



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

*B.C.'s
Growing
Future*

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Sustainable Development: B.C.'s Growing Future

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: B.C.'S GROWING FUTURE

1.0 Sustainable Development: The Growing Awareness

Public concern for the preservation of our environment has increased dramatically over the last several years. This heightened public awareness has been created both by highly visible environmental catastrophes on the one hand, and by an accumulation of evidence that current patterns of industrial activity are gradually undermining the self sustaining capabilities of our environment.

Since the release of the Report of the United Nations' World Commission on the Environment (the Brundtland Commission) in 1987, the idea of sustainable development has come to represent solutions to the global environmental predicament. The thrust of sustainable development is that significant changes in the pattern of economic activity are necessary to halt the steady degradation of the environment which sustains both economic activity and life itself.

Over the last century, economic production has increasingly consumed our environmental capital, be it renewable resources like forests and agricultural land, non-renewable resources like oil and minerals, or the quality of the air and water. At the same time, dominant attitudes toward economic development have stressed the importance of productive resources like labour and man-made capital, but have downplayed the key economic role played by our natural resources endowment.

If the economy is to continue to fulfill basic human needs and aspirations, economic activity must be re-oriented so that it consumes only the interest generated by our capital stock of natural resources. Sustainable development means "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

The release of the Brundtland Report in 1987 led to immediate responses of verbal support from most industrialized countries. In Canada, a National Task Force on Environment and Economy proposed the creation of public forums, or round tables, in all jurisdictions. In December, 1988, B.C. belatedly established an Environment and Economy Task Force to make recommendations concerning:

- establishment of a permanent forum or round table of public/private decision makers.]
- development of a provincial conservation strategy.
- promotion of understanding through education.

It is essential that British Columbians begin to develop a clear understanding of the issues surrounding sustainable development. First, these issues are of particular significance for our province. On the one hand, we depend on renewable resource industries, particularly forestry and fishing, for a significant portion of our economic activity. On the other, we possess an environment of unique physical beauty which provides both an important economic and aesthetic resource.

Whether British Columbians live in resource-based communities whose future is directly threatened by natural resource depletion, or in urbanized areas where deterioration of the quality of the air, water and land has steadily increased, the concept of sustainable development is the key to our future.

Second, the record of both current and previous Social Credit governments on the natural resource management and environment issues central to sustainable development has been abysmal. For decades, their attitude has been one of short term gain, often for insiders and special interests, rather than the long term sustainability of our resource base.

As a result of this shortsighted approach, competing demands on our remaining land, forest and water resources have intensified and the level of conflict has escalated. Despite the rapid growth of population and economic activity in British Columbia over the past several decades, the province remains a resource-dependent economy with a very low level of secondary processing or value added. Pollution control legislation is often ineffective or inadequate, and those standards which do exist are laxly monitored and enforced.

Clearly, British Columbians deserve better from their provincial government. This paper represents the first stage of a long term commitment by New Democrats to make sustainable development a reality in B.C., not just a slogan. It outlines the problems facing British Columbia; identifies the priorities for a longer term program of sustainable development, and puts forward immediate steps which the provincial government should undertake during the upcoming legislative session.

2.0 Sustainable Development: The Issues

A genuine sustainable development program must address four concrete issues. These are:

1. Managing B.C.'s renewable resources to provide a sustainable economic future for communities and regions.
2. Resolving land use conflicts, particularly those involving competing forestry, recreation and wilderness values.
3. Generating additional economic benefit from B.C.'s natural resources.
4. Stopping the degradation of B.C.'s environment.

2.1 Managing B.C.'s Renewable Resources

It has now become clear that since the 1950s, successive Social Credit governments have not managed our renewable resources in a sustainable manner. Forests, our most economically valuable renewable resource, have been mismanaged to the point that conflict over B.C.'s remaining resources has become more intense and disruptive.

As a result, there is a growing level of concern from groups and communities throughout the province. Many people view with alarm the spread of logging into some of our last untouched wilderness areas, with the consequent loss of future recreational and tourist potential. Those who rely on forestry for their livelihood view with understandable concern the erosion of the forest land base and the impending end of first growth timber.

This spectre of resource depletion and accelerated land use conflict is the result of policy failures in a number of key areas.

The most damaging has been the progressive abdication of the government's responsibility for the stewardship of our forest resources. Since the 1950s, both harvesting rights and management responsibilities have been increasingly turned over to large multinational corporations, usually in the form of Tree Farm Licences. In the

coastal forest industry, the control of the annual cut in timber supply areas by the four largest forestry companies has increased from 16 per cent in 1968, to 27 per cent in 1975, to 68 per cent in 1985. If all corporate linkages are considered, the largest five company groups control at least 82 per cent of the cut in Tree Farm Licences province-wide.

In late 1987, the Social Credit government announced policies that will increasingly concentrate the control and management of our forests in the hands of a small number of companies.

First, it announced plans to increase the annual allowable cut tied up in privately managed Tree Farm Licences from under one-third of the annual allowable cut in 1987, to over two-thirds in 1989. Then, it announced the privatization of basic management and silvicultural functions on many forest licences.

A disturbing consequence of the shift from public to private stewardship of our forests has been the loss of fundamental knowledge concerning the remaining extent of the resource base. Many areas of the province have not had complete inventories done for over 20 years, and as a result neither government nor the forest companies know the status of many stands of timber. It has become almost impossible to judge with any accuracy either the sustainability of current harvesting levels or the adequacy of restocking and silvicultural programs. To compound the problem, overall staff allocated to the ministry of forests was cut by 24 per cent between 1983 and 1987, from 4,886 to 3,714 full-time equivalents.

Both the lack of public stewardship and the severe cutbacks of forest ministry staff have contributed to high levels of waste by large forest companies. In 1981, a policy of "sympathetic administration" was instituted to allow private operators to maximize profits during a period of poor market conditions. Complaints of excessive waste by forest companies were ignored by the provincial government until the media forced the establishment of an inquiry into harvesting practices in the Queen Charlotte Islands. The Thomson inquiry confirmed the existence of widespread waste, attributing it to the "lack of clearly defined policies and procedures" for ensuring proper utilization standards, and to inadequate staffing levels in the forests ministry. Subsequently, a number of other instances of large scale forest waste have been uncovered throughout the province.

Forest companies in British Columbia have been making record profits in recent years. However, despite the promise of tighter standards and enforcement, these companies are still allowed to utilize certain grades of logs selectively, and the staff cuts described above mean that many forestry operators are not independently monitored.

The Social Credit government has also been permissive in its approach toward the regulation of cutting practices, allowing the clearcut logging of huge areas of the province. "Relaxed" (i.e. abandoned) utilization and environmental standards have led to the destruction of fish and animal habitats, erosion, the alteration of drainage patterns, and the creation of an ugly, scarred landscape in some of the province's most scenic areas. Between 1983 and 1987, the percentage of B.C.'s forests harvested by clearcutting methods increased from 83 per cent to 90 per cent.

Finally, the neglect of successive Social Credit administrations has resulted in a large backlog of not sufficiently restocked (NSR) forest lands. In 1988, Les Reed, an eminent UBC forest researcher, wrote that "...our current silvicultural efforts are pitifully inadequate. I fear that all the work...put into new policies will amount to little in the absence of a rigorous policy framework." This neglect has called into serious question the ability of the forest industry to sustain current harvesting and employment levels into the future.

Actions taken by the Social Credit government over the last two years have aggravated this situation in two ways. First, the abrogation of management responsibility to large forest companies has limited the government's ability to track and evaluate the levels of reforestation now going on in the province. Second, the Socreds have compounded bad management of reforestation programs in the past by abandoning programs which could help eliminate NSR, while at the same time training workers for jobs in the forest industry. The JobTrac forestry program was cancelled in 1988. The successful Vancouver Island Mayors' program, which in one year of operation generated a total return on investment of 165 per cent as well as giving employment experience and training to hundreds of previously unemployed workers, was largely abandoned after one year of operation.

Clearly, there is a pressing need for a new approach to the stewardship of British Columbia's forests.

The future of our agricultural industries is also at risk. Senator Sparrow's 1984 report "Soil at Risk - Canada's Eroding Future" found that, "The physiography of the province, coupled with the variations in the climate, bestow upon British Columbia virtually all of the soil degradation problems found in the rest of the country, and a few more besides." While agricultural and soil conditions vary by region, problems of soil degradation, compaction, erosion, acidity and overgrazing are all present in British Columbia.

Addressing these problems has not been a high priority for the Social Credit government. Provincial support for agriculture has declined as a proportion of the annual

budget from 2 per cent in 1975 to barely one-third of that in 1988 - just 0.77 per cent . In 1987, the Social Credit government announced a \$3 million program to protect our soils and ensure the long-range success of our agri-food industry. Only about half of the funding was spent.

Soil conservation is not the only problem. Farmers increasingly are having a tough time making a living. As a result, British Columbia's young people are not going onto the land in sufficient numbers to sustain the industry. Between 1981 and 1986, census data revealed a net loss of 2,000 farmers in British Columbia - put another way, one farmer a day left the land every day for five years.

The amount of farmland protected under the Agricultural Land Reserve has been progressively diminished, often by arbitrary cabinet decisions made over the objections of community groups and the Land Commission itself. Between 1974 and 1986, the reserve shrank by 27,489 hectares--an area about two and a half times the City of Vancouver. The 1988 cabinet decision to remove the Terra Nova lands in Richmond from the reserve is only the most recent example of arbitrary government action designed to benefit insiders and special interests at the expense of both agriculture and the community at large.

Much of the management jurisdiction over our fisheries lies with the federal government. Nevertheless, it is the province's fourth largest industry and is particularly important to our remote coastal communities.

The fisheries resource, however, has been undermined by the inaction and neglect of the Social Credit government. The lack of any effective pollution control at the provincial level has led to recent fisheries closures. By degrading rivers and streams, poor forest management practices have led to losses of salmon spawning habitat.

Canada's ability to manage the west coast fishery was substantially reduced when the Social Credit government failed to insist that the present fish processing arrangements be grandfathered in the Free Trade Agreement, as they were for the east coast fishery. This oversight has resulted in U.S. action under GATT which seriously threatens Canada's ability to maintain the levels of employment generated by our fishery.

Aquaculture has expanded dramatically in recent years and represents a major new renewable resource industry. However, as detailed in a recent report by the provincial Ombudsman, there are inadequate mechanisms for addressing environmental concerns and resolving conflicts with other resource users. Clearly, the provincial government must take the lead in developing aquaculture legislation based on the Ombudsman's report and circulating it for consultation with all affected parties.

2.2 Resolving Land Use Conflicts

Both the previous patterns of waste and over-extraction in British Columbia's forest industry, and the spread of urban development have led to heightened levels of conflict over access to an increasingly scarce land and resource base. As the most economically attractive forest sites have been exploited, logging has moved into areas which are more environmentally sensitive and have greater aesthetic, recreational and wilderness values.

As urban areas have expanded, increasing pressure has been brought to bear on prime agricultural lands and green spaces. Outside urban areas, a growing number of environmental hot spots have emerged, pitting those whose livelihoods depend on resource extraction against those who fear the permanent loss of the province's unique scenic and wilderness areas.

When these problems first began to emerge in the late 1960s and early 1970s, an NDP administration moved to implement a more comprehensive approach to environmental and land use conflicts. In 1973, the NDP government set up the Environment and Land Use Secretariat. The role of the secretariat was to provide technical support to the committee, to play a coordinating role between ministries, and to begin developing plans and guidelines for land use in the province.

In 1973, the Land Commission Act set up an independent commission to designate agricultural land for preservation, to establish greenbelts and land banks for urban and industrial development, and to preserve land for recreational use. In 1974, the Islands Trust Act was passed giving Gulf Islands residents a much greater involvement in land use planning, as well as an advisory role on the use of all Crown land. Finally, in 1975 Regional Resource Management Committees were established by regulation under the Land Use Act.

Over time, Social Credit governments have weakened or abolished these NDP innovations. In 1977, the Land Commission was stripped of its independence by giving cabinet the power to review decisions of the commission. At the same time the commission was stripped of its responsibilities for greenbelts, land banks and recreational lands. The classification of agricultural lands done by the commission is now under review by the Ministers of State.

The Social Credit government abolished the ELUC Secretariat in 1981, removing the one key agency with broad expertise in land and resource use questions. Appeals to ELUC on resource use conflicts were also ended despite the fact that the existing

Environment and Land Use Act provides all the powers, including the power to conduct public hearings, necessary for ELUC to deal with these conflicts in an impartial way.

Planning responsibility was taken away from regional districts in 1983, though some managed to carry on a form of planning by coordinating service agreements among municipalities. No provincial body presently has responsibility for overall land and resource use questions on a province-wide or even a regional basis. In 1984, there were 23 provincial ministries, 28 technical planning committees, seven regional resource management committees, an environment and land use technical committee and a cabinet committee all involved in land and resource use questions. Each ministry has its own procedures for review of individual projects. These procedures are generally not legislatively mandated, and many do not have adequate procedures for encouraging public participation.

The Social Credit government's recent implementation of an 'eight state' system of regional cabinet decision-making has added confusion to chaos. There are now eight regional ministers, each with his own layer of bureaucracy, who apparently have some say in land and resource questions in addition to the line ministries and agencies.

One of the most important land and resource use questions facing British Columbia today is the resolution of aboriginal land claims. Despite the fact that the federal government has long recognized its obligations to sit down with aboriginal peoples and negotiate fair settlements, the Social Credit government remains intransigent. Although there has been a growing recognition of aboriginal rights by the courts, the government has continued to maintain that all such rights were effectively extinguished when the province was created in 1871. It also maintains that any settlement of aboriginal claims is solely the responsibility of the federal government, despite the fact that control over most land and resources is a provincial responsibility.

The position of the provincial government has been rendered increasingly untenable by recent court decisions. By limiting the access of resource companies to lands which are being contested by aboriginal claims, these decisions clearly show that nobody benefits from the current situation of uncertainty and conflict. Unless the provincial government sits down with native people and the federal government to negotiate mutually agreeable solutions, the level of conflict and disruption will continue to increase.

2.3 Generating Additional Economic Benefit from B.C.'s Renewable Resources

Despite the fact that British Columbia's forest resources are being harvested at record high levels, forest industry jobs have actually declined. The result has been that while the urbanized Lower Mainland has rebounded from the recession of the early 1980s, most other regions of the province remain mired in recession and high unemployment.

Comparisons with other jurisdictions indicate that British Columbia is a low value-added forest economy. In 1985, for example, Ontario added \$144 for every cubic metre of industrial round wood harvested, compared to only \$58 for British Columbia. If British Columbia could achieve Ontario's level of value added, \$6 billion to \$7 billion of additional output could be generated. British Columbia's relatively low level of value added has led to a low level of employment compared to other jurisdictions. Oregon and Washington state generate 1.8 direct jobs for every thousand cubic metres of wood harvested while Sweden generates 2.7 jobs. B.C. barely generates one direct job per thousand cubic metres of wood cut. If B.C. could just do as well as its American neighbours, an additional 60,000 direct jobs in the forest sector would be created.

A broader approach, which measures the total (direct and indirect) employment impact generated by forestry activity estimates that Ontario created 7.7 jobs per thousand cubic metre of wood cut, whereas B.C. generated only 2.6 jobs. If B.C. could do only half as well as Ontario, over 90,000 additional jobs would be created in the economy as a whole. While some of the difference in employment levels per unit of wood cut could be due to the greater labour efficiency of B.C. plants, such a difference does not adequately account for these large discrepancies.

British Columbia also lags behind other jurisdictions in both the level of research and development expenditures and the manufacture of equipment used in the forest industry. British Columbia's forest sector spends only .024 per cent of its gross revenue on research and development, one third the level of Sweden. A 1988 study titled "A Value Strategy for B.C. Solid Wood Products," undertaken by consultants for the federal and provincial governments, found that "there has been a significant decrease in equipment, machinery fabrication, and foundry operations and capacity" in British Columbia's forest sector.

The Swedish example shows what can be accomplished. In 1970, Sweden had the same level of value added as British Columbia in both the pulp and paper and sawmilling industries. In 1980, Sweden was adding twice as much value.

While there are some market and locational constraints facing British Columbia's forest sector, a number of studies have identified the potential. Instead of manufacturing only pulp and paper, we could diversify into higher quality, specialized paper products. Instead of relying only on standard-dimension lumber, we could diversify into areas such as treated wood products, laminated wood products for use in furniture, or prefabricated materials for the construction industry.

The 1988 federal/provincial study referred to above estimated that "by shifting towards specialty products, British Columbia manufacturers could capture some \$1.2 billion in additional revenue with negligible investment, and \$1.7 billion with \$600 million investment," creating some 4,000 new jobs.

The study concluded major barriers have been the lack of an industry-wide marketing strategy, a longstanding industry orientation toward volume over value and a lack of awareness of the possibilities of entering into profitable new areas of manufacturing.

A ban on the export of unprocessed logs from the province could create approximately 2,100 additional direct jobs through further processing.

2.4 Stopping the Degradation of B.C.'s Environment

The danger facing British Columbia's environment is now widely recognized. Hardly a month goes by without a reminder of this threat, be it a major oil spill on the west coast, dioxins in the marine environment, lead contamination in drinking water or pre-cancerous lesions in fish caught in Vancouver harbour.

The Social Credit government's record on environmental protection has been abysmal. Even though the government, through the Waste Management Act, regulates the air and water discharges of municipalities and large industrial polluters like pulp mills, the current Social Credit administration has failed to monitor existing pollution levels. Major pollution problems have been revealed by the monitoring of others, and if British Columbians had to rely on their own agencies they would still be in the dark. For example, dioxin emissions from pulp mills were uncovered by the federal government's monitoring activities and a recent health monitoring study of Port Alberni's pulp mill emissions is being financed by the U.S. government.

In 1988, the Social Credit government moved to compound the problem by selling off the province's environmental testing laboratory, resulting in a 20 per cent staff cut and reduced levels of service. Subsequently, a twenty-year employee of the Ministry of the Environment resigned, stating that, "I have become increasingly alarmed at the inadequate and, in some instances, total absence, of monitoring and testing of pollution discharges since the lab was privatized. We now have a situation in B.C. where routine industrial pollution tests are simply not being checked for accuracy."

In the area of enforcement, the Social Credit record is equally bad. University of Victoria legal researchers concluded that "charges under the Waste Management Act are virtually never laid for the habitual violation of permit specifications" and that the average fine for the rare prosecution and conviction was only \$565 - one hundredth of the maximum fine of \$50,000. The study, which looked at two of the environment ministry's five regions - Vancouver Island and northern B.C. - found that most of B.C.'s pulp mills in 1987 released more pollutants into waterways than allowed by both provincial and federal regulations, but none were charged.

In responding to water pollution and damage to fisheries caused by dioxins and other organo-chlorines being discharged by pulp mills, the Social Credit government has employed a great deal of tough rhetoric while continuing to drag its feet. It is the federal government which has taken the lead in identifying the problem and proposing solutions. Despite the fact that companies have been asked to provide abatement programs to both levels of government there are still no firm new standards or targets for achieving them.

The problems of solid and toxic waste disposal are becoming acute in British Columbia. In 1986, just over 2.1 million tonnes of municipal solid waste was generated in the province and this level is expected to rise to 2.6 million tonnes by 1996. The bulk of this waste is accumulating in landfill sites which are rapidly filling up.

The Social Credit government has left municipalities to cope with this emerging crisis as best they can. The result has been chaos. Municipalities in the populous lower mainland have sought new landfill sites in other regions, generating intense local opposition.

The Greater Vancouver Regional District has also been forced to turn to incineration, raising concerns about the toxicity of incinerator byproducts. While most other urban jurisdictions in North America and Europe now have comprehensive integrated recycling programs, British Columbia remains an ad hoc collection of small underfunded programs operated by municipalities, volunteer groups, and private companies.

British Columbia still has no comprehensive disposal system for hazardous wastes like PCBs. The province has over 282,000 litres of PCBs stored in 282 known sites around the province. While the provincial government favours incineration, it has not been able to satisfy concerns about environmental safety and was forced to withdraw a proposal for a toxic waste incinerator in the Ashcroft area.

The problem of municipal sewage disposal in British Columbia is beginning to outstrip the capabilities of existing plants, particularly in the major urban centres. Upgrading GVRD facilities to implement secondary treatment and control urban runoff could cost \$1.5 billion, and would add significantly to sewage treatment charges. Even secondary treatment is not sufficient to control the problems associated with the disposal of industrial toxic wastes into the sewer system. The capital region, which is currently constructing new facilities to pump raw sewage into the ocean via a deep water outfall, still does not even have a primary sewage treatment plant.

When it comes to preserving parks and wilderness areas, the Social Credit government's record is also poor. During the 1950s and '60s, three major provincial parks - Liard, Tweedsmuir and Hamber - were either eliminated, or significantly curtailed to make way for industrial development. In the last few years, the Social Credit government has downgraded large areas of parkland in the province to recreational status, which allows mining and logging to take place.

A recent attempt by the Socreds to open up large areas of Strathcona Park to mining and logging led the government's own committee of inquiry to recommend that "the classification and zoning mechanisms of the Park Act and related policy be used by the ministry to defend park values, rather than to give legitimacy to non-conforming industrial uses."

Clearly, the poor record of the Social Credit government on environmental protection has created a large backlog of problems requiring immediate action.

3.0 Sustainable Development: A Program for B.C.

Any review of the state of B.C.'s environment and resources shows that current patterns of economic and government activity are not sustainable. While general task forces like that now being chaired by Dr. David Strangway are useful, British Columbians have good reason to be dubious about this government's willingness to act.

New Democrats believe that the provincial government must not use this task force as an excuse for delay. The problems are well known, and the demand for action is now broadly based. It is only the willingness of the Social Credit government to act which is lacking.

New Democrats are committed to creating employment and economic growth without harming our environment. It is for this reason that we are calling on the government to undertake a number of specific initiatives immediately. During the upcoming session of the legislature, we will be presenting a series of private members' bills designed to implement these initiatives.

This program gives British Columbians a clear choice between the New Democrats' sustainable future and the Social Credit government's record of waste, mismanagement, and favouritism. Throughout 1989, we will be meeting with British Columbians to discuss our policies and share ideas.

Our sustainable development program for British Columbia has five basic priorities:

1. Managing our natural resources to provide sustainable economic opportunities .
2. Applying a new approach to resolving resource and land use conflicts which respects the aspirations of all British Columbia's citizens and regions.
3. Generating new jobs and economic benefits from our resources by increasing the level of value added.
4. Protecting the quality of our environment.
5. Preserving our unique scenic and wilderness resources for future generations.

3.1 Managing our Natural Resources to Provide Sustainable Economic Opportunities

New Democrats are strongly committed to the continued public management and control of our forests.

Our publicly owned forest resources represent an endowment of all the people of B.C., and the provincial government has a fundamental obligation to maintain control over basic management functions such as cutting practices, scaling and silviculture.

The scope of government mismanagement has been widely documented and a serious drop in harvesting and employment levels is inevitable if current policies are continued. We have already joined a large number of business, labour and community groups dependent on our forests in calling for a Royal Commission on Forestry. A thorough review of corporate concentration, forest tenure and management practices in areas like waste utilization, clearcutting and silviculture is long overdue.

Over the longer term, we believe that public policy should be directed toward the achievement of a greater degree of economic diversity - involving small operators, municipal and regional governments, and larger integrated resource companies. There should also be a much higher degree of local control by the people who depend directly on the resource for their livelihood and well-being.

Management goals must be designed to maintain a harvest level which is sustainable in perpetuity, and access to our forest resources should be linked much more closely to the creation of value added and job opportunities for British Columbians.

In a number of areas, the problems are clear and urgent enough that immediate action is appropriate. Therefore we will be introducing private members' bills during the upcoming session of the legislature providing for:

- An immediate start on a comprehensive inventory of British Columbia's forest resources. If we do not know the extent of our resource base, the development of rational management policies is impossible.
- An immediate moratorium on the issuing of new Tree Farm Licences until the completion of both a comprehensive inventory and a Royal Commission inquiry. It is folly to continue with current plans to turn over huge areas of public forests to private management without even a clear understanding of the extent and quality of the resource.

- An extension of basic forest management practices to private forest lands. Currently there are no standards applied to such lands despite a high potential for environmental impact and land use conflict.
- The scaling of timber for stumpage payments before, rather than after, it is cut. Already in effect in Washington and Oregon, this system would provide a powerful incentive for more complete timber utilization.
- Introduction of a reforestation program similar to the now-dormant Vancouver Island Mayors' program which would also increase the level of employment in forestry-based communities throughout British Columbia.
- The elimination of the cabinet's powers to arbitrarily override the Agricultural Land Commission to exclude lands from the Agricultural Land Reserve. This change will protect the future of our agricultural industry by ensuring that all future exclusions from the land reserve are based on due process and sound technical analysis.

3.2 A New Approach to Resource and Land Use Conflict

Both the wasteful resource-use practices of the past and the chaos into which land use planning has fallen during the last decade have led to the emergence of numerous environmental "hot spots."

In the Carmanah Valley, the Sulphur Passage, the Stein, the Tsitika Schoen watershed, the Khutzymateen and many others, immediate economic pressures are coming into conflict with the desires of British Columbians to protect the environment and preserve unique recreational and wilderness areas.

At the same time, B.C.'s aboriginal peoples are seeking both settlement of their land claims and greater access to the resources necessary to sustain their economic and cultural future.

We believe that a new approach to resolving resource and land use conflicts is essential. Such an approach must:

1. Recognize the existence of aboriginal rights to land and resources and negotiate outstanding land claims.
2. Establish greater regional control over the province's land and resource base.
3. Produce accurate and unbiased analyses of the economic and environmental values at stake in resource conflicts.
4. Encourage the participation in resource use decisions of all affected individuals and groups.
5. Encourage negotiation among parties with a direct interest in resource use decisions which are founded upon mutual agreement and compromise.

As a first step towards the development of a new approach, we will be introducing private members' bills calling for:

- The immediate re-establishment of the Environment and Land Use Committee Secretariat to develop techniques to resolve land use conflicts and to provide independent analyses to assist in the interministerial resolution of such conflicts by cabinet. The re-establishment of the secretariat would lead to an immediate improvement in the quality and impartiality of information used to resolve land use disputes.
- The introduction of freedom of information legislation to ensure informed public participation in environmental, resource and land use decisions. Such legislation is already in force at the federal level and in a number of other provinces.

3.3 Generating Additional Economic Benefit from our Resources

The achievement of greater economic activity from our resources is a central component of any workable sustainable development program. If levels of employment and value added for every unit of natural resources mined or harvested are not increased, B.C.'s regions will be condemned to sharing a shrinking economic pie. In such an economic environment, it will become increasingly difficult to preserve the unique aesthetic, recreational, and wilderness values important to British Columbians.

It is only through producing more advanced and complex goods and services that we can avoid the vulnerability of a boom and bust economy and achieve sustainable communities.

New Democrats believe that increasing the level of value added will require greater co-operation between the private sector and a more active and entrepreneurial public sector in a number of areas.

First, the province must use its position as landlord of most of B.C.'s forest lands to actively encourage more economic diversification. Access to our forest resources must be tied to the greatest possible degree of value added and employment.

Second, the province must play a more active role in identifying market opportunities for our resource industries, and in encouraging B.C. business to take advantage of these opportunities. Small and medium-sized firms trying to diversify into higher value-added products face problems of access to the necessary capital and limited resources for accessing foreign markets.

To address these problems, a new forest product development program should be initiated to target public investment in higher value-added forest products and to improve access to capital for small and medium-sized enterprises. An export development corporation should be established to develop new markets for a more diversified range of resource-based products. Larger incentives should also be offered to support the manufacture of forest equipment and technology in B.C.

Third, more effort must be put into funding the development of new technology related to our natural resources. A new forest products innovation centre should be established to carry out research on new products and processes and to assist in the transfer of proven technologies for use in B.C.

Finally, current policies governing access to land and resources should be revised to provide better access to small and medium-sized companies. The trend toward ever greater levels of corporate concentration must be reversed and forest tenure policies directed toward introducing a much higher level of economic diversity.

As a first step toward achieving a greater level of value added in the forest industry, we will be introducing private members' bills during the next legislative session to:

- Ban the export of unprocessed logs. These exports generate a much lower level of employment than those of finished products, and have become an unacceptable use for our declining stocks of high quality first-growth timber.
- Ensure that new jobs and value-added enterprises are major goals of the ministry of forests and are clear priorities in the allocation process for forest lands.

3.4 Protecting the Quality of Our Environment

New Democrats are committed to a fundamental overhaul of the legislation protecting B.C.'s environmental quality in British Columbia. Current legislation, with its system of permits to pollute, low penalties and excessive administrative discretion should be replaced. A new approach must provide for clear, province-wide, minimum emission standards, as well as air and water quality objectives for all our major regions. It should also provide for full and systematic public disclosure of all pollution data, a system of administrative penalties which are promptly imposed on violators, and substantial criminal penalties for more serious offences.

To deal with the emerging crisis of solid waste disposal in urban British Columbia, a province-wide integrated approach to recycling is required. Only such a comprehensive approach, with adequate provincial funding of capital requirements, can generate the volumes necessary to make recycling an effective and economically viable alternative. The province, through its purchasing and procurement policies, can take the lead in generating markets for products containing recycled materials. B.C.'s commercial and manufacturing industries should also be encouraged, through tax or other incentives, to use recycled materials. For example, the feasibility of British Columbia's paper producers using some recycled paper in their operations should be investigated.

To control hazardous wastes, a comprehensive public waste management system, with emphasis on recycling and source control, must be implemented without further delay. Due to public concerns with the possible dangers of incinerating these toxic materials, the government's plans to construct a privately-operated hazardous waste incinerator should be reconsidered. Other disposal options must be considered and effective containment measures developed until an acceptable disposal system is available.

To address the problems of sewage treatment, major federal and provincial funding for primary and secondary treatment facilities is essential. The greater financial resources of senior government must be deployed to encourage early construction of these badly needed facilities without placing an unacceptable burden on municipalities and property taxpayers. A comprehensive program for controlling toxic discharges into municipal sewer systems at source, similar to a program now underway in Ontario, should also be undertaken.

During the upcoming legislative session, we will be proposing the following private members' bills to deal with a number of more urgent environmental problems:

- A progressive reduction of emissions of organo-chlorines (including dioxins and furans) from pulp mills, with firm targets.
- Effective regular monitoring of air and water emissions, and toxic spills, with the timely public disclosure of this information.
- An increase in the maximum penalties levied under the Waste Management Act to \$1 million from \$50,000. The courts will also be given greater leeway to issue orders and apply sanctions to stop pollution violations and prevent recurrence.
- Introduction of legislation to protect the jobs of workers who report or attempt to prevent pollution by their employer. Such protection is already in force in Ontario.
- A continued moratorium on offshore oil drilling. The recent oil spill off the west coast of Vancouver Island has clearly shown the extreme danger of oil spills to our marine resources and the inability of either the provincial or federal governments to deal with the impacts of oil pollution.
- A ban on the use of lead materials in new and repaired plumbing.

- A phase out of the use of incinerators by apartment and commercial buildings as a method of solid waste disposal.
- The creation of a new agency with a broad mandate to introduce province-wide consumer recycling of solid wastes. This agency will have representatives from all levels of government and community organizations. As an interim measure, deposits on beverage containers will be increased and the deposit return system will be extended to cover other glass beverage containers and batteries.
- A ban on the manufacture, sale and use of chlorofluorocarbons used in some types of styrofoam. CFCs are a major contributor to the deterioration of the earth's ozone layer and their use is being phased out by many manufacturers.

3.5 Preserving Parks and Wilderness

New Democrats are committed to preserving and expanding our unique heritage of parks and wilderness. This goal is important both for the benefit and enjoyment of British Columbians and for the future of our important tourist industry.

The selection and boundaries for new additions to our system of parks and wilderness areas must be made on the basis of a more comprehensive regional planning framework. This framework should provide for wide public participation based on a thorough analysis of environmental, aesthetic, and economic values.

We believe that mechanisms should be developed to compensate workers for employment lost should land areas be withdrawn from industrial designation in order to create new parks and wilderness areas. In the case of the recently created South Moresby Park, forest companies received substantial compensation but forest workers were inadequately compensated.* During this session of the legislature, we will be introducing a private member's bill to:

- Ensure that the boundaries of all parks and wilderness areas are protected by statute.

Summary of the New Democrats' 1989 Legislative Program for Sustainable Development

During the upcoming session of the legislature, New Democrats will present 20 private members' bills to foster employment and economic growth from B.C.'s resources without harming our environment.

1. Forest Resource Inventory

The Forest Act will be amended to require a comprehensive public inventory of the province's forest resources, to be updated in each forest region no less than once every ten years. The inventory will be undertaken by the forest service with the costs being charged to the industry via the stumpage system.

2. Tree Farm Licence (TFL) Moratorium

The Forest Act will be amended to forestall any new Tree Farm Licences with the completion of both a comprehensive forest inventory and a new Royal Commission on Forestry.

3. Forest Management on Private Lands

A new bill will be introduced to provide for the monitoring and regulation of forestry on private lands.

4. Forest Waste Prevention

The scaling of timber for stumpage payments will be required from logging companies before timber is cut. Already in effect in Washington and Oregon, this would provide a powerful incentive for more complete timber utilization.

5. Community-Based Reforestation

Introduction of locally controlled reforestation similar to the now-dormant Vancouver Island mayors' program.

6. Preservation of Agricultural Land

Cabinet's arbitrary powers to override the Agricultural Land Commission and exclude lands from the Land Reserve will be curtailed.

7. Environment and Land Use Secretariat

Amendments to the Land Use Act will be introduced to establish a permanent secretariat to assist cabinet in resolving land use conflicts and developing new land use planning mechanisms.

8. Freedom of Information

New freedom of information legislation will guarantee informed public participation in environmental, resource, and land use decisions.

9. A Ban on Log Exports

Proposed amendments to the Forest Act will ban raw log exports.

10. New Jobs from Value-Added Manufacturing

Requirements for new value-added employment will be linked to industrial access to public forest resources.

11. Reduction of Dioxin Emissions

Changes to the Waste Management Act will provide for a progressive reduction of organo-chlorines (including dioxins and furans) from pulp mills.

12. Pollution Monitoring and Enforcement

Amendments to the Waste Management Act will establish regular and effective monitoring of air and water emissions and toxic spills. Moreover, public disclosure of this information will be assured.

13. Pollution Penalties Increased

Maximum penalties under the Waste Management Act will be increased to \$1 million from \$50,000. Courts will be empowered to issue orders and apply sanctions to stop pollution violations and prevent their recurrence.

14. "Whistle-Blowers" Amnesty

Legislation to protect the jobs of workers who report or attempt to prevent pollution by their employer will be introduced.

15. Offshore Oil Moratorium

Legislation to continue indefinitely the moratorium on offshore oil drilling.

16. Reduction of Lead Levels in Drinking Water

Legislation will be introduced to prohibit the use of lead materials in new and repaired drinking water plumbing.

17. Incinerator Phase-Out

The use of incinerators by apartment and commercial buildings as a method of waste disposal will be progressively eliminated by legislation.

18. Consumer Recycling

Legislation to establish a new agency to introduce province-wide consumer recycling of solid wastes. As an interim measure deposits on glass containers will be increased and a deposit return system will be extended to cover other glass beverage containers and batteries.

19. CFC Ban

Legislation to ban the manufacture, sale and use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) used in some types of styrofoam. CFCs are a major contributor to the deterioration of the earth's ozone layer.

20. Protecting Parks and Wilderness Areas

The boundaries of all existing parks and wilderness areas will be protected by statute.