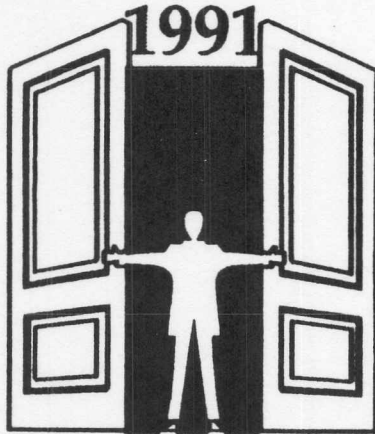




Election Platform



The *new* Liberal Party of British Columbia

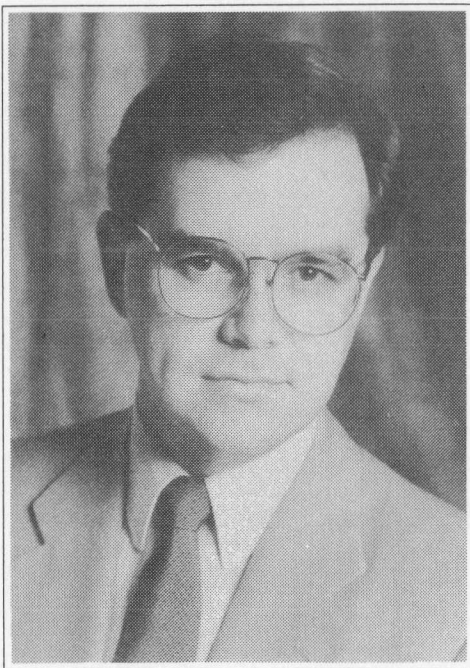
Gordon Wilson, Leader

6th floor, 210 West Broadway
Vancouver, British Columbia, V5Y 3W2
tel.: 872-1636

SEP 17 1991

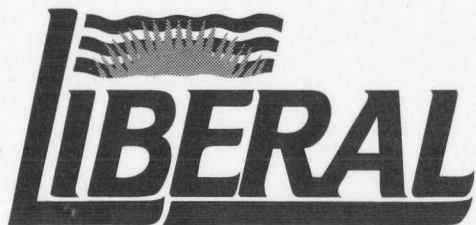
LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY
VICTORIA, B.C. V8V 1X4

Our Promise!



Gordon Wilson, Leader

1. Reform government to make it more accountable to you.
2. Implement comprehensive tax reform.
3. Institute environmental safeguards and invest in education to protect our future.
4. Maintain accessible health care, compassionate social programs and affordable housing.
5. Ensure that British Columbia is an equal partner in a strong and united Canada.



The Liberal Party of British Columbia

How We Will Make Governments More Accountable

1. Establish a set election date.
2. Provide MLA's with a free vote.
3. Set spending limits on political parties during elections.
4. Require full disclosure of any campaign donations.
5. Bring in a freedom of information act.
6. Integrate government services at the community level.

How We Will Reform Taxation

1. Eliminate duplicate government.
2. Negotiate the use of GST for the benefit of BC residents and reduce or eliminate the BC sales tax.
3. Remove education as an isolated tax on property.
4. Change the procedure of land assessment to provide a fairer and more equitable property tax between rural and urban property owners.

How We Will Protect Future Generations

1. Involve people in the decision-making process by creating an environmental review agency to hear public appeals and conduct open hearings.
2. Implement a long-term strategy for land use that emphasizes sustainability and recognizes the limits to growth within our environment.
3. Create an Environmental Assurance Fund that will be financed by federal and provincial governments as well as employers and employees. It will protect workers from lost income and assist in retraining employees in situations where industry is unable to comply with environmental standards or during periods of time when industry is upgrading to meet standards.
4. Remove political confrontation between educators and government. Recognize education as a critical investment in our future and thus provide the necessary resources to meet our educational goals. Establish an Educational Advisory Council to facilitate long-term planning.

How We Care for Our People

1. Create a comprehensive community-based health care system to provide maximum access to health care delivery in both rural and urban settings.
2. Create and fund a Ministry of Community Development to integrate social service delivery.
3. Increase the supply of affordable housing and the opportunities for home ownership by adopting a "rent-to-own" program.
4. Encourage the development of housing that meets the changing needs of seniors including "medi-flats" for those couples who wish to remain together despite the long-term disability of one spouse.
5. Provide a hand up for those in need, not a handout.

Intelligent Leadership: Keeping Canada United

We recognize that Canada has a rich diversity of language and culture. We acknowledge the need to address past and present grievances of the people of the First Nations of Canada

To ensure that Canada stays united we believe:

1. Every Canadian is equal to every other Canadian regardless of race, colour, creed, language or culture.
2. Every province shall hold the same legislative powers as every other province.
3. A reformed upper house must reflect equal legislative opportunities for all Canadians regardless of where they reside.

For more information on each of these items contact your local Liberal candidate.



The Liberal Party of British Columbia

6th Floor, 210 W. Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 3W2

872-1636

**Solutions for the 1990's and beyond
The New Liberal Party of British Columbia**



Caucus Critics

Area	Critic	Telephone
Aboriginal affairs	Gordon Wilson	883-9124
Agriculture	Judy Tyabji	765-9364
Community ministry	Val Anderson	327-6817
Economic development	Clive Tanner	656-0556
Education	Linda Reid	275-1595
Education (post-secondary)	Shirley Bonfield	723-3375
Environment	Bill McGuire	937-7855
Family/women	Susan French	437-1937
Finance	Allan Warnke	271-6279
Forestry	Wilf Hurd	531-0224
Government reform	Gordon Wilson	883-9124
Health services	Alicia Burns	339-5604
Immigration	Susan French	437-1937
Justice	Jeremy Dalton	986-2885
Labour	Jeremy Dalton	986-2885
Land use	Murray MacLeod	270-3592
Municipal affairs	Paul McKivett	477-3806
Parks/recreation	Art Cowie	943-4143
Social services	Val Anderson	327-6817
Transportation	Gary Farrell-Collins	888-7178

**LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY
VICTORIA, B. C.**

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond
The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



Table of Contents

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Aboriginal rights | 22. Health services |
| 2. Agriculture | 23. Heritage |
| 3. Aquaculture | 24. Housing |
| 4. Canadian unity | 25. Human rights |
| 5. Child care | 26. Immigration |
| 6. Child welfare | 27. Job generation |
| 7. Community development | 28. Justice |
| 8. Consumer protection | 29. Labour |
| 9. Disabled | 30. Mining |
| 10. Economic development | 31. Multiculturalism |
| 11. Education | 32. Municipal affairs |
| 12. Post-secondary education | 33. Poverty |
| 13. Equity in the workplace | 34. Seniors |
| 14. Environment: legislation | 35. Small business |
| 15. Environment: action on pollution | 36. Tax reform |
| 16. Environment: Party resolutions | 37. Tourism |
| 17. Family violence | 38. Transportation: provincial |
| 18. Finance | 39. Transportation: urban |
| 19. Fisheries | 40. Water export |
| 20. Forestry | 41. Women |
| 21. Government reform | |

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



AGRICULTURE

The agricultural sector is B.C.'s fourth largest industry, employing over 150,000 people. Though its health and stability affect both city and country, the problems of agriculture receive little notice in a legislature dominated by "urban" issues. Liberals want to change that.

A Liberal Government in British Columbia will:

- Assist B.C. producers in maximizing their efficiency and competitive position in both domestic and international markets. To increase farm incomes, employment, and the competitive position of B.C. producers, a Liberal government would encourage the use of land for more profitable crop alternatives and the development both of cheaper and more efficient production methods and of improved transportation technology.
- Work closely with the agriculture industry in developing methods that would enable those B.C. producers with the greatest export potential to compete more effectively in international markets. Specific attention would be given to improving the competitive export positions of beef, apples, raspberries and blueberries.
- Improve the value-added content of B.C.'s food products by assisting in the development of agricultural processing plants. Value added processing would further strengthen our agriculture sector and create agriculture-related industrial jobs.
- Review provincial land use policies in cooperation with the Province's municipalities to ensure that good agricultural land is preserved and that land genuinely unsuitable for farming is released to its highest use.
- Review the Soil Conservation Act of British Columbia with the objective of developing and implementing programs which ensure the protection, maintenance and effective use of our agricultural soils.
- Increase the level of provincial funding for rural agricultural research and extension education programs to ensure that the most up-to-date methods and technologies are developed and communicated readily to B.C.'s farmers. The number of agriculture-related courses offered by the Province's colleges would also be greatly increased.
- Establish an Agricultural Research Advisory Board to provide a more formal and ongoing dialogue between farming communities and agricultural research institutions. Agricultural research dollars would then be used to solve those problems of greatest economic concern to B.C.'s farmers.
- Establish a provincial Agricultural Assistance Apprenticeship Program as a means of providing direct jobs and hands-on farm experience to young people interested in pursuing active farming as a profession. Successful graduates of the program would be eligible for loan incentives to enter farming in B.C.

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

Native land claims in British Columbia must be settled through goodwill, fair-mindedness and negotiation. Besides being unjust, the delay in sitting down to talk with our native people about their issues and reaching a fair settlement has also led to a feeling of uncertainty and instability in both the native and business communities and has consequently held up the development of legitimate projects throughout British Columbia. It is imperative that immediate political initiatives be taken.

A Liberal Government in British Columbia will:

- ☐ Recognize the fundamental rights and freedoms of the aboriginal people as equal partners in Canadian society.
- ☐ Enter into negotiations with the aboriginal peoples in British Columbia and with the federal government to resolve land claims in a fair and equitable manner.
- ☐ Immediately move to provide title to reserve lands that are currently not under dispute. Such a move would demonstrate a tangible commitment by government to the solution of the land issues.
- ☐ Set an advanced timetable on current negotiations for self-government within the province.
- ☐ Resolve third party involvement so that all people have a fair settlement to lands under dispute.
- ☐ In cooperation with the Department of Education and with industry and business help the native bands set up better educational and training opportunities.
- ☐ Establish a judicial commission to investigate discriminatory legal action against native people and assist the local native authorities to develop needed preventive programs.
- ☐ Recognize that it is critical, if we are to avoid hostilities, that joint action be taken to provide for Indian self-government in British Columbia. Only when there is real evidence that this issue is being given the urgent action that it requires will eventual settlement of disputed lands be possible.

Caucus resource people: Gordon Wilson (883-9124)

Ernest Jilg (942-7718)

B.C. Liberal Aboriginal People's Commission: Bill Williams

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



AQUACULTURE

The last five years have been tumultuous ones for the aquaculture industry in British Columbia. A lack of planning and restraint in establishing this exciting new industry has resulted in hardship for many getting started. The B.C. Liberals are committed to maintaining and enhancing the role of aquaculture in our economy but are also aware of the need to proceed in an orderly manner by minimizing resource use conflict, following strict pollution control guidelines and assisting with marketing.

A Liberal Government in British Columbia will:

- ☐ Ensure that no new fish farms are established in areas that have not been assessed through a Coastal Resources Investigative Study so as to minimize conflicts with existing foreshore uses both natural, as in the case of spawning herring, and industrial, such as anchorages for the commercial fishing fleet.
- ☐ Continue to accommodate studies into the environmental and economic impacts of the aquaculture industry with particular emphasis on the effects of this new industry on wild fish stocks.
- ☐ Press for the establishment of a fund or insurance program which is mandatory to have in place before the establishment of a fish farm, which can be used in the event of environmental damage or harm to wild stocks.
- ☐ Press the federal Fisheries Department to alter the regulations governing the operation of seine boats to allow for their use in "rounding up" fish that have escaped from fish farms and generally set in place procedures to follow in this event.
- ☐ Try to minimize concentration on salmon farming alone by aiding research on and development of farming of other species of fish and shellfish, such as mussels, catfish, freshwater shrimp and prawns.
- ☐ Call for the creation of a permanent council comprising members from appropriate provincial and federal government agencies, fish farms, and the commercial and sports fishing industries to minimize foreshore use conflict and work together on marketing.
- ☐ Assist the industry with the establishment of a marketing council for farmed fish so as to take advantage of a current world interest in increased fish production.
- ☐ Put regulations in place governing foreign investment in aquaculture in order to enhance the industry through local ownership.
- ☐ Make British Columbia a world leader in aquaculture research by attracting funding for universities and research institutions within the province for this purpose.

*Caucus resource person: Gary Farrell-Collins (888-7178)
Lynne Waller*

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



CANADIAN UNITY

The Liberal Party of British Columbia supports the notion that there must be only one Canada, united from Sea to Sea to Sea.

We believe that in order for there to be accommodation of the legitimate concerns of the Province of Quebec, there must be a recognition of their distinctiveness in view of a common French language and unique Quebecois culture. We also recognize their use of civil law rather than common law.

We also believe, however, that such accommodation must not alter the inalienable right of all Canadians to equality regardless of language, religion or the region within which they live.

Further, we believe that a revised constitution must acknowledge the First Nations of Canada and give full and equal status to aboriginal peoples within the preamble and text of any Accord.

In order to achieve such an agreement, we advance the notion that constitutional reform must be based upon three fundamental equalities:

1. That all people are equal under the law and as such are protected by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms which will prevail on all matters of individual rights as covered within the Constitution and that the Constitution cannot be amended in such a way that the Charter of Rights does not prevail.
2. That all provinces are accorded equal powers with full legislative authority over provincial matters agreed to in the Victoria constitutional round in 1971. We acknowledge that there is a need for national standards on environment, education, health care and social services.
3. That the interests of Canadians are not diminished by virtue of the population of their province. To ensure that equal representation is achieved we believe that there must be a Senate that is elected, effective, and equal. Such a Senate will have the same number of representatives from each province.

The Liberal Party of British Columbia believes that such a change to the Constitution can only come about with full and open discussion between government and the people.

Caucus resource person: Gordon Wilson (883-9124)

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



CHILD CARE

The Liberals believe that the care of children is a major responsibility in a society. But now we must also recognize that we need women in the labour force and they must have good care for their children. We are now finding out that industries that provide on-site child care facilities have more productive workers and that communities that assist disadvantaged children with good preschool programs save money later on special services.

A Liberal Government in British Columbia will:

- ☐ Support and coordinate the development of quality, accessible and affordable child care services to meet the current need. Parents must have reasonable choices.
- ☐ Put pressure on the federal government to implement the programs promised in the last election.
- ☐ Insist that services be flexible to accommodate the needs of parents who work non-standard working hours.
- ☐ Insist that every region of the province has an adequate supply of affordable child-care facilities. Members of the Legislature will assess the needs in their constituency and work with the government to meet those needs.
- ☐ Ensure that parents have an active role in the services.
- ☐ Insist that whenever a new school is constructed, a child care facility operated by a non-profit society will be included. When space is available in existing schools, a non-profit society will be invited to operate a child-care program.
- ☐ Encourage local governments to provide incentives such as zoning bonuses or property tax referrals to encourage employers and developers to establish child-care facilities on work sites.
- ☐ Review the current system of monitoring child-care facilities and the qualifications of staff to ensure that training, skills and buildings are at an acceptable level. We will also review the salaries and benefits made available to childcare providers to ensure that remuneration reflects the value of their work and their educational qualifications.
- ☐ At the next federal-provincial ministers' conference emphasize a program to ensure recognition through the taxation system for those mothers or fathers who choose to remain at home to care for their children.

Caucus resource person: Herman Litsky (687-6373)

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



CHILD WELFARE

Children are our most precious resource and government must safeguard their basic rights by ensuring a healthy standard of care.

A Liberal Government in British Columbia will:

- ☐ Immediately overhaul the priorities in social services to overcome the serious shortage of preventive services for families with children at risk living in neglectful situations.
- ☐ Improve the level of specialized services and treatment services for disturbed children, young offenders and the handicapped.
- ☐ Set up an effective advocacy system for our youth within the government and within the legal system to ensure that children and youth do not get caught up in the web of bureaucracy as they pass through the administration of juvenile justice, the Ministry of Social Services and Housing and the Solicitor General.
- ☐ Establish a task force to review the Family and Child Services Act and the current child welfare practices.
- ☐ Instead of having the present potpourri of several ministries, endorse the creation of a Ministry for Children to regulate the care of children under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Services and Housing

Caucus resource person: Herman Litsky (687-6373)

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Liberals believe there must be co-operation at all levels of government with community organizations in order to best meet the needs and wishes of all of the citizens of the province. So, we believe that a Ministry of Community Development would best support local initiatives and best assist communication and co-ordination at all levels.

A Liberal Government in British Columbia will:

- ☐ Create a Ministry of Community Development which will support our citizens in their building of wholesome communities which will foster the dignity of each individual.
- ☐ Recognize that the members of the Legislative Assembly are each responsible to their local community to provide a system of government that works on their collective behalf. Each M.L.A. will have a prime responsibility to know and serve community needs and will, through their constituency office, be responsible to support local means of coordinated community development.
- ☐ Provide support services for community planning committees, in co-operation with local governments, that citizens may research, propose and undertake community projects of interest and concern to themselves.
- ☐ Organize government services in local communities so that they are readily accessible, preferably in one building, to all who may wish to make use of them.
- ☐ Share information and perspectives on local issues as these relate to regional, provincial, national and international circumstances.
- ☐ Provide citizens with organized advocacy resources along with dialogue and mediation processes for community planning, decision-making, implementation and conflict resolution.
- ☐ Encourage participation by individuals in volunteer service and advocacy organizations for community planning including the support of processes for conflict management and mediation.
- ☐ Seek to ensure an equitable distribution of available funding to support both majority and minority needs and to seek an integration of private sector and public sector programs.

Caucus resource person: Val Anderson (327-6817)

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



CONSUMER PROTECTION

The time is long past when caveat emptor - "let the buyer beware" - was all the consumer protection anyone needed. Today, unfamiliar products and complex financial dealings can trap even the wariest buyer. Liberals see modern consumer protection, not as a burden to responsible sellers, but as a cost-efficient alternative to our over taxed court system.

A Liberal Government in British Columbia will:

- ☐ Establish across the province consumer assistance offices empowered to hear consumer complaints and, where appropriate, to obtain redress.
- ☐ Establish an intervener fund to assist recognized consumer groups with the massive costs of public utility regulatory hearings.
- ☐ Amend the Residential Tenancy Act to allow monetary disputes to be heard by the arbitrators appointed under the Act.
- ☐ Require all commercial and private vehicles to undergo periodic safety inspections.
- ☐ Amend Schedule F of the Food and Drugs regulations to allow the posting in pharmacies of the prices being charged for prescription drugs. The substitution of generically equivalent drugs for higher priced brands should be allowed.
- ☐ Urge the federal government not to amend existing compulsory cross licensing legislation that makes possible the sale of generic drugs at greatly reduced prices.

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



DISABLED

Although we have made progress in our recognition of the special needs of the disabled and have moved to improve the situation, there is still much to be done. Liberals believe that the disabled should receive assistance to take their legitimate place in our society.

A Liberal Government in British Columbia will:

- ☐ Ensure that the disabled receive equal access to job creation and training programs particularly suited for those with special needs.
- ☐ Encourage communities to provide the needed "disabled friendly" transportation services to facilitate their integration into the workforce and to give them freedom to move around their community.
- ☐ Provide the school systems with sufficient funds to include special needs children in the educational system and to provide support staff such as therapists and teacher assistants to relieve the pressure on teachers.

Caucus resource person: Herman Litsky (687-6373)

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



A STRONG ECONOMY

Canada is facing profound economic challenges as it strives to turn an economy that bases its advantages on natural resources into an economy that can adapt and generate appropriate new technologies in a competitive technological world. It means building a highly skilled, flexible work force that is able to meet the challenges of "working smarter" as well as recognizing the areas of potential strength and cooperatively funding the needed research and development programs. Liberals recognize the value of the market as the predominant engine of growth but also know that if full employment is to be achieved and if advanced technology is to be developed here and attracted here, government must act positively

A Liberal Government in British Columbia will:

- Vigorously promote an expanded role for "industrial institutes" as chartered non-profit associations that would be overseen by the Science Council of B.C. The associations would be funded by membership fees that would be set as a percentage of each member's net profits. The intent of the institute would be to use the pooled capital of the industry to fund research, development, implementation and job training that all members would have access to. This would:
 - 1) facilitate the flow of technical information to small and medium-sized enterprises and discourage the creation of monopolies on technology or intellectual properties;
 - 2) allow industry to participate in meaningful job training while removing the temptation for apprentice programs to become government subsidized labour;
 - 3) create an R & D climate that the government can invest in without the present fear of the government supporting one company over another.
- Permanently establish an economic development council made up of community leaders, environmentalists, as well as representatives of business, industry, labour, universities, and government to identify areas of potential economic strength and to recommend what kind of government assistance could be most effective. There would also be special consideration given to:
 - 1) research and development projects that give added value to the province's natural resources;
 - 2) the employment of newly-qualified scientists and technicians. Such assets are too precious to lose and will accrue in value;
 - 3) the underwriting of job creation efforts that contribute to the long-term economic health of the province such as the rebuilding of the municipal infrastructure, reforestation and tourism;

*Caucus resource people: Clive Tanner (656-0556)
Michael Stebner (733-6095)*

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY
VICTORIA, B. C.

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



EDUCATION

A quality educational system is of the utmost importance in preparing young people to face the opportunities and challenges of our new global society and to assist them in facing a future with both courage and confidence. To provide the type of education now required, school boards, teachers, parents and government must work together.

A Liberal Government in British Columbia will:

- ☐ Create a teaching environment which has as its mainstay, a respect and regard for the teaching profession
- ☐ Commit to increasing the number of graduates from British Columbia secondary schools and try to ensure that every young person completes a satisfying school program.
- ☐ Establish a B.C. Educational Advisory Council made up of members from the teaching profession, school trustees, the education faculties from the teaching Universities and the Education Ministry to provide advice to government on funding priorities and curriculum development. This procedure would facilitate proper planning instead of the crisis management we now experience and would encourage a strong working relationship among these key agencies.
- ☐ Support the creation of such specialized secondary schools/departments for major programs in such areas as fine arts, mathematics and science, languages and Pacific Rim countries.
- ☐ Give a priority to securing and retaining qualified teachers by providing a positive working environment and ensuring that there is sufficient funding available for professional development.
- ☐ Change the funding basis for education from residential property taxes to the general tax revenues - and no referenda on the needed quality education.
- ☐ Use the average class size in measuring staffing needs rather than the misleading pupil-teacher ratio.
- ☐ Enable special needs students to be educated in their neighbourhood schools and ensure that there are sufficient support services such as counselling, speech and language specialists and classroom assistants to meet the needs of all students.
- ☐ Give continued support for parent involvement and parent advisory councils.
- ☐ Ensure that the schools in British Columbia continue to foster "citizens of the world" and actively oppose racism in any form.

Caucus resource person: Linda Reid (274-4748)

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

For a society in the information age and on the verge of a new millennium, education has an essential role to play in the development of a peaceful, prosperous, environmentally safe and economically successful province and country.

Liberals Believe that:

- ☐ Education above the school level is primarily a social investment - in our youth and in the development of our economy. In consequence, government/society should continue to bear all but a minor share of the cost, despite the more limited resources for social and educational programs.
- ☐ Education helps to balance individual and community needs.
- ☐ Education should give people the opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge they need to adapt to and to make a constructive contribution to the world in which they live. It should enhance choices and opportunities.
- ☐ Canada and British Columbia must be part of a lifelong learning society and restructure the entire post-secondary education and training apparatus to this end.
- ☐ Illiteracy is a social cost that can no longer be tolerated without every resource being harnessed to assist in solving the problem which prevents too many of our citizens from enjoying the security and opportunities which literacy and numeracy bring.

A Liberal Government in British Columbia will:

- ☐ Commit to adequate funding of post-secondary education on a longer time line than the current yearly crisis in order that programs and staffing can be properly planned.
- ☐ Direct to post-secondary education the federal monies transferred for that purpose.
- ☐ Address the vital need for retraining programs by introducing a RRSP-type savings program and/or joint management- worker funding where both workers and industry can plan together and save for educational leave.
- ☐ Commit the money and resources to find means of eliminating illiteracy.
- ☐ Be a leader in urging all provinces and the federal government to commit to an extensive study of the needs of post-secondary education and training into the next century and be prepared to look at innovative ideas that will enable our education system to provide our citizens with the skills to be leaders in an information age and of a province committed to valuing our natural environment.

Caucus resource person: Shirley Bonfield (723-3375)

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



ENVIRONMENT: PLANNING AND LEGISLATION

There no longer remains any doubt that the single greatest challenge facing us as a society is to find ways to stop the degradation of our environment without a wholesale collapse of our economy.

A Liberal Government in British Columbia will:

- ❑ Enact legislation to empower people in the decision-making process through the creation of an Environmental Review Agency. This agency will hear public appeals and be responsible for conducting open public hearings. We will publish detailed accounts of presentations made and reasons for all final decisions.
- ❑ Implement a long-term strategy for land use that emphasizes sustainability and recognizes the limits to growth within our environment.
- ❑ Enact legislation requiring government jurisdictions at both the local and the provincial levels to follow an integrated land use plan governing all Crown lands and the foreshore. A land use secretariat will co-ordinate resource use on both private and public sector lands.
- ❑ Enact a wilderness act which will stipulate areas to be kept as park or wilderness and which will set forth procedures for resolving conflicting claims on the resource base from sectors where there are conflicting claims by forestry, tourism, mining, fisheries or agriculture. The fore-shore management plan will include an emergency response program under the co-ordination of the Provincial Emergency Program.
- ❑ Enact a new environmental standards act that will establish a revised set of limits governing atmospheric emissions and effluent entering our marine environment and contaminants that effect our watersheds and agricultural lands. It will include existing environmental standards where adequate and put in place others where needed. The reporting of violations of the act in a timely manner will be mandatory. The act will restructure penalties imposed on firms or individuals guilty of dumping toxic wastes or otherwise violating the act in order that fines reflect the true cost of environmental cleanup.
- ❑ Enact legislation (including amendments to the B.C. Industrial Relations Act) protecting those who may report an employer's violation of such standards.
- ❑ Create an Environmental Assurance Fund that will receive mandatory contributions from federal and provincial governments as well as from employers and employees. It will protect workers from lost income and assist in retraining employees in situations where industry is unable or unwilling to comply with environmental standards or during periods of time when industry is upgrading to meet standards.

Caucus resource person: William McGuire (937-7855)

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



ENVIRONMENT: ACTION ON POLLUTANTS

In order to improve our air and waters, much must be done, some of it in legislation by other levels of government, some in changing of attitudes.

A Liberal Government in British Columbia will:

- ☐ Encourage local communities to introduce mandatory recycling, to ban the disposal of toxic industrial materials in municipal landfill sites, to improve public transit and commuters to switch their motor vehicles from gasoline to less polluting fuels.
- ☐ Protect our waters by working with the federal government to establish and enforce holding tank regulations for marine vessels, to legislate a moratorium on oil drilling in B.C. coastal waters, and to ban herbicide spraying in all watershed areas.
- ☐ To support more research by creating a ten million dollar fund for the next fiscal year aimed at universities, colleges, and institutes to study anaerobic digestion of vegetable solid waste and accelerated biodegradation of non-vegetative waste materials, with a commitment for increased funding over the next five, consecutive years.
- ☐ Provide immediate funding to increase active research on finding and applying alternative sources of energy, placing special emphasis on active and passive solar energy and photovoltaic electric production.
- ☐ Provide incentives for industry to manufacture only biodegradable products and introduce comprehensive regulations governing the production of toxic materials, waste, packaging and disposable goods.
- ☐ Review regulations surrounding the transport of hazardous materials to ensure adequate safety measures for both prevention and emergency response and seek agreement with the other provinces and the federal government to create a safe PCB storage and destruction facility; and, in the longer term, completely replace PCB-filled transformers.
- ☐ Re-enact the moratorium on uranium mining in British Columbia and ban the peace-time passage of nuclear-powered and nuclear-armed naval vessels through the inside passage.
- ☐ Prevent the establishment of an underground natural gas storage facility in the Fraser Valley.
- ☐ Ban bulk water exports from our province while encouraging export of value-added water (eg. bottled mineral or spring water).
- ☐ Make funding available to community-based environmental groups for resource, response and communication networks, particularly in cases of emergency.

Caucus resource person: William McGuire (937-7855)

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



LIBERAL PARTY STATEMENT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The Liberal Party in British Columbia at its convention on March 24, 1991 in Richmond, B.C. adopted several new policies regarding the environment. Of particular interest to environmentalists, the Liberal Party overwhelmingly passed resolutions:

- ☐ To protect the British Columbia portion of the Tatshenshini River as a provincial or national park.
- ☐ Opposing the Alcan diversion of the Nechako River and calling on the Liberal Party of Canada to "develop more rigorous national standards for dam construction and river diversions."
- ☐ Calling for British Columbia to participate in the Heritage River System Program and supporting "increasing the funding of and profile of the Canadian Heritage River System Program" and an expansion of the program "to include a larger number of rivers."
- ☐ Supporting the expansion of British Columbia Parks and Wilderness "to at least 12% (from 6.5%) by the year 2000."
- ☐ Opposing logging in all watersheds in Clayoquot Sound until a sustainable development plan is approved by the community.
- ☐ Supporting the protection of the lower Tsitika Valley as a wilderness area.

The convention also overwhelmingly endorsed a Forestry Practices Act applicable to both private and Crown land:

- ☐ Limiting the size of clear-cuts to small areas and prohibiting clear-cuts in sensitive areas including areas bordering on rivers and creeks, unstable hillsides and areas with significant aesthetic values and providing incentives promoting environmentally sensitive logging.
- ☐ Phasing out slash-burns, pesticides and herbicides and providing full protection for watersheds, wildlife habitat and bio-diversity.
- ☐ Calling for the Federal Government to establish federal standards for sustainable forestry management in Canada.
- ☐ Calling for the Liberal Party of Canada to establish a Federal Caucus task force to study the impacts of global warming and ozone depletion on forestry, agriculture, fisheries and health in Canada.

*Liberal Party of British Columbia
Policy Chair: Bruce Torrie (683-8111)*

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



EQUITY IN THE WORKPLACE

Today in British Columbia barriers to hiring and to promotion still place certain groups, i.e. women, at a disadvantage in the work place. Liberals believe the time has come to end discrimination and implement a program of economic justice for all British Columbians.

A Liberal Government in British Columbia will:

- ☐ Enact pay equity (equal pay for work of equal value) legislating which will apply first in the public and then in the private sector.
- ☐ Enact employment equity (affirmative action) legislating for all employers doing business with the Government of British Columbia.
- ☐ Amend all relevant legislation to include part-time workers as recipients on a proportionate basis of whatever benefits and pensions are being made available to full-time employees by their employers. Part-time employment must, in all respects, be a mutually beneficial arrangement.
- ☐ Encourage job-sharing opportunities throughout the public and private sectors.
- ☐ Enforce employment equity within the public sector.
- ☐ Work with individuals, representatives of designated groups, business and labour in the private sector to solicit cooperation in implementing labour policy which removes employment barriers limiting or preventing employment progress of visible minorities, people with disabilities, women and First Nations people.

Caucus resource person: Susan French (437-1937)

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



FAMILY VIOLENCE

Liberals react with shock at the growing rate of family violence and believe that we must be more sensitive to possible troubles in our community and be prepared to assist with temporary help and housing.

A Liberal Government in British Columbia will:

- ☐ Ensure that emergency shelters are available for women and children during times of family crisis in each and every major British Columbian community.
- ☐ Require mandatory counselling and support treatment for parents or spouses convicted of abuse or neglect.
- ☐ Ensure that sufficient numbers of trained and accredited social workers are available to deal with the increasing number of disclosures of sexually abused children.
- ☐ Increase the allocation of funds for securing the treatment of victims of sexual abuse to ensure that no child or adolescent or other victim should lack adequate treatment from a trained therapist.
- ☐ Set up a task force to investigate the causes of violence and to recommend preventive measures for high-risk families.

Caucus resource person: Herman Litsky (687-6373)

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



FINANCE

Based on budget statements and the auditor's report, sufficient funding must be provided to fairly and thoroughly regulate the laws and programs of the provincial government. Further, our tax base is being challenged by the federal government through the implementation of the GST.

A Liberal Government in British Columbia will:

- Oppose the federal government's imposition of the GST on the grounds that a tax in this area restricts the provincial government's ability to apply the appropriate rate of a Provincial Sales Tax, including the prospects of reducing the PST as well as increasing it.
- Reassess the contribution of Lottery Funds in terms of government revenue and how these can provide better service to the community, reinforcing social programs, rather than providing funds for pet recreational projects during a time of restraint.
- Favour a gradual reduction of the Provincial Sales Tax.
- Provide appropriate tax incentives to maintain and stimulate the economy both in a regional context and, where appropriate, to stimulate the resource sectors of our economy.

Caucus resource person: Allan Warnke (271-6279)

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



FISHERIES

Fisheries in British Columbia are at the confluence of three major areas of conflict: aboriginal land claims, philosophies of resource management and environmental concerns. Salmon, in particular, are crucially important to British Columbia's economy and culture. While the Liberal Party of British Columbia recognizes that this valuable resource should remain under federal control, there needs to be greater participation by the province in its administration.

A Liberal Government in British Columbia will:

- ❑ Obtain intervener status where it does not exist, and confirm it where it does, on the federally appointed councils that now advise the Federal Minister of Fisheries on the day-to-day operation of the various fisheries such as the Pacific Area Regional Council, Commercial Fishing Industrial Council and the advisory boards that are responsible for individual fisheries such as prawn, halibut, black cod and the like.
- ❑ Work with the federal government to ensure the technological advancements in fish processing that give our fish exports a reputation for having the best quality in the world are continued.
- ❑ Acknowledge the value of the sports fishery to the province by increasing efforts to rehabilitate Chinook and Coho stocks, particularly in Gulf of Georgia streams.
- ❑ Work with the Federal Fisheries department to identify extinct and endangered fish stocks (eg. salmon, white sturgeon) and develop policies to reverse these trends.
- ❑ Look for ways to stem the tide of fish heading across the border for processing due to GATT and free trade and encourage the establishment of more small "value added" fish product businesses in the province.
- ❑ Ensure the continuation of the Salmonid Enhancement Program emphasizing and increasing the participation of schools in this program.
- ❑ Participate in aboriginal land claims negotiations where fish are considered as part of the settlement, in order to protect the fish firstly, as a commonly held resource, and then the rights of all British Columbians.
- ❑ Acknowledge the impact of continued expansion of a resource-based economy on the environment, particularly fish stocks, in delicate river and estuarine ecosystems and work to mitigate the effects of this development. This can be accomplished by fully supporting the Fraser River Green Plan, banning further major water diversion projects and ensuring full, public environmental review processes on all sensitive projects.
- ❑ Assist with the establishment of a Fish Marketing Council which would help the commercial sector advertise and market wild B.C. salmon in local and international markets.

Caucus resource person: Gary Farrell-Collins (888-7178) (Lynne Waller)

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



GOVERNMENT REFORM

There must be fundamental reform in all levels of government to allow all Canadians to participate in setting the new goals for the 1990s. Our new priorities - cleaning the environment, increasing our emphasis on human rights, especially for natives, minorities, and women, and protecting the consumer - require more direct democracy, in deciding on the society we wish. As we prepare for the new century, legislators must represent the people and must not be beyond the reach of the public. It is our society, it is our choices that count.

A Liberal Government in British Columbia will:

- ☐ Establish an Election Day Act which would create a fixed election day in British Columbia in a manner similar to the date fixed for municipal elections. Such a day would be set at the end of the fourth year of government. This provision would not preclude an election brought about by the loss of confidence motion on money matters.
- ☐ Provide base funding to political parties on a per capita basis by registered membership.
- ☐ Allow only personal contributions by individuals,
- ☐ Pass legislation to set spending limits on political parties during provincial elections, with the provision for full disclosure on contributors over \$50.
- ☐ Strengthen the Office of the Ombudsman and pass freedom of information legislation.
- ☐ Set up a Ministry of Community Development to help members of the Legislature to provide a better service to their constituencies. Each member would help the community to organize advisory groups and to target the government funds that would go to it to meet its specific priorities. Also, this Ministry would coordinate all government services so that they were readily available in one building.
- ☐ Strengthen to role of the committee system and the contribution of backbenchers in the Legislature by: increasing the use of standing or special committees to investigate and to educate the public concerning public issues and government programs, providing legislative committees with adequate support staff and research funds required to carry out their expanded roles.

Caucus resource person: Gordon Wilson (883-9124)

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



HEALTH CARE

The Liberal Party sets a high priority on a cost-effective, quality health-care system which provides the full benefits of curative and preventive medicine irrespective of an individual's ability to pay. At this stage we believe that more emphasis must be given to preventive and community-based health care services, to training programs to alleviate the shortage of nurses and other health personnel and to the expansion and improvement of in-home hospital care service

A Liberal Government in British Columbia will:

- ☐ Develop a long-range plan for providing adequate hospital and hospice facilities throughout the province and ensure that decisions on new hospital buildings and programs are made according to utilization guidelines at the local level.
- ☐ Evaluate financing of the system and set up a good cost accountability mechanism. Include consumer representatives in decision making and ensure that hospital boards are democratically elected by the voters in the hospital district
- ☐ Encourage the service in our rural communities through a new and progressive policy of community-based health care delivery through a Ministry of Community Development.
- ☐ Address the drastic shortage of personnel. Negotiate salaries and fees for service through co-operative consultation and mutual agreement and implement programs such as extended vacation, higher differential pay for various shifts, early retirement and on-site daycare.
- ☐ Deliver basic and preventive health care and adjust the emphasis from acute to long-term care and community care. Develop an improved system of home health services for the chronically ill.
- ☐ Fund the needed fundamental research, especially on AIDS, and include careful guidelines on ethical questions where research is breaking into new areas.
- ☐ Improve the care of the poor and indigent who so often are not adequately served by the system.
- ☐ Support the rights of people for freedom of reproductive choice and emphasize education for reproductive methods including sex education in the schools and community.
- ☐ Stop forcing physicians into a position of conflict by being held fiscally accountable for patient utilization while at the same time expecting them to act as an advocate for the patient.
- ☐ Plan for the baby boom bulge reaching geriatric age and requiring these services and ensure the dignity and quality of life of the ill and elderly in our society.

Caucus resource person: Alicia Burns (339-5604)

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



HERITAGE

Heritage fulfills the first criteria of a good investment. "The older it gets the more valuable it becomes." The present building boom, through lack of direction, is destroying much of the established and unique character of many neighbourhoods in the fast growth centers. This homogenization will, in time, be seen as short sightedness. Heritage is not fanciful. There has been a direct sociological correlation noted between the presence of "heritage structures" and the level of respect shown for society and its institutions and the lack of such things has been seen to often accompany the epidemic of alienation.

A Liberal Government in British Columbia will:

- ☐ Expand the city charters so that local authority has the ability to prevent the degradation of Heritage Buildings when necessary as well as prevent the demolition of affordable housing without the specter of having to pay the compensation for the projected opportunity lost.
- ☐ Establish conservation areas in the urban areas, as it is done in Europe, that preserve the man-made environment as well as the natural one. Any developments in these areas must be sensitive to the integrity of the existing structures and built in the established style according to the architectural inventories. Non-conforming use of parcels (i.e. ranch style split levels in Shaughnessy) would be given priority for redevelopment.
- ☐ Investigate how jurisdictions in Ontario as well as Washington State, Oregon and Colorado have orchestrated such measures and to good social and commercial effect.
- ☐ Establish, through the Community Development Offices, an inventory of all local Arts Council and Heritage Committee projects and rank them as to their potential contributions to the tourist environment.
- ☐ Establish and administer a "Provincial Trust" (based on the National Trusts of England and Scotland) that seeks financial contribution and investment from local chambers of commerce in order to preserve and revitalize heritage projects in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism, Recreation and Conservation.
- ☐ Consider that the last decade of the 20th century should be a decade of heritage that celebrates the triumphs of those that came before us as such reflection might well fuel a bit more faith in the future. National festivals have occasionally been used to generate sustaining activity and enthusiasm through hard times. Note the festival of Britain in the early 50s. It could also set a tone that would naturally put added value on local character and Heritage.

Caucus resource person: Michael Stebner (733-6095)

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



HUMAN RIGHTS

Liberals believe there must be clear articulation of what constitutes human rights in British Columbia, that there should be a fast effective, and accessible way to grieve acts which are perceived by a group or individual as discriminatory and that appropriate penalties should be imposed against those who contravene those standards.

A Liberal Government in British Columbia will:

- ☐ Review and monitor existing provincial human rights acts to ensure consistency with federal human rights legislation.
- ☐ To respond to human rights complaints ensure there is a provincial process which is geographically and financially accessible to all people in British Columbia.
- ☐ Ensure human rights complaints are dealt with fairly and expeditiously.
- ☐ Review existing government policy to ensure consistency with B.C.'s Human Rights Act.
- ☐ Ensure that in cases where discrimination can be proved, appropriate penalties are enforced against the perpetrators.
- ☐ Develop a public education campaign to inform the people of British Columbia about provincial human rights standards and the complaint process accessible to them.

Caucus resource person: Susan French (437-1937)

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



IMMIGRATION

British Columbia receives, and is projected to continue to do so, about 13% of all immigrants to Canada. Liberals want greater input into the criteria for entry to Canada. They also want more direct and binding involvement in the screening, selection and settlement processes of immigration.

A Liberal Government in British Columbia will:

- ❑ Negotiate a new arrangement with the federal government which makes the provincial government's recommendation regarding immigration more binding and which involves the province in establishing criteria for entry into the country, the screening, selection and settlement processes.
- ❑ Advocate greater federal revenue to support English language education within the public school system and for community adult language training for immigrant people who are not functional in the language.
- ❑ Advocate greater federal responsibility for funding medical, dental and social support services for immigrants who enter the country under a Minister's permit.
- ❑ Work to establish an interprovincial or national equivalency centre to which newcomers to Canada can submit their education achievement and work experience to determine Canadian equivalency.

Caucus resource person: Susan French (437-1937)

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



JOB GENERATION

Economists of the 1930's - and their successors who advise the government from the offices of the Fraser Institute - argue that a free-market economy, left to its own devices, will settle unerringly at full employment. They are wrong. While recognizing the value of the market as the predominant engine of growth, Liberals know that if full employment is to be maintained, governments must act.

A Liberal Government in British Columbia will

- ❑ Encourage the growth and competitiveness of the private sector, the primary source of new jobs. Policies for achieving this objective include a three-year provincial tax holiday for both already existing and newly established businesses, a small business bond program that would make it easier for those with sound business ideas to obtain financing, incentives to encourage manufacturing within the province and, more specifically, more "value added" processing of British Columbia's natural resources before these resources are exported.
- ❑ Supplement private sector initiatives by also directly underwriting job creation efforts that contribute to the long run economic health of the province. Priority will be given to the areas of reforestation and forest management and to the rebuilding of the neglected infrastructure of our municipalities (roads, sidewalks, bridges and sewers).
- ❑ Make a sustained provincial effort to broaden the economic base and thus improve the future prospects of communities in British Columbia now overly dependent on a single industry or employer. Local planning efforts along those lines would receive partial funding and economically viable enterprises that require seed capital would be supported.
- ❑ Move decisively to change the climate of confrontation now so characteristic of industrial relations in British Columbia and so harmful to the province's economic growth. As a first step in doing so, a B.C. Liberal government will establish for each major sector of the economy a Growth and Development Council on which labour, management, government and, where appropriate, other groups would be represented. Such councils would be independent of and operate apart from the adversarial collective bargaining process. They will be charged with developing programs and policies that would contribute to employment stability and long run economic viability.
- ❑ Support peoples' right to trade and support the global reduction of tariffs. Liberals do, however, have grave doubts about the Mulroney government's actions in this area as they are continental in nature and will only serve to reinforce the late 20th century tendency for the world to carve itself up into warring trading blocks (i.e. Europe, Asia and the Americas).

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



JUSTICE

Fairness, justice and political integrity are of major concern to British Columbians and affect other areas of policy, such as aboriginal affairs, family law, and government reform. The recently passed legislation on conflict of interest lacks the detail that elected officials require to avoid conflict in carrying out their public duties.

A Liberal Government in British Columbia will:

- ☐ Enact conflict of interest legislation to apply to all elected officials; municipal, regional and provincial. The legislation will be unambiguous and effectively preclude actual or apparent conflict between the duties of public office holders and their private interests.
- ☐ Encourage and extend the use of alternate dispute procedures. The cost of litigation and the time consumed in taking civil action are detrimental factors to most potential litigants and alternative methods of resolution must be supported. Specific alternative methods could include a rentalsman's office to deal with both residential and commercial tenancy agreement disputes and possible extension of the monetary jurisdiction of the Small Claims Court from \$10,000 to \$25,000. Arbitration could be encouraged instead of the Supreme Court in civil matters where the amount claimed exceeds \$25,000 but is less than \$100,000.
- ☐ Implement legislation to provide public access to government records and policy-making decisions. The public has the right to know government business, and government has the responsibility to provide that information. Necessary exceptions to this policy would include matters of public security, unwarranted disclosure of personal information and law enforcement documents.

Resource person: Jeremy Dalton (986-2885)

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



LABOUR RELATIONS

Positive labour relations are essential to the long-run economic health of British Columbia. There must be far more cooperation and compromise between labour and management, far less conflict and confrontation, if we are to compete successfully in today's international marketplace. A Liberal government would create a constructive tone for labour negotiations in British Columbia by treating all its employees fairly and by making improvements in the labour code.

A Liberal Government in British Columbia will :

- ☐ Consult broadly in rewriting the labour code.
- ☐ Be committed to free collective bargaining in both the public and private sectors.
- ☐ Amend the employment standards act so that equal protection is extended to all employees whether unionized or not.
- ☐ Amend all relevant legislation in a way that extends the protection now enjoyed by other employees to farm and domestic workers.
- ☐ Assist with a dispute resolution mechanism to maximize the potential for management and labour to solve their problems without government interference.
- ☐ Be committed to equal pay for work of equal value, to equal opportunities in the workplace and to fairness for part-time workers.
- ☐ Set up retraining programs for workers whose jobs have been made redundant.

Caucus resource person: Gaetan Myre 294-8310

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond
The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



MINING

The mining community was among many Canadians to apply pressure on the federal government to backtrack on its attempt to change flow-through shares mechanisms in the guise of the government's tax reform. As was pointed out and fully supported by the Liberal Party, such a significant deduction is necessary to foster the growth of small mining companies, especially in remote areas. Since we know the Liberal government program was successful here in opening new mines and creating more jobs, the provincial government should take a cue to provide appropriate tax incentives rather than direct subsidies.

A Liberal Government in British Columbia will encourage the placing of appropriate tax incentives within its jurisdiction and negotiate where appropriate with the federal government to keep these tax incentives in place rather than replace them with direct subsidies.

Caucus resource person: Allan Warnke (271-6279)

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



MULTICULTURALISM

Canada's policy on multiculturalism has been fundamental in strengthening the country's cultural mosaic by fostering tolerance and understanding and through the support of various programs giving new Canadians a certain level of comfort and security. This is something we all should be proud of. As a philosophy multiculturalism should continue to be encouraged but the provincially government-funded department should be discontinued and the \$1 million now allotted to this department be reallocated to other, relevant departments.

A Liberal Government in British Columbia will:

- ☐ Increase the funding for the Ministry of Education for additional ESL education, for cultural liaison officers to help bridge the gap between school and home for new and first generation Canadian students, and for the revision of our ethnic-centric history books to give a more realistic portrayal of the contributions cultures other than British and French have made in building this country.
- ☐ Increase the funding of the Ministry of Labour to fight discrimination in hiring and promoting as well as access to job training.
- ☐ Increase funding to the Ministry in charge of housing to monitor and act upon discrimination in the area of rental accommodation.
- ☐ Increase funding to the Ministry of the Solicitor General to actively recruit police officers from visible minorities.
- ☐ Increase funding to the Ministry of the Provincial Secretary to provide additional funding to agencies that assist new immigrants in settling in Canada.

Caucus resource person: Rod Raglin (327-0221)

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

The Liberal Party of British Columbia believes that local government is the most accessible and responsive level of government. The elected officials and municipal staff generally come from the citizens of the community they serve and together with other volunteers or advisory groups give local government the unique perspective on issues to further enhance the work of local government.

A Liberal Government in British Columbia will:

- Consult with the Union of B.C. Municipalities on the term of office of locally elected officials.
- Amend the provincial highway revenue sharing grants to permit reconstruction of major streets in a community to be accepted under the guidelines for revenue sharing therefore eligible for funding.
- Increase revenue sharing grants for municipal water and sewage systems.
- Through the Ministry of Community Development integrate local services with community-based education and health care provisions.
- Encourage through expanded Economic Development Revenue grant programs local Economic Development Commissions.
- Implement recommendations of the U.B.C.M. to improve the British Columbia Assessment Authority procedures.

Caucus resource person: Paul McKivett (477-3806)

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



POVERTY

Liberals believe that we must take action to reduce poverty in British Columbia and to bring about a more acceptable degree of dignity and self-worth to all people. Compassion and encouragement are important and we must emphasize a "hand-up" and not just a "handout."

A Liberal Government in British Columbia will:

- ❑ Begin to solve the problem by raising welfare rates and minimum wages above the poverty level in order to sustain the well-being of men, women and children who are recipients. There is no possible justification for providing less than a subsistence level of income to low-income groups.
- ❑ In the long term develop an equitable basic income program for all British Columbians in co-operation with all levels of government. This basic income program must be sensitive to regional variations on the cost of living.
- ❑ Undertake a major restructuring of income assistance to ensure that people should not be subjected to line ups at food banks nor should any of our children go hungry within the school system. We need a humane political policy for poor people and a restoration of their rights and dignity.
- ❑ Ensure that those who need just temporary assistance have access to educational and training programs by allowing them to retain a reasonable percentage of earnings from part-time work and to register for post-secondary programs. We must concentrate on adequate assistance for those who require help but we must also emphasize opportunities for individuals to get on their feet and be independent.
- ❑ Ensure that services for those who require long-term help are more responsive to individual needs allowing people to live in dignity in their own community.
- ❑ Consult regularly both with local community groups to update priorities and to respond to changing community needs and with municipal and federal agencies to overcome duplication and to ensure that funds are spent responsibly.
- ❑ Facilitate the ability of Members of the Legislative Assembly to work in their constituencies to bring together existing support services and establish new services. A MLA, regardless of whether in government or in opposition, can set up toy-lending libraries or community gardens or youth activity centres in his or her constituency.
- ❑ Assume some responsibility to help the starving in less fortunate areas of our world. Hope International estimates that about four hundred thousand people die of hunger each day. Our so-called new world order will not be peaceful unless we solve the problems of starving people.

Caucus resource person: Herman Litsky (687-6373)

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



SENIORS

The growing number of seniors in British Columbia constitutes both a problem and an opportunity. The major problems are in appropriate health services and housing, the opportunities come from the experience and financial resources that older people bring to their communities.

A Liberal Government in British Columbia will

- ☐ Set a priority to ensure that there are the necessary support services such as homemakers, other services and medical help so that seniors can be reassured and can continue to live in their own homes. Such services will reduce the expenditures on hospital care as well as giving seniors the opportunity to stay in a familiar and loved place close to friends and family.
- ☐ Will support and expand the resources available to the agencies and volunteers who assist senior citizens throughout the province.
- ☐ Introduce legislation to allow for reverse mortgages, sale-leasebacks, shared equity leases and life tenancy to free their investment in their house in order to supply the needed financial resources.
- ☐ Encourage the development of housing that meets their changing needs including medi-flats for those couples who wish to remain living together despite the long-term medical disability of one spouse. The residential portion of such facilities would be self-funding, with costs based on income (a percentage of pension income) similar to cost recovery in a residential co-op. Government expenditures would be significantly reduced reflecting only those costs associated with the direct provision of long-term care.
- ☐ Increase the maximum rental ceiling of the SAFER programme to a level more reflective of the current costs of rental accommodation.
- ☐ Improve immediately the quality of care provided in extended and long-term facilities and set procedures for an on-going public rating system.
- ☐ Support the right of seniors to continue their work if they so desire and not be forced to retire on the basis of age alone.
- ☐ Encourage the development of resource groups in each community where seniors can share their knowledge and experience to help people starting their own businesses.

Caucus resource person: Herman Litsky (687-6373)

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



SMALL BUSINESS

The small business person is the pioneer of today's society. They pit their own abilities and assets against the odds and strive to create something better for themselves, their family and their community. If British Columbia is to develop its own economy beyond that of being mainly a supplier of raw materials, these entrepreneurs, not the government and not the multinationals, are going to be the ones who accomplish this goal. They should be given the respect due and all the encouragement and assistance possible.

A Liberal Government of British Columbia will

- ☐ Consider the use of public funds to support private business if there is to be a return or dividend to the province in the way of new jobs (not the transference of existing jobs) or increased revenues to that company from outside B.C. that would lead to increased taxes for the government.
- ☐ Consider the use of public funds if it is determined that it is in the provincial good to ensure that we retain the ability to supply certain goods or services.
- ☐ Encourage the economic diversification of rural parts of the province so as to make their economies more stable.
- ☐ We would streamline and simplify the work of the bureaucracy in using special consultants to assist the applicant.
- ☐ If the project is worth supporting, allow the business person to direct the funds so as to achieve the maximum benefit instead of allowing bureaucrats to design and apply rigid programs which do not give maximum benefit.
- ☐ Ensure that politicians are not involved with the actual acceptance or rejection of individual projects.
- ☐ Work with the federal government to ensure that the entrepreneur who has given 100% to the business yet has failed has an opportunity to the same unemployment insurance benefits as have the employees for whom jobs were provided.
- ☐ Research with the Chamber of Commerce the feasibility and desirability of a no-cost-to-the-taxpayer insurance program, available to small business, to help them weather short-term economic downturns or give them breathing room to react to changing market conditions.

Caucus resource person: Archie McMurchy (589-5475)

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



TAX REFORM

Canadians are over-taxed; it is estimated that we pay 52 per cent of our income to various levels of tax collectors. Dennis Mills, MP, advocates a single income tax of 25% for both individuals and corporations but includes tax credits for low-income people. Mills believes that the current tax system is so complex (over 1800 pages of legislation, applications and regulations) that the underground, unreported economy is between \$68 - 80 billion. As a result, taxpayers are discouraged from reporting all income; at the same time many others have to resort to the expense of accountants and lawyers in order to break through the logjam of rules and forms.

A Liberal Government of British Columbia will:

- ☐ Work for significant tax reform, both provincially and federally, to ensure that it is fair, simple and efficient. The single tax concept will be explored.
- ☐ Reduce, and where feasible, eliminate duplicate government services.
- ☐ Reduce government spending. Government is a business and must be operated accordingly.

Caucus resource person: Jeremy Dalton (986-2885)

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



TOURISM

Tourism is often referred to as the "sleeping giant of the Canadian economy." It already employs 5% of all employed Canadians. That is 600,000 people in 60,000 businesses. In British Columbia it has become our second industry, frequently providing otherwise disadvantaged areas with a commercial base. To realize the full potential of the tourist industry we must have progressive policies toward environment, transportation and heritage.

A Liberal Government in British Columbia will:

- ☐ Recognize that tourism generates a "clean dollar" and put a greater emphasis on the industry by removing it from its subordinate position in the Ministry of Development, Trade and Tourism and creating as Ministry of Tourism, Recreation and Conservation that would co-ordinate existing government departments and staff to develop and administer long-term tourism strategy. Also to aid in the development of tourist facilities with low interest loans, loan guarantees, seed capital and/or general partner investment where appropriate.
- ☐ Make greater use of the Tourism Board of B.C. and ensure that there is the highest possible level of government-industry co-operation in marketing British Columbia internationally and domestically.
- ☐ Recognize that tourism, because it earns foreign money, is essentially an export market and should have every tax advantage exporters do.
- ☐ Recognize that our uniqueness is an asset in the tourism game and implement policy that encourages developers to reflect the heritage, the environment and historical character of British Columbia in their developments.
- ☐ Encourage the use of tourism as a tool to make more conservation areas viable.
- ☐ Recognize that many tourist facilities are staffed by those that make modest service sector wages. As the cost of living escalates so do the wage requirements and the inflated cost of the service is ultimately born by the tourist. Affordable housing is therefore an issue if a city is to remain "tourist friendly."
- ☐ Investigate ways to encourage the Bed and Breakfast industry in British Columbia. The B&B industry is very successful in many parts of the world and is a good tourist draw as it provides a good service at a very competitive price. In most cases profits are retained at the local level and go straight into the local community through local suppliers. Zoning by-laws, standards inspections and exposure through the Tourist Board are all areas worth examining."
- ☐ Recognize that the lure of the tourist dollar can compromise standards and degrade the quality of life for citizens of British Columbia. Tourism must not be pursued at the expense of local concerns.

Caucus resource person: Michael Stebner (733-6095)

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



TRANSPORTATION: URBAN

The Liberal party of British Columbia will work with all members of the transportation industry and the public to provide the safest, most efficient and most advanced infrastructure possible with the goal of a prosperous and environmentally sound future for our urban areas. We will also take immediate measures to reduce road congestion and pollution.

A Liberal Government of British Columbia will:

- ☐ Reduce the level of vehicle emissions in the metropolitan areas by reducing road congestion by a variety of measures.
- ☐ Establish a CAR POOL REGISTRY (CPR) that will computer match British Columbians with their fellow commuters living in the same area and destined for similar work locations.
- ☐ Add car pool and bicycle lanes wherever possible and practical and ensure that these lanes are an integral part of all future road development.
- ☐ Return ICBC savings, due to reduced claims, to the people who register in the CPR program by offering them reduced vehicle insurance rates.
- ☐ Encourage business to offer flexible hours to their employees and organize company car pools and vehicles to ensure maximum participation.
- ☐ Accelerate the development of the rapid transit system to interconnect our new town centres with each other and with the downtown core.
- ☐ Establish a policy that would ensure any future rapid transit routes would be built underground through any residential areas to preserve our neighbourhoods.
- ☐ Secure, where possible, the usage of railway right of ways for rapid transit.
- ☐ Investigate the use of rapid transit cars with room for bicycles.

Caucus resource person: Gary Farrell-Collins (888-7178)

Only YOU Can Make the Difference



WATER EXPORT

The export of water from British Columbia is becoming an important issue with advocates claiming that the water is just being "wasted" anyway while others say the loss would upset an important ecosystem. Others point out that the Free Trade Agreement cites water as an agricultural "good" and we may not be able to prohibit its export anyway. This could mean that we could be tied to a contract for an industry offering few jobs, is mostly capital intensive, and not a great economic stimulant.

A Liberal Government in British Columbia will:

- ☐ Support the position of the Agricultural Institute of Canada and place a moratorium on the export of water to the U.S. in any form beyond bottled until the access rights to Canada's water under the Free Trade Agreement is clarified to apply only to water in bottled form.
- ☐ Work to ensure that we use water and our other natural resources to attract more complex foreign technology through licensing, joint ventures, etc. and consequently product innovation.
- ☐ Immediately study the possible impact of a lowered volume of fresh water entering the ocean inlets and changing the salinity and the ecosystems required by a healthy fisheries.
- ☐ Use our comparative advantage with our important natural resources to attract value added and technology-based industry instead of relying on the export of raw materials as our primary source of wealth and the inevitable result of a boom and bust economy.

Caucus resource person: Michael Stebner (733-6095)

Only YOU Can Make the Difference

Solutions for the 1990's and beyond

The New Liberal Party of British Columbia



WOMEN

Women's issues are justice, equality and human rights. They pervade all policy areas. Liberals believe women's issues have been marginalized too long. Systemic norms which prevent women from full and equal participation in society must be changed. Policy development in all areas should include consideration of the contribution it is making to ensure women are no longer discriminated against. We believe women are the best people to manage the changes needed and should be encouraged and empowered to do so.

A Liberal Government in British Columbia will:

- ☐ Review existing legislation and rewrite all legislation which contributes to slowing the process to remove discrimination against women.
- ☐ Promote the concept of employment and pay equity throughout the province.
- ☐ Enforce a public service employment and pay equity program to ensure female representation throughout the public service sector.
- ☐ Develop and implement public education media programming identifying violence as inappropriate and inexcusable social interaction.
- ☐ Ensure legislation dealing with violence against women adequately reflects the abhorrence for and non-tolerance of such behavior.
- ☐ Ensure that legislation against violence is enforced.
- ☐ Encourage the establishment of accessible community services and information centres for women.
- ☐ Implement a home-makers' pension plan.

Caucus resource person: Susan French (437-1937)

Only YOU Can Make the Difference