

State of the collection

The Poltext website presents the platforms of Canadian and provincial political parties that date back from 1945 to the most recent elections for most provinces. We believe it is the most comprehensive collection that we can offer considering the research we have conducted and our budgetary constraints. For the federal and provincial governments of New Brunswick, Quebec, Saskatchewan and Alberta, our data sets are almost complete.

You will find in this document a description of the research avenues that we have explored to collect these platforms. For those that are missing, we also present suggestions for further research that may eventually lead to updates to our collection depending on future collaboration opportunities.

Our research

In recent years, several student research assistants helped compile a record of the platforms of national and provincial political parties. In 2011, we made an assessment of the platforms in our possession, and we developed a systematic research strategy in order to complete the database. Here is a short summary of our work to complete our collection.

First, the Canadian National Catalogue of Library and Archives Canada, and the Amicus database, (a free catalogue that lists more than 30 million holdings of hundreds of libraries across Canada), were explored. For our search, the following keywords were used in various combinations: the name of the party, the province, the document type (platform, manifesto, program, policy), and the election year. The research was conducted in English and French. The documents found were then obtained through the Interlibrary Loan programme. Those that could not be lent by the National Archives were photocopied on site in Ottawa.

A second step was to continue our research by directly contacting the political parties. Every party was contacted and platforms that had been preserved in the archives of these parties were sent to us. In many cases however, the platforms had unfortunately not been archived by the political parties.

We subsequently focused our research on the collections of provincial legislative libraries and provincial archives. This proved very successful, especially with the help of the archivists of these institutions. We finally completed our research by exploring, with the help of librarians, library catalogues of major Canadian universities.

Finally, some previous research by academics was useful to gather many platforms for the Poltext project. This is true of the work of Mr. Jared Wesley (*Prairie Manifesto Project*). Three other books, as follows, have also been useful:

Carrigan, D. Owen. 1968. *Canadian Party Platforms 1867-1968*, Toronto, ON: The Copp Clark Publishing Company.

McCarter, W. Kenneth. 1976. *Party Platforms and Manifestos in Be Provincial Elections 1903-1975*, under the supervision of Professor A.C. Cairns, University of British Columbia, Victoria, BC : Legislative Library.

Woodward, Calvin A. 1976. *The History of New Brunswick Provincial Election Campaigns and Platforms 1866-1974*, Micromedia Limited, 89p.

We would like to thank the authors, researchers and publishers for allowing us to present some documents drawn from these compilations on our website. We also thank the political parties who have provided platforms, and all archivists and librarians of the institutions contacted for their help. Finally, we also thank François Petry for all the platforms he found in British Columbia and all the research assistants who have worked directly or indirectly in the collection of the platforms in those past years.

Further research and future updates

Considering the budget constraints, we have not been able to explore all avenues that we came across during our research. However, we have compiled some information about them here that may prove useful to update our collection in the future.

Some missing platforms have been located but cannot be borrowed. In other cases, archival holdings of interest were identified; but given the distances involved for the consultation, we have not had the opportunity to make the journey to each archives. Also, some libraries and archives hold documents that could potentially correspond to missing platforms, although this was impossible to confirm since the documents have to be consulted on site.

Here are some avenues for further research to locate the missing platforms.

For British Columbia

At the Provincial Archives of British Columbia:

> Conservative and Liberal parties of the CB (in coalition in 1945):

Call Number: Library NWp 324.711B V645C652 1945B Author: B.C. Coalition Organization

Date: 1945

Title: Don't say it doesn't matter (1 sheet)

Call Number: Library NWp 324.711B A12C652 1945H Author: Hart, John 1879-1957 Date: 1945],

Title: Manifesto of the Coalition Government, as outlined in radio address delivered by Premier John Hart on Tuesday, October 2nd, 1945 (25p.)

Call Number: Library NW 324.711B A12C652 1945C5 Author: Date: 1945]

Title: The Coalition Government's record of achievement: a review of the Coalition Government under the leadership of Premier John Hart from 1941 to 1945 (88p.)

> The Social Credit Party platform of British Columbia from 1945:

The Provincial Archives of British Columbia also holds a three-page transcript of a speech made by a candidate, Mrs. Lyle Campbell, to the Burnaby Ratepayers Association. The aim of the speech is to present the policy of the Social Credit Party. The document is part of the Peer Paynter Vernon Papers collection (MS-0706, box 4, file 10).

> At the University of British Columbia Library (Rare funds). Some files may contain interesting platforms but we have not further details than what is presented below. UBC Library does not offer hourly rate to hire an archivist, but it would be possible to hire a UBC student to look at those files for us.

P-007 BC provincial elections 1945

P-012 BC provincial elections 1963

P-014 BC provincial elections 1979 folder 1

P-015 BC provincial elections 1979 folder 2

P-016 BC provincial elections 1983

P-017 BC provincial elections 1986

P-032 BC provincial elections 1991, other parties

P-042 BC provincial elections 1996, BC Conservative Party and other parties

P-054 BC provincial elections 2005

For New Brunswick

At the New Brunswick Legislative Library:

> New Brunswick Conservative Party

1978: A platform from the people ... for the people: the program of the Progressive Conservative Party of New Brunswick for the 1978 general election / announced by Premier Richard Hatfield September 28, 1978.

1982: Remarks by Richard B. Hatfield on the presentation of the platform of the Progressive Conservative Party of New Brunswick for the October 12, 1982 election, Fredericton, N.B., September 27, 1982 with Meeting the challenge of the 80s: the platform of the Pr...)

1991: (no amicus 14573255). *Putting people first: election platform*, Progressive Conservative Party (N.B.), 1991.

> NDP Party of New Brunswick, for 1978: *A new choice for New Brunswick programme '78 / New Brunswick New Democratic Party. Publication year: 1978.*

For Nova Scotia

At the Nova Scotia Legislative Library:

> For the Conservative Party of Nova Scotia of 1984: *Election campaign 1984: speeches*, by John MacLennan Buchanan.

For Prince Edward Island

While conducting our research with political parties, libraries and archives for the platforms of Prince Edward Island, we found that very few records still existed. However, the people we contacted told us that it is customary for the platforms to be published in local newspapers during election campaigns. Examination of the microfiches of editions of *The Guardian* newspaper published during elections campaigns could prove fruitful to find the missing party programmes.

For Ontario

Queen's University in Kingston holds in its archives the official records of the Ontario NDP and the Liberal Party of Ontario. These have to be consulted on site.

Also, the Ontario Archives houses the official archives of the Conservative Party of Ontario under the 2134 F Fonds. Once again, this fonds has to be consulted on site.

For Manitoba

The Archives of Manitoba holds some records that could be interesting in order to find some missing platforms. These are the following:

The Liberal Party in Manitoba P3407 P3448;

(For the Conservative Party) Edward Gurney Vaux MG14 B27;

Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (Manitoba Branch);

New Democratic Party fonds MG14 D8 / P2550;

(For the NDP) Leonard Evans Salisbury fonds;

(For the Social Credit Party) Fonds Salome Halldorson MG14 B3.

For Alberta

To find the missing platforms for the Liberal Party of Alberta, it would be possible to consult the records of the Liberal Party, available at the Provincial Archives of Alberta. The fonds reference is:

The Alberta Liberal Party fonds: PR2366 (1965-1986).

The Provincial Archives of Alberta also offers a research service at a rate of \$ 40 an hour. It is also possible to go on site to access the fonds.