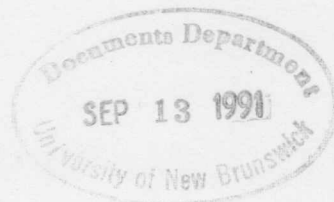


7/07/87

HIL-GOV
JL26
NB
P716
1991



NEW BRUNSWICK MATTERS

**The Platform of the Liberal Party
of New Brunswick for the 1991
Provincial General Election**

September 13, 1991

TABLE OF CONTENTS

BUILDING THE PARTNERSHIPS (Message from the Liberal Party Leader)	1
--	----------

SECTION I - HUMAN DEVELOPMENT THROUGH LIFE-LONG LEARNING ...3

A) The Early Years	5
B) Breaking New Ground in Training	7
C) The Literacy Challenge	9
D) Universities - Centres of Excellence	10

SECTION II - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.....12

A) Developing an Industrial Strategy	12
B) Supporting Local Development	12
C) Sustainable Resource Development	13
D) Tourism	18
E) Business and Investment	20
F) Building Our Infrastructure	24
G) Maritime Economic Cooperation	26

SECTION III - OUR QUALITY OF LIFE.....27

A) Health	27
B) Families and Children	29
C) Seniors	33
D) Women	33
E) Persons with Disabilities	34
F) Environment	35
G) Culture and Sports	40

SECTION IV - STRENGTHENING OUR INSTITUTIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS42

A) Fiscal Responsibility	42
B) Renewed Federalism	45
C) Linguistic Equality	45
D) Aboriginal Participation	46
E) Involving New Brunswickers in the Political Process	46

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE FUTURE.....48

BUILDING THE PARTNERSHIPS

In 1987, the people of New Brunswick gave the Liberal Party of New Brunswick a decisive mandate to implement its Agenda for Change.

Four years later, I can say with a certain sense of pride that we have delivered on our promises. We have worked tirelessly to realize the enormous potential of our beautiful province. We have provided full-time leadership. And we have dedicated ourselves to governing in a financially responsible manner.

In partnership with the men and women of New Brunswick, we have created a dynamic economic climate - a climate in which New Brunswickers have access to more and more jobs, and more and more opportunities for improving our collective quality of life.

In fact, over 19,000 new jobs were added to the provincial economy between December 1987 and December 1990. And figures show that, despite the recession that has gripped the country, by June this year our unemployment rate had fallen a full two percentage points from 1987. At the same time, the national rate rose 1.4 percentage points. New Brunswick not only exceeded the national average, but actually had the biggest drop in unemployment of any province in all of Canada.

Our pursuit of economic prosperity is balanced by our commitment to social programs. We are always mindful of those most in need. And we remain committed to ensuring that their lives are filled with purpose and meaning. We place enormous value on human dignity. And while providing income assistance, and other support measures as needed, we are doing all we can to help people move from dependence to long-term self-sufficiency. No aspect of Liberal philosophy is more fundamental than that.

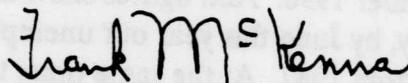
That is the Liberal way.

During a second mandate, we will build on and strengthen the partnerships we have developed to date - partnerships that will help improve our quality of life even further; enable us to identify and set specific goals and targets; help us meet the needs of those whom we serve; and assist in developing the best-educated, the best-trained and the most versatile workforce in all of Canada.

Your Liberal government's commitment to improving the social and economic life of New Brunswickers is unquestioned. Our record speaks for itself, but we will not stop there. We will continue to attach the highest priority to the cornerstone of our agenda: education, training, and retraining as preparation for the workforce. And we will continue to pursue our aggressive strategy of job creation.

New Brunswickers can take pride in their province. The Liberal party believes, that with initiative and determination, New Brunswick is fast becoming one of the strongest links in the Canadian federation. Our goal is for New Brunswick to be one of this nation's real leaders - economically, socially and culturally.

The Liberal Party of New Brunswick is proud to offer its programs and proposals for the consideration of the people of New Brunswick.



Frank McKenna
Premier of New Brunswick and
Leader of the Liberal Party of New Brunswick

SECTION I - HUMAN DEVELOPMENT THROUGH LIFE-LONG LEARNING

"FOCUS really changed my life. It gave me back my self-esteem and sense of direction. Without it, I would never have been able to get where I am today."

- A single mother, 33, who through the help of FOCUS, begins Nursing school this fall.

No resource is more precious to New Brunswick than its people - the men and women whose efforts and dreams create and sustain the economy of the province, and the children who are its future. The people of New Brunswick want to make their province prosper. To do so, they need to know that sense of independence, dignity, and self-esteem that comes from having meaningful work.

Your Liberal Government believes that jobs and the economy are the most important issues facing New Brunswickers. In four years, we have made enormous gains. Over 19,000 jobs were added to the provincial economy between December 1987 and December 1990; participation in the work force has improved; the rate of unemployment has fallen a full two percentage points in the last four years - the biggest drop in unemployment of any province in Canada.

However, to continue to provide meaningful employment opportunities for New Brunswickers we have much to do to build on this success.

Infrastructure investment, economic development programs, Maritime economic cooperation, regional economic summits and quality assurance are all important, and very prominent in our new agenda. However, the most crucial element in our strategy to stimulate employment is our single-minded dedication to creating a climate of life-long learning in New Brunswick.

The cornerstone of your Liberal government's agenda is a commitment to providing a learning continuum for New Brunswickers: a spectrum of quality learning opportunities extending from childhood to senior adulthood.

Advances in technology and the emergence of world-wide markets dictate that tomorrow's workplace will require effective use of information and technology. The rapid pace of development will require individuals to be flexible and adaptable, to see learning as a life-long process; a process which extends far beyond the formal school system to include post-secondary education, training, re-training and literacy upgrading. We must create an environment in which individuals can acquire and maintain the knowledge and skills they will need in a changing world and an increasingly competitive marketplace.

We aim, in full consultation with our partners, to achieve excellence in our formal education system, and to create a climate that ensures life-long learning opportunities for all New Brunswickers.

Your government's commitment to education as a springboard to social, economic, and cultural prosperity puts New Brunswick at the cutting edge of innovative programming for human development in Canada. We intend to expand that lead. The participation of all new Brunswickers will be encouraged.

We have already initiated a study on "Excellence in Education". Soon, we will be asking for the advice, support and partnership of teachers, school boards, administrators, parents, students, workers, employers, community groups and interest groups.

Working with these partners, we will consider how to achieve the goal of offering every New Brunswicker an enriched and fulfilling educational experience from early childhood to adulthood.

A) THE EARLY YEARS

Kindergarten - the First Step

The most visible gap in our learning continuum has recently been filled. This fall, your Liberal government is introducing a publicly-funded, universally-accessible kindergarten program for the province's nearly 10,000 five-year olds. Previously, some 4,000 children a year were denied this opportunity. Now, they will have the same chance as their peers, regardless of their family's financial situation.

Early Education

The foundation of the educational cycle is established in early childhood. Your Liberal government will seek to involve parents more actively in their children's education, particularly in the early years, as was successfully done in implementing kindergarten. We will also strengthen pre-kindergarten screening and early intervention programs across the province.

Strengthening the Basics Today

To function effectively in society, requires that certain basic skills and knowledge are acquired in school. To maintain New Brunswick's record for the best stay-in-school rate in Canada, and to reduce our drop-out rate even more, your government will, with its partners the stakeholders, set measurable targets for school retention rates. We will set targets for literacy rates, and require all students to meet a basic literacy level for graduation. We will also set targets and establish community-based Grade 12 equivalency programs, province-wide.

Enriching Courses for Tomorrow

Beyond the present need, your Liberal government is committed to ensuring that learning prepares New Brunswickers for future challenges. Mastery of science, math, and numeracy skills, by boys and girls alike, is essential to our economic success. We will enrich and expand courses in these fields to meet higher standards.

Believing that a healthy, diversified economy is essential to New Brunswick's future, we will ensure that entrepreneurship is taught at all levels of the education system. This will include encouragement of Junior Achievers province-wide.

In keeping with our commitment to the bilingual character of New Brunswick, we will continue to improve second language programs, and we will continue our promotion of student exchanges.

Quality Throughout the System

New Brunswickers need an educational system that is committed to quality and cost-effectiveness. To achieve it, your Liberal government will take steps to ensure that spending benefits classroom programs. Because individual needs vary, your government will provide programs and resources for the learning disabled, as well as for gifted and exceptional students. We are also fully committed to employing leading edge computer technology in the service of education.

Skilled teachers are essential to an effective education system. We will enhance teacher training to ensure a close match with our educational objectives.

In keeping with the respect due to skilled professionals, we propose to give teachers and principals more local autonomy in choosing the means they use to achieve common educational objectives. We will encourage teachers to become more involved in peer evaluation as a way to ensure that quality teaching standards are maintained.

We will introduce employment equity into the educational system to enable more women to become principals or supervisors. This will have the added benefit of providing more positive role models for female students.

B) BREAKING NEW GROUND IN TRAINING

Having significantly improved educational opportunity at the entry level through the new Kindergarten program, your government's priority during a second mandate will be the further development of a learning continuum. We will work to ensure that New Brunswickers have access to high quality educational and training opportunities throughout their lives. This continuum is critical to our overriding objective of creating a modern and prosperous economy, with job opportunities for all New Brunswickers.

New Labour Force Agreement

Earlier this year, New Brunswick gained the federal government's agreement that the unemployed should have the opportunity of taking training programs while drawing unemployment insurance benefits. In partnership with the private sector, the new Canada/New Brunswick Labor Force Agreement (the first of its kind in the country) will address several important elements: training programs for the unemployed; adult illiteracy; apprenticeship programs; skills training; cooperative education; seasonal unemployment; human resource incentives for employers and businesses; and improved coordination of existing labour force programs.

In the next four years, this program will help thousands of New Brunswickers to prepare themselves to enter the labour force.

Opportunities For All

We will continue to expand the boundaries of our commitment to human development, and provide opportunities for all. Income assistance and unemployment insurance are important social security measures. However, we are committed, over the long term, to helping people escape dependence on such

schemes. Central to this strategy is the provision of increased access to education, training and work experience in keeping with recipients' needs and aspirations.

In the last four years, your government has worked to improve opportunities for education and training for the working poor and those receiving income assistance. This support will now be increased as a result of the five year renewal of the Federal-Provincial Social Assistance Recipients Agreement. As well, we will undertake a major review of all income assistance programs, seeking ways of helping those who can work to become more self-reliant.

Through our FOCUS program, more than 13,000 New Brunswickers have already acquired new skills and helped themselves become more self-sufficient. The opportunity for income assistance recipients to acquire training, education and work experience through this proven program will be expanded.

Location must not be a handicap to learning. We will introduce the technology of distance education, to deliver learning opportunities to New Brunswickers throughout the province. Further, we will expand the New Brunswick Community College system to include more course offerings and better coordination with the university system.

Bearing in mind the life-long nature of job-related learning, we will establish adult access centres, similar to our youth access centres, to counsel and direct citizens towards meaningful training and work. We will encourage increased participation by the private sector in the educational process, including on-the-job training and re-training, and expansion of the highly successful cooperative education program. Our objective is to dramatically increase the level of skills development throughout the province.

**Recognition of
Acquired Skills**

During its first term, your Liberal government set in motion a process to design and implement an Accreditation System for Community Colleges. This system will allow adults seeking admission to a Community College to receive credits or advance standing for skills and knowledge acquired in other institutions, in the workplace, or at home. Learners will build on what they already know and will not have to retake, or pay for, blocks of training that include skills and knowledge already acquired. For many individuals, the recognition of prior learning will translate into a significant reduction of time in training. During a second term, your Liberal government will continue work on developing this system, with full implementation expected by September 1992.

C) THE LITERACY CHALLENGE

High literacy and numeracy skills are a foundation upon which we can build a better trained and educated work force. Your Liberal government will continue to place a very high priority on eliminating illiteracy in New Brunswick.

Target Set

The Premier's Advisory Council on Literacy has set the framework for a major expansion in literacy training. Our goal is to increase the provincial literacy rate to agreed upon annual targets.

Community Action

Literacy New Brunswick Inc. has been established to unite business, labour, community groups and governments in a partnership to initiate local action to fight illiteracy. The first program was launched in Minto earlier this year. Using it as a model, over 100 community-based literacy centres will open throughout the province over the next four years. These centres will offer literacy training to more than 10,000 New Brunswickers. The centres will be linked to the basic educational programs of our Community Colleges. Thus, individuals who have become literate will have the opportunity to profit from their achievement with further education.

**Libraries
and Literacy**

New Brunswick's excellent network of public libraries provides 62 points of service in communities throughout the province. We will expand the role of our libraries in the literacy movement, especially in support of adult education.

D) UNIVERSITIES - CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

Our universities have a vital role to play in the economic and intellectual life of the province. Your Liberal government supports them financially in a number of ways. First, each year since 1987, we have either matched or exceeded the level of operating assistance recommended by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (less, this year, the value of a one year postponement of the salary increase of provincial employees).

**Enhancing the
Partnership**

Beyond contributing to basic operating costs, we have also provided capital assistance to each university. We have set up a fund to support research and development. And we are working with the universities to advance economic development in the province. As just one example, we are providing additional funds to strengthen faculties of business administration at the University of New Brunswick and the Université de Moncton.

We will continue to work with our university partners to ensure high quality programs in higher education for New Brunswickers. One specific goal is to increase significantly the number of engineering graduates from New Brunswick universities, in order to meet the challenges of tomorrow. We particularly wish to encourage the ambitions of women to study and excel in this and other non-traditional fields.

**Investing in
Student Aid**

As the cost of higher education rises, the traditional partnership among students, their families, and the federal and provincial governments must be enhanced. Specifically, existing financial aid programs for post-secondary students must be improved.

Your Liberal government is committed to negotiating improvements with our partners in education. We have identified numerous areas requiring reform: the student aid parental contribution formula; support for single parents and married students; incentives for students pursuing studies in areas of critical importance to the province; and requirements for special educational equipment. We also intend to pursue changes in the Income Tax Act, in cooperation with the federal government, to provide an improved educational savings plan for our students.

A) DEVELOPING AN INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

It is becoming increasingly clear in Canada that if we are to achieve real economic progress with full employment, we can only do so through a strengthened partnership among labour, business and government. Such a partnership in New Brunswick would allow us to develop an industrial strategy based on New Brunswick's strengths. It would permit us to set strategic goals and objectives, and further diversify our economy. It would promote positive adjustments and accommodations between sectors so that we may work with a common purpose. Your Liberal government is firmly committed to such a partnership.

B) SUPPORTING LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Economic cooperation and development begin at home. Your Liberal government will continue to support local and regional economic development planning and initiatives. This will enable our communities to plan, initiate and aggressively pursue their own economic development goals.

We aim to sustain on-going consultation between government and the province's regions, guided by the principle that the people of a region should be fully involved in any planning process.

SECTION II - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

"In my experience, which has included time in the U.S., as well as in Europe and the Middle East, I can honestly say that I have never encountered a more focused, entrepreneurial government and industry team."

- Dennis Williams, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of General Electric Canada, speaking last March at a ceremony to announce the establishment in Moncton of GE Camco's national customer response centre.

A) DEVELOPING AN INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

It is becoming increasingly clear in Canada that if we are to achieve real economic progress with full employment, we can only do so through a strengthened partnership among labour, business and government. Such a partnership in New Brunswick would allow us to develop an industrial strategy based on New Brunswick's strengths. It would permit us to set strategic goals and objectives, and further diversify our economy. It would promote positive adjustments and accommodations between sectors, so that we may work with a common purpose. Your Liberal government is firmly committed to such a partnership.

B) SUPPORTING LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Economic cooperation and development begin at home. Your Liberal government will continue to support local and regional economic development planning and initiatives. This will enable our communities to plan, initiate and aggressively pursue, their own economic development goals.

We aim to sustain on-going consultation between government and the province's regions, guided by the principle that the people of a region should be fully involved in any planning process.

Regional Summits

In September 1989, we introduced the concept of Regional Economic Conferences to New Brunswick. These events offer regions a formal process by which they can identify their overall priorities and contribute directly to the formulation of relevant government policy. Thus far, the process is most advanced in the Acadian Peninsula, but is also active in the Nepisiguit-Chaleur and Restigouche regions in the north, and in the Charlotte and Kent regions in the south.

C) SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

New Brunswick's abundant natural resources are the foundation of our traditional and largest area of economic activity. A particular focus in the economic development strategy of your Liberal government will be the continued development of fisheries, forests, mines, and agriculture, in a manner that recognizes the importance of protecting, sustaining, and enhancing both our environment and our resources. At the same time, we must seek additional opportunities for adding value to our resource-based products.

Strategy

The Round Table on Environment and the Economy has, over the past three years, undertaken the most extensive public consultation on environmental issues in the history of the province. Following a review of its recommendations, a new Liberal government will finalize a Sustainable Development Strategy. We will utilize the Environmental Trust Fund to implement demonstration projects, in partnership with communities and the private sector. And we will pursue negotiations on a Sustainable Development Agreement with the federal government to initiate implementation of longer-term projects and programs to further improve our environment.

Fisheries and Aquaculture

For more than two centuries, fishing has been an important contributor to New Brunswick's economy. Over the past four years, your government has rationalized and diversified New Brunswick's fishery operations. We negotiated agreements, for example,

on federal-provincial cooperation in fisheries and aquaculture development, and on economic diversification in the Northeast. We established a Mackerel Development Council, and promoted enhancement of underutilized species such as mackerel, ocean quahog, capelin and dogfish. We also completed a study on rationalization of the processing industry, and stepped up marketing efforts to support processors.

In a second mandate, your Liberal government will work to maintain a climate of innovation and entrepreneurship in our fisheries, through a number of priority initiatives.

Salmon farming has been booming in New Brunswick over the past few years, to the point where its production value is comparable to that of the traditional fishery. We will work to maintain or improve aquaculture through orderly development, careful environmental monitoring, farming new species, harvesting underutilized species and eliminating interprovincial trade barriers.

We will move to protect the supply of traditional species by promoting prudent resource management, stock monitoring and habitat protection and enhancement. We will continue to support the industry in its efforts to create products that offer added value, and to process new species. As well, a new Liberal government will help further enhance the image of New Brunswick seafood, through programs and regulations which focus on high quality.

We will continue to invest in the human resources involved in this sector, through training programs designed to enhance skills. Through industry-wide consultation, we will work to develop an accreditation system for fish plant workers.

We will work to establish a balance between a fishing fleet on the leading edge of technology on the one hand, and availability of resources on the other, adjusting our funding programs accordingly.

As well, your Liberal government will work to protect the economic values of the traditional fishery, in relation to the aquaculture industry.

Forestry and Wildlife Resources

We must be prepared to participate in, and be sensitive to, a major realignment of the forest industry that will occur throughout Canada, and around the world, in this decade and beyond.

The coming years will challenge us to enhance the benefits available from our natural resources, in an unprecedented manner. A variety of diverse interests will have to be provided for, if our efforts are to be successful. The Crown Lands and Forest Act will be reviewed to meet these challenges.

Your Liberal government will undertake a forest management strategy which emphasizes the multi-faceted nature of our forest wealth. Our forests must continue to be managed so that the provincial forest industry has an adequate supply of raw material at competitive world prices. So that this occurs on a sustainable basis, we will continue to ensure that reforestation and silviculture efforts are sufficient, at a minimum, to provide replacement forests for all areas harvested. This forest will be of higher quality and higher volume, compared to the original area harvested, and will have the bio-diversity required to supply the forest industry with future raw material and provide diversity of wildlife species with suitable habitat. We will help industry to improve harvesting techniques, so that the impact on the forest floor and its regenerative ability, is less intrusive and more protective of wildlife populations. More emphasis will be given to the types of harvesting practices needed to reach this objective.

Events worldwide suggest that management and production patterns in New Brunswick's forest industry could undergo significant change in this decade. In that case, our preoccupation will be the protection of employee and community interests as these structural changes unfold. An important provincial asset for ensuring our future wood supply is the large number of

woodlots on private land. We will continue to work and consult with private landowners, to develop management plans which realize their individual aspirations and help to meet the needs of the industry as well. During the past year we undertook a wide-ranging public consultation with the woodlot owners. We will use the comprehensive input from that process as the basis for setting future policy and we will consult with them fully in the development of any new policy.

We recognize the fundamental importance of quality as the basis on which to construct our efforts to augment the value of forest production. Your Liberal government will work with all parts of the industry to search out new ways of getting the maximum value from this major resource, within our current policy of integrated resource management. In particular, we are determined to see a de-inking and recycling facility established to optimize the quality and fibre recovery from paper recycling. This, of course, will serve to decrease waste. We will also put waste wood to work as a power source, in manufacturing plants and in provincial generating facilities.

Much of the development activity in New Brunswick's forests has traditionally been directed at softwood stands, the source of most fibre input to pulp and paper manufacturing, as well as the raw material for softwood lumber and a variety of other products. We recognize the importance of adding value to all our forest resources, by directing greater effort toward hardwood management, and the greater development of provincial maple sugar enterprises.

Habitat Preservation

New Brunswick is well known as a hunting and fishing paradise, and offers tremendous opportunities for observing wildlife in its natural habitat. We are sensitive to preserving this natural heritage. We will keep working with various provincial interests to continue to manage our wildlife prudently.

We will enter into new partnerships with the public to manage our natural resources. This year we have begun an adopt-a-stream program which encourages the public to augment government efforts to clean up and preserve inland watercourses. A major government effort will be to improve the habitat, and increase the stock of brook trout, in response to angler interest. We will also work with companies, conservation organizations and individuals to conserve unique wetlands and sensitive habitats.

Mining

Your Liberal government will undertake a comprehensive review of mining policy, with a view to enhancing exploration and increasing employment and the value of production in New Brunswick mines. We will also encourage the mining industries to undertake processing of minerals within New Brunswick.

Numerous research and development projects will be undertaken through the \$10 million Canada/New Brunswick Cooperation Agreement on Mineral Development.

We will support development of new technology to reduce environmental damage from mineral processing, and will encourage their commercial use in the province.

Agriculture

The past four years have seen significant expansion in New Brunswick's agricultural industry. The New Entrant Farmer program has been particularly effective in supporting and encouraging young New Brunswickers to develop new farm enterprises. The Perennial Crop program has stimulated significant development in New Brunswick's production of longer term crops - such as trees, shrubs, ornamental plants and cranberries. Production of traditional crops has expanded significantly as well, and export sales of seed potato stock have increased by over 50% since 1987.

New Brunswick is a Canadian leader in the amount of agricultural production that goes into processing. For example, more than 50% of the annual potato crop is processed within the province. A new Food

Production and Processing Policy and Action Plan was recently introduced to guide future developments in agriculture. The policy emphasizes the need to increase demand for New Brunswick food products, concentrate on quality, increase product value by processing, and thereby increase employment in New Brunswick's agriculture industry.

In cooperation with the other Maritime Provinces, your Liberal government will continue the thrust for responsible and sustainable agricultural development. We will accelerate our soil conservation and land improvement program, to encourage responsible management and conservation of our most valuable agricultural resource.

Future expansion of agriculture in New Brunswick will depend largely on better land management, sustainable production practices, adding value to our primary products, marketing more efficiently, and increasing our exports. These themes will dominate agricultural initiatives over the next four years.

In response to emerging opportunities, the demand for potato and vegetable production will increase, as will the production of agricultural crops for niche markets, such as blueberries, specialty crops, cranberries, etc. Increased livestock production will also be a priority of a new Liberal government.

D) TOURISM

Thanks to high quality, made-in-New Brunswick promotion over the past four years, revenue from tourism has increased steadily. It now exceeds six hundred million dollars per year. Your Liberal government will continue its close collaboration with the private sector to implement an aggressive new Tourism Strategy.

Targets Set

During the 1990's, it is our goal to increase employment in the private sector of the tourism industry to 30,000 from the present level of 22,500 jobs. A parallel objective will be to increase annual accommodation occupancy rates to 60% from 56%, while increasing overall room capacity at an average rate of 1.5% per year.

Partners with the Private Sector

Central to our tourism development strategy is a constructive partnership with the private sector. We will place continued emphasis on this sharing of the enhancement of the tourism industry's ability to deliver better quality services. We will continue to support a strong and active Tourism Industry Association of New Brunswick, and assist in establishing aggressive industry associations at the regional level. We will also undertake more cooperative marketing with the tourism sector, particularly in the areas of advertising and promotional material. And we will continue to work with the private sector, through "Meeting New Brunswick", to build upon the \$2 million worth of national meetings and conference business the organization has attracted to the province in the past year.

Quality

Sophisticated vacation travelers have high expectations in today's competitive tourism market. Therefore, your government will take steps to improve quality assurance and training. The new accommodation grading program will be expanded and we will encourage improvements in the quality of eating establishments in the Province. More resources will be devoted to the training of industry personnel, in order to assure better service to the travelling public.

Cooperation

Our emphasis on sharing responsibility will not only encompass the private sector, but also other levels of government, particularly in the Maritime Provinces. Maritime cooperative initiatives will be pursued in the areas of advertising, regional literature, research, information services, and accommodation grading. A new, cooperative, cost-shared agreement on tourism development will be proposed, with emphasis on inducing more private sector investment.

**Developing Our
Strengths**

Development will be focussed on the province's strengths including scenery, natural attractions, cultural and heritage resources, and a system of scenic roads and trails. We will work towards completion of the Fundy Trail, as well as planning and promoting new touring trails. We will implement a system of locally designated scenic roads over the next four years, while an improved system of roadside rest areas will be established.

**Parks and
Heritage Sites**

Your government recognizes the value of the provincial system of parks and heritage sites as a means of projecting New Brunswick's image, identity, and culture. We will work to upgrade and improve these special recreational and cultural facilities.

A new parks policy will be introduced that will create a system of parks based on New Brunswick's natural regions and dedicated to preserving significant examples of the province's special landscape. This major policy initiative is designed to conform to the government's goals of sustainable development and image improvement.

**A Year-round
Industry**

Efforts will continue to expand the travel industry year-round, particularly in fall and winter.

E) BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT

Over the past four years, your Liberal government has been very aggressive in its pursuit of new business. As a result, we have attracted a number of national and international companies to locate in the province. Our program to pursue new business investment led to \$113 million in capital investment, 1,500 new, long-term jobs, and a further 350 construction jobs in 1989-90 alone. As well, the encouragement of in-province entrepreneurship has led to new business start-ups, job creation and capital investment in manufacturing, processing and in the fast-growing service sector.

Targeting Key Areas

During the next four years, your Liberal government will accelerate its efforts to inform potential investors about the advantages of doing business in New Brunswick. As well, we will continue aggressive marketing campaigns to promote the high quality workforce, products, services, skills and other advantages that are part of doing business in our province.

New Brunswick is gaining a high profile, and an international reputation as a telemarketing centre. A recent study showed New Brunswick as the most cost-effective telemarketing and call centre in Canada. We will continue to target that economic sector, and others with similar potential for expansion, such as data processing, video-conferencing, textile and jewellery manufacturing and precision machining.

Encouraging Entrepreneurship

The programs and services through which your government has sought to encourage a renewal of entrepreneurship in New Brunswick have produced very positive results. In fact, more than 600 new small businesses are up and running, thanks to two new programs alone - the "Self-Start" and "NB Entrepreneur" programs. These two programs have created over 1,000 jobs between them in the past three years.

In a second term, we will continue to support our business-creation programs. At the same time, we will be mindful of the needs of existing small businesses. For example, we will continue such initiatives as the successful Quality Assurance Program which, to date, has helped over 113 New Brunswick companies to compete more successfully on national and international levels.

Women Entrepreneurs Recognizing the important contribution made by women to the establishment of successful small businesses in New Brunswick, we helped establish an Office for the Promotion of Women in Business. During a second term, we will continue to support women entrepreneurs through such initiatives as the Woman Entrepreneur Awards Program; by continuing to provide bursaries for women entrepreneurs to improve their management skills; and by continuing to stage seminars designed especially for women in business.

Encouraging Trade We will continue our efforts to eliminate governmental and non-governmental trade barriers which limit the potential for the growth of New Brunswick business. In this regard, Maritime economic cooperation is a goal that we will pursue aggressively. We will continue to analyse, pursue and capitalize on the opportunities presented by free trade. And we will continue to build the relationships that are essential to success in the emerging international trading climate.

Innovation and Technology We will support commercial and industrial enterprises that undertake innovation in the province. In particular, we will emphasize technological advances that help to develop and improve our existing resource-based industries.

Industrial Offsets We will seek to retain development dollars in New Brunswick. We will do so through continued emphasis on industrial offsets, the use of New Brunswick products and the development of services and products in New Brunswick.

Cross Border Shopping The government is of the view that short term solutions are not the answer to the cross border shopping issue. Your Liberal government will continue to work on this problem in partnership with the retail sector, border communities, the federal government and other relevant organizations. We will seek long-term, self-help solutions, considering such initiatives as the development of innovative marketing plans for border communities; improved customer

service; technical assistance for better merchandising; the development of niche markets; and a system of providing more accurate information to New Brunswick consumers on real price differentials.

Cooperatives

Cooperatives, like all viable business enterprises, play a very important role in the economic development of our province. Your Liberal government will continue consultation to enhance the partnership that now exists between the government and cooperatives, and explore ways to expand the role of cooperatives and to help cooperatives in their development efforts.

Community Corporations

Your Liberal government will initiate discussions with communities with a view to encouraging the establishment of local Community Corporations, which would invest in local business projects. Under such a program, Corporations would be responsible for raising investment money from local investors by selling small denomination bonds. Government would guarantee the principal.

Solidarity Fund

Your Liberal government is prepared, during a second mandate, to consult and negotiate with labour organizations, to consider the viability of establishing a Solidarity Fund.

An initiative such as this would allow union members to contribute to a special fund, to be used to help ailing industries in the province. Contributors to a Solidarity Fund would receive a provincial tax credit, as is done in at least one other province in Canada.

F) BUILDING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

Your Liberal government is committed to investing in New Brunswick's infrastructure as an essential element of economic development. Roads, telecommunications network, schools, hospitals, electric generating facilities, water and sewage systems, industrial parks, and recreational and heritage facilities will continue to be improved. By building a better infrastructure, we will improve our quality of life, provide people with valuable work experience, attract new businesses and create employment.

Transportation

It is estimated that high quality highways could reduce the number of motor vehicle accidents that occur in New Brunswick by 700 every year. In 1991-92, your Liberal government introduced the largest-ever capital budget for transportation (\$193 million) to help achieve the goal of better highways and arterial roads for the safety and convenience of New Brunswickers and visitors to New Brunswick.

In a second term, we will continue to develop the Trans Canada Highway as rapidly as provincial resources allow, and to press Ottawa for its share of the cost, as a reasonable and necessary part of a national transportation policy. As well, intensive work will continue on our provincial arterial highways.

We will initiate a priority program of rural road development. Your Liberal government will work to extend a network of high quality roads throughout the province, to ensure that rural New Brunswickers are well served in their transportation needs.

We will work cooperatively with the federal government to develop and improve links with other provinces, including the Fixed Link with Prince Edward Island. We will work with the other Atlantic Provinces to standardize and improve bus and other transportation linkages. Yet another goal will be improved accessibility to New Brunswick's transportation systems for disabled persons.

Energy

The cornerstone of our energy policy, as unveiled in December 1990, is energy efficiency and conservation. This will continue to be our priority during a second mandate. Your Liberal government will also work to achieve closer integration of Maritime power utilities. Wherever possible, the development of co-generation projects with industry will be encouraged and supported. Initiatives will also be undertaken to reduce energy consumption in the residential, industrial, commercial and institutional sectors through demand-side management.

The power generation facilities that we develop or expand will be subject to sound environmental controls. The first scrubbers in Canada are being added to NB Power plants at Dalhousie and Belledune. Planning and preparation are now underway for New Brunswick's first two wood-fired power units at Kedgwick and Sussex.

We are determined that New Brunswick should have access to natural gas, and we will continue to pursue a Maritime link in the national natural gas pipeline.

At Grand Lake, an environmental impact assessment will be undertaken for a coal gasification plant, and we will expand coal field use. As well, we will aggressively pursue negotiations with the federal government for support of this innovative clean coal technology.

Municipalities

New Brunswick municipalities play an important role in the delivery of many essential services to the residents of the Province. The Government is committed to working with municipal governments throughout the Province to improve and strengthen municipal-provincial communications.

We will continue to work closely to develop a better consultative process between the two levels of government. The importance of this endeavour cannot be minimized because we recognize that municipalities, as our partners in the delivery of a variety of government services to New Brunswickers, must be consulted in order to ensure that we can deliver quality services in the most efficient manner.

Industrial Parks

We will continue to improve commercial and industrial parks and sites, in a manner consistent with the best principles of environmental maintenance and effective land use.

G) MARITIME ECONOMIC COOPERATION

In today's competitive marketplace, globalization is key to future economic success. Your Liberal government has been the driving force behind greater economic cooperation among the Maritime Provinces to help ensure prosperity for this region.

**Consultation
Initiated**

Following this summer's successful and historic meeting in Moncton of the three Maritime Cabinets, a Committee of the Legislature will be established later this fall to undertake a process of public consultation with New Brunswickers to gain their input on the issue of Maritime economic cooperation.

**Progress
to Date**

At the same time, we were able to start work on a number of areas of mutual benefit to Maritimers. These included: government procurement, employment mobility, increased cooperation among electric utilities, a single securities commission, automatic registration of companies in all three provinces, a joint bulk purchasing agreement, transportation regulations and infrastructure, the enhancement of science and technology innovation and joint activities in the areas of agriculture, tourism, fisheries and the environment.

The Next Step

Through the positive and cooperative working relationship established among the three provinces, and in full consultation with New Brunswickers, we will continue working towards greater economic cooperation. This will ensure numerous advantages for New Brunswickers in terms of savings, efficiencies, reduced duplication and increased business and employment opportunities.

SECTION III - OUR QUALITY OF LIFE

"The nice thing is that when the workday is done, we can go home to a house that's affordable in a place where you can breathe the air and enjoy life."

- John Elaszuk, owner of Rivenwood Furniture, commenting on his recent decision to move his family and furniture factory to New Brunswick from Toronto.

Your Liberal government believes that one key role of government is to ensure that the benefits of economic activity are reflected in the quality of life enjoyed by all. The needs of the most vulnerable in society must receive careful attention. Our essential social and cultural services must also be maintained and developed. It will be a priority over a second term for your Liberal Government to enhance the quality of life of all the citizens of New Brunswick. The drive for prosperity must be attained without sacrificing human or environmental values.

A) HEALTH

Over the past four years, we have placed a very high priority on providing New Brunswickers with quality health care. We opened a new cardiac care unit in Saint John, started work on a radiotherapy centre for Moncton, established a Mental Health Commission and opened a child and adolescent psychiatric unit. As well, we introduced a program of "rattrapage" in the North, initiated a youth addiction program and extended our extra-mural hospital program to additional regions.

Reorienting Health Care

Our consultations with New Brunswickers indicate their desire that health care be available as close to home as possible. Following the recommendations of the McKelvey-Levesque Commission, we will reorient our health care system toward more community-based care, and greater emphasis on prevention and wellness promotion.

We will provide increased in-home support as a viable alternative to institutionalization. The re-balancing of mental health services is achieving its objective of preventing inappropriate institutionalization. We will also continue, as resources allow, to return individuals who may have been inappropriately institutionalized to their families and communities.

We will further extend the extra-mural hospital program until it reaches every corner of the province. We will expand our successful experience with the single entry point for Seniors, piloted first in the Acadian Peninsula and Fredericton. The benefits for seniors of this coordinated needs assessment and service delivery program, have been obvious. Not only do they receive better care, but there has been a significant reduction in the length of waiting lists for nursing home care.

We believe that a key element in sharing responsibility for health care lies in recognizing the full value of services provided. A Liberal Government will therefore ensure that health professionals and citizens are aware of the actual cost of these "free" services.

A cooperative program of active living for New Brunswickers will challenge individuals to take positive steps toward a healthy life style.

Rattrapage

Since 1987, your Liberal government has made substantial progress in expanding health-care services, facilities, and equipment in northern regions. We will continue our commitment to ensuring quality health care throughout the province.

Completed Hospitals

In 1987, the Liberal Government inherited a massive regional hospital building program, which had been started, then allowed to lag badly, by the previous government. Just four short years later, this massive \$220 million program is nearing completion. Your Liberal government will continue this program to completion, ensuring that a full network of regional hospitals is accessible to New Brunswickers.

**Improved
Ambulance Service**

A high quality ambulance service is fundamental to a responsive, effective health-care system. Building on strong community support, a Liberal Government will commence the phased-in implementation of the province-wide ambulance system outlined in the new Ambulance Services Act. We will move to introduce a province-wide air ambulance service that will ensure the rapid, effective transport of patients requiring specialized services. And we will seek the cooperation of our Maritime colleagues in creating an effective, regional emergency transportation network.

**A Partnership
Approach**

In partnership with health professionals, citizens, communities and the Premier's Advisory Council on Health Strategy, we will chart new directions for our health care system, while maintaining its quality. We are committed to a properly planned, appropriately funded health care system for New Brunswick.

B) FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

A Liberal government will continue its strong support of the family, the heart of our society. In doing so, we recognize the changing structure of families, including increased numbers of single parent families. Family violence, low incomes and children in poverty are unacceptable evidence of families under stress. Steps taken over the past four years to support the family have included such measures as a down-payment assistance program to help low-income first-time home buyers, the introduction of a school supplement, and an increased fuel supplement for families receiving income assistance. Other services have also been introduced, such as those designed to help victims of abuse.

Our collective quality of life in the next few decades will depend on how healthy our children are today, and how well we prepare them for a competitive, global economy. Your Liberal government will continue to implement measures to ensure our children grow up in a healthy, secure, stimulating environment, becoming healthy, productive and participating youth and adults. Meeting the needs of our children will be a priority of a new Liberal government.

**Focus on Victims
of Abuse**

Despite the abhorrence with which New Brunswickers view the abuse of women and children, family violence continues to take its toll on our families and communities. Our network of Transition Homes around the province now provides immediate shelter for victims. But as long as the need lasts, family violence will continue to be the focus of a range of efforts to prevent abuse and to protect and support those who are its victims.

Maintenance Support

When families break up, women and children often suffer economic hardship. Our determination to ensure that maintenance support payments are provided is now enshrined in legislation. By 1994, we will more than double the number of cases in which support payments are made.

**Redesigned Social
Assistance**

The plight of children in poverty has become an issue of national and international concern as our patterns of income and assistance shift. Through a re-designed social assistance program, a Liberal government will continue its commitment to ensuring that children and their families get the help they need.

**Meeting Housing
Needs**

Your Liberal government firmly believes that housing programs should deal with people, not only structures. Over the past four years, your Liberal government has worked to assist New Brunswickers with limited incomes to obtain adequate, suitable and affordable accommodation. An added benefit has been to promote economic development.

In the housing field, in which market forces are so closely linked to social housing needs, it is essential to gain the cooperation of the private sector to better address the housing needs of all New Brunswickers, regardless of their economic circumstances.

Leadership will come in many forms, with all sectors, public, private and voluntary, assuming a share of the responsibility for the development of appropriate responses. The challenge for us then, during a second term, will be to tap the potential leadership capabilities found throughout our communities.

We will also amend the Residential Tenancies Act to introduce the concept of tenure for tenants in mobile/mini home parks. Such an amendment would define the circumstances under which a landlord could evict mobile/mini home park tenants, thus providing tenants with security of tenure.

Enhancing Child Care

Women's participation in the labour force has grown steadily over the last decade, and with it, the need for adequate child care. Child care spaces have increased by 60% since 1987, and we will further expand and improve day care facilities and services to ensure access across the province. We will review day care legislation and regulations to ensure protection and support for children at both centre and home-based day cares.

Recognizing the essential role of foster families in caring for our most vulnerable children, we will move to redesign the foster care system in partnership with the Foster Families Association.

Stronger Intervention

Children at risk have several strikes against them. Early identification of these children will be a priority. A new Liberal government will enhance the existing network of early intervention and Headstart programs in all regions of the province.

Mental health services for children will be strengthened through the effective use of a range of community-based services, supplemented by specialized hospital services.

At School

A Liberal government will enhance specialized services for the learning disabled and ensure that gifted and creative children are challenged. We will work in partnership with students, parents and teachers to ensure the wise and caring implementation of our policy on integration.

School Milk

Good nutrition is essential to the health and learning ability of boys and girls in the early grades. Recognizing this fact, we will introduce a province-wide school milk program, in cooperation with the dairy industry and education officials. We will seek to involve volunteer and community groups in this and other province-wide nutritional programs for school children.

The basis of future development of children's services will be our policy framework, *Playing for Keeps: Improving our Children's Quality of Life*. We can do no less for our children.

Our Youth

Your Liberal government firmly re-states its commitment to the youth of New Brunswick. Young women and men have benefited from a number of initiatives undertaken in the last four years. Especially noteworthy is the \$120 million Youth Strategy. Building on this foundation, we will encourage young people to work together, in collaboration with communities, churches, service clubs and teen centres to further their training and education in order to be better prepared to gain meaningful employment.

We will also address the growing concern about homeless youth and the services required by that at-risk group.

C) SENIORS

New Brunswick's senior men and women represent a legacy of enormous historical and cultural significance. As such, they deserve our support and respect in their determination to live full and productive lives.

Your government will continue to call on the wisdom and energy of our seniors through such successful programs as the "Seniors Goodwill Ambassador" program. By exploring the needs of our senior citizens, we will seek to meet their needs as fully as possible.

Independence for Seniors

Helping seniors retain their independence, as full contributing members of their communities, will remain a priority of a new Liberal government.

We are committed to the principles and thrusts outlined in our policy framework for seniors: Enhancing Seniors' Independence - Building for the Future. We will help seniors to stay in the community of their choice for as long as possible, while ensuring that other options are available when care is required. We will reallocate resources within the health care system to enhance home and community-based services, and limit the use of institutional services to the extent and the degree that they are medically required. Finally, we will work to provide easy access to information and services.

D) WOMEN

Your Liberal government is deeply committed to ensuring the equal treatment of women and their full, equal participation in the life of our province and communities.

Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value

During its first mandate, your Liberal government introduced into legislation a program of pay equity in the civil service, which recognizes equal pay for work

of equal value. The first cheques will be issued this October. During a second mandate, your Liberal government will extend this program to the public school system.

Employment Equity

An employment equity program is now in place in the Civil Service. And over the past four years, the number of women achieving senior management positions has increased. A new Liberal government will initiate discussions with School boards, hospitals and Crown corporations, and will work to extend the program, with defined targets, to all agencies of government.

Non-traditional Jobs

In its first mandate, your government initiated a summer mentorship program to help young women gain valuable experience in non-traditional jobs in the Civil Service. In a second mandate, we will extend this program to allow more young women to participate.

Board Appointments

It will be the objective of a new Liberal Government to ensure that women receive an equitable share of all new Cabinet appointments to boards, commissions and tribunals.

**Workplace
Child Care**

With the support of parent groups and our employer partners, a program of workplace child care will be expanded. This will build on efforts begun on community college campuses and at the Moncton Hospital.

E) PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The Liberal Party of New Brunswick recognizes that many physically and mentally challenged New Brunswickers are able and want to undertake meaningful work. There are numerous examples of such success stories and our government will continue to implement measures to help make more happen. At the same time, we will not lose sight of the fact that there are those who require different kinds of support. We will continue to be responsive to their needs as well. And we will continue to improve on support programs designed to meet this objective.

More specifically, we are committed to implementing recommendations of the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons, as contained in "The Revised Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities in New Brunswick" as released in 1990. The Premier's Council continues to prioritize, evaluate and modify its resolutions. In a second term, your Liberal government will continue to pursue these stated objectives working with the departments involved. As the government continues to implement the recommendations of the Council's Action Plan, it will do so in full consultation with the representatives of stakeholder groups, so as to ensure that as priorities change and implementation occurs, it is done in concert with the objectives of the various related organizations.

F) ENVIRONMENT

A Strong Foundation

Recognizing the urgent need to protect human health on a global scale, and to enhance the quality of life for New Brunswickers, your Liberal government has undertaken unprecedented measures to conserve, protect and enhance the environment. In a second term we will continue to build on that strong foundation.

Policy and program initiatives related to the use of water and land will be implemented, and new standards related to air quality will be set.

Clean Water

The Clean Water Act, proclaimed in 1990, is considered to be one of the most progressive pieces of legislation in Canada. Your Liberal Government will continue to place the highest priority on measures designed to protect public drinking water supplies.

The designation of surface and underground sources of drinking water will continue under the Clean Water Act, and will involve extensive consultation with local residents. Under the same Act, a water-testing regulation will be introduced, providing for more rigorous testing of municipal water supplies and well

water supplies for new homes. These tests will require higher levels of quality control, more sophisticated analytical equipment, and more highly qualified personnel than ever before. To meet this challenge, we are building an ultra-modern environmental analytical laboratory which will open in the spring of 1992.

River systems have played a central role in our history. Your Liberal government will continue to give priority to the restoration, protection and enhancement of our rivers as natural ecosystems. As well, we will continue to build our network of dumping stations. Further steps will be taken to protect and monitor our waterways, and a River Classification Program will also be established. We want to ensure that New Brunswickers can enjoy, to a fuller extent, the recreational opportunities offered by our many rivers, lakes and streams.

We will continue the annual \$15 million Clean Water Program, to accelerate the construction of new, expanded or upgraded municipal water systems and sewage collection treatment facilities. We will also ensure that those few municipalities on the Saint John River system that still lack sewage treatment facilities will get them.

A program to assist New Brunswickers to upgrade their domestic water and sewage installations will be offered, to accelerate improvements to the aquatic environment. In addition, we will continue the clean up of our shorelines and waterways. Improvements to water quality in the Saint John River should permit wider recreational use in the coming years.

The final report of the Miramichi River Action Committee will lead to concerted government action, with a view to eliminating pollution sources in that river. An ongoing program to clean up the Restigouche River will be vigorously pursued.

A major study of water quality and pollution sources in Saint John Harbour will be completed. Your government will act, in cooperation with other governments, to install major new treatment facilities such as the recently expanded Lancaster treatment lagoon. A special effort will be made to restore the Little River to its former clean state, through a major initiative to eliminate the sources of industrial pollution along its banks.

Your government is also committed to cleaning up the L'Etang Estuary in partnership with the federal government and industry.

**Responsible Land
Use and Waste
Management**

The recently-announced Commission on Land Use and the Rural Environment will be asked to make recommendations on a number of topics. These will include better collective and individual sewage collection and treatment, and the effective and environmentally-sound collection and disposal of solid and liquid waste. Your Liberal government will address the Commission's recommendations, in full consultation with municipalities, property owners, industry and concerned individuals and groups.

Issues such as rural and urban fringe housing development, highway access and adjacent development, commercial and industrial development, protection of water supplies and flood plains, will also be addressed within the framework of the Commission's study. The development, use and protection of Crown Lands, parks, natural areas and shorelines will also be carefully reviewed, as will the relationship between air and water quality and land use. Planning and building codes will be reviewed as to their effect on responsible and sustainable development.

Extensive consultation will take place with those concerned, on their role in controlling and promoting responsible land use. It is anticipated that the ultimate result of this comprehensive review of the utilization of New Brunswick's land resources will provide productive new directions for the efficient and environmentally sensitive utilization of our land resources.

Combined with its recycling initiatives, and other waste reduction strategies, your Liberal government is committed to a 50% reduction in waste volumes by the year 2000. In a second term, we are further committed to the construction of 10 additional regional sanitary landfills or other state-of-the-art waste disposal units. This will result in more than 200 unsupervised dumps being phased out around the province.

Following extensive consultation with environmentalists, industry and the general public, the new Beverage Container Act will be implemented, beginning April 1, 1992. It will be one of the most innovative pieces of legislation of its kind in North America. Refundable deposits on all alcoholic beverages, soft drinks and juices, will mean a significant reduction in litter and garbage volumes, by providing a financial incentive to use refillable, as opposed to throw-away bottles.

In consultation with the private sector, your Liberal government will work towards developing innovative approaches to the recycling of automobile tires and waste oil. We will also initiate consultation on a comprehensive Hazardous Waste Management regulation. This policy will address such issues as the transportation, transshipment, storage and long-term management of hazardous wastes.

Orphan contaminated sites will also be cleaned up in the province, under a \$5 million federal-provincial agreement.

Clean Air

Your Liberal Government has already introduced a number of measures to improve air quality in New Brunswick. For example, the first scrubbers in Canada are being placed on NB Power's plants in Dalhousie and Belledune. This move will greatly assist the reduction of sulphur dioxide emissions beyond the 1994 federal target, to less than 130,000 tons. This represents a 35% decrease from 1989 levels.

In a second term, we will introduce a White Paper on a Clean Air Strategy for public consultation and introduce a Clean Air Act. We will develop regulatory measures, in compliance with federal standards and in consultation with the private sector. These will include measures related to controlling ozone-destroying CFCs and halons, decreasing emissions that cause acid rain and increasing protection from emissions that cause urban smog such as ground level ozone.

Impact Assessment

Your Liberal government will bring about changes in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulation to expand public input in the process, particularly at the initial screening stage of projects. EIA administration will be strengthened, in close consultation with neighbouring jurisdictions and the federal government. The public will be consulted extensively about proposed changes, before a final regulation is adopted.

Trust Fund

The Environmental Trust Fund established in our first term, will continue to be used for roadside beautification initiatives, forest renewal, clean-ups of rivers, lakes and streams, and various conservation and environmental education measures. In a second term, we will increase our emphasis on funding community-based projects, as well as partnership projects.

Enforcement

We have already demonstrated our determination to enforce environmental legislation through the creation of the Investigations and Enforcement Branch within the Environment Department. Branch activities have resulted in a consistent approach to prosecutions. A new Liberal government will bring forward a new

Enforcement Policy. This policy will send a stern warning to polluters and will clarify the particular circumstances in which various enforcement measures will be applied.

Sometimes, enforcement of legislation depends on the willingness of the public to report infractions such as littering, dumping on river banks, and spills on land or in water. Your Liberal government will introduce creative mechanisms to enlist the public's support in environmental enforcement.

G) CULTURE AND SPORTS

The development of New Brunswick's heritage and culture will continue to be a Liberal priority. Recently, we introduced a new Cultural Development Strategy. In a new term of office, we will focus on its implementation.

Strategy

Culture is an important tool to increase awareness of New Brunswick's identity. We will seek to create more opportunities for New Brunswickers and visitors alike to pursue cultural activities and experiences, and to develop opportunities for creative expression. The role of culture in the tourism industry will also be expanded. We will develop a new museums policy and review and update our museums legislation.

Partners with the Community

We will share responsibilities for cultural development with the various arts and cultural organizations in the province, as well as with other government bodies.

Visual and Performing Arts

We will encourage the development of native arts. New art forms, and artistic production will be encouraged. Marketing programs will be undertaken to increase attendance at cultural events and visits to historic sites. Special promotional packages will be developed to attract tourists. We will establish new awards programs and offer assistance with professional development and training. We will also make a concerted effort to encourage private investment in New Brunswick's cultural industries.

Sports Development

We are very fortunate to have an active network of volunteer sporting organizations in New Brunswick, and we will continue to support these groups, as well as our athletes who represent New Brunswick in national and international competitions. Sporting events also provide economic development opportunities and we will work to maximize the tourism opportunities that result from competitions being held in New Brunswick.

We will also initiate discussions with the stakeholders to help establish a provincial Sport and Recreation Policy, which would define the roles of the various partners and provide for greater coordination provincially and nationally.

SECTION IV - STRENGTHENING OUR INSTITUTIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

"The government [of New Brunswick], consistent with its mandate, has effectively restrained expenditure growth since taking office in late 1987, and has significantly reduced overall net budgetary deficits with only modest tax increases."

(Standard and Poor)

The key role of government is to establish the basic conditions within which individuals and society can best realize their true potential.

Governmental activity must be targeted to meet specific needs. It must be limited to those areas of endeavour that governments do best. It must be proportional to the available human and financial resources. Government must also meet the highest standards of effectiveness and efficiency when delivering programs and services to those whom it serves. The Liberal Party realizes that this is best achieved when government consults and works closely with individuals, community groups, interest groups, businesses and other organizations to establish and achieve common goals.

Your Liberal government will continue to establish partnerships and other linkages, and consult widely and extensively with New Brunswickers to ensure that the Government's programs and policies meet the needs of New Brunswickers.

A) FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

In the past four years, the Liberal government has significantly slowed the rate of growth in the provincial debt. From 1983 to 1987, for example, the average annual increase in the net debt was \$295 million. From 1987 to 1991, that has been reduced to \$112 million. At the same time, increased funding has been provided for both health care and education. As a result, New Brunswick is now extremely well-positioned to develop and implement various new social programs for the benefit of New Brunswickers in need.

Highest Rating Ever

Earlier this summer, Standard and Poor, the United States bond rating service, announced that New Brunswick's bond rating would be increased to AA-, putting us in the same league as Ontario, Québec, Alberta and British Columbia. Standard and Poor cited the fiscally responsible behavior of the Liberal government as a principal reason for this change.

"The province's improved financial position has benefited from the comparatively strong growth of its primary and manufacturing sectors, which have experienced a milder recession than much of Canada during the past year. The favorable economic performance reflects large private investment in resource-based manufacturing during the late 1980's which helped to broaden New Brunswick's still modest economic base. The government, consistent with its mandate, has effectively restrained expenditure growth since taking office in late 1987, and has significantly reduced overall net budgetary deficits with only modest tax increases."

(Standard and Poor, July 23, 1991)

This upgrade will significantly reduce the cost of borrowing for New Brunswickers, which can be translated into enhanced government services. This credit rating increase also confirms why New Brunswick is viewed as a stable financial environment in which to do business. Already several new companies have set up part, or all, of their operations in New Brunswick, creating several hundred jobs for our citizens. We are confident that this trend of the past few years will continue. A new Liberal government will continue its responsible management of the public finances of the province.

Fairness in Taxation

A fair, effective tax system is an essential part of responsible and effective government. Through prudent financial management, we have successfully avoided significantly increasing the tax burden on New Brunswickers. In fact, since 1987, tax increases in New Brunswick have been lower than the national average. We are committed to exercising continued control over the tax burden on New Brunswickers.

Early in a second term, your Liberal government will release a discussion document directed at ensuring fairness within the provincial income tax system and seeking the public's input on this important question. Since most features of the income tax system are federally controlled, the federal government will be pressed to change aspects of the tax system that lie beyond provincial control. The issue of a minimum tax for individuals and corporations will also be considered and implemented as appropriate. We also pledge to review the property tax system.

**Budget
Consultation**

A new Liberal government will be committed to balancing the ordinary account budget over the term of a second mandate. In order to obtain valuable input from New Brunswickers on how this can be achieved, a province-wide public consultation process will be carried out with all stakeholders, including public sector representatives, prior to the preparation of upcoming provincial budgets.

**Prudent and
Effective
Management**

Through pre-budget public consultation sessions, New Brunswickers strongly recommended that Government costs be reduced. This can be achieved through increased efficiency in the delivery of government services. We will honour the commitment made in the 1991-92 budget to reduce the size of the provincial Cabinet, and to continue the streamlining of government services. In addition, we will endeavour to achieve more effective and efficient management of public funds and programs through multi-year budgeting. Since 1987, we have allocated \$20 million per year for implementing new programs outlined in our agenda. We are confident that our present agenda can be implemented within the same framework.

B) RENEWED FEDERALISM

The Liberal Party is very concerned about the possible consequences that drastic changes in the composition of Canada could have on the future prosperity of our province. In order to make a positive contribution to this debate, the Liberal government has established the New Brunswick Commission on Canadian Federalism which is consulting extensively with New Brunswickers. Your Liberal government will hold full public hearings, so that New Brunswickers may make a significant contribution to this important national issue. The Liberal Party of New Brunswick believes that the powers and the taxation responsibilities of the federal government must remain such that they can be used to deal with regional disparities.

C) LINGUISTIC EQUALITY

The Liberal Party of New Brunswick remains committed to the entrenchment of the principle of equality for our two linguistic communities. As a government, we will continue to implement our language policy so we may continue to provide New Brunswickers with government services of comparable quality throughout the province, in the official language of choice.

As well, we will continue to encourage exchanges between francophone and anglophone municipalities. We will continue our very successful programs of school exchanges between young people in the two linguistic communities. And we will continue, through our "Dialogue New Brunswick" initiative, to foster greater harmony and understanding throughout the province.

D) ABORIGINAL PARTICIPATION

The Liberal government is committed to full aboriginal participation in the economic, social and political life of New Brunswick.

We recognize the existence of aboriginal treaty rights in New Brunswick and we will meet with representatives of aboriginal peoples, to discuss the exercise of such rights.

Your Liberal government will also support the right of aboriginal people to self-government and the entrenchment of this right in Canada's constitution. Further, we will continue to consult with New Brunswick's aboriginal leadership with a view to supporting the implementation of self-government.

As well, the Liberal government has referred to the Electoral Boundaries Commission the question of aboriginal representation in the Legislature, and will receive and act upon its recommendations.

E) INVOLVING NEW BRUNSWICKERS IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS

Increased Public Participation

Over the past four years, more people and groups have made public presentations and appearances before committees of the legislature than occurred in the previous 20 years combined.

Your Liberal cabinet and caucus have held numerous meetings in various parts of the province in order to meet as many New Brunswickers as possible. We have listened to their concerns and have heard the views of New Brunswickers on all major issues, including: sustainable development, forestry, human rights, the constitution, energy, highway improvements, reuse and recycling of beverage containers, ambulance services, integration, housing, and for the first time, the provincial budget. Their positive input has allowed us to improve and expand significantly on previously proposed positions.

Continued Public Consultation

Your Liberal government will continue to make it easier for New Brunswickers to present their views to government and the Legislative Assembly. Public meetings and various other means of public consultation will be continued, to ensure that the public has ample opportunity to comment on key issues. The public hearing process will be expanded, and members of committees will travel throughout the province, north and south, to hear presentations by interested individuals and groups.

A responsive government listens to the people. In consultation with concerned individuals, political parties and interested groups, your Liberal government will undertake a study to identify ways of enhancing the role of the elected members of the Legislature, both in government and opposition. The study will consider how elected members might have more autonomy to speak their mind, vote according to their conscience, and reflect more freely the views of their constituents in legislative and governmental processes.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE FUTURE

Early in its first mandate, your Liberal government opened up an unprecedented number of opportunities for the men and women of New Brunswick to speak their minds. New Brunswickers responded with enthusiasm. They made their views known with commitment, and with a genuine desire to help improve the quality of life for all the people of this province.

This was the start of a new partnership. Over the past four years, we have listened carefully to what our partners have had to say. We have been responsive to your concerns. And we have taken action to meet your needs.

As we seek a second mandate to govern this province, it is our pledge that New Brunswickers everywhere, in our cities, towns and villages, in our rural communities, from north and south, east and west, will continue to have significant input to the workings of our open and responsive Liberal government.

As this platform has indicated, we will continue our energetic employment creation techniques, seeking job opportunities for all New Brunswickers. Through our commitment to excellence in education and life-long learning, we will work to ensure that New Brunswickers are well prepared for the jobs of the future. We will continue to foster pride and self-confidence in our citizens. At the same time, we will continue to expand and enhance our social programs to meet the needs of the most vulnerable among us. And we will implement these plans and initiatives in full consultation and partnership with New Brunswickers.