

A NEW START for MANITOBA

The Liberal Plan

*"We know
what we
can afford,
and we
know what
we can't
afford to
lose."*



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A Message from Paul Edwards

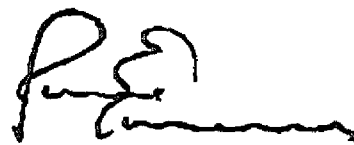
I am proud to present to you "A New Start for Manitoba - The Liberal Plan". It sets out what a Liberal government will do for our province.

In the past two years I have spoken with thousands of Manitobans, listening to their concerns and asking them for their ideas. My colleagues and I have listened and we have learned. This book is the result.

Travelling throughout Manitoba has confirmed my belief that the biggest asset Manitoba has is its people. In an increasingly complex global economy, we have managed to keep our sense of community and that willingness to work together will help us face the significant challenges ahead of us. There is no question though, that our future success depends on our ability to accept and manage change.

I have spoken many times of the need for cooperation and partnership amongst Manitobans. That co-operation must bridge the gap between people and between different levels of government.

I hope you take the time to read The Liberal Plan. I believe that it will provide you with a good understanding of what a Liberal government will stand for, and what it will achieve for Manitoba.



Paul Edwards

Jobs and Economic Growth

Job development will be the number one priority of a Liberal government. It will be the yardstick against which all economic policy and other government activity will be measured.

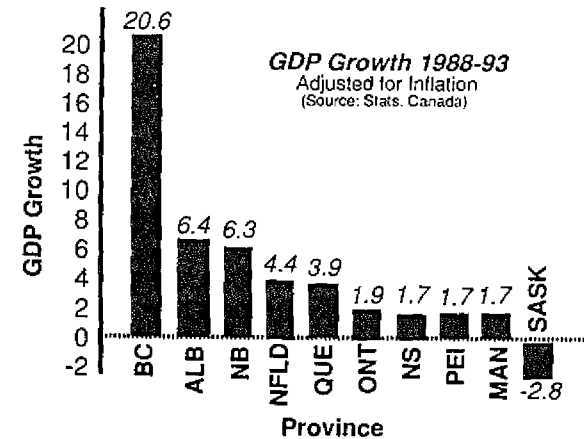
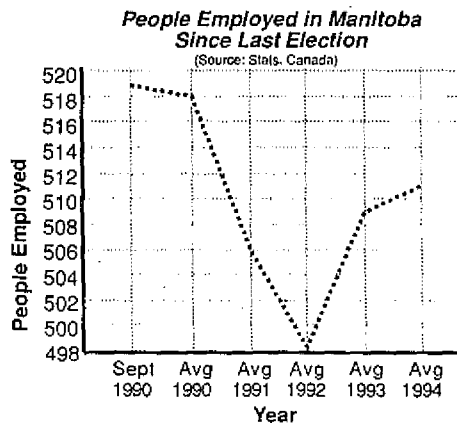
We cannot lose sight of the fact that governing is about people. A government must be judged by what it does to improve the quality of life of its citizens, to give them dignity, opportunity, and confidence there will be a future for them and their children in Manitoba. We believe jobs for Manitobans is the cornerstone of that objective.

The State of the Economy

There are fewer people working in Manitoba today than when the Conservative government was elected in 1990. About 50,000 Manitobans are currently looking for work. Another 50,000 have left the province during the Filmon years, seeking opportunities elsewhere. Sadly, many of those who have left have been the best and brightest of our young people, the very people we need to keep here to build a strong and vibrant economy. Despite the exodus of our youth, the unemployment rate for people under 24 continues to rise and averages about 16 per cent.

The NDP record on jobs and the economy is no better. During their years in office in the 1980's the NDP managed to triple the province's general purpose debt. Despite the excessive spending, a recent OECD report notes that during the 1980's Manitoba had the worst record in the country in new business growth.

Liberals believe there is a better way. Government has an important role to play in helping our people to get jobs and our businesses to succeed. And we can do it in a fiscally responsible way. The first step is to ensure Manitobans get the skills they need for the jobs of today and tomorrow.



LIFELONG LEARNING

The Knowledge Society

Manitoba's economy is undergoing a fundamental change. At the turn of the century over half of the population worked in agriculture. In the post-war era industrial work, particularly manufacturing and construction, was the engine of the economy. We are now in the midst of a third wave, and the new growth is in knowledge workers.

Thirty years ago Manitobans could finish high school and expect to find a safe and secure place in the workforce. Today that is no longer the case. In the past three years in Canada, jobs for people with university education increased by almost 20 per cent. Jobs for people who dropped out of high school fell by almost 20 per cent.

An increasing number of new jobs require specialized training. The goal of a Liberal government will be to make Manitoba's workforce the most skilled in North America and to do a better job of bringing people and jobs together. To do that we must work co-operatively with educators and seek the advice of the private sector and the labour community. They are the ones who best know what skills they will need tomorrow and in the future.

We need to promote a lifelong learning culture in Manitoba. The primary responsibility for keeping skills current should lie with the individuals and businesses who will most benefit. But government has an important role to play. There are five key strategies a Liberal government will pursue to promote lifelong learning.

First, we need to improve access to technical training, so employers and workers throughout the province have some place to go to upgrade their skills. Second, we need to build partnerships with business and labour to identify future training needs. Third, we need to encourage employers to do more training themselves. Fourth, we need to give special attention to people who need a hand up by encouraging employers to hire them. Finally, we need to create greater opportunities for our youth, to improve the transition from school to work, and to give them more experience and a chance to stay and work in Manitoba.

Access to Training

Our community colleges are going to play an increasingly important role in the future, as they are better suited than our universities for teaching and upgrading the technical skills many jobs require. A Liberal government will put more of our education resources into the community college system in support of this increased demand.

We will also ensure that our community colleges become more flexible. They have started this process already. Red River Community College, for example, runs a market driven training centre that custom tailors training programs for individuals and businesses. Sometimes the training is done in college facilities and sometimes it is done in the business. This type of flexible training that meets the needs of business needs to be supported and expanded.

We also need to make greater use of technology to allow all Manitobans a chance to upgrade their skills. Technology allows us to bring courses offered in the province's larger centres to the television sets and computer screens of people in rural Manitoba. An agriculture course taught in Brandon can be aired simultaneously to farmers at a local school in southern Manitoba, who can see and hear the instructor on a video screen and ask questions, participating like students in the actual classroom. Distance education does not just mean simultaneous courses from Brandon or Winnipeg. We can also make better use of the facilities smaller communities have. If we can use the technical shops in some of our high schools for evening classes, so people can learn new skills or employers can send workers for training, it makes sense to do so.

Partnerships with Business and Labour

Employers and workers in a specific field can do a much better job than government officials identifying their training needs for today and into the future. It makes sense to bring together people who work in the same field, whether it be software development, or automo-

chanics, or the aerospace industry, to identify their collective training needs. This is especially important in sectors where Manitoba is well positioned to grow, such as health products, environmental services, biotechnology and transportation.

Private Sector Training

For every dollar Canadian firms spend on training, American firms spend \$2, Japanese firms \$5 and German firms \$8. We need to encourage employers to invest more in the skills of their employees and to see it not as an expense but as an investment in the productivity of the company.

The Conservative government's approach, Workforce 2000, has been a failure, at an annual cost to taxpayers of \$5 million. Too often the program has given money to businesses for questionable training, such as the \$7,000 taxpayers spent to send hairdressers to a motivational speaker, or \$1,000 to cover travel expenses for a lumber store holding an out-of-town planning session. This money can be better spent.

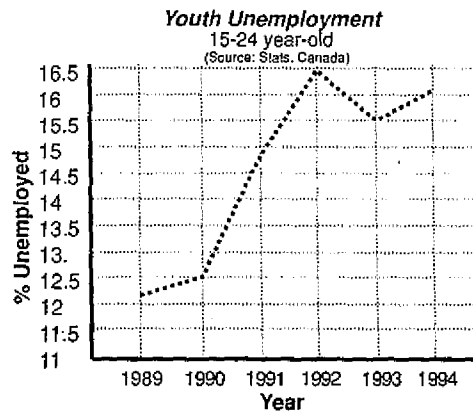
Liberal governments elsewhere, including the federal government, are considering ways to give business and individuals an incentive to train. Tax-based incentives for business and tax sheltered savings plans for individuals to save for future training are two ideas that have been suggested. We will co-operate with the federal government, business and labour in exploring these options.

A Targeted Training Incentive Program

Liberals believe our training dollars must be better targeted. We will encourage businesses to hire individuals they would otherwise not hire, whether it be because they have been on welfare and/or UIC and away from the workforce for too long or skilled immigrants whose work experience has been in a different country. A Liberal government will start a targeted training incentive program to encourage businesses to hire more of these people by sharing some of the cost of hiring and training.

Businesses that hire Manitobans who qualify for the program will be eligible for a rebate of up to \$7,000 at the end of one year's employment, providing they can show what training took place. Instead of a handout to business, this will give a hand up to people who are having difficulty finding jobs.

Opportunities for Youth



Manitoba's unemployment rate for youth has risen substantially since the Conservatives were elected, despite the fact hundreds of young people leave the province every year to find work elsewhere. In the recent provincial budget youth employment programs were cut. We are failing our youth. Restoring hope and opportunity to young Manitobans is a priority for Liberals.

Work Experience for Students Program

Students will benefit if links with employers are established at the high school level. A Liberal government, in co-operation with the private sector, will start a province-wide work experience program for high school students. Students will carry a full academic course load but spend time after school, on weekends and during summers, getting career-related work experience.

Students in the program will learn practical work skills in areas they have identified as strong career interests. Those who complete the three year program will get preferential admission to related courses at the college and university level.

Ideally, work experience programs start students on the path to successful careers. But even those participants who pursue other careers will learn the value that solid reading, writing, math and science skills have in the working world. Exposing students to more occupations should also raise the stature of some trades and professions that provide good job opportunities but might otherwise not be considered as a career path.

Youth Service Corps

We will co-operate with the federal Liberal government to expand youth service corps program in Manitoba. We can put more of our young people to work in our communities, especially in the areas of social and environmental services. A Liberal government will give young people a say in developing projects, so we make good use of

their talents as well as their time.

INVESTING IN MANITOBA

For too long the Conservative government has looked to megaprojects and outside business to come in and solve our problems. A lack of growth in both jobs and GDP indicates this strategy isn't working. It is time we focused our energy and resources on the people, the businesses and the infrastructure in Manitoba. We believe Manitobans are creative, dynamic, hard-working people. We can do a much better job of meeting the challenges of the future from within.

New Foundations

Much of the housing stock in Manitoba is aging and in need of repair. In Winnipeg, for instance, almost 20% of the homes are 50 years old or older and almost half of them are in need of major repairs. A Liberal government will start New Foundations, a province-wide program that will not only address this problem, but also give welfare recipients an opportunity to work.

There are about 20,000 people receiving welfare in the province who are considered employable, many of them with experience in the construction industry. The vast majority of these people want to work. The New Foundations program will give them an opportunity to use their existing skills and learn new ones renovating older homes in Manitoba. Far from a make-work project it will give both homeowners and welfare recipients something to build on.

A Liberal government will set aside \$10 million to renovate older homes in Manitoba under the New Foundations program. People with low incomes and older homes will be able to apply for partially forgivable loans for renovation materials. Many of these homeowners are fixed income seniors or are welfare recipients themselves. We will co-operate with the construction and trade unions to ensure the projects are properly supervised and have professional help, but welfare recipients will be used to do much of the work. The program will give them experience and dignity.

Manitoba Entrepreneurs Fund

A Liberal government will start a Manitoba Entrepreneur's Fund, combining elements of various programs that now cater to rural or city businesses. This fund will provide loan guarantees of up to \$20,000 in capital required by start-up businesses. The loans will be made by participating banks, subject to prescribed lending criteria.

While we support small seed loans to give young entrepreneurs a chance, we also want government to stop giving large grants and loans to business, like the \$70 million deal the Conservative government made with Boston-based Faneuil last year. Government needs to spend less money on businesses beyond our borders and more time and energy on Manitoba business. A Liberal government will refocus the Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism, ending the grants and loans to businesses beyond our borders and using the significant expertise of the people in that department to help Manitoba businesses market their products, here and in the global economy.

Manitoba Stock Exchange

Venture capital is a significant problem for Manitoba's small and medium-sized business community. As small business is creating most of the new jobs, we need to address this problem. The solution is to find ways for Manitobans to invest in Manitoba companies themselves, instead of government doing it for them.

Small and mid-sized companies in Manitoba looking for between \$250,000 and \$10 million have problems finding venture capital. The Toronto Stock Exchange does not serve the small and medium sized business community, which is the majority of Manitoba businesses. A Liberal government will work with a revitalized (and renamed) Winnipeg Stock Exchange to make it more active and available to growing businesses. This will require streamlining filing requirements, changing securities regulations and allowing people to invest much smaller amounts of money than are currently allowed.

Manitoba Stock Savings Plan

Manitobans are good savers. Every year we invest over \$800 million in RRSP's and pension plans. It is estimated that the banks, mutual funds and pension funds subsequently invest over 90 per cent of that money outside of the province. We need to find ways to let Manitobans keep more of their money at home, working to support Manitoba business.

In conjunction with a revitalized stock exchange, a Liberal government will start a Manitoba Stock Savings Plan. This plan will give investors a limited tax credit if they invest in a Manitoba company, to encourage them to invest more of their money in their own province.

Grow Bonds

Liberals support Grow Bonds, which are government-backed bonds that allow people to invest directly in a qualifying business. We

have long questioned, however, why this program is available only outside the City of Winnipeg. Liberals believe it is time to come up with a vision for the province as a whole, instead of always dividing urban and rural programs. We will expand the Grow Bonds program to include Winnipeg entrepreneurs.

Minimum Wage

The minimum wage has not been raised in five years. A Liberal government will raise the minimum wage from \$5.00 to \$5.50 immediately and to \$5.75 the following year. We will ask the minimum wage board to review it on an annual basis thereafter. Studies are inconclusive on the negative effects of raising the minimum wage. Liberals believe a modest increase will not cost jobs and may actually bring more people back into the workforce. More importantly, it is difficult to get by on \$5 an hour, especially for those with children to support. We need to make the minimum wage more of a living wage.

Infrastructure Bonds

Manitobans pay over \$500 million a year to finance our debt. Over half of this money leaves the country because foreigners own a large percentage of our debt. Only a small fraction stays in Manitoba. A Liberal government will ask Manitobans to invest in their own province through Manitoba Infrastructure Bonds.

In much the same way Manitobans bought Hydro bonds to finance major projects of Manitoba Hydro, Infrastructure Bonds will be dedicated to major infrastructure projects like improving our highways, bridges, sewers and water lines and technological infrastructure like fibre optic cable. Interest payments will stay in the Manitoba economy instead of foreign countries.

Infrastructure is an important responsibility for governments. In a global economy, where ideas, money, products and even people move freely beyond borders, our infrastructure is something that stays put. Investments in our people and in basic and necessary infrastructure are the two most important roles government has.

There are two new areas of infrastructure that will require attention. One is the information highway. The Internet offers a wealth of information and opportunity, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to get access to it. We need to build more on ramps. The agriculture industry will also present us with new infrastructure needs. With the end of the Western Grain Transportation Agreement, we are likely to see more livestock farming in Manitoba and more value-added meat processing. These operations will require a supply of fresh water and

treatment facilities for waste water. Agriculture continues to hold tremendous opportunity for Manitoba, but we must ensure our practices are sustainable and environmentally friendly.

GETTING GOVERNMENT RIGHT

Manitobans pay high taxes for a system that is often slow to serve, slow to change and is caught up in red tape and not in control of its finances. The Manitoba government spends \$5,000 a year for every man, woman and child in the province. We can't afford to pay more for government that gives less and less. Liberals believe we can improve services to Manitobans, from health care to education to paving roads, without spending more.

To do this will require some fundamental changes. Government needs to take a lesson from the private sector. Business has made the switch from an industrial era to an information age by embracing technology, rewarding innovation and improving customer service. They have become more responsive by moving decision making from tightly controlled top-end management to skilled, knowledgeable and creative employees who best know what is happening in their area. Government can learn from these changes.

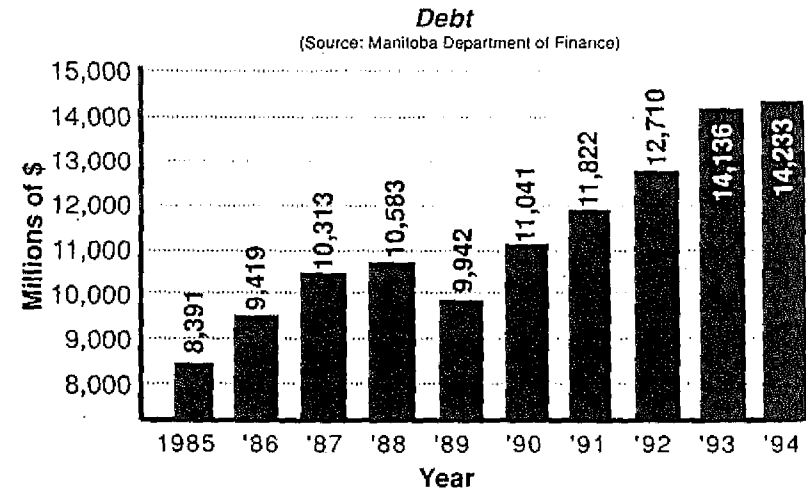
A Provincial Program Review

Liberals will work to make government more efficient and more effective. Our first step will be to establish a Provincial Program Review, chaired by a cabinet minister. We will work with our civil servants to ask some simple questions. Do we need to be doing this? If we weren't doing this already, would we start doing it now? Can we cut costs? How can we improve service to Manitobans? Are these red tape regulations really necessary? If so, are they enforced? Can we make them simpler?

Manitoba's civil servants are skilled, knowledgeable and dedicated people. Liberals recognize that our front-line workers are the ones who best know what works and what does not in their departments. We do not need high-priced American consultants, like Connie Curran, the \$4 million health consultant the Conservatives hired, to come in and tell us what to do. We need to ask our own employees for their advice and their help as we seek to do more with less in government. We must give them some goals and the freedom to achieve them. A Liberal government will show our civil servants greater respect, and expect greater things from them.

Spending smarter

A Liberal government will be committed to living within its means. We will not raise income tax, sales tax or corporate tax during our term of office. Our first budget will bring in a surplus of \$80 million, \$32 million higher than the Conservative's projected surplus. This surplus will allow a Liberal government flexibility to reduce gambling following our province-wide review.



We believe the Provincial Program Review will yield millions of dollars in savings. There are some areas, though, where we can save money immediately.

We will reduce the size of cabinet, from 18 ministers to 12. We will cut expenditures on outside consultants in half, cut our boards, agencies and commissions by thirty per cent, and stop grants and loans to big business.

The Winnipeg Jets

Owning a professional hockey team is certainly one of the most striking examples of something government should not be doing. The Liberal Party has been clear we do not intend to continue covering the losses of the Winnipeg Jets. The agreement made by the Filmon government to cover the losses until 1997 will not be extended to a new owner.

Lotteries

Liberals believe the Conservative Party has gone too far with its rapid expansion of gambling. We have proposed a four point plan to deal with lotteries. First, we will close the three casinos in Winnipeg on

Sundays. Second, we will put an immediate stop to the promotion and advertising of gambling. Third, we will not expand gambling for the full term of a Liberal government. Fourth, we will give a stronger mandate to the Lottery Policy Review Committee to consult the public province-wide on whether, and how much to roll back gambling and how to deal with the social costs.

Property Tax Freeze for the City of Winnipeg

Property taxes in the City of Winnipeg are the highest in the country. Many civic politicians have campaigned on holding the line on taxes but the taxes continue to rise. It is time to freeze property taxes in Winnipeg. To help the city achieve a property tax freeze for the term of a Liberal government, we will do three things. Current operating grants from the province to the city will be maintained at the current level as a minimum. We will move to multi-year agreements on all funding to allow for longer-term planning. And we will work with the city to build a more co-operative relationship in order to reduce overlap and waste in areas such as the delivery of welfare services and public health.

Governments at all levels are taking the tough decisions necessary to live within their means. A stable funding commitment and a new, constructive relationship with the province is crucial for Winnipeggers to set city finances on a new course.

Spending less and spending smarter will require some significant changes, not just in where we spend, but how we spend. We need to do more long-term planning. We need to make information more accessible. We need to develop ways to measure our performance so we can assess what works and whether goals are met. Employees should be rewarded for good ideas. Managers should have more freedom in their budgets, but should be more accountable for their spending and results. We need to reward departments for production and end the spend-it-or-lose-it cycle. We need to co-operate with our neighbouring provinces to deliver services to reduce overlap, improve quality and save money. And we need to live within our means.

Prairie Co-operation

The Canada West Foundation estimates that the western provinces can save \$5 billion a year by improving co-operation. Of that, \$2.4 billion is associated with inter-provincial trade barriers, both in the costs they create and the potential growth they discourage. Another \$2.7 billion of that is savings we can realize through administrative co-operation on things as simple as bulk-buying health supplies.

The western premiers meet twice a year, and western co-operation is usually on their agenda. But these one-day meetings have not resulted in much action. The present agreement on shared purchasing, for instance, has more exceptions than inclusions - health departments, education departments and crown corporations are all excluded - and it isn't well enforced.

Someone has to take the lead. Paul Edwards as Premier will make greater co-operation with western provinces a personal priority.

There are many areas where greater co-operation between Prairie provinces makes sense; from savings through bulk purchasing, greater efficiency by reducing red tape and higher quality service by sharing resources.

Two year budgets

The provincial government currently tables a budget every year. Departments don't have long term stable funding, thus they don't do long term planning. Often the managers who prepare the budgets barely finish them before they start working on the next one, so there is little time actually spent assessing whether programs work efficiently and effectively.

The federal government budgets on a five year basis. It still introduces annual budgets to introduce new programs and revise revenue or spending estimates, but an attempt is made to give departments more stable funding to allow them to focus on long term planning. At least twenty American states budget on a two-year basis and the U.S. federal government is currently considering a two-year cycle.

A Liberal government will move to two year budgets. In off years the government will provide an assessment of program effectiveness, and maintain the right to make adjustments in the budget based on increases or decreases in revenue or transfer payments. Quarterly fiscal reports on spending and revenue will still be made.

From "spend-it-or-lose-it" to incentives to save

Under the current system politicians spend hundreds of hours debating Department "Estimates" which are detailed line-by-line estimates of program spending that managers are then locked into. If they find a way to provide the service for less, they are usually rewarded by having the money clawed back in the next year's estimates. Not surprisingly, they usually spend it.

A Liberal government will give managers more freedom within their budgets and roll over 40 per cent of what they save into their next year's budget for approved projects. We will also allow them to use some of the savings to directly reward individuals or groups who suggest service improvements and/or cost reductions.

Accountability

While we want managers to have more freedom in their budgets, we will expect them to be more accountable for where they spent it. We want annual reports to be more informative and more promptly published. Consider the record of recent annual reports the Conservative government has tabled.

The Departments of Health, Education, Family Services, Northern Affairs, Urban Affairs, Environment, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Labour all tabled their 92/93 annual reports in April or May of 1994, 13 or 14 months after their Department's fiscal year end. The Justice department didn't table its 1992 report until March of 1995. Not surprisingly, these annual reports get little consideration.

Under a Liberal government, annual reports will be produced and made public within six months of the fiscal year end. Whether the House is in session or not, politicians will be asked to attend standing committees to debate the annual reports and make recommendations to the government on future goals and directions of the various departments, areas for possible savings, and spending levels.

Crown Corporations

Not only will Crown corporations be asked to meet the six month annual report target, but also, they will be asked to report to a standing committee of the Legislature within six months of the year end to pass the report. The Manitoba Lotteries Corporation is a good example of the *ad hoc* nature of Crown Corporation accountability. The Lotteries Corporation is not even required by law to appear before a Legislative Committee. Despite the many questions Liberals have been posing about Lotteries expansion, the senior executives have not appeared before a Legislative Committee since June 1993.

Expanded role for the Provincial Auditor

The auditor plays an important role in government. As an arm's-length body, the auditor's office examines where government money has been spent and ensures financial reports are accurate. More recently, the auditor's office has been looking not only at where departments spend money but how; whether management structures allows

programs to be delivered efficiently, for instance. Not only will we ask the auditor's office to help with the Provincial Program Review, we will also shift resources, such as policy analysts, from other departments to give the auditor's office more staff and a greater mandate to do value-for-money auditing. We don't want the auditor's office to be a confrontational organization but do want it to lend the accounting and management expertise of its staff to work co-operatively with departments to ensure they are efficient, effective and accountable.

A Focus on Customer Service

Anyone who has waited in a long line-up to get a driver's licence, tried to get a court record, or been caught up in bureaucratic red tape, knows government can do more to fulfill its mandate to serve. A Liberal government will work to make government more customer-focused in all aspects of operation.

The Premier's Council on Technology

Technology has great potential to improve the way government delivers service. We can set up automated-teller-like machines in shopping malls that would let people renew their driver's licence at any time. We can let people in small rural towns take college courses in Brandon or Winnipeg without leaving their homes and we can let doctors and patients in northern Manitoba see experts at Health Sciences Centre without leaving their local clinic.

A Premier's Council on Technology will ensure government takes advantage of these and other opportunities. This Council will include senior cabinet ministers, a senior official from Manitoba Telephone System and representatives from the private sector with information technology expertise, and will be supported by staff from various government departments.

One Stop Service Centres

For over ten years bank machines in Canada have been able to tell you how much money you have in your account and give you access to your money. Government is a decade behind in harnessing technology to improve customer service.

A Liberal government will use technology to make government services more accessible. Computerized kiosks, like automatic tellers, could describe all government programs, give you information about health care, let you pay a parking fine or renew your driver's licence. A Liberal government will seek private sector partners to help develop and implement pilot projects to place computerized service centres in highly visible places, like shopping malls, colleges and universities

around the province.

Improving access to information will benefit people in business or entrepreneurs looking to start one. The provincial and federal governments already have many good programs to help entrepreneurs get information on marketing, management and financing. The problem is that few people know about them. For instance, the Manitoba Business Resource Centre is tucked away on the fifth floor of an office building in downtown Winnipeg. These services should be highly visible and readily available.

Staying in Touch with Customers

A Liberal government will ask departments to use surveys and focus groups, 1-800 numbers, suggestion boxes and other methods to see whether customers are satisfied with service and to get their ideas for improvement. How long did it take to get your driver's licence? To process your Autopac claim? To get back surgery? What was the quality of service like? Managers and politicians can use this information to ensure that changes are made where changes are needed.

Service Guarantees

Within a year of taking office, a Liberal government will require all departments to clearly define their goals in mission statements, to set standards for service delivery and publish those standards (including posting a copy in all offices where government interacts with members of the public). These service guarantees will be updated annually and made available in government offices province-wide.

LEARNING - AN INVESTMENT IN MANITOBA'S FUTURE

"Government is about opportunities for people and there is no more significant opportunity for people than education. That is the most valuable tool someone can have."

Paul Edwards, Leader of The Liberal Party in Manitoba
Manitoba Legislature, December 5, 1994

Education is Manitoba's future. The strength of our social fabric and the success of our economy are directly linked to the education and the skill levels of Manitobans. Knowledge improves the lives of individuals socially, culturally and economically. While the world has undergone enormous changes in the last ten years, Manitobans have not been given the opportunity to keep pace. Pressures to keep traditional structures and a yearning for the simpler times of the past are slowing the process of meaningful educational change.

Liberals believe that Manitobans need to embrace change in our education system. We need to encourage the pursuit of new ideas and skills and promote fresh and productive ways for the people of Manitoba to work together. Together we can create a vision for education and a learning culture in Manitoba to serve us, and our children, into the 21st century. Liberals believe that an investment in education is an investment in the future of Manitoba. A Liberal government will increase funding to education in proportion to increases in provincial revenues.

Manitoba is a province with great opportunity. Our quality of life is outstanding. Our challenge is to reinvent an education system that recognizes the demands of a new and increasingly complex world. Liberals believe a literate, educated and skilled workforce is essential for Manitoba to flourish and prosper. Linked together with other economies by trade, new technologies, a global marketplace and an increasing demand for high quality goods and services, Manitoba's economy is the world's economy. New jobs will be created when knowledge, specialized skills and inventiveness bring Manitoba products to the rest of the world.

Combatting Illiteracy

It is estimated that there are 175,000 functionally illiterate people in Manitoba, many under 30 years of age. These people are unable to read a newspaper or understand written instructions. Many of these Manitobans have no real prospect for employment until they become

literate. For Manitoba to be competitive it is essential that government provides additional pathways to literacy.

A Liberal government will invite the private sector and individual Manitobans to work together to eliminate illiteracy. We will establish a Literacy Fund in which every dollar contributed by the private sector to combat illiteracy is matched by government. We are committed to expanding the availability of literacy programs to more Manitobans both in the community and in the workplace. We will work with our educational institutions to ensure the achievements of these Manitobans are recognized, and they have the opportunity to continue to improve their skills.

The "Knowledge Society" Challenge

Twenty years ago Manitobans could finish high school and expect to find a safe and secure place in the workforce. Good wages, generous benefits and job security were the norm. Today, a high school diploma is not enough to guarantee employment. Increasingly, job applicants are required to have some form of post-secondary education to be considered, and those in jobs are often required to regularly upgrade their skills just to keep the jobs they have.

In 1951 only 8 per cent of the labour force had some form of post-secondary education. By 1971 that figure increased to 14.5 per cent. Today, it is 46 per cent. This increase speaks to the many changes in Manitoba's economic structure. High-tech and knowledge-based service industries are expanding. As a result, more and more of the jobs in Manitoba demand some specialized training.

'Knowledge workers' are the fastest growing group in the workforce. Ninety percent of all jobs created in Canada from 1985 to 1992 were in knowledge-intensive industries. It is expected that nearly half of all new jobs which will be created in the 1990's will require more than 16 years of education and training. Even lower-skilled jobs will demand some degree of specialized training or post-secondary education. In the past three years in Canada jobs held by university graduates expanded 17 per cent, while the number of jobs held by people not completing high school fell by 19 per cent. Government must recognize this trend and the expanding importance of education at all stages of our lives, and in all sectors of our society.

Improving Post-Secondary Education

Over the past six and a half years and with three education ministers, the Conservative government has failed to come up with a consistent vision for our post-secondary institutions. The first minister cut

funding to our community colleges and increased funding to universities. The second launched a review of the funding priorities of the first. And the third minister cut funding to universities and increased funding to community colleges. There has been no consistent strategy directing programs at the post-secondary level. A Liberal Government will provide a coherent, coordinated and stable vision for the growth of our post-secondary education system.

For Liberals, post-secondary education has three fundamental goals:

1. *to enrich our society by maintaining centres of learning and knowledge,*
2. *to offer our citizens the skills and training they need to allow them to participate fully as productive members of society, and*
3. *to function as centres of research and development, challenging the status quo and progressively increasing society's knowledge base.*

What is being taught in Manitoba's public school system, community colleges and universities must be coordinated. Currently, our post-secondary institutions operate at arm's length from each other and from our public schools.

Manitoba's post-secondary education system must be more flexible, more coordinated and more integrated. Credit transfers between institutions must be encouraged. Work experience must be viewed as a legitimate form of learning and must be considered in admissions. Also, increased opportunities should be provided for collaborative and integrated programs between universities and community colleges.

Partnerships between our educational institutions will enhance opportunities for lifelong learning for Manitobans. The knowledge-intensive nature of the new economy demands broad-based educational programming. Manitobans need basic skills, but they also need to be flexible, resourceful, creative, critical and responsible. Original ideas develop when people challenge the beliefs and wisdom of their time.

A Liberal government will replace the Universities Grants Commission with the Post-Secondary Education Council, as suggested in the Roblin Report, to coordinate improvements to Manitoba's post-secondary education system. This Council will be responsible for universities, community colleges and the delivery of lifelong learning opportunities throughout Manitoba. A Liberal Government will also

establish a Cabinet Committee on Post-Secondary Education to strengthen the link between our economic and educational priorities and Manitoba's post-secondary institutions.

Teaching at our universities has received too little weight in tenure considerations. Liberals believe that universities must reward good teaching the same way they reward good research. A Liberal Government will ensure future university hiring agreements set out employment goals to clarify teaching, research and service requirements. We will ask the Post-Secondary Education Council to work with the universities to increase the weight given to teaching in tenure considerations.

Government must recognize the outstanding work which is being done in our post-secondary institutions, build on their successes and promote these programs as centres of excellence both within and outside the Province. By identifying and consolidating what we do well, we can improve post-secondary education opportunities. A Liberal government will work with our universities and community colleges to avoid duplication and establish centres of excellence within the Province. Our goal will be to cooperate with the other western provinces to establish centres of excellence at the post-secondary level where ever cost-effective and appropriate.

Increasing Opportunity

Accessibility to post-secondary education must be increased. A Liberal government will assist those groups traditionally under-represented in post-secondary education. A Liberal government will reinstate the Access Program and the New Careers Program, both cut by the Conservative government.

Government's role is to make education available to Manitobans regardless of their geographic location, financial means or the size of their community. A Liberal government will work to make distance education available in more Manitoba communities. Integrating technology into the classroom will result in greater value for dollars spent on education. Our distance education strategy will encourage cooperation among our educational institutions and the joint use of community resources such as libraries and community halls. Cooperation is necessary to encourage high quality programming, cost sharing and educational equality across the province.

Encouraging these partnerships will be the mandate of the Premier's Council on Technology. This council will bring technological, educational and economic development expertise together to develop an integrated telecommunications strategy for Manitoba. The

Council's first priority will be the development of a comprehensive distance education initiative which offers equal access to all Manitobans regardless of geographic location.

A Skilled Workforce

Our community colleges and labour training programs are crucial to the economic growth of Manitoba. Although our community colleges offer successful trade and vocational training programs of one year or less, a void exists between these programs and university degrees. A broader range of diploma programs is necessary to expand and maintain a skilled Manitoba workforce. This will attract more high school graduates to our community colleges and will decrease waiting lists for existing programs.

A Liberal government will increase resources to our community colleges. Our goal will be to double the participation rate at our community colleges over the next five years. Partnerships with other educational organizations and the sharing of facilities, such as vocational shops or computer labs, will further expand opportunities for Manitobans.

Manitoba's applied training colleges and programs can be a major source of economic opportunity for our citizens. We must ensure they are market-responsive and customer-focused. The customer is the student who wants to either gain access to employment or skills upgrading. Market driven training fulfills this need. Employer participation and the identification of programs and course content is crucial in market driven training.

A Liberal government will ask the Post-Secondary Education Council to implement an across-the-board employer assessment protocol for all courses offered through community college and labour training programs. This protocol will result in an annual report assessing all taxpayer-funded programs which will be tabled in the Legislature. The Minister responsible for the Department of Learning will be accountable for its contents.

Setting High Standards

We must recognize and celebrate the achievements of all Manitobans regardless of their ability, background, or economic status. Liberals believe students accept the need for high standards, and expect the opportunity to achieve them.

Currently, there is a lack of consistency across Manitoba as to what is a basic education and what fundamental skills should be taught in

our schools. Too often parents feel their children are not learning the basic skills in reading, writing and mathematics. Goals for students are often not explicitly articulated or agreed upon, and expectations for students are higher in some schools than in others.

A Liberal government will prepare province-wide standard tests covering basic skill areas to be administered at set grade levels. Local school boards will be given the flexibility to determine the weight attributed to these tests. These tests should not be used to compare students or schools, but as one assessment tool to determine the most appropriate educational program for each student.

What is done after evaluating students is far more important than the results. Students who need additional support must be identified and steps taken to provide that support. A Liberal government will do more than come up with a test. We will work with educators and school trustees to respond to the differing needs of students, as identified by teachers.

Special Needs

Liberals are committed to the integration of special needs students. A Liberal government will ensure services to these students are available on an equitable basis throughout the province. Special services are also required for students who are learning disabled. Our educational system must make a long term commitment to these students.

A Liberal Government will return to a needs-based test for special needs funding. Upon identification of a special needs student, funds will be allocated to support specialized programming for that student.

A Liberal government will cooperate with school boards to develop strategies to enhance the curriculum and instruction for gifted students. We will recognize the exceptional achievements of Manitoba students.

Increasingly, teachers are being asked to deliver health and social services. A Liberal government will establish two pilot projects, in rural and urban areas, in which health, social services and law enforcement are integrated into the school. Coordinating government services offered within a community will free up teachers to teach.

The Challenge of Poverty

Manitoba has one of the worst records for child poverty in the country.

The Conservative government's poor record of combatting child poverty contributes to many Manitoba children arriving at school hungry and unprepared to learn. A Liberal government is committed to

restoring the children's breakfast program in schools in needy communities. We will invite the private sector to join forces with government to reduce child poverty in Manitoba. A Liberal government will review and strengthen current early intervention programs for children at risk. Children must arrive at school ready to learn.

Curriculum Development

Curriculum development in Manitoba has been neglected by the Conservative government. The Liberal Party is committed to ensuring what is taught in Manitoba schools is current and relevant. A new curriculum must be developed from the bottom up with input and feedback from parents, teachers and students. Educators must be provided with the resources and support they require to implement a new curriculum and to adapt it to the diverse needs of Manitoba students.

The effective use of a curriculum depends on the relationship between students and their teachers. Teachers exciting their students about learning is the essence of education. The success of our students is dependent upon the quality and relevancy of the curriculum.

A Liberal government will co-operate with other Western provinces on development of curricula and core subject areas. In addition, we will re-establish a viable and active curriculum development branch within the Provincial Department of Education and ensure that teachers are an integral part of the curriculum development process.

A New Education Act

A Liberal Government will embark on an overhaul of the obsolete Public Schools Act. A new Education Act will prepare Manitobans to meet the challenges of the 21st century. A Liberal government will immediately establish a review team including teachers, parents, trustees and community members to consult Manitobans and produce a draft act. This is a comprehensive and essential process for Manitoba's education system. A Liberal government will introduce the new Education Act in the Legislature in the second year of its mandate.

Accountability to the Community

Parents and community members want to be informed about our educational system and whether their school is meeting its stated goals and objectives. A Liberal government will work with school boards to develop a system whereby every school will provide an annual report reviewing the school's performance for the previous

year. These reports will give a profile of each school, including school attendance, program descriptions, special services available, graduation record and student achievements. Annual reports, reflecting on past accomplishments and establishing future goals, will enhance the relationship between schools and the communities they serve.

Annual general meetings will be held for each school in the province. Parents and community members will have an opportunity to discuss the annual report with representatives of the school, the school board and the government. Liberals believe shared information, increased understanding, and collaboration will benefit the young people of Manitoba.

Safer Schools, Stronger Communities

Parents, teachers and students want a safe learning environment in our schools. Parents hear reports of students arriving at school with knives or guns and threatening assaults or verbally abusing other students or teachers. Fear of this type of activity can undercut the learning process for an entire school population.

In the spring of 1994, Liberals met with young people from across Manitoba to listen to their views on youth crime and violence. One student remarked, "If you feel safe, you can learn and teach". Research confirms that learning is more effective in schools which are safe and orderly and where relationships are based on mutual respect.

Administrators and teachers alone cannot stop violence, abusive language and unacceptable behaviour. Discipline requires a partnership. Parents must accept responsibility for the behaviour of their children, and children must learn to accept responsibility for their disruptive behaviour. The cooperation of everyone involved is necessary to ensure safe learning environments across Manitoba.

Many school divisions have instituted anti-violence policies which outline unacceptable student behaviour and identify specific consequences should it occur. We endorse and support these initiatives. A Liberal government will require every school division in Manitoba to adopt a safe schools policy.

A Liberal government will adopt a province-wide Code of Behaviour. The creation of this code will involve parents, students and the community. It will promote respect for the rights of students and teachers and provide meaningful consequences when this code is violated. The Liberal Party is committed to building a safe and secure learning environment for students and teachers in every Manitoba school.

Occasionally, students who do not respond to school-based initiatives and remain a threat to teachers and other students must be removed from the classroom. However, it is not an answer to take education away from these students. A Liberal government will establish different settings for these young people which will offer education as well as isolation from the general school population. We will address the causes of youth violence, not just the result.

From the Classroom to the Workplace

Many students complain that what they are being taught at school is not connected to the 'real world'. This has contributed to a drop-out rate in Manitoba of close to 20 per cent. Studies indicate that school/employer partnerships can reduce drop-out rates dramatically by making students feel what they are learning relevant to the real world. These programs also help students who go directly from school to work make the transition more successfully.

A Liberal government will work in partnership with employers, educators and students to ensure that the skills being taught in our schools prepare our students for the transition from the school to the workplace. As technical skills increasingly become a necessity in getting a job, vocational training in our schools needs to be evaluated.

In addition, a Liberal government will work with employers across Manitoba to link them with their local schools to offer on-site training sessions and apprenticeship or co-op programs. A partnership between the community and the school must occur at every step of the education process.

A Liberal government, in co-operation with the private sector, will establish an Work Experience for Students Program. This program will give Manitoba young people the opportunity to receive workplace training. This training will be in addition to the education they receive in the classroom. Students who participate in the program will receive certifiable skills. The program will seek to establish lasting relationships with employers for students interested in vocational and apprenticeship training.

In addition, a Liberal government will work with our community colleges, universities and existing apprenticeship programs to ensure that students who graduate from the Work Experience for Students Youth Program have their achievements recognized and are guaranteed admission to further career-related studies if they so desire.

Aboriginal Education

A Liberal government will provide a coordinated approach to the education of all Manitobans. We will establish mechanisms for dialogue and negotiation with Manitoba's aboriginal peoples to address their unique educational issues. We will recognize areas of educational jurisdiction of aboriginal peoples. In addition, a Liberal government will work with school divisions involved with aboriginal peoples to develop policies and strategies to improve the quality of education for aboriginal children in the public school system.

The Liberal Party endorses the recommendation of the Roblin Commission Report that effective aboriginal participation in post-secondary education in Manitoba should be advanced through the development of a First Nations post-secondary education authority.

School Division Boundaries

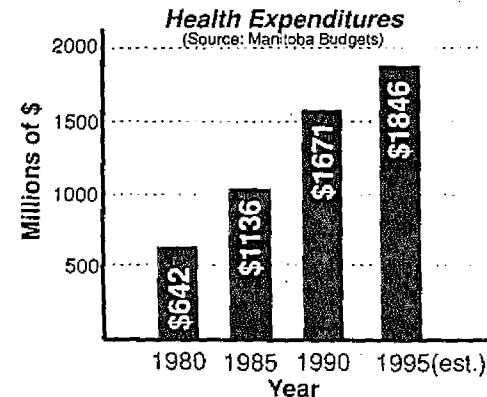
A Liberal Government will continue to review the recently released Jorrie Report on school division boundaries in Manitoba. Where changes in school division boundaries can be shown to produce a positive effect in the classroom, a Liberal government will make boundary changes. However, we realize there is no "one size" of school division which is best for every part of Manitoba. While school divisions must be large enough to maximize efficiencies, we must balance this with the need for school divisions to be small enough for there to be genuine accountability of trustees to the communities they serve. Flexibility will be key.

TOWARD A HEALTHIER MANITOBA

"Canadians have very high expectations of the health care system. For many, it is one of the few remaining symbols of economic and social security. Many still believe that there can and should be a high-tech solution to every health problem. They see health care as a synonym for health. These expectations mean that it is very important to safeguard the quality of health care, even while making it more effective, more affordable, and more accessible."

from "Sustainable Health Care for Canada" 1995
Queen's - University of Ottawa Economic Project

Our health care system is one of this country's proudest achievements. National Medicare was introduced by a federal Liberal government and remains a symbol of our commitment to high quality health care. The Liberal Party is firmly committed to the Canada Health Act's five fundamental principles: health care must be universal, portable, comprehensive, accessible and publicly administered.



The Manitoba government will spend \$1.8 billion on health care this year. Advanced technologies, new drugs and better equipment have dramatically increased health care costs, which consume more than one third of the provincial budget. Health care spending is growing at a faster pace than Manitoba's population.

Manitoba is not alone in facing rising health care costs. Governments in every province and of every political stripe are making difficult choices about the best use of available funds. The NDP government in Saskatchewan recently closed or converted 52 hospitals in its rural areas, while the NDP government of British Columbia closed a hospital in the heart of Vancouver. Every province has established an inquiry or commission into health care cost containment and reform.

The stark reality is that in the future we must increasingly make better use of scarce dollars. New knowledge, new demands, new fis-

cal realities and citizens' demands for more control over health care cannot be accommodated within a health care system designed 25 years ago. If our health care system is to survive, we must modernize how health care is managed and delivered. Renewal must and will happen. To deny this or to use fear mongering for political advantage will not benefit Manitobans in the long run.

Since the Conservative government came into power it has commissioned over a hundred studies, task forces and reviews in health care. Unfortunately, the only document of note in this prolonged blizzard of paper, was the Health Action Plan released in May 1992.

Although the Conservative government pledged to start doing something, few concrete changes have been made. Instead the Conservatives hired yet another consultant, this time an American consultant, Connie Curran, who was paid \$4 million to identify ways to save money in the health care system. As a result, cuts were made in hospitals without alternate resources being available in our communities. Today many Manitobans believe their health care system is worse than it was when the Conservatives took power.

Manitobans want and need a high quality, affordable health care system. Manitobans want choice, easy access to a range of services, quality and efficiency in their health care system. A Liberal government will protect the health and well-being of all Manitobans. We will build a health care system which will again be the source of pride and security for all Manitobans.

HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS

Public Participation

Manitobans expect health care services to be there when they need it. Yet anxiety and concern about access to those services has become a hallmark of health reform in Manitoba. One of the stated goals of the Conservative government was to involve and inform the public and health care professionals about the process of change. Unfortunately, Manitobans have felt left out and health reform has become characterized as a Conservative government cost-cutting exercise.

Manitoba's health care consumers have high expectations. It is no longer acceptable for governments to design a system without public consultation, and then make announcements how tax dollars will be spent. Manitobans want to participate in health care renewal. Liberals welcome the involvement of all participants in the restructuring. The health care consumer must have the opportunity to provide input into

a contemporary model for health care delivery. A Liberal government will invite public participation through public forums, a suggestion "hot-line", establishment of local health councils, and funding of a health care ombudsman. Collaboration and public participation are essential for the health care system to successfully meet the needs of Manitobans.

Involving Health Care Providers

The Conservative government's promise to make health care professionals partners in the reform process has not been kept. Our health care system cannot function effectively if the professionals delivering the care are not part of the planned change. Uncertainty and anxiety fosters resistance to change and compromises the currently existing strengths of the system.

The Liberal Party has consulted with Manitoba health care professionals since health reform was initiated and is committed to continuing that consultation process. Liberals recognize the essential role of all health system participants, who have much to offer as we work toward renewing the system. A Liberal government will not only consult but will listen.

Manitoba's health care professionals are at the front line of health care renewal, and are in position to provide government with insight into the effects of health initiatives on health outcomes. Unfortunately the current government has failed to recognize the valuable contribution which can be made by front-line workers, who are generally unrepresented on existing health care boards. In the past, decisions have been made without input from health workers who will be directly involved in the changes. A Liberal government will ensure that these front-line workers have stronger representation on decision-making boards and councils.

Local Control Over Health Care Needs

The Liberal Party believes that every Manitoban is entitled to high quality health care with uniform standards no matter where they live. The aim of health care renewal must be to develop a more flexible and improved health delivery system in our communities while containing costs. Decentralizing decision-making in health care by giving local communities more control over their health service delivery system will enable them to set up and fund programs which meet their particular health needs. For example, one community may decide they need a geriatric outreach office while another community may have greater need for rehabilitation services.

A Liberal government will establish local health councils and regional boards to administer health care services in their communities. Assessing the ongoing health needs of Manitobans in northern and rural communities will be an important role for local health councils and regional boards in these areas. The needs of the people of a region may differ and change from time to time. The administrative structures and programs necessary to fill changing and different needs must therefore be flexible.

A Liberal government will ensure that local control of health care does not create another level of bureaucracy within an already top-heavy system. Administrative overlap will be reduced by allowing decisions to be made in the communities where the services are delivered. Accountability will improve when the decision-makers are located in the region, are among the users of the system, and are known to members of the community who use the system. These changes must result in a genuine transfer of responsibility, accountability and authority from the Department of Health to our communities and an increase in resources allocated to health care programs delivered in local communities.

Regional boards and local health councils will be given the flexibility to make decisions reflecting local needs while at the same time being required to maintain provincial health care standards. A Liberal government will provide information and technical support required by the boards and councils to make informed decisions to benefit their communities.

Boundaries for these boards and councils will be established through a consultation process to reflect the use of health care facilities and the travel patterns of the community. The availability and delivery of health care services will be determined by local need.

Health Care Ombudsman

The provincial health care system is complex and may present barriers to people using services. Serious criticisms or complaints about the way health care is delivered should be reviewed by an impartial third party. A Liberal government will appoint a health care ombudsman to informally resolve difficulties with the health care system and make recommendations to prevent future problems. The ombudsman may receive suggestions and recommendations on problems within the system. The health care ombudsman will be accountable to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and will work through an existing ombudsman's office. The health care ombudsman will be authorized to investigate and report on concerns about the delivery of services in provincial health care facilities.

MEETING CONSUMER NEEDS

A more educated public has increasingly higher expectations of our health care system. The widespread availability of new and sophisticated technologies and rapidly evolving medical science have generated consumer demand for more information, greater participation in health planning and decision-making, and access to alternative opinions, care approaches and treatments. The success of our health care system in meeting the needs of Manitobans requires a new and more flexible response by governments.

Community Health Centres

Manitoba Liberals are committed to the primary health care model. Our health care system must be responsive to the diverse needs of Manitobans and their communities. Health care programs in Manitoba will meet the needs of Manitobans no matter where they live. Our northern communities must respond to increased incidence of diabetes and tuberculosis among Manitoba's aboriginal people. Our rural communities must address dental care issues arising from non-fluoridated drinking water. And our farming communities must meet the needs of those who have been affected by the stresses of contemporary farm life and exposure to farm hazards.

A Liberal government will work with regional boards and local health councils to establish community health centres designed to fit the unique needs of their community by considering, among other things, the cultural, educational, geographic and economic factors in the community. We recognize the valuable contributions of voluntary organizations who provide self-help, counselling and outreach services in our communities and we will continue to support them.

Community health centres will have the benefit of a multi-disciplinary team of professionals such as nurses, social workers, nutritionists, dental hygienists, physiotherapists, counselors and community outreach workers. Manitoba nurses will have an expanded role in these centres which will also have physician's services available as necessary. The model of delivery for professional services will be collaborative and cooperative.

Community health centres will significantly improve the range of health services previously unavailable to rural and northern Manitobans. Currently, rural Manitobans have limited access to mental health services without an official diagnosis and Community Health Centres will provide counselling and treatment to these Manitobans.

Community health centres will have a role in the integration of ser-

vices in our public school system. Where possible they should be located near schools to ensure the delivery of health care services to students is co-ordinated. In addition, the health promotion and education mandate of community health centres will develop programming for our young people. Our schools are the natural place to reach them.

Dental Care

A Liberal government will restore the treatment portion of the Children's Rural Dental program. Providing dental services to Manitoba's rural children must be viewed as a priority for long-term health promotion.

Stronger Hospitals

A shift from institution-based health care to community-focused care in no way eliminates the need for a strong hospital system. Over 51 per cent of Manitoba's \$1.8 billion health care budget goes to our hospitals.

Since the Conservative government embarked on health care reform, their answer to rising hospital costs has been to close ten per cent of Winnipeg's hospital beds without providing alternate services in the community to fill the gap. Waiting lists have grown, choices of services have been eliminated, and medical specialists have left Manitoba. A Liberal government would be an active participant, together with the main stakeholders in the hospital and community care system, to find cost savings through cooperation.

The Liberal Party recognizes the valuable and ongoing contribution to health care made by the hospitals of this province. We should use the expertise of the hospital community to embark on a coordinated effort to make the programs and care given in hospitals match social realities. A fundamental shift in the model of care delivery must occur without compromising the high quality for which Manitoba hospitals are famous.

Rural Physicians

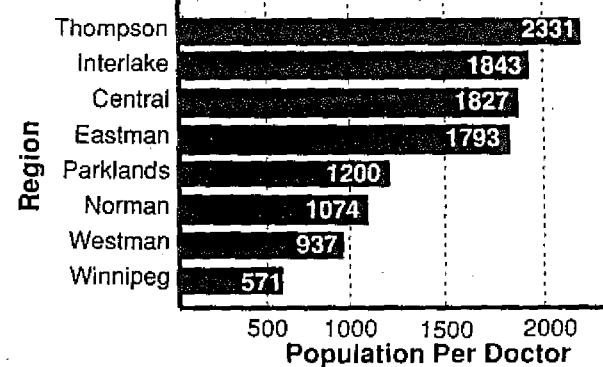
The lack of doctors in rural and northern Manitoba is reaching crisis proportions. The Conservative government has formed committees to study the problem, but after more than six years there is still no successful plan. Recently, although not for the first time, a hospital in rural Manitoba was forced to close its emergency department because of staffing problems.

The Liberal Party believes more can be done to attract doctors to

rural and northern Manitoba. We will work with the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Manitoba Medical Association and the Faculty of Medicine to ensure that more doctors practice in rural and remote communities.

Population per Doctor in Manitoba Regions

(Source: Manitoba Health)



to rural practice. Distance education technology should be used to support internship and graduate medical training programs in rural communities, to provide service and educational opportunities in these settings.

We will work with the College of Physicians and Surgeons to examine innovative ways to allow doctors with foreign credentials to apprentice and write exams and we will continue to top-up the salaries of doctors who practice outside of major centres. A Liberal government will ensure that the need for additional doctors in our rural communities is met.

Women and Health

The Liberal Party believes that the most important player in the health care system is the consumer. Health care consumers need to be recognized not only on the basis of their geographic location and community but also on the basis of their unique health care needs. Women are important consumers in the health care system, as are seniors and Manitoba's aboriginal community. Health care initiatives must be able to address the specific needs of these groups.

The Liberal Party will meet the needs of women by offering health care programs that offer a wide range of choices to ensure the health of women throughout their lives. This will include initiatives focused on pre-natal nutrition and healthy lifestyle choices, the establishment of a mobile mammography unit as a cost effective way of providing service

to rural and remote areas, and nutrition and lifestyle programs aimed at preventing osteoporosis in women. Education on the effects of alcohol consumption on a fetus is important to prevent the growing problem of fetal alcohol syndrome. Actions taken by the Liberal Party have resulted in an education campaign being offered by the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission.

The most common interaction of women with the health care system is through childbirth. The feelings of Manitoba women and families about this process are strong. The Liberal Party understands that this is a joyful occasion which is a family experience. Women and their families demand and deserve involvement in the childbearing process. Medical interventions where necessary must be available, but women must be allowed to be informed and active participants in childbirth. A Liberal government will expand the choices available to Manitoba families with the creation of a governing body to oversee the licensing, standards and practices of midwives in Manitoba. Registered Manitoba midwives would be granted hospital privileges. The support of early discharge programs together with appropriate community follow-up would be a part of keeping Manitoba families healthy.

The Hospital to Community Shift

The average cost per bed in a Manitoba general hospital is near \$800 per day. This is above the national average. Manitobans stay in hospital longer than other Canadians and have more readmissions. The reason for prolonged hospital stays is the lack of home supports in the community. The effectiveness of early hospital discharge policies depends on an accessible, affordable home care program. Patients prefer to recover in their community in familiar surroundings with the support of family and friends. Maintaining people and services in the community is a catalyst for local growth and development and provides the infrastructure necessary to attract and keep health care professionals in the community. In addition, community services are an inexpensive alternative to a lengthy hospital stay.

The Manitoba Centre for Health Policy and Evaluation has done valuable work to provide comprehensive data with which to make sound planning decisions in our health care system. Any changes to a health care delivery system should be based on the best information available. It is essential that significant reforms are planned with specific and measurable outcomes in mind. A Liberal Government will ask The Centre for Health Policy and Evaluation to examine the move from hospital to community-based services on an on-going basis. This use of monitoring will ensure, for example, that there is no compromise of the recovery of patients discharged from hospitals through the early discharge program due to inadequate services in place in the community.

Home Care

Many Manitobans need either short or long-term health care services, yet do not need full hospital care. People with permanent disabilities, chronic ailments or terminal illnesses are often more comfortable and effectively cared for in their homes. Healthy seniors who thrive in their own homes may fail under institutional care. Care given in the home provides optimal quality of life, humane care and reduced costs.

While it was closing hospital beds, the Conservative government also cut the budget of its home care program by \$3 million and introduced user fees for home care equipment and ostomy supplies. The central purpose of health care reform was to shift resources from institutions to the community. These cuts contradicted this stated objective.

In June of 1993 the Conservative government announced massive cuts to the home care program. Partly as a result of the opposition voiced by the Liberal Party and Manitobans who relied on home care services, the Conservative government changed Health ministers.

It is more humane and cost efficient to ensure that adequate home care services are available to lessen hospital or personal care home stays. Frequently, a spouse or family member looks after a relative who needs constant supervision and care. Unfortunately, these caregivers cannot access enough respite help. Families experience stress if they do not have a break or reasonable home care services to lighten their load. Families need to know that home care services are accessible and available.

A Liberal government will provide a better health support system for Manitoba families by ensuring home care services are available when the need arises.

Youth Corps for Health Care

A Liberal government will use the federal Youth Corps program to expand the availability of home care services in our communities. Young people will have the opportunity to use and improve their skills while contributing to their communities and their province.

HEALTH PROMOTION

The Liberal Party is committed to the integration of the principles of disease prevention and health promotion throughout its health care

programming, and also throughout all government programs, including those implemented by the Departments of Education, Environment, Industry Trade and Tourism, and Family Services.

Health reflects the status of a person's physical well-being while health care is generally aimed at maintaining or restoring physical well-being. Health requires the consideration of broader societal issues, such as unemployment, poverty, illiteracy, smoking, substance abuse, obesity, teenage suicide and AIDS. These problems arise from problems which are not responsive to the current approaches of our health care treatments. Addressing societal problems is at the core of the Liberal approach to improving the health of Manitobans.

HEALTHIER MANITOBIANS

The World Health Organization has stated that health care should be based on the primary health care model. Primary health care includes health promotion, disease prevention, diagnosis, treatment, management of illness and injury, and rehabilitation in a community setting. It empowers people to take an active part in planning, policy making and the delivery of health care services in their community. Primary health care recognizes that other factors such as illiteracy, poverty and the environment affect health. A superior health care system not only detects and treats illness, it educates and informs health care consumers on how they can take control of their own health.

Healthy Workplaces

Most Manitobans spend a large part of their lives in a work setting. For this reason, a healthy workplace is important to their health and well-being. The Liberal Party will ensure that occupational health and safety standards are enforced. However, it takes more than meeting current protection levels to meet the health challenges presented by new technologies and the changing workplace.

A Liberal government will make education the cornerstone of healthy workplaces. Whether coping with stress, working with computer technology, or lifting heavy objects, good work habits are essential. Education and information to complement safety standards will result in healthier work lives.

Healthy Lifestyles

Good nutrition, healthy lifestyles and productive work are the elements of a long and healthy life. A comparison between Japan, which does not have universal health care, and Canada shows that the

Japanese live significantly longer and healthier lives than Canadians. The crucial differences are nutrition and economic security. Creating employment opportunities, educating citizens about healthy lifestyles and ensuring adequate nutrition is the focus of the Liberal strategy to promote healthier Manitobans.

Healthier Children

Manitoba has one of the worst records for child poverty in the country. Poor children have higher than average rates of ill health and accidents, tend to perform worse at school and cannot learn properly because they are hungry. The Conservative's dismal record of combating child poverty contributes to a cycle of low achievement and joblessness. The Liberal education initiatives include integrating health services into our public schools and restoring the children's breakfast program in needy communities. We are committed to eliminating child poverty in Manitoba through programs directed at children and their parents.

Community Health Centres

As previously outlined, our community health centres will promote wellness and disease prevention. A Liberal government will target five per cent of our health care budget to health promotion services and programs by the year 2000. We will invest in the health of Manitobans.

Our community health centres will address the critical health needs of the community through the centres themselves and through community outreach programs. A Liberal government's priority will be a comprehensive nutrition strategy focused on children, pre-natal women and low income families. A strong emphasis will be placed on alcoholism prevention programs, focusing on women at risk of having babies subject to fetal alcohol syndrome.

Integration of Services

The Liberal approach to health promotion will be integrated into our schools. The Manitoba Sports Federation's recent campaign "Fit for Life" began at the same time as the Conservative government made high school physical education optional. Although the government recognized this contradiction and reversed its position, this flip flop underlines the Conservative government's inability to recognize the link between healthy lifestyle choices and healthy Manitobans.

A Liberal government will integrate health and lifestyle choice curriculums into our public school system. These curriculums will also focus on smoking cessation, alcoholism and substance abuse prevention.

SPENDING SMARTER

Affordable cost and high quality are not mutually exclusive in the delivery of health care. The U.S. spends substantially more on health care than Canadians, yet this has not produced a better health care system or healthier citizens. High quality and affordability can be provided simultaneously if we find a better way of doing things.

Regional Cooperation

Cost savings in our health care system can be found through re-allocating existing resources. We don't necessarily need more money, but we can achieve better value for the existing funds. The Department of Health can achieve substantial savings by co-operating with other western provinces on government purchases of health supplies. By combining the purchasing power of the three prairie provinces, the cost of acquiring drugs, health care equipment and new technologies for our health care facilities could be reduced. A Liberal government will ask the other prairie province to co-operate on bulk purchasing in health care.

Regional cooperation is also a way of sharing costly and highly sophisticated treatments to maintain quality and control costs. The pediatric cardiac surgery program in Manitoba would have benefitted from regional sharing. Where special expertise and specialized technology requires investment beyond the means of a region or province, a Liberal government will seek to establish collaborative and shared programs.

No User Fees

User fees are not the answer to rising health costs. The introduction of user fees leads to the development of a two-tier system of health care, based on ability to pay. They also prevent those most in need from seeking help. User fees do not deter those who abuse the system. The Liberal Party rejects user fees as the answer to funding problems in the health care system.

Better Use of Resources

To meet the challenges facing our health care system we must avoid confusing the five principles of our health care system with how health care is delivered. Better management will not only contain costs it will deliver health care services more efficiently in ways that are more flexible and responsive to community needs.

The coordination and integration of health-related services, edu-

cation and social services will result in a full continuum of care for Manitobans in their own communities. Elimination of duplication and red tape will reduce waste and improve response time. Our education initiatives include our commitment to meeting the needs of Manitoba children by integrating services into our schools. Better management of health care resources will result in better value for the resources expended.

A Liberal government will welcome discussions with the City of Winnipeg to eliminate the overlap in the delivery of health care services by the City's Department of Health with those provided by the province.

Localize Decision-Making

We believe that delegating decision-making into our local communities will eliminate layers of bureaucracy and ensure that health care dollars are spent according to need. Delivering health care in community health centres while improving our home care system will also avoid unnecessary emergency room visits and early personal care home admissions.

Reassign Service Providers

A Liberal government will create a Health and Human Resources Committee composed of health and other professionals involved in the well-being of Manitobans, to examine which professionals can most effectively and efficiently provide services in an integrated and interdisciplinary fashion.

Fair Remuneration

A Liberal government will move toward a model in which health professionals working in community health centres are salaried at a fair wage. In addition to paying physicians at community health centres on salary, a Liberal government will seek more options and flexibility in the way physicians are paid, in addition to the standard fee-for-service model.

Monitoring the Progress of Renewal

The Liberal Party knows that Manitobans will not tolerate compromise of their health care system. But the system, designed 25 years ago, no longer meets the changing needs of our population as well as it could. For this reason renewal of the system is critical. Fundamental shifts in the way we think about and deliver health care are necessary. New technology, research and data about the positive

qualities of good nutrition and exercise, the advent of environmental disease and stress disorders, and the return of holistic care will continue to change the demands on our health care system. Change must be planned and collaborative. It is essential that it be an open process with regular monitoring, including feedback from the users of the system.

Research should be undertaken to assess whether health care reform has actually improved health or even saved money. Nurses already have demonstrated that substantial cost savings can be made without compromising the quality of patient care. A Liberal government will ask the Centre for Health Policy and Evaluation to work with health care providers and care users to determine if the changes in the delivery of health care have improved the health of Manitobans.

Centres of Excellence

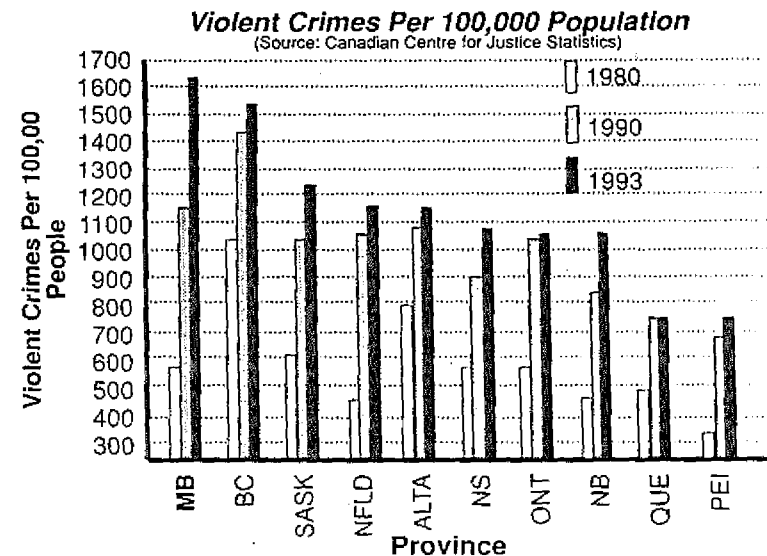
Large hospitals are the domain of consultants and specialists who imitate research and teach medical students, nurses, doctors and other health care professionals. Despite increased efforts at disease prevention, hospitals will continue to serve as teaching and research centres. Manitoba has excelled in cardiovascular and cancer research. This reputation attracts international bodies to contribute research funds and skilled researchers to our province. A Liberal government will continue to support research strength in Manitoba hospitals in order to build centres of excellence.

SAFER COMMUNITIES

"There are a thousand hacking at the branches of evil to one who is striking at the roots."

Henry David Thoreau

We in Manitoba have prided ourselves on being able to go about our daily lives without undue fear for our personal safety or the safety of our property. All of us believe that safety in the streets and in our homes is a basic right. Unfortunately, many Manitobans no longer feel safe on their streets, in their schools or even in their homes. Statistics reveal that Winnipeg's overall crime rate rose four per cent in 1993 while the national crime rate dropped five per cent. It is time to restore a feeling of security to Manitobans. A Liberal government will be tough on crime but also tough on the causes of crime.



TOUGH ON CRIME

The fundamental purpose of our criminal justice system is to protect Manitobans. Unfortunately, many Manitobans believe the justice system is doing more to safeguard the rights of criminals than the rights of law abiding Manitobans. A Liberal government will, as a first priority, seek to protect Manitobans.

Sentencing criminals has three objectives: protection of the public, deterrence and rehabilitation. The federal Justice Minister has proposed tougher sentencing for gun related crimes. We support this and will urge the Minister to consider stiffer sentencing for all violent crime.

We will also demand reviews of bail and early release provisions. Manitobans have witnessed the tragic results of releasing criminals from jail too early or not holding them in custody pending their trial. The lives of too many Manitoba families have been destroyed by a lax justice system. When it comes to releasing criminals, the protection of Manitobans must be the paramount consideration.

Putting Police Back on the Streets

A Liberal government will be aggressive in the pursuit and prosecution of criminals. This will require a larger police presence. As a result of decisions made by the Conservative government, police are spending too much time on paperwork and sitting in the halls of our courthouses when they should be in our communities. This is an ineffective use of valuable police resources.

For example, motor vehicle accidents which result in combined damage of over \$1,000 must be reported to Autopac Claims Centres and to the police. Time now spent by police filling out accident reports could be better spent preventing and solving crime. A Liberal government will eliminate this unnecessary duplication in reporting requirements and will examine other administrative duties which could be performed by civilians. We will expand the use of technology to ease administrative duties and keep our police better informed while they are on duty. This larger police presence will reduce opportunities for criminal activity.

Speedy Processing

As a result of the policies of the Conservative government, processing an arrested person now takes Winnipeg police four to five hours when it previously took an hour or two. The police are required to do identification at the Public Safety Building and then accompany the accused across the city to appear before a hearing officer. This process is inefficient and can often keep police officers off the streets most of their shift. A Liberal government will work with the police and justice officials to expedite the processing of arrests.

Night Court

We must make better use of our courtroom facilities and the skills of justice officials. By instituting night court for both young offenders

and adults we will ease our court backlog. When offenders face a speedy justice system a stronger link is made between the crime and the consequences.

TOUGH ON THE CAUSES OF CRIME

Liberals believe that to be effective in fighting crime a balanced approach to criminal justice is required. We must be tough on crime but also tough on the causes of crime. Crime and criminal behaviour are usually the result of seeds planted years before and involve a complex range of interrelated factors including: a home life characterized by poverty and violence, lack of parental guidance, sexual abuse, drug abuse, violence in the media, lack of education and illiteracy. These factors emphasize that crime and criminal behaviour do not happen overnight. When the police arrest someone they are usually arresting an end product that has taken years to create.

Community Policing

Crime prevention is a key component to the Liberals' balanced approach to crime. Police working with the community not just to investigate crime but to help prevent its occurrence in the first place is the goal of an effective Community Policing Program. By making the police more accessible to the community through neighbourhood offices and foot patrols a better relationship is developed between the public and the police. Involving the police in our communities allows them to identify risk factors. As a result, the police are better able to work with others to implement strategies to counter these risks. This is fundamental to preventing crime.

The goal of a Liberal government will be to establish community policing across Manitoba. We will introduce pilot projects in critical communities to benchmark the best process to integrate community policing. We will work with these communities and our police to develop standards for community policing throughout Manitoba.

Safe Communities

We are not helpless in the face of rising crime. Much can be done in our neighbourhoods to prevent crime and make our communities safer. Safety audits which help identify potentially dangerous situations have been effective in reducing crime. A Liberal government will encourage communities to carry out safety audits and will show leadership by requiring Manitoba Housing and all other provincial non-profit housing to carry out safety audits to reduce opportunities for crime.

Currently there are successful crime prevention programs operat-

ing across the province. However, there is a need for leadership to develop, co-ordinate and communicate information about crime and crime prevention. Organizations and communities across the province benefit from learning about what has worked in other areas that can be adapted to their local requirements. A Liberal government will establish a Provincial Crime Prevention Council with community representatives to act as a resource for communities and organizations seeking information and expertise on crime prevention. The provincial council will work in partnership with the National Crime Prevention Council.

YOUTH AND JUSTICE - MAKING IT WORK

Violent youth crime in Manitoba rose by 22 per cent in 1994. Reports of youth gang violence, stolen vehicles and vicious assaults in our schools yards have escalated. During the past six and a half years youth unemployment has risen steadily and is now nearly 17 per cent. This is simply unacceptable.

When Liberals met with young people at our Youth Justice Forum the impact of poverty on Manitoba families was the most frequently mentioned cause of youth crime and violence. Liberals believe that our young people are our future and that any effective solution to youth crime must be found in co-operation with young people, justice and law enforcement officials, educators, the community and government. A Liberal government will be tough on the causes of youth crime and violence.

Empowering Our Communities

Many Manitoba communities have established Youth Justice Committees. These committees may include volunteer parents, former young offenders, community representatives and justice officials. Young people who plead guilty are referred to these committees for sentencing. The committee involves the young person's parents and the victim. It examines the possibility of restitution and other alternative measures. After a thorough examination of the reasons this young person became involved in criminal activity, the committee determines sentence for the young offender which fits the crime and is acceptable to the community. Community service is one aspect of this program. Youth Justice Committees handle cases quickly so young offenders see a clear connection between the crime and its consequences. This process frees up court time so young offenders who have committed serious crime may be dealt with promptly.

A Liberal government will expand the use of Youth Justice Committees to make them more locally-based and will expand the

mandate of Youth Justice Committees to include children 12 and under who are currently not subject to the Young Offenders Act. Youth Justice Committees have been very successful in getting young people to recognize the impact of their crimes on their community. A Liberal government will expand the community sentencing options available to Youth Justice Committees. A Liberal government will offer training and support to members of Youth Justice Committees and will involve them in the counselling and rehabilitation of young offenders. We must build on the successes of existing Youth Justice Committees.

Challenge Camp

Ninety per cent of all youth crime is committed by five per cent of young offenders. While harsh punitive measures may not be a complete solution to the problem of youth crime, a facility must be established for young people who continue to break the law.

A Liberal government will establish a Challenge Camp in a remote area of Manitoba. This camp will be for young offenders for whom other measures have been ineffective. A spartan wilderness camp will give young offenders life skills and survival techniques. Schooling will be part of each day. Most importantly, the goal of this camp will be to build self-discipline and self-esteem in these youth. This camp will challenge young people to turn their lives around.

Graduated Licensing

It is well established that young beginning drivers are at a higher risk of being involved in a motor vehicle accident than older more experienced drivers. This is often attributed to their tendency to engage in high-risk behaviour such as speeding or driving after drinking. Therefore it makes sense to require beginning drivers to be more cautious in these areas. A Liberal government will introduce graduated licensing for all new drivers.

Under graduated licensing, new drivers would obtain their driver's licence in two stages. During the initial stage new drivers will hold a licence that protects them from potentially dangerous situations on the road, such as driving at night, driving alone, driving after drinking *any* alcohol, driving with too many passengers and driving at high speeds. As drivers gain more experience their licence restrictions are removed. We have seen the devastating results of teenagers drinking and driving. The graduated licensing program will save lives and make our roads safer for everyone.

Recreational and Counselling Services

In April 1994 the Liberal Party hosted a forum on youth crime and violence. During the forum it emerged that a root cause of criminal behaviour was a lack of sense of belonging in their community.

An African proverb states that it takes a whole village to raise a child. Liberals believe that an effective solution to rising youth crime will be found by working together. A Liberal government will expand community recreation and drop-in centres to provide young people with an alternative to simply frequenting malls and convenience stores. The Conservative government cut off funding for Street Kids and Youth (SKY). This was a successful program that offered teenagers a place to go in downtown Winnipeg, with structured activities and people to just listen to the concerns of young Manitobans. Our youth need opportunities to establish stronger relationships with the adults in their communities. Drop-in centres will offer mentorship programs to provide positive male and female role models for our young people.

A Liberal government will require our high school students to perform community service work in after-school hours as part of the credential they need to graduate. This service to the community will have enormous benefits to local neighbourhoods and will build the self-esteem and self-discipline of Manitoba teenagers.

Community Policing and our Schools

As part of our education initiatives we will work towards integrating community policing into our schools. These police officers will become acquainted with the students and their families and will provide positive role models. When skilled police officers are involved in the school and the community, they are better able to identify kids who may be at risk and can help prevent criminal activity.

BUILDING A BETTER JUSTICE SYSTEM

Many people feel that criminals have more rights than victims do. Victims are given little or no say in the court processes. Frequently, victims or their families are not told when a person who is accused or convicted of a crime is released on bail or parole. Our justice system must become more client-centered, which includes promoting community safety and serving the needs of victims of crime.

Responding to the Needs of Victims of Crime

A Liberal government will provide better access to information about

sentencing and the results of decisions made at all levels of the justice system. Victims will have the right to be informed of all stages of the criminal process, the right to the prompt return of property, the right to be heard by Crown attorneys and the right to protection from intimidation.

Many victims are unaware of the kinds of treatment and professional help available to them. Victims outside of large urban centres feel not enough is being done for them. A Liberal government will ensure that victims throughout Manitoba are made aware of and have access to the services and supports required by victims of crime.

Manitoba's Victims Assistance Committee has a fund of money collected from fines. The original intent was to use the fund to establish programs for victims of crime. While the Conservative government has been in power this fund has been used instead to supplement the Justice Department's budget. A Liberal government will re-instate and re-empower the Victims' Assistance Committee to ensure these funds are used for victims program.

Quick Court

Thousands of Manitobans become involved in civil litigation each year in Manitoba. The majority of these cases are for amounts less than \$25,000. Due to rising legal costs, it has become cost prohibitive for Manitobans with legitimate claims to pursue them. As a result these proceedings are often settled not on the merits of the case, but based on each party's ability to finance a trial. The person with the deepest pockets determines the outcome. We believe this does not serve the interest of justice in Manitoba. A Liberal government will establish an expedited trial process for civil suits of less than \$25,000 to ensure that these cases go to trial quickly and in a cost effective manner.

ZERO TOLERANCE AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

In the first 26 days of 1995, Winnipeg police responded to 450 domestic violence calls. In 1994, 14 women were killed as a result of domestic violence. Women are nine times more likely to be killed by a partner than by a stranger. Many argue that women and children continue to be victimized because our justice system fails to take their needs seriously.

Family violence is an issue of growing concern that must be addressed aggressively. Unfortunately, the current zero tolerance policy is not the complete answer to the issue of family violence.

A Liberal government will ensure that victims of domestic violence receive better information on the release of their attackers.

The zero tolerance policy has created a huge backlog in our court system. This interferes with the effective and speedy prosecution of those cases which require the full force of the criminal law.

The 1991 Domestic Violence Review recommended the creation of teams "to provide advocacy, support and assistance to women and their children immediately after police have responded to a situation of domestic violence". A Liberal government will introduce family crisis teams in two Manitoba communities as a pilot project to develop the best model to expand into other Manitoba communities. These teams will work in liaison with police and assist victims after the police have made the initial response. In all cases the protection of the victim will be paramount.

A Liberal government will increase the availability of counselling, addiction treatment and other services to avoid family violence. These services will be community-based or offered through help-lines. Manitobans need to know they can ask for help without being judged. The surest way to help end the cycle of family violence is to encourage people to seek help.

STRENGTHENING OUR SOCIETY

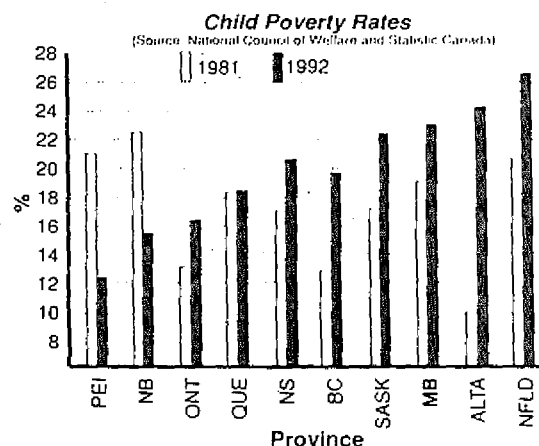
"Sister Margaret Hughes related some of the experiences of children for whom poverty is a living reality. She talked of the transience and uncertainty which characterizes the lives of young children who move from school to school and from one substandard housing situation to another. She spoke of how failure to meet basic needs like food, clothing and health care interferes with regular school attendance. She talked of the terrible consequence of powerlessness and lack of control which influences the outlook of many poor children. She reminded us that what we hear depends on who, we listen to."

from "Poverty Forum - What You Told Us"...a report of the discussions which took place November 5, 1994 when more than 100 people gathered to participate in a poverty forum sponsored by the Liberal Caucus.

Manitobans want to give their children the best possible start in life. Manitobans want the chance to work, learn and grow. We want to enable everyone to meet their basic needs and live with dignity. The goal of our social programs must be to support the most vulnerable in society while creating opportunities for Manitobans to improve their lives.

Although we have seen improvements, Manitoba's economic recovery lags behind most other provinces. Unemployment, especially among our young people, remains stubbornly high and the number of people dependent upon social assistance continues to increase.

There has been an ominous rise in the rate of child poverty in Manitoba. In 1991 about 72,000 Manitoba children were living in poverty. More than one in five Manitoba children are poor. What this means is that in our province kids are starting life with the deck stacked against them, with fewer opportunities for a happy productive life.



For every poor child there is a poor family. For more than six years the Conservative government in Manitoba has blamed people for being poor, has failed to recognize how their own policies and actions have contributed to a deterioration of the quality of life for many Manitobans.

Liberals believe that our social programs must be protected from erosion. Developed following the Great Depression, many social programs are out of date. Profound changes in our labour market and in the structure and functioning of families require a re-examination, revitalization and restructuring of social programs to ensure they meet their objectives and serve the needs of Manitobans.

We must recognize the unique needs of the disadvantaged and vulnerable members of our community, including people with disabilities, our aboriginal people and new immigrants, to ensure the availability of the supports and services needed for full and equitable participation in society. A Liberal government will proclaim into force The Vulnerable Persons with a Disability Act, and will examine the possible extension of that Act to other groups of Manitobans who are vulnerable.

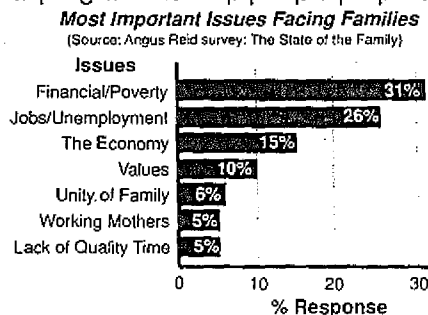
We must examine and address the costs of administering and delivering our social programs, to cut down on waste and duplication so maximum benefit reaches the people the programs are intended to help.

Our priority must be the elimination of child and family poverty in Manitoba. Meeting the developmental and social needs of children and creating alternatives to long term dependence on social assistance through training, education and employment will be key to our success.

A JOBS BASED SOCIAL POLICY

Liberals believe the best form of social security comes from having a job. We must re-think our social programs to help people prepare themselves for work in a changing world. Manitobans want to work and place a high value on dignity, independence and self-respect that work brings.

Manitobans have witnessed a profound shift in the labour market within the last thirty years. Here it was once possible for a



one income family to own a home, drive a car and care for and educate their children, it now very often takes two incomes. The nature of work has also changed. In the past, a high school diploma guaranteed a safe and secure place in the workforce. Today's employers are increasingly demanding specialized training.

A Liberal government will create opportunities for employment. We will emphasize job-loss prevention by building the skills and work experience of Manitobans to enable us to adapt to the constantly changing labour market. We will work to remove barriers to single parents, persons with disabilities and others who would prefer to take paid employment.

Developing skills and creating job opportunities will only come about through partnerships with other levels of government, communities, learning institutions, employers and labour organizations as well as individuals and families. A Liberal government will help Manitobans get and keep jobs by ensuring they have the knowledge and skills necessary to find employment. (Please refer to our Jobs and Economic Growth and Investing in Education chapters.)

Working Toward Self Sufficiency

In 1994, assistance was received from either the City of Winnipeg or the province by 87,650 Manitobans.

Many people rely on welfare during temporary misfortune. Unfortunately too many recipients spend too many years on social assistance, even though with the right sort of employment and training they could make the transition from welfare to work, from dependence to independence. A Liberal government will create programs which foster independence and self-sufficiency. We will build a social assistance system which enables Manitobans to obtain fair and equal opportunity to use their talents, lead fulfilling lives and experience the dignity of work.

Targeted Training

Support must be targeted at those who demonstrate a willingness and ability to help themselves. The 1994 OECD Jobs study stated: "Targeting job creation to particular groups can produce better outcomes for program participants and for society as a whole. In general, young people and the long term unemployed are the best targets."

Manitoba's literacy and drop-out rates continue to exceed the national averages. As a result, many Manitoba young people leave school unprepared for the world of work.

In the last three years the number of jobs held by people not completing high school fell by 19 per cent, yet many people on welfare or in low-wage jobs cannot afford or are not allowed by the system to upgrade their skills. In 1993, the Conservative government eliminated the Student Social Allowances program which allowed more than 1,000 welfare recipients to complete high school. After much criticism that cutting this program penalized people who were trying to help themselves, the government off-loaded the program to municipalities.

The Conservative government's approach to training has been to give grants and loans to business rather than invest directly in Manitobans. In its 1995 budget, the Conservatives increased grants and loans to business by 50 per cent yet cut Access, a program to help Manitobans to retrain, and virtually eliminated New Careers, a highly successful training program for disadvantaged Manitobans.

The Conservative government created Workforce 2000. Part of this program provides grants to businesses to do training most of them would do and pay for anyway. A Liberal government will replace Workforce 2000 with a targeted training incentive program. Our program (described in our Jobs and Economic Growth chapter) will encourage employers to hire welfare and unemployment insurance recipients with the potential to help themselves.

There are about 20,000 people receiving welfare in the province who are considered employable, many of them with experience in the construction industry. The vast majority of these people want to work. A Liberal government will create New Foundations (described in Jobs and Economic Growth) to give these Manitobans an opportunity to use their existing skills and learn new ones renovating older homes in Manitoba. We will ensure Manitobans become more employable by offering greater access to skill development and job training. In addition the New Foundations program will result in valuable improvements to Manitoba's aging housing stock.

Raising the Minimum Wage

A Liberal government will immediately raise the minimum wage to \$5.50 and ask the Minimum Wage Board to review it annually. The weight of the evidence indicates that a modest increase does not cost jobs, and may even help people to be able to afford to get back into the labour market.

A study by the National Council of Welfare compared income received by an individual or family on welfare with income received on a full-time minimum wage job. It concluded that in Manitoba, sin-

gle employable people, single parents, one earner and two earner couples would be better off financially if they remained on welfare than if they worked full-time at a minimum wage job. We must make the minimum wage a living wage.

Removing Barriers to Work

Many employable Manitobans on welfare find that the rules work against them. If they take a job, what they earn is deducted from their social assistance cheques, Health-related benefits may be lost and child care subsidies may be removed.

A Liberal government will assist adults who wish to escape from dependence on social assistance. Currently provincial welfare recipients who are working are allowed to deduct a portion of their earnings from the income they declare for the purposes of calculating welfare benefits. During 1992-93, about 14 per cent of welfare recipients made use of a program which permitted them to deduct the greater of \$50 per month, 30 per cent of gross monthly earnings or 70 cents per hour worked from the income they declared to calculate welfare benefits.

Clearly, this exemption does not provide a sufficient incentive to escape from dependence on welfare. It is designed to keep people in the system rather than investing in their integration into the regular world of work. Work should result in more, not less income. A Liberal government will introduce an income deduction system which will allow welfare recipients to keep a larger proportion of earned income.

HELPING CHILDREN - SUPPORTING FAMILIES

Manitoba has the second highest child poverty rate in the country. Three quarters of single parents with young children live below the poverty line. A single parent working for minimum wage earns a wage which is seven tenths of the poverty line. Two in five users of food banks are children.

Changes in the economy, in the workplace and in family structure have affected the needs of working parents. Family responsibilities along with a shortage of family support programs represent a barrier to participation in the workforce and to economic self sufficiency. Manitobans need the right skills to find a job, but they also need the opportunity to take a job.

Ensuring Parents Support Their Children

The poorest people in Manitoba are single parents raising chil-

dren, the majority of whom are women. Single parent families have increased in the past 15 years from 11 per cent to 15 per cent of all families with children under 18. Evidence is clear that most women's economic positions worsen following marriage breakdown while most men's improve.

Child support awards rarely reflect the true cost of raising a child or recognize the time and energy which goes into parenting. On average, the courts award only 18 per cent of a man's income for support purposes. Our courts and judges are expected to act in the best interests of children. To do this they must ensure that custodial parents have sufficient resources to feed children nutritiously and to provide adequately for them. A Liberal government will work with the federal government to develop standardized guidelines for calculating awards based on the needs of the children.

Manitoba's Maintenance Enforcement program is not working as intended. It is not serving children and families well. Three quarters of court awarded child maintenance orders are in some form of default: not paid in full, not paid on time or not paid at all. The staff is overloaded and spends more time accounting to people who are supposed to benefit from the program than actually pursuing delinquent parents. Many parents who are owed maintenance are made to feel like they are a problem to the Maintenance Enforcement Office for trying to get action, when in fact the defaulting parent is the problem. This frustration is compounded by an inability to deal with staff assigned to their account. Going to the office in person is more effective but it means taking time off work.

A Liberal government will make our Maintenance Enforcement office user-friendly by introducing evening hours and ensuring more staff is available to offer proactive advice and direction as well as information. We will ask the Maintenance Enforcement Office to be aggressive in the pursuit of defaulting parents and in the use of the powers available to them to collect payments. We will expand access to government records to assist in tracking down parents. We will work with all levels of government to ensure that parents cannot avoid their responsibility to support their children.

We will introduce an automatic payroll deduction system to end the run-around of chasing delinquent parents. We will work with other provinces and the federal government to develop a nation-wide collection system to eliminate loopholes which allow parents in other provinces to avoid paying maintenance. We will report parents who default on child support payments to Canadian credit bureaus.

Where family income from employment and child support is inadequate the only alternative for custodial parents becomes welfare. However, there is very little incentive for families on social assistance to pursue child support payments. A Liberal government will examine ways to ensure parents do not escape their responsibilities if their children are relying on welfare.

Restoring Programs for Children

Poor children have higher than average rates of ill health and accidents and are more likely to perform poorly in school. Hungry or improperly nourished children may become restless or inattentive in the classroom. Improper nutrition compromises a child's cognitive development, affecting the ability to learn. Research consistently shows that children from poor families are more than twice as likely to drop out of school before the age of eighteen. This perpetuates the cycle of disadvantage that could well be passed down to the next generation. Among poor children there is a higher incidence of illiteracy, grade failures, and inadequate recreation and skill development. A Liberal government will restore the children's school breakfast program in needy communities and the treatment portion of the Children's Rural Dental Program to address the health and social needs of Manitoba children today.

There is no instant solution to child poverty. Children are poor because their parents are poor. To eliminate child poverty we must get to its root causes. The Liberal Party's commitment to jobs and job training is the cornerstone of our strategy to eliminate child poverty. Liberals are committed to jobs and to removing the barriers facing Manitobans who want jobs as the best long term solution to family poverty.

Family Violence

Isolation and stress can sometimes result in family violence. Unfortunately, some women are forced to stay in violent homes because they cannot afford to leave. Escaping violence may mean poverty. If a woman has her abusive partner removed from the home, the family may lose the provider of income. Yet there is little support for her or her family.

A Liberal government will focus on preventing violence and the perpetuation of the cycle of violence. People should not be afraid to ask for help. A Liberal government will increase the availability of educational programs, counselling and other techniques to address family violence.

Child Care

Family responsibilities along with a shortage of family support programs can represent a barrier to participation in the workforce and to economic self-sufficiency. In 1993 the Conservative government arbitrarily capped the number of subsidized child care spaces and imposed a minimum charge of \$2.40 per day per child for even the poorest families. In addition, the numbers of subsidized and non-subsidized spaces at each child care centre were frozen. As a result, parents who qualify for a subsidy are forced to search for a centre with subsidized openings although their local centre may have non-subsidized openings.

A Liberal government will tie the child care subsidy to the child rather than to the child care centre. As a result, parents entitled to a subsidy will be able to place their children in a child care centre convenient for them rather than convenient for the government.

Liberals believe that the provision of high quality, accessible, affordable and comprehensive child care is a solid investment in Manitoba's future. Every dollar spent on early childhood programming saves seven dollars in long term social spending. A Liberal government will work with parents and the child care community to stop the erosion of the quality and availability of child care services.

The child care needs for parents in rural Manitoba are different than in the cities. Sparser populations, longer distances, seasonal peaks and irregular hours require unique solutions. A Liberal government will work with rural families to accommodate their child care needs.

Housing

Poverty often forces people to live in substandard housing. The lack of affordable well-maintained housing results in the poor moving from one substandard housing situation to another. Government contributes to this transience by requiring residents of low-income housing to move out once they are beyond a set income level. Some of Manitoba's poorest children move from house to house and from school to school. This transience has enormous repercussions for these children.

We must stabilize the living situation for these children. A Liberal government will work toward converting government-funded low-income housing into co-op housing. Rent in co-op housing is determined according to income level. As a result some residents receive social assistance and are subsidized and some are employed and are

unsubsidized. The integration of residents removes some of the stigma associated with low-income housing. Co-ops are managed by a committee of residents. Residents have a voice in what and when improvements are made which creates a pride of ownership among them. When residents work together a sense of neighbourhood develops. Perhaps most importantly, co-op housing offers some stability for low-income parents and their children.

Some co-ops have community kitchens which brings families together. Once or twice a week residents get together to make a communal meal. Activities are organized for children. Information on health, nutrition and budgeting is exchanged. Single parents gain from the experience of others. A Liberal government will ask those who have had successes in organizing co-op housing and community kitchens to share their experiences with other co-ops.

A Liberal government will redesign the Home Renovation Program to set aside 10 million dollars to renovate older homes in Manitoba. People with low incomes and older homes will be able to apply for partially forgivable loans for renovation materials.

A Protocol for Children

When a family is unable to act in their child's best interests the Child and Family Services (CFS) System intervenes to protect the child. Occasionally, the best interests of children and our social services system do not coincide. The function of the Children's Advocate is to ensure that in these situations the needs, interests and viewpoints of the child are considered.

The Children's Advocate currently reports to the Minister of Family Services. Reporting to a Minister rather than to the Legislative Assembly may restrict the Advocate's ability to speak out on children's issues if the Advocate's recommendations contradict government policy. A Liberal government will amend legislation so the Children's Advocate reports to the Legislative Assembly rather than to a particular minister.

To best serve the interests of children, CFS cannot act alone. Currently if poor living conditions are contributing to a family's problems there is no mechanism for CFS to address this housing problem. In his recent report, the Children's Advocate expressed frustration about the lack of support and coordination of services from the Health, Education and Justice Departments. Liberals believe that we must put the needs of children first. Too often a multitude of government agencies are looking after the same family. We need to assess the needs of children and their families and then ensure money is targeted to their needs.

A Liberal government will develop a protocol for communication between all government departments and agencies providing services to children. The Ministers from these government departments will conduct a review of the lines of communication and together develop a plan to guarantee that children at risk do not fall between the cracks as a result of a lack of communication between government departments. In addition, we will expand the powers and duties of the Children's Advocate to include all children's issues across all government departments and services.

SPENDING SMARTER

Eliminating Waste and Duplication

Manitoba is rare among Canadian provinces with a two-tiered welfare system. In Manitoba provincial welfare deals with those who require long-term assistance, while municipal welfare deals with the employable unemployed. A Liberal government will initiate discussions towards the establishment of one welfare system for the province.

The costs associated with the manual processing and mail distribution of income security cheques will be evaluated to determine whether direct deposits will create efficiencies and cost savings.

Currently both the federal and provincial governments invest in skills development programs for welfare recipients. A Liberal government will work with the federal government to use Opportunity Centres to get information on training programs.

AGRICULTURE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

"Manitoba needs an agricultural community that will grow, be competitive, and work towards a market driven, value added industry, an industry that provides safe, and high quality food for our country and the World. Manitobans deserve a vision for agriculture that contributes to the quality of life in both rural and urban Manitoba. By working together we can meet those needs."

Paul Edwards.

Manitobans and government can no longer think of agriculture in isolation. As a result of the new global economy we must re-examine the production and management structure of farms, the ongoing adjustments of agri-business and the changes in agricultural research. Flexibility and managing diversity must become an integral part of the total agriculture-food system which includes production, transportation, processing and manufacture and distribution of food products. Government must recognize the relationship between agriculture, the broader food industry and rural development generally. We must link agriculture, food, value-added production and market development. It is through these linkages that Manitoba's economy will expand and jobs in the agri-food sector will grow.

In Manitoba agriculture means jobs; 66,000 people earn their living directly from agriculture. This is approximately 14% of its labour force. In Manitoba, one job in eight depends on agricultural economy. The Liberal Party recognizes that a healthy agricultural economy is essential to both rural and urban Manitobans.

Agricultural production techniques have changed dramatically in the last 50 years. The average Manitoba farm now feeds approximately 250 people, five times as many as 50 years ago. The range of farming operations in Manitoba varies from the small single family owner operation to the large operations owned by corporations and managed by employees. Today approximately 25 per cent of the farms produce 75 per cent of our agricultural commodities. Farm operations have consistently been getting larger, and more and more farming families are having to supplement their incomes with off-farm income.

THE FARMER, THE MARKETPLACE, THE GOVERNMENT

Today the marketplace is being increasingly driven by supermarkets and food processors who closely monitor and follow consumer trends in food consumption. Biotechnology, the ability of science to improve or change the characteristics of our food, is being used

aggressively in the marketing of food products. When applied to existing plant varieties, as well as dairy and meat animals, food products have the nutritional quality, the taste and visual appeal being demanded by today's consumers. Through their local store today's consumers have enormous power to influence the type, taste, texture, colour and nutritional components of what is being grown. As well, ethnocultural niche markets are gaining in importance as Canada's population continues to diversify.

A prime example of the successful use of biotechnology in Manitoba is the research conducted to produce a quality cooking oil from canola. Today's health-conscious consumer is demanding different cooking oils and margarines compared to the past. The research conducted to modify canola seeds has expanded the canola market and benefitted Manitoba farmers and consumers. Canola is now the number two crop in Western Canada, surpassing barley for the first time in 1994. Agriculture Canada states that 14 million acres of canola were planted in 1994, up from 10.5 million in 1993. Research also led to the bio-control technology that allowed the management of crop diseases affecting canola. By developing closer links between consumers, researchers, farmers and food processors, Manitoba can continue to become an attractive place to expand and locate new value-added industries based on crops that are produced in Manitoba.

In the neighbouring state of North Dakota, four farmer-funded pasta plants have been established. Yet our prairie provinces, which grow more durum wheat than anywhere else in the world, have only one pasta plant. We now export much of our Manitoba durum to the United States and import pasta. A narrow marketing focus has cost Manitobans in jobs and the opportunity for rural economic growth. The conservative government has been slow to react to market opportunities and has only recently reacted to the potential of pasta production. We must broaden our agricultural activities to include value-added initiatives to strengthen Manitoba's rural economic base and our overall economy. We believe farmer co-ops can play an important role in this move to value-added production. A Liberal government will encourage co-op ventures to spread the potential risk of new business over a broad segment of the industry.

This lack of focus on Manitoba's agricultural potential has gone on for more than twenty years. In the sixties, Manitoba was one of the leading provinces in market and product development. Since then our agricultural innovation has deteriorated. Meanwhile, Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia have developed provincial agricultural and value-added food policies. These provinces have benefitted greatly from the Canada-US free trade agreement. Manitoba must become more innovative, more flexible and more aggressive in all aspects of agricultural

production. The Liberal Party is committed to a made in Manitoba agricultural and food policy which is oriented towards the development and marketing of value-added products.

Promoting the development of value-added products in Manitoba is the first step towards improving our agricultural economy. Manitoba exports 90% of its wheat, 83% of its hogs and 82% of its cattle. Manitoba's meat processing industry has declined steadily in the last two decades. In 1993 only 3% of our agricultural exports were value-added consumer ready products. Over the past six years the Conservative government has talked extensively about expanding agri-food processing to increase value-added production in all these areas, however action has not matched such statements. By assisting local value-added production initiatives we can provide opportunities for our young people to remain and prosper in rural Manitoba. By working with the various agricultural associations, such as the Manitoba Cattle Producers Association and the Western Canadian Pulse Growers Association, processing opportunities can be identified and expanded. A Liberal government will help by providing marketing expertise and technical information to enhance the diversification and development of agri-business opportunities in Manitoba. Increasing agri-food production will also require future infrastructure investments, to supply fresh water and treat waste water in an environmentally sound manner.

A Liberal government will develop the necessary partnerships in Manitoba's agricultural and food sectors. Liberals view government as a facilitator between producers, consumers, markets and research and will regard the farm enterprise as a key economic engine for Manitoba's growth and recovery. By working with the agricultural community a Liberal government will re-tool programs to maximize the advantages that exist in the farm and rural enterprises of Manitoba.

A Liberal government will expedite value-added product development and will encourage the formation of partnerships from the farm gate to the kitchen tables of the world.

THE CHANGING WORLD MARKETS

In this rapidly changing environment access to world markets will become a crucial component of Manitoba's agricultural success. Of utmost significance are two policy constraints that will profoundly impact Manitoba farmers. The first of these is the fiscal reality of the federal government. Its current deficit reduction proposals will have a profound impact on the amount and form of government assistance available to the agricultural community. The second is the new GATT - The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade rules. Canada will

where to this new universally applied rules-based world trading system. This will mean that our current programs and policies will have to be adjusted to meet these new rules.

Manitoba producers need to focus now on how to remain competitive in this changing world market. Deregulating grain transportation will result in different rates based on location, commodity, season and transport corridor. The changes to the Western Grain Transportation Act (WGTA) will alter the ways Manitoba farmers will ship their products. Traditionally the WGTA benefit was paid directly to the railroads and passed on to the producers as a freight reduction. In addition the pooling of costs associated with the use of the St. Lawrence Seaway System (SLSW) have to be considered in any changes made as transportation reform continues. As these benefits are withdrawn the need for a transitional adjustment program is clearly evident for Manitoba producers who are the farthest from the ocean ports of the Atlantic and Pacific. Any changes to the subsidy systems must include both the WGTA and SLSW costs simultaneously. A Liberal government will continue to work with the Federal Government and Manitoba producers to ensure that transitional funding will have the most benefit for Manitoba producers, and that the \$1.6 billion payout gets to Manitoba producers, not only land owners.

Over the past decade Manitoba farmers have had to deal with the "Rain War", a subsidy competition between the Americans, the European community and Canadian producers. Various safety net support systems for Canadian farmers have been put in place and two of the current support systems are directly affecting Manitoba farmers. These are the Gross Revenue Insurance Plan (GRIP) and the Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA). Both programs have imperfections and need to be examined to correct problems. For example the NISA program does not provide sufficient assistance to beginning farmers. The Liberal Party supports the "whole farm" concept of safety net support programs for our farmers covering the whole range of agricultural commodities in both livestock and crop production. A Liberal Government will work towards improving both GRIP and NISA, in consultation with the Safety Net Committee, to ensure these safety net programs become efficient, fair and easier to access.

The future of the Canadian Wheat Board was the subject of much debate last year, with some farmers looking to market their grain themselves to take advantage of good prices and demand in the United States. Liberals support the 'single desk selling' idea of the Wheat Board that has worked to the mutual benefit of farmers for decades. Nonetheless, we recognize the need for the Board to adapt to the changing and challenging conditions in the world market. We will work with the federal government, farmers and the Board to ensure it con-

tinues to serve the interests of Manitoba farmers. We will also work with hog producers to review a recent report on the Hog Marketing Board to ensure their concerns and interests are heard before any decisions are made.

THE CHANGING FACE OF TRANSPORTATION

Currently, Canada's rail system is the most efficient and most used method of transporting our large quantities of prairie grains. The WGTA changes will transform the methods used to ship Manitoba products. As well, the rationalization of rail lines is being undertaken across the country and Manitoba will not be an exception as railways consolidate operations throughout the prairie provinces and adjust to the withdrawal of transportation subsidies. As short lines are reviewed and evaluated as to their status, abandonment will no doubt occur. The Liberal Party recognizes that some of these "ribbons of steel" are of strategic importance to the movement of grain in local areas. A Liberal government would assist local private investors in the economic assessment and evaluation of the privatization of local short line rail systems.

As the world markets change, and the costs associated with moving grains to the ocean ports rise, alternative routes must be examined. In Manitoba grain exports have been transported to both the Atlantic and Pacific ports but equally significant is the shipment of our grain through the Port of Churchill. The Port of Churchill can be an economically sound venture if four distinct economic activities begin to take place. First, the use of the port to ship Canadian grain overseas. Ironically, with the withdrawal of the Crow Rate subsidy, the economic viability of shipping grain through Churchill is enhanced. Second, the Akujit Spaceport, the world's first privately financed commercial launching spaceport. Third, with the development of Rankin Inlet as the new capital of Nunavut, a new barge supply route from Churchill to Rankin can be initiated as Rankin begins to build new health facilities and capital buildings and becomes the supply point for the Eastern Arctic. And lastly, eco-tourism. Churchill currently attracts 10,000 tourists annually to view the polar bears, watch the northern lights and participate in touring by dog-sled. Such activities, if marketed successfully can help the economic diversification of Churchill. The Liberal Party supports the continued use of Churchill as a grain transport point and will participate as a full partner to promote the upgrading and maintenance of the rail line and Port of Churchill infrastructure.

A major challenge in moving agricultural goods within and outside of Manitoba will be the maintenance and expansion of a high quality provincial highway system. Rural municipalities are expressing concern that with the increasing use of transport trucks to move products

the provincial highways system will increasingly deteriorate. The Liberal Party is committed to maintaining an adequate funding level for highways so that Manitoba can continue to maintain and improve the highway system. Cuts to the highways budget, as the province deals with the agricultural transition period, is not beneficial to rural economic development. The current practice of "off-loading" provincial roads to municipalities must stop. A Liberal government will continue to work with the federal government and the municipal governments towards a National Highways Agreement to secure the future of Manitoba's roads and highways.

Numerous challenges face Manitoba farmers, agricultural workers and governments. By working with each other in cooperation and towards a common goal Manitoba can continue to provide food to the world, a livelihood to its citizens and a way of life that helped build this nation.

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

"Sustainable development can provide for prosperity over the long run; economic growth without the hangover. There is no trade-off between ecology and economy; they are partners in prosperity."

A.M. Gillies
from "Where to Start - An Action Plan for
Protecting the Environment and Reducing
Canada's Deficit"

Liberals believe a strong economy is dependent upon a healthy environment. Sustainable development, integrating economic and environmental goals, is crucial to Manitoba's future. The marriage of environmental protection with economic growth reflects our belief that a preventative approach to our environment is a sound investment in Manitoba's future. A Liberal government will protect Manitoba's environment.

Manitobans want both economic prosperity and environmental integrity. Manitobans want jobs, a vigorous economy and a high standard of living, but they also want their children to enjoy clean air and water, unpolluted spaces, freedom from waste, and an abundance of wildlife and natural resources. Many Manitobans are working toward a standard of living that is both enriching and sustainable. It is time that government did the same.

Manitoba possesses the resources, both human and natural to encourage development which integrates sound economic and environmental goals. What is needed is a vision for Manitoba's future which fosters economic opportunity and growth in a manner which respects and restores the quality of the natural environment, enhances the quality of life for individuals and broadens the prospects for future generations.

A Sustainable Economy

The term "sustainable development" was first coined in the 1987 report of the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development entitled *Our Common Future*. "Sustainable development is not a fixed state of harmony, but rather a process of change in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technological development, and institutional change are made consistent with future as well as present needs."

Encouraging economic growth and a healthy environment requires a common sense approach to the management of Manitoba's renew-

able and non-renewable resources. The Conservative government's approach to protecting our environment takes the view that sustainable development is just one more thing to consider. Liberals believe sustainable development is not an add-on, but an intrinsic element of every development decision.

The politicization of Manitoba's environmental review process has occurred because it is now the Minister of the Environment who decides whether the Clean Environment Commission will be called upon to hold public hearings. In addition, the Commission's recommendations are not binding on the Minister or the government. A Liberal government will de-politicize the Clean Environment Commission. We will examine its current structure to ensure it can make decisions without fear of compromise or control.

Sustainable Employment

Environmental goods and services is an emerging sector in Manitoba. It comprises 200 mainly small and medium-sized companies employing about 2,000 Manitobans with annual revenues of \$200 million. The international market for environmental products, technologies, and services is already equivalent to the world market for aerospace products, and is forecast to reach \$580 billion by the year 2000.

Impressive as these indicators are, they actually underestimate the size and potential of environmental industries. The concept of environmental industries should be expanded to include the rapidly growing renewable energy and energy efficiency sector. The greatest business opportunities lie in finding ecological alternatives to the most fundamental activities of society. This will generate many new opportunities for Manitoba's industry and small business - the creation of new products and services, the manufacture of pollution abatement equipment as well as machinery and equipment that is considered "clean", the development of recycling and waste exchange industries, and the packaging and promotion of environmentally "clean" tourist attractions.

If the environmental industries are to grow we will need a practical and concrete framework of government action, one that is both affordable and forward-looking. A Liberal government will encourage the formation of environmental research consortia and information-sharing organizations, enlist support from the public and private sector and other research organizations for solutions-oriented environmental science and technology, match environmental research needs with expertise and university-industry alliances, and provide sharply reduced domestic and international market information for environmental goods and services.

Pollution Prevention

The Conservative government has not made the enforcement of environmental regulations a priority. Environmental infractions are not prosecuted and the penalties have been minimal compared to the damage inflicted to our environment. The last four major environmental disasters in Manitoba were cleaned up at public expense and only one of the companies involved was prosecuted. In February 1993 the Conservative government assessed environmental damage done in Winnipeg by Prime Oils. In February 1994 charges were laid against the company as well as the owners of the company. After being found guilty on all counts the company and its owners were fined a total of \$400. The estimated cleanup at taxpayer's expense of the polluted site was over \$200,000.

Liberals believe that we must diligently enforce all environmental regulations. The enforcement resources in the Environment Department are inadequate and there is an overlap in the responsibilities of the environment, natural resources, workplace safety and health and rural public health enforcement units. To create administrative efficiencies and accomplish the important objective of identifying potential environmental problems before they result in environmental degradation, a Liberal government will consolidate the enforcement units of the departments of Environment, Workplace Safety and Health, rural Public Health and Natural Resources.

The role of government in protecting our environment is to pass meaningful laws and enforce them consistently. Currently in Manitoba we do not have laws protecting the quality of our air, water and lands. It is difficult to safeguard the quality of our environment when polluters cannot be prosecuted, but are merely asked to observe "guidelines". A Liberal government will protect our environment for Manitobans by introducing air and water quality standards, land use policies and a province-wide waste-reduction strategy. We will vigorously prosecute polluters.

Recycling and Stewardship

The Conservative government has stalled in implementing The Waste Reduction and Prevention Act. This has left Manitoba lagging far behind the rest of North America in the area of recycling and waste reduction. All we have is a series of *ad hoc* initiatives.

In January 1995, based on lobbying by a former senior political staff member, the Conservative government saw fit to forgive the soft drink industry \$863,000 in penalties levied for failing to meet waste reduction targets. It then replaced the penalty scheme with a two cent

per container levy on beverage containers. This new levy will net the government \$4.8 million each year directly from Manitoba consumers.

In addition, the Conservatives placed a levy on the purchase of tires and pesticides. These funds have different agendas and sprinkle money among different initiatives. Polluting industries and political appointees dominate the agencies established to oversee the spending of these funds. Funding is based on a political rather than environmental agenda. As a result no comprehensive recycling programs are available, particularly in the City of Winnipeg where a substantial portion of the environmental tax revenue is being raised from its residents.

A Liberal government will implement a comprehensive province-wide waste reduction program based on the principles of product stewardship. The first step in this program is making resources available to municipalities for cost effective and universal recycling programs. We would consolidate the various environmental initiatives into a single more efficient agency which would be overseen by a non-political board having broad representation and public accountability. We would look to the private sector to deliver these recycling programs. We recognize this will be an opportunity to enhance Manitoba's environmental business sector.

Hazardous Waste

The Manitoba Hazardous Waste Management Corporation (MHWMC) was established to develop facilities to store, transfer and treat hazardous waste in Manitoba. The Conservative government has squandered its opportunity to become a leader in this field. Instead MHWMC provides out-of-date disposal services which can be delivered more efficiently in the private sector.

After putting so much effort into gaining public acceptance for the Manitoba Environment Centre in the R.M. of Montcalm and spending \$22.8 million of taxpayers' dollars, the actual result is an incomplete, under funded operation which has been cited for license violations and lacks adequate security and waste storage capability. After two years of trying, the Conservative government has failed to attract any credible investment into the development of the Manitoba Environment Centre. The MHWMC has been reduced to a taxpayer-subsidized enterprise whose business practices are under close scrutiny by the Provincial Auditor and Crown Corporations Council.

A Liberal government will continue trying to sell the Manitoba Hazardous Waste Management Corporation in order to recoup some of the money we have spent. With abundant private sector capacity in

this field we will not continue to spend millions on a money losing operation.

Protecting Our Parks

For five years the Liberal Party called on the Conservative government to introduce a new Parks Act which emphasized the protection of our environment. While other provinces are protecting more land, in 1993 the Conservatives introduced a new Parks Act which allowed mining and logging within provincial park boundaries. Liberals do not believe these are activities which should be permitted in our parks. A Liberal government will review the Parks Act to ensure that the legislation provides real protection to our natural resources.

Improving Mining Opportunities in Manitoba

In 1991, the value of Manitoba's mineral production was about \$1.2 billion. As a result of copper, zinc, nickel and diamond discoveries new opportunities are emerging in Manitoba for jobs related to mining. A Liberal government will encourage the continued exploration and processing of minerals within Manitoba through the continued use of the Mining Tax Credit.

While encouraging mining development within the province, a Liberal government will ensure the exploration and processing of minerals is consistent with our goals of sustainable development. Energy efficiency and the reduction, recycling and recovery of water, industrial chemicals and other resources must be considered in the environmental assessment process.

A Liberal government will develop a comprehensive and consistent system to monitor the environmental effects of mining operations, and will set site-specific standards to ensure once mining is complete that any environmental damage is remedied.

Eco-Tourism

Manitoba has been blessed with a diverse ecosystem. Within our province we have deserts, grasslands, lake lands and tundra. Tourism has been identified as an area of expanding opportunity for Manitoba. The Liberal commitment to protecting our environment will ensure Manitobans and visitors to our province are able to enjoy our natural environment.

The Port of Churchill has been successful in attracting international tourists to its whale and polar bear watching. Many people are attracted to Manitoba for its excellent hunting and fishing. Liberals believe we

must be more proactive in attracting tourists to Manitoba. Marketing our natural resources as recreational locations has been haphazard and uncoordinated. A Liberal government will work with the private sector to co-ordinate the marketing of eco-tourism within Manitoba.

ABORIGINAL PEOPLES-WORKING TOGETHER

"The time to act is at hand. Aboriginal people will be able to find their way out of the destructive labyrinth to which they have been consigned, but only if federal and provincial governments take positive action to fulfill their historic responsibilities and obligations. In this manner, government can begin to build a new relationship with Aboriginal people based upon respect, understanding and good will."

Report of the Aboriginal Justice
Inquiry of Manitoba, 1991

The Province of Manitoba was founded by the Metis Nation. Together with First Nations and Inuit peoples, Manitoba's aboriginal population has provided this province with the foundation for economic growth and with a heritage that has enriched the lives of all Manitobans. Despite this, today many aboriginal people face enormous problems. They lack employment, economic and educational opportunities. Their communities lack proper housing, safe drinking water and health services. And they also contend with culturally insensitive and inappropriately administered government services.

Through the efforts of the federal Liberal government working with the First Nations community of Manitoba, our province is in the unique position of righting the wrongs of the past by embarking on the road to self-government. It is the obligation of the Province of Manitoba to facilitate and to accommodate this process through cooperation and commitment. A Liberal government in Manitoba will take an active role along with the federal government to assist First Nations in achieving their goals.

The Metis of our province require special consideration in the political process. Although Metis people have played a crucial role in establishing Manitoba as a province, they have had little recognition at either the provincial or federal level. The Liberal Party is committed to working with the Metis community to resolve outstanding land claims and to work towards adequate representation in Manitoba's institutions.

The Framework Agreement- A Starting Point

The Framework Agreement is a historic document signed on Nov. 22, 1994 by the Assembly of First Nations and Federal Indian Affairs Minister. The agreement initiates the dismantling of the Federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs (DIAND). This is the first

stage in the eventual transfer of jurisdictional power to Manitoba First Nations Peoples.

The government of Manitoba has a role to play both in this process and in recognizing our Metis community. A Liberal government will facilitate the implementation of the Framework Agreement, the settlement of land claims and official recognition of treaty rights. In addition we will review the province's role in aboriginal health, education, and justice policies and initiatives. We must consider the special circumstances faced by off-reserve aboriginal communities.

Land Claims

The settlement of outstanding land claims is crucial to the process of self-government and to ensuring recognition of both the First Nations and the Metis communities. A Liberal government will work towards the timely settlement of land claims to provide an economic base upon which these communities can build.

The resolution of land claims issues requires a commitment to a modern interpretation of past treaties and a consideration of all of the stakeholders involved. The mechanisms for negotiating outstanding land claims and treaty issues must be mutually agreed upon by the provincial government, the Federal government, and First Nations and Metis leaders. A Liberal government will be committed to this process. It is also essential that interim agreements be in place that outline cooperative approaches to dealing with natural resources while negotiations are ongoing. Such measures should be laid out to protect the territory in question and preserve the integrity of the negotiation process.

Education and Jobs

As important as the settlement of land claims in establishing an economic resource base is accessibility to education. Statistics indicate aboriginal people are twice as likely as other Manitobans to have less than a grade nine education, three times less likely to complete high school and six times less likely to receive a university degree. The Conservative government has cut educational opportunities for aboriginal peoples by withdrawing funding for the Access and New Careers programs. These programs made post-secondary education more accessible for our aboriginal people. A Liberal government will reinstate these programs.

A Liberal government will support school divisions involved with aboriginal peoples to develop strategies to improve the quality of education for aboriginal children in our public school system.

We will make education accessible to more Manitobans through distance education, literacy programs and apprenticeship training for specific jobs. The delivery of education services must be a collaborative effort between the education department and aboriginal representatives. A Liberal government will establish mechanisms for dialogue and negotiation with Manitoba's aboriginal peoples to address their unique educational needs and to recognize areas of educational jurisdiction.

New technology makes it possible to expand our colleges and universities into central and northern Manitoba. Manitoba must use these technologies to ensure that our young students are no longer obliged to live far from their communities in order to better their contribution to them.

Literacy programs provide the necessary tools for achieving educational and employment success and give individuals the ability to advocate on their own behalf. Aboriginal leaders will choose the ways in which these programs will best be applied to the people and the communities which they represent.

The transfer of administrative control of services to First Nations will require that First Nations communities have people trained in the areas of administration, resource management, economic development, health, justice and so on. A Liberal government will offer academic and apprenticeship programs to prepare First Nations for the transfer of jurisdictional control in many areas.

Health

Our health care system is valued as a system that provides equity in service delivery for all Canadians. Universal health care is the envy of many other countries. Yet the death rate for registered Indians between 25 and 44 years of age is five times the non-Indian rate. Tuberculosis, a disease associated with poverty, occurs seven times more frequently in Manitoba's aboriginal population. For our aboriginal communities we must ensure that their unique health needs are met. The Liberal strategy for regionalized health care addresses this problem by giving more control of health care decisions to local health councils and regional boards while maintaining strong province wide standards for quality health care delivery. Technology, again, will play a role in expanding health services to remote communities to ensure that high quality care is available throughout the province.

Manitoba's aboriginal population is a very young population. Federal initiatives are beginning to address the health issues which are having an impact on aboriginal communities. Initiatives such as

Brighter Futures and Head Start recognize the need to focus on pre-natal and child health. A Liberal government will seek to expand these programs to more aboriginal communities on the recommendation of their local health councils.

Equality in health services must mean access to language services and respect for different cultural approaches to healing. It is important for elders and healers to be represented in health care facilities where the patient population is largely aboriginal.

Liberals are committed to an approach to delivering health care in which health needs are assessed at the community level and health services are also community based.

Justice

In 1991, the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry(AJI) made 293 recommendations to improve the system of justice for aboriginal people. To date the Conservative government has implemented few of the major recommendations. The Liberals feel the Conservative government's inaction permits the injustices of the past to be repeated. Liberals believe that cross cultural understanding is crucial to avoiding the inequities that exist within the justice system.

The Conservative Party has implemented few of the recommendations made by the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry in 1991. Liberals will use the AJI report as a guide to improving cross-cultural understanding within our justice system. We will act on suggestions such as greater cultural awareness training for non-aboriginal justice officials.

Cost Analysis of The Liberal Plan

1. New Program Spending

JOBS		
Targetted Training Incentive	\$5,000,000	
Apprenticeship	\$1,800,000	
New Foundations	\$10,000,000	
One-Stop-Shop Service Centres	\$1,500,000	
total		\$18,300,000
JUSTICE		
Challenge Camps	\$500,000	
Drop-in Centres	\$500,000	
Night Court (1 court room pilot)	\$300,000	
Community Policing offices	\$500,000	
Family violence counselling	\$250,000	
total		\$2,050,000
SOCIAL PROGRAMS		
Maintenance Enforcement	\$300,000	
Dental Program	\$2,500,000	
Children's Advocate	\$150,000	
total		\$2,950,000
HEALTH		
Health Care Ombudsman	\$250,000	
Community Health Centres	\$4,000,000	
PreNatal Nutrition Programs	\$1,200,000	
Mobile Mammography Unit	\$200,000	
Children's Breakfast Program	\$1,000,000	
total		\$6,650,000
EDUCATION		
Literacy Program	\$800,000	
Alternative settings	\$2,000,000	
Access and New Careers	\$5,000,000	
Curriculum Branch	\$500,000	
Community College increase	\$4,000,000	
total		\$12,300,000
Casinos closed on Sundays		\$10,000,000
Total		\$52,250,000

2. Reallocation from existing programs

Grants and loans to business	7,000,000
Winnipeg Jets	2,500,000
Smaller cabinet; boards and agencies reduced, outside untendered professional consulting reduced by half	3,500,000
Ad budget cut in half, lotteries ads and promos stopped	6,400,000
Workforce 2000	4,000,000
Welfare to Work savings	7,000,000
Manitoba office in Ottawa	336,000
Home renovation program	4,500,000
ARCOR - reduce funding by 50%	375,000
Horse racing commission reduce funding by 50%	1,700,000
Sustainable development institute funding reduced	680,000
Hazardous Waste Corporation	4,500,000
Sustainable Development Co-ordination Unit	232,000
Provincial program review target *	35,000,000
Grants and loans, funds on deposit; principal and interest	* * 7,000,000
Total	<u>\$84,723,000</u>
Subtract new program spending	<u>(\$52,250,000)</u>
Excess of savings over new program spending	\$32,473,000
Addition of currently projected government surplus	<u>\$48,200,000</u>
New surplus for Liberal government	\$80,673,000

Provincial Program Review target represents 2% of operating expenditures outside health and education. Education and health will be part of the review, but savings will be reinvested within the departments.

* Government loans to big business are managed by the Manitoba Development Corporation. Principal and interest payments are collected by the MDC and reinvested at the discretion of government. As we are stopping grants and loans to big business, principal and interest payments and cash on hand will be diverted to general revenue, instead of being saved for reinvestment.

A NEW START

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TITLE A new start for Manitoba

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