Constitutional Change Involve the people in constitutional reform through Constitutional Conventions and Referenda. Reform the Senate to make it Equal, Elected and Effective.

Representative Democracy MPs who will represent our views to Ottawa rather than Ottawa's views to us. More free votes in Parliament, referenda on major issues.

Economic Justice Subject major federal policies to "regional fairness tests" in order to ensure fair treatment for all the regions with respect to federal hiring, spending, taxation, and economic development policy.

Financial Responsibility MPs who will consistently ask the question, "Why not spend less?" Reduce hidden taxation, simplify income tax system, return to a balanced budget, attack the national debt.

Agriculture Move toward a more market-driven system; eliminate indirect taxes and tariffs on farm inputs; end freight rate discrimination.

Official Languages Recognize French in Quebec and English elsewhere as predominant languages of work and society; protection for linguistic minorities and encouragement of second-language education. Official bilingualism in the House of Commons, Supreme Court and certain federal services.

Immigration Close the door to illegal immigration. Establish a long-term immigration plan sensitive to Canada's economic needs and public opinion.

Social Responsibility Reform social programs and delivery systems to provide better support for those citizens who are truly disadvantaged and less for those who are not.

Environmental Conservation Balance economic development with environmental conservation. Encourage formation of environmental protection utilities and enterprises, as well as government regulatory agencies and programs.

We Stand For

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The Reform Party of Canada was founded in Winnipeg in 1987 to work for constructive changes in the federal political system to achieve:

Better Representation of the views of Canadians in the federal Parliament, even if these conflict with the views of the traditional Party establishments, on issues like the Meech Lake Accord, official languages, the G.S.T. and Federal Government spending.

Fairness and Balance in the treatment of the economic and constitutional interests and concerns of all Canadians, regardless of their race, language, culture, or region of residence.

Senate Reform to ensure regional interests are appropriately represented in Parliament and that Senate representatives are democratically elected rather than put into place through patronage appointments.

A New Vision of Canada sufficient to inspire and guide this Country's entry into the 21st century.
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All over the world, especially in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, reform movements have risen to challenge governments and parties that have ignored the will of the people.

While Canada is blessed with democratic freedoms, nevertheless our federal government is showing a disturbing tendency to impose constitutional, linguistic, and taxation policies which the public does not support. Many feel that Canada has moved away from a system of “representative and responsible democracy” toward a system of “executive federalism” reinforced by party discipline.

It is appropriate, therefore, to remind Canadians that we have our own “reform tradition”:

• Prior to Confederation, Upper Canada, Lower Canada, and the Maritime colonies all had Reform parties which worked to replace colonial rule with representative and responsible government.

• Western Canada has produced five reform movements since 1870 (Riel, the Autonomy movement, the Progressive Party, the Social Credit movement, and the CCF) which worked outside the traditional federal parties to secure economic, social, and constitutional reforms.

Many Canadians feel the time has come to revive the reform tradition in Canada, under the banner of the Reform Party of Canada, and to use it to prepare Canada constitutionally, economically, and socially for the 21st century.

1991 Plans

• Co-ordinating speaking tours by Preston Manning, Deborah Grey, Stan Waters and other party spokespersons to raise the profile of the Party, particularly in areas where we are not well known.

• Preparing for the expected federal by-election in the Vancouver Quadra riding.

• Conducting Political Development Workshops to develop a new type of Federal Politician and Constituency Organization for the 21st century.

• Publishing and distributing our monthly news tabloid, THE REFORMER.

• Raising sufficient funds to finance current operations and build a war chest for the next federal election.

• Holding a major Party Assembly (Saskatoon, April 4-7, 1991) to update and deepen our Party policies and elect a new Executive Council.

• Conducting a party-wide referendum on the issues of party expansion and provincial involvement.

• Launching a constituency-driven Candidate Recruitment and Election Readiness Program in preparation for the next federal election.

Rapid Growth

The REFORM PARTY began with some 3000 members. Today it has well over 50,000 members and is growing rapidly.

Reformers come from every walk of life and age group. REFORM PARTY Students’ Societies are being formed at various universities.

The Party contested 72 ridings in Western Canada and received 275,000 votes in the 1988 Federal election.

Deborah Grey, the Party’s first Member of Parliament, was elected in the Beaver River by-election in March of 1989, taking almost half the votes cast in a four-way contest.

Stan Waters was appointed to the Senate in 1990 after winning the Alberta Senate Nomination election of 1989. Senator Waters won that election with 260,000 votes, defeating the closest of his six rivals by a 2-to-1 margin.

Polls indicate that the REFORM PARTY is running well ahead of the traditional parties in many constituencies in Western Canada, with growing support in other provinces.

This strong response to a three year old Party has encouraged us to plan for the next federal election with confidence and enthusiasm.

PRESTON MANNING

At its founding convention in Winnipeg, the Reform Party elected a forceful and articulate spokesman, Preston Manning, as Party Leader.

Mr. Manning has been president and chief consultant for a management consulting firm in Edmonton for 20 years. He comes from a family with a long record of political service. As an informed student of history, economics and politics, Mr. Manning provides intelligent, clear-thinking leadership to the Reform movement.
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