

STEP
FORWARD
WITH
PECKFORD

THE
WAY
WE
WANT
TO
GROW

Progressive Conservative Party of
Newfoundland and Labrador

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THE WAY WE WANT TO GROW

THE PECKFORD GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM FOR THE 80's

THE WAY WE WANT TO GROW

"I feel that the people of this Province are ready, indeed eager for the chance to demonstrate that they can pull their own weight in this great Confederation of ours and that, together, we can build a province which we can bequeath to our children with the pride that comes of a job well done."

Brian Peckford - St. John's

May 16, 1979

Newfoundland and Labrador stand on the threshold of events that will shape our social and economic future for generations to come. The prospect of large scale developments in off-shore oil and gas, fisheries, and hydro electric power poses a challenge to both our public and private institutions such as we have never experienced in our history.

The key to meeting this challenge will be a strong provincial government determined to manage the development of our vast resources and dedicated to preserving the rights and protecting the future of our Province and all its people - a government

led by Brian Peckford offering solid new leadership for the future. This is Brian Peckford's program to achieve these goals.

Brian Peckford - C.E. John's
May 18, 1979

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A FRAMEWORK FOR GROWTH

"Our aspirations as a people are rooted in an age-old dream, the dream of a strong, equal society in this part of Canada. This is a dream that has for so long escaped us. Now it appears within our grasp."

. Strong Government

A strong provincial government is essential to the preservation of our heritage and our position as an equal partner in Confederation. While the Liberals held power in Ottawa, we had to fight to protect our rights. With Progressive Conservative Governments both in Ottawa and in our Province we can now ensure that our position as an equal partner in Confederation is both preserved and strengthened. The new federal Government offers us the opportunity to improve our effectiveness in Federal-Provincial negotiations. The Peckford Government is ready to move to make the new government in Ottawa aware of our special concerns on matters such as fisheries jurisdiction, tariff policy and off-shore mineral rights.

. Individual Enterprise

A government lead by Brian Peckford will be committed to ensuring a fair measure of economic security for all individuals in our

society. At the same time, Brian Peckford and his colleagues are sensitive to the growing concern about "too much government" which can inhibit and destroy individual initiative and enterprise. The role of a Peckford government will be to create an economic climate that offers the opportunity both for economic security and for economic growth - a climate in which the aspirations of all our people can be achieved with a minimum of government interference.

. Growth & Development

A government led by Brian Peckford will ensure that our vast untapped natural resources are developed for the benefit of all the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. We know that this may sometimes mean confrontation with powerful forces from outside the province. Brian Peckford believes that confrontation is a measure of last resort - to be avoided if possible but not to be feared. As Minister of Mines and Energy he fought for tough new regulations governing off-shore petroleum development, regulations that will control the rate of development and protect the rights of our people. He has demonstrated the strength that is required to stand up for Newfoundland and Labrador and to fight effectively to protect the economic interests of our Province.

These are the principles that form the basis for the solid new leadership that Brian Peckford and his colleagues offer now.

A STRONG AND PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

"We owe to our people, and above all to our youth, a healthy and strong economy, broadly based, built as much upon our traditional skills as upon new industries."

The Peckford government is committed to creating a climate for development that will encourage new investment, increase employment opportunities and provide the kind of strong economic base from which our social programs can be supported. But too often in the past development has meant the creation of jobs for which Newfoundlanders have not been well prepared. Brian Peckford believes that development must mean a good deal more. A program for development must also embrace the development of ourselves, our skills, our human resources, and beyond this our social and cultural potential.

A Peckford government will undertake a wide range of new initiatives to achieve this goal.

A New Economic Council

The Peckford government will establish a new, high level Economic Council with a mandate to provide independent economic advice to

government. The Council, composed of ten members, will be chosen so as to ensure broad representation of economic and geographical interests - small business as well as big business, labour as well as management, and other special interest groups will all be represented. While its members will serve on a voluntary basis, the Council will have full time economic staff. This kind of strong independent advice will be important to the government in formulating economic policy in the challenging times that lie ahead.

. A New Department of Development

The old Department of Industrial Development will be replaced by a Department of Development with a new and broader mandate. The new Department will work closely with the Department of Rural Development in implementing an all-embracing development strategy for Newfoundland and Labrador.

. No Tax Increases

The Peckford government has given a firm commitment to hold the line on provincial taxation. This policy will apply to provincial sales tax, personal income tax and corporation taxes on small business which will not be increased beyond current levels during the term of a new Peckford government.

A Five-Year Program for 40,500 New Jobs

Creating new jobs for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador will be the number one priority for a Peckford government.

Brian Peckford and his colleagues are committed to the creation of a minimum of 40,500 new jobs in the next five years.

Agriculture, fisheries, the forest industry, mining, manufacturing and construction will grow from a total of 44,020 jobs in 1978 to a total of 61,122 in 1983. Hydro-electric development, tourism and government and crown agencies will grow from 121,980 in 1978 to 145,400 bringing the total to 40,522 new jobs by 1983.

The newly announced Provincial Home Ownership Assistance Program will produce an additional 2800 new jobs in 1979.

In addition, the long-hoped for reactivation of the Come-by-Chance refinery would add another 300 jobs to this total and the early development of off-shore oil and gas would produce substantial additional employment.

. Develop Untapped Hydro-Electric Power

The Peckford government is committed to developing the full hydro-electric potential of Newfoundland. We have embarked on a major experimental program aimed at the development of many of the remaining small- and medium-sized sites in the Province.

. Re-Open the Upper Churchill Contract

A renewed effort will be made to re-open the Upper Churchill contract particularly with respect to its pricing provisions. A

Peckford government will employ all available legal avenues in pursuit of this objective.

. Develop the Lower Churchill Sites

The Lower Churchill Development Corporation will be encouraged to proceed immediately to develop either the Gull Island or the Muskrat Falls site. A Peckford government will ensure that priority is given to power users in the Province with any surplus power being sold elsewhere at fair market value, on terms that make it recallable on short notice for use in the province. All these efforts will be closely tied to the establishment of a year round port in the Lake Melville area of Labrador.

. Strictly Enforce the Off-Shore Oil & Gas Regulations

The Newfoundland and Labrador Petroleum Regulations, enacted under Brian Peckford, as Minister of Mines and Energy, will be strictly enforced. They set out the terms and conditions under which development will occur off our coast to ensure that local people get training and jobs, that local business gets the maximum opportunity to participate and that the fisheries are protected. The existing commitment to public hearings at the critical stages of development will be strictly maintained.

. Incentives for Local Business

An incentive program involving low interest loans as well as other measures will be implemented to assist local firms that want to get into the off-shore industry and the public service will be expanded on a selective basis to provide the specialized skills that will enable us to deal with the challenge of off-shore oil and gas.

. A Fair Price for Fishermen

A Peckford government will make it very clear both to Ottawa and to all Canadians that we have a special economic interest in the fishery resources off the waters adjacent to our Province, and that we want to have a substantial say in fisheries management. The outgoing Liberal government in Ottawa never recognised the importance of our fisheries industry. Its ten-year record is a history of mismanagement, procrastination and indifference. With a new Progressive Conservative government in Ottawa we can expect both real concern and meaningful consultation. A Peckford Government will negotiate for authority to guarantee fishermen a fair price for their fish. With the co-operation of the new Federal Government, a Peckford government will move forward on the establishment of a central landing port facility and will ensure that government regulation is restricted to the minimum necessary for the preservation of the stock, that there is a strong local input into the management of certain species, that owner-operated boats are encouraged, and that our basic fisheries research and development capabilities are strengthened. In addition, the Peckford government will work for the extension of the 200-mile limit to include the continental shelf.

. Construction of Processing Plants in Labrador and
Expansion of the Lumber Industry on the Island

It will be vital to ensure a stable supply of wood to the three existing paper mills, but a Peckford government will also pursue a major expansion of the forest industry in the Lake Melville area. We must also work to expand and improve the lumber industry on the Island and to expand our forestry research capability. The Peckford government has already implemented an intensive program of reforestation.

. Self-Sufficiency in Root Crops - Improved Livestock Populations

We must aim for self-sufficiency in root crops and a significant improvement in our livestock populations. A Peckford government will pursue these objectives through the encouragement of private sector processing and marketing groups, increased assistance for the expansion of cultivated acreage, and improvements in the level of field services available to farmers such as technical and veterinarian assistance.

. A "See Newfoundland and Labrador First" Program

A new program will encourage our own people, especially those who live in our cities, to spend their vacations travelling in the Province. In addition, the tourist industry will be expanded through assistance to the private sector, improved standards for restaurants, and other travel facilities along our major highways, and a strong campaign to make the many

attractions of Newfoundland and Labrador better known throughout the whole of North America. In addition, a special program will be implemented for tourism in Labrador and particular attention will be given to controlling the fly-in hunting and fishing activities currently operating out of the Province of Quebec.

. A Full Review of Mineral Concessions and Occupational Safety Standards

The Peckford government has established an interdepartmental committee to review all existing mineral concessions in detail. The same kind of standards that are now applied to off-shore oil and gas will be applied to mineral concessions to ensure that the maximum benefit is obtained for the people of the province. The Peckford government has established a new Occupational Health and Safety Division in the Department of Manpower. Additional inspectors have been hired and new standards established which will better protect the health and safety of all those who work in mining.

. Stable Employment and Improved Job Training in Construction

Unemployment in the construction industry has been a vexing problem. Fortunately many of the new areas of resource development will utilize the skills of our construction workforce. A Peckford government will move to eliminate the chronic problem of boom and bust in the construction industry through better liaison both with industry and labour and by improving cur

capability to forecast future employment and training needs in the construction industry.

. A Working Partnership with Labour

Provincial Labour Legislation has been completely reviewed and revamped during the past three years. The Peckford government has increased the provincial minimum wage to \$2.80 per hour. The minimum wage is now under further review by a committee composed of representatives from business, labour and government and the results of this review will be announced within six months.

A FAIR AND COMPASSIONATE SOCIETY

"As we succeed in strengthening our economy, we can then embark on the many much-needed improvements in our social programs that for too long we have had to defer - improvements in educational and vocational training, in health care, in housing, in day care, and in recreational facilities. And we can make these services available equally to all the people of the Province".

Brian Peckford and his colleagues stand for the principle of equal access to public services and equal opportunity throughout the province. The Peckford government has proposed a variety of measures to achieve these objectives.

A Program of Opportunity for All

Brian Peckford believes that people should not feel forced to move into the cities of our province to obtain better government services than those available in the places where they live. A Peckford government is committed to implementing an "Opportunity for All" program with the aim of ensuring that public services are made available on an equal basis throughout the province - to people living in rural Newfoundland and Labrador as well as to those in the cities. Fair and objective standards will be

developed to measure the level of public services now provided and public expenditure will be redirected to ensure that better services are provided in those areas where the need is greatest.

. An Equal Standard of Health Services

There must be a thorough review of the potential for savings in the area of health care costs, but a Peckford government is committed to the improvement and expansion of health care facilities in those areas where needed facilities do not exist. A Peckford government would also place new emphasis on a strong preventative program involving both nutrition and physical fitness.

. A Provincial Home Ownership Assistance Program

The Peckford Government has announced a new "Provincial Home Ownership Assistance Program" aimed at helping Newfoundlanders and Labradorians buy new homes. The program will be available to individuals and to families whose combined family income does not exceed \$20,000 and will provide a grant up to a maximum of \$1500 which may be used either as part of a downpayment on a new home or may be paid over a two-year period to assist in meeting mortgage payments in the initial period of home ownership. The amount of the grant will depend on the level of family income. Families and individuals earning \$10,000 or less will be eligible for the full \$1500. And those with incomes between \$10,000 and \$20,000 will be eligible for reduced amounts. Those with incomes of \$15,000 or less will be eligible to have the

grant paid over a period of two years to assist in meeting mortgage payments in the initial period of home ownership. This new program will help to produce about 1400 new housing starts in Newfoundland and Labrador over the next year - an increase in the order of 30 per cent. In addition, this new program will create 2800 new jobs in Newfoundland and Labrador. This plan, coupled with the new federal government's plan for mortgage and property tax deductability, will give a substantial boost to the construction industry in our Province.

. A New Crown Lands Policy

The Peckford Government has announced amendments to the existing lands legislation that will improve the system of processing applications and shorten the time required. Routine applications will no longer require the approval of Cabinet and a new policy now provides the option of applying for a grant pursuant to a residential lease. Present and future fifty year residential leaseholders will now have the option of either continuing the lease at the annual rental of \$25.00 or of converting the lease to a grant. The new policy also provides the option of applying for a grant pursuant to a five-year residential or agricultural lease.

. Public Service Programs for People

A vastly improved program of day care facilities will be an important priority as we move into the 1980's. A Peckford

government will implement a vigorous program to ensure that our province is not left behind in the provision of this important social service. New licensing standards have been implemented, start-up and operating funds will be made available, and staff training programs will be provided so that day care facilities may be established where they are needed in our Province.

Under a Peckford government the provincial highways program will ensure that secondary roads in sparsely-populated areas of the province will get top priority particularly where they are linked to primary processing facilities.

Our provincial recreational facilities will be equipped so that they are able to serve the disabled and the physically handicapped.

. Education

Our school curriculum is in need of review and improvement. Brian Peckford believes that in addition to providing the skills that will equip young people for employment in our growing resource industries, our educational programs must increasingly help to build an awareness of the value of our culture, our traditions and our heritage. A Peckford government will also place new emphasis on the special problems of students with learning disabilities. The program of capital assistance for school construction will be reviewed in detail.

. Women's Rights & Family Law Reform

Brian Peckford and his colleagues are committed to the achievement of equal rights for women in law, in society and in the workplace. The Peckford government has already initiated a program of positive action in relation to employment in Administrative Boards, Crown Corporations, and the public service. The Peckford Government has also proposed new legislation for family law reform that deals specifically with the law relating to matrimonial property.

A BETTER WAY OF LIFE

"Sound economic management and progressive social policy are the traditional preserves of government and some might be content to stop there and to call it quits. Yet there is another dimension beyond this, harder to put a price on, more difficult to quantify but so central to our sense of self and to our happiness that for me it is impossible to ignore -- our culture, our heritage, and the beauty of our natural environment".

. A Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council

We are growing increasingly aware of the need to preserve our rich heritage, to keep it alive and thriving. A Peckford government will make this a major commitment. A Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council will be established to be funded by private contributions as well as by government. The mandate of the Arts Council will be to provide advice on arts policy to the government and also to take a direct role in encouraging the arts throughout the province including such areas as traditional music, dance, and folk arts as well as painting,

writing, drama and the like. The Peckford government is committed to a major expansion in the funding for both the Newfoundland Museum and the Newfoundland Archives as well as the smaller local museums around the Province.

. A Balanced Policy for Environmental Protection

The beauty of our natural environment is one of our most precious assets as a Province. A Peckford government will ensure that the quality of our natural environment is preserved and protected, however Brian Peckford believes that environmental protection and economic development can go hand in hand. Sound environmental policy need not stifle economic development. The Peckford government has introduced a new Environmental Assessment Act that will consolidate provincial environmental legislation, streamline the regulatory process and eliminate needless red tape.

A number of other areas will receive the immediate attention of a Peckford government. Working with the new Federal government in Ottawa, we will endeavour to more clearly define the separate roles of the province and the Federal government in environmental protection and will ensure that Federal and Provincial agencies co-operate in the co-ordination of their activities.

There will be more consultation with local interest groups like the Labrador Inuit Association, on environmental concerns in each area of the province. We will ensure that

wildlife populations are allowed to increase to an extent consistent with sound wildlife management. There will be more consultation on the local level in relation to the setting of closed seasons and bag limits.

A NEW APPROACH TO GOVERNMENT

"I think the time has come for government to look more closely at itself, to put its own house in order, to demand more of its elected members, more of its civil service and in some instances, perhaps less of its citizens".

The achievement of our goals as a Province in the 1980's will require a fresh new approach to government. We are going to need the kind of strong, competent, energetic leadership that is offered now by Brian Peckford. There are a number of areas where this kind of leadership will be vital to our future.

. The Right to Equal Partnership in Federal-Provincial Relations

One of our most important priorities will be to participate more effectively in the process of Federal-Provincial negotiation and constitutional reform. A Peckford government will not approach the constitutional bargaining table as a supplicant. We will bargain hard for the powers necessary to allow us to move forward as an equal partner in Confederation - powers in relation to fisheries and off-shore oil that were consistently denied to us by the Liberals in Ottawa.

The new Federal Government will enable us to build a climate of co-operation in Canada, a climate in which the Federal Government will work in partnership with all the provinces to accomplish common goals.

. Local Government & Decentralization

Brian Peckford believes that government must be close to the people that it serves. A Peckford government is committed to strengthening municipal government throughout the province. We will also carefully review the opportunities for decentralization in relation to any new provincial agencies or public institutions.

. Provincial Government & Political Reform

A Peckford Government will reform the rules of the House of Assembly and provide for an effective Committee System to review legislation. Brian Peckford has proposed new legislation to provide a system of funding for provincial elections to make our electoral system more open and democratic. A Peckford government will ensure that administrative decisions affecting individual rights will be subject to judicial review. The efficiency and productivity of the provincial public service will continue to be improved.

. Labrador - A Special Policy .

Labrador will receive high priority from a Government led by Brian Peckford. Labrador has a number of unique problems that must be addressed through special programs.

Under the "Opportunity for All" Program residents of Coastal Labrador in particular, will benefit greatly from improved social programs and public services. The need to "catch up" in the standard of public services provided in Labrador will get high priority.

The Peckford Government is determined to see that natural resource development in Labrador will lead to natural resource processing in that part of the Province. The concept of "A Port Labrador" is the key to many such opportunities.

A Peckford government will continue to consult closely with such local organizations as the Labrador Resources Advisory Council, the Labrador Inuit Association, the Naskaupi Montagnais Association, the Labrador North Chamber of Commerce and the Combined Councils of Labrador. In addition, the services of the provincial government will be increasingly regionalized with the relocation of provincial offices to the Goose Bay area. It is also vital that a just and workable land claim settlement be achieved with the native peoples of Labrador. Brian Peckford is confident that such a settlement can be found which will also provide a positive framework for natural resource development in Labrador.

LEADERSHIP FOR THE FUTURE

Brian Peckford is uniquely qualified to provide the kind of leadership we need now. His commitment to our Province began before he graduated from Lewisporte High School when he went to work for the Department of Social Services, a job that took him into scores of towns and villages all across the Province, and gave him a first hand understanding of the problems and needs of the people in our smaller centers. After graduating from University, he spent five years teaching English at Grant Collegiate in Springdale. Then in 1972 he was elected for the first time to the House of Assembly by the people of Green Bay. In 1973 he was named Special Assistant to the Premier; in 1974 Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; in 1976 Minister of Mines and Energy and in 1978 Minister of Rural Development as well. In March of this year he was selected by his party to lead the Government as our third Premier since Confederation. Now Brian Peckford seeks your support in one of the most important elections in the history of our Province. He has pledged a government determined to manage the development of our vast resources and dedicated to preserving the rights and protecting the future of our Province and all its people. Brian Peckford has just begun to move our Province forward - he now asks for the chance to finish what he has begun.

STEP FORWARD WITH PECKFORD- ON JUNE 18 ELECT A PECKFORD GOVERNMENT