



# POLICY OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY

(As Approved at the 1975 Annual General Meeting)

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## Introduction

A fundamental concept in the Progressive Conservative party is that policy should be developed from the grass roots membership of the party. Policy can truly represent the consensus of the membership only if all members are given the opportunity to contribute to the formulation of policy.

From that premise, we have attempted to involve as many members as possible by holding policy workshops in different locations around the province, each workshop dealing with a different issue. Time available prevented all the important issues from being covered in workshops, but further such policy workshops will be held in the months following the annual convention to deal with such major areas as labour-management relations, energy and transportation. The policies outlined in the following papers represent in abbreviated form the consensus expressed at the workshops, together with past policy statements at previous annual meetings and in the legislature and have all been approved by majority vote at the 1975 Annual General Meeting of the Progressive Conservative Association of British Columbia.

Also, included after each policy statement are the resolutions on that subject from local riding associations which were approved by this year's annual meeting.

These policy statements and resolutions comprise the first (incomplete) draft of the policy platform on which the Progressive Conservative Party will fight the next provincial election. Future workshops and other meetings to involve a large cross section of the membership will serve to broaden and refine policy as the election date approaches.

## Philosophy

As the leader of this great Progressive Conservative Party, I feel it is timely to define some of the basic concepts which underlie the beliefs of the modern Progressive Conservative, and which consequently will be reflected in our policies.

We Progressive Conservatives place great emphasis on the vital importance of the individual in socie-

ty. We respect and encourage the tremendous initiatives inherent in every individual, believing that the development and enhancement of such talents, not only fulfil the potential of the individual, but greatly enrich society as a whole and effectively bring about progress in the human condition. We believe that such progress for both individuals and society, is most likely to be achieved by a system which provides incentives and rewards, which recognises individual effort and hard work as deserving of profit and respect, and which encourages self reliance. For these basic beliefs, we are too readily regarded by many as being simply and totally a "free enterprise" party.

While the modern Progressive continues to encourage these concepts of self-reliance and fair rewards for individual enterprise, it must be made plain we do not place private enterprise in some primary, elevated, central position, around which every other aspect of Conservatism rotates. Today, we do not enshrine unrestrained private enterprise as the most fundamental principle of our party. Nor do we condemn all government interference. The modern P.C. believes it is the role of government to interfere only when necessary to achieve desirable social and economic objectives, otherwise being thwarted or subverted. The P.C. also continues to recognise the role of government as the regulator of individual conduct in the interests of society. Conservatives are dedicated to reducing government involvement in the lives of individuals and to encourage the maximum amount of decision-making at the local level. Progressive Conservatives recognise the importance of a healthy, expanding economy, administered efficiently, but we equally recognise there must be a great deal more to modern living than simply striving feverishly to increase the size of the gross national product.

The modern Progressive Conservative appreciates the need for orderly, regulated economic growth to enhance the real material wealth of the nation, but is deeply concerned about the effects of economic growth, what it does to the environment, the kind of living conditions it creates, its effects on our very lifestyles in both urban and rural communities, and beyond that, its impact on the very nature of each human being in such a complex, highly organized, technological society.

Progressive Conservatives have always emphasised the concept of order, not just law and order as frequently expressed today, but order in society generally. The contemporary meaning of order must include some concept of security for people less fortunate than the majority. The P.C. of today stands resolute to provide the maximum degree of security for the disadvantaged, the poor, the sick, and any handicapped individual unable to provide for his or her own needs.

With these concepts, it can be clearly seen that the beliefs of the modern Progressive Conservative comprise confidence in and support of a responsible private enterprise system, with a social conscience, where progressive enhancement of the human condition is not sacrificed on the altar of economic growth.

We certainly reject the economic and social imprisonment of the radical left in as strong terms as we reject the wholesale, wide open economic licence, or the repressive social neglect of the reactionary right. The Progressive majority in our magnificent province have no desire to be governed by extremes. They seek the responsible reasonable positive principles which are embodied in today's Progressive Conservative Party. By its very primary dedication to the individual, our party clearly represents the interest of all groups and strata in

society, with no particular commitment or allegiance to any section or power group. At the same time, our party is open and accessible to each and every individual wishing to participate in any respect.

On today's political scene, there are too many appeals to uncertainty, deprivation, the fear of loss, and to a shaking of self-confidence as well as to greed. These are appeals to the dark side of human nature from which individuals and societies have struggled to escape for centuries.

The Party believes that an appeal to the negative emotions in human beings is the worst disservice which any political party can make, since it diminishes a people's sense of values, its inherently positive spirit and its concept of self worth.

The economic, social and human possibilities of this magnificent and beautiful province of British Columbia are enormous, given a dedication by its elected government to the fundamental beliefs and principles outlined above.

In our continuing consideration and debate of policies for the Party, I hope we will never lose sight of these invaluable, positive human concepts.

# HOUSING AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT

## PREAMBLE:

Two great impediments to the production of sufficient housing have been the high cost of mortgage money, and the lack of long range community planning. Two major proposals are put forward in the following paper to overcome these impediments.

An innovative scheme provides 6% mortgages. To vigorously promote forward looking community and regional planning, a Progressive Conservative government will establish a strong and comprehensive community planning and land use management service. This will assist local government in the preparation of community and regional plans. Citizen involvement will be a part of this process. A community renewal section will also give support services to local communities. Regional development funds (as sited in draft policy on Finance) will be awarded on the basis of current satisfactory regional and community plans.

In discussion of the Land Commission Act during the workshop at Courtenay last February, there was general agreement of the need to take strong measures to preserve agricultural land. Although two discussion groups thought that Bill 42 might be suitably amended, the third stated that it should be repealed and an alternate approach taken. This group suggested a provincial Department of Planning and Land Use Management working closely with regional and municipal governments and with citizen input.

All groups agreed on the following points:

1. There must be a continuing on-site inspection of the land within the Agricultural Land Reserve, in order to arrive at precise and practical classifications.

2. Local decision-making and appeals must dominate, rather than those of, and to, a super non-elected board.

3. Greater emphasis must be placed on the rights and privileges of the individual, rather than those of the state. The Act makes the individual and his property subject to too many bureaucratic decisions.

4. The Provincial Cabinet must be subject to the same due process under the Land Commission Act as are local governments and individuals.

With the coming into being of the Community Planning and Land Use Service, the Land Commission will be phased out; the Agricultural Land Reserve will become a part of regional plans. Meanwhile delays and obstacles in present processing of appeals must be minimized; more precise and practical classifications of land expedited.

Point 3 will be made effective by the Repeal of the **Laws Declaratory Act**.

## HOUSING

1. **Government to promote private industry, not replace it.** A Progressive Conservative government will endeavour to foster a healthy economic climate, and provide incentives to ensure that the private housing development industry can function efficiently and produce a comprehensive supply and range of housing.

Market information service will be provided to builders. A P.C. government will eliminate provincial sales tax on all building material, fixtures and mechanical units used in housing. Tenants of public housing will

be given opportunity and assistance to move to ownership or private rental housing. A Conservative government does not favour great proliferation and concentration of low-income public housing. (Where tenants are liable to remain permanently in public housing, they should be allowed to participate in the management and be given the opportunity to purchase the units on terms they can afford.)

Home acquisition grants, and government assisted home ownership savings accounts will assist the low and moderate income earner in purchasing a modest house and property; as will a government scheme for offering mortgages at low interest and residential land offered for lease with an **option to purchase**. A Progressive Conservative government will allow deductions from provincial income tax for mortgage interest payments.

### 2. Incentives toward a full range of Housing:

A vigorous campaign will be mounted to revitalize the rental sector of the building industry. Incentives such as subsidized interest rates will be offered to encourage the private industry to greatly increase rental stock, particularly in the moderate rent range. Concurrently with this program, rent controls will be removed. Condominium conversion fees will be used to provide a rental incentive fund.

To ensure a housing supply which more closely matches the distribution of incomes, the provincial government policies will encourage, through incentives such as low interest loans, the building of basic model homes of, say, 1000 sq. ft. without luxury extras. Such homes will allow opportunity for the owner to improve, and add to the amenities of the property.

A Progressive Conservative government will make available to the physically handicapped, loans and grants for housing alteration needs (using, e.g., \$34 million now subsidizing I.C.B.C.).

### 3. Regional office to decentralize assistance:

Through the offices of regional government, a provincially funded program will be launched to encourage and assist non-profit, voluntary community groups to develop and manage housing. Such offices would also be the source of information on all housing matters. To be coordinated with planning and other services already available through regional district offices.

### 4. Toward Quality Housing:

A Progressive Conservative government will provide assistance and encouragement to citizens to maintain and improve the quality of existing housing. The provincial government will assist in the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing housing through a program of low interest and partially forgivable loans, to supplement federal programs and extend beyond N.I.P. areas. Citizen involvement in re-development of urban areas will be encouraged.

In order to promote efficient building methods and quality design, the provincial government will cooperate with industry and federal bodies in disseminating information on design and innovation in housing and planning.

The government will provide an advisory service for a fee for anyone who wished to build his own home.

#### **5. Local government planning — mandatory:**

A Progressive Conservative government will vigorously promote long range community and regional planning. To this end a strong provincial division of community planning and land use management service will be developed.

A comprehensive housing component will be required as an integral part of mandatory municipal and regional plans. Such plans will include an estimate of the full range of current and future housing requirements in various categories, and scheduled plans to provide suitable serviced lands to meet these requirements. The plans will be reviewed periodically, and amended in the light of changing requirements.

The provincial government will give grants, and/or planning assistance to small communities to help them prepare such plans. Local government will be encouraged to involve citizens in the planning process. Regional development funds will be awarded on the basis of satisfactory regional development plans.

#### **6. Provincial government to operate within framework of local and regional planning:**

Optimum use of Crown lands will be made for residential purposes, but only within the context of municipal and regional planning. The provincial government will not be excused from the same due process in land planning and development as is required of municipal and private developers. (Laws Declaratory Act will be repealed.)

#### **7. Assembly and servicing of land — a joint public-private venture:**

In the short term, major emphasis will be placed on programs of land assembly, and servicing for residential needs. These will be financed by federal and provincial governments, but undertaken within the context of municipal and regional plans.

Available funds will be used for strategically distributed land, and new developments will become joint public-private ventures. The provincial government will continuously monitor the demand for building lots, through close cooperation with local government and the private sector. A combination of housing targets, land requirements, and land servicing needs will be to improve services available in rural small towns and northern areas to encourage growth of these communities rather than the continuing excessive expansion of the metropolitan urban centres.

Adequate transportation facilities will be de-

veloped and maintained to reduce and eliminate undesirable geographic and economic isolation.

#### **8. Toward Better Housing for Native People:**

A Progressive Conservative government will seek close consultation with the federal government and with the native population with a view to promoting better housing and ownership opportunities for native people.

#### **9. A Catch-up Action Force:**

As a short term catch-up measure to increase available housing, an action force of government and industry will be formed to visit communities, consult with local governments and the citizens, and assist in launching programs to meet urgent needs. Any programs undertaken will be within the context of municipal and regional plans. Streamlined approval procedures, and sensitivity to particular local needs will be emphasized in this program.

#### **10. The B.C. Housing Finance Corporation:**

A Progressive Conservative government will establish a Housing Finance Corporation to supplement the private money market and Central Mortgage and Housing:

— in providing interim financing for small builders;

— in stabilizing the flow of financing, and thus the activity of the housing industry, minimizing the cyclical manner in which financing is available.

The Housing Finance Corporation will provide flexibility and efficiency in meeting emerging housing needs in British Columbia.

With the establishment of such a corporation, the B.C. government will be in a more favourable position to receive "bloc" funding from the federal government.

11. A Progressive Conservative government will encourage the development of solidly based financial institutions in British Columbia, which will increase the pool of available funds for housing mortgages throughout the province.

12. A Progressive Conservative government will create a mortgage insurance program which will specifically include small communities, farm residences and older homes in larger centres. It will endeavour to have Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation act as a re-insurer rather than a direct insurer functioning mainly in the larger cities.

## **MAIN HOUSING POLICY PROPOSALS**

1. Establishment to housing land reserve including contributions of Crown lands and provincially-guaranteed financing to increase the stock of serviced land upon approval of community plans.

2. Low interest rate mortgages up to a provincial total of \$1 billion with equity increase to be shared 50-50 between purchaser and the province in order to make housing both cheaper and more generally available.

3. Tax incentives, government guaranteed loans and removal of sales tax on building materials to private construction of adequate rental accommodation.

4. Tax incentives and low interest loans to build basic model homes in range of 1,000 sq. ft. without luxuries.

5. Home acquisition grants and government-assisted home ownership savings accounts for the lower and moderate income earner.

6. Maintenance and rehabilitation of existing houses by government guaranteed loans.

7. British Columbia Housing Finance Corporation supplementing private market and C.M.H.C. to provide interim financing for small builders and to stabilize flow of financing for housing.

8. Mortgage insurance program to include specifically small communities, farm residence and older houses in larger centres.

# LAND USE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Development of a strong community planning and land use management service and provision of financial grants to assist regional districts and communities in preparing municipal and regional plans. This development is to be aided in its work by a law that requires any lands re-zoned for residential construction and provided at taxpayers' expense with the necessary services such as road access and sewer, to be taxed as residential land whether built upon or not.

2. Continuation of Agricultural Land Reserve with ongoing on-site inspection in order to arrive at precise and practical classifications and with provision for regional decision-making and appeals.

3. Creation of Community Land Reserve composed of

non-agricultural land with contributions from the Crown Lands.

4. Phasing out of the B.C. Land Commission once Agricultural and Community Land Reserved are firmly established, and defined and compatible with province-wide guidelines and standards.

5. Creation of Regional Social Capital Development Funds building up to a total of \$1 billion over the next 10 years, to be financed from available sources, with administration and allocation of proceeds to be determined by the regions themselves.

6. Repeal of those provisions of the Laws Declaratory Act which has exempted Crown-owned or Crown-acquired land from Agricultural Land Reserve.

## RESOLUTIONS ON HOUSING AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT

### Delta Provincial Association

1. WHEREAS retired people are able to make a greater contribution to the community, are happier and healthier and find life more interesting when they can own and maintain their homes, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the municipality freeze the tax on their home property at age sixty-five, if the income of the party does not exceed \$15,000 per year.

### South Okanagan Provincial Association

2. WHEREAS mobile homes are an essential part of housing in B.C., therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that they be transferred from the jurisdiction of the Department of Motor Vehicles to the Department of Housing and that the 5% building materials tax on such housing be removed.

3. WHEREAS services provided by the Department of Consumer Services are inadequate for residents of the interior of the province, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that these organizations be thoroughly reorganized, with decentralized operations throughout the province, and with much more responsiveness to the needs of the populations.

4. WHEREAS in the United States homeowners are allowed to deduct mortgage interest, taxes and costs of home improvements from their taxable incomes, in the interest of making the ownership of housing less costly, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that our party support such

provisions in Canada in order to help achieve the same objectives for Canadians.

### Victoria Provincial Association

5. WHEREAS there is a continuing crisis in the area of rental accommodation, BE IT RESOLVED that construction of rental accommodation be encouraged by the elimination of federal and provincial sales tax on building materials for rental units, and that the B.C. Homeowners' Association Act be extended to provide mortgage financing in the amount of \$2,500.00 per unit to the owner of such rental accommodation.

6. WHEREAS the square foot cost of rental units being constructed for co-operative housing associations appears to be extraordinarily high in relation to the square foot cost of units initiated by private developers, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the costs of such co-operative housing association developments be analyzed and reviewed to ascertain where effective economics can be applied.

### West Vancouver Howe Sound Provincial Association

7. BE IT RESOLVED that this party favours the allowance of the interest portion of mortgage payments and the cost of municipal taxation on residential land as a deduction from taxable income. (similar resolution made by South Okanagan.)

# SOCIAL SERVICES

## I. An Incomes Policy for British Columbia:

### 1. Proposals for an income-earning B.C. society:

This paper proposes a set of policies, combined into an income support program, designed to give effective financial assistance or incentives by which to create to the maximum extent possible an income-earning society in British Columbia.

The objectives of the Incomes Policy are three:

**One**, to guarantee as a matter of right a fair, stable and fully adequate financial foundation to people who, for valid reasons, cannot support themselves or can only partially support themselves from their own earnings.

**Two**, to provide effective educational and employment opportunities and transitional financial support to these able or potentially able to support themselves, but who are now dependent on welfare, or prefer to draw welfare, on a basis that would allow welfare to be eliminated in B.C. with a target period of five years.

**Three**, to give the lower and lower-middle income worker, defined as in the range of the lower 40 percent of the B.C. labour force in terms of annual earnings, effective financial incentives in order to increase his or her annual income potential and savings and assets base.

### 2. Income support in cases of social right:

The **first proposal** is that there are a number of people in society who should be guaranteed a fully adequate level of income support consistent with individual dignity as a matter of right. One such group is composed of senior citizens. Another is composed of the disabled, the physically handicapped, the deaf and blind, the chronically ill, and a number of others who for valid, similar reasons should not be expected to support themselves. A third group are those in single parent families in which the mother (or, in some cases, the father) should have the option of income support coupled with day care, education or training, employment assistance or partial support.

For all these people we proposed income support programs at a higher level than at present, acknowledging that in many, if not most, of these cases their desire for at least partial employment or meaningful activity must be furthered to the fullest extent possible. In short, for these groups, we propose a selective guaranteed annual income program, to be financed at a proper level from the outset, a financing cost that will be progressively made easier by the major savings to the provincial treasury achieved by the five-year elimination of welfare.

Those normally classified as chronic unemployables are a group which includes (but is not confined to) the chronic alcoholic, those requiring prolonged social or emotional or psychological rehabilitation, and those who have simply "given up" and for whom nothing likely can be done. While effective rehabilitation properly undertaken for a sufficient period of time may be successful in a significant number of cases, there will be others for whom the term chronic unemployable is permanent, and who are candidates for living maintenance as a matter of need.

### 3. Ending welfare to employables in B.C. within five years:

The **second and most central proposition** is that welfare, in any form except in those defined cases or groups entitled to income support as a matter of right, or for whom no other solution except maintenance is possible, be ended in British Columbia in a target period of five years.

To free training facilities such as B.C.I.T., the technical programs in the regional colleges, and regional vocational school, in which places for Canadian citizens are often unavailable, admission would have to be denied to anyone not presently a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant resident in B.C. for two years, or members of their immediate families, strictly defined. The training of anyone else, whether immigrant or immigrant from another province, would not be undertaken at the provincial level in B.C. The training effort required to allow people on welfare to get permanently off will strain existing vocational capacity in B.C. Those non-British Columbians already in technical or vocational programs would be allowed and encouraged to complete. Otherwise, only those citizens and landed immigrants already here will be eligible to enroll.

**At the end of the five-year transitional period**, from a system of readily available welfare to selective programs of requisite income support, **no one who can work, or is equipped by training or education to work, would be entitled to any provincial income assistance whatsoever.** What would remain would be federally funded programs, such as unemployment insurance, although under an employment-opportunity guarantee in B.C., the cost to the federal treasury of unemployment insurance in this province should be decisively reduced. As a by-product, questions of duration, eligibility, cost-sharing or policing or controlling welfare would no longer arise, since welfare would cease to exist.

### 4. The transitional period: Work, school and welfare:

The disincentives in the present welfare system perpetuate both its growth and existence. Successive provincial governments have insisted that welfare recipients can only earn a limited amount of money on their own before outside earnings are deducted from welfare. This disincentive is magnified, and welfare cheating may be induced, wherever savings have been required to be used up, or assets to be sold.

**The first step is thus to reverse these income-restrictions altogether.** Where in B.C. a single person may only earn \$50.00 a month outside of welfare, a family head \$100.00 outside welfare, **these restrictions should be eliminated and welfare-recipients told they can — for a specified period of time — go out and get any job they can, and thus earn all the outside money they can.** In one stroke, the major disincentive to working would be removed. **This period of work and welfare will vary, but may in some cases extend up to twelve months.** If schooling or training is first required, basic welfare payments and additional educational allowances would continue during the education or vocational training period, and for a period of three to six months beyond.

Provided British Columbia as a matter of commitment sees to it that stable employment opportunities are available by the measures we have proposed, and provided further supports (including counselling and rehabilitation) are made effective, the result would be a gradual and progressive transfer of up to 200,000 people from a welfare or intermittent welfare situation into a stable work environment. This proposal for a period of double-earning, coupled with the opportunity to get training or complete education, is sufficiently generous that any welfare-recipient who can work and who accepted this opportunity would not — without valid reason — be allowed back on.

It is possible that this program of work and welfare — or school, work and welfare — may cost more in the first year than the level of escalated expenditure under the present system we have, although savings to the provincial treasury and to municipalities should commence to be apparent within this time. If there is an additional cost to municipalities during this period, it must be refunded. While renegotiation is desirable, federal contributions under the Canada Assistance Act would continue to apply. Yet, to get people off welfare so they stay off welfare, this is the only basis which will work.

#### **5. Financial incentives for the lower-income worker.**

The lower-income worker, whom we define as anyone in the lower 40 percent of the labour force by annual income measure, is the most penalized person in society today:

**Our third proposal is a five-year program of financial opportunity for this group.** The chief elements are as follows:

**One, the progressive elimination of the provincial personal income tax over five years for this group,** whether federal authorities make a parallel adjustment or not.

**Two, the institution of a graduated provincial negative income tax for this group, available on application, for a period of not more than five years,** for the purposes of allowing lower-income families to generate savings and assets.

**Three, the use of the provincial guarantee of loans of chartered banks and credit unions, such loans to be used for specified purposes such as the acquisition of essential household or family assets, up to a fixed amount, and with extended repayment terms —** the effect being, upon bank or credit union loan approval, to make borrowing for this group available at dramatically reduced rates, with interest costs even below those available to the highest income-earner in B.C.

**Four, when and where practical, the use of the provincial guarantee on first and second mortgages, coupled with the home acquisition grant, in order to allow lower-income families the opportunity to add further to their basic assets.**

**Five, for any worker in this group requiring training to upgrade his or her skill, income support during the period of training.**

## **II. Co-ordination of Services - Decentralization - Community**

### **Involvement and Determinism:**

Some things should be centralized for efficiency, e.g., Justice and Courts. However, decision-making in as many areas as possible should be moved back to the community. In youth and family problems, and Social Services in general, community involvement is vital. Within the framework of Provincial Government Standards and support, communities should have the right to work out their own problems. Local government should have the right to participate in social planning in order to

ensure that the particular needs of its citizens are met. Senior governments should provide incentives for local government to enrich programs where there is a special need.

In implementing social services programs, local government must establish clear and effective relationships among all the helping professions and with citizen voluntary groups and private organizations. Community resources must be used to the full.

**An umbrella arrangement is needed to bring together in early stages of planning provincial Departments of Health, Education, Human Resources and programmes from the Attorney General's Department in the areas of Family Court and Rehabilitative Correctional Services. This pattern must then be projected to, and prevail at the community level, and must encompass local government. Lines of communication must be established horizontally within the community, rather than merely vertically to provincial and federal governments.**

At present each provincial department tends to go out into the community in its own way, without prior consultation — one department with another. Moreover, for the most part, except in hospital planning, in recreation and in some areas of health, local government is by-passed.

Under the N.D.P government, the Department of Human Resources has reached out unilaterally into the community, and by a questionable type of local election, set up Community Resource Boards. This has led to balkanization and a confusing relationship with other units of existing helping professional services. Moreover the final approval for financial expenditure rests with the Minister. The effective control is actually centralized. The Resource Boards have not fulfilled the expectations of local participants. Local people are tired of having their brains pumped, only to be disappointed in the final decisions made by a centralized authority.

Decentralization of decision-making must be bold. Community oriented citizens are becoming terribly frustrated by the sham and window-dressing put out by a provincial government which in reality builds up a system of centralized dependency and paternalism.

**A framework must be developed in each community which will bring together various elements of community life — health, education, recreation and other social services. Citizens at large, voluntary service groups and local government should come together to plan an integrated system of human services. A delivery system for these services can then be decentralized on a neighbourhood basis, where there is opportunity for feedback from the immediate community.**

In the provincial government structure proposed by the Progressive Conservative Government, **the Social Development Committee would co-ordinate the Ministry of Community Affairs with the Departments of Health, Education and Social Services.** The committee structure would bring the Ministers and their senior staff together once a week in order to co-ordinate planning and relate programs **at an early stage of planning.**

This arrangement would also facilitate the funneling of federal funds which, at present, are cut off by rigid departmental classification of programs.

The services to the Family Court and rehabilitative corrections services must be brought into the orbit of the Social Development Committee. Just how this will be done and the precise division of responsibilities between the Social Services Ministry and the Attorney-General's Department is a matter for further study.

The joint approach of the Social Development Committee of Cabinet will then be projected to the local community.

The structure for social development within each community may differ somewhat from another. Further study within each local area would determine this. However, the following features would be common to all:

1. Where special social development directors are found to be desirable, they will be directly elected at elections held in conjunction with elections to municipal councils, regional boards and school boards.

2. Integration on one body—the Social Development Council—of representatives from regional boards (and/or municipal councils), regional hospital boards. (Health Boards must be represented within the above framework.)

3. Liaison mechanisms with private social agencies, and voluntary community service groups.

4. Liaison with Manpower and where possible with universities, (and, of course, with the Ministry of Social Services of the provincial government).

5. Decentralization for delivery of services — a clear, easily understood service delivery system, with feedback provisions at the neighbourhood or smaller community level.

6. A composite budget; signifying joint planning, co-ordination of services, sharing of resources.

7. Within parameters and standards clearly set out by the provincial government, **real local autonomy**.

The present Community Resource Boards as such, of course, would be phased out.

The thrust of this new pattern of organization will be:

— To bring together planning in the whole field of closely related human services, and prevent a fragmented approach which is wasteful, confusing and ineffective.

— To use existing government structures more effectively, as opposed to setting up parallel structures.

— To promote local government involvement with citizens and community groups.

— To decentralize decision-making to the local level as much as possible; giving communities a chance to develop their own identities and solve their own problems within the framework of senior government support.

III. The Progressive Conservative Party fully supports the Unified Family Court concept with family advocates and counsellors. A Progressive Conservative government will extend this system throughout the province.

IV. Senior Citizens Services:  
See Draft Policy Paper on Health.

## RESOLUTIONS ON SOCIAL SERVICES

### Oak Bay Provincial Association

1. WHEREAS inflation and rising costs strike most severely at senior citizens, pensioners and others on fixed incomes, BE IT RESOLVED that citizens in those groups should have first priority in financial policies dealing with taxation adjustments which affect accommodation, food and health care.

### Victoria Provincial Association

2. WHEREAS the present system of pensions provides for an equal allowance for pensioners regardless of age, and WHEREAS the incidence of inflation is particularly onerous on persons who have retired for several years, and WHEREAS persons who have recently been retired generally receive larger pensions, BE IT RESOLVED that old age pensions be graduated on the basis of age with pensions increasing on an annual basis as a person ages.



# PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE POLICY ON EDUCATION

Since education enables the individual, at any age, to realise the maximum potential of (his or her) inherent talents and clearly enhances the scope of the contribution or the individual can make to society, the Progressive Conservative Party recognises that policies on education and health present the primary means by which governments can best benefit the most valuable natural resource....people.

## STATEMENT OF AIMS

The one primary goal of the education system, in both opportunity and policy must be a career oriented one, with full recognition of the wide diversity in career opportunities.

Education must also encourage an appreciation and exploration of cultural values, perception of the environment in which the human race exists, and a deep understanding of citizenship, its responsibilities and challenges.

Education must develop the inherent talents of the individual to make the individual versatile and adaptable in a rapidly changing world, where technology and a vast increase in human knowledge constantly change the very world we inhabit and hence daily human life styles.

Education must enlighten and challenge young students about the primary problem facing the human race, namely, the continuing increase in world population amid diminishing non-renewable resources and inadequate food supplies.

Education must continue to encourage in our children a sense of responsibility, of self-discipline, of pride in achievement and creativity.

## CORE CURRICULUM:

A core curriculum will be established to ensure that the basic skills are taught throughout the province. The transition of students between schools and grades will be eased.

—The core curriculum will be defined provincially, and will be evaluated, monitored, and revised continually by the Provincial Department.

—A curriculum review committee consisting of teachers, parents and community representatives would ensure that courses are current, relevant and adequate.

—The core curriculum will run from Kindergarten through Grade 12.

—The core curriculum shall be administered in a manner that will not preclude local career training.

## ALTERNATIVES:

In the interests of serving individual differences, a Progressive Conservative Government will endeavour to offer a wide range of educational choice. This will be in addition to the core curriculum. The alternatives will be locally determined in consultation with the provincial Department of Education. The physical setting for education does not always have to be a school. Indeed, exposure to the work-a-day world outside school must be a frequent element in the curriculum. Educational diversity will be promoted in the following ways:

—Different types of schools. When parents can choose the school of their philosophy, they are committed to that school, and support and encourage their children in it.

schools, outside the core curriculum.

—Junior vocational schools will be established with the help of industry, commerce and labour. These will be for Grade VIII level and higher, and will undoubtedly reduce the drop-out rate. Planning such programmes will be undertaken jointly by the Department of Education, Labour, Manpower (Federal) and interested parties from the private sector.

In Grades VIII through XII, educational opportunities shall be offered in a career oriented format which is either:

(a) completed within the secondary school system, or

(b) explicitly preparative for post-secondary education at the college, technical institute, or university level.

## STANDARDS

Some form of provincial examinations at all levels in the system will be introduced. The advisability of examination at all grades will be reviewed.

Specifically government sponsored examination for students proposing to attend universities or regional colleges will be introduced.

## IMPORTANCE OF EARLY EDUCATION

Priority will be given to increasing resources available at Kindergarten and primary levels, in order to detect individual problems at an early age, particularly learning disorders related to underlying physical or emotional conditions, and to use these resources to assist in determining all students' individual styles of learning (which is the most important educational aspect in early education.)

Age of admission to Kindergarten will be reduced to four years as facilities and personnel become available. Teachers at this level will be carefully selected and particularly trained to meet those specific requirements of early detection of learning disorders.

Whereas the transition from elementary grades to senior grades, mark a relatively pronounced change in both the social and academic pressures for students, be it resolved that in addition to specific testing to determine possible learning handicaps in children that one instructional unit in elementary schools be devoted to tutoring the specific areas of English comprehension and mathematics, to provide both a much needed service to children requiring additional help and to ensure that students leaving the elementary system have a reasonable command of these basic academic subjects.

## CHALLENGE TO THE GIFTED STUDENT

Special provisions will be made for the gifted child to achieve the maximum development of his or her full potential, by challenging the extraordinary capacities of that gifted child. Comparisons must not be made to averages but to obvious potentials.

## REDUCTION OF PUPIL/TEACHER RATIO

The continuation of this thrust will be contingent on availability of skilled personnel and the evidence that continuing reduction clearly improves the quality of instruction.

## INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Legal and economic recognition will be given to all non-public schools in British Columbia which meet the educational standards established by the Department of Education.

School districts will be empowered to enter into local agreements with non-public schools on joint use of resources, including special teachers. Such agreements would be based on negotiated budgetary arrangements.

## SCHOOL FINANCING

1. Educational tax on real property will be substantially removed.

2. School boards will be permitted to raise additional funds by local levy, for programmes they wish to offer, over and above the approved provincial programmes.

3. Approval of education budget and of local levy will be contingent upon preparation of a satisfactory global budget (including related social services fields) to ensure maximum coordination of personnel and resources, and to ensure maximum community use of school facilities.

## THE TEACHING PROFESSION

A British Columbia College of Teachers will be established for the professional purpose of setting standards in relation to teacher training and performance, to maintain ethical standards and to discipline teachers where necessary for infringements of these established standards.

The college would have the authority to award and rescind teaching certificates. Where, in matters of discipline, the college rescinds the teacher's certificate, there would always be the fullest access to the courts available to the teacher.

The college functions would be conducted by a Council of Teachers, elected by teachers, through secret ballot. Any teacher holding a valid certificate would be eligible to vote or hold office and would not be required to be a member of the B.C. Teachers' Federation.

The College of Teachers would be autonomous with its functioning and decisions not subject to any influence or interference by the Department of Education.

## SALARY BARGAINING

As a two-year pilot project, zonal bargaining units will be set up. During these two years, zonal bargaining will be mandatory, followed by binding arbitration if such bargaining fails. There will be eight to twelve zones, the boundaries being decided after thorough consultations involving the Department of Education, the B.C.S.T.A. and the B.C.T.F. Following the two year pro-

ject, the whole issue of bargaining will be reviewed. Teachers will not be given the right to strike. Maximum emphasis and assistance will be provided in the form of conciliation, mediation and arbitration. **Membership in the B.C.T.F. will not be compulsory**, in order for a teacher to obtain a certificate and teach in B.C.

## POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

1. Of the three Associate Deputy Ministers, one should be responsible for Post Secondary Education.

2. The province will be divided into college regions.

3. There will be provision for direct election to College Councils.

4. Capital costs of colleges will be entirely from provincial revenue, except where facilities are considered strictly for local benefit.

5. Provision will be made for direct reporting to and liaison with School Boards in the College Region.

6. Except as in #4 above, capital costs for post secondary institutions shall be borne by the provincial government.

7. All meetings of the Board of Governors of colleges and universities shall be open to the public except when a Board is dealing with confidential matters relating to appointments, property and legal technicalities.

8. Education will be open ended and provide the opportunity for continuing education. For example, once deficiencies are made up at a community college, a student might go to university.

## RESEARCH

An autonomous Education Research Institute of B.C. will be established to work in coordination with universities, school boards and teachers' organizations. Research findings will be distributed throughout all school districts.

# RESOLUTIONS ON EDUCATION

## **Esquimalt Provincial Association**

1. WHEREAS parents have the right to protect their children from information they feel would be harmful to them, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the B.C. Progressive Conservative Party accept as policy that a family life and sex education programme has only an optional place in the school curriculum.

## **Oak Bay Provincial Association**

2. BE IT RESOLVED that an annual grant from general revenue be made to recognized independent schools in British Columbia for each student whose parents or guardian are resident in British Columbia, providing such schools eliminate all discriminatory practices.

## **Professor Robert M. Clark**

3. WHEREAS the Academic Board of British Columbia in its final statement, April, 1975, drew attention to declining academic standards in English and mathematics in high schools of this province as follows:

The Academic Board wishes to express its concern at the apparent increasing lack of uniformity in academic standards and curricula in the Province of British Columbia and with an apparent decrease in the standards of some university programs.

By a conscious policy on the part of the Department of Education, province-wide high school examinations have been phased out and as a result, there are no longer adequate guidelines to maintain uniform academic standards of high school graduation. This divergence of standards is most apparent to the universities, which traditionally have used high school grades as the most reliable predictors of a student's ability to profit from a university education.

## **Different Standards**

With different graduating standards being used throughout the province, high school grades are no longer an adequate measure for evaluation by universities, colleges, or employers. In the opinion of the Academic Board this is a gross disservice to many students, both those with unusually high academic ability who do not have the opportunity to demonstrate their achievement, as well as those with only moderate academic accomplishments who may be misled in their choice of appropriate post-secondary education.

The students most harmed by this apparent erosion of standards are those from homes in which the parents themselves have had only limited educational opportunities, and who therefore must rely entirely on the school system for academic guidance. Of particular concern is the decreased requirement for students to demonstrate a minimum ability in written English and in mathematics. Any deficiencies in these areas deny a student access to most, if not all, professional careers.

As disturbing as the lack of uniformity in standards is the removal of uniformity in curricula. School districts and individual high schools have been encouraged to develop their own curricula. It is assumed that a curriculum committee in each school district, consisting of teachers, parents, and students will be charged with the responsibility for curriculum development.

In theory there are to be core curricula developed by the Department of Education, but without province-wide evaluation there is no guarantee that the core curricula will be followed. As a result students are entering the colleges and universities unprepared in certain areas of the traditional curriculum of each discipline. The problem is compounded in first year university level courses because students from different school districts have different gaps in their background knowledge.

BE IT RESOLVED that we urge the provincial government to re-establish province-wide examinations in English and mathematics for all Grade 12 students who intend to pursue post-secondary academic work at colleges or universities in British Columbia.

# AGRICULTURAL POLICY

## Introduction

The Progressive Conservative Party believes that agriculture is an extremely important segment of the province's economy and that it possesses great potential as an industry and a way of life. To realize this potential we must have a comprehensive and forward looking policy aimed not only at recovery of certain segments of the industry but at expansion, growth and diversity.

Our policy must emphasize maximum efficiency in all aspects. We must aim to produce a greater variety of agricultural commodities, develop more effective domestic and export marketing of these products and achieve successful competition with other segments of the economy for capital, manpower and other resources essential for the effective development of the industry.

We support the continuance and growth of the family farm. Many of the following proposals emerged from the workshop held in Penticton on May 10th. Further policy sessions are to be held in other areas of the province where agriculture is a prominent industry, so that a wide provincial cross section of input from our membership can be obtained. For this reason the policies here outlined are incomplete.

1. Within the limits of climate and feasibility British Columbia must strive to become self-sufficient in food production. Maximum efficiency must be sought in production and utilization of those crops which can be grown in B.C. Irrigation is a vital ingredient in seeking this goal. Better control of water resources and equalization of irrigation costs is required.

2. Marketing Boards would be restructured to allow for representation of all those parties involved: the primary producer, the processor, the retailer and the consumer.

Redistribution of surpluses through non-retail channels would be sought with possible use of Foodicare programmes for fixed income pensioner groups.

The Farm Income Assurance programme now in effect will allow for a major reduction in the power of marketing boards to set commodity prices to the processor or consumer and will eliminate their authority in compulsory allocation or acceptance of output by processors.

Qualifications and the integrity of members of marketing boards would be closely scrutinized and where necessary would include election of members by secret ballot.

Federal government would be requested to give more rapid and consistent responses to requests for tariffs against imported products, to protect British Columbia producers against dumping.

3. The P.C. Party supports the basic principle that farm land must be preserved for the production of food and that the farmer be assured of a reasonable price for his crop and a fair financial return for his labours.

More accurate classification of land must be carried out. Delays and bureaucratic obstacles to the processing of applications for removal of acreage from Agricultural Land Reserves must be eliminated.

Farm acreage will not be subject to school taxes.

The P.C. Party will re-examine the legal rights for those whose livelihood is dependent on land usage, with particular reference to such matters as expropriation for public use, adequacy of compensation and the rights of those whose farm operations involve public use, such as common pasture, range land and highways.

To enable family farms to carry on from generation to generation, taxes on the real farm property to heirs within an estate, should be deferred until the farm property is sold, or the use changed from agriculture.

Crown agricultural leases should be extended to a further five year option to purchase at original appraised price and reduce the requirement to purchase from 80% of arable land to 50% of arable land in cultivation.

4. The Progressive Conservative Party endorses realistic technical, advisory and financial assistance for farmers, particularly for "new entrants" into agriculture and those carrying on "Family Farm" enterprises. Income Assurance will be under constant scrutiny enquiry, with the object of extending the principle to other aspects of food fibre production in B.C.

Determination of the cost of production should be a negotiated matter between the Department of Agriculture representatives and the producing party or parties concerned.

Advisory and field services personnel must redirect their efforts to distribution as a top priority, with research commencing at the point where the product leaves the hand of the producer.

## **5. Transportation**

Close liaison with the western provinces of Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan must be established on all aspects of rail and truck rates in the transportation of food fibre crops.

British Columbia must become involved fully in the studies by the Hall Commission which is studying accounting and costing procedures in the railway system.

A Progressive Conservative government would play an active role in programmes to reduce and offset the adverse effects of defects, restrictions, tie-ups and other inadequate transportation facilities which work against the orderly and efficient distribution of B.C.'s agricultural products, including:

- a) Highway transportation in B.C.
- b) Shipping terminals
- c) CPR and CNR priorities in relation to shipping agricultural products.

Economists in agriculture must be used as more than mere statisticians. They must be involved with other personnel in realistic investigation of food distribution and transportation within British Columbia marketing areas, the potential for new land development and crop feasibility studies. Feasibility studies for such basic food production as sugar beets, corn, glasshouse crops, recycling of usable fertilizer such as sewage are required.

The development of a vegetable oil industry also warrants examination. The name of the Dept. of Agriculture will be changed to the Department of Food and Agriculture, to define more (clearly) accurately the modern function of the department.

**6.** Policies must promote the finishing processing of cattle, swine and sheep within B.C., including cow-calf operations, abattoir facilities and canning facilities.

Policies should promote the good quality of grass fed beef.

## **RESOLUTIONS ON AGRICULTURE**

### **Esquimalt Provincial Association**

1. WHEREAS food production is an increasingly valuable enterprise and greater demands are made for intensive use of agricultural land, BE IT RESOLVED that Provincial Correction Institutions should be, wherever possible, self-sufficient farms.

# FOREST POLICY

1. Rescind by legislation the 16 perpetual Tree Farm Licenses still existing in BC which confer exclusive rights to huge tracts of public productive forest land in perpetuity. Conversion of these 16 perpetual TFL's to 21 year terms renewable with full compensation for proven capitalized investment in timber renewal.
2. Legislative guarantees of forest tenures and other arrangements relative to non-competitive wood supply for pulp/paper and wood products operations on the following basis:
  - 1) For **existing** mills, maintenance or extension of tenure at least sufficient to allow full repayment of capital investment and fully reasonable return to shareholders.
  - 2) For **new** mills and major expansion projects, guarantee of tenure or alternative wood supply commitments for period at least sufficient for full capital repayment and shareholder return, normally 10 to 12 years for sawmills, and 20 to 22 years for pulp/paper mills.
3. Incentive royalties for harvesting and processing of decadent and overmature timber stands in BC. Elimination of end use appraisal system pegging stumpage to market prices, and replacing fluctuating stumpage by regional stumpage rates reflecting differences in timber quality and harvesting economics, such rates not be changed as a general policy more than once every two years.

The practice of clear cut logging should be reviewed with incentives being provided for total utilization of forest harvest areas.
4. Availability of provincially guaranteed bank loans to independent logging operators and contractors and to non-integrated sawmills and plywood mills to reduce borrowing costs for working capital and inventory, and to provide ongoing financial relief.
5. Rescinding of legislated chip prices once lumber market recovers, and allowing export of surplus logs and chips instead.
6. Enactment of Natural Resources Financial Disclosure Act requiring public filing of annual income and balance sheet statements by any company operating on provincial Crown resources, including larger private companies and all oil, mining and forest products subsidiaries of foreign or non- British Columbia parent firms.
7. Creation of Forest Resource Reinvestment Fund of \$2.00 per cunit (= 100 cubic feet) per year of total annual allowable cut in BC to: (1) bring Public Sustained Yield units managed by BC Forest Service up to full utilization and harvesting potential and (2) undertake contractual arrangements with TFL and TSHL holders in private sector for full restocking for second crop.
8. Stimulation of higher valued added forest-based manufacturing in British Columbia; development of steady, long-term lumber marketing arrangements.
9. Adoption of clear-cut policy that private sector is responsible for risk capital, and that public sector is responsible for all social and infrastructure capital in any new projects. Priority emphasis on social and infrastructure capital in northern half of BC.
10. Removing the authority of the British Columbia tax assessment authority with regard to private timber holdings.

# PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE POLICIES ON HEALTH CARE SERVICES

An integrated range of services must be provided in which the appropriate level of care is available to meet the appropriate need of the patient.

The provision of the appropriate type of care, in the appropriate setting to meet the appropriate need of the patient is the fundamental goal of the Progressive Conservative policies on health care.

The range of services must encompass home care, out-patient hospital care (day care), boarding home, nursing home, acute and extended care.

Adequate provision of such a range would eliminate the current misuse of acute care beds (\$100 per day) frequently occupied by patients requiring a lesser level of care in a more suitable type of facility. Past excessive emphasis on the construction of acute care beds at enormous cost must be replaced by the provision of intermediate care (nursing home) and extended care beds before the precise requirement for more acute beds can be estimated on a province-wide basis.

A Progressive Conservative government would provide a consistent and uniform amount of financial support to each and every patient, regardless of the level of care required, or the facility where care is rendered. An immediate priority would be the construction of province-wide facilities providing nursing home care at a nominal daily charge to the patient similar to the charge made to patients in acute care hospitals.

Residential qualification would be required prior to nursing home care, namely three previous years residence in B.C. or intermittently ten years of residence in British Columbia.

Sharing of construction costs would be 60/40.....provincial government/regional government, in the same way as presently applies to construction cost of acute care hospitals.

Planning of required facilities would be carried out at the regional level in the same manner as pertains for acute care facilities.

Incentives to non-profit agencies, church groups, service clubs, etc., would be provided to encourage the maximum involvement of citizens and interested parties at the local level, where the true needs of the patient are most clearly recognized, and where the active participation of local citizens is most readily stimulated. Nursing homes, singly or in groups, would be managed by non-profit societies, whose board of directors would be elected by the membership of the society, with a few appointments by the provincial government.

Future planning would adopt the principle that boarding home care, nursing home care and extended care facilities should be included in a single complex to ensure that when a patient's need changes, there would be no great disruption of that patient's locale in moving from one level of care to another.

A uniform daily rate would be charged each patient regardless of the level of care provided.

Home care programmes would be greatly expanded to allow senior citizens to remain as long as possible in their own homes and yet receive the nursing and personal care they require.

By being treated at home they must not be penalized financially. Charges for home care must equate to the charges the patient would have if treated in an appropriate hospital.

The whole thrust of the Progressive Conservative

programme is to de-emphasize institutional care, and to provide the precise care required, no more and no less. Similarly, outpatient programmes of treatment would be encouraged at all general acute care hospitals in order to make the most efficient use of facilities in the most economic manner. Again the outpatient must not be penalized financially compared to inpatients receiving the same service.

## MENTAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Maximum reduction of institutional care must be expedited in this particular sphere, with an ever-increasing range of facilities and skilled personnel available in the community close to the patient's home and friends.

Riverview Hospital would be phased out over a period of three to four years, being replaced by several smaller facilities in various communities from which the current Riverview population is derived. General hospitals, particularly in non-urban centres would be encouraged to provide beds for in-patient care of those with acute or semi-acute disorders. In general the approach to providing facilities and care for the mentally ill must be no different from that taken towards those who are physically ill. Maximum participation of supporting services in the community must be achieved, since treatment in hospital is the smallest part of the total care required by the mentally sick.

## PERSONNEL

At all levels of care, even the best of facilities are useless without an adequate number of trained personnel.

Progressive Conservative policies would stress training programmes for para medical personnel with student subsidies and loans, as well as financial incentives after graduation to attract personnel to those areas of the province where they are most urgently needed.

Northern communities in particular, such as Kitimat, desperately lack psychiatric social workers, and psychiatric nurses, as well as medical and surgical specialists.

Progressive Conservative policies would include various forms of incentive, financial, educational (courses), holidays, sabbaticals, etc., to attract and retain all the personnel required in these areas.

Regional boards would be given incentives to finance equipment in northern areas as an attraction to specialists to settle there. Assistance to established local residents would be made available for training in medical and para medical fields, since they have a demonstrated commitment to their community and are likely to continue to provide service to that community. This is preferable, in the long run, to bringing in trained personnel from large urban centres such as Vancouver.

Where specialist care for residents of outlying areas has to be provided in Vancouver, the cost of patient transportation and reasonable associated costs for relatives (e.g. accommodation) would be met by the provincial government. Northern residents must not be penalized financially in receiving required medical care which would cost a Lower Mainland resident nothing.

Locating of specialists in outlying centres would enable patients to receive the care close to home at the

most economical cost to the province. Incentives to attract specialists to outlying areas would be a high Progressive Conservative priority.

## **FAMILY PHYSICIAN SERVICES**

While the need for highly specialized services is clear in the first instance, the majority of citizens in medical need require a general practitioner in their first contact with the health care team. Progressive Conservative policies would stress the availability and financing of medical school training for the sons and daughters of British Columbia residents, with special incentives to attract them to general practice, as well as subsidies for post-graduate education. The Medical School at U.B.C. would be expanded and a study initiated to bring about the creation of a medical school at UVic within three to four years.

In urban areas, continuing initiatives would be taken to develop the concept of community clinics where the general practitioner would be located along with other members of the health team and social services in the heart of the local community, within easy reach of the majority of residents, particularly the senior citizens.

Local media, particularly radio and newspapers would be used to make residents of densely populated city areas aware of the medical services available to them, and their location.

Senior citizens in particular would have ready access to a community phone number, to be used in time of crisis. Voluntary agencies would be given encouragement and incentives, to serve as a base of communication for elderly persons shut in their homes by disability. Such agencies would also fill the role of checking at regular intervals on elderly citizens living alone.

In general we would encourage, by incentives and assistance, the maximum participation of voluntary agencies at local level, in the provision of support services to the community.

## **PREVENTIVE PROGRAMMES**

Immense sums of money are spent treating diseases which are entirely preventable. Poor nutritional habits, and excessive indulgence in food, liquor and tobacco account for a major portion of disorders and accidents requiring expensive treatment and rehabilitation. We would undertake major educational programmes based on current knowledge of these diseases, starting in the public school system at the kindergarten level, with data and modern techniques suitably related to the age of the learning student. Programmes to promote interest and participation in physical fitness would be increased, with appropriate incentives and rewards to the participant.

Non-smokers and non-drinkers would be given lower premiums for medicare and a partial rebate on their payments when they require hospital care. Nutrition of the elderly must be enhanced by more effective system of Meals on Wheels, plus arrangements to provide for the delivery of groceries to elderly citizens in their homes. The twin problems of poor nutrition and loneliness so prevalent among senior citizens must be given high priority in all health services planning.

## **PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**

Provision of free prescription drugs would be extended to patients of any age, suffering from any one of a list of defined diseases or disabilities of a chronic nature, such as Cystic Fibrosis, Diabetes, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinsonism.

## **HEALTH CARE COSTS**

The serious problem of rapidly escalating costs is fully recognized. Certain basic approaches would be adopted.

1. Increased productivity in the provision of hospital services will be constantly researched and implemented to achieve the most efficient of those costly services in the most economic manner.

2. Administrative arrangements will provide the fullest coordination of all parts of the total health care delivery system. Health services, welfare services, mental health services, hospital care, and medical and ancillary care must be elements of a single function and overall plan.

3. Close and continuous discussions must be sustained with the federal government as a means of maintaining a fair and appropriate method of cost sharing for all aspects of health care.

4. Increased emphasis on the economic benefits of regionalisation in the planning and implementation of facilities, personnel and services.

## **RESOLUTIONS ON HEALTH CARE SERVICES**

### **Oak Bay & Esquimalt Provincial Associations**

1. BE IT RESOLVED that the B.C. Hospital Insurance Plan provide insurance coverage to patients receiving intermediate care in nursing homes and similar facilities to the same degree as is presently provided to patients in acute and extended care facilities.

2. BE IT RESOLVED that a programme of construction of the required intermediate care facilities be initiated immediately utilizing regional hospital boards for planning, encouraging the greatest possible participation by non-profit organizations and continuing the 60% - 40% provincial - local financing which currently applies to the funding of other hospital construction.

### **Oak Bay Provincial Association**

3. BE IT RESOLVED that the current \$1.00 per day B.C. Hospital Insurance Plan be increased to \$5.00 per day with the exception of people in need.

### **Victoria Provincial Association**

4. WHEREAS the cost of government medical, dental and pharmaceutical care is becoming an ever increasing burden upon our tax base, and WHEREAS free health care has frequently been abused by the public, and WHEREAS the public should be directly conscious of the cost of health care, BE IT RESOLVED that a minimum charge for health, dental and pharmaceutical care be levied against the individual user, if not handicapped, chronically ill or over the age of 65.

5. WHEREAS there is an acute shortage of intermediate and extended care beds, and WHEREAS qualified persons are frequently awaiting a bed for periods of one to two years, without financial assistance, BE IT RESOLVED that until such time as qualified persons are admitted to intermediate or extended care, that the government provide financial assistance to offset the nursing and maintenance costs of such persons.



# POLICY REGARDING THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

A fundamental principle of the Progressive Conservative Party is its dedication to protect the individual against undue power of the state.

1. A Progressive Conservative government will reaffirm its support of a Provincial Bill of Rights which will guarantee equality of all individuals before the law, the protection of the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual, including the right of appeal and access to an Ombudsman, and the legislative guarantee that no individual can be discriminated against on the basis of age, sex, race, colour, religion, or marital status.

2. The Office of Ombudsman will be established to investigate complaints from any person relating to a matter of administration by any department or agency, including crown corporations, official employees or members of the government of British Columbia.

3. Measures will be introduced to strengthen public scrutiny of the activities of government, including the establishment of an Auditor-General and the introduction of an Administrative Tribunals Appeals Procedure Act, and strengthening and widening the jurisdiction of the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature and the Public Bodies Information Act. A Progressive Conservative government shall make all financial affairs of the province, including complete details of public accounts and all crown corporations, open for comprehensive scrutiny by elected members and the public. The Auditor-General shall carry out continuous examination of the management of provincial financial affairs.

4. A truly independent regulatory agency will be established, which is designed to protect the public interest in such areas as cost of energy development and distribution, transportation and communication facilities and costs, and other public utilities.

5. Both during and between sessions of the legislature, standing committees shall meet regularly, making use of Public Hearings and the submission of briefs in order to obtain a wide expression of public opinion. Special Committees will be created to examine timely issues of the day. All committee meetings shall be held at a location and at a time compatible with the participation of the electors concerned and the subject under study. Between sessions each member shall hold public meetings regularly to apprise the electors in his or her riding of government policy and to hear the views of electors.

6. The introduction of private members' bills will be encouraged and period of time allocated and indeed spent on a regular basis of debate on these bills.

7. As the most westerly province in Canada, British Columbia should seek to avoid any degree of isolation from the governments of other provinces and the legislative procedures and techniques which they practice. Many improvements might be introduced to the B.C. legislative process from information and experience gained through close contact with the legislators of other provinces. Such contact would also further understanding between provinces and strengthen Confederation.

A Progressive Conservative government will establish regular contacts, including exchange visits, with the legislators of the other nine provinces and with the federal government with the aim of continuously improving the effectiveness and validity of the legislative process in British Columbia.

8. A Progressive Conservative government will decentralise government departments to provide greater contact with local problems.

## 9. Electoral Reform:

(a) Review of provincial electoral boundaries will be carried out in British Columbia at least once every five years, so that the electors of the province are fairly represented.

(b) A Progressive Conservative government will introduce an Elections Act which will:

- ensure that no corporation, no labour union, no society, no federation, no ad hoc pressure group, nor any other society will be allowed to engage financially, whether directly or indirectly, in the electoral process in British Columbia, but will ensure that the right to make financial contributions to political parties, to candidates or election campaigns will be confined solely to individual citizens who are eligible to be registered on the provincial voters list.

- place a ceiling on spending by political parties both during and between elections.

- require disclosure of donations over \$100.

- provide a tax credit to the donor against provincial income tax.

- provide a per capita grant from revenues to each candidate.

10. Reform the Expropriation Act. A Progressive Conservative government will introduce an Expropriation Act which will embody the basic principles set out by the Law Reform Commission, that

"The underlying principle in the compensation provisions of the expropriation statute should be to provide persons whose property has been expropriated with full compensation for their economic losses resulting from the expropriation.

That the basic formula for compensation in the proposed statute should be:

(a) the market value of the interest expropriated;

(b) damages attributable to the disturbance; and

(c) damages for injurious affection,

and that the above formula should be clearly set out in the statute in the above terms."

11. Define the role of local government to ensure that it is effectively serving its citizens.

12. A Progressive Conservative government will withdraw the recent amendment to the Revenue Act which allows the Minister of Finance to invest government revenue "in the capital stock of any corporation" without reference to the legislature.

# RESOLUTIONS ON THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

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## **Esquimalt & Oak Bay Provincial Associations**

1. WHEREAS the present electoral procedure in British Columbia can result in a party gaining power with a percentage of the total vote substantially below 50% BE IT RESOLVED that the Progressive Conservative Party declare itself in favour of electoral reform which would introduce some form of alternative balloting.

## **West Vancouver Howe Sound Provincial Association**

2. BE IT RESOLVED that this party be opposed to the expansion of boards and commissions having broad powers and favours the return of agencies to be under the direct control of either the legislature or the provincial electors.

3. BE IT RESOLVED that any election expenses legislation embody within it a prohibition against the publishing of the name or photograph of any provincially elected person in any advertisement or publication paid for out of public funds.

## **Saanich and the Islands**

4. BE IT RESOLVED that a Canadian citizen should have the right in every instance to appeal to the courts from any judicial or quasi judicial decision of any government agency, either Federal or Provincial.

## **Skeena Provincial Association**

5. WHEREAS M.L.A.'s representing isolated ridings with scattered population centres, bear additional expenses caused by the costs of travel and long distance telephone calls within their ridings and between their ridings and Victoria, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the expense allowance for M.L.A.'s be set on a graduated scale to take into account the extra expense involved in representing certain ridings.

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# BUDGET POLICY

1. Establish provincial government expenditure guidelines limiting annual spending increases according to the following formula: (1) rate of increase of inflation+ (2) 3% for population growth + (3) 5% for real increases in real services. In current 1975 - 1976 fiscal year, application of this formula would produce provincial budget surplus of \$250,000,000. This annual saving we term **revenue excess**.

2. Amend legislation regarding mineral royalties (see Mining Policy) and introduce investment incentives in the forest sector for pulp/paper expansion, such incentives in both mining and forest sectors to account for capital repayment.

3. Adopt full employment policy by (1) limiting population growth of non-self supporting type (see Incomes Policy) and (2) undertaking regional economic and social development programs. Shift BC from unsteady growth rate into **rational** steady economic expansion of 5.5 percent per year in real dollar terms. Priorities would be as follows:

- 1) Major planned development of coking coal reserves and restimulation of copper development.
- 2) Steady, regulated expansion of pulp and paper industry to achieve full utilization of forest resources and reinforce regional economic bases.
- 3) Shift to further processing and manufacturing from existing resource base in keeping with tariff and trade developments.
- 4) Establishment of major integrated transportation system oriented to Pacific and other offshore markets to serve all of western and northern Canada.
- 5) Development of financial, distribution and service institutions.
- 6) Long-range planned development of British Columbia's recreation sector.

4. Set out priorities for turning back **revenue excess** (see point 1) saved by application of expenditure formula directly to people of BC. These priorities would include:

- 1) Progressive removal of school tax on residential property and restructuring of municipal tax and financing base, including creation of Regional Social Capital Development Funds.
- 2) Five-year negative income tax payments and borrowing guarantees for lower income workers on approved basis.
- 3) Elimination of sales tax on building materials; initial funding for six percent mortgages; investment in Community Land Reserves; and tax and financial incentives for new, existing and rental housing.
- 4) Income assistance supplements for re-training and completion of education for all members of the labour force who need it in British Columbia.
- 5) And, most important, progressive reduction in provincial personal income tax, initially from 30% of total combined federal/provincial income tax to 20%, and then to 15%, such reduction to be accomplished in the **first term** of a new PC Government in British Columbia.
- 6) Creation of tax incentives for all residents of British Columbia up to a set maximum per annum to invest their savings in sound B.C. industries with a goal of creating widespread corporate share ownership among our citizens.

Means to achieve this can include:

1. Reduction of B.C. income tax where applicable.
2. Efforts to persuade the Federal Government to implement similar reductions of Federal income tax.
3. Creation of Employee Stock Ownership Plans so workers can gain shares in their own firms.

## RESOLUTIONS ON BUDGETING

### **Fraser Valley West Federal Association**

1. WHEREAS the municipal governments of Canada are the only level not benefiting from inflation, and WHEREAS the federal and provincial governments are looking for ways to spend their increased revenues, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the P.C. Party of Canada urge the Federal Government to enter into immediate negotiations with the provinces to share revenues with the municipalities of Canada.

### **North Okanagan Provincial Association**

2. BE IT RESOLVED that the number of Civil Servants in the provincial government be kept within bounds.

3. BE IT RESOLVED that the P.C. Party review the tax structure of motels, etc., which accommodate tourists. (Increasing tax assessments and wages have forced rates to increase and many operators are finding it very difficult to maintain the expected high standards of service.)

4. WHEREAS there is now taxation without representation, BE IT RESOLVED that municipalities no longer collect property taxes; that the Municipal Act be amended so that all property owners and/or non-resident business tenants, be allowed to vote in municipal elections, provided each person has only one vote.

### **Young Progressive Conservative Association**

5. BE IT RESOLVED that resource revenues be kept completely separate from general government revenues and be distributed in yearly dividends, in total, to the people of B.C. and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the B.C. Petroleum Corporation should be kept solely for the collection of rents and that it should not engage in refining or exploration.

# Policies For Native People

(The Term Native People Includes Both Status and Non-Status Indians and Eskimos)

Serious problems continue to face native people in British Columbia, with little evidence that any government in the past has seriously tackled these problems.

We will give these longstanding human issues high priority.

Health care, housing, education, employment and legal and social services are vital areas where standards for native people must be brought up to equality with those available to other British Columbians.

The native people have just cause to seek renegotiation and settlements regarding ownership and value of land formerly owned by Indian bands.

To date, we have not finalized policy on all specific issues affecting the native people but certain broad general policy principles have been established.

Through participation by representatives of the Indian People at our 1975 Annual Convention, we plan to improve, expand and bring up to date existing policy.

## Land

The land rights of Indian people of British Columbia have never been extinguished by treaties or clear legislative action.

The wealth of the province of British Columbia is based on the value of the land and natural resources which were originally the undisputed property of the Indian bands.

Colonial settlement resulted in the displacement and impoverishment of Indian People and the destruction of their culture. At the same time great prosperity was created for new settlers from the land and the wealth derived from natural resources.

For these basic reasons, we believe,

1) That the claim of Indian People to share in the wealth and prosperity of British Columbia and Canada is just and valid and must be recognised by all levels of government.

2) That the province of British Columbia join with the Federal Government and representatives of the native people of British Columbia in prompt and serious negotiations to work out a fair and generous settlement of the British Columbia Indian land claims.

3) That a settlement also be negotiated which will ensure the long term economic, social and cultural viability of native people, and will provide to the individual native citizen, equality of opportunity and reward for initiative.

To achieve these desirable goals, we propose to apply certain basic Progressive Conservative principles.

1) All proposals to enhance economic, educational and social standards will be based on helping the individual Indian to help himself, or herself. The paternalistic policies which have failed so tragically in the past will be vigorously avoided.

2) Progress towards these goals will be sought by discussion and negotiation in an atmosphere of good faith.

We reject completely the use of violence in seeking just goals. We reject the blockading of highways and railway lines, which causes civil disorder, the chance of violence and bloodshed and does nothing to create the atmosphere of goodwill, so essential for productive negotiations. The present Government has been extremely slow to enter into any meaningful negotiations, causing native people to resort to such demonstrations.

A Progressive Conservative Government will expedite and sustain serious, sincere negotiations until a satisfactory settlement is reached. The presence of native leaders at our convention and their participation in debate are clear evidence of our dedication to non-violent means of finding solutions. The approach must be by consultation not confrontation.

3) In a greater spirit of goodwill and good intentions that has hitherto existed, we would seek federal discussions, possibly through a new federal-provincial council of M.P.'s, M.L.A.'s and native people, to tackle those problems, where both federal and provincial jurisdictions are clearly involved.

# RESOLUTIONS ON NATIVE PEOPLE

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## **Victoria Provincial Association**

2. WHEREAS government handling of Indian affairs has been patronizing and historically based on welfare programmes, BE IT RESOLVED that greater incentive be given to native Indians to initiate and develop their own housing, acts and commerce and that government aid programmes be restructured to develop self-initiative and skills, rather than welfare programmes.

and that the Party support and encourage all levels of government to place economic development for native associations as a priority.

## **1975 Annual Meeting Resolutions**

3. BE IT RESOLVED that native bands choosing to incorporate under the Municipalities Act, be given support and assistance, upon request in the specific areas of educational and administrative resource for the purpose of developing a phased plan to meet this end.

4. BE IT RESOLVED that the current costs levied against the Federal Department of Indian Affairs budget for native children to attend provincial public schools be discontinued and that native children attending public schools do so as any other citizen of the province, in recognition that native people do pay for this service in the form of various taxes levied against their incomes, indirectly against their lands, and in the form of provincial sales tax.

5. BE IT RESOLVED that the B.C. Highways Commission shall maintain roads on Indian land.

6. BE IT RESOLVED that all Indian reserves which are within a municipality shall be guaranteed access to services within that regional district on a negotiated basis.

# ENVIRONMENT POLICY

1. Achieve better balance of population growth in BC by limiting new growth in metropolitan Vancouver and instead giving major emphasis to such regional administrative centres as Prince George, Terrace, Fort St. John, Dawson Creek, Kamloops, and Nelson.
2. Enact three year tax **incentives**, capital cost allowance credits and borrowing guarantees for investment in pollution abatement and control to acceptable standards in BC. Follow three year incentives and tax credits with tax **penalties** in event any industry does not comply.
3. Create Regional Resource Planning Boards with local/regional representation, operating under provincial standards and comprehensive land use guidelines, to:
  - 1) Prepare 10 year resource development and environmental protection plans.
  - 2) Develop long-range standards to be achieved over 25 year period in each region of BC.
4. Removal of environmental protection and improvement costs in regions of BC from resource industries by means of cost offsets to forest and mineral taxation, and **regular** annual payment into environmental improvement fund in each year's Budget.
5. Legislative protection of all wildlife and fisheries in BC as a public trust, with contractual financial arrangements to wildlife groups, Indian bands and fish and game organizations to assist in meeting wildlife management standards and conservation goals.
6. Creation of regional funds to establish all-year outdoor recreation complexes in each region of British Columbia.
7. Establishment of Royal Commission on the Crown lands.
8. Repatriation of the Gulf of Georgia from the federal government (the bed under the Gulf was unilaterally registered as federal in the Vancouver Land Registry by Jack Davis when he was Environment Minister) and creation of Gulf of Georgia regional environmental improvement program.

# POLICY ON WOMEN IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Since the publication of the Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in 1970 there has been an increasing public awareness of the many areas of subtle and not so subtle discrimination against women in Canada, but awareness itself has not been enough to equalize opportunities for women and men.

The Progressive Conservative Party of B.C. should support **affirmative** measures to open doors to all people of any age, race, sex or marital status to enhance the opportunity of all aspects of Canadian society. It is not enough to attempt to deter or prevent abuses of basic human rights, or merely to attempt to counteract discriminatory practices.

The policy of the Progressive Conservative Party of B.C. should complement in areas of provincial jurisdiction the policies for women adopted by the National Party, excerpts of which are attached.

The Progressive Conservative Party of B.C. should also adopt as a guide to formulating specific proposals the four principles formulated by the Royal Commission on the Status of Women, which are as follows:

(1) That women should be free to choose **whether or not** to take employment outside their homes,

(2) That the care of children is a responsibility to be shared by the mother, the father and society,

(3) That society has a responsibility for women because of pregnancy and childbirth and special assistance related to maternity will always be necessary,

(4) That in certain areas women will for an interim period require special treatment to overcome the adverse effects of discriminatory practices.

To enlarge upon the above, specific policy proposals should be guided also by the following principles:

(5) That homemaking is a vital role in family life and to society which because of its responsibilities and special skills often requires outside help and support,

(6) That marriage is a partnership of equals.

The following are several suggestions for specific applications of the above principles:

## (1) CHILD CARE FACILITIES

Various alternatives in child care facilities should be available offering alternatives in, for instance, hours of operation, age range accepted, size of enrollment, types of facilities, and locations in places of employment. Regulations for the physical setup and qualifications of personnel should be based on appropriateness to the care of children and should not be so stringent as to preclude the use of an average home as a type of day care centre and an experienced parent as a worker. Discussions with the Federal government should also include increasing the child care income tax deduction from \$500 to \$1000. (This deduction should also be available for the expense of caring for a dependent adult)

## (2) EDUCATION

In consultation with trustees and teachers efforts should be made to eliminate all influences which tend to impose stereotyped views on students and which limit the vision students form of their own potential. Some areas in the education system requiring attention are:

### (a) Text Books

Text books which treat women, native Indians, or the elderly in a negative or deprecatory manner must be replaced as soon as humanly possible, beginning at the elementary level, but replacements should be intro-

For instance, hunting is often glorified. There should be incentive for B.C. artists, teachers and authors to produce our own material. Many teachers already spend many hours remodelling the texts they are obliged to work with. Paid positions should be available to teachers who would like to spend time away from the classroom developing a text book.

Before any text books are purchased in the future they should be checked for discriminatory bias by a teacher-trustee committee formed for that purpose.

### (b) Women in Administrative Positions

The lack of women as school administrators or district superintendents is not caused by lack of qualified women but by a lack of women applicants for these positions. To overcome this imbalance it should be the policy of the Department of Education and school boards to seek out suitable women applicants for all administrative or "stepping stone" positions whenever they become vacant. This is not to suggest, however, that positions would be awarded on any other basis than merit.

### (c) Elective Courses

All elective courses should be open on an equal basis to boys and girls. (Cooking, industrial arts, sewing, auto maintenance, drivers' training, etc) The importance of both sexes learning "survival skills" should be stressed.

### (d) School Sports

More emphasis should be placed on "lifetime sports" which should be taught in mixed classes. Girls and boys should have equal consideration regarding athletic equipment and uniforms, training, and trips to competitions.

### (e) Teacher training

Teachers should be trained in developing in students positive attitudes to women, racial minorities, the elderly, and the handicapped. They should receive training in detecting negative treatment of people in teaching materials or school programmes and they should learn how to counteract it.

### (f) Part-time Teachers

More opportunity should be available for part-time teachers to work in the schools to give homemakers, the handicapped, and older teachers more access to teaching jobs. (This policy should similarly be implemented in government service positions.)

## (3) ADULT EDUCATION

University, community college, and vocational courses should be available on a part-time, correspondence, and evening basis to enable homemakers to continue their education.

Women should be encouraged to enter apprenticeship programmes.

## (4) MATRIMONIAL PROPERTY

In recognition of the principle that marriage is a partnership of equals the Progressive Conservative Party of B.C. should support the proposal of the Berger Commission for community and joint management of property in marriage.

Before enactment of the measure there should be a thorough media information campaign and further hearings to ensure full public understanding of the change in property law.



spouses would remain their separate property. This is as it is now under the system of "separate property".

(b) All property acquired during marriage, with the exception of gifts and inheritances would be community property. Under the system of "separate property" all property acquired by either spouse during marriage remains their separate property.

(c) Upon separation all property brought into the marriage by either spouse will be returned to that spouse, and all property acquired during marriage will be divided equally between the spouses.

(d) Couples would be able to contract out of community property to "separate property" at any time before or after marriage.

#### **(5) CANADA PENSION PLAN**

A Progressive Conservative government in B.C. should pressure the Federal government to include dependent spouses in the Canada Pension Plan. Homemakers should be offered the choice of contributing either as self-employed workers or be credited with half the contributions made by the working spouse.

#### **(6) GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS**

Capable women should be sought out and appointed to government boards and commissions whenever possible.

#### **(7) JUVENILE OFFENDERS**

Male and female juvenile offenders should have equal access to rehabilitation resources such as outdoor survival camps.

#### **(8) HUMAN RIGHTS CODE**

On an average women earn 60% less than men, and it is a fact that the gap between women's and men's incomes has actually increased in the last few years. Statutes which guarantee women "equal pay for substantially the same work" are of no value when there are no men doing that type of work, for instance typists. The Progressive Conservative policy should support "equal pay for work of equal value" legislation using the criteria of skill, effort, responsibility and working conditions.

### **RESOLUTIONS ON WOMEN**

South Okanagan Provincial Association

1. WHEREAS widows of Canadian servicemen contributed to and earned their rights to long-service pensions while their husbands were serving Canada around the world, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that such persons should not forfeit their pensions in the event of re-marriage.

# RESOLUTIONS ON INSURANCE

## **Esquimalt & Oak Bay Provincial Associations**

1. BE IT RESOLVED that ICBC operate on a financially self-sustaining basis, namely that all costs of operation be met from premium income.

## **West Vancouver Howe Sound, Esquimalt & Oak Bay Provincial Associations**

2. BE IT RESOLVED that this party favour allowing private companies to compete with ICBC in the automobile insurance field.

## **Young Progressive Conservative Association**

3. BE IT RESOLVED that one of the following policies be adopted:

a) dissolve ICBC, return operation of the industry back to private companies and sell the drive-in claim centres to a consortium of those companies; or

b) operate ICBC alongside the private companies, only with the stipulation that there be no subsidization of ICBC and in the event the corporation fails, no bail-out.

It should be recognized that the second policy is only justifiable if there is evidence of market failure in the private insurance industry.

# RESOLUTIONS ON MINING

## Coquitlam Provincial Association

1. BE IT RESOLVED to repeal the Mineral Royalties Act and the Mineral Land Tax Act and then to provide incentives not penalties for mineral development. Develop a Mineral Act which clearly specifies, with simplicity and certainty, the responsibilities, the associated rights and obligations of the free miner in prospecting, locating, exploring, and mining.

2. BE IT RESOLVED that the P.C. Party would completely revise the existing tax structure such that it would be understandable to both the general public and the industry. Exemptions from mining tax would be allowed during the payback period.

3. BE IT RESOLVED that in determining a taxation policy for the metal mining industry, the P.C. Party would recognize the need to optimize the net return to the citizens of the province and recognize the need to maintain a strong, healthy mining industry in pursuing this goal.

4. BE IT RESOLVED that recognition would be given to the high risk nature of mining investment and the industry's contribution to the initial wealth of the province.

5. BE IT RESOLVED that the three principal groups to be recognized in determining a taxation policy are:

a) the owners of the resource (the citizens of province);

b) the employees of the industry who physically deliver the initial wealth of the province; and

c) the prospectors, shareholders or entrepreneurs who provide the capital, technology and management skills that are the cornerstone of the industry.

All three groups would have consideration in determining policy.

6. BE IT RESOLVED to undertake and encourage major development of BC's coking coal reserves which may have economic life span of no more than 40 years due to technological substitution processes. Such coking coal shall not be permitted to be used for thermo electrical generation. Proceed with major bulk cargo terminal complex at Prince Rupert in cooperation with Alberta, with additional port facilities at Kitimat, with the close consultation of residents.

# A NEW GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

The following simplified, efficient government structure is proposed for purposes of tackling the real issues facing British Columbia. The number of government departments has been reduced from 18 to 13, grouped under three main areas:

- Government Management
- Economic Development
- Social Development

The three areas also form the basis for policy development and program co-ordination for the departments so grouped. In addition, reducing the number of departments and consolidating their factions prevents the all too common duplication and unnecessary government expenditure.

To indicate their importance in the policy field, four departments are designated as Ministries. Two are in the social field, and two are in the economic field. These are:

- Ministry of Community Affairs
- Ministry of Social Services
- Ministry of Resources
- Ministry of Rural and Regional Development

The Ministry of Community Affairs is created by putting the present departments of Housing and Municipal Affairs, the Transit Service and a proposed Community Planning and Land Use Management Service under a single, effective Minister.

The Ministry of Social Services absorbs the present un-coordinated Department of Human Resources, the Department of Consumer Affairs and Rehabilitation Corrections Program. So that the delivery of programs for people can be made effective, one of its Ministers key tasks will be the full scale program to eliminate "Welfare" with the target period of five years in British Columbia.

The Ministry of Resources streamlines resource management and will initiate incentives and a fair taxation structure for the resource industries in B.C. The Department of Lands would no longer fall within this Ministry, but the Department of Mines and all matters

relating to energy development will be a direct concern of this Minister.

The Ministry of Rural and Regional Development is a new concept which recognizes the key role of agriculture within the B.C. regional framework. Except for those Crown lands in the vicinity of municipalities, allocated to the proposed Community Land Reserve, the Minister will be responsible for the Crown lands and for the definition and protection of the Agricultural Land Reserve. Acknowledging that B.C. should not be over-industrialized with heavy industry, any potentially effective programs of the Department of Economic Development are primarily regional in nature and are thus assigned to this Ministry.

Under the group of departments in the Government Management Area, there are two important changes. The only department to be created in the new structure is the portfolio of Deputy Premier and Minister of Government Operations, whose role is designed as the executive Vice-President of the government. Since the office of Provincial Secretary is virtually mandatory, this post has appropriately been combined with the important responsibility of intergovernmental affairs.

In addition to Attorney-General and Minister of Finance, four departments remain intact. These are Education, Health, Labour and Recreation and Conservation, all of which are playing specific and vital roles. A number of other departments are absorbed in the new Ministries, and thus disappear; while Deputy Ministers will still be responsible at the civil service level for their function. These portfolios include Highways and Northern Affairs, as well as Consumer Affairs and Human Resources.

The result is not only to streamline government, but to prevent the increase of bureaucracy equivalent to that of Ottawa and control government spending before it gets out of hand. The further result will be to make necessary government programs and services work, so that incentives and economic and social opportunities for people can be made more effective and compulsion and increasing government intervention stopped.

# **GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

PREMIER

DEPUTY  
PREMIER  
& MINISTER OF  
GOVERNMENT  
OPERATIONS

PROVINCIAL  
SECRETARY  
&  
MINISTER OF  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
AFFAIRS

ATTORNEY  
GENERAL

MINISTER  
OF  
FINANCE

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

MINISTRY  
OF RURAL &  
REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT

- AGRICULTURE  
- LANDS  
- ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT

MINISTRY OF  
RESOURCES

- FORESTRY  
- WATER RESOURCES  
- MINES  
- PETROLEUM & ENERGY

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
LABOUR

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
TRANSPORTATION

- B.C. FERRIES  
- B.C. RAIL  
- HIGHWAYS

## **SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

MINISTRY  
OF  
SOCIAL  
SERVICES

- HUMAN RESOURCES  
(PRESENT DEPT.)  
- CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
- REHABILITATIVE CORRECTIONS  
SERVICE TO FAMILY COURT

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH  
& HOSPITAL  
INSURANCE

MINISTRY OF  
COMMUNITY  
AFFAIRS

- MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS  
- HOUSING  
- COMMUNITY PLANNING  
& LAND USE SERVICE  
- TRANSIT