

# THE PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE COMMITMENT TO MANITOBA

The Progressive Conservative Party knows that there is a lot at stake in this election. We understand that it takes new solutions to give the people of Manitoba the opportunity they need to build a future with security and prosperity. That is why I have unveiled a comprehensive Plan for the efficient and effective delivery of social services and for new initiatives to stimulate our economy and encourage all of our people. Our 'Programs for People' and our 'Plan for Economic Growth' are the Progressive Conservative way to give the future all we've got.

*Gary Filmon*  
Gary Filmon  
Leader, PC Party of Manitoba

## HEALTH CARE

- A commitment to the establishment of a Human Services Advisory Network.
- A commitment to increase overall social spending by 6.5%.
- A commitment to complete and open the Winnipeg Children's Hospital.
- A commitment to a medical technology strategy to make Manitoba a centre for diagnostic excellence.
- A commitment to an overall health facilities strategy.

## EDUCATION

- A commitment to co-operate with the public school system and independent schools so they can both contribute to the education of our children.
- A commitment to review the high school curriculum to better prepare our young people for post-secondary education.
- A commitment to build new links between our education system and employers in Manitoba.
- A commitment to a comprehensive retraining capability in co-operation with employers to give our people the skills they need.
- A commitment to maintain fair and accessible university tuition fees for all our young people.

## SENIOR CITIZENS

- A commitment to make it easier for more of our elderly to stay in their own homes and communities.
- A commitment to protect the property and rights of our senior citizens.
- A commitment to provide assistance to our seniors in meeting shelter costs through property tax credits and S.A.F.E.R. allowances.
- A commitment to the best health care for all our elderly, including chronic care facilities.

## FAIRNESS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

- A commitment to achieve greater fairness and equality of opportunity in employment practices.
- A commitment to greater participation by women in government decision making processes.
- A commitment to an increase in child care services for women and single-parent families to improve their opportunity to seek employment.
- A commitment to pursue pension reform and establish homemaker pensions under the Canada Pension Act.

## SPECIAL NEEDS

- A commitment to pre-natal and neo-natal services for Native mothers and children.
- A commitment to special support services to single-parent families at the time of family break up.

## SMALL BUSINESS

- A commitment to remove the payroll tax and encourage job creation.
- A commitment to a Small Business Refundable Tax Credit on the first year's salary costs of eligible new employees.
- A commitment to a three-year tax holiday for Northern small businesses to encourage job creation.
- A commitment to allow new small businesses which create jobs to buy Manitoba Hydro electric power at reduced rates for five years.
- A commitment to appoint a Small Business Ombudsman to investigate complaints arising out of provincial government actions.
- A commitment to appoint a Small Business Advisory Council to examine all new policies and regulations before implementation.
- A commitment to pay government suppliers within 30 days of the rendering of a valid invoice.
- A commitment to develop an Office of Applied Technology to access the talent pool at universities to businesses with practical requirements for technology.
- A commitment to the disclosure of a Small Business Impact Statement for all changes in legislation or regulations.

## AGRICULTURE

- A commitment to a comprehensive approach to agriculture based on the principles of preserving the family farm, fair prices for consumers, fair returns for producers, expansion and diversification of markets, and more research and development.
- A commitment to remove 50% of the education tax imposed on farmland through the Government Support of Education Levy.
- A commitment to increase the rebate to young farmers for interest purposes on MACC loans up to a maximum of \$100,000.
- A commitment to develop a long-term policy for sugar beet producers as part of a national program.
- A commitment to expand the beef stabilization program to include feedlot operators.
- A commitment to allow the transfer of crown land leases with farm units when farms are sold.
- A commitment to establish a Farm Input Cost Review Committee to ensure that input costs are fair.
- A commitment to amend Manitoba's farmland ownership laws to allow Manitoba farmers to use the instruments of ownership they choose and to allow ownership of Manitoba farmland by all residents of Canada.
- A commitment to increase assistance to colleges and universities for agricultural research and development.
- A commitment to allow dairy producers to transfer quotas and to remove the requirement for a minimum price on milk.
- A commitment to change the method of removing the provincial tax on gasoline to provide direct rebates for farmers.

## TOURISM & RECREATION

- A commitment to aggressively promote Manitoba as a tourist destination.
- A commitment to make greater funding available to the tourist industry and its associations to promote and develop our tourist attractions.
- A commitment to make cottage lots available on crown lands.
- A commitment to the development of regional fish hatcheries.

## NORTHERN MANITOBA

- A commitment to appoint new Northern Flood Agreement negotiators to quickly settle outstanding disputes.
- A commitment to new initiatives to maintain the permanence of northern communities by the provision of adequate services.
- A commitment to use existing towns as staging centres for the development of the north.
- A commitment to increase the control of local communities in budgets, economic programs and planning.
- A commitment to upgrade services and infrastructure through a long-term program.
- A commitment to improve Northern hydro services by replacing current diesel generating capacity with hydro electric supplies beginning in 1986.
- A commitment to a long-term and systematic program to improve roads, communications, and transportation in the North.

## MORE EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT

- A commitment to manage down the provincial deficit with a responsible, long-term program.
- A commitment to develop a comprehensive program, in consultation with Manitoba's professional public servants, to improve efficiency of government.
- A commitment to work with the Civil Service Commission to reinstate the merit principle as the sole basis for hiring and advancement in the public sector.
- A commitment to set priorities for crown corporations such as effective management, financial stability and security of employment for their workers.
- A commitment to consider the sale of crown corporations in the area of commercial enterprises only, on a basis that protects the financial interests of Manitoba taxpayers and security of jobs.
- A commitment to give broader powers to the Public Utilities Board to review, approve or reject all rate increases proposed by Manitoba Telephone System, Manitoba Hydro, and Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation.
- A commitment to rebate 10% of current Autopac rates, and to have further rates reviewed by the Public Utilities Board.

# LET'S GIVE THE FUTURE ALL WE'VE GOT!



REFORM AND IMPROVEMENT IN SERVICES TO PEOPLE

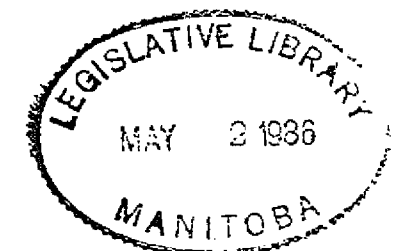
THE MANITOBA PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PLAN

A Statement by Gary Filmon

Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party

February 1986

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In the period from 1958 until the mid-60's - under a Progressive Conservative Government - the people of Manitoba built the basic social infrastructure that still provides the foundations for our quality of life in this province.

The school system, our colleges and universities, our system of hospitals, the personal care home system, and the legislative foundations for services to people in Manitoba were all fashioned over those years.

And over the period since the mid-60's, those basic services and that foundation have evolved - with the introduction of Medicare - by a P.C. Government in 1967, with the removal of Medicare Premiums in 1973 - by an NDP Government.

Manitoba's services to people evolved as needs changed. When affordable housing became a problem for some in our society, government moved into the housing field - with expansions in public housing and, when these became too clearly a dependency trap for many, with the addition of SAFER programs of rent subsidies for the aged and, later, for low income families - introduced through both NDP and P.C. governments.

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There were major efforts to expand non-hospital care facilities for the aged as a greater proportion of our population passed the age of 65 - with sustained expansions in these facilities - under an NDP administration between 1969 and 1977, and more rapid expansion of the system between 1977 and 1981 under a P.C. administration.

There was the advent of a totally new social service - day care - as women more and more entered the labour force. The Schreyer government introduced day care services and had developed a total of more than 5,000 day care spaces by the time that government left office in 1977. Over the next four years, nearly 3,000 new spaces were added by the Lyon government.

As health technology and our population changed, we made major beginnings in the modernization of health care - with strategies to build the Winnipeg Health Sciences Centre and St. Boniface Hospital into truly world class centres of clinical excellence and with installations of modern diagnostic technology at regional centres throughout Manitoba.

The history of health and social services in Manitoba over the past twenty-five years - from the building of the foundations during the Roblin and Weir years, with the humane expansions of the Schreyer years, with the major social investment programs and the White Paper Reforms of the last P.C. Government - has been one of progressive expansion and re-alignment of essential services to respond to our changing needs, to the changing realities of Manitoba society, and to enhancements in our knowledge and understanding.

But - beginning in 1981 with the election of the current government in Manitoba - that progressive improvement and evolution has stopped. And for the last four, long sorry years that essential infrastructure of services and legislation that was built in the Roblin years, and that was built upon and enhanced during the Schreyer years and during Premier Lyon's government - has been starved for resources as investments in people and in services to people stopped.

The dream of a new, world class, centre of excellence at the Health Sciences Centre has been traded in on a multi-million dollar children's hospital facility that cannot even be occupied because its construction was so mismanaged it is just not habitable.

The rate of growth in day care - the newest of Manitoba's social services responding to the aspirations and economic necessity faced by the women of this province - has collapsed.

Over the four year life of the last P.C. government in Manitoba, day care spaces increased by 50%. In the last four years, under what has proven itself to be an uncaring government, that rate of growth has fallen to only 21%.

And in the provision of services and facilities to help ensure that the elderly can enjoy security, independence, and dignity, progress and development has also stopped under this uncaring government.

There has not been a single significant new social initiative taken with relation to the needs and the rights of elderly people in Manitoba in the entire four year life of this government. Only now - after the election has been called - has this government even acknowledged the reality of rising prices and moved - belatedly and cynically in the middle of an election campaign - to increase the provincial income supplement for those in the greatest financial need.

And the last four years has seen an erosion in the confidence Manitobans ought to have in our school system. The constant interplay between our education system and parents, and between that system and the economy and employers across Manitoba has been strangled.

And the dedicated men and women of the teaching and helping professions - the teachers who strive to prepare our young people to face the world and win independent lives for themselves, the social workers who counsel and guide those in trouble and those in need of help, the nurses that comfort and care for the sick, the physicians who fight the illnesses that plague us - have been ignored and downgraded and excluded from the decisions as to how our community will operate the services we provide to people.

And this abandonment of progress, this refusal to meet the challenge of building and changing and improving our services to people that has marked the four years of this government has been all the more costly because we are at a time in our history when we should be reappraising and redesigning all of our services in light of new and changing social realities.

As our basic health system, our basic educational system, and the foundations of our social services were developed, they were developed with a very different community in mind than the community that exists today in Manitoba.

They were designed to serve a community in which the largest group was made up of young families - most often with one parent in the workforce and the other at home.

There were virtually no single parent families when our basic health and social and educational systems were growing up in Manitoba.

The aged represented a relatively small proportion of our total population and, because, in those days, people tended to move to other parts of the province or nation far less freely or frequently than they do today, the majority of elderly people had family close by to help them to cope.

When those services - our health and education and social services - were designed, they took virtually no account of the special problems and needs of Native people in Manitoba. Natives were a federal responsibility and few of them left their reserves in those days.

When that basic social infrastructure was being fashioned in the 1960's, it was a period of relatively light immigration to Manitoba, and such immigration as did occur was primarily made up of Western Europeans who adjusted relatively easily to life here.

When that social infrastructure was being built, the vast majority of Manitobans owned their own homes, and home ownership was a realistic objective for people at virtually every level of income.

When our social services were being built, education was a once in a lifetime requirement. It was assumed that, once educated, an individual would have the necessary skills to find and hold employment for the rest of his or her life.

Since the 1960's, successive governments have added programs or shifted emphasis to respond to the inescapable fact that Manitoba's society and the needs of our people are changing. But we have not yet undertaken a fundamental review of our network of services to people to ensure that they are truly responsive to the kinds of needs that exist today, or that they are as effective as they ought to be in promoting the general welfare and public interest.

And during the four year life of the current government, even the reasonable and progressive refinements and additions to our services has stopped.

The basic social infrastructure of Manitoba is strong - built and nurtured by successive governments over the years. But today that infrastructure has been weakened by four years of neglect. Our health system is less able to meet the needs of Manitobans today than it was four years ago when this government took office. While others have been moving ahead, we have fallen behind - in mental health care, in diagnostic advances that can save lives and ensure a more effective and cost-effective health system, in the provision of personal care homes and other institutions to meet the changing needs of a changing society.

And those who work within our health services system, the care providers, have less influence and control, less ability to direct the health services system in ways that will meet human needs, than they had four years ago. This government has chosen to treat the care providers - not as invaluable participants in health services in Manitoba - but simply as overhead items.

And so the only dialogue this government has entered into with the medical profession, for example, has been about money - about how much physicians should be permitted to charge and what forms those charges ought to take.

There should have been dialogue about ways in which the practise of medicine could be made more effective or efficacious in Manitoba. There should be ongoing discussion of the special health risks and problems that are faced by children of Native Manitobans during their infancy - discussions that involve the government, care providers, Native leaders, and Native parents from both urban and rural settings.

There should be dialogue about ways in which the various health professions can work more effectively together - about the potential for different and broader roles for nurses in primary care, for example.

There should have been discussions - with government, care providers, and senior citizens - about the need for additional health services, delivered in different ways, to enhance the independence of the aged - about dental services and foot care and the huge potential that these relatively low cost services have to contribute to overall health among the aged.

There should have been discussions about the future of the Health Sciences Centre. The mistakes that were made there - the costly, tragic mistakes that were made - have been made. We gain nothing from pointing fingers or wringing our hands.

Surely we should now be working together to take that flawed children's hospital and do whatever is necessary to turn it into the best children's hospital on the continent so that, instead of standing there empty as a reminder of this government's incompetence, it can begin to do what it was intended to do: provide the very best possible health care to Manitoba children.

But those discussions and that work has barely begun because this government has wasted the past four years.

And during those years, surely there was a need for dialogue and consultation about the problems of mental illness. Beyond any argument, we in Manitoba are far, far behind other jurisdictions in dealing with the pain and the suffering of mental illnesses. We are more reliant on institutions than other jurisdictions, lacking the community supports that can permit people to carry out their struggle for mental health safely and humanely in the community, in touch with their families and their friends. This government conducted one study. And it did nothing.

All of these kinds of discussions - and dozens of others besides - should have been going on over the past four years.

But instead, this government has decided that those who work in the health services system should be treated as though these dedicated men and women were simply an expense item.

And so the government has spoken only about money, and the improvements that could have been made in health services in Manitoba through co-operation and consultation over these past four years have been lost. And today our health services system is less able to meet the needs of the people of this province than it was four years ago.

And in exactly the same way, our education system is less able to meet the needs of this province now than it was four years ago - for many of the same reasons.

Once again, this government has treated our professional teachers - among the most skilled and dedicated anywhere in Canada - as simply one more expense item.

As technology has changed, and as the kinds of knowledge young people will need to find satisfying employment has shifted, surely government should have been sitting down with the teachers of Manitoba to talk about how we meet their training needs - how we ensure that teachers have an opportunity to master computers and to gain the necessary knowledge and qualifications to deliver education that includes stronger mathematics and science components.

But that hasn't happened. Instead, while worldwide technological and economic trends have created an inescapable need to modernize much of our education system, this government has refused to make even the minimum investments in people that were needed to keep up, let alone the much more comprehensive longer term commitments needed to meet the challenge of a changing world economy.

Surely over these past four years government, teachers, and school boards should have been talking about measures that could help prevent so many young women from dropping science subjects - almost as a matter of course - at the high school level, only to find that this decision has closed off so many career options for them later.

There have been no such discussions. And our education system has suffered. The confidence that Manitobans have in that system has declined.

And that same kind of decline - that same kind of failure to continue to build on the foundations that successive governments in Manitoba have provided, to maintain and expand Manitoba's social infrastructure, that same refusal to consult with the members of the teaching and helping professions in Manitoba - can be seen in the network of social services that have grown up in Manitoba.

Here too, over the past four years, there has not been a single major addition or improvement in the social services that exist to help those in need or trouble. There has not been any real or significant change - except that this government has been unwilling to invest in its people. It has shown no respect for those who work in the social services - the hundreds of volunteers in community agencies, the trained social workers and other counsellors, the community health people, the visiting nurses.

This government has shown no understanding of the value of the work these people do in and for the community, or of the potential to rebuild and redirect services to meet the changing and emerging needs of the community.

And so - instead of ongoing consultation about change and improvement, about the new challenges that face us and the new needs that must be met - we have four years in which, for the first time under any government since Manitoba's social infrastructure was built in the 1960's, there has been no progress and no improvement. Instead, we have slipped backwards.

Instead of leadership from this government, we have seen retreat. Instead of caring, we are now seeing the cynicism of a promise a day approach to social policy planning. Instead of an acceptance of the responsibility that government must accept, we see a Premier wanting to blame Ottawa for four years of his own failure to be a caring and effective steward of Manitoba's social infrastructure.

A new P.C. government will begin immediately to work and consult with the people of Manitoba, and especially with the members of the teaching and helping professions - teaching, social work, the health care professions - and with those active in the voluntary sector to identify the changing challenges and needs that exist in Manitoba, and to fashion effective and common-sense ways of responding to them - as Manitobans have always done in the past.

We'll work to rebuild the essential partnership - involving the talents and dedication of Manitoba's public service, the members of the teaching and helping professions, the voluntary sector and political leadership from government.

That partnership, and the commitment I am making today to open consultation, to a full role in decision-making and policy planning for the teaching and helping professions and the voluntary sector - lies at the foundation of our Progressive Conservative plan for the improvement and modernization of the services we provide for people.

#### THE MECHANISM FOR CONSULTATION

Our party is clearly committed to a process of consultation leading to reform and improvements throughout Manitoba's network of services to people.

That process will be carried out through a Human Services Advisory Network - a formal mechanism that will consist of representatives of all of the major teaching and helping professions and of community group with a special concern about health, education and social services. I will be writing to the heads of the various professional bodies to invite them to participate in that network during the first month our new government is in office.

And beginning immediately after the election, the cabinet Ministers with lead responsibility for the design and delivery of services to people will begin the first stages of what I fully intend to be a permanent and ongoing process of consultation about the ways we can enhance and improve services to people in Manitoba.

Working through that Human Services Network we will be writing to and seeking the advice of members of the teaching and helping professions across Manitoba. We will approach community groups, with special attention to groups representative of the voluntary sector and groups that are representative of major users of services in the province. We will be meeting and discussing the challenges before us - in public, with no effort to hide honest disagreements, but with every effort to reach honest consensus about what our priorities should be and about the kinds of changes and improvements we should be working towards in our network of services to people.

Over the first 90 to 120 days that we are in office, working through that consultative mechanism, we will identify the main priorities for change and improvement - priorities that reflect the special knowledge and insights of the members of the teaching and helping professions throughout Manitoba. Those priorities will form the basis of our social, educational and health services action plans as a government.

And we will continue with the process of consultation with regular meetings between the Human Services Network group and a cabinet committee that I, as Premier, will chair, and that will include the Ministers of Health, Education, Community Services to review both our priorities, and the progress we are making in meeting our goal of improving services to people in Manitoba. Those meetings will be open to the public and to the media.

## FINANCIAL COMMITMENT AND CONCERNS

There can be no question that government, and all of those involved in the provision of services financed through government, must strive for greater efficiencies, for better services at lower costs. But we know, too, that calls for reduced waste or better value for money from such services are often interpreted as code words for cut-backs in funding or reductions in levels of services.

We may well, as a result of the consultative process, choose to reallocate some funds within the area of services to people. We will strive - working through the Human Services Network - to identify opportunities for savings or for the elimination of waste.

And it is fundamental to this consultative strategy that the members of the teaching and helping professions, the service providers, accept an enhanced responsibility for the effective, efficient and prudent management of these programs to ensure that Manitoba taxpayers get full value for their dollar.

But we have no intention of reducing the levels of government financing for services to people. Instead, we intend to make significant increases in the overall level of government financial support for services to people.

None of us know today the true extent of the current Manitoba deficit. It is certain the mismanagement of government finances over the past four years will make huge or lavish increases in spending on the short term simply impossible.

Nonetheless, it is clear that our systems of vital services for people require more money if they are to meet the real and changing needs of Manitoba.

Our goal will be to increase total funding for services to people by a minimum of 6.5% in the first full year we are in office. That amounts to approximately \$130 million in new money in that first year. And working with the Human Services Network, we hope to be able to identify another \$50 million that can be redirected within the system by more effective management of programs and resources.

Those who work within our health, education and social services system know all too well that even that total - close to \$200 million in all - is, especially after the neglect of the past four years, all too modest an increase.

But it is an increase that is needed. It is a commitment that is responsible. And through the kinds of co-operation and sharing of responsibility we believe will arise out of the consultative process, we believe even this quite modest increase can result in significant improvements and enhancements in services to people in Manitoba.

# THE PC AGENDA FOR CHANGE

We are sincere in our commitment to consultation: we believe it is both good public policy and simple common sense that those with the greatest and most direct knowledge of essential services to people play a key role in all efforts to improve or enhance those services.

Those involved in the consultative process will, of course, be able to raise any issues they wish. But our party brings to the consultative process some clear convictions as to the major issues we should be examining, and as to some of the directions for change that should be examined and considered in that process. Those items, representing the convictions of our Party, will provide the basic agenda that we will put before the Human Services Advisory Network.

Over the weeks of the campaign, and afterwards as we form our government and begin on the process of improving services to people in Manitoba, I will be discussing the various main items on our agenda in more detail, but I think it is useful today to release the following overall summary Agenda.

It is made up of five main agenda items or areas of concern. These are:

- Health Services
- Education
- Services to the Elderly
- Fairness in Society/Equality of Opportunity
- Refocusing Services on At-Risk Populations.

## HEALTH SERVICES FOR MANITOBA

Manitoba has long had among the best health services systems in Canada. That system today faces a number of serious challenges arising from shifts in medical knowledge and technology, from demographic changes in the population of our province and the impacts these have on services and facilities, resource constraints, and from problems of management and resource allocation that have arisen or occurred within the system in recent years.

There are not now clear plans or strategies in place to respond to any of those fundamental challenges. There are no systems or processes in place to permit health professionals across the province to play a full and active role in the development of such strategies.

The Human Services Advisory Network will provide a forum for this sharing of responsibility in the development of effective long term strategies for health services in the province.

Among the main issues and directions that will be addressed through the Human Services Network will be:

The development of an overall health facilities strategy for Manitoba. The facilities strategy should address all health care facilities - acute care hospitals, personal care homes and chronic care facilities and psychiatric facilities. It should include a long term and orderly plan for expansions in chronic care and other appropriate facilities for care of the aged; it must include the development of more effective approaches to placement to ensure appropriate use of high cost acute care facilities. The strategy should ensure that a full range of clinical services are available to people in all parts of Manitoba - i.e. - enhanced mental health, specialist medical consulting in rural areas, re-opening of the Obstetrical Unit at Seven Oaks Hospital. In total, such overall planning and development of the total facilities network will reduce waiting lists for all categories of facilities throughout Manitoba.

The development of a medical technology strategy for Manitoba. Manitoba today has fallen behind in the use of modern diagnostic technology; the potential of such equipment as CAT scanners, ultrasound, and the successor technologies that are already in use elsewhere on the continent to contribute to effective treatment is not generally available to physicians in Manitoba.

It is critical that the choices made now result in the selection of appropriate technology, and that the system develop and retain the ability to install and benefit from new technologies as these become available. On an urgent basis, this technology strategy must include the provision of CAT scanning and ultrasound equipment to meet needs in all parts of Manitoba.

This technology strategy should also address the impacts of new technologies on the system. In many cases, it would appear that the new technology can replace other tests and procedures, resulting in enhanced efficiency and in reduced risk and discomfort for the patient - i.e. - CAT Scan technology replacing angiogram testing in the diagnosis of possible brain tumors, etc.. As part of Manitoba's technology strategy, tests or procedures rendered obsolete should be identified and measures instituted in co-operation with the medical and hospital communities to phase them out.

The development of a Human Resource Strategy for the Health Services System. Health services in many parts of Manitoba are adversely affected by shortages of various health disciplines. In particular, shortages of psychiatrists on a province-wide basis and especially in rural areas, shortages of internists, pediatricians, and other specialties in rural areas all reduce the access of many Manitobans to comprehensive medical services.

We will work in co-operation with the College of Physician and Surgeons, the University of Manitoba, the governing bodies of other health professions, to design mechanisms to meet these shortages, including the establishment of appropriate financial incentives if necessary. Specifically, the urgent need for expansions in Manitoba's mental health capabilities requires that the School of Psychiatric Nursing should be preserved in Portage La Prairie.

The Health Services System Human Resources Strategy should also address the most effective roles for the various health disciplines including, specifically, and examination of the merits of expanded scope of practice for the nursing profession.

The development of more effective preventative capabilities within the health services system. This should include a review, with the medical profession and other health services professions, of fees schedules to identify additional counselling and activities that should be built into the system to promote health and prevent illnesses - i.e. - the payment of a fee to physicians to instruct female patients in breast self-examination since this is a proven method of reducing the risk of death due to breast cancer.

The health promotion strategy of the province should include increased educational and promotional efforts to discourage smoking, and alcohol and substance abuse, particularly among the young and pregnant women.

Enhanced mental health services throughout Manitoba. We will work with the Canadian Mental Health Association, Manitoba Chapter, and with the professional psychiatrists and psychiatric nurses of Manitoba to develop a long term plan for expansions in community services and supports for the mentally ill. In particular, the development of effective treatment and support facilities in all parts of the province, and of realistic alternatives to institutionalization where possible.

Development of a Health Research Strategy for Manitoba. The Manitoba Health Research Council is an effective mechanism for combining government and private sector support for health and medical research in the province. The impact and value of research in these vital fields can be achieved through a combination of enhanced support and longer term research funding commitments. Our research efforts should be concentrated in two main areas. First should be those areas in which Manitoba has the potential for world class excellence in research. My government would consider the establishment of additional Graduate Research Fellowships to support this strategy of excellence in research.

The second main focus should be on research that can have practical and immediate pay-outs in terms of enhanced effectiveness of clinical treatment, of installation and use of new medical technologies, and in terms of the overall efficiency of our health services system. This should include an enhanced emphasis on health economics, epidemiological research, and research into medical technology in addition to ongoing clinical research.

The Winnipeg Children's Hospital should be completed and opened. It is essential that there be a full public inquiry into the events leading to the Health Sciences Centre debacle. The focus of that inquiry, however, should be on the identification and correction of flaws and weaknesses in the planning and project management systems that permitted this project to be so mismanaged. It is essential that the control systems be strengthened to prevent any such outcomes in the future.

The main focus in respect to the Health Sciences Centre, however, must be to put the difficulties of recent years behind us, to ensure that the facility is completed, including such redesign as may be necessary to ensure that it provides a suitable environment for children and their families, and that it be opened and operating at the earliest possible time to begin serving the people of Manitoba.

This will require that the Province provide such additional funding as may be necessary to reach this goal. A Progressive Conservative Government will do so, and will proceed to the fullest possible extent in the civil actions already underway to recover such damages as may be possible from those responsible for the failure of this facility to be suitable for the purpose for which it was ordered.

#### MODERNIZATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF EDUCATION IN MANITOBA

Manitoba's education system, developed in the 1960's, was for years viewed as one of the finest such systems on earth. We were leaders in teacher training and development, in curriculum development. Through provincial leadership, we developed effective means of enhancing and maintaining standard of excellence.

We were leaders in the development of a close and responsive relationship between the education system at all levels and the changing demands of life and the economy, equipping young people with the skills and knowledge necessary to build satisfying and independent lives for themselves. The provincial government provided the essential funding to ensure that quality education was available to young people in all parts of Manitoba.

Today that system faces severe problems. There is a perception in the community that the quality of education in Manitoba has fallen below the standards we have set for ourselves. Many in the community are abandoning the public school system in favour of other private arrangements in which they have greater faith.

The men and women who teach and instruct throughout our educational system find themselves constrained and frustrated by failures on the part of government to respond to new needs and demands. We lag in the provision of the training and equipment our teachers need to prepare young people for a world in which the computer has replaced the typewriter, and in which individuals must be constantly ready and able to learn new skills as shifts in technology and the economy change the kinds of jobs and opportunities that are available.

The links that must exist between our education system and the economy, the links that will ensure that young people have an opportunity for meaningful employment, are no longer strong.

There is an increasing need for our education system to have the capacity to provide re-training for those displaced by technology or economic changes, and for women re-entering the labour force. The capacity to meet that challenge is not being effectively developed and that essential service is not truly available to those who need it in Manitoba.

And the school system throughout Manitoba faces uncertain and chaotic financing as increasingly the provincial level shifts the burden of educational costs back to the local tax base.

The critical failure has been a failure of provincial government leadership and commitment to education, and a provincial government refusal to work with teachers and school boards to confront the need for modernization in our educational system.

The Human Services Advisory Network will be asked to address the following critical issues and requirements.

Develop a comprehensive response to community concerns about the quality of education in Manitoba. Manitoba's school system cannot fulfill its vital role unless it enjoys the faith and trust of the community. That makes it essential that firm and tangible steps be taken to respond to both the reality and the perception of declining quality in education.

It is essential that teachers and school boards, in co-operation with the provincial government and Manitoba's Faculties of Education, increase the number of required core courses at the high school level, with provincial departmental examinations, re-inforced by programs to provide remedial and support services to schools and to students who fall below acceptable standards.

It is also essential that representatives of our post-secondary institutions, who have been among the harshest critics of the quality of education in our school systems involve themselves in the development of appropriate planning to correct quality problems, and in the provision of effective remedial help where problems are identified within the system.

To develop more effective patterns of affiliation and co-operation between the public school system and independent schools across Manitoba. Many Manitobans have chosen to educate their children in independent schools. In recent years, the provincial government has gradually increased financial support to these schools, from 18% of the public school level in 1981 to a proposed 28% for the upcoming year. This pattern of increased support has not been accompanied by meaningful efforts to enhance the co-operation and interaction between the independent and public school systems, with the result that unnecessary duplication and costs are becoming a structural feature of the combined system.

During the first term of a P.C. administration, we will continue the policy of increasing support to independent schools until it reaches 50% of the public school level. And we are committed to continuing discussions and review of the formula to determine appropriate levels of support.

Throughout this period, however, the teachers and school boards and administrations of both public and independent schools across Manitoba will be expected to work with the government to develop more effective patterns of co-operation and affiliation so that the entire system can be more efficient and responsive to the needs of the community without unnecessary duplication of or competition with the public school system.

Throughout those discussions, it will be a basic principle of the provincial government that the maintenance, modernization and enhancement of the public school system of Manitoba is the first responsibility of the province.

Develop a strategy for computer and scientific education in Manitoba. It is essential that Manitoba schools be provided with adequate computer equipment, and that our teachers be given an opportunity to become effectively computer literate themselves so that they can develop these skills in our children. The teaching profession, school boards, the Computer Science Department of the University of Manitoba and the Faculty of Education will be asked to work with the government in the development of effective strategies to reach those goals.

Computer manufacturing firms will be invited to advise and participate in the development of this strategy, as will major employers who rely heavily on this technology. In addition, the need to upgrade the quality of science and mathematics instruction, and to ensure that all students, including young women who now too often drop these courses, are provided with quality instruction in these areas. If necessary, this response will include appropriate arrangements and incentives for re-training and additional qualification of existing teachers who do not now have the necessary background to provide such instruction. Discussions between the government and teachers, the Faculties of Education, the Computer Science Faculties, and major computer and software manufacturing firms will examine the feasibility of establishing a special Institute of Technological and Scientific Education to be affiliated with the University of Manitoba.

Develop a strategy to re-build the links between the education system and employers throughout Manitoba. The government will work with educators and employers to identify ways in which realistic work experience can be more effectively integrated into Community College programs, and how such experience can be added to high school programs for students who intend to enter the labour force directly from high school. We will also provide funds to develop co-op education programs at the university level.

Develop a comprehensive re-training capability in co-operation with employers across Manitoba. There are two major sources of the growing need for effective re-training services in Manitoba today. One is technological change. Although the nature of Manitoba's economy is such that we stand relatively little risk of having large numbers of workers displaced by technology, it will still be true that, as new jobs are created, they will increasingly demand different skills than those already in the labour force possess. If Manitoba workers are not provided with opportunities to acquire these skills, these new jobs will be filled by people from outside the province.

The second major group requiring retraining are women re-entering the labour force after an absence. In many cases, these are single parents with no alternative but to work to support themselves and their families.

The government, working with the school system, the community colleges, and employers will develop co-operative employer-education system strategies to equip Manitoba workers with the skills necessary to compete for emerging jobs with new skill requirements, so that Manitobans may benefit from the continued development of our economy.

In addition, part-time programs through community colleges, universities' continuing education programs and, where feasible, through employers should be developed as an effective response to the training requirements of single parents with small children.

In the case of single parents requiring training to re-enter the labour force, consideration should be given to special transitional financial and other assistance.

To develop specific centres of excellence in Manitoba's three universities. Manitoba's three universities offer alternative educational experiences and serve different parts of the province. It is important to maintain and enhance all three institutions. There are concerns about the maintenance of quality in some faculties and areas, and accreditation in some professional education areas is in question. The government will work with the governing bodies of the universities to identify and facilitate the development of enhanced quality, with the identification of specific areas of excellence that will be developed within each. Central to this thrust must be additional funding, over and above normal university funding by the province, to support enhanced research in these identified areas.

The government will provide additional graduate research fellowships to achieve this objective as part of our overall centres of excellence strategy for Manitoba's universities.

Maintain fairness and accessibility to higher education by controlling university tuition fees. Students at Manitoba's universities already pay a fair share of the total costs of their education in the form of tuition fees. Our tuition fee policy will be to maintain exactly the present sharing of total costs between government and the students themselves. No increases in tuition fees will be permitted except in direct proportion to increases in provincial funding provided to universities. This will "keep the shares fair", and ensure continued accessibility to higher education. Student Aid programs will be increased regularly to meet needs.

To restore equity and order to educational funding, and to rebuild levels of provincial support for education. During the last four years, significant inequities have developed in education funding across Manitoba, and the existence of a number of different funding formulas has resulted in effective chaos in the system. Today 33% of school divisions are on the formula introduced by the NDP; a further 33% are on the ESP formula introduced by the last Progressive Conservative government, and a final 33% on the 1985 GSF formula increased by 1%.

The new Progressive Conservative Government will work with school boards to institute a single province-wide formula for provincial funding, and to restore levels of support to 80% of authorized costs for all school divisions.

#### SERVICES TO THE ELDERLY

An increasing proportion of Manitoba's total population are becoming aged. None of the basic social infrastructure of the province was designed to deal with the current demographic reality of the province. Successive governments in the province have attempted to re-align existing services and facilities to meet the specific requirements of this group of our population.

The basic objective that Manitobans have in this area is that the aged shall enjoy the greatest possible levels of security, independence, and continued opportunities to participate in and contribute to the life of the community.

Realizing that objective has called for the provision of a range of programs providing financial assistance, housing assistance, and a wide range of health services. Increasingly, the focus of these programs has been to attempt to deal with health problems in the community, making it possible for the aged to remain in their own homes as long as possible.

In large part, these programs have been successful: today more elderly Manitobans live independently in the community, with the assistance of family and friends, but with no particular assistance from the state.

Over the next two decades, the fastest growing group in our population will be made up of those over 65 years of age. This will increase pressures on social and health services, because of illnesses that occur naturally with age. This poses a double challenge for government: to provide the kinds of services that can most contribute to the independence of the aged in the community, and to provide appropriate care, including institutional health care to those who can no longer cope on their own. In both areas, government must increasingly focus on achieving - not simply survival or treatment for the aged - but the best possible quality of life.

It is essential that the aged themselves have a major voice in determining the kinds of services that government will provide to them. Seniors groups will be represented on the Human Services Advisory Network, and the views of individual senior citizens will be sought throughout the consultative process. The main items the government will bring to that process will be:

To identify services that can enhance the ability of senior citizens to stay in their own homes or elsewhere in the community, and that can enhance the quality of life available to them. It is important that services that can contribute to the quality of life available to the aged be made available, and that Senior Citizens throughout Manitoba be fully informed of these services.

Services such as transportation, particularly in rural areas, can be critical. Special elements designed into such community programs as Neighbourhood Watch can add to the sense of safety and security for many seniors in urban areas. Health services such as dental and foot care, if made available and delivered appropriately, can contribute greatly to the mobility, independence and overall health of the aged. We will ask that Seniors themselves, through the consultative process of the Human Services Network, participate in the setting of priorities for enhancements in these and other services. Based on their advice, the government would propose to develop pilot projects in transportation, and in the provision of dental services and chiropody; the effectiveness of these programs would be evaluated in consultation with Seniors' organizations, and those that proved effective would be introduced on a province-wide basis.

Develop additional chronic care facilities and other forms of lighter care facilities as part of an overall health services facilities strategy. As the group older than 65 years grows, there will be increasing need for a range of care facilities. There is not now a long term facilities strategy in place in Manitoba. There are not appropriate placement or co-ordinating agencies or mechanisms in place to ensure that people have access to appropriate accommodation and levels of care.

The government will develop such a strategy through this consultative process.

To take firm measures to protect the dignity, independence and quality of life of Senior Citizens resident in Care Facilities. Too often, even facilities that, in the most narrow health service terms, provide adequate or even excellent care deny the older person control over his or her own life. The assumption, that aged equals incompetent, is intolerable.

The new government will consult with Seniors, with professional social workers, and with those responsible for the operation of care facilities, and will establish Resident Councils in all such facilities with real powers to hold the operators accountable. These Councils will also function to ensure that family members have access to appropriate medical and other information concerning their relatives.

These Councils will be involved in such quality monitoring as reviews of prescription practices, recreational and other programming, and palatability of food.

To Develop Legislation to Curb Seniors' Abuse. Senior Citizens in the Community and in some care facilities are exposed to various forms of physical and emotional abuse. There are cases in which they are coerced or misled into parting with property or savings. Our government will bring forward legislation to require that all members of the teaching and helping professions who have knowledge of such abuse be required by law to report it to the competent authorities. Parallel legislation in relation to children has proven effective in curbing abuse.

To provide for the protection of the person, property and rights of Senior Citizens in the Community. The government will appoint Senior Citizen Advocates who will represent Seniors in their dealings with the government. In addition, these Advocates, in consultation with Seniors' Organizations, will work to encourage the inclusion of special protections for Seniors into such programs as Neighbourhood Watch. They will also make recommendations to government with respect to any legislation or administrative practice affecting the aged.

To provide assistance to senior citizens in meeting shelter costs in Manitoba. The largest single expense borne by most Seniors in Manitoba is the cost of housing or shelter. Government must provide an ongoing support to defray these costs to contribute to financial security for the elderly.

The government will consult with Senior's organizations and others in the Human Services Network to establish orderly patterns of regular increases in the property tax credits for elderly home owners, and corresponding increases in SAFER allowances to meet the needs of elderly renters. Our goal will be the establishment of four year planning horizons, with clear guidelines that will determine periodic increases in these programs in direct relation to real cost increases borne by seniors in Manitoba. This will provide an enhanced level of security and predictability for the aged.

To examine measures that could help and encourage families to provide care and support for aging family members.

Although the heavy costs of health and related services to the elderly make it necessary for government to provide funding in respect of the aged, it is still desirable that families bear as much as possible of the responsibility for caring for aging family members. Government will work with Seniors' groups, with the social work profession, and other interested parties to identify measures that could support families effectively in meeting these responsibilities.

#### FAIRNESS IN SOCIETY/EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

In recent years a number of groups who had, traditionally, been treated unfairly or denied opportunities in our society have made significant gains. There are enhanced legal protections for groups who, in the past, have been victims of discrimination - women, the aged, the handicapped, and members of minority races or religions. There are a range of programs and services that tend to promote and encourage greater fairness in society and enhanced equality of opportunity.

We believe that the general view in Manitoba today is that every individual should have the opportunity to grow and to succeed to the limits of his her abilities without discrimination. Nonetheless, there continue to be constraints to full equality within our society, and there continues to be a need for government leadership and action to address and overcome those constraints and to establish greater fairness in the community.

The Human Services Advisory Network will be asked to respond to the following major items of the Progressive Conservative Agenda for Social Change:

Develop long term strategies for appropriate services to mentally handicapped Manitobans to participate in the life of the community. Manitoba, largely through the efforts of the voluntary sector, has already become a national leader in the field of community services and recreation for mentally handicapped individuals. The government will consult with community leaders in this field, and with those members of the teaching and helping professions involved in providing services to the mentally handicapped, to ensure that we make continued progress towards providing appropriate living, learning, employment and recreational opportunities for these Manitobans in the community whenever possible. This should include support for programs such as the Special Olympics program across Manitoba.

To expand recreational and other services for persons with physical handicaps. Access to healthy recreation is important to all Manitobans, and in the past far too many of the handicapped, including particularly young handicapped persons, have not had such access. The government will consult with representatives of organizations representing handicapped persons, with the Manitoba Sports Federation, and with other interested and relevant groups to ensure that such opportunities are provided to all, and that these Manitobans are not unfairly denied use and enjoyment of public recreational facilities.

To work with employers in Manitoba to achieve greater fairness in employment practices throughout the economy. Government and the Human Services Network will consult and negotiate with the private sector to identify practical and workable ways to achieve greater fairness in employment practises, including the development of measures to achieve greater pay equity. Government will encourage firms to develop voluntary programs in these areas, and will assist in the design of such programs. We will monitor progress that is made, and disseminate information about successful approaches throughout the business community, and draw public attention to those firms who achieve most in this important area. We believe that, over the first two years of our first term, this voluntary and consultative approach will achieve sufficient results to make it unnecessary for government to impose or legislate programs on the private sector.

To encourage broader participation by women in the decision-making processes of government. The government will consult with women's organizations and others to identify qualified women for appointment to senior government positions and to the numerous boards and commissions of government in Manitoba with the objective of significantly increasing the representation of women at decision-making levels in government.

To enhance accessibility and quality of child care services to permit women and single parents in particular to have realistic opportunities to seek employment. Child care programs and resources have not been developed quickly enough to meet specific and identified needs in Manitoba. In particular, we are lagging in the provision of after school programs for children of working women. The new government will consult with the Human Services Network to identify the priority requirements for expansions and improvements in child care. We will work to develop workplace day care provided through unions or employers.

In particular, we will focus on child care needs in rural areas. The main programs and facilities that exist for child care were developed in cities and are not all feasible or appropriate in areas of lower population.

Develop a clear strategy to deal with family violence. Family violence - the battering of women and children - offends fundamentally against the basic sense of fairness Manitobans share. Government will consult with women's groups and with the social work profession in the development of effective measures to respond to this problem. At a minimum, these measures must and will include stabilized funding for crisis centres and for residential shelters for battered women and children.

We will also urge Ottawa and the other provinces to share in joint action to develop programs, cost-shared between the two levels of government, to deal with family violence. We will undertake our own programs of education, including special training for police officers to deal with such behaviour and to ensure that prompt and adequate protection is provided to these women and their children.

Develop programs to counter educational trends that tend to limit women's access to employment. Far too many young women - almost as a matter of course - tend to drop mathematics and scientific courses as early as possible in their education. The government will work with teachers and school divisions, with the Universities, and with women's groups to design programs that will make young women more aware of the importance of continuing with these studies, and of the kinds of career impacts of these early decisions.

Pursue pension reform, including the establishment of homemaker pensions under the Canada Pension Act. The federal government has proposed a package of pension reforms that would include significant improvements in the vesting and portability of pensions and in survivor benefits. Manitoba will bring its legislation into line with the new federal requirements when these are passed. We will work with the federal government to ensure homemaker pensions are provided through the Canada Pension Plan.

#### REFOCUSING SERVICES ON AT-RISK POPULATIONS

Many of Manitoba's social services are provided on the basis of demonstrable financial need. That is in keeping with our values as a community: we believe that those who are able to bear the costs of services they enjoy ought to do so. That financial need, for the delivery of services, does not ensure that services are provided to people when they are most at risk, and yet that is the very time when the benefit of this social investment - to the individuals affected and to the community as a whole - can be greatest.

We will ask the Human Services Advisory Network to consult with us as about the development of what could be described as a "risk trigger" for the delivery of services to complement the traditional financial need criteria for service delivery. Specifically, we will seek advice and reaction to the following proposals where we believe that an ability to provide comprehensive and focused services quickly can have decisive human benefits.

Development of Pre-Natal/Neo-Natal Services for Native Mothers and Children. The health status of Native children in urban areas of Manitoba is measurably worse than that of non-Natives; this is reflected initially in higher risk factors associated with pregnancy and childbirth, and in continuing lower levels of health among these children.

The program resources already exist in Manitoba, but they are not effectively co-ordinated or delivered in a focused way to these individuals during this high risk period. A mix of such services as health and nutritional counselling, income support, housing assistance and day care/child care services, provided in a co-ordinated way could contribute significantly to better longer term health outcomes, and to family stability since illness of children places very significant strains on all families.

The challenge is to provide the Native community with the means of providing these services in a timely and truly accessible manner. We will invite leaders of the Native community, together with professionals from health and related fields, to consult with us in the design of a pilot program to permit us to test the efficacy of this approach.

One of the reasons that so little progress has been made in Native health has been concerns between Ottawa and the provinces as to jurisdiction and financial responsibility for these people. We will ask that the federal government share in the costs of this initiative, agreeing with us that this common sense and humane action will in no way affect other or later questions of jurisdiction or financial responsibility.

Development of Special Support Services to Single Parent Families at the time of family break-up. For a whole range of reasons, increasing numbers of marriages are ending in divorce, and an increasing proportion of all families are now single-parent families. These families, in turn, are affected by tremendous stresses arising out of emotional upset, financial uncertainties, requirements to change their way of living and sometimes even where they live.

These stresses are most acute during an early adjustment period. We will ask women's groups, professional social workers, the appropriate community agencies and others involved in the Human Services Advisory Network to help us design a pilot project that will provide focused access to existing services to families during this high stress/high risk period. Many of the specific services that will be relevant do exist - from retraining and vocational counselling to child care to counselling and income support. The thrust will be to ensure that these services are delivered effectively during this time when there is the greatest risk that the family may fall apart altogether, and where the individuals involved face the most acute unhappiness.

## Conclusion

Manitobans have every right to be proud of the fine social infrastructure the people of this province have built over the years. Our basic services to people - health services, education, and social services - reflect the values and compassion we share as a community.

That social infrastructure has been neglected and denied by the Pawley Government over the past four years. And now, in the heat of an election, the NDP are handing out a patch work quilt of promises.

This is not good enough for Manitobans. Patchwork will not permit us to build the kinds of health services that we need to meet the changing needs of our society. It will not permit us to rebuild faith in our school system, and the pride and challenge that those who work within the system ought to feel. Nor will it provide the elderly with an opportunity to participate in decisions about the kinds of services they require, or provide them with the authority to determine the conditions under which they will live if they must seek institutional care.

Patchwork will not give adequate reflection to the basic sense of fairness Manitobans share. And patchwork will not lead us to look at those among us who are at risk, and seek ways that - for their sakes and for our own as a community - we can help reduce the risk.

It is time for a systematic review of all of our services to people. It is time that the dedicated professionals who provide those services were given a role and the influence they deserve in that process. It is time that those who rely on services had a voice in these decisions.

It is time we began to strive together again to use the collective power and resources we can exercise through our government - not to displace private initiative or personal kindness or the responsibility of the individual, but to reflect our values and our sense of community.

That process starts in this election campaign. We know the kind of consultative approach that we believe the people of Manitoba want. We have made our financial commitments clear. And we have put forward our Agenda for Social Change - not as the entire answer to the challenges that face us as we strive to improve services to people in Manitoba, but as a clear indication of the directions we will move in, the leadership we will provide.

As I say, the process and the plan for reform and improvement in services to people in Manitoba begins in this election campaign. But it does not end here. The partnership that we will build - with the teaching and helping professions and with the community at large - provides the basis for planned and continuing improvements in service now and into the 1990's. And that process and partnership will continue - not just over a few weeks or months, but throughout the life of our government.

What I have announced today is not patchwork. It is a plan and a commitment that can and will be carried out.

We understand that the services we are talking about here are not "government property". They belong to the people of Manitoba. And working with Manitoba's fine public service, with the dedicated men and women of the teaching and helping professions, and the people of this province, the government I will form on March 18 will strive to be a faithful and prudent and innovative steward of the social infrastructure - the services to people - that we have inherited.