

# Prairie Manifesto Project

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Province:  Alberta  Saskatchewan  Manitoba

Party: PA Election Year: 1963

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

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

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AB = Alberta  
SK = Saskatchewan  
MB = Manitoba

UofA = University of Alberta  
UofC = University of Calgary  
UofR = University of Regina  
UoGS = University of Saskatchewan  
UoGM = University of Manitoba  
BU = Brandon University

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

*Peter J. Burphol*

THE POLICY AND PLATFORM OF THE PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY  
IN ALBERTA - 1963

INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVE

- 1. Return autonomous local self government to the municipalities.
- 2. Reverse the trend to centralization of provincial powers in Edmonton.
- 3. Recognize the human rights and dignity of the individual and preserve his right to initiative in a free enterprise society.
- 4. Establish an Alberta Bill of Rights

THE LEGISLATURE

- 1. Establish a provincial Hansard to provide a verbatim report of the proceedings of the Provincial Legislature.
- 2. Reduce the expense of government by reversing the trend to centralization of power in Edmonton.
- 3. Fight against one man government, one-party government, arrogance in government and recognize the right of an opposition to examine and criticize.
- 4. Bring forward proposed legislation well in advance of Legislative sessions so that interested and affected persons and groups may review and make suggestions for improvement and change.
- 5. Re-activate the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature so that a thorough investigation and review of all government spending may be made in the public view and in the public interest.
- 6. Overhaul the administrative efficiency of specialized departments, such as the Welfare Department, with a view to providing professionally skilled administrators.

FINANCE

- 1. Make a complete review of provincial and municipal sources of taxation with a view to lightening the burden of taxation on the home owner.
- 2. Establish a new and equitable sharing of the tax burden between the province and the municipalities to the end that the fiction of a debt free province is exposed.
- 3. Reduce the municipalities, by whatever means necessary and practical, of their ever increasing burden of debt.
- 4. Effect economies in government spending wherever possible.
- 5. Resist any attempt to implement a provincial sales tax.

EDUCATION

- 1. Institute a review to determine the level of government spending necessary to support the present and future needs of education with a view to recognizing the importance of education to our cultural and economic life.
- 6 ✓ 2. Adjust the burden of the cost of education between the municipalities and the province to avoid the inequities of the present Foundation Plan which places the main financial burden on the home-owner and does not provide for the province to pay its fair share of the increasing costs of education.
- 6 ✓ 3. Amend the County Act to extend the democratic right to rural areas to vote in advance before altering the structure of local self government and avoid depriving the local school boards of the rights of autonomous action.
- 7 4. Amend the Accreditation Act to make it clear what financial support will be given to accredited districts.
- 7 5. Provide immediately for payment to local school boards of the cost of teacher trainees.

AGRICULTURE

- 7 1. Proceed at once with a provincial crop insurance scheme on a test area basis similar to that which has worked successfully in Manitoba.
- 7 2. Immediately establish a Veterinary College in Alberta whether Federal Government assistance and co-operation is forthcoming or not.
- 7 3. Investigate the possibility of having the Federal Government extend the Unemployment Insurance Act to cover selected agricultural workers such as in the sugar beet industry.
- 5 ✓ 4. Co-operate with the Federal government to take full advantage of the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act.
- 6 ✓ 5. Provide for representation of working farmers on all boards, committees, etc., which deal with matters affecting the farming industry.
- 7 6. Introduce a new act to deal with water pollution and provide for the effective administration and enforcement of the provisions of such an act.

NATURAL RESOURCES

- 1. Immediately appoint a Royal Commission to:
  - (a) recommend policies to stimulate new exploration and development of oil and gas.
  - (b) recommend all necessary steps for the ~~proper~~ <sup>increased</sup> marketing of Alberta crude oil in Canadian markets
  - (c) recommend a policy for the proper and orderly development of the Athabasca Tar Sands.

- Government*
- (d) review the discretionary power presently vested in the Minister of Mines and Minerals
  - (e) review present policies on leasing and reservation regulations.
  - (f) review and recommend changes in the right of Entry Arbitration Act and the Alberta Conservation Board Act and regulations.

- 2. Examine individual property rights and the status of land owners with regard to mineral and power development to see that these rights are properly safeguarded and to see that no discretionary and arbitrary power of decision is exercised without a full and proper right of appeal.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

- 1. Establish a committee of the Legislature to recommend standards and policy in relation to the proper health care of the residents of the province with a view to:
  - (a) Overcoming the hospital bed shortage
  - (b) encouraging more young women to enter the nursing profession.
- 2. Establish a Portable Pensions Act in co-operation with the Federal Government and other provincial governments along the lines of the Ontario Act but with such modifications as may be necessary in the light of further study and local conditions in this province.
- 3. Encourage individual initiative by private charitable and service organizations in providing care for those in need of help.
- 4. Recognize that although social welfare payments are a proper function of government they are paid out of tax dollars collected from all the citizens of the province.
- 5. Ensure individual health care is available to those who are unable to provide it from their own resources while at the same time ensuring the continuation of private health insurance programs all in co-operation and consultation with the medical profession.

LABOUR

- 1. Establish a Department of Labour with a Minister of Labour.
- 2. Establish a standing committee of the Legislature on industry and labour relations.
- 3. Introduce a Fair Employment Act to ensure that there shall be no discrimination on the basis of race, creed, colour or religion in employment either by the provincial civil service or private employers.

PROVINCIAL BETTERMENT

1. Consult with the Indian community of Alberta with a view to providing a vote in provincial matters for the Indians of Alberta.
2. Introduce a Fair Accommodations Act to prevent discrimination in places providing meals and accommodation to the public.
3. Establish a system of legally trained circuit Magistrates to provide a proper standard of justice for the rural areas of the province.
4. Expand the functions of the Alberta Government Tourist Office and emphasize the economic importance of the tourist industry to Alberta by promoting new tourist sites particularly in the northern part of the province.
5. Investigate the possibility of establishing a provincial "ombudsman" to ensure individual justice for citizens in their dealings with the provincial government.