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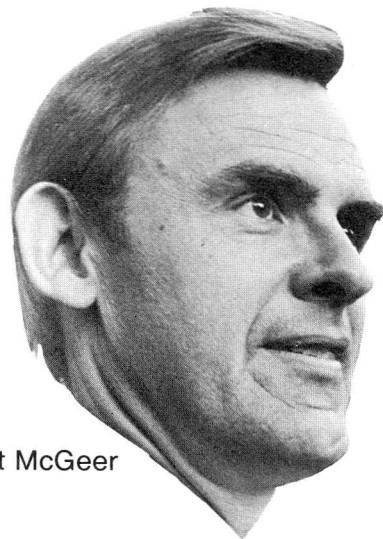
107 SOLUTIONS

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THE
LIBERAL PROGRAM
FOR
BRITISH COLUMBIA

CA6
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71/57

*The **LIBERAL** Program For B.C.*



Pat McGeer

New Priorities for a NEW AGE

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POLLUTION

We have the inalienable and perpetual right to clear air, clean water and an unspoiled land.

Problems:

1. **POLLUTORS HAVE NEVER BEEN CHARGED** for violation of present provincial laws. It is difficult for an individual citizen to lay charges when the government is not willing.
2. **WATER POLLUTION LAWS ARE INADEQUATE** and do not carry very high penalties; they are supposed to be enforced by the same Minister responsible for the forest industry — the worst offender.
3. **RAW SEWAGE IS DUMPED** into rivers, lakes, and seawater because local governments can't afford treatment plants and can't market their bonds for capital projects of any kind.
4. **OUR ROADSIDE BEAUTY IS DEFACED** by litter, auto junkyards and other eyesores.
5. **B.C. GOVERNMENT IS A BAD OFFENDER** and its crown corporations such as B.C. Hydro made the sickening mess behind the Bennett Dam and marches its power lines wherever it pleases.
6. **THERE IS NO AIR POLLUTION LAW** in this province, only standards suggested by the Health Department.
7. **MOTOR VEHICLES** produce over 60% of the air pollution in towns.

Solutions:

1. **AN ALL OUT WAR ON POLLUTION** led by a government task force under a minister who is not involved with forest or other industries.
2. **PROVINCIAL POLLUTION LAWS** with meaningful penalties to protect air, water and land; local areas can enact tougher standards if they wish.
3. **AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION** for Pollution Control, reporting only to the whole Legislature, to investigate all citizens' complaints, make public reports on its findings, and begin prosecutions where necessary.
4. **SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS** aided by provincial sharing — 50% of primary, 75% of secondary and 90% of tertiary — and a Municipal Finance Authority to help local governments borrow money more easily and cheaply.
5. **STRIP-MINING CONTROLS** to become more effective with restoration guarantees to be tightened; areas incapable of restoration will be closed to strip-mining.

6. **GOOD EXAMPLE BY GOVERNMENT** and its agencies to encourage careful and compassionate use of our resources.

7. **A BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM** to remove eventually auto graveyards, billboards and other roadside blights.

8. **PROVINCIAL LITTER LAWS** extended and enforced to protect public property from thoughtless individuals.

9. **INVESTIGATION AND REGULATION** of potentially dangerous chemicals such as DDT and of possible sources of industrial accident-caused pollution.

10. **POLLUTION CONTROL DEVICES** on motor vehicles using public roads and a search for a long-range solution to the problem of fuel-driven vehicles.

THE COST OF LIVING

Inflation affects us all, from wage-earner to pensioner.

The provincial government can act in four important areas of the problem:

- Consumer Protection
- Taxes and Government Spending
- Prices and Incomes
- Housing and Rents

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Problems:

1. **INADEQUATE CONSUMER PROTECTION LAWS** exist in B.C.
2. **THE FEDERAL CONSUMER AFFAIRS CANNOT** provide full protection without provincial cooperation.

Solutions:

1. **CREATE A CONSUMER PROTECTION BUREAU** within the Attorney General's department to . . .
 - set **safety standards** for all used cars sold commercially;
 - enforce **full disclosure** of interest rates on consumer credit;
 - require **"truth-in-labelling"** to regulate promotional gimmicks and make sure advertising complies with law;
 - assist **voluntary consumers groups** and give publicity to their findings;
 - request **study of high-price problems** by the federal Prices and Incomes Commission and by the B.C. Economic Council to be created;
 - introduce **needed laws** so that Federal Consumers Affairs staff can fully carry out their programs;
 - enforce **door-to-door** contract legislation establishing a 72-hour grace period on certain kinds of contracts;
 - cooperate with **federal officials** in the investigation of quality of manufactured products.

TAXES AND GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Taxes have been increased tremendously. In 1969 the provincial government took in \$480 per person, over three times the 1952 figure of \$150 per person. Are taxes fairly raised? And are we getting our money's worth?

Problems:

1. **PROPERTY TAXES** are being used for education costs and hospital construction which are services to people, not land; they are unfair taxes for retired homeowners on fixed incomes.
2. **OVERTAXATION** has produced huge surpluses and "special funds", yet some people are finding their taxes a severe hardship.
3. **GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS AND METHODS** are rarely reviewed and streamlined so that government employees can more effectively deal with the most important problems.
4. **REGIONAL COLLEGES** are now supported by property taxes, but universities are not; this is unfair to people in regional college areas.
5. **GOVERNMENT MIS-SPENDING** is not found and made public because there is no independent auditor.

Solutions:

1. **REMOVE PROPERTY TAX BURDEN** of all basic education costs, hospital construction costs, and all regional college costs from the home and family farm and pay them from the surplus income the government is presently receiving.
2. **REVIEW PROGRAMS AND METHODS** of the government to get more effective work on major public problems and to eliminate the administrative problems which often frustrate civil servants.
3. **APPOINT AN AUDITOR-GENERAL** to independently check on government spending and report to the legislature wasteful or questionable expenditures.

PRICES AND INCOMES

"Our standard of living will increase only through more efficient production and distribution."

"Prices and wages should be fair."

These truths are obvious. The hard part is to help achieve them.

Problems:

1. THERE ARE NO INDEPENDENT EXPERTS to . . .

—review high price situations to find if there is price gouging or inefficiency;

—study the B.C. economy in general and recommend changes;

—provide neutral information to the public in wage negotiations.

2. THE MINIMUM WAGE AND OLD AGE PENSIONS are not keeping up with the cost of living.

Solutions:

1. CREATE A B.C. ECONOMIC COUNCIL which will independently . . .

—study high price situations and make its findings public;
—recommend cost-cutting improvements to producers and merchandisers;

—make regular reports and recommendations to the government and public on the province's economic situation;

—provide neutral fact-finding services to the public and both parties in wage negotiations.

2. TIE THE MINIMUM WAGE AND OLD AGE PENSION to a cost of living barometer as outlined further in the Labour and Senior Citizens policy sections.

HOUSING AND RENT

Problems:

1. **COST OF LAND** is the biggest single factor in the high cost of houses.

2. **HIGH BUILDING COSTS** are caused by lack of uniform building codes throughout the province and by codes which do not allow newer building techniques and materials.

3. **THE LANDLORD-TENANT ACT** is basically hundreds of years old, and is often unfair and inconvenient to both tenant and landlord.

4. **INADEQUATE PUBLIC HOUSING** is available for senior citizens and low income earners; what is available is often set apart in sort of "ghettos" by economic or age group.

Solutions:

1. **ASSEMBLE LAND FOR SALE OR LEASE-TO-PURCHASE** as lots under a Home-Ownership-Made-Easy plan using federal money for 90% of the cost.

2. **ENCOURAGE A UNIFORM HOME BUILDING CODE** throughout B.C. to allow more standardization of components; and with standards such that new and better materials can be easily introduced, changes to be worked out with cooperation of municipalities and the construction industry.

3. **PROMOTE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT** of new building methods and materials for this area in order to cut costs of homes and other buildings.

4. **MODERNIZE THE LANDLORD-TENANT ACT** to introduce such protections as interest payable on deposits, appeals from deposit confiscation.

5. **BUILD PUBLIC HOUSING** using available 90% federal loans and build more smaller units integrated with the general community where people of many incomes and ages can live.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Collective bargaining is the accepted way of settling all aspects of labour-management affairs.

The role of labour and management is to bargain responsibly.

The role of government is to ensure that bargaining is freely and fairly conducted.

The effects of strike or lock-out are widespread; these moves must be treated as rights which can be used only after exhausting all opportunities of collective bargaining.

1. PROVINCIAL CIVIL SERVANTS will have the right to organize freely and bargain collectively; at the request of either party an unresolved dispute will go to an improved Mediation Commission or to a tribunal chosen by the parties.

2. FREEDOM OF SPEECH WILL BE RESTORED to trade unions and members; we will repeal the law preventing a union or member from using the news media to express an opinion or state facts about a labour dispute.

3. NO STRIKE OR LOCK-OUT will take place until the matter in dispute has first been referred to a mediation officer.

4. ALL PARTIES WILL BE REQUIRED to make full disclosure of all information needed to properly settle negotiations in any industrial dispute.

5. AN INDEPENDENT RESEARCH INSTITUTE will be established to provide the necessary statistical data required by the parties as recommended in the Nemetz report of 1968.

6. THE CABINET'S POWER UNDER BILL 33 to make the Commission's decision binding will only be allowed if (a) the Commission has recommended it after (b) a public hearing before the Commission where parties to the dispute have been permitted to fully present their opinions on the effect of a strike or lock-out on the public interest.

7. INDUSTRY-WIDE BARGAINING will be actively encouraged so that no one — labor groups, management or the general public — will be improperly inconvenienced by piecemeal negotiations.

8. A FULL-TIME LABOUR MINISTER will be appointed.

9. THE LABOUR MINISTER'S POWER to order a review of Mediation Commission decisions will be repealed.

10. LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS will be allowed to resolve disputes between or within themselves, but such disputes should not result in work stoppages.

11. THE MINIMUM WAGE should be increased and tied to a cost-of-living barometer.

SOCIAL WELFARE

People facing problems deserve more than handouts.

Welfare attitudes are not good enough if there is not a concentrated effort on rehabilitation and prevention.

Problems:

1. **THE WHOLE PROBLEM ISN'T RECOGNIZED** as a complex one which must be tackled on all fronts at once — rent costs, lack of job opportunities, discrimination, a child's relationship with school and police, the root causes of alcoholism and drug addiction, mental illness, and the problems of deserted children and spouses.
2. **CHILDREN SUFFER** under the existing welfare system because too little effort is directed towards prevention and rehabilitation.
3. **BENEFITS FALL BEHIND THE COST OF LIVING** and cause great hardship and bitterness.
4. **SOCIAL WORKERS ARE OVERBURDENED** and often can not provide the quality of help needed on a truly personal basis.

Solutions:

1. **BEGIN A TOTAL APPROACH** to the problem stressing rehabilitation and prevention, job-skill learning opportunities and employment, increase personal help for individual problems and family difficulties, low income homes integrated with the general community, a crackdown on discrimination, and an improvement in a child's school opportunities.
2. **RE-ORGANIZE CHILD WELFARE SERVICES** and put more effort into preventing problems with the law, school and employers.
3. **CHANGE THE ROLE OF SOCIAL WORKER** by reducing caseloads to allow more personal help and by providing more back-up assistance in the way of job retraining, head-start day care centers, mental health facilities, etc.
4. **PROVIDE LEGAL AID** so that everyone can get equal treatment before the courts.
5. **DECREASE PUNISHMENT AND INCREASE REHABILITATION** for those who need help, not jail.
6. **PROVIDE REALISTIC BENEFITS** adjusted to the cost of living to protect economic standards in low income homes.
7. **LAUNCH AN ALL-OUT ASSAULT** on the causes of alcoholism and drug addiction.

HEALTH CARE

Adequate health care is the most important service in our society. On it your life depends.

Problems:

1. **LACK OF AN OVERALL PLAN** to get an orderly use of hospital facilities so that expensive intensive care units are not used unnecessarily.
2. **DELAYS OF HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION** by the cabinet, even after local voters have approved them, for no reason except unwillingness to spend money.
3. **SHORTAGE OF INTENSIVE CARE BEDS** and chronic care facilities.
4. **SHORTAGE OF VITAL EQUIPMENT** in emergency and intensive care wards.
5. **MEDIEVAL APPROACHES TO MENTAL HEALTH** facilities, such as the huge Eric Martin Institute built in Victoria last year, (and, incidentally, still not furnished.)
6. **INADEQUATE FACILITIES FOR EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED** children; mothers sometimes have had to charge their youngsters criminally in order to get them into care facilities.
7. **PROPERTY TAXES** are used for hospital construction costs, although hospitals are not a service to land.
8. **HIGH PRESCRIPTION COSTS** are a burden to many.

Solutions:

1. **PROVIDE EMERGENCY AND INTENSIVE CARE** facilities and equipment as number one priority since this is a life-and-death matter.
2. **PAY FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS OVER \$30** per person per year as part of the existing Medicare administrative machinery.
3. **INTRODUCE A BALANCED PLAN** of hospital facilities by providing various levels of care — intensive, nursing, etc. — in order to reduce average costs and provide more facilities.
4. **REMOVE HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION COSTS** from home and farm taxes.
5. **INTEGRATE MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES** with general health facilities, and phase out the huge provincial institutions we have now as new joint facilities are built.
6. **CREATE FACILITIES** for emotionally disturbed children.
7. **PROVIDE CHRONIC CARE AND REHABILITATION FACILITIES.**

Programs and Philosophy

If we care about our children — and ourselves — we must care about the kind of education they receive.

The basic principles on which we should act are:

1. **FLEXIBILITY** is essential. There should be no "dead end" programs.
2. **ADULTS RETURNING TO LEARN** deserve special consideration for their additional maturity and experience.
3. **COURSE CONTENT** can best be kept up-to-date through local autonomy; the province's role in curriculum design should be to provide a general co-ordinated framework and to leave maximum flexibility to each teacher, school or district.
4. **SPECIAL EDUCATION** for those who need it is of prime importance; education must be varied enough to serve all children, not just the "average" ones.
5. **NEW AND VARIED METHODS** of teaching deserve full support in the form of equipment, local flexibility and a greatly-increased amount of research, experimentation and continuing self-appraisal.
6. **THE FACTS A CHILD LEARNS** are important, but far more important is the development of the child's unique abilities, curiosity, confidence and attitudes towards himself and the world he lives in.

The Facilities

The values, skills and knowledge our children learn today will determine how they shape our economy and culture tomorrow.

Problems:

1. **NO LONG-RANGE PLANS EXIST** for the huge enrollment expected — over 750,000 public school students and over 54,000 university students alone by 1975.
2. **AN UNWORKABLE SCHOOL FINANCE FORMULA** has thrown public schools into financial turmoil and affected local taxes.
3. **NO TECHNICAL, VOCATIONAL OR ACADEMIC** post-secondary facilities exist in many areas of the province.

4. **HIGH SCHOOL TAXES** including regional college costs are unfairly and unnecessarily burdening farm and home owners.

5. **FINANCIAL INSECURITY AND LACK OF FORESIGHT** are handicapping those modernizing our school system.

6. **UNIVERSITY OVERCROWDING** has led to huge, impersonal institutions where student-faculty relationships break down.

Solutions:

1. **PLANS FOR EXPANSION AND CHANGE** - we must know where we're going and how we're going to get there.
2. **INTRODUCE FAIR, ADEQUATE FINANCING** by . . .

—removing basic school costs from home and farm property taxes by greatly increasing grants from existing provincial surplus income;

—financing regional colleges from general revenue just like other post-secondary institutions;

—eliminating the operating cost referendum and 110% restriction;

—giving school trustees greater responsibility and scope, and leaving them with local tax bases to use if necessary.

3. **BUILD REGIONAL COLLEGES** throughout B.C. to provide academic, technical and sometimes vocational education to all areas equally.

4. **PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR RETARDED**, emotionally disturbed, deprived and handicapped children.

5. **ENCOURAGE JOINT COMMUNITY SCHOOL USE** of facilities like libraries, gyms, auditoriums, day care rooms to avoid duplication and provide greater community service.

6. **DECENTRALIZE THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM** with moderate sized campuses in key regions of the province to avoid further huge impersonal institutions with all their problems and to provide equal opportunities for all.

7. **STUDY THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS' ROLE** in our province to determine what effects their financial collapse could have on public school costs.

8. **REMOVE FINANCIAL BARRIERS** by greatly increasing the bursary and scholarship plans for all types of learning.

9. **USE EXISTING FACILITIES FULLY** year round and in evenings where practical, and avoid unnecessary duplication.

10. **GUARANTEE CREDIT TRANSFER** between each educational institution.

AREA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

It is dangerous to put all our eggs in one basket.

A stable provincial economy is only possible when there are many kinds of industries.

Stable local economies are only possible if industry is encouraged to locate throughout the province.

Problems:

1. **FINITE RESOURCES** are the base of our present economy — our annual timber cut is limited and our mineral resources will one day be gone.
2. **WE ARE TOO DEPENDENT** on exports of natural resources — if their prices decline, we could all suffer badly.
3. **MANUFACTURING JOBS HAVE NOT INCREASED** as rapidly as the population; since 1952 the population has increased by 67%, but manufacturing jobs have increased only 29%.
4. **SLOW GROWTH AREAS** need "clean" secondary industries to provide stable employment and to relieve the population pressures of the lower mainland.
5. **THE NEW TECHNOLOGICAL AGE** demands continual research and development of new products and processes in order to enter new trade markets and retain old ones.
6. **FOREIGN OWNERSHIP** has grown because local people have not had the encouragement and assistance to begin and develop enough locally owned industry.
7. **BILLIONS OF DOLLARS** of products are brought into B.C. each year; many of these could be produced competitively here... if local industries could only crack the market.

Solutions:

1. **EMPHASIS ON SECONDARY INDUSTRY** development by doubling the efforts of the Department of Industrial Development, Trade and Commerce:
 - **more aggressive salesmanship**, widespread work to find and secure markets abroad and in Canada.
 - **new products and processes** developed by an expanded B.C. Research Council and by assisted private research programs.
 - **more information** about licenses, potential market and product areas and regional opportunities.
 - **financial incentives** and at times temporary aid for locally owned industries.

2. **AREA INCENTIVE PROGRAM** to bring secondary industry to areas with a need and a potential for such industries:

- **Supervision by a British Columbia Development Corporation** operating as an independent body and having on its board of directors outstanding B.C. residents.
- **area designation for a number of jobs**, rather than for a number of years, in order to get maximum results for minimum outlays.
- **economic studies** to determine the industrial potential of various areas of the province.
- **co-operation with** the federal area incentive program and local industrial development commissioners.

3. **AN ECONOMIC COUNCIL** for B.C. to advise on general economic matters; one branch to specialize in conducting neutral fact-finding studies of proposed or existing wages and prices.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The tremendous move to the cities has overwhelmed local governments which do not have the resources to cope with the situation.

Problems:

1. **PROPERTY TAXES** are bearing too heavy a load — school, hospital, and all general services.
2. **URBAN SPRAWL, TRAFFIC, POLLUTION**, housing problems and social stresses are growing worse every day, but local governments do not have the money or scope to deal with them and there is little federal-provincial-local cooperation.
3. **LACK OF INDUSTRY** leaves many areas without a tax base, jobs and economic security.
4. **HIGHWAYS WITHIN MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES** should often be provincial responsibilities because they are not used just for local traffic, but are of major importance.
5. **THE MUNICIPAL ACT** and Vancouver City Charter do not provide the powers and tax bases required for a local government today.
6. **MUNICIPAL BONDS** are not guaranteed or marketed by the province as B.C. Hydro bonds are; this makes them unsaleable except at very high interest rates; as a result, municipalities can't get money for sewers, roads and other public works. (Over 80 million dollars of municipal bonds are unsold today.)
7. **PROVINCIAL PER-CAPITA GRANTS** are given on the basis of the last federal census, not present population, which short-changes the fast-growing areas which need the money.

Solutions:

1. **REMOVE BASIC EDUCATION COSTS** and all hospital costs from home and farm property and pay them from existing general revenue surpluses which are taxed on the ability to pay.

2. **TACKLE URBAN PROBLEMS** in a co-ordinated way to have maximum impact; adopt new attitudes to social problems; encourage green belt development and view all transportation plans in the context of regional planning and land use.
3. **TREAT MAJOR URBAN TRAFFIC ARTERIES** as part of the provincial highway system.
4. **PROVIDE RAPID TRANSIT** as part of an over-all lower mainland transportation and land-use plan by using B.C. Hydro's railway and bus systems.
5. **HELP TREAT SEWAGE** by providing 50% of the cost of primary treatment plants, 75% of the cost of secondary plants, and 90% of the cost of tertiary plants.
6. **REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT** to attract satisfactory types of industries into economically weak areas will reduce the rate of population flow to the overcrowded cities and provide employment and security for the low growth areas.
7. **MARKET GUARANTEED BONDS** through a Municipal Finance Authority to get money more easily and cheaply.
8. **PAY PER-CAPITA GRANTS** allowing for likely average population growth.
9. **STUDY THE PROBLEMS** facing local governments and rewrite the Municipal Act and Vancouver City Charter to give them the power and tax bases to do the job.
10. **GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS** will blend with local architecture by opening them to architectural competition, particularly by architects familiar with the area.

POLITICAL REFORM

The individual's influence has been disappearing as governments grow in size and power.

Problems:

1. **PUBLIC OPINION ISN'T HEARD** because B.C.'s legislature is a rushed session, with little time for questions or public submissions.
2. **THE PUBLIC ISN'T INFORMED** of everything politicians do because the press cannot report and record everything said, and the public can't see or hear what their MLA's behaviour is like.
3. **THE GOVERNMENT IN POWER FIXES** the election date and the boundaries of each riding to its own political advantage.

Solutions:

1. **ALLOW CITIZENS' VIEWS TO BE HEARD** through active house committees open to the public.
2. **INTRODUCE AN ORAL QUESTION PERIOD** to keep government on its toes and get information the public wants.
3. **USE HANSARD** for a record of what MLA's really say.
4. **BEGIN SOME RADIO AND TV COVERAGE** of what actually goes on in the Legislature.
5. **END LEGISLATION BY EXHAUSTION** by setting a night-sitting time limit; allow enough debate to protect the public interest.
6. **NON-POLITICAL REDISTRIBUTION** of seats every second parliament by an impartial commission following definite rules.
7. **FIXED ELECTION DATES** every four years except when a government has been defeated and a new one cannot be formed.
8. **MODERNIZATION OF LEGISLATURE RULES** to waste less time and provide better public influence on government.

INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

The individual's rights have grown less and less as government's size and power have increased.

Problems:

1. **LEGAL COSTS ARE TOO HIGH** for many people.
2. **GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY IS PROTECTED** from complaints by individuals because no one can really investigate and correct complaints except the Cabinet itself.
3. **EXPROPRIATION LAWS ARE UNFAIR** and complex, and allow the individual almost no appeal.
4. **THE GOVERNMENT CAN'T BE SUED** without first getting permission from the Crown...which is the government.

Solutions:

1. **PROVIDE LEGAL AID** for all those who need it.
2. **APPOINT AN OMBUDSMAN**, an independent commissioner to investigate bureaucratic abuses and report to the entire Legislature.
3. **MAKE EXPROPRIATION LAWS FAIR** and simple along the lines of the new federal laws which protect the individual and give him legal aid to fight his case.
4. **GRANT THE RIGHT TO SUE THE GOVERNMENT** without first getting its permission.

SENIOR CITIZENS

Today's inflation is the major threat to senior citizens.

Problems:

1. **PROVINCIAL SUPPLEMENTARY PENSIONS HAVE BEEN CUT BACK** as federal pensions increased.
2. **FEDERAL PENSIONS DON'T INCREASE** with the cost of living any more than 2% a year.
3. **PROPERTY TAXES ARE TOO HIGH** and increase too rapidly for people on fixed incomes.
4. **PRESCRIPTION COSTS ARE TOO HIGH** for many people with chronic conditions.
5. **MEDICAL CARE IS DANGEROUSLY INADEQUATE** for both emergency and chronic patients.

Solutions:

1. **RESTORE AND INCREASE** provincial supplementary pensions as the cost of living increases.
2. **PRESSURE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT** to release the 2% limit on pension increases.
3. **ELIMINATE SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL TAXES** from the land, and pay from existing surplus income.
4. **ALLOW PENSIONERS TO DEFER HOME TAXES** until the home is sold.
5. **PAY PRESCRIPTION COSTS OVER \$30** per person per year.
6. **PROVIDE A SAFE LEVEL** of hospital care.
7. **PROVIDE FREE BUS TRAVEL** during slack hours on government-owned buses.
8. **SUPPLEMENT NON-PROFIT LOW-RENT HOUSING PROGRAMS** with priority to senior citizens and with integration among the community to avoid "old-age ghettos".

INDIAN RIGHTS

Problems:

1. **INDIANS HAVE BEEN DISCRIMINATED AGAINST** by the provincial government — they have not received the same services other people do.
2. **FEDERAL PLANS TO GIVE PROVINCES** responsibility for Indians could result in changing one bureaucratic master for another.
3. **RAPID CHANGES IN JOBS AND CULTURE** in the last hundred years have left some Indians without adequate land or ways to live their own life satisfactorily.

Solutions:

1. **MAKE ALL SERVICES AVAILABLE NOW** without waiting for federal action.
2. **AVOID SPECIAL BUREAUCRACY** which runs Indian's affairs — the province should **not** set up anything like an Indian Affairs Department which could interfere with Indians' rights.
3. **ASSIST INDIANS TO CARRY OUT THEIR OWN PLANS** for their future: government should help people, but it should not tell them how to live their lives.
4. **END THE LAWS** which say reservation land becomes provincial government property under some conditions.
5. **RETURN ALL MINERAL RIGHTS** for reservation land to the bands owning the land.

RESOURCE INDUSTRIES

Our mining and forestry industries are the backbone of our economy. The wisest government management possible is needed to get maximum value for us now and in the future.

Problems:

1. **REFORESTATION** is needed to reclaim logged land and to make usable over 18 million acres of potentially productive forest which now bears non-commercial trees.
2. **LIMITED LUMBER YIELDS** will not increase until we develop better trees and methods through research.
3. **OFFSHORE MINING AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION** has been held up as the province does nothing about federal offers of lease-sharing arrangements.
4. **OUR RESOURCES AREN'T PROCESSED** in the province but are sent elsewhere; we could have thriving petrochemical, steel and other industries with a little effort.

Solutions:

1. **INTENSIFY REFORESTATION** to increase available timber.
2. **INTENSIFY RESEARCH** to develop better trees and better methods of harvesting and protection.
3. **BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS** with the federal government so that exploration and development of offshore wealth can begin.
4. **ENCOURAGE PROCESSING OF RESOURCES** within the province in order to create jobs and add depth to our economy.

AGRICULTURE

As governments spend effort and money on more glamorous things, agriculture has been forgotten.

Problems:

1. **HIGH PROPERTY TAXES** are crippling farmers, and leading many to sell their land.
2. **POOR LAND USE** policies have led to conflicting demands between agriculture, forestry, mining and recreation.
3. **UNFAIR EXPROPRIATION LAWS** take valuable land without fair appeal and without fair compensation.
4. **BETTER RETURNS AND MORE EXPORT MARKETS** are needed to establish suitable farm incomes.

Solutions:

1. **REMOVE SCHOOL, COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL TAXES** from all home and farm property.
2. **SET LAND USE PRIORITIES** at ministerial level and then let each department stick to them.
3. **TRANSFER GRAZING AUTHORITY** from the Department of Forestry to the Department of Agriculture, so that farmers get first consideration.
4. **INTRODUCE FAIR EXPROPRIATION LAWS** guaranteeing advance notice, legal aid in appeals, and independent appraisal of property value and other costs which should be paid to the landowner.
5. **BEGIN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH** in cooperation with the federal department to provide better breeds of products and other income-boosting benefits.
6. **MARKET FARM PRODUCTS** as energetically as we sell industrial products through government export assistance.
7. **EXTEND CROP INSURANCE** to a wider range of crops.

LIQUOR LAWS

Problems:

1. **OUR LIQUOR LAWS ARE UNBELIEVABLY ARCHAIC.**

Solutions:

1. **SELL BEER AND WINE** in retail food stores.
2. **ALLOW NEIGHBORHOOD PUBS**
3. **ALLOW ENTERTAINMENT AND FOOD** in pubs to end their depressing atmosphere.
4. **ALLOW LIQUOR ON SUNDAY!**
5. **LOWER THE LEGAL DRINKING AGE** to 19, the provincial voting age.

RECREATION AND TOURISM

Problems:

1. **INDUSTRY IN PARKS** has been allowed to ruin the natural beauty.
2. **NOT ENOUGH CAMP SITES** for either B.C. citizens or our tourists.
3. **A POOR ROAD SYSTEM DISCOURAGES TOURISTS** in many parts of the province where potential tourist industries could thrive.

Solutions:

1. **KEEP PARKS NATURAL** and for recreation.
2. **BUILD MORE CAMP SITES** by hiring students during summer months.
3. **DESIGN "TOURIST ROUTES"** to encourage leisurely scenic travels and longer stays, rather than just have pell-mell freeway tourists who do not stop at local areas and do not find the holiday they want.