those Canadians have in the private sector. No MPs will receive pensions while still collecting government salaries - and no pension benefits will be paid prior to age 60.

The Reform Party is challenging all candidates in the next election to support changing the MP Pension Plan to bring it into line with private sector plans.



Deborah Grey
Reform MP
Beaver River, Alberta

Reform MP Deborah Grey would have received \$1.4 million under the MP pension plan. She gave it up.

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The complete and official statement of Principles and Policies, adopted by the Reform Party of Canada, is contained in the party's Blue Book and is available on request.

On peut se procurer la version française du *Nouveau Départ pour les Canadiens* sur demande.

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