

## Prairie Manifesto Project

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Province:  Alberta  Saskatchewan  Manitoba

Party: CON Election Year: 1938

AA = Alberta Alliance  
CON = Conservative Party  
LP = Liberal-Progressive Party  
PC = Progressive Conservative Party  
SKP = Saskatchewan Party  
UFM = United Farmers of Manitoba

CCF = Cooperative Commonwealth Federation  
LIB = Liberal Party  
NDP = New Democratic Party  
SC = Social Credit  
UFA = United Farmers of Alberta  
WCC = Western Canadian Concept

### Type of Document:

- Platform  Constitution  
 Speech  Brochure / Leaflet PP  
 Newspaper  Advertisement  
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AB = Alberta  
SK = Saskatchewan  
MB = Manitoba

UofA = University of Alberta  
UofC = University of Calgary  
UofR = University of Regina  
UofS = University of Saskatchewan  
UofM = University of Manitoba  
BU = Brandon University

PARC = Provincial Archives  
LEG = Legislative Library  
SPC = Special Collections  
ULIB = University Library

# PLATFORM

of  
*The Saskatchewan*  
**Conservative Party**



*From Hill, Hillman*

**J. G. DIEFENBAKER, M.A., LL.B.**  
Leader of the Conservative Party in Saskatchewan



Platform as confirmed by the Council of the Saskatchewan  
Conservative Party at a meeting held in the City of Regina  
on October 25 and 26, 1937.

### DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLE

The Conservative Party pledges itself to maintain the rights of freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion, and freedom of the press, reaffirms its implicit belief in democracy and democratic institutions, and its absolute opposition to the principles of both Fascism and Communism.

The Conservative Party believes that the time is opportune for the amendment and revision of the British North America Act, so that it may be made applicable to present-day needs and requirements; but the Conservative Party objects to the recommendation for such revision being made by a Royal Commission lacking representation of the various elements composing the social, economic and political life of Canada.

### ELECTORAL REFORM

The Provincial Conservative Party views with regret the failure of the present Liberal Government in office in this Province to implement by legislation the plank in its platform to provide for the use of the single transferable ballot in provincial elections, and thus permitting by such failure the election of a Government by a minority of the electors; and thereby preventing proper representation in the Legislature of other minority groups. Therefore the Conservative Party when elected pledges itself forthwith to enact legislation to provide for a system of voting in all further provincial elections commonly known as the single transferable ballot.

### FINANCE

The Conservative Party, recognizing above all else that the people of Saskatchewan demand of their Government the most rigid economy in governmental administration, pledges itself when elected to office to immediately put into effect a policy of most rigid economy in every Department of the Government.

- (a) By making substantial reductions in the salaries of Cabinet Ministers.
- (b) By reducing the number of the members of the Cabinet;
- (c) By reducing the number of the members of the Legislature;
- (d) By making substantial reductions in the salaries of the higher paid civil servants;
- (e) By co-ordinating to a greater degree the various departments of the Government;
- (f) By co-ordinating to a greater degree the services rendered in Saskatchewan by both the Federal and Provincial Governments, thus preventing overlapping and duplication and making possible the giving of the same services with the elimination of many travelling inspectors;
- (g) By eliminating unnecessary boards and commissions, thereby placing public administration in the hands of bodies responsible to the people;

(h) Whereas it is provided in the Judges Act that no Judge shall receive remuneration in addition to his judicial salary for performing any services on behalf of the Federal Government or any Provincial Government, other than travelling expenses and a fair living allowance, the Conservative party will discontinue the practice indulged in by the present Liberal Government of paying excessive living allowances and honoraria contrary to the intent and purpose of said Act;

(i) By ceasing the present practice of the Liberal Government of granting large sums as honoraria, such grants being based upon political considerations;

(j) By securing the co-operation of the Federal Government in having both Federal and Provincial income taxes collected by one agency, said agency to distribute said taxes in their proper proportion to the said Government.

(k) By preventing waste in all departments;

(l) By discontinuing altogether the practice indulged in by the present Liberal Government of wanton expenditure of public monies for partizan and patronage purposes, resulting in the degradation of the public service, at a time when so many people in this Province are not able to provide food and shelter for themselves and their families;

(m) By reducing the number of inspectors now over-running the Province, and by having the necessary inspectors serve a number of departments instead of serving one department only, as is the present practice.

The Conservative Party pledges itself when elected to office to refund the provincial public debt at lower interest rates, and by necessary legislation to make it possible for municipalities and school boards in Saskatchewan to refund their bonded debt at lower interest rates. The Conservative Party recognizes that high taxation strangles private initiative and enterprise and stifles agricultural and industrial expansion. It therefore places itself on record that its aim when elected to office will be to reduce and lessen taxation, having due regard to the ability of the people to pay, the necessity for sufficient revenues to pay for necessary services, and by taxing luxuries and exempting, as far as possible, necessities.

### PASSENGER AUTOMOBILE LICENSES

The Conservative Party pledges itself when elected to office to reduce automobile licenses on passenger cars to a flat rate.

### ~~ABOLITION OF EDUCATIONAL TAX~~

The Conservative Party when elected to office pledges itself to abolish the so-called educational tax.

### DEBT ADJUSTMENT

The Conservative Party censures the Liberal Government for its failure to deal adequately with the overwhelming burden of debt which oppresses the people of the Province. Recognizing that continued drought, insect ravages, hail, rust and abnormally low prices for farm products demand an equitable adjustment of existing debts, and believing

in the principle that laws dealing with debt reduction should apply to all citizens alike whether residing in the country or in cities, towns or villages; and believing that homes or homesteads in which the owner has an equity should not be taken from him under mortgage or tax proceedings, the Conservative Party pledges itself to a policy of debt adjustment legislation as follows:

1. Which shall apply to city, town, village and country residents alike;
2. Whereby debts shall be reduced so that the creditor shall share with the debtor the loss occasioned by crop failures and abnormally low prices;
3. Which shall prevent the home or homestead of any citizen residing in Saskatchewan being taken from him either by mortgage foreclosure or tax proceedings where the fair value of the house or homestead exceeds the amount of the mortgage debt and taxes, if any;
4. To amend the law with respect to the seizure and sale by vendors of farm machinery, automobiles and other personal property so that undue harshness and iniquities presently existing shall be removed.

The Conservative Party further pledges itself to urge the Federal Government to amend the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act so that its provisions shall henceforth apply to citizens residing in the cities, towns and villages as well as to those residing in the country.

#### AGRICULTURE

Recognizing that agriculture is the basic industry of the Province, the Conservative Party pledges itself to provide and maintain through scientific research designed to combat and curtail the spread of weeds and the destruction of crops by insects; to take all possible steps to lessen the costs of production, including transportation costs of farm products and farm machinery; and to aid agriculture in every way to improve the quality of its products and the standard of its livestock. Until the farmers of the Province are enabled to produce and sell their products at a fair profit and thereby receive more than the bare necessities of life for their toil, the Conservative Party realizes that there can be no progress or prosperity for Saskatchewan, and consequently every effort will be made to achieve this end, and remedy the present deplorable situation.

The Conservative Party further pledges itself upon return to office:

1. To co-operate with the Federal Government to extend the operations and advantages of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act enacted by the Bennett Government, which provides for the undertaking of irrigation and water conservation projects.
2. To encourage the voluntary development of co-operative organizations engaged in the buying and selling of commodities and in the production and marketing of agricultural products of all kinds.

The Conservative Party deplors the recent forced depletion of the herds of the Province by compulsory sale at sacrifices, and pledges itself to assist farmers to re-establish their herds. The Conservative Party condemns the Provincial Liberal Government for failing to even protest

the betrayal and mutilation of the Wheat Board by the King Government; and reiterates its stand in favor of the active operation of a Canadian Wheat Board to afford the farmer an alternative market for his grain; and further that the operations of such Board should be extended to include the handling of coarse grains.

The Provincial Council of the Conservative Party is at present engaged in the study of the question of the feasibility of the introduction of a system of crop insurance or alternatively a system of acreage indemnity, into Saskatchewan.

#### EDUCATION

The Conservative Party deplors and condemns the present Liberal administration in not having implemented the promises made in 1934 by the Liberal Party regarding education and solemnly pledges itself, when in office, to give immediate attention to educational reform with special consideration to:

(a) A fair, adequate and proper minimum salary schedule for all teachers in our primary and secondary schools, the Government guaranteeing such minimum salary.

(b) Payment of all arrears of teachers' salaries within one year.

(c) Retention and extension of the correspondence school and radio instructions, making the latter applicable to elementary and secondary schools, through a carefully planned programme.

(d) Lower prices for all school books.

(e) Securing from the Federal Government as much as is necessary of the principal of the School Land Trust Fund, amounting to over \$18,000,000, for which the Province now holds Dominion of Canada debentures, in order to make available the means of providing financial assistance immediately necessary to enable school boards to erect necessary new buildings, to repair existing buildings, to replace worn-out equipment, to pay arrears of teachers' salaries, and for other purposes for which finances have not been provided by the present Liberal administration.

(f) A revision of the course of study of elementary and secondary schools with a view to making them more applicable to an Agricultural Province and emphasizing the virtues and value of our democratic system of government, with its freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom in the matter of religion.

(g) Provincial Scholarships and revolving loans for bright pupils who would otherwise have no opportunity to continue their education in higher seats of learning.

(h) Amendment of the Teachers' Superannuation Act.

(i) To rid it of its present iniquities, having special regard for those who, through no fault of their own, were obliged to break the continuity of their service to the profession.

(ii) To place the superannuation plan on a sound actuarial basis.

### SOCIAL SERVICES

1. The Conservative Party approves of reducing the age qualification for old age pensions from 70 years to 65 years.
2. The Conservative party pledges itself when elected to increase mothers' allowances and to raise the age of dependent children from 16 to 18 years.
3. The Conservative Party pledges itself to increase grants to expectant mothers.
4. The Conservative Party approves of the need for health insurance, state medicine and hospitalization, and undertakes to fully investigate the various forms thereof and to bring in legislation in accordance with the result of such investigation.
5. The Conservative Party pledges itself to:
  - (1) The extension of public health service to combat cancer, mental and other degenerative diseases;
  - (2) The establishment of child guidance clinics;
  - (3) The provision of facilities to permit of a periodical medical examination of all individuals over the age of 35 years.
6. The Conservative Party pledges itself to the adoption of a system of contributory unemployment insurance.

### LABOR

The Conservative Party recognizes the problems and difficulties facing labor and pledges itself:

1. To co-operate with organized labor in its efforts to improve the conditions of the working man;
2. To endorse the findings of the Geneva Convention;
3. To amend and strictly enforce the Minimum Wage Act to the end that all employees will receive a fair wage for their labor.

### UNEMPLOYMENT

The Conservative Party, realizing and recognizing the plight of thousands of citizens who, through no fault of their own, have been unable to secure employment for several years, pledges itself when returned to office immediately to adopt a policy and practical measures in order that a permanent solution for unemployment may be accomplished. A work and wages program will be instituted.

### RELIEF

The Conservative Party definitely endorses a policy of relief administration under a non-political commission and believes that such a commission should be Federal in scope. It believes that so long as relief is necessary owing to crop failures and unemployment the whole matter should be one of Federal responsibility.

The Conservative Party further deplors the action of the Provincial Liberal Government in abolishing the Provincial Relief Commission and adopting a policy that too easily lends itself to political influence.

### HIGHWAYS

The Conservative Party deprecates the lack of the Liberal Government of a highway policy and condemns the wasteful and extravagant expenditure of public monies under the sporadic method of highway construction followed by the Liberal Government. The Conservative Party pledges itself to institute an efficient and economical system of highway construction and maintenance designed to permit of the fullest possible use of farm teams and manual labor instead of machinery and with particular regard to construction of market roads to serve the farming population.

### TRANSPORTATION

The Provincial Conservative Party believes that the transportation problem of Saskatchewan and of Canada can best be solved by maintaining the Canadian National Railways and the Canadian Pacific Railways as two separate competing systems under separate management and control; and therefore pledges itself to do everything in its power to prevent amalgamation of these two roads.

Recognizing that the continued popularization and development of the Hudson's Bay route means an increase in the income the farmers in this Province will receive for the products they sell, the Conservative Party condemns the Federal and Provincial Liberal Governments for the lukewarm support they are giving to the development of increased traffic which is evidenced by the material decline in shipments over their route since the said Governments came into power and pledges itself to continue to use all means for the products of the Province of Saskatchewan.

### YOUTH PROBLEMS

Realizing that the future progress of our Province depends very largely upon our youth and recognizing the unhappy conditions which now surround so many thousands of our young men and women through unemployment and adverse economic conditions, the Conservative Party definitely pledges itself when in office to provide employment for our youth in the following manner:

- (a) Development of water power projects.
- (b) Development of our pulp and lumber industry.
- (c) Reforestation and afforestation.
- (d) Development of our fishing industry.
- (e) Protection of our forests.  
These to be developed in co-operation with existing industrial employers or where necessary through Government enterprise.
- (f) Adoption of a plan of apprenticeship to be carried out with the co-operation of industrial employers and tradesmen, with a view of training and absorbing a large number of our unemployed youth in trade, industry and business with Provincial Government financial and other assistance.

### **EX-SERVICE MEN**

The Conservative Party recognizes the sad plight of many ex-soldiers in the Province who are unemployed and pledges itself if elected:

(a) To take steps as are necessary to remedy conditions among the unemployed ex-service men.

(b) Reinstate all ex-service men unjustly discharged by the present Liberal Government.

The Conservative Party realizes that army service has prematurely aged many of our best citizens and in view of the fact that the War Veterans' Allowance Act provides for such men only at a given age and because there are among them many unemployable ex-service men who do not qualify for grants under the War Veterans' Allowance Act, thus being compelled to go on relief, we stand solidly behind having the Act amended so that our unemployable ex-service men will all come under it regardless of age or place of service.

The Conservative Party also pledges itself to the principle of having the Province assume the financial responsibility for the secondary education of needy children of ex-service men not already provided for.

### **COAL MINING**

Recognizing that the Saskatchewan coal industry situated in Southern Saskatchewan expanded to the greatest degree in its history as a result of the assistance and encouragement given it by the Government between the years of 1929 and 1934, the Conservative Party places itself on record that it will, when elected to office, still further assist and encourage with every resource at its command our coal industry to the end that more employment shall be given Saskatchewan people and more of our money will remain within the confines of our Province.

