

CONSENSED AND NON-CONSENSED POLICY of the GREEN PARTY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

following the 1986 policy convention

17c
100 un
1986

February 25, 1987

Prepared by Bev & Steve Kisby

PART I CONSENSSED POLICY

The following statements were consensed following the Green Party of B.C. 1986 policy convention.

BASIC ASSUMPTIONS AND PRINCIPLES

The following are basic assumptions and principles that are the basis in all Green policies and activities.

Coevolution

1.0 Interdependence

The biosphere and ecosphere are dynamic interacting systems of energy flow, cycles of matter, and plant and animal species. Within these systems Greens recognize the complete and total interconnectedness of all things. Within nature and society every activity in some way effects everything else. All things are joined in the web of life and so are fundamentally interdependent with each other.

1.1 Process

Within this net of interdependence, all things are in process and are changing in response to a changing environment and each other. The Greens accept change as a consistent feature within nature and society. Our view must account for this coevolving environment and thus be, itself, always in process.

1.2 Adaptation

Recognizing the changing environment we are in, human societies must be able to adapt to changing circumstances; what worked in the past may not work in the future. Also assuming a high degree of interdependence with nature, our societies must be carefully adapted to each particular ecological and social situation. We cannot, in the long term, expect nature to adapt to us; we must adapt to it.

GREEN PHILOSOPHY AND KEY CONCEPTS

The Green vision includes a responsibility to create both a healthy environment and a healthy society, both of which are fundamentally interrelated. The following concepts and values have been organized into these two basic categories.

Ecological Concepts

The following are ecological concepts and values that should be reflected in all Green policies and activities.

2.0 Ecological Responsibility

A Green ethic is based upon a more complete perception of reality than one which places only economic values upon nature, living and non-living. As Greens, we recognize the complete interdependence of all things in nature. In light of this, we have an ethical responsibility to preserve and maintain other species and natural processes. It is clear that if we destroy nature, we will be destroyed ourselves.

2.1 Appropriate Scale

Bigger is no better and there are ecological limits to both size and growth. This applies throughout nature and was the primary message in Schumacher's "Small is Beautiful." The appropriate scale for anything is that which is carefully adapted and fitted to the particular ecosystem, society or job at hand.

2.2 Sustainability

Sustainability in nature represents a successful adaptation that maintains both the organism and its environment in a state of health and balance. As a basic ecological value, organisms, ecosystems, or societies which are sustainable and can continue to function are better off than ones that can not. To be concerned with sustainability is to take the long-term view.

2.3 Diversity

Diversity is recognized as a positive feature in nature, creating flexibility and thus stability in any system. Greens can encourage natural diversity by halting the extinction of animal species, saving indigenous plant and seed stocks, and valuing all human cultures. The principle of diversity stands full against current world trends toward standardization and monoculture.

Social Values

The following are social values and concepts that should be reflected in all Green policies and activities:

2.4 Social Responsibility

Recognizing our interdependence within society, and the common source of the human species, we have an ethical responsibility to create a society which guarantees the welfare and well being of all peoples. This includes the encouragement of self-determination and the discouragement of oppression of any kind.

2.5 Non-Violence and Peace

Greens believe in total global disarmament, but our notion of non-violence and peace runs deeper than this. It represents our basic approach to all social and ecological problems. A rich body of theory exists around non-violence which can be consulted.

2.6 Decentralization and Grass Roots Democracy

The social expression of diversity is decentralization. Applied to our political structures, this means grass roots democracy. Greens are calling for the decentralization of our economies, populations, education systems, and manufacturing; in short, every aspect of our society. For local people, decentralization means a maximum degree of self-determination and involvement in decision-making.

2.7 Feminism

Feminism is an important concept for Greens. It aims at developing wholistic personalities and a balance between the male and female principle; and at creating a non-sexist, non-violent and egalitarian society.

2.8 Community

Local, democratic communities are the most decentralized way to fulfill the Green commitment to social responsibility. Communities, as face-to-face relations, represent the appropriate scale for personal caring and for developing sensitivity to a particular bioregion. Communities and the individuals within them must be empowered politically, economically, and socially. Communities are the basic sustaining unit of a Green society.

2.9 Cooperation

In a world obsessed with competitive values, Greens believe that cooperation, not competition, is the basis for human societies. Green societies should be structured around the cooperative principle. This has ramifications in decision-making where cooperative solutions are favoured over win-lose situations.

The following are general policy guidelines that should be reflected in all Green activities:

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

3.0 WHEREAS the non-agricultural population now controls the political structure so that cheap food policies are now endorsed by all political parties, and

WHEREAS this policy has had an adverse effect on farming since all technological methods possible have had to be used in order for farmers to survive, and

WHEREAS this means use of chemicals of all sorts, soil erosion, factory-style production of animals, and monoculture of plants, and

WHEREAS the increasing capital costs of farming are causing more farmers to go bankrupt,

3.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens promote regional food self-sufficiency globally, and

3.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens encourage methods that reduce dependence on chemicals and fossil fuels, and pursue renewable energy and ecologically sustainable agriculture, and promote this in urban and rural areas, and

3.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens discourage cheap food import policies, and

3.4 F-B-R-C the with the aim of regional self-sufficiency, decisions regarding agricultural goals and commodity pricing would be locally decided, and

3.5 F-B-R-C that the Greens advocate changes in the tax system that would eliminate speculation in agricultural land.

4.0 WHEREAS the local production of food for local consumption is essential to strong local economies and self-sustaining communities, and

WHEREAS reliance on the global market economy for food production perpetuates exploitation of the Third World, minority people and the environment,

- 4.1 T-B-R-C that the Development of small-scale sustainable agriculture directed toward meeting local need must be a resource priority for the Green Party, and
- 4.2 F-B-R-C that suitable Crown land should be made easily available for small-scale sustainable agriculture and homesteading.
- 5.0 WHEREAS the demand for food is increasing.
- 5.1 T-B-R-C that agricultural land must be preserved for future agricultural use, and
- 5.2 F-B-R-C that potential agricultural land (open spaces and treed land) must also be preserved for possible future agricultural use, provided that it is not required for other ecosystem functions such as genetic diversity or oxygen balance, and
- 5.3 F-B-R-C that effective agricultural land reserves must be established, and
- 5.4 F-B-R-C that where speculation and development pressures drive land costs up to prohibit agricultural uses of the land, government should consider buying land for agricultural land banks to make farming viable (by possibly leasing to private renters for agricultural use).
- 6.0 WHEREAS the Greens recognize that people do not "own" land but are simply co-inhabitants together with other plants and animal species, and as such must further recognize their ecological responsibilities to the land and its sustainability.
- 6.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens reorient agricultural philosophy toward enriching the earth rather than depleting it, and
- 6.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens recognize that soil is a critical resource and would take appropriate measures to stop the process of soil erosion and degradation and develop policies and actions toward regeneration of this vital life support system, and
- 6.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens would make pollution of water from agricultural chemicals a legal offense, and
- 6.4 F-B-R-C that the Greens support development of programs to restore damaged soils, and
- 6.5 F-B-R-C that the Greens support the implementation of educational programs on soil conservation and sustainable agriculture, and
- 6.6 F-B-R-C that as a transitional measure, the Greens support granting of tax exemptions or other support to those food producers who resist the machine intensive, chemical fertilizer/spray trend in agriculture, and
- 6.7 F-B-R-C that the Greens encourage the development of farmers' markets and community gardens.

- 7.0 WHEREAS the genetic diversity of plants and animals is threatened.
- 7.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens encourage steps to ensure that the vital "re-source" of the genetic diversity of plants and animals is preserved and protected.
- 8.0 WHEREAS information about the nutritional requirements of humans has been obscured by the food industry.
- 8.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support education programs that would enable people to attain food nutrition by eating healthy, uncontaminated, locally grown food.

ECONOMICS

- 9.0 WHEREAS the long term policies of the Green Party should favour and foster the development of strong local economies.
- 9.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support the development of democratic control of local economies, and
- 9.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens encourage the development of democratic control of local economies, and
- 9.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens encourage local economies to be adapted to their own bioregions, thereby reducing their dependency on the ecologically destructive and socially exploitive aspects of the world market system, and
- 10.0 WHEREAS the Greens endorse a more equitable distribution of wealth as well as individual/ community control over our economic environment.
- 10.1 F-B-R-C that all individuals within a region shall receive an income high enough to ensure a reasonable standard of living.

EDUCATION

- 11.0 WHEREAS the long-term goals of Green education must lead towards global survival and toward the emergence of healthy, wholistic societies, and
- WHEREAS developing social and democratic skills is necessary for people to govern themselves peacefully in a decentralized system, and
- WHEREAS the world of the future will need people who are adaptable, innovative, thinking and with basic skills and wide general knowledge.
- 11.1 T-B-R-C that the Green educational curricula be oriented toward not only providing facts, technical skills, but also toward encouraging ecological awareness, social responsibility and quality in human relations, and
- 11.2 F-B-R-C the the Greens encourage development of skills in critical thinking, basic communications, and conflict resolution; and provide peace education within the

educational framework, and

- 11.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens encourage education in family and community living, skills such as parenting, child rearing and personal financial planning for both males and females.
- 12.0 WHEREAS we need an education structure that will promote ongoing inquiry, open communication, community cohesion and caring.
- 12.1 T-B-R-C that schools should be decentralized from Provincial control to the level of the community and be integrated into community life, and
- 12.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens endorse opening up existing school facilities such as libraries, laboratories, workshops and art studios to all members of the community, and
- 12.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens encourage community and student participation in both academic and non-academic activities and a diversity of groupings for learning, such as mixed age classes, home schooling and self directed learning, and
- 12.4 F-B-R-C that the Greens support broadening the concept of learning. That learning take place outside of school as part of the daily functioning of the community, so that young and old alike share their skills, knowledge and information, with everyone becoming both student and teacher.
- 13.0 WHEREAS the Greens endorse the need for new approaches to "resource" use, agricultural practices, forestry, fisheries, mining practices, energy generation, and environmental protection.
- 13.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support the establishment of alternative energy and ecology research institutes in B.C., and
- 13.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens endorse increased funding for alternative energy studies in university engineering departments across B.C., including small scale hydro and appropriate wind power, methane gas, biomass conversion, and use of industrial waste steam.
- 14.0 WHEREAS the Greens work towards a goal of nuclear and general disarmament and world peace through the non-violent resolution of conflict.
- 14.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens encourage cultural alliances with East Block Countries, other nuclear powers, and other countries where we need to improve our mutual understanding, and
- 14.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens support and where necessary establish organizations of peace research and education.
- 15.0 WHEREAS the Greens support the funding of alternative and experimental schools.
- 15.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens develop financial approaches to encourage the funding of alternative and experimental schools.

ENERGY

- 16.0 WHEREAS in order to implement a "soft energy path" for the province, which shall include energy sources which are decentralized, renewable and ecologically sustainable, and
- WHEREAS the Greens endeavor to "emphasize conservation to reduce energy demand to manageable levels,"
- 16.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens encourage the construction of small decentralized power plants, and
- 16.2 F-B-R-C that "government and research aid be directed to support alternate/appropriate energy sources," and
- 16.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens support a change/raise in energy prices to true replacement costs for all users, and
- 16.4 F-B-R-C that the Greens support a change in rate structures to encourage conservation, and
- 16.5 F-B-R-C that the Greens support local recycling efforts.
- 17.0 WHEREAS the Greens "seek a transition to a conserver society where regional control is based on a decentralized energy policy and supply with meaningful work for all able-bodied persons," and
- WHEREAS "conservation is the best job creator of them all,"
- 17.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support the creation of regional soft energy supply councils to advise all levels of government on soft energy issues, with representatives from government, small soft energy companies, and interested groups and citizens, and
- 17.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens support the replacement of coal-fired thermal generating plants as soon as possible and oppose the construction of any new coal-fired facilities, and
- 17.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens support increased funding to study "soft energy" production, and
- 17.4 F-B-R-C that the Greens support transitional financing to municipalities instituting biomass conversion, and
- 17.5 F-B-R-C that the Greens support the creation of, and already existing, areas in "soft energy" and conservation, and
- 17.6 F-B-R-C that the Greens support the funding to municipalities for the reduction of collection at the source, and the large scale reduction, of garbage.
- 18.0 WHEREAS "all life and well-being of human habitation depends upon sufficient supply of quality water,"
- 18.1 T-B-R-C that "maintaining the integrity, quality, quantity, and timing of flow of watersheds should be given priority over any other resource use.

19.0 WHEREAS the consequences of a growth-oriented society is dependent on "fossil energy" and an economy sustained by the thread of a rapidly disappearing non-renewable resource.

19.1 T-B-R-C that development of renewable energy resources and technologies such as wind, water, solar, and small scale geothermal should receive "the highest" priority and commitment by Greens.

20.0 WHEREAS in order to implement a "soft energy path" for [the province, which shall include] energy sources which are decentralized, renewable, and ecologically sustainable," and

WHEREAS the Greens work towards an economic system based upon sound environmental and ecological principles,

20.1 T-B-R-C that a moratorium be placed on off-shore oil drilling, and

20.2 F-B-R-C to review the mining industry establishing mineral conservation, environmental protection, and human safety, and

20.3 F-B-R-C ban the mining and export of uranium.

21.0 WHEREAS the Greens support recycling.

21.1 T-B-R-C that all municipalities be encouraged to supply curb side pick-up, resource recovery, sorting, and marketing of all municipal garbage with relocation/retraining of displaced waste disposal personnel.

22.0 WHEREAS Lead is recognized as a significant environmental contaminant,

22.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens call for legislation to increase the price of leaded gasoline to [not lower than] the price of unleaded gasoline.

23.0 WHEREAS the Greens are opposed to the export of surplus power,

23.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens oppose the export of electric power from B.C., and

23.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens oppose the export of water from B.C.

FEMINISM

24.0 WHEREAS Green politics implies the development of whole persons, which includes educating our own members on feminist theory

24.1 T-B-R-C that the G.P.B.C. encourages women to participate in political activity at every level of the decision-making process, including affirmative action, and

24.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens advocate the replacement of school materials which portray

- people in sexist stereotypes with non-sexist material, and
- 24.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens advocate that non-sexist life programs and education be available to all students, appropriate to the age level, and
 - 24.4 F-B-R-C that the Greens advocate that provisions for women's studies courses be made in public schools, along with an inclusion of the contributions of women to other courses of study, and
 - 24.5 F-B-R-C that the Greens advocate that every student has the choice of a full range of programs and activities to achieve excellence in non-traditional and/or traditional areas of endeavor and unique talents, without discouragement based on sexist attitudes from teachers or counselors, and
 - 24.6 F-B-R-C that the Greens advocate that access to non-sexist vocational and academic counselling be ensured, and
 - 24.7 F-B-R-C that the Greens will ensure that a procedure to address sexual harassment of students be activated in the current school systems, and
 - 24.8 F-B-R-C that the Greens encourage worker's associations to negotiate sexual harassment clauses into their contracts which would include definition of same and grievance procedures in the event of such harassment, and
 - 24.9 F-B-R-C that the Greens advocate equal pay for work of equal value, and
 - 24.10 F-B-R-C that the Greens advocate the decriminalization of prostitution between consenting adults, and
 - 24.11 F-B-R-C that the Greens support community-based funding for housing for street people, and
 - 24.12 F-B-R-C that the Greens recognize that the term "violence against women" is inclusive of females of all ages, and
 - 24.13 F-B-R-C that the Greens advocate community-based financial support for emergency care centers for rape or assault victims, and
 - 24.14 F-B-R-C that the Greens advocate the designation of crisis centre information as public service announcements for all media, and
 - 24.15 F-B-R-C that the Greens advocate the position of their party as a medium for the distribution of information concerning women's support groups, whether that information be printed, verbal, or in the form of future seminars, and
 - 24.16 F-B-R-C that the Greens advocate that information concerning women's support groups become a part of the G.P.B.C. Resource Centre Library, and
 - 24.17 F-B-R-C that the Greens advocate the establishment of a guaranteed annual income for all homemakers, and
 - 24.18 F-B-R-C that the Greens advocate the establishment of financial services specifically designed for the needs of single parents, and

- 24.19 F-B-R-C that the Greens advocate the provision of quality childcare centers and services, that meet the needs of children from infancy to adolescence, are universally accessible, and are responsive to the needs of parents and the community, and
- 24.20 F-B-R-C that the Greens support the alternative of any person being legally entitled to a chosen name.
- 25.0 WHEREAS the Greens recognized the demise of patriarchal civilization and its related ideologies of competitiveness, violence, hierarchical structures, centralization, and environmental degradation, and
- WHEREAS Vancouver in particular and B.C. in general are vibrant regions of feminist thought and practice,
- 25.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support the creation of post-secondary institutes of feminist and post-patriarchal studies.

FORESTRY

- 26.0 WHEREAS Green politics are based on the principles of ecology, including integrating agriculture into natural systems, building soil, supporting organic methods, sustainability and increased genetic diversity.
- 26.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens develop policies whereby the forest industry and its products would be gradually integrated into local sustainable economies and cease to be primarily for international export, and
- 26.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens encourage pilot projects of local forest farming, including farmsteading.
- 27.0 WHEREAS forestry is a very extensive industrial operation in the province and that many peoples lives directly or indirectly derive from it, and
- WHEREAS forestry operations frequently disregard the destructive results of their practices,
- 27.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support and develop eco-empathetic practices of forest management leading to a variety of sustainable uses, and
- 27.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens recognize that some forest "resources" may also be designated as minimal or no use areas in the form of wilderness zones or spiritual sanctuaries.
- 28.0 WHEREAS current forest management is largely in the hands of the Ministry of Forests and large corporations,
- 28.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens encourage greater control of forest "resources" by bioregional organizations whether municipalities, local communities, local cooperatives, or small business from the perspective of sustainable yield of forests for the purpose of providing long-term local employment and a secure local economic base and for the

purpose of developing and disseminating cultural and educational values for the bioregional forest ecosystems.

ECOLOGY

- 29.0 WHEREAS the province of B.C. has failed to identify in legislative terms one of its most priceless heritage values, namely its wilderness, and

WHEREAS areas of unmodified natural environment are diminishing daily, and

WHEREAS the constitution of the G.P.B.C. commits the party to "work towards developing a society that accepts responsibility for and upholds the inalienable rights of all life forms and natural processes that share the earth,"

- 29.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens, if in government, would identify and establish a series of wilderness preserves in which there would be little or no human impact.
- 30.0 WHEREAS the Greens stand for protecting essential ecological processes and life-support systems,
- 30.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support taking immediate steps to stop acid rain, and
- 30.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens support research and implementation of alternatives to pesticides and herbicides, such as biological controls, and
- 30.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens support an increase in stumpage fees to a level to allow for reforestation of logged lands, and
- 30.4 F-B-R-C that the Greens call for an immediate ban on the export of raw logs.

GOVERNMENT

- 31.0 WHEREAS strong local communities are the only social units sensitive enough to local conditions to be able to adapt to their environments and are the loci of grassroots direct democracy,
- 31.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens adopt as a general principle the development of strong local communities,
- 32.0 WHEREAS the Greens should adopt or work into its policy guidelines basic bioregional principles,
- 32.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens endorse the principles of bioregionalism: the fostering of strong regional identities and cultures; watershed democracy; bioregional economies of place; living in place and rehabilitation.
- 33.0 WHEREAS to live in place is to live within the means of the local bioregion rather than relying on the exploitive mass market system,

33.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens endorse the "Welcome Home" statement of the 1st North American Bioregional Congress

34.0 WHEREAS Greens endorse the decentralization of decision making and the principle of grassroots democracy.

34.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens endorse the principle that all government should be decentralized to the most appropriate human scale, and

34.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens endorse the principle that all people should have the opportunity to be directly involved in the decisions that affect their lives through direct participatory democracy, and

34.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens endorse the principle that the local community or neighbourhood and its watershed is the basic unit of self-government since it is the locus of direct democracy, human-scale institutions, and fine-grained adaption to place, and

34.4 F-B-R-C that the Greens endorse the principle that government at regional and provincial levels would serve primarily as coordinating bodies needed to accomplish larger cooperative projects, as well as arbitrate disputes, address broader human and non-human interests, and provide information and expertise.

35.0 WHEREAS the development of an ecological society is not just a legislative project, but rather a cultural one, and

WHEREAS there is concern about the tendency in the environmental movement that would force people into ways of behaving that a minority believe to be ecological,

35.1 T-B-R-C that the role of Green government must be primarily the positive encouragement of an ecological culture and not just to impose negative sanctions on those reluctant to cooperate.

36.0 WHEREAS individuals acting collectively are the ultimate source of authority for the existence and actions of government, and

WHEREAS any group of individuals may form an autonomous government to provide goods and services which affect only those individuals, and

WHEREAS all individuals shall have equal input into government in regard to their interests, and

WHEREAS all decisions by government at any level must promote the long-term good for all individuals collectively.

36.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support the development of a transitional provincial constitution which would establish and entrench the complete autonomy of municipalities and regions over all matter appropriate to those jurisdictions, and

36.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens endorse the principle that all individuals would have the right to initiate legislative change, and

- 36.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens endorse the principle that all elected officials be subject to recall procedures.

SOCIAL ISSUES

- 40.0 WHEREAS areas of unmodified natural environment are diminishing daily, and
- WHEREAS a society founded on ecological, that is "Green" principles, of any civilized society for that matter, would accept the need for, and existence of, such unmodified natural environments, and
- WHEREAS the constitution of the G.P.B.C. commits the party to "work towards developing a society that accepts responsibility for and upholds the inalienable rights of all life forms and natural processes that share the Earth",
- 40.1 T-B-R-C that B.C. wilderness be accorded, by any and all legislative means, the significance and protection it deserves.
- 41.0 WHEREAS in many cases, the behavior of society, not of ecosystems, requires adjustment and hence a need to define resource problems in human terms.
- 41.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens recognize that human lifestyle may need to adjust to the natural carrying capacity of the region, and
- 41.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens recognize that resource management must be heavily weighted toward the long-term and global perspective, and
- 41.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens recognize that a "multiple means" (land use) approach is generally useful but some areas must be designated for special use, e.g. ecological reserves, and
- 41.4 F-B-R-C that the Greens recognize that a "multiple means" approach is desirable, including examination of the end goals of the population and then considering the widest range of possible means of achieving those goals, and
- 41.5 F-B-R-C that the Greens recognize that irreversible decisions should be avoided.
- 42.0 WHEREAS the Greens are working towards, and will continue to work towards, developing a society that recognizes and respects the dignity and worth of each person, and upholds human rights and responsibilities, and the inalienable rights of other living forms and natural processes that share the Earth with us,
- 42.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens recognize that every human being shall have equitable access to food, clothing, shelter, and health care: due process under a just system: control of her/his thoughts: education as and when needed, in accordance with the philosophy of non-violence and respect for the biosphere, and
- 42.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens recognize that every human being shall have equitable access to opportunities regardless of race, creed, colour, sex, mental or physical condition, nationality, language normally spoken, ancestry, place of origin, age, sexual

orientation, religion, marital status, family composition, source of income, of political belief, and

- 42.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens promote the development of alternatives to animal experimentation, and
- 42.4 F-B-R-C that the Greens promote the preservation of wildlife and wildlife habitats, and
- 42.5 F-B-R-C that the Greens oppose entertainment involving animal exploitation, and
- 42.6 F-B-R-C that the Greens support expansion of spay/neuter programs to control the "unwanted pet" population.

- 43.0 WHEREAS in order to promote conserver principles and values.
- 43.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support a truth in packaging law requiring producers to disclose, where applicable, the contents and/or ingredients, how the good or service will last, and how much it will cost for servicing or repair in that period, and
- 43.2 F-B-R-C that non-information advertising shall not be considered a legitimate business expense for tax purposes.

- 44.0 WHEREAS the Green aim is for people to have the opportunity for healthy lives.
- 44.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens would encourage the health care practitioners to emphasize wellness through holistic and preventative approaches to the practice of medicine.

- 45.0 WHEREAS the interaction of the human population with its surrounding environment imposes demands on that environment in the form of resource utilization, energy requirements, and waste treatment, and

WHEREAS these demands are a function of population number and the level of technology attained by the population, and

WHEREAS the extent of these demands will constitute a quantifiable "people pressure" impact on this environment, and

WHEREAS the human species has, in its technological advances, intervened in the natural processes of human population control by medical techniques which reduce the death rate.
- 45.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens supports easy access to birth control information and methods, and
- 45.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens support offering assistance in family planning to others who desire this, and
- 45.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens support more equitable methods of contraception.

- 46.0 WHEREAS animals experience pleasure and pain, have needs and wants, seek companionship

and, in many cases, family life.

- 46.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens recognize the inherent rights of all animals to live their lives, as brothers and sisters, free of oppression and exploitation by people, and
- 46.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens, whenever possible, publicly and actively support any action carried out to uphold the rights of animals providing such action is compatible with the Green philosophy on non-violence.

PART II NON-CONSENSED

The following are policy proposals that were non-consented following the Green Party of B.C. 1986 policy convention.

FORESTRY: NON-CONSENSED

- n1.0 WHEREAS the forests of B.C. include a wide diversity of lands and natural resources, and
- WHEREAS the majority of these forests should be managed on a multiple-use basis and those not so managed should be managed so that the greatest social and economic returns are realized, and
- WHEREAS one of these uses as a primary use would not necessarily preclude simultaneous secondary uses,
- n1.1 T-B-R-C that a Green forestry policy address the issue of "harvesting no more than we grow," and
- n1.2 F-B-R-C that the Ministry of Forests should make a commitment to reduce the backlog of reforestation to zero in the next 20 years, and
- n1.3 F-B-R-C that forest management on Crown land should be under the direction of a professional forester and on other land tenures, forestry work should always be checked by a government forester, and
- n1.4 F-B-R-C that the Crown should develop new tenure form to allow for small parcels of land to go to small enterprises, groups, and/or individuals (etc.).
- n1.5 F-B-R-C that tree farm license tenure should be continued and forest licenses should be converted if the holder has a good record, and
- n1.6 F-B-R-C that tenure should be contingent upon the holder practicing a minimum level of forest management... (ie. that for any area harvest, a new crop must be established within three years,) and
- n1.7 F-B-R-C that present legislation that discourages private landholders to practice forestry should be repealed and replaced (possibly by) tax incentives, favorable loans, and providing seedlings, and
- n1.8 F-B-R-C that alienations of land that are best managed for forest production should be reduced so that the productive capacity of forest land is kept as high as possible.
- n2.0 WHEREAS the Greens should adopt new forestry management policies such as "cell-block custom felling,"
- n2.1 T-B-R-C that the Ministry of Forests conduct an inquiry to gather and integrate the major public attitudes towards a thorough reorganization of forest management: in the direction of "cell-block custom felling" with its local scale of operation, its sustainable yield of all forest-life values, and
- n2.2 F-B-R-C that when a forest cell (a long, narrow strip between two to four acres) is cut,

the timber rights for the second growth can be bought in the form of shares which provide immediate capital for silviculture while appreciating over decades sufficiently to provide an old income extracted from the potential market value of maturing timber.

n3.0 WHEREAS the Greens should adopt or work into its policies the statement of the North American Bioregional Conference (N.A.B.C.) Forestry Committee.

n3.1 T-B-R-C that secondary and tertiary industries should be developed in order to strengthen local economies and better utilize the produce of the forests.

n4.0 WHEREAS the present system of government revenues from logging [stumpage fees] encourages high-grading since the forest users are charged according to the amount of lumber produced, not the amount cut down.

n4.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens adopt as an official policy that the forest stumpage should be charged according to the amount of ecological damage to the forest.

(All the above FORESTRY resolutions were tabled pending further discussion and/or clarification)

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD: NON-CONSENSED

n5.0 WHEREAS (to achieve) greater ecological (and/or energy) efficiency,

n5.1 T-B-R-C to reorient land based food production away from animal products (i.e. use land to produce plant products which can be consumed directly by humans rather than through animals, and

n5.2 F-B-R-C that privately owned land should be phased out, being replaced by rights of stewardship.

(All the above AGRICULTURE AND FOOD resolutions were tabled pending further discussion and/or clarification)

EDUCATION: NON-CONSENSED

n6.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens advocate that personal and financial planning/education be implemented as part of both an elementary and secondary school curriculum.

(Tabled pending further discussion and/or clarification)

n6.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens include education in peace, conflict resolution, and social defense in school curricula.

(Blocked as concept of "social defense" was not understood)

FEMINISM: NON-CONSENSED

n7.0 WHEREAS Green politics implies the development of whole persons which includes educating our members on feminist theory.

- n7.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens advocate the enforcement of equal employment standards via women's unions.

(Tabled pending further clarification of "women's union")

- n7.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens advocate the establishment of facilities to promote women's self-defense, up to and including the instruction of physical and mental defense in the public school system.

(Blocked as there was disagreement as to whether this conflicts with principle of non-violence)

- n7.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens advocates the establishment of a phone tree to inform Green Party members of public demonstrations of other activist events initiated by women's support groups such as Rape Relief, with the realization that participation in these events will be determined individually

(Not dealt with as this was considered "strategy" rather than "policy")

- n7.4 F-B-R-C that the Greens support the legal right of minority of women and men to social respect by the resolution of discrimination and/or other special problems encountered by these groups.

(Tabled pending further discussion and/or clarification)

- n7.5 F-B-R-C that the Greens support, where necessary, community-generated funding for quality childcare facilities.

(Non-support/blocked pending further clarification)

- n7.6 F-B-R-C that the Greens recognizes marriage and other contractual relations as equal partnerships with equal legal obligations in the event of divorce for the care and support of children

(Tabled pending legal research on same sex relationships)

ECONOMICS: NON-CONSENSED

- n8.0 WHEREAS Greens endorse a more equitable distribution of wealth as well as individual/ community control over our economic environment.

- n8.1 T-B-R-C that all income except Guaranteed Annual Income would be taxed and that tax shelters would be eliminated, and

- n8.2 F-B-R-C that the rate of tax would depend on source of income: a) lowest rate for income from paid employment, self-employment, and dividends from employee-owned business; b) higher rates on other dividends and capital gains; c) highest rates on dividends and capital gains derived from military-related corporations, and

- n8.3 F-B-R-C that most advertising expenses would no longer be considered as deductible business expense, and

- n8.4 F-B-R-C that economic development banks would be established in every region to provide

- venture capital to local business deemed socially, economically, and environmentally sound. and
- n8.5 F-B-R-C that said banks would be funded by both private and public sectors and would be operated by boards of local business, public and lay persons, and
 - n8.6 F-B-R-C that said banks would ensure local control over business development and ensure that all such development was in the long-term interests of the community
 - n9.0 WHEREAS to increase jobs and reduce dependency on other regions/nations.
 - n9.1 T-B-R-C to put the full cost of transportation onto goods which are shipped
 - n10.0 WHEREAS Greens endorse the stewardship of natural resources.
 - n10.1 T-B-R-C that anyone who uses a renewable resource will either renew it to its previous state of be taxed the cost of doing so. and
 - n10.2 F-B-R-C that non-renewable resources will be taxed at source at a sufficient rate to ensure such resources are recycled whenever possible, and to finance research into renewable alternatives
 - n11.0 WHEREAS opportunities should be available for individuals or small companies to engage in logging and harvesting operations.
 - n11.1 T-B-R-C that economic incentives should go to those who provide a stable number of jobs, who are energy efficient, and who operate in an environmentally sound way.
 - n12.0 WHEREAS Greens seek a transition to a conserver society where regional control is based on a decentralized energy policy and supply with meaningful work for all able-bodied persons.
 - n12.1 T-B-R-C that the costs of products sold in B.C. should reflect all the costs associated with it, including costs that occur after the product is sold, such as costs of pollution and costs of disposal. and
 - n12.2 F-B-R-C that to bring a better balance for capital investment, interest rates shall increase as the size of the loans increase. and
 - n12.3 F-B-R-C that existing legislation favoring primary resource industries with reduced freight rates and capital-depletion allowances should be phased out.
 - n13.0 WHEREAS Greens advocate tax-exempt societies
 - n13.1 T-B-R-C that Greens authorize tax-exempt societies to create choose-your-own initiatives for creating employment for established members of their communities, paying wage credits redeemable through an alternative structure of food co-ops, clothiers stores, food banks, allotment gardens, soup kitchens, co-op housing, hostels, second-hand stores indirect trading systems (i.e. LET-system.) etc.
 - n14.0 WHEREAS in order to phase out confrontal unions.
 - n14.1 T-B-R-C that expansionist tax exemptions, like capital gains, be replaced with a four-

tier incentive to support: a) profit-sharing; b) participatory management; c) employee investment; d) locally owned businesses with ten or less employees, to gradually reduce the need for unions.

- n15.0 WHEREAS the current pricing system does not reflect true environmental, social, and medical costs, and

WHEREAS government subsidies distort the use of resources and conceal true costs,

- n15.1 T-B-R-C that government subsidies be phased out and that the Greens believe that prices should reflect the total cost of each good or service

- n16.0 WHEREAS under present legislation (Companies Act, Sec. 55, 1 through 3) share-holders who are often highly paid employees can bleed the profits from the company in the form of salaries or dividends then bankrupt the company, leaving the public with unpaid debts, unpaid taxes, and environmental or personal damage.

- n16.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens are in favour of deleting section 55 from the Companies Act.

- n17.0 WHEREAS our society is currently producing sufficient goods and services to maintain all citizens at a reasonable standard of living, and

WHEREAS technological advances are resulting in increased unemployment, and

WHEREAS implementation of Green environmental protection policies may cause additional dislocations of employment.

- n17.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens develop an incomes policy that ensures an equitable distribution of goods and services.

- n18.0 WHEREAS Green ideals are: sustainable economies: balanced reciprocity with the Earth; economies and technologies of appropriate scale; prices reflecting real social and ecological costs; economies enhancing meaningful lives; bioregional economies utilizing renewable resources; the creation of economic diversity and self-sufficiency to meet basic human needs.

- n18.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support the determination of products which fit our ideals and the promotion of these products amongst individuals and institutions, and

- n18.2 F-B-R-C that Greens support the creation of employment in the forestry industry by raising stumpage rates to American levels and channeling money into silviculture, and

- n18.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens promote secondary processing of raw materials to create more jobs, and

- n18.4 F-B-R-C that the Greens promote the maximum use of products to minimize waste (ie. particle board), and

- n18.5 F-B-R-C that the Greens promote the diversification of the economy away from the dependence on forests, and

- n18.6 F-B-R-C that the Greens promote the conversion of unecological industries

(All the above ECONOMICS resolutions were tabled pending further discussion and/or clarification)

NATIVE ISSUES: NON-CONSENSED

n19.0 WHEREAS the Greens support self-determination.

n19.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens endorse the aboriginal people's definition and practice of self-government.

(Tabled pending more information on such definition and how this would relate to principals of bioregionalism)

GOVERNMENT: NON-CONSENSED

n20.0 WHEREAS individuals acting collectively are the ultimate source of authority for the existence and actions of government, and

WHEREAS any group of individuals may form an autonomous government to provide goods and services which affect only those individuals, and

WHEREAS all individuals shall have equal input into government in regard to their interests, and

WHEREAS all decisions by government at any level must promote the long-term good for all individuals collectively.

n20.1 T-B-R-C that all significant issues on which consensus is not reached by a duly elected legislature would be put to binding referendum, and

n20.2 F-B-R-C that the provincial legislature should be moved to fixed-term sessions, with regularly scheduled elections, and

n20.3 F-B-R-C that any elected official would be required to stand in a by-election if 10% of those who voted in the previous election petition for a by-election, and

n20.4 F-B-R-C that all political parties and candidates would be permitted to receive direct or indirect support only from private individuals with a ceiling of \$3,000 per year in funds of services placed on contributions, and

n20.5 F-B-R-C that during a provincial election campaign no political party or candidate would be permitted to spend directly or indirectly more than \$0.50 per eligible voter in the riding.

n21.0 WHEREAS there has been a continuing erosion of the right of public access to many Crown land tenures, particularly that of public access to Crown Grazing Leases, and

WHEREAS in probably no other Western democracy is this access denial, or potential for denial, present.

n21.1 T-B-R-C that the public may access any Crown land by foot, and

- n21.2 F-B-R-C that the public may access certain designated Crown land by motorized means, and
- n21.3 F-B-R-C that the criteria of damage to Crown land ecosystems be applied in all access designations and management.
- n22.0 WHEREAS to ensure recognition that Green policy is not "carved in stone" and may be in a constant state of development, and to further ensure that members acknowledge policy when developed by due process.
- n22.1 T-B-R-C that Green policy, as determined by the party members at a general meeting, act as policy guide-lines until changed by the same due process, and
- n22.2 F-B-R-C that members, chapters, and clubs, when called upon, inform the public of such policy even though it may differ from their private views
- n23.0 WHEREAS the Greens wish to encourage self-responsibility.
- n23.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens adopt as an official policy that it would decrease the amount of government involvement in the personal lives of individual people

(All the above GOVERNMENT resolutions were tabled pending further discussion and/or clarification)

- n24.0 WHEREAS the Greens advocate improving our current election systems, and

WHEREAS the Greens believe that election systems that take into account the proportional vote produce a government that is more representative.

- n24.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens endorse proportional representation, whereby all elections at all levels adopt a voting system that grants an equal proportion of seats to the percentage of votes.

(Tabled pending a better definition/description of "proportional representation")

- n25.0 WHEREAS present legislation contained within the Municipalities Act allows the provincial government the power of veto over municipalities, and

WHEREAS Greens endorse the empowerment of Municipalities and regional districts for the purpose of creating a federation thereof as a transition to bioregional government.

- n25.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens endorse the abolition of the provincial veto power

(Tabled pending further discussion and/or clarification)

- n26.0 WHEREAS Green political action occurs on and for the benefit of the immediate locality, be that locality a designated bioregion of a designated terrain of consciousness, and

WHEREAS in order to promote the initial transitional stage of the bioregional dissolution of the industrial nation-state and the relative tendencies of said transition towards the decentralization of established political, economic, and cultural institutions, and

WHEREAS to promote the ideological and political action(s) in support of the creation of

a Provincial Constitution as initially put forward by Vancouver City Council and endorsed in principle by the Green Party Representatives Council, and

WHEREAS nationalism, when seen in the context of the territorial imperative of industrial nation-states and the related possibility of nuclear annihilation is a hindrance to global peace and is a social disease of pathological proportions, and

WHEREAS the ideological and territorial label "British Columbia" is redundant and anachronistic when seen in the historical context of the decline of the industrial nation-state and the rising ecological paradigm, and

WHEREAS to adhere to and responsibly nurture the political goals as stated in Clause 2(f) of the constitution of the G.P.B.C., and

WHEREAS to send a Green signal of birth and hope onto an ethically tarnished and vacant political landscape.

- n26.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens endorse the bringing-home of the name of this Pacific West-Central bioregion through available legal channels for the purposes of: a) politically empowering the Greens to tactically reveal and enhance the transition stage leading towards a green society; b) taking the political initiative to speak most strongly amongst the other provincial parties for the creation of a Provincial Constitution

(Tabled pending simplification and/or rewording)
[name of Pacific West-Central bioregion missed]

ENERGY: NON-CONSENSED

- n27.0 WHEREAS the Greens are opposed to the mining, processing, and/or import-export of uranium,

- n27.1 T-B-R-C to renew the moratorium on uranium exploration of mining, which is due to expire soon, and engage in negotiations with Saskatchewan and Ontario to bring a full public inquiry into these rapidly expanding industries which have made Canada the world's largest supplier of uranium to the world, much of which finds its way into nuclear weapons.

(Tabled pending further discussion and/or clarification)

SOCIAL POLICY: NON-CONSENSED

- n28.0 WHEREAS as being a fair and reasonable first step towards resolving the manifold problems of the recreational use of drugs.

- n28.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support the principle of licensed cultivation of cannabis sativa for personal use

- n29.0 WHEREAS recognizing the intrinsic connection between the rapid expansion of the consumer society and the practice of deducting exorbitant advertising budgets as business expenses.

- n29.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support the establishment of bioregional "consumer boards" to monitor ads for the quality of product of service information, to determine eligibility for tax exemption.
- n30.1 T-B-R-C that approximately 5% of current crown lands and resource title be given in trust, without any extinguishment of rights, to appropriate native councils, both rural and urban, with due regard given to maintaining the core of traditional territory before the historical decimation of native populations, as a supplement to existing land claims
- n31.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens recognize that a conserver society cannot exist without protecting at least 10% of the land base as virgin wilderness with no roads or motorized vehicles allowed to disturb the land, air, water, plant, and animal domains.

(All the above SOCIAL policy was tabled pending further discussion and/or clarification)

Province of British Columbia Societies Act

FORM 1

(Section 3)

CONSTITUTION

1. The name of the Society is the Green Party Political Association of British Columbia.
2. The purposes of the Society are:
 - (a) to carry on the functions of a political party;
 - (b) to work towards achieving the goal of nuclear and general disarmament and world peace through the non-violent resolution of conflict;
 - (c) to work towards achieving the goal of a conserver society;
 - (d) to work towards an economic system based upon sound environmental and ecological principles;
 - (e) to work towards developing a society that accepts responsibility for and upholds the inalienable rights of all life forms and natural processes that share the earth;
 - (f) to develop a community-based democracy with local decision-making and control; and
 - (g) to undertake all such other activities consistent with these purposes which the Society's elected representatives consider appropriate.

"Welcome Home" Statement
1st North American Bioregional Congress
May, 1984

A growing number of people are recognizing that in order to secure the clean air, water, and food that we need to healthfully survive, we have to become guardians of the places where we live. People sense the loss in not knowing our neighbours and natural surroundings, and are discovering that the best way to take care of ourselves, and to get to know our neighbours, is to protect and restore our region.

Bioregionalism recognizes, nurtures, sustains, and celebrates our local connections with: land; plants and animals; springs, rivers, lakes, groundwaters and ocean; air; families, friends, neighbours; community; native traditions; indigenous systems of production and trade. It is taking time to learn the possibilities of place. It is mindfulness of local environment, history, and community aspirations that leads to a sustainable future. It relies on save and renewable sources of food and energy. It ensures employment by supplying a rich diversity of services within the community, by recycling our resources, and by exchanging prudent surpluses with other regions. Bioregionalism is working to satisfy basic need locally, such as education, health care, and self-government.

The bioregional perspective recreates a widely-shared sense of regional identity founded upon a renewed critical awareness of and respect for the integrity of our ecological communities.

People are joining with neighbours to discuss ways we can work together to:

1. learn what our special local resources are.
2. plan how to best protect and use those natural and cultural resources.
3. exchange our time and energy to best meet our daily and long-term needs.
4. enrich our children's local and planetary knowledge.

Security begins by acting responsibly at home. Welcome home!