

AB-NDP-74

## Prairie Manifesto Project

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Province: ☒ Alberta ☐ Saskatchewan ☐ Manitoba

Party: NDP Election Year: 1974

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

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THE ALBERTA NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY:

THE PARTY AND ITS PROGRAMME

COMPILATION BY JOHN A. BAKER

OCTOBER, 1974

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

TO JOHN BAKER WHO SPENT MANY, MANY HOURS OVER  
SEVERAL MONTHS SINGLE-HANDEDLY COMPILING THIS  
POLICY, AND TO EDE MARTIN WHO ALSO SPENT MANY  
HOURS TYPING THE DRAFT COPY OUR SINCEREST  
THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (ALBERTA)  
10361 - 97 STREET  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA  
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DECEMBER, 1974

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OF  
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## I

The Alberta New Democratic Party;  
Its Basic Principles and Aims

1. Democratic Socialism and the Alberta New Democratic Party

As its name indicates, the New Democratic Party is strongly dedicated to democracy. The Party believes that the degree of political democracy we enjoy in Canada now\* is one of the most valuable parts of our heritage. It is no accident that New Democrats have gained the reputation of being outstanding parliamentarians and defenders of the civil rights of minorities. But, as the name also indicates, New Democrats believe that the level of democracy we have attained so far is inadequate; we need to work towards a new democracy. It is by virtue of its belief in a new democracy that the New Democratic Party is socialist as well as democratic.

Unlike Progressive Conservatives, Liberals, and Social Creditors, New Democrats believe that the ideal of democracy has been only partly attained. The reason for this is that vast areas of social life - especially economic life - remain far beyond the control of ordinary citizens. Decisions about what shall be produced, when, and where, and decisions about where we shall make our living, and under what conditions, are now left largely in the hands of private businessmen, among whom the most important are the managers of large corporations. Not

suprisingly, the managers of private enterprises are commonly more interested in private profit than in the public interest or social justice. The New Democratic Party believes that this situation can be remedied only by socialist measures, that is, by extending the sphere of democracy to include the economy.

The New Democratic Party believes that the achievement of this new democracy requires two complimentary approaches. First, representatives must be elected who are committed to pass legislation ensuring that major economic decisions conform to popular wishes. Full democracy is a myth as long as the peoples' elected representatives allow major policy decisions to be imposed by a far larger voice in the organizations - especially the economic organizations - which play such a large part in their lives. Our society will be genuinely democratic when all people participate fully in determining the policies of the institutions which directly affect their lives. In short, as socialists, New Democrats work toward the strengthening and extension of both direct and indirect (representative) democracy. New Democrats believe that socialism and democracy go hand-in-hand.

As the movement of democratic socialism, the New

Democratic Party differs from both the old-line parties and the authoritarian parties of both Left and Right. In particular, the NDP firmly rejects the position of those who would impose a bogus "socialism" by anti-democratic means. Believing that socialism is nothing more or less than economic democracy, the New Democratic Party condemns dictatorship in all its forms.

- (Items 9, pp. 1-2)

(Item 10 is identical in wording at this point)

## 2. The foundation of the party and its basic organization

2.1 Foundation: The New Democratic Party was founded federally in 1961, and the Alberta branch of\* the party - the Alberta New Democratic Party - was founded\* in 1962.

(Item 9, p.1)

2.2 Organization: In keeping with its democratic convictions, and in contrast with every other Canadian political party, the New Democratic Party is itself a democratic organization.

The basic unit of organization of the Alberta N.D.P. is the Constituency Organization. The programme of the Party is decided by the Annual Provincial Convention, delegates to which are selected by the Constituency Associations. Between Provincial Conventions final authority in the Alberta N.D.P. is vested in the Provincial Council which consists of the Executive of the Party plus elected representatives from each constituency. The democratic character of the Party is shown particularly clearly by the fact that the position of the Provincial Leader, along with all other major offices of the Party, can be contested at any Provincial Convention. (Item 10, p.2)

2.3 Funding of the Party: Again in keeping with its democratic convictions, and in contrast with every other Canadian political party; the New Democratic Party relies for its financing on numerous small donations rather than on large contributions from private corporations. Again, in contrast to its rivals, the N.D.P. has repeatedly called for legislation requiring publication of sources\* of campaign funds. No doubt wishing to conceal their reliance on the generosity of big business, the other parties have so far refused to accede to these demands. But the struggle will continue, for the N.D.P. believes that secrecy is the enemy of democracy. (Item 10, pp.2-3)

### 3. Fundamental Principles and Objectives of the Alberta New Democratic Party

The Alberta New Democratic Party shares and endorses the fundamental principles and objectives of the federal New Democratic Party. Specifically, it endorses the following statements by the Federal Party: (JAB)

#### 3.1 The Founding Resolution of the Federal New Democratic Party

##### A New Party

Canada is a land of abundant resources - moral, cultural and material. Yet unemployment, waste, political corruption and commercialization of taste and values continue and have even increased. The reason is not that Canadians do not want a better society, but because economic development is still unplanned, unstable and operated chiefly for the benefit of the few owners of great corporations.

Moreover, we face new challenges everywhere. Our relations with North and South America, with the Commonwealth and Europe, with new states in Asia and Africa, as well as our defence policies, have to be reassessed in the light of new factors. Our contribution to world peace must be more positive and more original. The partnership between English and French-speaking Canadians must be made more meaningful and valuable to both, and

the civil rights of all Canadians must be fully protected. To meet these challenges we must infuse a new spirit of social purpose and world responsibility into our national policies. New ways are needed.

For these great tasks the New Democratic Party has been founded. It seeks to unite for democratic political action all Canadians who put human rights and human dignity above the mere pursuit of wealth, and public welfare before corporate power. Democratically organized and financed, prepared to apply new methods of social and economic planning, the New Democratic Party will translate into practical federal and provincial programmes the idealism and democratic faith that are now so frustrated. It adopts and will carry forward to new levels of achievement the best objectives of the farmer and labour, co-operative and social democratic movements for which so many progressive Canadians have striven in the past.

This is why the New Democratic Party has been founded and why it invites all Canadians to join its ranks.

- Founding Convention, Ottawa, August, 1961

### 3.2 A Dynamic Future

A New Democratic government will accept the challenge of being the architect of Canada's economic future. It will plan continuous growth, for a dynamic, expanding economy. Yet

growth by itself is not enough; it must have a social purpose.

The New Democratic government will harness this growth:

- (a) to achieve and maintain full employment of manpower and resources, natural and developed;
- (b) to allocate these resources in a just and rational manner among the various public and private uses to which they might be put;
- (c) to distribute the wealth produced by Canadians in such a way as will assure to all a decent standard of living, and allow every individual the opportunity to achieve his best.

It is here that the New Democratic Party differs fundamentally from the other parties. They have been forced by events into increasing intervention in the economy, but their tinkering has been reluctant. They still believe in the discredited 19th century superstition that a host of unrelated, unplanned private decisions will somehow "work out" in the public interest.

That this is not so is tragically clear. The Canadian people have paid dearly for lack of planning. Senseless waste, needless hardship, chronic unemployment have been its results. All this in the midst of glaring need for social projects - schools, hospitals, public works and decent housing - to enrich the lives of a people willing and able to produce them.

Old party governments suffer from yet another superstition; they continue to speak piously of "free enterprise". In its name they have weakened the economic growth of Canada and her people. The truth is that the economy is effectively in the hands of corporate giants, and true freedom of enterprise has been stifled. The New Democratic government will expand opportunities for genuine private initiative by providing stable economic growth and by curbing corporate control.

At the same time, New Democrats believe that direct public accountability and control in some areas of the economy are, by their nature, more suitable and desirable. The New Democratic government will expand public and co-operative ownership for such purposes as the operation of utilities, the development of resources, the elimination of monopoly concentrations of power, and the operation of major enterprises immediately and directly affecting the entire nation.

- Federal Convention 1961

### 3.3 Principles

The New Democratic Party is pledged to bring about in Canada a new society, more just and more humane, in which the needs of humanity will come before the drive for individual enrichment. The principles which this society will embody, and which are the principles of democratic socialism applied to our

time and situation are:

(a) That production be for use, not for profit.

Economic production will be directed to meeting the social and individual needs of people. It is the aim of the New Democratic Party to modify and control the operations of great productive organizations and, where necessary, to develop new institutions: public, joint public and private, and co-operative organizations which will ensure that economic production will be directed primarily to meeting the economic and social needs of the people and not to the profits of private enterprise. Such institutions will be part of an overall pattern of economic planning in which the principles of democratic socialism will ensure the widest possible consultation with those involved and leave ultimate control in the hands of the people's elected representatives. The powers and responsibilities of all levels of government, federal, provincial and municipal, will be invoked to carry the plan to a successful conclusion.

(b) That every individual be assured, insofar as it is in the powers of the community to do so, the means to lead a full life.

No individual will be debarred, through the lack of material means, health care, or adequate education and training, from developing his talents and potentialities and leading a

full and creative life.

(c) That all citizens enjoy full and equal rights.

All citizens and residents will be assured of equal treatment before the law and in accommodation, employment, and in the use of all public services, without discrimination as to sex, religion, race, colour or language.

The traditional democratic rights of freedom of speech, religion, assembly and association and freedom from arbitrary arrest, will be expanded to confirm the right to form associations for collective bargaining, and the rights which flow from this.

(d) That man's creative potential be liberated.

The aim of society will be to liberate and develop to the fullest the creative potentials of individuals. This will be done in part by a re-organization of work so as to eliminate as far as possible drudgery and repetition, by the extension of educational opportunities and by providing the maximum number of avenues of cultural expression. Pressures towards conformity in modern mass society must be resisted. The New Democratic Party is dedicated to the unlimited freedom of the mind of man.

(e) That society cherish and show respect for diversity.

Each of the two nations out of which Canada was created must be assured the means of full development and expression in

all regions, and all the diversified cultural groups that have honoured us by choosing Canada as their homeland will be helped and encouraged to retain and develop the great traditions which enrich their lives and the whole Canadian society.

(f) That the spirit of brotherhood be expressed between nations.

Canada's policy will be based on the search for peace and for a just world order in which the glaring contrast between wealth and poverty will have disappeared. The New Democratic Party considers that of equal importance to setting our own house in order is Canada's responsibility to the most effective contribution to world peace and stability that lies within our power. Convinced that the real and most menacing threat to that peace and stability lies in the dire poverty of the majority of the human race, the New Democratic Party will not hesitate to call on the Canadian people to make those sacrifices which may be necessary to ensure for Canada a role commensurate with our national wealth in the task of raising the living standards of those hundreds of millions who today live in poverty outside the "affluent society" created with modern industry.

The New Democratic Party will allow no obstacle of private interest to stand in the way of achieving these twin goals of a rich and rewarding life for our own people and a substantial contribution to the struggles of less fortunate peoples to attain the same rich and rewarding life for themselves.

## II

HUMAN RIGHTS

1. The Alberta New Democratic Party believes in the dignity of man and in the establishment of a society in which this dignity is enhanced and made productive, not merely in the narrow sense of physical production, but in the total human meaning of the word.

Provincial Convention, 1966

(Items 4, p. 14 and 9, p.9)

The Alberta New Democratic Party further holds that

- (a) All citizens must enjoy full and equal rights;
- (b) The aim of society must be to liberate and develop to the fullest the creative potentialities of all individuals;
- (c) Society must cherish and show respect for diversity.

(JAB, tho' see I, 3.3 above)

But the Alberta New Democratic Party believes that true political, economic and social freedom has yet to be attained. Free thought is repressed through pressure applied to employees, through limited access to the mass media, and through political pressure. In such an atmosphere it is often difficult for the average citizen to know what is true, and upon the knowledge of the truth alone can freedom be assured. (Item 9, p.9). Moreover, the Alberta New Democratic Party holds that certain

sections of society are discriminated against in a wide variety of ways. (JAB)

In view of these facts the Alberta New Democratic Party will by legislative, educational and all other means seek as far as is in its power, not only to secure the guarantees of justice and freedom mentioned below and to provide for the fullest development of man's consciousness, freedom and creativity, but also to protect and enhance the positions of all sections of society which are discriminated against. Two sections are especially discriminated against - women and native peoples. For this reason special attention in this political programme is devoted to these sections of society. (JAB)

## 2. Guarantees of Justice and Freedom for all Citizens

2.1 A New Democratic Government would enact legislation to provide the following guarantees of justice and freedom to all citizens:

(a) Legislation to ensure that all citizens and residents of whatever background be assured of equal treatment by fair employment and fair accommodations act, and recourse in law to violations of human rights.

(b) The establishment of true representation by population through a non-political commission which would keep electoral boundaries up to date.

(c) The enactment of legislation to provide for freedom of speech and for complete political freedom of the civil service and of all employees.

(d) The provision of penalties to be levied against all who practice political persecution or repression.

(e) The establishment of a commission to investigate present legislation governing Communal Land Groups.

(f) The establishment of a permanent voter's registry.

(g) The restoration to Indians of their rights as a member nation of Canada, i.e. the right of decision making and a fair share of the tax dollar.

(h) The establishment of the office of "Ombudsman", the development of the office of Public Defender, and the development of a legal aid scheme.

(i) The establishment of a Commission to investigate the present power of government tribunals, and to establish a means of appeal to the courts from decisions by such boards.

(j) The limitation of the invasion of the privacy of the citizen through (i) the elimination of the practice of wire-tapping

(ii) legislation requiring a court order for the opening of school files by anyone other than a licenced teacher and the destruction of all records except a record of marks obtained in departmental examinations upon the completion of Grade 12.

- (k) The removal of all censorship regulations.
- (l) The reorganization of correctional institutions in the Province and the hiring of a provincial director with University qualifications and training sufficient and appropriate to his field.
- (m) For the protection of the consumer, legislation would be introduced:

- (i) protecting the employee from present abusive practices in compensation awards

- (ii) providing for disclosure of interest (proclamation)

- (iii) curbing false packaging and false claim for goods offered for sale to the public

- (iv) establishing a bureau of consumer affairs.

- (v) encouraging the development of co-operatives and other means whereby the consumer may organize for his own protection.

Provincial Convention, 1966

(Items 4, pp.13-14 and 9, pp.9-10)

2,2 BE IT RESOLVED that the example of the Manitoba New Democratic government be followed and that neighborhood law offices be established in communities throughout the province.

- (a) such offices should be independent of the control of both government and the Law Society

- (b) such offices should be funded by the utilization of interest on lawyers trust accounts
- (c) these offices should be controlled by community boards
- (d) such offices should be staffed by full time salaried lawyers whose purpose should be:
  - (1) to provide a legal service to the community and its individuals
  - (2) to establish preventative law programs
  - (3) to assist in community organization
  - (4) to explore methods by which the legal system can be made more responsive to the needs of low income people

- Provincial Council, 1973.

### 3. Alberta's Native Peoples

3.1 The Alberta New Democratic Party endorses and supports the following resolutions passed by the federal New Democratic Party;

#### 3.1.1 Indian and Eskimo Affairs

The New Democratic Party, having as a basic philosophy the recognition of the dignity of the human being, a respect for

moral and cultural values, a belief in equality without regard to race, and cultural values, a belief in equality without regard to race, creed, colour, or religion, a deep desire to foster mutual trust and respect among all peoples, the will to promote advancements in the spheres of education, peace, security and freedom: knowing that the native Indian of Canada has in the past had his needs and hopes disregarded and sacrificed, fervently desiring to bring solutions to his problems, hereby declares that a New Democratic government will:

- (a) have as its ultimate objective the repeal of the Indian Act and the elimination of all government activities which place the Indian people in a separate group;
- (b) bring about an arrangement for regular and systematic reviews of Indian Affairs so that Indians may have the greatest possible degree of control and influence over their own destiny, and to ensure that the repeal of the Indian Act takes place at a speed commensurate with the needs and desires of Indian people;
- (c) introduce self-government on reserves, giving the fullest possible power and authority to Band Councils with corresponding restrictions on the present authority of the Minister of Indian Affairs Branch;
- (d) enact laws to let a province assume responsibility over Indian Affairs providing such transfer accords with the desires of the Indians;

- (e) launch an aggressive programme of educational integration;
- (f) greatly increase opportunities for adult education, vocational training and job placement for Indian people;
- (g) ensure that Canadian Indians will enjoy all benefits accorded other Canadians by any Canadian Bill of Rights;
- (h) create an Indian Court of Claims, financed by the government, for the hearing of disputes over Indian lands or trusts;
- (i) at the wish of the Indians concerned re-negotiate the various treaties;
- (j) establish and finance an Economic and Social Development Board including representatives chosen by the Indian people, and independent of the Indian Affairs Branch, to promote, among other things, economic development, job opportunities, adult education, public understanding, and to work with the various provincial governments and associations of Indian people;
- (k) convene a federal-provincial conference for the purpose of working towards the above goals as quickly as is humanly possible and to determine the distribution of cost sharing between the two levels of government;
- (l) the New Democratic Party in addition to the actions taken on behalf of the native Indians will also take steps to protect Eskimos against the invasion of their rights and to establish for them the fullest opportunities for their development on the basis of equality with other Canadians.

### 3.1.2 Indians

In recent years, Canadians have come to realize the dismal results of over a century of ineffective and insensitive Indian policy. We have been forced to realize that it is the white man who has set the limits of Indian life and that the responsibility for Indian affairs cannot be left to the federal government but that some vital responsibilities must fall to the provinces and the municipalities as well.

Indians must be given the means to choose and control their own futures, whether these be on the reserves, in total assimilation in the white community, or in other intermediate situations.

No matter how well-intentioned, federal programmes cannot help but be paternalistic in one way or another. Federal powers in this field must be made to devolve onto the provinces at least to the extent that municipal status can be granted to the reserves.

Only in this way can the principle of Indian self-administration be effectively established, decision making be decentralized to alleviate the present sense of frustration and paralysis among the Indian population, and finally, only in this way could there be a wider range of community development projects on the reserves, under the direction of Indians leaders, with the goal of making life on the reserves a rich and economically viable position.

The treaty rights of North American Indians to hunt and fish on reserves and the uninhabited Crown Land are necessary for the Indians' survival, particularly in northern communities; and

The "Migratory Birds Convention Act", an international agreement made by the Canadian government, was passed without any regard for prior Indian treaty rights; and

Indians are now legally liable to be prosecuted under the said Act for exercising their said rights under this Act and justifiably resent their rights and livelihoods being forbidden to them;

BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP endorse the present brief of the Union of Ontario Indians in this matter and request the federal government to exempt all "treaty" Indians from the Migratory Birds Convention Act, thereby allowing all "treaty" Indians to hunt and fish on reserves and uninhabited Crown Land.

Federal Convention 1967.

### 3.1.3 Indian Policy

History is a necessary and relevant element of the present debate about Indian policy in Canada. The history of the treatment of the Indian people cannot be ignored. It forms a part of the present consciousness of the Indian people; unresolved historical conflicts continue to be central issues in the present day.

A fair deal for Indians, or indeed for anyone, does not consist of forgetting the past and presuming to give everyone equal opportunities in the race from here on. The Liberal government cannot wipe out the discrimination of more than a century by washing its hands of the Indian problem. Legitimate demands for an end to the paternalism and bureaucracy of the Indian Affairs Department have been mistaken for demands that Indians be thrown into the rat race of a society which is, in many cases, foreign to them.

The decision, outlined in the recent white paper on Indian policy, to treat Indians as individuals, to let them stand or fall on the same basis as any other Canadian citizen, derives directly from the central conceptions of the Liberal government's kind of seventeenth century liberalism. At first blush, the individualistic approach looks reasonable, but it can quickly be seen that it fails to accord any importance to anything larger than the individual, i.e. community, nation, collective rights, culture, etc.

The new "freedom" for Indians is freedom to participate in the struggle for survival. Little does it matter that some other group sets the rules by which success shall be measured. Little does it matter that some are less able to compete than others. The drive for excellence has overwhelmed the need for

compassion.

The government seems completely to have ignored the analysis and recommendations of the more sympathetic Hawthorne-Tremblay report on the contemporary Canadian Indian.

In line with the principles outlined, the New Democratic Party resolves:

- (a) that the question of Indian treaties must not be ignored but must be settled fairly. The Government must be prepared to sit down on an equal basis with the people affected and come to a mutually agreeable understanding;
- (b) that in situations where there were no treaties out should have been - the British Columbia Indian question and similar cases - the government must be willing to acknowledge legitimate hereditary title to lands and negotiate mutually satisfactory settlements with the tribes involved;
- (c) that documents and studies relating to the Indian situation be made available to the Indian people through their own organizations, rather than being kept secret by the government;
- (d) that fifty percent of the members of the proposed Indian Claims Commission to deal with grievances should be composed of Native Indian people themselves;
- (e) that, unlike the recent white paper, policy declarations and actions be discussed and negotiated with the Indian people before presentation;
- (f) that when Indians are given title to their land, mechanisms be set up to ensure that they are not in any way swindled or cheated in further transactions with such land;
- (g) that in order to ensure a meaningful dialogue

with the Indians, a majority of Civil Service positions directly concerned with Indians at all levels be filled with Indians, and that they have the right to conduct their dealings with the government and government agencies in their own language.

- Federal Convention, 1969.

### 3.1.4. Native Peoples

The vast majority of the North American Indians, Eskimos, and Metis suffer chronic unemployment and inhuman living conditions; and

There is continual racial discrimination against these native peoples in many aspects of Canadian society; and

The native peoples of Canada are treated as a colonized people;

BE IT RESOLVED that an NDP government will;

(a) accept and promote as a basic principle the right of the native peoples (registered Indians, Eskimos and Metis, as the case may be) to be involved, through their organizations and at the community provincial and national level, in all aspects of decision-making which directly affect their lives;

(b) set as its goal the creation of a viable economic and cultural existence for the native peoples of this country;

(c) establish a native reparation fund which will be adequately funded, administered by and for the benefit of the native peoples;

(d) recognize aboriginal and treaty rights of North American Indians and Eskimos in a manner consistent with the resources of the 1970's;

(e) support truly native organizations and consult these organizations for further resolutions and suggestions which will enable the party to implement this policy.

- Federal Convention, 1971

### 3.1.5 Aboriginal Rights

The New Democratic Party re-affirms its recognition of the aboriginal rights of the Indian and Inuit peoples within Canada. These rights should be enshrined in the Canadian Constitution in a way which will enable them to preserve and protect their languages and cultures, and which will place a clear responsibility upon the federal government to recognize and deal with their aboriginal land title.

Recognition and dealing with the aboriginal peoples on their land title must involve the following principles:

(a) a recognition of the obligation to deal with Indian Claims where Indian people have lost or are gradually losing the use of the land; either the full use of the land must be protected or the claims based on Indian title must be dealt with to the satisfaction of the Indian people involved;

(b) in the areas where Indian people still have the use and control of their lands, no encroachment is permissible without the consent of the Indian people involved;

(c) if the treaties meet adequate standards of fairness, a recognition of treaty promises as they were understood by the

Indian people. If the treaties fail to meet adequate standards of fairness this failure must be acknowledged and fair and adequate arrangements made to the satisfaction of the Indian people involved;

(d) a recognition of the obligation to restore or, with the consent of the Indian people, to compensate for the loss of specific rights (such as hunting, fishing or trapping rights) which are either preserved in treaty areas or which exist in non-treaty areas as part of unextinguished Indian rights and which have been curtailed by government action.

- Federal Convention, 1973

### 3.2 Indian and Metis Albertans

3.2.1 The Alberta New Democratic Party recognizes that the needs of the Indian and Metis people pose special problems, and that it is the responsibility of the government to allow these citizens privileges and opportunities equal to other Albertan citizens. The New Democratic Party proposes study and action in co-operation with the Indian and Metis people, and co-ordinated with the federal government. These citizens should have the full right to maintain and develop their own culture and recognition of their treaties.

A New Democratic Party government will:

(a) establish an Alberta Department of Indian Affairs;

(b) establish a permanent Alberta Council on Indian Affairs to advise the proposed Department of Indian Affairs\*. This Council will consist of representatives from the Indian Association, its Advisory Council Sociologist and others as the Council deems necessary. The Alberta New Democratic Party government will negotiate with the federal government to effect compliance with as many as possible of the recommendations pertinent to Indian needs made to the Joint Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and House of Commons.

- Provincial Programme, 1963 and 1966.  
(Items 8 and 9)

(c) propose an extension of the provincial franchise to the Indians of the province which would not in any way endanger their existing treaty rights.

- Provincial Programme 1967  
(Items 8 and 9)

3.2.2 Because the Indian and Metis people in the province of Alberta are treated as second class citizens seeking employment, and because the Human Rights legislation in Alberta has little teeth, a New Democratic Party Government would change the Labour Act and seek ways and means whereby our native people could receive equality in employment opportunities.

#### Registered Indians

The Alberta New Democratic Party accepts the treaties

made with Alberta's aboriginal nations as the solemn agreements they were, and as such disagrees with the statement of the Government of Canada, on Indian Policy, 1969, that"...A plain reading of the words used in the treaties reveals the limited and minimal promises which were included in them". In the treaties of 1876, 1877 and 1899 certain promises were made to the Indian people; some of these are contained in the text of the treaties, some in the negotiations, and some in the memories of the Indian people. The Alberta New Democratic Party view is that all these promises are part of the treaties and must be honoured.

An Alberta New Democratic Party government will, in co-operation with Indian spokesmen, negotiate with the federal government in order that these lawful obligations to Treaty Indians will be recognized.

#### Metis and non-registered Indians

The Alberta New Democratic Party recognizes the real and valuable contributions to Alberta society made by the Metis people, and recognizes the Metis culture as one distinct from other cultures. An Alberta New Democratic government will take steps toward the legal recognition of a Metis person.

Most people of Indian ancestry adhere to a native culture whether their ancestry is patrilineal or matrilineal.

Non-registered Indians are recognized as such by the Alberta New Democratic Party.

- The Alberta New Democratic Party,  
A Primer, 1973, (Item 10)

### 3.2.3 Indians and Taxation

BE IT RESOLVED that no Indian whether registered by the Government of Canada, as such or not, is subject to taxation. And that an Alberta New Democratic Party Government will as soon as possible relieve all Indians of the burdens of taxation over which a Provincial Government exercises jurisdiction.

- Provincial Convention, 1974

### 3.2.4 Indian and Metis Housing

Native people in Alberta live in the midst of an alarming level of housing deprivation, especially considering that Alberta is a relatively affluent province in an affluent country. Overcrowding for metis housing is 7 and 1/2 times as severe as among the Alberta population. Six times as many metis live in houses which are condemned compared to Albertans generally. A full 1/3 of metis dwellings are unrepairable and should be demolished and replaced immediately. Alberta's metis people want this situation changed, for such adequate housing produces chronic ill health, drastically increases infant mortality rates and general disease rates. It has been proven to reduce family stability and the chances for adults to obtain well paying jobs. Inadequate housing destroys the chances of any person to improve their lot in life and jeopardize any self-help project. The situation regarding metis housing is clear.

The Alberta Housing Corporation admits that metis have not received government housing assistance to the extent that other groups have. Little has been done by the present government in the last few years to improve the circumstances under which metis people in Alberta live. It is immediately necessary that a large number of sound weather proof units be built to provide a healthy environment with financing based solely on the family's ability to pay. The planning must involve the people in each community who will occupy the houses. As much as possible, the organization and administration of such programs and the actual construction should be placed in the hands of the metis people. Previous paternalistic programs handed down from on high by the government have not succeeded. Metis people must be given the opportunity to help themselves. Government must provide financial assistance.

Therefore, with the belief that all Canadian Native people be adequately housed,

BE IT RESOLVED that a New Democratic Party Government would:

1. Provide funding adequate to raise metis housing to standard equal to the Alberta average.
2. That the Metis Association and the Alberta Government work jointly to develop housing programs in conjunction with representatives of local metis communities.
3. That local metis communities plan, organize and administer the particular programs to be run in their respective communities.

- Provincial Convention, 1974

### 3.2.5 Indian and Metis Hunting and Fishing Rights

It must be recognized that by virtue of the Alberta Natural Resource Act of 1930 the Province of Alberta is obligated to recognize and give effect to the rights of native people to hunt, fish and trap. This is an obligation which should be willing to be accepted by the province. Hunting and fishing rights are of the greatest importance to the native people for two basic reasons.

(a) It has been a basic food source and (b) it has since the beginning of commercial life in Alberta been the basic economic base of need in Alberta.

The restrictions imposed upon native people with respect to hunting and fishing have deprived them of their basic source of protein, nutrition which has not been adequately replaced. In Alberta there is virtually an epidemic protein deficiency amongst native children. The Indian infant death rates have been almost double the rate of the general population for some time. As a result of hunting and fishing restrictions among native people there has been a definite shift of traditional drives to a dependence on manufactured foods. However, this has also been accompanied by incomes too low to buy nutritionally adequate foods.

Yet increasingly both the federal and provincial governments are advocating these rights without adequate replacements. The New Democratic Party recognizes the rights

acquired by virtue of treaties and that such rights are part of the concept known as aboriginal rights. Thus, both the rights of treaty Indians and the rights of metis and non-status Indians are recognized.

It is therefore resolved:

1. The rights of treaty Indians to hunt and fish for consumption purposes on reserves on unoccupied crown lands to which they have a right of access be guaranteed. It is further recognized that the treaties guaranteed that trapping would continue as an economic base for treaty Indians.
2. It is recognized that by virtue of their native ancestry Metis and non-status Indians have hunting, fishing and trapping rights. These should be realized by the granting of special permits to native people to hunt, to fish for consumption purposes on metis settlements if they are resident in the settlement otherwise on all unoccupied crown land and lands to which they have a right of access.
3. That hunting and fishing for consumption purposes takes priority to all commercial rights.
4. That the province and major native organizations establish a committee to fully investigate the feasibility of hunting, fishing and trapping as an economic commercial basis.
5. That where such obligations are found to be feasible that the province co-operate and assist financially in establishing native hunting and fishing and trapping industries.
6. Where native hunting and fishing rights conflict with the privilege of sports fishermen and hunters, the former shall prevail.
7. That the province and native organizations shall co-operate in attempting to obtain the agreement of the federal governments that the fish marketing corporation be controlled by a joint board consisting of

representatives of the federal and provincial governments the Indian Association of Alberta, the Metis Association of Alberta and native commercial fishermen's organizations.

8. That an amendment be made to the Alberta Labour Act to define the relationship between the corporation and fishermen as that of an employee and employer thereby permitting native fishermen to form a union and obtain certification.

9. The above provisions operate notwithstanding the provisions of the Wildlife Act and Fish Marketing Act and regulations thereunder.

10. The Provincial Government in co-operation with native organizations would investigate the feasibility of setting aside wildlife areas over which native people would have the power of game management.

11. That fish and game conservation would be a matter for joint Provincial Government, Federal Government and native jurisdiction.

- Provincial Convention, 1974

### 3.2.6 Indian and Metis Employment

BE IT RESOLVED that a New Democratic Party Government would:

1. Implement immediately a native community employment program to train and employ natives in their own communities for employment and positions such as court workers, teachers aides, community health and sanitation workers, adult education instructors, social workers, etc. It is essential that such services be expanded. Past experience shows that the benefits of such expanded services are tremendously higher when staffed by native persons.

2. Establish immediately a native loan and grant fund and native credit union organization to assist native people to develop their own economic and

employment opportunities. Further that technical advice and consultation be provided when requested.

3. Eliminate all exemptions to minimum wage legislation so that all native (and white) workers are adequately rewarded for their labour.

4. Establish guidelines for the employment in the civil service and in firms contracting with government of native people at least in proportion to their share of Alberta's population. These employment goals are to be met within three years of an NDP government.

- Provincial Council, 1974  
(Item 7)

3.2.7 Native Job Opportunities in the Development of  
the Athabasca Tar Sands

The area commonly known as the Athabasca Tar Sands is occupied by a large native population. It must be remembered that for the most part, the native people as a class, represent one of the lowest income levels in Alberta. Thus, the development of the Tar Sands in whatever form it takes place represents an opportunity for a radical economic improvement to native people in the area. However, without provincial government assistance, the greatest likelihood is that native people will be used for traditional and transitional labour type jobs with no possibility for economic development in any meaningful way. The province must help native people gain access to the skill jobs which provide a permanent source of employment and income.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the New Democratic Party demands as a pre-

requisite to the development of the Athabasca Tar Sands that the Provincial Government and trade unions and developing bodies and corporations or any other natural resource development establish a program of accelerated training for native people resident in the area and all other residents in the area which upon completion of the course would be equivalent to a period of apprenticeship and that period should be agreed upon by representatives of the provincial government, the trade unions and major native organizations and further that Provincial Government and developing bodies finance a cross-cultural education program for all employees.

The purpose would be to ensure that upon completion of their work on the project, such native persons would be qualified trade unionists.

- Provincial Convention, 1974

### 3.2.8 Treaty Rights

BE IT RESOLVED that an Alberta New Democratic Party government would interpret Sections 10, 11 and 12 of the Alberta Natural Resources Act as an obligation on the part of the provincial government to live up to the spirit of the treaties of 1876, 1877 and 1899 and would ensure the fulfillment of all remaining valid land claims and the protection of Treaty hunting, fishing and trapping rights

- Provincial Council, 1974

(Item 7)

### 3.2.9 Native People and the Alberta Justice System

(a) An Alberta New Democratic Party government will give Indians equal rights to those of other citizens in the pur-

chase of liquor.

- Provincial Programme, 1966

(b) Be it resolved that:

1. Provincial Magistrates should have the duty imposed on them to inquire into the ability to pay fines.
2. Minimum fines should be abolished.
3. Warrants of committal for default in payment of fines should be abolished.
4. Duty council should be provided for all docket courts.
5. Training programmes for native court workers, native probation officers must be radically expanded and financed by the provincial government.
6. The province should enact provincial legislation permitting provincial judges to grant absolute and conditional discharges.
7. That a wide range of conditions be allowed including: a) where appropriate work in lieu of fines, b) orders of abstention from alcohol combined with supervision, prohibition from residences, and certain places for training, medical and institutional therapy.
8. That as part of the above, alcohol treatment centres should be expanded to better provide a means of treatment of alcoholic problems.
9. That alcohol and treatment centres should be established in northern Alberta
10. That where possible comprehensive facilities should be established to include alcoholic treatment, drug counselling, medical treatment, probation officers and so on.

- Provincial Council, 1974

(Item 7)

#### 4. Women

4.1 The Alberta New Democratic Party endorses the following resolution passed by the federal New Democratic Party in 1971: (JAB)

##### Women in Canada

Men and women are inherently equal but in order to achieve genuine and complete equality a change in attitudes must accompany a change in institutions. Stereotyping of women, or men in female/male roles, whether in educational programmes or as sex objects in advertising must be discouraged. Equal pay for equal work and equal minimum wages, long policies of the NDP, are minimal programmes to abolish the present secondary position of women in Canada. The NDP recognizes that women are presently discriminated against in many ways both hidden and overt and it is necessary for our party to assume a positive and progressive position on the role of women as equal, participating partners in today's home, social public and economic life, to enable women to achieve equality as well as intent. The NDP recognizes the right of women to choose to stay at home or join the work force and will take steps to solve the problems encountered by women in either role. To this end the NDP government proposes the following programme:

(a) Working Women

BE IT RESOLVED that an NDP government will enact effective changes in legislation that will provide:

(i) prohibit discrimination in employment on the basis of sex and marital status;

(ii) that a worker (or her agent) be able to refer a violation of relative legislation to agency set up for that purpose;

(iii) that the agency administering equal pay legislation be given the responsibility and authority to investigate all cases of suspected violations whether or not a formal complaint has been laid, and prosecuted if action is not taken;

(iv) no discriminatory action shall be taken against any complainant or person acting on behalf of a complainant;

(v) that in cases where the complaining worker is not satisfied with the outcome of her case, she be given the right of appeal;

(vi) that where the law has been violated the worker be fully compensated for any losses in pay, seniority rights, vacation and other fringe benefits;

(vii) that unions, employee organizations, employer and employer organizations be subject to this law;

(viii) that penalties be sufficiently heavy to constitute effective deterrents;

(ix) that the legislation specify that it be applicable to part-time as well as full-time workers;

(x) that a woman be allowed maternity leave with pay of whatever duration the woman and her doctor deem necessary and at the end of that time the woman may choose to return to her position without penalties regarding seniority or salary;

(xi) that vocational and technical training and higher education for the part-time mature student be made freely available and that an accelerated retraining programme for mature women re-entering the labour force be instituted.

(b) Family Planning

Be it resolved that an NDP government would:

(i) conduct further research into safe methods of birth control for men and women and into methods of abortion;

(ii) make available free information and birth control devices to anyone requesting them;

(iii) remove section 237 from the Criminal Code of Canada;

(iv) pardon all qualified medical practitioners convicted under section 237 or section 150 of the Criminal Code of Canada and drop such current prosecutions under these sections;

(v) provide adequate facilities in hospitals or special clinics for sterilization and abortion procedures.

(c) Child Care

Be it resolved that an NDP federal government would enact a national Child Care Act under which Federal funds would be made available on a cost sharing basis to the provinces for the organizing, building and running of child care centres. Such centres would be owned and administered by a public agency or co-operatives, equitably financed and subject to minimum standards of quality, including competent and adequate staff; they would be available to working and non-working parents alike. Under this legislation, community, parent and employee groups would be encouraged with public funds to hire organizers to develop such centres.

(d) Homemakers

This convention supports the general principle that homemakers with children should receive financial recognition and recommends that the NDP undertake to research all aspects of this concept.

(e) Women legislation

BE IT RESOLVED that a federal NDP government will:

- (i) eliminate legal disabilities suffered by women merely on the grounds of their sex;
- (ii) embark upon a public information campaign to explain to all citizens why there must be no discrimination on the basis of sex.

- Federal Convention, 1971

4.2 Women in Alberta

At the annual Convention of the Alberta New Democratic Party in 1971 the Party adopted the following resolutions in order to establish a clear provincial policy on the question of women's rights (JAB)

4.2.1 Women and the Alberta Human Rights Act

There is an urgent need to end discrimination in all forms in our society. Yet there exists a great deal of discrimination against women because of their sex. The Alberta Human Rights Act prohibits discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, ancestry or place of origin, in accommodation,

employment and trade union membership. But discrimination on the grounds of sex is not prohibited in the Act. Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta NDP accept as a basic human principle equality of the sexes and therefore, urge with all the powers at its command, that the provincial government amend the Alberta Human Rights Act as follows:

- (a) to include sex as a prohibited ground of discrimination;
- (b) to strengthen the punitive sanction of the Act;
- (c) to allow for the administration by special permanent board comprised of a representative number of women. The Board shall have the same powers that a Board constituted under the Public Enquiries Act have under the Act and in addition, the discretion to decide whether to prosecute the offender;
- (d) the first priority of this board shall be to ensure that the principles of equal opportunity and equal pay for equal work shall be implemented.

4.2.2 The Alberta Human Rights Act, if amended as under 4.2.1 above, would provide a negative sanction against discrimination on the grounds of sex. But it is also the responsibility of the government positively to encourage equality between the sexes and to correct the imbalance that now exists. Hence, the Alberta New Democratic Party urges strongly that the following resolutions be implemented: (JAB)

#### 4.2.3 Working Women

WHEREAS women are generally socialized to accept roles as wives and mothers to the exclusion of all other worthwhile pursuits including a meaningful career or continuing

education AND WHEREAS those women who are forced to work most often find themselves as part of a large pool of relatively unskilled workers who labour for low wages and are most affected by the vagaries of the economy,

(i) BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta New Democratic support and work for the institution of the following reforms:

(a) The setting up of more programs to train teachers and guidance counsellors specializing in services to adults and to female adults in particular

(b) The establishment of retraining programs (under the Department of Manpower and Immigration) with allowances for women at the secondary and post-secondary levels without requiring membership in the labour force in the immediately preceding year or years

(c) The institution of a program through the Alberta Department of Labour to persuade married women trained for University teaching and research to return to, or embark on an academic career

(d) The granting of more financial aid to the part-time Mature Student

(e) The setting up of university associate scholar plans which would allow both men and women to pursue independent part-time study

(f) The equalization of standards for the granting of financial aid to married students.

- Provincial Convention, 1971

(ii) BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta NDP urge that:

(a) the Alberta government eliminate all discriminatory practices within the provincial civil service;

(b) firms that do contract work for the federal and provincial governments must be ordered to actively recruit women workers to open all training programs

to them and to make available part-time work;

(c) the government should provide special incentives to encourage women to enter the labour force in new employment areas where demand for services is increasing.

- Provincial Convention, 1971

#### 4.2.4 Women and Unions

BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP

(a) encourage women, especially those who are NDP members, who are in existing unions to form internal groupings with other women to exercise their participation in union decision-making processes and to formulate demands which will improve the situation of women workers in their places of employment.

(b) also encourage working women, especially NDP members who are non-unionized to participate in organizing themselves and their co-workers to achieve union status and

(c) that unionized persons, especially NDP members be encouraged to press for internal education of Union members to include films and seminars on the role women workers have played in the history of the labour movement.

#### 4.2.5 Women and Marital Property

Under the present law community of property between spouses does not exist unless a spouse can show financial contribution to the property or can show an agreement that the property is being held jointly. This causes the most hardship to the wife since she is usually the partner who stays

home and raises children and although this work in the home is valuable, under the law this job is not deemed to be financial contribution towards property acquired during marriage and, therefore, this property will legally belong to the working spouse.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta NDP urge the present government to immediately establish a legislative committee to determine the most feasible way of ensuring that both spouses have equal rights to marital property.

- Provincial Convention, 1971

#### 4.2.6 Women as Students

WHEREAS the full development of female students is presently hindered by sex discrimination in schools and universities in areas such as texts, teachings, curriculum and program placement

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta New Democratic Party include in its program and actively work for the following reforms:

- (a) Primary level story books and reading texts which portray female, as well as male, characters in a variety of active roles.
- (b) Social studies programs which include a thorough study of the historical role of women in different societies, movements which have arisen to increase women's participation in political and economic activities and the achievements of women in the labour movement, politics, the arts, the literary field, etc.
- (c) Co-educational school shop courses to develop a minimum of manual skills and home management courses to prepare people for minimal housekeeping and child-rearing tasks.

(d) The introduction of a family life education course in the pre-puberty years which would include information on birth control, problems caused by early pregnancy and parental responsibilities.

(e) Training programs for guidance counsellors and teachers which would include instruction on methods of eliminating discriminatory channelling of women students into certain areas of study and certain occupations and methods of encouraging female students to develop intellectually on an equal basis with their male colleagues at all levels of the school system.

(f) The establishment of centres at all post-secondary institutions to provide academic information and special counselling for female students.

(g) The granting of financial incentives to encourage at least one Alberta University to establish an institute of Women's studies.

(h) The setting up of courses at all universities on the history and present status of women.

- Provincial Convention, 1971

#### 4.2.7 Women and Taxation

Under the present Income Tax Act, if a husband and a wife work together in the husband's business, her income from the business is deemed to be his for income tax purposes and this reinforces the traditional dependency of women on their husband's incomes and contributes to the wife's sense of worthlessness as a worker in society. THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta NDP urge the Federal government to amend the Income Tax Act in order that a spouse who is a bonafide worker in the other

spouse's business should be legally deemed to be earning an independent income and should be eligible for all benefits accruing to the independent worker.

- Provincial Convention, 1971

#### 4.2.8 Women and the Law

The present criminal law, both in its administration and in certain of its substantive provisions, is discriminatory against women. Therefore,\*

(a) Be it resolved that the Alberta New Democratic Party press the federal government for repeal of all discriminatory substantive provisions, and further,

(b) Be it resolved that as a first step the Alberta New Democratic Party urge the provincial Attorney General to issue instructions that there will be no further prosecutions of prostitutes under the vagrancy section.

- Provincial Convention, 1971

#### 4.2.9 Child Care

The care of pre-school children should be recognized as being as much a public responsibility as is the education of children who are six years old and older. Moreover, many of the present arrangements for the care of pre-school children are harmful physically, mentally and spiritually. For these reasons, more and better quality day care, nursery and baby-care facilities are needed. Therefore,

(i) Be it resolved that the Alberta New Democratic Party accept as policy the principle that society must provide a wide variety of publicly owned facilities for the care and development of pre-school

children with top quality programmes and professional supervision in community and work places at no cost to parents, and

(ii) Be it resolved that the Alberta New Democratic Party pressure the federal and provincial governments to implement the following reforms:

(a) the establishment of free 24-hour community child care facilities set up in consultation with area residents who will determine where such facilities are needed, maintain control over their operations and supervision and encourage participation on a voluntary basis in these operations;

(b) where the need is established, all working establishments with more than 50 employees must be required to set up worker-controlled day-care facilities for babies and young children on their premises;

(c) all facilities and the professional services provided must meet government standards set in consultation with the parents;

(d) parents should be allowed to share in the care of their children for a few hours each week (along with professional help) with no loss of earnings;

(e) there should be community-controlled facilities in schools for after-school and holiday care of young school children when parents are working.

- Provincial Convention, 1971

#### 4.2.10 Women and Family Planning

WHEREAS a woman's right to control her own body is an integral part of the fight to gain control of her own life and  
WHEREAS every woman must be able to choose whether or not she wants to bear a child and

WHEREAS this choice must not be limited on any non-medical grounds; THEREFORE

(i) BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta NDP urge the the present provincial government to ensure:

(a) that contraceptives be made readily available to all men and women after puberty,

(b) that additional facilities for free birth control information, pregnancy tests, abortions, maternity care, tubal ligation, and vasectomy be set up in the same physical structure as extensions of hospitals and/or clinics and that these facilities be publicly funded and community controlled.

(ii) BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta NDP pressure the Federal Government for the following:

(a) that Abortion Section 237 be removed from the Criminal Code of Canada;

(b) that qualified medical personnel who have been convicted under Section 237 or 150 of the Criminal Code of Canada be pardoned and that current prosecutions arising from these sections be nullified;

(c) that methods of safe birth control for women and men be researched by the Federal Government;

(d) that methods of abortion be researched by the Federal Government and both birth control information and methods of abortion be made public and that this information be sent to all medical doctors and be taught in all medical schools;

(e) that abortion be considered to be a matter between a patient and her physician, but that no physician or member of hospital or clinic staff be required to perform or participate in an abortion. When the refusal of a physician or hospital or clinic staff to participate in an abortion precludes abortion, the government will provide a woman desirous of abortion alternative medical personnel and/or facilities at no expense to the patient.

## III

A PROGRAM FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

1. The Alberta New Democratic Party endorses and supports the following statement accepted at the Federal New Democratic Party Convention in 1969 (JAB).

In Canada today the term "social security" has come to mean an aggregation of unrelated and disparate pieces of legislation, federal and provincial. The social security system of Canada, to the extent that it may be referred to as such, grew up haphazardly, was introduced piece meal and with reluctance, and the standards which it set have never ceased to be niggardly. Affected by constitutional issues over jurisdiction, it has suffered in many areas from the inability to establish common standards, whether of adequacy of benefits or quality of services. But perhaps the most severe criticism which can be directed against the social security in Canada is the fact that it was never intended to be anything more than means of mitigating the worst features of those contingencies to which most Canadians are exposed: unemployment, old age, ill health, industrial injury, total disability, the cost of rearing children and death of the bread winner.

Such a concept of social security is unacceptable to the New Democratic Party. Social security must include not only provisions against distress but also those features without which a satisfactory standard of living cannot be enjoyed. These include

- (a) the opportunity to make a living for all those physically and mentally fit to do so;
- (b) full access to education to the extent of individual capacity, regardless of social and economic circumstances;

(c) The opportunity to engage fully in leisure time activity; and

(d) the right to a healthful environment.

In other words, social security must mean the availability to each individual of all those resources which will enable him to develop his personality and to make his contributions to the society of which he is a member.

- Federal Convention, 1969

In the light of its belief that the above statement is fundamental and true the Alberta New Democratic Party has developed the following integrated policies in the regions of Education, health, social and economic welfare, the quality of life in rural and urban areas, and the environment. (JAB)

### III - A Program of Social and Economic Well Being:

#### A. EDUCATION

1. The Alberta New Democratic Party believes that the aim of society must be to liberate and develop to the fullest the creative potentialities of all individuals, whilst cherishing and showing respect for diversity. (JAB) The Alberta New Democratic Party also believes that a political democracy provides the means by which people through their government may progressively develop and expand the social and economic sector of society in the interest of all people so that they may truly govern themselves. (Item 9, p.15)

In the light of these beliefs it is inevitable that the Alberta New Democratic Party should believe

(a) that all people should have equality of opportunity to secure the benefits of education,

(b) that one major aim of education should be to raise the level of thought and understanding throughout the community, and to create alert, critical minds capable of thinking about the problems that challenge our contemporary world,

(c) that our educational system should provide for the development of those skills which will facilitate re-

training through a life time of changing occupations. (JAB)

From these general aims it is clear that education in this province needs alteration.

2. Equality of Opportunity: In order that all people may have equal opportunity to secure the benefits of education the Alberta New Democratic Party urges that:

2.1 No student shall be denied the physical or economic means to further his education or training;

2.2 Since handicapped children are equally entitled to educational opportunity that will enable them to develop their potentialities to the maximum, the necessary facilities must be provided by the public school system;

2.3 Our native Indian people should be allowed to seek their education in provincial schools, and education of all Indian people should be a provincial responsibility;

2.4 That there should be established publically owned day care schools throughout the province, staffed by trained people and capable of providing lunches, pre-school enlargement programmes, after school programmes, and educational experience for all children from two to five years of age;

2.5 Kindergartens should be established as part of the public school system;

2.6 Increased facilities for higher education in both professional

and vocational areas must be provided;

2.7 In order to achieve a reasonable degree of equality in educational opportunity throughout Alberta, the financial burden of education must be removed from the sphere of property taxation and borne by the general revenue of the provincial government;

2.8 In view of the high cost of education, we should make greater use of existing facilities;

2.9 That the provincial council investigate the possibility of

(a) utilizing unoccupied class rooms for the purpose of public day care centres,

(b) setting of facilities in public schools for the care of school age children before and after regular school hours and at lunch time;

2.10 At the post-secondary level of education, tuition fees should be abolished and a living wage should be established for all students;

2.11 Since adequate library services are fundamental to education, the present regional library programme should be extended to make library services readily accessible throughout the province;

2.12 That the people responsible for admission to training for the various professions, such as medicine, law, dentistry, engineering, etc., be made aware of their responsibility to give women equal access, along with man, to these professions.

### 3. Education for Living:

3.1 Education must be transformed from education for jobs to

education for living. Whilst\* facilities for vocational education should be increased, nevertheless vocational education should not be treated as a substitute for a general education;

3.2 Creative and leisure time activities should become an integral part of the curriculum;

3.3 The high school matriculation programme should be made more flexible to enable a greater number of students to pursue their particular interests and aptitudes to university level;

3.4 Education should emphasize opportunity and success rather than competition and failure;

3.5 Optional language courses should be offered below the high school level, with an initial preference for French and additional languages, where the local demand is sufficient and where teaching personnel are available;

3.6 There should be provision in the Alberta school curriculum to include adequate instruction in the following areas:

- (a) birth control, human sexuality, and human and family relations,
- (b) the awareness of issues in one's own society,
- (c) environmental awareness,
- (d) critical consumerism,
- (e) political education,
- (f) study of unions, professions, and organizational behavior.

4. Education and a Life-time of Changing Occupations:

4.1 Vocational education should not be treated as a substitute for general education: instead our educational system should provide for the development of those skills which facilitate re-training through a life time of changing occupations;

4.2 Greater importance should be attached to continuing education at the adult level. This would provide training for the unskilled and for those whose skills have become obsolete. The re-training of workers displaced by the advancement of technology would enable the unemployed to regain productive roles.

5. In order to cherish and show respect for diversity, all people should be allowed to educate their children in a school of their choice.

6. Educational Administration

6.1 A greater effort should be made to give women their fair share of promotions to high ranks in administrative positions throughout the educational system;

6.2 The Alberta Government (preferably with the co-operation of the Federal Government) should establish publically owned publishing house for production of text books (and other educational materials)

in an inexpensive form (no hard backs) with Canadian content and orientation where applicable;

6.3 A research department should be set up to carry out educational research;

6.4 Continuing research into improved texts must be undertaken by teachers, the universities and the research department (see 6.3) and emphasis must be placed on the use in Alberta schools of text books written by Canadian authors. Free text books should be provided to all students to the end of Grade 12;

6.5 The universities and colleges commission should be preserved;

6.6 An advisory commission should be created to allow the public and the faculty associations to participate in advising the minister on college and university affairs;

6.7 There should be no further political appointments to the public service such as the appointment of W.H. Worth as Deputy Minister of Advanced Education;

6.8 Whereas the closure of some school facilities and the restrictions placed on the building of additional facilities have placed an undue hardship on the students of this province,

BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government shall be directed to set out what they agree to be a reasonable limitation upon the bussing of students, and that it shall be the policy of the Alberta New Democratic Party that no student shall need to be transported beyond these reasonable limitations to receive his or her education;

- 6.9 BE IT RESOLVED that we oppose the institution of Alberta Academy as described in the Worth Report as a mere pretense at making higher education available to all while, in fact, restricting it; although we approve of further education through the mass media in principle.

- Provincial Conventions, 1967, 1973.

"(the above and especially points 2-6.9, represents an attempt by JAB to integrate the 1973 resolution into the policy adopted at the 1967 convention.)"

### III - A Program of Social and Economic Well Being:

#### B. HEALTH

1. The Alberta New Democratic Party endorses and supports the following principles and policies of the federal New Democratic Party:

1.1 Medicare: Medicare in its present form falls short of providing the Canadian people with the kind and range of health care services they require and to which they are entitled. The mere prepayment of doctor's bills in whole or in part is no solution to the health care needs of the Canadian people. The New Democratic Party proposes to introduce in its place a comprehensive program of health care services, universally available, complete in scope, and free of economic obstacles, including not only hospital services and the services of the physician, but also the services of the dentist, the private duty nurse, the visiting homemaker, the therapist, the medical social worker, and all the other medical and paramedical personnel required to provide a full range of health care services, including also the provision of drugs and prosthetic appliances. Such a programme will encourage preventive services and provide the effective organization and delivery of health care services in place of the present fragmented and unco-ordinated conditions. It will en-

courage the group practise of medicine in a consumer-owned community health centre setting. It will provide for "territorial justice" through the equitable allocation of personnel and facilities to meet needs wherever they exist. A New Democratic Government will also inaugurate a system of cash sickness benefits to compensate for loss of income arising out of illness or accident not covered by workmen's compensation.

- Federal Convention, 1969

1.2 Community Health Centres: The Canadian people have increasingly come to accept health care as the right of each individual, and health care as an essential social service as is implied in the Health Charter for Canadians of the Royal Commission Health Services (Hall Commission - 1964) .

All provinces in Canada have now implemented universal hospital and medical care insurance under public administration.

Both the public and various levels of government are increasingly concerned over spiraling costs of health services; increasing specialization and fragmentation of services; difficulties with the availability and access to health services, and an apparent unresponsiveness of the health care systems to the consumer of health care.

The federal-provincial Task Forces on the Costs of Health

Services in Canada, the Ontario Committee on the Healing Arts, and the Economic Council of Canada Seventh Annual Review have all called for government and consumer action to develop Community Health Centers;

BE IT RESOLVED that an NDP Government would:

- (1) promote the principle of Community Health Centres based upon consumer and community non-profit organizations, with the group practise of medicine and the allied healing arts, the payment for services on a system other than fee for service;
- (2) encourage consumer group action to promote such programmes as have been developed in Sault Ste. Marie and St. Catharines, Ontario, as well as in various centres in Saskatchewan;
- (3) actively encourage the development of consumer sponsored Community Health Services by the following measures:
  - (a) developing an adequate capitation system of payment and combining both hospital and medical care services for members of Community Health Centre panels as have been under development in Ontario;
  - (b) capital and development grounds be developed to be equally shared by the federal and provincial governments as a grant-in-aid programme to assist bona-fide consumer sponsored Community Health Centres under a formula similar to the hospital construction grant-in-aid mechanism;
  - (c) allow for cost guaranteed mortgages under Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation for such Community Health Centres;

- (d) provide grants to local, provincial and national organizations to promote the development of community and consumer sponsored Community Health Centres.

The people of Canada have indicated that they wish to have comprehensive public prepayment for health services. To date this has resulted in public insurance plans for hospital and more recently for medical services. The public has indicated that facilities necessary for delivery for public health and hospital based services should be established and operated by the public. The consumer sponsored Community Health Centre has been demonstrated in a number of settings to provide comprehensive, high quality, integrated health care that is developed and operated by the consumer, in co-operation with the provider of service.

Community Health Centres under community and consumer sponsorship and administration must be encouraged by government. Such Community Health Centres are characterized by the group practise of medical and allied health services, and payment on a system other than fee for service, as well as consumer participation. This model has been shown to have great potential to improve effectively the delivery of primary health care in this country. Action through a partnership of the consumer, the provider, and the government can produce a health care system which will be a source of satisfaction to the people of Canada and their health needs in the 1970's.

1.3 Family Life: Canadian families, especially young families and couples just starting out in married life, have real anxieties about the responsibilities of marriage and child rearing. It is not unnatural for mothers to want to work outside the home. But Canadian society is not yet organized in a way to allow most mothers to do this without depriving their children in some way. Likewise it is not unnatural for a father to want to spend a good deal of time at home with his children or doing domestic chores, but our society is not yet organized so to make this generally possible either.

The NDP is committed to creating the social conditions essential to a genuine partnership arrangement between men and women in marriage and the work world. This means not only equal pay for comparable work for men and women, not only a minimum allowance of six months maternity leave with full pay, not only generous federal government funding of provincial and municipal child care programmes - but such further measures as the following:

- (1) a system of paternity and maternity leave with pay so that either the father or the mother, as determined by the parties involved, may remain at home during the very important first few months of their child's life;
- (2) a progressive movement towards a system of salaries for mothers or fathers who are making a full time

job of caring for their children at home during the pre-school years;

(3) the establishment of neighbourhood clinics throughout the country to provide a host of social, legal and health services to Canadians, thereby bringing the delivery of such services effectively within the reach of all. A typical neighbourhood clinic would include the services of the following: general practitioners and pediatricians; dentists and denturists; family planning clinics; family counselling service; legal counsellors; pre and post natal care for women and children.

- Federal Convention, 1973.

2. In supplementation of the above policies and programmes the Alberta New Democratic Party has further resolved that:

(1) Until such time as the New Democratic Party can institute its plan of complete health coverage for all Albertans, it will use all means at its disposal to promote improvements of services and to insure that every Albertan has complete coverage for all curative and preventive services, paid for out of a general government revenue.

(2) The Alberta New Democratic Party has resolved that the cost of prescribed medicines be included under the reimbursements of the Worker's Compensation Act and has stated that it will institute

an Employees Sickness Compensation Act.

(3) The Alberta New Democratic Party has shown its concern over the shortage of hospital bed space by urging the construction of more hospitals

(4) The Alberta New Democratic Party has specifically resolved that all ambulance services should be free to all citizens

(5) The Alberta New Democratic Party has resolved that each year a sufficient sum of money be allocated to further research into new methods of insect and weed control, including the setting up of a special Department of Research if such a move is found to be necessary, to combat the increasing hazards to human life caused by chemicals sprayed on crops.

(6) The Alberta New Democratic also urges the setting up of a special committee to study the effectiveness of the anti-smoking educational campaign

(7) Benefits of adding fluorides to the municipal water supplies are widely recognized in medical circles. A New Democratic Party Government would turn the question of adding fluorides to the municipal water supplies over to the Department of Health. This Department would appoint a committee to study the question of fluoridation, publish its findings and submit recommendations. Municipal authorities would be given statutory power to enable them to carry out the recommendations of the department on the basis of a simple majority vote.

- Provincial Programme, 1967

### 3. The Integration of Health and Welfare Services:

- 3.1 BE IT RESOLVED that a royal commission be established, to study present health and welfare services and produce recommendations that will facilitate the total integration of all such services.

- Provincial Convention, 1973

- 3.2 BE IT RESOLVED that a New Democratic Party Government would eliminate the duplication of health and welfare services by federal, provincial, and municipal authorities.

- Provincial Council, 1974

- 3.3 WHEREAS health is a right not a privilege based on wealth,

BE IT RESOLVED: that this free medicare scheme be extended to include dental examinations and treatment, optical examination and treatment, psychological, and psychiatric examination and treatment for all ages. Prescription drugs would also be free under this scheme.

- 3.4 AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pharmaceutical drugs and supplies also be controlled and operated within the medical care scheme

- 3.5 AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that bulk drug purchasing for distribution in Alberta be taken over by the provincial government.

- Provincial Convention, 1974.

- 3.6 BE IT RESOLVED that the principle of integrating community health and social services centres be supported; and further, there be a co-ordination of other supportive services in a community including the mental health aspect of school counselling, family and marriage counselling, social assistance, public housing administration, social organizations, and voluntary groups assisting in social services.

- Provincial Convention, 1974.

4. - An NDP Policy on Mental Health Services:

As evidenced by recent concern over the problems of mental health services in Alberta and the dissatisfaction with the manner in which these services are being operated, there is a growing awareness that the present system and structure of mental health services are woefully inadequate, often inconsiderate of human needs, and generally archaic in approach. While this is in part due to the problematical nature of mental illness itself, the various competing conceptualizations of the problem; and the monopoly in power wielded by the psychiatric profession, the present government in Alberta and its unenlightened administration must take the greater portion of the blame for the current inexcusable situation. For a province which prides itself in superior health services, there appears to be a remarkable lack of progress and stupendous stagnation and concern.

Other provinces have not hesitated to innovate and experiment with new ideas and new methods in restoring the mentally ill to a happier and more productive life. Saskatchewan is a good example. As a political party stressing progress and humanistic values, the NDP has an obligation to adopt in its platform a program accentuating the fact that the mentally ill are human

beings deserving full rights and consideration - - that they are not to be ostracized from society but rather accepted and cared for. The NDP must adopt a program that recognizes the duty of the government to initiate new developments in the area of mental health, consistent above all with the premise that the mentally ill person is in most cases a product of unfortunate social circumstances, and that such a person deserves treatment as a full human being; not as a subhuman to be locked away.

It is a well known fact that the majority of the people now confined in mental hospitals are people who come from the lower strata of society, that is, those who are poor and powerless.

Without implying any direct causal sequence, it is nevertheless irrefutable that the objective social and economic conditions in our society play a dominant role in subjecting people to stresses and inconsistencies which may be manifested in modes of reaction we term mental disturbance or mental illness or more crudely, insanity. The extreme competitiveness and the stress on material success and the emphasis on equality of opportunity without such opportunity in reality existing creates a great deal of frustration, despair, and agony. For many the environment may be unbearable - and for those who lack the resources to escape physically, the only recourse is subjective

withdrawal, something we call mental illness.

What all this implies is that an adequate mental health program cannot in fact be separate from the broader social and economic issues; some of the "causes" of mental illness are inherent in the present social structure. Given that a majority of the so-called mentally ill are from the lower classes, it is obvious that preventive measures necessarily involves a radical restructuring of society. This means going beyond mere welfare measures; raising the standard of living for the underprivileged is one step, undeniably a necessary one, but a concerted effort must also be made to truly democratize society. In other words there is sufficient evidence to suggest that the present social and economic system in Alberta is not conducive to the greatest potential human development of all persons. Therefore, there must be a real transformation of society, with the elimination of exploitation and degrading economic competitiveness, and which is cognizant of the basic truth of equality of human beings. Without this any mental health program is meaningless.

As to specific points, an NDP policy on mental health services should include the following:

4.1 Decentralization of services. The huge and impersonal nature of the institutional structure of mental hospitals has

proven to be dehumanizing to confined persons. Therefore the establishment of community "cottage" type facilities which would accomodate a limited number of persons should be built throughout the province. This would tend to minimize the disruption to the patient when he is admitted for treatment. Moreover, this would facilitate greater individual attention for people requiring or requesting help. The smaller, decentralized facilities could provide as closely as possible a warm, home-like atmosphere. Where it is in the patients best interests such facilities could also provide day care services, so that conceivably the whole family could be involved in the patient's recovery.

4.2 Adequate aftercare measures. Often individuals break down because of stresses in the family. In turn such stress is often created by economic difficulties. Thus at the present time, committment to a mental hospital is often disastrous economically and socially, for the patient may lose his only source of livelihood. This of course only intensifies the problems the person faces after his release from hospital. Thus the government must insure that the patient's family is free from economic worry, and that the patient will not face any problems in returning to a productive life.

4.3 The provision by the government for greater research facilities and resources. The present research in mental health in Alberta is paltry indeed. While research itself is not a panacea, it has possibilities of generating new ideas and stimulating progress. One thing that could be done for example, would be the establishment of a pilot project, consisting of a model treatment center using the latest in knowledge and techniques. Such a project should also emphasize the necessarily wholistic approach that must be taken in attempting to resolve problems of mental illness, this means the integration and co-operation of the medical, psychological, and social orientations.

4.4 Better working conditions for all personnel. Realizing that personal relationships are of crucial importance in the treatment of the mentally ill, the effort must be made to employ personnel who will be sensitive to and considerate of the individual needs of each patient. At present, many of the lower level staff in mental institutions play a caretaker's role. There is no reason why they could not be more functional in the treatment program of the patient. In the interests of the persons requiring help, status differences between the various occupations should be minimized and the team approach emphasized. To this end, salaries for especially the lower level staff should be raised considerably. This would give recognition of the im-

portance of the work, as well as raising staff morale. More importantly, a greater number of people may then seek this type of work, thus enabling greater selectivity in the hiring of people who work directly with patients. Also the right to unionize should be granted to the nurses and workers, a right they do not now have.

4.5 The establishment of an "operational research" board. Since the area of mental health is one in which expert knowledge is required, a board of experts should be established for which the minister of health would be responsible. The minister would be responsive to the proposals the board would make or recommend. Conceivably, the board would be aware of all the developments in the field of mental health, and be a force for progress. Moreover it would insure that no one professional group becomes overly powerful in its control over patients' welfare. Such a board of experts should not reflect the primacy of any one profession or interest group. Rather, it should operate on the broadest humanistic principle, guarding especially against forms of treatment that involve manipulation of patients. The board should consist of people who cover a full range of sciences and professions - - sociology, psychology, psychiatry, medicine, social work, and so on. This board must be relatively free from government bureaucracy. It would in addition to initiating developments,

do operational research on all aspects of mental health, do follow-up studies of treated people, and serve as a control agency in guarding against abuse in any way of patients by those who administer treatment. In general, this will establish the collective responsibility of all personnel to the patient.

All the above are intended as guide posts to the formation of a genuinely humanistically-oriented mental health program in greater detail in establishing such a program. However, they are integral to an enlightened approach, something the NDP must take a definite stand on.

- Provincial Convention, 1967.

III - A Program of Social and Economic Well Being:

C. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC WELFARE

1. The Alberta New Democratic Party recognizes that in a socialist Alberta there will be no need for a statement on "welfare". The implementation of the Alberta New Democratic Party policies of:

- (a) guaranteed annual income
- (b) creation of jobs
- (c) free tuition and students stipends for higher education
- (d) extension of salaried retraining programmes
- (e) provision of day care
- (f) provision of more low cost housing

would eliminate the welfare system as it exists. However, initially we will be confronted with the monotonous task of helping those people who have been subjected to the existing degrading system of bureaucracy to adjust to a life of dignity in which there is prosperity and hope for them and their children.

The Alberta Department of Social Development is widely known by the poor people of this nation as being authoritarian, backward, inhuman and punitive. As an example, Alberta is one of the

only provinces to retain wide spread use of vouchers. It is one of three provinces to institute cut-backs in benefits to recipients. The present government has refused to allow its social workers, supervisors and recipients to have meaningful participation in the formation of its policies.

- 1.1 Therefore BE IT RESOLVED: that an NDP government would abolish the welfare system by instituting a realistic and adequate guaranteed annual income for all Alberta's citizens, which would reflect rises in the cost of living index.

Though only in opposition, the New Democratic Party cannot remain complacent and silent while people are suffering now. Therefore as an interim measure:

- 1.2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Alberta New Democratic Party actively support the excellent work of the Welfare Rights Groups in this province and help to educate the public by pressing the following demands;
  - (a) that higher, realistic scales for food, clothing, rent, phones, transportation and recreation be established immediately;
  - (b) that there be an immediate end to the voucher system (except where specifically requested by a welfare recipient) which is inefficient and humiliating, to be replaced with cash payments which arrive consistently at least two banking days prior to the end of the month.
  - (c) that a government appeal board, on which half the members are welfare recipients, be established to investigate contentious cases, and to review the qualifications and suitability of the social workers. If, on the basis of interview with their respective case loads,

these persons are found wanting, they must be immediately transferred to another department.

- (d) adults and children of welfare families, as are other low income Canadians, are severely discriminated against in the matter of educational opportunity and this contributes greatly to the perpetuation of the system - the children of welfare recipients also become welfare recipients. The government must greatly extend the opportunities for education for welfare recipients.

- Provincial Convention, 1971.

1.3

BE IT RESOLVED that old age pensions be maintained at a level which will permit a standard of living above the poverty level for pensioners; and that pensioners be protected from exorbitant rent charges either by rent control measures or by publically owned housing; and that residences for old people provide more single rooms to accomodate those who wish for, and are in a condition from, greater privacy; and all such institutions be subject to rigorous inspection, to include private interviews with at least some of patients or inmates; and that additional nursing homes be publically owned.

- Provincial Convention, 1973.

1.4

A New Democratic government will:

- (1) negotiate with the federal government for a single unconditional Welfare Grant to replace the present multiplicity of specific grants, and then will assume full responsibility for welfare in Alberta;

(2) establish county or municipal district welfare regions in co-operation with a municipality to increase administrative efficiency and employment of trained personnel at the local level. The administration of welfare allowances will be placed in the hands of local district authorities;

(3) establish a social research centre to develop effective ways of dealing with group and individual social problems in Albertan.

(4) support private agencies by the co-ordination of all welfare agencies, both public and private, so the facilities and trained personnel may be most advantageously used. Services and results of research centres will be made available to all agencies;

(5) establish a policy of revue and adjustment of widows and disabled persons pensions, and of supplementary allowances;

(6) make provisions to assist widows who have children for whom home care must be provided;

(7) establish a royal commission to inquire into the child welfare problems, including those of retarded children, to find new and improved approaches and to strengthen and broaden the program of child welfare.

(8) will provide extensive additional accomodation for elderly citizens as follows:

- (a) cottage accomodation when couples live alone
- (b) apartment accomodation with cafeteria facilities for senior citizens who are able to look after their own personal needs

- (c) nursing homes for those who need trained nursing care
- (d) hospital facilities for the chronically ill.
- (9) Will innitiate a Geriactic Commission to investigate means whereby elderly citizens can remain part of the social structure without feeling shut out from the world around them.
- (10) will introduce legislation to make cash payment available to applicants for Social Assistance and Social Allowance on the date of eligibility

- Provincial Programme, 1967

(Modified by JAB in all and only those ways necessary in view of the Provincial Convention Resolution of 1971)

2. The Alberta New Democratic Party endorses and supports the following policies, programmes and resolutions of the federal New Democratic Party.

2.1 Freedom and Security

The New Democratic Government will establish a comprehensive, far reaching and systematic programme of social security- a programme to insure a standard of living which will enable every Canadian to live in health and selfrespect.

Canada's present approach to social security is inadequate and unrealistic; a patchwork of legislation which pro-

vides neither the proper minimum standards nor adequate coverage for all those who need it. Entire groups of needy people - the sick, the blind, the aged - have little or no security. These people need protection, and the New Democratic Party is determined to provide it.

- Federal Convention, 1961.

## 2.2 Economic Security

The New Democratic Party recognizes the need for a more positive and comprehensive policy in the area of family and individual economic security. This policy should represent a radical departure from free enterprise welfare practised, insofar as economic security would be just as much a right as economic liberties are. Welfare as now understood would hence be replaced by a positive programme of universal guarantees, realistic aid and creative habilitation, to include the following:

- (a) all government efforts to ensure economic security be applied in such a way as to promote maximum independence of families and individuals rather than reverse, as is too often presently the case. This can be achieved by ceasing merely to sustain the unoccupied, disabled and needy by cheques and instead creating the real means and

opportunities for employment, rehabilitation and self-help;

(b) where direct financial assistance is the reasonable course, as in the case of old and other pensions, that such assistance be related to the cost of living and be combined with other programmes to insure that maximum autonomy for those concerned is achieved and that no one is penalized for lack of personal market value through the natural contingencies of life;

(c) that the freedom from economic uselessness and the freedom for economic enterprise be regarded as one right of all Canadians. This would involve making family and individual security an essential part of the economy, rather than a charitable after-thought.

- Federal Convention, 1963.

### 2.3 Social Security

The New Democratic Party believes that it is the right of every Canadian to have a guaranteed minimum income on the sole basis that he is a human being.

To this end we must have a co-ordinated net work of social security measures which, taken together, will cover

every individual at all stages of his life and all aspects of his living. There must be no gaps.

Prominent among social security needs is the provision of retirement income. The present Canada Pension Plan falls far short of covering everyone. Pending a more adequate plan it should be amended to bring the amount of income closer to that earned prior to retirement. It should also be subject immediately to adjustments for increased costs of living and rising productivity. In regard to the Old Age Pension, our New Democratic Party members of parliament are to be commended for their steady efforts to increase its amount and to lower the age at which it is given. But this pension grows steadily more inadequate as the cost of living rises. What we need is a comprehensive retirement pension plan to supercede both the Old Age Pension and the Canada Pension. Such a plan will cover the retirement years of every individual regardless of his previous status or occupation. Only such a plan can ensure that every Canadian will be secure in his later years.

For security in youth the family allowance legislation needs to be overhauled to bring the amount paid into line with today's increased living costs. Provision should also be made to subject these allowances to permanent cost of living and productivity adjustments.

Another present need in our social security system is for day care centres for mothers working outside the home. Provincial and Municipal governments should be encouraged to provide such centers.

Measures for Medicare, for restoring income lost through illness or incapacity, for housing, for education - for all the factors making up a guaranteed minimum income for the individual - are dealt with elsewhere in our programme. These services are required by every citizen during the course of his life.

But there are individuals and groups in our society who require special social services - the disabled, the socially disrupted family, the occupational unqualified, those who, for various reasons, are unable to care for themselves and must depend on the community. Society must mobilize all its resources to bring each of these individuals to the point where he can contribute to the productive life of the community as far as his ability will permit, and where in return, he can receive all the benefits of normal living as far as his capacity will permit.

A nation-wide study of social services should be undertaken to discover present needs, and federal departments of health and welfare should establish standards through which present gaps

in the welfare system will be filled.

Obviously all these measures of social security which add up to a guaranteed minimum income for every Canadian, can be supported only by an economy which is healthy and expanding. But they make the difference between a sick society and a sound one. They will do away with the necessity of much of the curative and remedial expenditure which is so costly today, financially and socially. They will make it possible to plan production and distribution in an age of automation.

By these measures, we can build a society where each will contribute according to his ability and will receive according to his need.

- Federal Convention, 1965.

2.4 Guaranteed Minimum Income: The New Democratic Party believes that all members of our society are entitled to a basic share of its resources, goods and services as part of their birth right.

We reaffirm our support of the principle of a minimum income as a sensible and efficient way of guaranteeing this birth right. At the same time we do not regard it as a complete answer to the problem of poverty nor as a substitute for all existing social security programmes.

We strongly emphasize that it must be implemented by complementary programmes in many fields if it is to be effective in

eliminating poverty in Canada. The sort of package of policies of which it must form a part is outlined in the Resolution on Poverty (see below, 2.6).

A New Democratic minimum income programme would involve the following principles:

- (i) recipients would qualify on the basis of a simple eligibility test applied through the income tax form. Degrading means tests and investigations by welfare offices would be eliminated;
- (ii) incentives for those able to work to enter or remain in the employment stream and to earn above the minimum income would be built into the system;
- (iii) the level of payments would be established by an objective assessment of minimal need. It would be automatic escalation of payment levels to keep them in step with rises in the cost of living and in the general standard of living;
- (iv) payments to families would be divided between husband and wife to insure that each has control over an equitable share of the family income and recognition of the contribution made by both spouses to the family.

- Federal Convention, 1969

## 2.6 Poverty

The New Democratic Party believes that the welfare of all

depends on the well-being of each and that everyone is entitled to a basic share of the nation's goods and services, regardless of his or her power in the market place.

Present and social and economic policies in Canada have failed to achieve this end. The Economic Council of Canada says that at least one-fifth of the population can be classified as poor.

The socialism of the seventies calls for a radical new approach to the pathology of poverty in our society. But no one policy can solve the problem. Those who advocate a guaranteed minimum income as a complete answer or as a substitute for all existing welfare programmes are either ignorant or playing a cruel hoax on the poor.

A guaranteed minimum income offers a rationalization of present categorical welfare programmes and further opportunity for redistributing income without demeaning means tests. As such, it is a desirable step towards our goal of equality of condition and was proposed in earlier NDP programmes. But it must be part of a total package which will solve a conscious diversion of income, investment, and social energy to the eradication of poverty.

Four general areas of commitment are proposed.

- (1) An increase in personal disposable income for all Canadians

living in poverty. Specific programmes in this area would include:

(a) a guaranteed minimum income which will (i) ensure for all households an income at least up to the poverty level identified by the Economic Council of Canada in its Fifth Annual Review and, (ii) provide incentives to those able to work to enter or remain in the employment streams;

(b) tax reform to make the overall tax system truly progressive; integration of the income tax system with minimum income so that no income taxes are paid by persons below the poverty level and the income tax form can be used for determining eligibility for the minimum income;

(c) upward adjustment of minimum wages in conjunction with the provincial administrations;

(d) cost of living policies which will stabilize prices and rents;

(e) additional specific income policies for groups such as senior citizens, farmers, fishermen, unemployed, etc. who may need additional income supplementation;

(f) a sickness benefit programme which will maintain income during illness.

(2) An increase in public services of all kinds for both individuals and communities living in poverty. In this area, accel-

erated extension of services such as shelter, education, health and sanitation, transportation and communication, and general improvements of the living environment;

(3) An increase in investment in employment and economic growth in regions of poverty. Regional development on a far larger scale than present policies for areas with lower rate of activity and where development seems preferable to other adjustments; such a programme must be accompanied by a clear recognition of the human adjustment problems involved and the need for regional responsibility and full participation by local people. Manpower policies to ensure labour mobility and upgrading;

(4) A conscious, organized program to support self-realization and self-determination of individuals, communities and regions. The New Democratic Party is rooted in the ideal and practice of democracy at its fundamental people and community level. It directs itself explicitly to the issues of human freedom so far from realization amongst the poor who live in a condition of social, political and economic isolation and alienation. Provision must be made for;

(a) funds to help the poor organize, to pursue their own developments activities and to develop effectiveness in the

larger social context;

(b) organizational technical resources to play a supportive role;

(c) funds for development projects whether they be organizational facilities or large scale community-operated housing schemes.

The restoration of many Canadians to more productive roles in the economy and greater self-realization will, in the long-run, increase our overall wealth, both human and material. Programmes to achieve these aims may appear, at first sight, to be costly. We cannot afford to say that we cannot afford them.

- Federal Convention, 1969

### 3. Social Security and Social Freedom for the Aged.

The Alberta New Democratic Party endorses and supports the following policies, programmes and resolutions of the federal New Democratic Party:

#### 3.1 Retirement Age

BE IT RESOLVED that the New Democratic go on record as favouring a progressive reduction in age at which workers can choose to retire, consistent with the needs of the economy.

- Federal Convention, 1967

### 3.2 Pension Plans

There are inequities and injustices apparent in many private pension plans; and

Federal legislation in this field is necessary;

BE IT RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party seek to introduce federal legislation with a view to ensuring:

- (1) Registration and filing of returns of private pension plans;
- (2) Portability of benefits of such plans;
- (3) The right of beneficiaries to access to financial details of such plans;
- (4) Protection of beneficiaries with respect to investing and participation in such plans.

- Federal Convention, 1967.

### 3.3 Homes for the Aged

Retired and aged persons often are forced to move from their own homes and from familiar surroundings into inadequate or institutional quarters, and there suffer great emotional and other problems.

BE IT RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party set up a comprehensive system of assistance and home nursing, so that aged and retired persons may continue to live in their own homes if they so desire.

- Federal Convention, 1967

### 3.4 Income Maintenance Programmes

Many distressed situations amongst retirees indicate a starvation level of so called existence. People who had worked hard and contributed to the wealth of Canada, who had budgeted and saved for the golden years are finding them to be leaden years. These same retirees who have paid taxes, educated and trained children, contributed by service, sacrifice and participation in the welfare of Canada, are now being denied the bare necessities of life;

BE IT RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party of Canada endorse the aims outlined hereunder as proposed by Pensioners Concerned, Canada;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government take immediate action to alleviate the distress of nearly two million retirees as follows:

(1) replace present inadequate tax exemptions for retirees sixty-five years and over on fixed incomes by tax credits which would ensure that no pensioner pays any income tax unless this income is above an adequate basic level;

(2) provide either a negative income tax or a supplement to the Old Age Security payments to bring the levels of the incomes of retirees below these levels up to the basic level;

(3) For those whose incomes are at or above the amounts mentioned in (1) protect the purchasing power of these incomes against inflation and higher taxes;

(4) provide an escalator clause, geared to the cost of living index for (1), (2), and (3);

(5) exempt retirees and their spouses from whatever capital gains taxes legislated, as far as a

single dwelling is concerned.

- Federal Convention, 1971.

### III - A Program for Social and Economic Well Being:

#### D. THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS

1. The Alberta New Democratic Party believes that any program for the social and economic well being of Alberta must include adequate policies to ensure that ALL Albertans whether they live in urban or in rural areas receive:

(i) adequate housing;

(ii) the benefits of public services and utilities including electric power;

(iii) adequate protection of their rights and social welfare;

(iv) adequate financing for the development of local industry;

(v) adequate funding for the provision of roads, hospitals, schools, libraries, cultural and recreational facilities.

In the light of this belief, the following policies, programmes and resolutions have been introduced over the years since the founding of the Alberta New Democratic Party. (JAB)

1.1 An Alberta New Democratic Party Government would introduce a challenging redevelopment programme providing growing cities with: slum clearance, progressive arterial road development, schools, hospitals, libraries, cultural and recreational faci-

lities. Provincial leadership planning and financing would be offered for reorganization of metropolitan complexes such as the Edmonton and Calgary metropolitan areas.

Legislation designating authority and responsibilities of cities, towns and villages would be brought into context with the times. The original powers allotted are not today extensive enough for coping with the major responsibilities with which these growing centres are burdened both administratively and financially.

Re-definition of towns, villages and hamlets would be undertaken in the light of their ability to finance, and their potential to entice industry which could provide reasonable industrial tax revenues.

The relations between such bodies as the Administrative Council and the School Boards would be re-considered in order to develop harmonious association, effective programs and ample financing.

Sociological studies of rural areas would be undertaken by the government. Library and other advantageous services would be provided for rural residents.

An Alberta New Democratic Party government would amend the various municipal acts to provide that all elected officials shall upon election declare and make public the extent and nature of all their holdings.

1.2 The Alberta New Democratic Party will make available to the farmers the benefits of public service and utilities that are normally available to city residents. This will be accomplished by:

(i) a plan to provide, at cost, water and sewer installations;

(ii) development of electric power as a public utility. (Farmers will share the benefits of lower installation costs and rates);

(iii) special differential grounds to rural municipalities to ensure that teachers' salaries will always be competitive with those of urban areas. This should guarantee a fair share of qualified teachers for the rural communities so that proper education of rural youth will not suffer. (special bursaries for those wishing to take advanced training in agriculture will be provided\*)

- Provincial Convention, 1966

- Provincial Programme, 1967

1.3 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta New Democratic Party through its executive investigate alternative methods whereby a New Democratic Party government would assure that residents of Alberta, and especially residents of rural poverty areas, can gain participation in programmes of development.

AND that the alternatives examined shall relate to the concept of decentralization of government to autonomous bodies of citizens which shall serve as the mechanism of participation of all Alberta residents.

AND that the executive shall assign to this question a high priority and that it shall pursue through conferences, study groups, consultation with constituency associations, and by actively seeking input from party members and other means as may be necessary.

AND that the results and recommendations arising from this investigation be presented to the 1974 Convention of the Alberta New Democratic Party.

- Provincial Council, 1973.

1.4 Bearing in mind the rapid shift of the Canadian population into urban centres and the consequent progressive urbanization of our society, the Alberta New Democratic Party believes that revisions of provincial government policies and attitudes towards municipalities are imperative.

We believe that a provincial government must recognize and strengthen the local autonomy and areas of responsibility of local administration.

We believe that a provincial government must recognize and act upon the profoundly different needs of small and large urban centres respectively, and in some areas, of which urban renewal or redevelopment is only one example, there is a need for particularly close co-operation between local and provincial governments in order that the rights and social welfare of individuals shall be fully safe guarded.

We particularly recommend that serious attention be given to the desirability of establishing a division of urban affairs,

which working in close co-operation with, but independently of, municipal affairs can ensure that all population centres within the province receive the attention and special assistance which they might from time to time need.

We deem it hardly necessary to add that a New Democratic government must ensure that its members and public servants maintain the highest integrity in office and that no conflict of interest arising from private business activities be tolerated.

BE IT RESOLVED that a New Democratic Party government will co-operate with federal authorities in launching a much needed urban renewal programme for the Province of Alberta

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that recognizing the need for public housing and the support for it through federal aid, the New Democratic government will make the inclusion of low cost public housing an integral part of approved urban renewal projects.

- Provincial Convention, 1967

1.5 A New Democratic Party government would enlarge the part played in local government by the people by:

- (a) greatly expanding the number of aldermen on city councils;
- (b) providing that the aldermen be elected from wards;
- (c) providing that the wards conform as near as may be practical to the boundaries of local communities;
- (d) providing for ward councils elected by the residents with limited powers over local matters such as schools, plann-

ing, recreation and parks.

- Provincial Convention, 1974

- 1.6 BE IT RESOLVED that a New Democratic Party government would provide that administrative, ward and other political boundaries should as near as is practical coincide.

- Provincial Convention, 1974

- 1.7 BE IT RESOLVED that since the money available at the three levels of government is inversely proportional to the money required at those levels an Alberta New Democratic government would provide that:

(a) the money for health, recreation, welfare and education should come in tally from the senior levels of government; but not so as to interfere with the proper exercise of municipal autonomy;

(b) the larger resources revenue now enjoyed by the provinces be passed on in due proportion to the municipalities.

- Provincial Convention, 1974

2. Urban Life The Alberta New Democratic Party endorses and supports the following statements by the federal New Democratic Party:

- 2.1 The cities of today are scenes of chaos and paralysis and are evidence of the ineffectiveness of government at all three levels in Canada.

The frustrations and social tensions of an unplanned and under financed urban environment make of our cities flash points for explosive events with potential for destructive disorder rather evolution towards a saner and more socially equitable life.

The crisis of the cities will accelerate with the inevitable urbanization as long as public amenities and housing (for those on moderate and low incomes) are starved for financing, while the luxury of private commercial developments creates an increasingly conspicuous contrast.

The New Democratic Party seeks the acceptance by all levels of government of the following urban policy.

(1) rationalization of local governments structures through regional government with elected councils which have the power to act, to implement, plan, and to finance adequate capital and current budgets.

(2) decentralize administration of local governments to encourage and utilize citizen participation;

(3) clear cut jurisdiction, and financial resources to match, for regional city governments;

(4) consultation in federal-provincial-municipal conferences of federal programmes affecting urban life, and on constitutional change affecting jurisdiction and taxing power;

(5) leadership by the federal government in three level discussions to develop independent financial resources for cities;

(6) the New Democratic Party in local municipalities should encourage candidates to run in municipal elections so that the above policies can be implemented.

- Federal Convention, 1969

## 2.2 The Cities - A New National Policy

An Alberta New Democratic Government will create a strong housing and urban affairs department with the powers it needs to implement the national housing programme. The New Democratic Party will abolish Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation because it has failed to meet the housing needs of the average Canadian. The function now exercised by the CMHC will be the responsibility of the minister of housing and urban affairs, who will be directly accountable to parliament for housing and urban policy. The responsibilities of the department of housing and urban affairs under an NDP government will include housing both rural and urban, the administration of the Central Mortgage Fund, all important urban programmes now run by other federal departments, and control of all federally owned urban land.

An NDP government will work in partnership with the provinces and with municipalities in implementing its housing and urban

policies and will ensure full participation and consultation with the public. But it will not hesitate to act directly if provinces fail to co-operate. Housing, land banking, and lending programmes will be moved as close to the local level as possible.

A New Democratic government will use federal spending and tax policies to discourage the unhealthy concentration of urban growth in a few major cities and ensure that growth is spread fairly through all cities and regions of Canada. The NDP will also provide funds for new cities and towns based where possible on established smaller centres.

A New Democratic government will act directly to solve the municipal tax and fiscal crisis by block funding and tax transfers. The New Democratic Party will finance the servicing of all urban land banks on a major scale by providing forgivable loans for sewage treatment plants, recycling plants and the other services needed to end the shortage of service land. The portion of total cost of these facilities paid by the federal government will be raised from the present 17% to 50%. Municipalities will also have access to block grounds for rehabilitation, neighbourhood development and housing. A New Democratic government will establish National Urban Transit Fund of \$500 million to finance urban transit over the next five years in provinces that

create an acceptable transit plan. Priority will be put on rapid transit, commuter rail, improved bus systems for smaller cities, and pilot projects to develop new forms of transit. The NDP intends that every major city should have an efficient, swift, pollution free transit system as an alternative to urban expressways and traffic congestion.

A New Democratic government will work towards the elimination of the property taxes the major source of municipal revenue. Through the provinces, it will give per-capita grants to every municipality in Canada based on national income and corporate tax revenues. These grants will grow every year, and will create a major shift from the regressive property tax to a progressive income tax base for municipal finances. The New Democratic Party will ensure that these grants are used to end the inequitable burden of property tax on the home owners and tenants, particularly those with moderate incomes.

- Federal Convention, 1973

### 3. Housing

3.1 Housing, like education and medicare, must be regarded as an essential public service, requiring immediate, active and imaginative programs to ensure that every resident of Alberta may be provided with basic shelter as a right. The present housing crisis needs no documentation; it is now apparent that the private market

is incapable of meeting the situation and government involvement to date has been too timid and ineffectual. Recent Federal anti-inflation measures of raising CMHC mortgage and interest rates have only further sharpened the crisis. Curtailing construction increases unemployment and puts decent housing even further out of reach of people; while at the same time the resulting increase in the housing shortage further increases rents and housing prices. The government's involvement in the housing market is used to balance the economy solely in the interests of big business, not the working people. As long as housing is left predominately to free enterprise (the monopolies) only the most profitable type of housing will be built or maintained, leaving the old, families with children, and the unemployed and underemployed, unhoused and exploited. Our aim as socialists in evolving a housing program must be to maximize freedom of choice providing diversity of the types of housing available to people. Our aim is not to eliminate individual home or condominium ownership; but rather to eliminate exploitation in the housing industry. Our ultimate goal is to provide housing for all people at a price they can afford to pay and not in excess of a legally enforced maximum of 20% of the occupant's income. This goal can only be achieved through a rationally planned program and massive expansion in all areas of housing. To this end,

BE IT RESOLVED that the municipalities of Alberta substantially expand opportunities for various forms of subsidized housing - public housing, limited dividend housing, experimental housing, senior citizen housing - for families and individuals unable to find decent shelter at prices they can afford.

(1) that such housing projects be built with the following considerations:

(a) such projects be kept relatively small in size so that they can be integrated into existing neighbourhoods.

(b) that community services, such as family and day care centres, health clinics, park and recreational facilities, etc., be easily accessible to residents of these projects.

(c) that there be a variety in both design, construction and location, so that individuals and families have a choice in housing.

(d) that potential tenants or buyer's preferences for design or type of housing be analysed and used in the planning process.

(e) that adequate mass transportation facilities (i.e. buses, rapid transit) be readily available to residents of such projects.

(2) That priority be given to public housing programmes by all levels of government policy-makers and planners. Public housing serves the lowest income group and society is obligated to provide housing for this group regardless of market conditions.

(3) That tenant associations be organized. (Federal funding is now available for assistance in the formation of such bodies) The public housing authorities contract with an appropriate organization for the services of a tenant relation worker to be responsible for the formation of such tenant associations.

(4) That each public housing authority include amongst its members fifty percent representation of

tenants of public housing projects.

(5) That efforts be made in all Alberta municipalities to foster acceptance of public housing by local citizens as an integral part of community housing programs. (i.e. remove the degrading stigma).

(6) That Alberta Municipalities encourage only those applications from builders for experimental housing funds where the proposed projects are truly innovative in terms of design, building methods and materials and other aspects, and where such projects are of an adequate standard.

(7) As large amounts of tax funds are made available to developers under the experimental housing program, that a procedure for evaluation of this program be formulated. Failing federal undertaking of this task, the municipalities should assume this responsibility.

(8) That in determining eligibility for Senior Citizens' housing, first priority be given to senior citizens in financial need.

(9) That the Alberta Housing Corporation expand as rapidly as possible its program of welfare housing. (i.e. municipalities buying individual homes for welfare recipients).

10. That the municipalities take advantage of the funding available from senior governments for land assembly programs to ensure an adequate reservoir of land for public projects. (i.e. public housing).

(11) That profits from the sale of land should be treated as taxable income with a special tax on profits from the sale of land on which there have been no improvements.

(12) That the newly created landlord and Tenants Advisory Boards be comprised of an equal number of tenants and owners.

(13) That consideration be given to ways of strengthening the authority of Landlord and Tenant Advisory Boards so that decisions made by them can be more effective and binding.

(14) That each municipality in Alberta adopt and effectively enforce by-laws relating to the minimum housing standards.

(15) That revision of the present property tax be made so that home improvements can be made without further tax burdens for a specific period of time.

(16) That the Alberta Housing Corporation use its authority and knowledge to urge municipalities to take advantage of funding available for both subsidized housing projects and land assembly projects.

(17) That the Provincial Government undertake a special study of needs and desires of the Metis and Native People in Alberta in regard to housing and start implementing these needs.

(18) That the Provincial Government impose rent control legislation and enforce same.

(19) That temporary subsidized housing be set up for people being displaced from homes due to urban renewal, people waiting for public housing and for people who are refurnishing old homes and dwellings.

(20) Rehabilitation whenever feasible, rather than dislocation of existing neighborhoods instead of schemes which tend not to renew but to demolish homes or commercial developments.

(21) Public control of all urban lands and a moratorium by the Provincial Government on the sale of land as land in a 40 mile radius around the two metropolitan areas of Alberta.

- Provincial Convention, 1971.

3.2 To avoid the crushing burden of second mortgages and short term financing, a New Democratic Provincial Government would set up a crown corporation to enable residents to purchase old homes at NHA rates.

A New Democratic Provincial Government would seek agreement with the Federal Government to provide additional assistance for adequate low rental and low cost housing.

- Provincial Programme, 1967.

3.3 A New Democratic Party Government would:

(a) make provision for low rental housing under the control of an authority which includes tenant representation;

(b) encourage by all suitable means the alternative of Co-operative Housing;

(c) require the Alberta Housing Corporation to provide mortgages to low and middle income applicants at rates of interest varying with the cost of living in order to maintain equality in real terms between the sum borrowed and the sum repaid.

- Provincial Convention, 1974

3.4 The Alberta New Democratic Party endorses and supports the following programmes and policies adopted by the federal New Democratic Party.

3.4.1 Housing - a Human Right

In an era of unprecedented affluence, Canadians are finding it harder and harder to buy a home or even to rent adequate

accommodation for themselves and their families. Old party governments have starved the cities of the tax sources they need to create a decent environment and have given free reign to land speculation, mortgage usury and corporate greed at the expense of the average Canadian. Canada's major cities are strangling on their own growth and are dominated by expressways and high rise apartments; in cities and towns, prices for land and housing have sky rocketed beyond the means of ordinary people; rural housing remains neglected; what housing is being built is directed to the rich. The challenge of the urban crises calls for active and imaginative leadership from the federal government; and full co-operation and involvement by every province and municipality across Canada.

The New Democratic Party believes that housing is a basic right like food, health care and education. The problem of housing and urban development facing Canada today can be solved and will get top priority under the NDP. An NDP government will ensure every Canadian the right to housing at reasonable cost, will eliminate the inequitable features of the property tax, and will give cities and towns the financial freedom to play their full role in providing a decent environment for Canadians.

To achieve these goals a New Democratic Party government will mobilize all the necessary resources to implement a five year

programme for housing that will:

- (1) raise housing production to 350,000 units a year and then the use of housing as an economic regulator;
- (2) launch a major programme to facilitate older homes;
- (3) create a national inventory and a national plan for housing so that new units, rehabilitation funds, land acquisition will be directed to the areas and families that need them most, not to those who can pay the most;
- (4) eliminate the tax advantageous that favour high rise office towers, shopping centres, and land speculation when decent housing is in desperately short supply;
- (5) encourage co-operative and non-profit groups to become major providers of housing in cities and towns;
- (6) build housing directly through a national building corporation of non-profit and co-operative groups, the provinces and the private sector fail to build enough housing Canada's needs;
- (7) make major progress towards the New Democratic Party's long term goal of providing housing at a cost no more than 20% of income.

- Federal Convention, 1973.

### 3.4.2 A New Deal for Tenants

Most housing in Canada is public housing - either government owned or government financed or insured. A NDP government will

ensure that whenever public funds or guarantees are involved, housing will be directed to social needs and will help achieve national priority.

Federally financed rental housing will carry the obligation that rents may rise only in relation to costs, and that landlords' books are open to tenants. An NDP government will work with provincial and municipal governments to establish an effective system of rent regulation, security of tenure and tenant's rights in every major city across Canada. The tax system will be amended to end those depreciation allowances and other tax concessions which have allowed the developers and apartment owners to escape paying their fair share of federal taxes.

Co-operative and non-profit housing groups will be encouraged with management advice and adequate start up funds, including interest free mortgages in the first year. Low interest mortgages and tax credits available to home owners will also be provided to co-operatives and non-profit housing groups. Pension funds will be given incentives to provide non-profit housing for their contributors.

An NDP government will cease financing large public housing gettos, and will give Canadians a genuine choice of where to live. An NDP government will provide shelter allowances to make up the difference between a family's rental cost and what they can reasonably afford. A shelter allowance will be paid to people

over sixty, to the disabled, and to family on moderate incomes, particularly families with young children.

An NDP government will stop the destruction of older residential areas and end the decay of rural housing with generous rehabilitation loans and grants, available to co-operative and non-profit housing groups as well as families with lower, moderate incomes. Forgivable loans of up to \$3,000 will be available through the Central Mortgage Fund at an interest rate of 6%. The loan will be forgiven over ten years at the rate of \$300 per year; and only the portion not yet forgiven will be repayable if the house is re-sold.

Tax incentives that now encourage speculators to avoid the tax on recaptured depreciation by demolishing properties will be eliminated. An NDP government will ensure that there are adequate builders' warranties on all federally financed or guaranteed housing and will work with the provinces to enforce minimum standards for housing across Canada.

- Federal Convention, 1973

### 3.4.3 Home Ownership for the Average Canadian: 6% Mortgages

An NDP government will make house purchase easier for the broad range of Canadians who now find it impossible to afford a home of their own. Families with low and moderate incomes are

strapped by high rents, they cannot afford to save a down payment, and they are shut out of home ownership because of high interest rates.

A New Democratic Party government will insure that families of low and moderate incomes will have a genuine choice between owning or renting their home by implementing the following programme:

(1) The New Democratic Party will establish a Central Mortgage Fund in a strengthened Department of Urban Affairs which will direct federally chartered lending institutions, insurance, and trust companies to allocate a substantial proportion of their annual investment to housing at a rate not exceeding 6%. These mortgage funds will be used to carry out the priorities of the five year housing program (see 3.4.1);

(2) If the banks, insurance, and trust companies fail to allocate their mortgages according to the national priorities, they will be required to transfer the unfulfilled portion of their annual financial quota at the 6% interest rate to the Central Mortgage Fund, which will lend the funds directly;

(3) Co-operatives, non-profit housing groups and families on low and moderate incomes will have priority in borrowing at the 6% rate from federal financial institutions or through the Central Mortgage Fund;

(4) The New Democratic Party will offer low and moderate

income families mortgages up to 100% of the value of the house or condominium they buy;

(5) to offset the burden of interest rates, families on low and moderate incomes will be allowed a tax credit to reduce the effective rate on their existing mortgages to 6%;

(6) an NDP government will cut the costs of buying and selling homes by encouraging provinces to provide public legal and real estate services at low costs, or providing them directly if the provinces show no interests.

- Federal Convention, 1973

#### 4. Land Use Policies

4.1 The Alberta New Democratic Party endorses and supports the following statements and resolutions adopted by the federal New Democratic Party:

##### 4.1.1 Land Policy

Land is a valuable social commodity; and

When this land is again bought by the public agencies,

it is done so at the expense of the public purse;

BE IT RESOLVED that with rare exceptions publicly owned land should not be sold to private interests but should be retained for the public good and welfare and when in the public interest, leased for private use.

- Federal Convention, 1967

#### 4.1.2 Land Policy: Drive Out the Speculators

Next to mortgages, the biggest single factor in urban housing costs is the price of land. As part of its five year housing programme, an NDP government will spend \$500 Million a year to ensure public control of the major share of land around Canada's cities. It will buy urban land directly through the Department of Urban Affairs if provincial and local governments fail to co-operate in ending land speculation. Existing land banks in the hands of large private developers will be purchased at the original cost plus a reasonable per annum rate of increase.

An NDP government will provide 100% federal loans to provincial and local governments to acquire for housing, transit, and other urban purposes and will extend this financing to land intended for redevelopment, as well as undeveloped land. Publicly owned land in urban areas will be leased in order to lower costs for home owners and tenants, to provide proper planning and to prevent profiteering. An NDP government will ensure that public land is used efficiently, with emphasis on medium density housing that families on low and moderate incomes can afford.

Using the tax system, an NDP government will eliminate the land speculation that holds both home buyers and tenants to ransom. With the exception of a home owners' principle residence, and farm property sold for agricultural purposes, capital gains

from land and property will be taxed at 100% of personal tax rates rather than the present 50%. Speculative gains on property held for less than five years will carry an additional tax of 25%; if property is held for five to ten years the additional tax will be 15%. Interest costs and property taxes on speculative land holdings would no longer be allowed as deduction either for income or capital gains tax.

- Federal Convention, 1973.

4.2 The Alberta New Democratic Party has adopted the following statements and policies.

4.2.1 Land for urban development should not be a source of private property.

A New Democratic Party government would enact the following measures to implement this principle:

- (a) Public ownership of all land likely to be subject to urban development, with power to expropriate for that purpose;
- (b) A confiscatory tax on speculative profits from land;
- (c) The use of provincially owned and municipally owned utilities to provide services on land for development;

(d) Emphasis on leasing land for building houses  
at long term low rates.

- Provincial Convention, 1974

4.2.2 The Alberta New Democratic Party believes that land is a natural resource and would therefore when elected legislate to preserve and protect it for the use and welfare of present and future generations.

The New Democratic Party will zone all Alberta land according to its productive capacity as agricultural, residential, recreational, industrial, and forestry reserve areas.

Because land is a natural resource basic to the production of food, all potentially productive land will be jealously protected from all forms of development for the production of food.

The New Democratic Party believes that the cost of the purchase of land must presently reflect in the cost of food which the farmer produces and is therefore borne by both the farmer and consumer for the benefit of financial institutions and that the mounting investment in land will make it impossible for farming to remain in the hands of individual or family farms but will eventually fall into the hands of financial institutions and/or food corporations most of which are foreign owned or controlled and therefore proposes that the New Democratic government would purchase all farm land available for purchase for any

reason. The land will be leased by the New Democratic government to new generations of farmers who must be Canadian citizens. The retiring farmers' Canadian kin would have first option to lease.

The New Democratic Party proposes that all speculation and profiteering be removed from land transaction whether agricultural, residential, or industrial purposes and that it be treated as a utility.

The Alberta New Democratic Party has accepted the following recommendations:

(a) That the incoming executive of the party be instructed to appoint an Agricultural Policy Committee to work through the coming years to collect and assimilate material and information from as many sources as possible, for example, the Land Bank in Saskatchewan, Bill 42 in British Columbia, etc.\*

(b)\* This material together with draft policy to be discussed at constituency seminars or regional seminars to be called by the Provincial Executive.

(c)\* That the above be presented as a bases for study and that a policy on land use be presented at next years convention.

- Provincial Convention, 1974.

## 5. Public Utilities

5.1 Public Utilities, by their very nature, must be operated as monopolies in order to avoid duplication of expensive facilities to maximize efficiency. Since it is contrary to the public interest to guarantee a profit to a private monopoly, all public utilities in Alberta shall be placed under public ownership. Compensation to private owners will be in terms of paid up capital.

Electric power, which is a natural monopoly, shall be placed under public ownership. Farmers who have exorbitant power installation costs shall be reimbursed and further installation shall be provided at reasonable cost. The development of coal burning thermal units for electric power in the coal mining areas will be encouraged as economic aid to these depressed areas, and as an added source for power and industry and domestic use.

All consumer public utility natural gas companies shall be placed under public ownership and the sales tax will be levied on exported gas to subsidize lower gas prices to Alberta consumers. This will provide domestic and industrial consumers with a cheaper source of energy not subject to foreign pricing, and any profits made will be used to pay for necessary public welfare services.

- 5.2 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta New Democratic Party endorse the principle of a power grid system under public ownership, and will work towards such a system in order to ensure adequate power supplies at the lowest possible cost;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this convention opposes any act which will unduly restrict the expansion of municipality owned utilities within the confines of the municipality served.

- Provincial Convention, 1967.

## 6. The Environment

### 6.1 General statement on ecology and pollution control

Modern man is faced with a dilemma - the air he breathes and the water he drinks are fast becoming too impure to sustain life and assure good health. Pollution now ranks with crime, poverty, slums, drug addiction, riots and mental illness as one of the major problems facing man. However, the problems of air and water pollution are, more so than other urban problems, related to geographically fixed industrial centres. In most problems of our urban society we have the will to solve them but lack the know-how. In the case of air and water pollution the opposite holds true - we have the technical capability but appear to lack the will. We have at our finger tips the technological knowledge to change our environment to provide clean air and water. We know, or can easily find out, who the polluters are and what we must do is insist that adequate steps be taken to

eliminate the threat to our environment.

A run away technology, whose only law is profit, has for decades corrupted our air, ravished our soil, denuded our forests, and polluted our water resources. The result is an environment assailed by noxious doses of fumes, sewage, smoke, noise, chemicals, ugliness and urban decay. Furthermore the crisis is compounded by a steadily rising population in defiance of all sense of science. Scientists and authorities have examined the challenge of our physical environment and in their opinion man and his planet face extinction as a consequence of mindless abuse and greedy exploitation of nature unless action is taken now.

- Provincial Convention, 1971.

## 6.2 Monitoring of particular matter in the air

The National Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases Association reports that from 50 to 100 tons of polluted particles per square mile settle each month over a heavily polluted city. Because of the air inversion problems experienced by Edmonton and Calgary\*, adequate air monitoring is of the utmost importance. At present the Provincial Department of Health's monitoring system is minimal. It is imperative that it be expanded.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta New Democratic Party call on the provincial Department of Health to expand its monitoring system to in-

clude all present and potential pollutants.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alberta New Democratic Party urge the provincial government to establish an emergency shut down system of industry similar to that in operation in Toronto.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that information on toxic levels be released upon request to the media and interested persons, expressed in the language of the layman.

- Provincial Convention, 1971.

### 6.3 Industry and Pollution

WHEREAS the plans and projects of industrial corporations generally seek to utilize resources for their own profit motives and:

WHEREAS this orientation frequently leads to pollution which jeopardize the overall chances of human survival on earth,

BE IT RESOLVED that we protect our environment by ensuring that mines, mills, and factories, etc., operate in such a way that the natural heritage is not harmed but this preserved or reclaimed for the benefit of future generations.

- Provincial Convention, 1971.

WHEREAS the government has stated a policy that corporations pay to prevent their own pollution,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta New Democratic Party demand that the government demonstrate its sincerity with the Proctor and Gamble Pulp Mill under construction in the Grande Prairie area.

- Provincial Convention, 1971.

### 6.4 Legislation to protect the Environment

BE IT RESOLVED that the Clean Air Act and the Clean

Water Act of Alberta be consolidated into a single act called Environment Protection Act covering all additional areas of pollution, and according to the following principles:

- (1) the authority for the protection of the environment should be a Pollution Control Board;
- (2) the responsibility of the Board would be to
  - (a) determine and implement the environmental standards applicable
  - (b) propose standards for adoption by Canada
  - (c) conduct hearings upon
    - (i) complaints by individuals or the government charging violations of the Act or its regulations,
    - (ii) petitions for exemptions
    - (iii) petitions to remove stop orders
    - (iv) petitions for public hearings to vary, add to, or subtract from existing pollution control standards,
    - (v) such other conditions as may be provided by regulation or board rules.
  - (d) to hear appeals from ministerial orders,
  - (e) to make such enforcement orders as may be appropriate.
- (3) The Board shall be required to have public hearings on any questions not clearly frivolous which are the subject of a petition in prescribed form and subscribed form and subscribed to by the proper number of signatures, concerning environmental matters.
- (4) The minimum standards should be set out in the act instead of being left to ministerial discretion.

(5) Pollution orders should be made enforceable by attachment (imprisonment, or impounding of property).

(6) The standards provided should be available for the benefit of individual citizens to sue on if they are injured by the non-observance of them.

(7) The files of the minister and the Board should be public with all proper exceptions (e.g. identity of complainants, tradeseecrets, privileged information, etc.) but so to leave intact the principle that such information should be available, so that the public will fully know what the government is doing about pollution, and how individual persons and corporations are performing.

(8) Discrimination against complainants under the act by employers or other persons should be forbidden.

(9) Provision should be made for appeals by polluters hit by new regulations against the refusal by the minister of interim exceptions. Equally the people should be able to complain about the failure of the minister to take the necessary steps to clear pollution caused by individual persons or companies. These appeals and these hearings should take place before the Pollution Control Board as above noted.

(10) Local consultation before the making of regulations, particularly applicable to local areas, should be required by the Act.

(11) The considerations in granting interim or permanent exemptions should be laid out in the Act.

(12) Provisions should be made for grants to enable pollution control devices to be installed. But it should in general be required that such grants if made (in preference to public take-over), should only be made in conjunction with any or all of the following:

- repayment provisions
- control of the company
- representation on the board of directors
- debentures

bonds  
profit-sharing  
worker participation or control

(13) In addition to clean air and clean surface water (the subjects covered in the present Act), ground water, underground pollution by dumping in wells or bore holes, radioactivity, refuse disposal, and noise pollution, etc., should be covered.

- Provincial Council, 1973.

## 6.5 Recycling

Today we are faced with the unprecedented depletion of valuable natural resources such as metals, paper, glass, rubber and at the same time our traditional garbage disposal methods are using valuable land, causing pollution and creating unsightly, unhealthy conditions.

WHEREAS recycling of refuse eliminates both of these grave problems,

BE IT RESOLVED that recycling be a major concern of governments, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an NDP government would build garbage recycling plants.

It is to be noted that the use of land fill garbage disposal is not recycling.

- Provincial Council, 1974.

6.6 The Alberta New Democratic Party endorses and supports the following statements by the federal New Democratic Party.

6.6.1 Pollution The technology that has produced our affluence has had its price in the defilement of our environment. As our population increases in numbers and density, the problems and the risks arising from the pollution of air, water and soil cry for correction. The good life will not be ours unless we can make sure that our population can live in a clean and wholesome country.

The attack on pollution must not only be thorough, it must also be comprehensive. We must look to our total environment. Man pays a terrible moral and spiritual price for his uncontrolled advance if he has to live in a landscape which is not only a hazard to his health but an offence against his sight and hearing. A full concern for the quality of environment in which we and our children must live will only be manifested if we are determined to take action.

Co-operating with our provincial and municipal levels of government, a New Democratic government will take action by:

- (1) mere regulation and persuasion have proved ineffective. There must be a financial incentive; polluters will be heavily penalized;
- (2) registering and controlling pesticides and their use. Their effect on animal life should be taken into account as well as their tolerance in foods. Producers and distributors applying for registration will be re-

quired to show proof of their effects and controllability;

(3) requiring that motor vehicles be equipped with a means of filtering combustion fumes and controlling the use of gasoline additives which are a main cause of the morbid effects of combustion fumes;

(4) modernizing our waste disposal systems. Sanitary land fill has disastrous effects on our soil and ultimately on our supplies of drinking water;

(5) eliminating unsightly displays of automotive junk and other refuse which blight our cities and country side. Local governments will also be urged to set up financial sanctions against those who despoil our environment in the name of trade.

(6) controlling noise pollution through traffic control, standards of noise insulation in apartments, and other mentions against the "unseen" pollutants.

(7) striving to establish such a programme of effective co-operation between federal and provincial governments to halt the pollution now taking place; restoring to their previous state waters already polluted (where possible) and taking measures to prevent hitherto unpolluted waters from becoming polluted;

Striving to extend the area of co-operation between the Canadian and American government through the International Joint Commission

Establishing a national water policy and, in this connection, to enter into a survey of Canada's water resources together with studies of their use including the economics of water distribution and neutralization as well as its storage;

Making a firm committment to refrain from any deals as to the disposition of any Canadian water to the U.S. until such time as adequate data has been obtained to ensure that Canada's own water needs for all time are known.

(8) obtaining control over major shorelines, drainage basins, major lakes and rivers to take definite action against pollution;

(9) establishing an Environmental Control Agency which would have power to police all aspects of pollution and pursue through research and investigation, further measures to make the country in which we live as wholesome as possible.

- Federal Convention, 1967.

#### 6.6.2 Water

For too long Canada has neglected the important and basic

resource of water. While richly endowed with this resource we have not been adequately concerned with protection of quantity or quality. As a result there are areas of increasing water deficiency, there are supplies endangered or destroyed by pollution. As industrialization and urbanization increases, as power needs grow, as recreational demands mount, as world food needs escalate with exploding population, both the quality and quantity of Canadian water supplies assume greatly added importance.

The development, distribution, and conservation of Canadian water is one of our main public problems. The effective use of this resource demands planning by government (federal and provincial), administrative arrangement by grants (federal and provincial), and investment by governments (federal and provincial).

A comprehensive inventory of both surface and ground water is required. So too is research to remove natural impurities and to prevent pollution. Many of the natural waterways cross provincial boundaries. Moreover some of the flow now going westward and northward will eventually have to be diverted to serve areas that are now deficient or which will become deficient. If a Canadian view is to be taken the government of Canada acting with provincial governments must become active in encouraging and

assisting regional arrangements.

A New Democratic Government would initiate the necessary studies to determine water supply, water needs (and the methods required to bring supply and needs together). It would vigorously undertake and sponsor the research needed to remove existing pollution which has become a serious problem in many areas and to prevent added pollution. It would act with provincial governments in respect to necessary diversion and supplementation of present supplies. It would take such action as is necessary to prevent export water from Canada until an adequate supply is assured to Canada for all time, thus preventing a recurrence of such deplorable events as the Columbia River Treaty and the Chicago Drainage Diversion.

Comprehensive action of this nature is essential to the proper management of our resources, to ensuring employment and to preserve and add to the amenities of life for the Canadian people.

- Federal Convention, 1965

### 6.6.3 The Environment

Experts on the subject of pollution control recognize that international laws are required to combat the dangers to all peoples of the world exposed to the hazards of pollution; and

All nations of the world must enact laws within their own countries to correct the abuses of the government created by in-

dustrialization, increased population, and the new technology;

BE IT RESOLVED that we urge Canada to give strong support to the United Nations in their endeavor to establish international agencies for the tackling of the pollution problem on the international level, and enter into international negotiations and take other steps to protect our sea coasts from oil spills;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support the following policies:

- (1) the amendment of the Criminal Code to make it a jail offence for senior officers of companies who repeatedly, and despite warning, continue to pollute;
- (2) the establishment of an environment department under the authority of a cabinet minister with power to deal with air, water, soil and noise pollution;
- (3) the establishment by the government of the national environmental council composed of representatives of farmers, laborers, industry and other interested groups to study and submit recommendations to curb pollution;
- (4) the implementation by the government of an educational campaign involving pollution and its relation to the profit system;
- (5) the enactment of legislation which would
  - (a) enable individual citizens to sue any organizational business whose pollution caused personal damage, and if such pollution damages food;
  - (b) provide financial compensation to the individual affected.

## IV

AGRICULTURE

1. Agricultural policy is dependent mainly on federal political decisions. New Democrats have developed a national agricultural policy which has two main features.

(a) The New Democratic Party supports "parity prices". This means prices that will give the average farmer a standard of living not lower than that of the average industrial worker. Prices would be maintained by subsidy if necessary.

(b) The New Democratic Party believes that Canada can best be served by supporting and nurturing viable, individual owned farm units. We do not believe that farms should be owned or controlled by corporate interests seeking to integrate farming with retail or other interests.

The Alberta New Democratic Party thus supports and endorses the following policies, programmes and resolutions of the federal New Democratic Party: (JAB)

1.1 New Hope for the Farmer

The family farm is the basic unit of agricultural production and the desirable institution of our society. New Democratic

objectives for agriculture are maximum food production for Canada and a hungry world, and effective marketing machinery to ensure fair and reasonable farming.

The New Democratic government will free the farmer from the effects of the cost-price squeeze. We will lower farm production cost by ending monopoly control over farm machinery, fertilizers, chemicals and other supplies. Co-operatives will be encouraged and assisted to meet needs in these fields and, where necessary, public ownership will be developed.

Long term loans at low interest will be available for farm improvement and to help young farmers to acquire the land and modern machinery necessary for a successful career.

To offset the adverse effects of vertical integration of farm processes by private companies, assistance will be given to farmers to build co-operatives for processing and marketing their own farm produce. This assistance will include provision of credit on favorable terms.

The New Democratic government will assure producers of sufficient marketing power by:

- (a) development of federal producer marketing boards to co-ordinate the work of provincial marketing boards;
- (b) encouragement of co-operative and publically sponsored facilities for storing, processing and distributing farm

products;

(c) development of programmes to increase domestic levels of consumption;

(d) distribution of our surplus food to the needy of other lands in such a way as to avoid economic dislocation, and support for the establishment of a World Food Bank;

(e) vigorous and imaginative efforts to sell surplus products such as wheat, including the acceptance of part payment in sterling or currency of other countries, long term commodity agreements, credit arrangements, barter and other bilateral trade agreements;

(f) giving the Wheat Board permanent status.

The New Democratic Party government will institute a parity price policy to provide levels of farming consistent with the rest of the economy. We will do this through a system of guaranteed prices based on total farm costs supplemented by deficiency and compensatory payments where necessary.

New Democratic policy will include a comprehensive system of crop insurance and a programme of resource conservation and development. This will encompass more effective use of land and shifts in production to meet changing market demands.

Adequate and social community services are vitally important

to rural living. The co-operation of provincial and municipal governments will be sought to extend and improve health services, transportation, electric power and communications in rural areas. Particular attention will be given, in co-operation with the other provinces, to extending vocational training for rural youth, including education in modern farming methods.

- Federal Convention, 1961

## 1.2 Farm Income

The farmer cannot long survive the cost-price squeeze. The present market system supplemented by a patch - work of agricultural subsidies, price supports and other systems is not doing the job of enabling our farm producers to obtain an income which meets the cost of production and capital needs and assures them of family earnings in keeping with Canadian standards.

BE IT RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party endorse a farm income incentive programme founded on the following principles.

(1) that the market place has not as a general rule provided a majority of farm operators with an adequate income no matter how effective marketing plans are or how efficient their production methods;

(2) that the cheap food policy is not only inevitable but is desirable to assure Canadians of a plentiful supply within the budget of every wage earner;

(3) that the objective of an adequate income for efficient operators be sought through an income

incentive for viable farm operations. Such a programme should be regarded partly as a consumer subsidy to ensure cheap food for Canadians and would in the long run replace the present hodgepodge of agricultural aid programmes.

- Federal Convention, 1967

1.3 Similiar to his fellow working Canadians, the farmer is confronted with a fight for economic survival caused by a lack of adequate income within the present socio-economic system.

The trend towards vertical integration in some sectors in agriculture is putting added pressure on the economic position of the farmer. The involvement of processors and chain stores in farm production is an example of the extension of the corporate system expanding its control within our economic communities.

Basic and fundamental to the policy of the NDP are the following:

- (1) the elimination of waste and inefficiency in the food industry and that effective control over this industry be exercised by the Canadian government;
- (2) that ownership and control of the land resources be left in the hands of the farming community and that the present pattern of land ownership be continued as it presently exists; namely by individual farmers, co-operative farms or publicly by the Crown;
- (3) that our first priority be the retention of a viable rural community with adequate income and living standards.

Two particular problems require urgent attention. The sharp decline in prairie farm income threatens the economic well-being of the entire Canadian region. At the same time, conditions of rural poverty found in all regions across Canada must be tackled at once.

Many of the problems facing agriculture result from the piecemeal approach of past and present governments and their failure to adopt a comprehensive approach which accepts the principle of a high degree of public responsibility to strengthen the industry. The New Democratic Party believes that Government must intervene to assist agriculture in view of the fact that the industry has a fragmented structure which must compete for the most part against highly organized groups in most other sectors of the economy.

To this end, a New Democratic government will place emphasis on the following program:

(1) stabilize the agricultural industry and the farming population;

- (a) provide for a basic income adequate to cover production costs and ensure a reasonable standard of living;
- (b) develop an adjustment program by assisting low-income farmers to carry out basic decisions, e.g.,
  - . develop a viable farm enterprise sell-out and
  - and retrain for another occupation, retire, etc.

- (c) assist rural communities in obtaining an adequate level of services and income;
  - (d) ensure that the productive capacity of the land and the people be developed to the fullest extent: know-how, technology and land resources must all be used to achieve a high standard of living for farm people;
  - (e) encourage diversification of farming based on sound market information together with comprehensive policies respecting marketing, prices and processing activities;
- (2) Implement emergency programs to stabilize farm income:
- (a) an emergency deficiency payment to compensate for the present serious decline in prairie farm income;
  - (b) a two-price system as requested by farm organizations;
  - (c) an immediate minimum price guarantee of \$2.12 per bushel for No. 1 Northern wheat and develop a plan to guarantee a minimum price of \$3.00 per bushel on the first 2,000 bushels of wheat. Minimum prices should be established for grains and other products;

(3) Improve trade and marketing policies: The trade negotiations known as the Kennedy Round which resulted in the International Grain Arrangement, left the farmer and the Canadian Wheat Board in a weak and ineffective bargaining position. It would be the objective of an NDP government to correct this situation immediately and expand the marketing and sales of our products on a world-wide basis. Steps to be taken include:

- (a) place all western grains under the jurisdiction of the Canadian Wheat Board;
- (b) develop more direct selling by the Canadian Wheat Board;
- (c) apply Canadian Wheat Board pricing policies to feed mills;
- (d) require all individuals and corporations who engage in the buying or selling of grain to register with the Canadian Wheat Board and comply with their regulations;
- (e) establish a permanent Oil Seeds Promotion Commission under the jurisdiction of the Canadian Wheat Board to promote the sale and use of Canadian oil seeds in Canada and overseas. Adequate financing should be available to this Commission;

(4) Expand sales of grains and other agricultural products. It is essential to the interest of the prairie farm-economy that a high level of grain exports be achieved. An NDP government will support a trade policy that will enable us to increase our exports of wheat and other grains into all markets with a special emphasis on Asian markets, Russia and East European countries. To achieve this end, Canada must be prepared as a nation to expand its trade with these countries in order to give them the purchasing power to buy our products. Canada must also make every effort, including subsidies to expand its sales of feed grains into both domestic and export markets;

(5) Livestock production and marketing. A shift into livestock production in areas such as the prairies should be encouraged only as a result of careful evaluation of our market position and our production potential. The NDP will provide legislation to strengthen the farmers' bargaining power through marketing boards and/or collective bargaining by farm organizations. An NDP government would amend combines legislation to prohibit corporate vertical integration of processors and retail chain stores engaged in the feeding and breeding of livestock;

(6) Improve grain delivery, handling and transportation system:

- (a) review the grain delivery quota system in order to make it more equitable and to provide for a minimum level of sales in a crop year; farm storage payments to be made when necessary;
- (b) place all grain movement under the jurisdiction of a Transport Controller, who will work in close conjunction with the Canadian Wheat Board;
- (c) establish a Royal Commission to investigate all aspects of grain handling and transportation;

(7) Enable agriculture to adjust to new technological developments and changing economic conditions:

- (a) encourage rationalization of farm supply and service facilities in order to avoid unnecessary duplication and thus reduce costs to farmers;
- (b) measures to control unnecessary increases in the price of supplies required by farmers;
- (c) adequate credit programs to enable farmers to adjust to changing conditions with a maximum interest rate of six percent on Farm Credit Corporation and Farm Improvement Loans;
- (d) adequate research programs to enable agriculture to compete effectively for markets;

- (e) establish annual long-term guidelines for farmers on forecasted requirements and trends of individual farm commodities for both domestic and export markets;
- (f) investigate the problems of urban encroachment on farm lands in order to develop policies to combat problems created;
- (8) Assist other Nations in need of food:
  - (a) establish a one-billion dollar revolving fund to be used to extend long-term credit to dollar short nations to purchase food from Canada;
  - (b) sharply increase Canada's contribution to food aid programs;
  - (c) sponsor establishment of a world distribution centre to feed hungry populations.

- Federal Convention, 1969.

1.4 The planned and continuous degradation of agriculture, and the accompanying erosion of our rural communities are central issues before the people in every province of Canada, and the members of the NDP.

The current wheat marketing and pricing problems, and the resulting income crisis faced by prairie farmers are, in themselves,

shocking. Yet they cannot be considered apart from the larger picture they dramatically reflect. This crisis is not new, nor is it unique. It is rather, but another chapter in a 70-year period of instability of markets, fluctuations in prices and depression of incomes.

The accompanying erosion of our rural communities is painfully apparent. Small villages and hamlets are being swallowed up by larger towns. The trade and cultural functions of these larger towns in turn are being threatened by even larger cities. The very process of urbanization threatens to convert rural areas to an unkept backyard in an urban conglomerate, a cultural wasteland in a larger urban desert.

There are two basic problems confronting agriculture:

- (i) the costs of production; and
- (ii) the related questions of prices, markets and income. Both of these problems relate to the future of family farms. In dealing with each, we propose to state the problem and then list our recommendations.

#### Machinery Costs

An expensive Royal Commission has confirmed what most farmers know. Farm machinery is unduly expensive. In addition, we believe that in some instances machinery is inefficient, of poor quality and not necessarily suited to prairie conditions. The implement suffers from poor distribution. Spare parts have

become a business racket, designed to complement planned obsolescence. In short, the interests of the American-dominated farm machine industry are incompatible with those of our farmers. The needs of one are diametrically opposed to the interests of the other.

It is necessary therefore to rationalize the industry in the interests of the people who labour on the land. To this end, we recommend the establishment of a government farm implement board that will have the following functions:

- (i) operate a farm machinery testing program similar to that formerly provided by the Saskatchewan Agriculture Machinery administration;
- (ii) regulate the distribution, sale and servicing of farm machinery to promote standardization of farm machinery;
- (iii) in consultation with the provinces and in consultation with the CCIL and other Canadian controlled companies set up a positive program of encouraging farm implement manufacturing and importing;

#### Land Costs

The increase in farm size, the continental decline in the total number of producers, the aging of the farm population, the

difficulty facing young people desirous of becoming farmers are problems related in considerable measure to the question of land, and with the availability of low-cost capital funds.

A number of myths should be dispelled. It is widely assumed that an efficient farm unit may be defined in large measure in terms of farm size. Experience suggests this assumption is misleading. By this definition, an economic farm unit in 1950 would be wholly inadequate in 1970. More to the point, the process of farm enlargement since the second world war has not resulted in the establishment of economic farm units. It has resulted rather in sharp competition for land at inflated prices, in a decrease in the number of farms, in rural depopulation, in the almost systematic exclusion of young people from the agricultural industry. The end result of the process is clear, not the establishment of an economic farm unit but the elimination of the family farm as the basic unit of agricultural production.

It is widely assumed that once a family has paid for the land it cultivates, the land is theirs, that land may then be passed on from one generation to the other without penalty. Seldom is this ever the case. Most farm parents cannot afford to turn over their land to their children if for no other reason than the fact that their investment in land has become, for them, a pension fund. In order to retire with a modicum of decency,

they are obliged to sell their land in order to supplement their income from the Canada Pension Plan. As a result, the farm is kept within the family when the son agrees to mortgage the farm. The debt of one generation is bequeathed to the next. Such is the price we are obliged to pay for access to land. The system, in short, is preposterous.

It almost guarantees the perpetual indebtedness of farm families; it systematically excludes the young from the family farm; it provides the old with an expensive and inadequate pension plan; it increases the costs of production. Clearly such a system is of benefit to banks and insurance and mortgage companies; the benefit to the farmer is questionable.

The issue may be restated simply. We require a farm policy that increases the farm population, not one that depletes. We require one that opens the door to young farmers, not one that slams it in their faces. We require a land policy that provides the basis for a new and invigorated rural community, not one that undermines it. We require a policy that supports the family farm, not one that destroys it. To this end, we recommend:

- (i) the acceptance of the principle that there shall be a limit to farm size;
- (ii) the establishment of a public commission to determine a formula for farm unit size on a regional basis, the

findings of such a commission to be subject to the consideration and approval of the individual producers in the region;

- (iii) establishing a Land Bank Commission to purchase land offered voluntarily on the market at competitive prices, and lease this land, guaranteeing tenure, on the basis of need, with the option to buy;
- (iv) enacting legislation to prohibit the foreign and corporate takeover of farm lands;
- (v) the definition of a farmer, for these purposes, shall be in terms of a family, or a number of family units engaged in co-operative production of one kind or another;
- (vi) the establishment of an adequate and suitable pension plan for primary producers such as farmers and fishermen;
- (vii) an NDP government would provide greater assistance in the form of low interest loans to individuals or groups wishing to initiate farming operation. Credit would not be restricted to those now owning farm property or other assets but would be made available according to need to potential farmers of all ages.

#### Prices, Markets and Income

Regulate the food processing, wholesaling and retailing

industries in the public interest through the use of price controls.

Establish producer-controlled boards and legislate to prevent dumping of agricultural products on the Canadian domestic market.

Market prices would be regulated to cover all costs of producing and marketing each commodity, including the cost of farm income and a pension plan for retiring farmers.

Extend all-risk crop insurance at reasonable rates to all areas of Canada and to include all crops (irrigated and hay as well). It would be based on current production and market values over a five year average.

Develop a program to provide for a basic guaranteed net income for farmers. Farm income would be negotiated directly with farmers on an industry-wide level and would be based on costs of production, family need, and the productive potential of various farming operations in relation to what was produced.

#### Grain Marketing

The NDP will advocate the following policies for grain marketing.

- (i) that the farmer be guaranteed an initial price geared to the cost-of-production figure;

- (ii) that the Wheat Board carry out an aggressive sales policy;
- (iii) that any losses from "pools" be absorbed from the federal treasury;
- (iv) that farmers should have information in advance markets, quotas and prices for the coming year;
- (v) that the government share the cost of maintaining an inventory of grains, specifically wheat, barley and rapeseed in commercial positions so that we may be able to meet changing world market demands;
- (vi) include the sale of all cereal grains sold to feed mills under the quota and pricing system of the Wheat Board;
- (vii) license feeding operations over 400 head in the prairie region, where the Wheat Board is responsible for grain marketing, and require them to report monthly to the Wheat Board, kind, amount, and price of grain purchased;
- (viii) include rye, flax and rape-seed under the "pooling" system of the Wheat Board;
- (ix) do all in its power to strengthen the position of the Wheat Board.

### The Process of Planning

If we are to develop new rural communities in any meaningful way, it is going to be necessary to experiment with the planning process. In this connection, experience to date would suggest two considerations: decentralization and involvement of the local population.

The New Democratic Party is firmly committed to the idea that production of food is not the sole object of the agricultural industry. Because it affords a satisfying way of life, for a significant proportion of our people, economic considerations ought not to be the sole, or even the principle criterion governing farm policy and the provision of social amenities in rural areas. We are firmly committed to the idea that the family-owned and operated farm unit is the most desirable economic unit in agriculture, and that government policies should be aimed at supporting and strengthening the viability of the family farm, but where requests are made by owners of farm land we will consider the assembly of crown lands to release for individual farmers.

With these considerations in mind, we recommend:

- (i) the provision for regional development areas and planning processes;
- (ii) the establishment of pilot regions for the purpose of implementing at least some of the recommenda-

tions of this policy;

(iii) establishment of industrial plants to be co-operatively or publicly owned for the processing of food and the manufacture of farm supply items in the region of production. Related industries and services should be encouraged through industrial estates and planned communities which would include recreational, cultural and educational facilities. This industrialization in rural Canada would provide new employment and enable those who migrate out of farming to find alternative jobs within the region. It would revitalize stagnant rural cities, lower costs to the farmer and unite farmers and working people in the region. It might be necessary as well to take into public ownership some existing farm supply retail operations, farm machinery assembly plants, meat-packing plants and canneries.

These policy recommendations were reached, having in mind the manner in which costs of production, prices, markets, income, and rural life are related one to the other. It is, therefore, recommended that these recommendations be considered together, having in mind the relationship of one set of proposals to others.

Change is inevitable. There were people who lamented the changes touched off in rural Canada by substitution of the tractor

for the horse. Future changes cannot be imagined, but if rural institutions and rural people are to adjust easily to changes, then study and planning are necessary. This points up the urgent need for scientifically trained personnel and publicly financed social research. To this end, a New Democratic Party government would establish a suitable agency for this purpose.

#### Farm and Forest Credit

BE IT RESOLVED by this federal convention that a New Democratic government:

- (1) shall take the necessary steps to immediately implement the recommendations of the Canadian Task force on Agriculture relative to the establishment of a Federal-Provincial Farm Credit Board, based on the sharing of capital investments and operating costs between the two levels of government and covering the administration of various credit programs at the provincial level;
- (2) will provide, through this Board, a program of long term mortgage loans available to all farm and forestry operators, including hog, poultry, fruit, vegetable, lumber and other specialized producers;
- (3) shall substantially increase the present maximum long term loans especially for co-operatively operated farms, provided the owners of those farms are the actual farmers and shall revise to this purpose the criteria for credit entitlement to take into account as in the industrial sector the potential income which can be generated by credit;
- (4) shall subsidize the interest rates of long term loans so as to reduce them to the level of 3% per year for the first \$25,000 in each case;
- (5) will make available, through the Federal-Provincial Board a medium term credit program similar to the one which operates under the provincial

legislation for improvement, equipment and construction both on forestry operations and farm woodlots, and for agricultural land; it should be possible for banks and credit unions to grant loans under this program at a rate of interest very close to the current rates with the provision that the farm credit board or the provincial government would refund a substantial share of this interest to the farmers;

(6) will make available, following a study of the methods of operation, a program of short term credit which could follow the general principles of the medium term credit program under the provincial farm improvement legislation;

(7) shall implement special farm credit provisions for young people settling on farms.

#### International Markets

A New Democratic government:

(1) shall take new steps to equalize the tariffs applicable to farm products for various countries;

(2) shall take the leadership of those countries which want to resume multi-lateral trades negotiations. Failing success at this level, Canada shall be prepared to participate in trades agreement with a limited number of countries and even in bilateral treaties;

(3) shall increase activities to promote and develop trade and shall encourage joint ventures of farm organizations, federal and provincial governments, business organizations or private enterprises;

- (4) shall promote and plan its food assistance to developing countries, particularly in the case of dairy products;
- (5) shall considerably increase the market studies and shall establish close co-operation between researchers and farmers which must make decisions at the level of production;
- (6) shall equalize tariffs for all importers.

#### Planning Commission

NDP MPs shall see to it that all three following reactionary and unacceptable recommendations of the task force be rejected:

- (1) the freezing of dairy product prices;
- (2) the total elimination of subsidies from the Canadian Milk Commission by 1976;
- (3) the assistance offered to the farm operators who leave farming, to the detriment of those who remain in farming.

#### Distributing Feed Grains and Surplus Dairy Production

The NDP MPs shall in the House of Commons demand that the Department of Agriculture:

- (1) reject the unilateral principle of non-subsidy to the dairy industry and the transportation of feed grains, as recommended in the report of the Canadian Task Force on Agriculture;

(2) proceed with both above-mentioned programs. We consider that they must be maintained and adjusted if needed, until valid alternatives are found to replace those two current systems of subsidies;

(3) continue the work started by the task force on Canadian agriculture, for the purpose of preparing concrete policy to help Quebec agriculture. The methods for implementation of those policies, should take into account economic and social consequences;

(4) obtain the joint participation of the provincial government and farm organizations including the UCC in the drafting of policies and programs for Quebec agriculture. Such an approach should be used both within a permanent tripartite task force, and at the time of events such as the Canadian Agricultural Convention.

Federal Convention, 1971.

1.5 A national feed grains policy must recognize the best interests of producers, livestock producers and consumers, and

Stability of supplies of feed grains and meat products combined with adequate and stable producer incomes are essential to serving those interests, and

Orderly marketing of feed grains must be the cornerstone of any effective feed grains policy.

BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP urge the federal government to implement the following:

- (1) that the Canadian Wheat Board be the sole marketing agency for western grain;
- (2) that the Canadian Wheat Board institute a national pricing structure which guarantees users of feed grain in every area of Canada access to feed grains produced in western Canada at Western Canadian prices adjusted for transportation and handling costs;
- (3) that the present policy of feed freight assistance be continued as it applies in the eastern provinces and British Columbia;
- (4) that a storage assistance program for feed grains be established as one feature of a storage program for all grains - wheat, oilseeds, and feed grains - so that adequate supplies of grain will be on hand at all times.

- Federal Convention, 1973.

2. The agricultural policy of the Alberta New Democratic Party supports that of the national organization. In supplementation of policies the Alberta New Democratic Party has adopted the following policies:\*

2.1 An Alberta New Democratic Party government will provide real leadership and co-operation with organized farmers to continue improvement in production and marketing techniques.

An Alberta New Democratic Party government would

- (1) improve and extend research in soil testing, plant breeding and livestock improvement;
- (2) extend and/or increase crop insurance coverage by contributing to the premium costs;
- (3) establish a machine testing bureau to provide impartial information and data on farm machinery;
- (4) work with organized farmers to develop new and improved marketing machinery, provide improved legislation for the purpose of holding plebiscites on marketing boards.

2.2 An Alberta New Democratic Party government would provide a provincial budget that would recognize the importance of agriculture to the total economy of the Province. The present budget is not a firm measure of this worth. \*

In addition immediate research into the adequacy and fairness of the present application of property taxes needs to be undertaken.

Crown lands still unoccupied should not be open for settlement until the proper plan of settlement is arranged and provision made for each settler to have adequate finances and/or assistance for some assurance of success. A similar plan should be prepared in conjunction with the Crown Credit Corporation to re-establish those people presently occupying crown lands who are in financial

difficulty.

- Provincial Convention, 1966,
- Provincial Programme, 1967.

2.3 Since there is no possibility at the present time for the farmer to sell his products on world markets at a price which will give him financial equality with the industrial worker, and since the farmer should pay the same wages to labourers as industry, an Alberta New Democratic government would do every thing possible to assist the farmer to attain a new minimum income of \$3,000 per year.

- Provincial Convention, 1966
- Provincial Programme, 1967.

2.4 The development of meaningful farm policy is extremely difficult and very complex. Most of the difficulty arises because of the wide divergence of weather and soil, variation in enterprises and distance from markets. It is for this reason that farm policy can only be stated in general terms, and is therefore, disappointing to many farmers who are on the brink of elimination or young people just getting started. However one very important point should be borne in mind. A New Democratic Party forming a government either provincially or federally would not be hampered by any loyalties to existing institutions such as

food chains, machine companies, etc., in its efforts to translate general into specific policy.

There was considerable satisfaction, then, in the conclusions arrived at in the conference held in Saskatoon in 1967. First and foremost New Democrats should resist by legislation the shift to large, non-farm oriented companies that are unfair competition for independent farm families. That any price stabilization programme should be available to large and small farms alike and should not be designed to eliminate the small farmer as is the present Liberal government with regards to milk.

The farm price levels must be adjusted upwards by using a combination of marketing boards and price subsidies. That both the federal and provincial governments need to put more into crop insurance premiums to provide a higher level of income guarantee and to provide a plan of interest subsidized loan for young people to start farming. These and other policies will be subject to review in the changes in social policies such as complete medicare coverage and/or any system of income guarantees applied to the whole society. In the meantime, help and leadership will be provided to help the farm people provide their own services by means of co-operative efforts.

The following is the policy statement approved by the conference in Saskatoon and offered for your approval:

The New Democratic Party believes that a system of income transfer from the treasury to farmers for the purpose of raising their income levels is necessary, and in the best interests of the farmers make their own decision whether or not they will continue as farmers.

1. With farmers and farm organizations plan production requirements and goals, along with any other requirements for rational farm living; including land use, industrialization, and urbanization.
2. Use the principle of parity pricing to assure farm families a chance to make a living on a par with the rest of the economy.
3. Guarantee a minimum income at or near the regional cost of production by paying at least half of the premium on crop insurance required for this purpose.
4. Provide the leadership necessary for farmers to develop sound, responsible marketing machinery and supplement this by whatever legislation is necessary.
5. Make available low interest money, technical and managerial aid to young farm families, including homesteaders, who do not have the advantages of other sponsors.
6. That every effort will be made to discourage vertically integrated corporations either to own land or to carry on farming enterprises that, by their nature, provide unfair competition for the farm family.
7. To provide all the necessary facilities, both financial and technical, to make research a top priority.
8. To assure all young people access to education fitted to their needs.
9. BE IT RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party, if elected, would appoint a committee to investigate the entire sphere of vertical integration in Agriculture. This committee should

have broad terms of reference, and have authority to bring in specific recommendations as to where legislation can be passed to stop this evil practice of making sweat shop labour of the primary producer. Contract farming can lead only to monopoly control of the farmers.

- Provincial Convention, 1967.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND LABOUR RELATIONS

1. Alberta, along with the other prairie provinces of western Canada, needs a dynamic approach towards supplementing its economy through industrial expansion. Alberta has amongst its natural resources petroleum, gas, waterpower, coal and industries within the province.

In order to develop our industrial potential for the benefit of the people in this province, an Alberta New Democratic government will:

1. Institute a plan for intermediate and long term low cost credit to small growing industries and offer assistance in planning and promotion of these industries;
2. Plan the promotion of co-operative enterprises in areas of need.
3. Enact such labour, industrial and other legislation that will provide the necessary impetus for the development of industry and commerce in Alberta.
4. Support federal incentive measures designed to increase Canadian ownership of industry and maintain a continued study of the status of natural resources in Alberta, with

a view to securing and maintaining control of lost, and of restoring control to Canadian hands where control has been alienated by present and previous governments.

(5) Revise the Companies and Securities Laws to provide:

That is as economically feasible

(a) that an effective majority of shares in all new companies incorporated and/or registered in Alberta must be owned by citizens of Alberta,

(b) that all issues of voting shares of companies incorporated in Alberta must be offered first to Albertans, then to citizens of Canada as a whole and, finally, the world market.

(6) Oppose export of Canadian water and instead make continued studies for the maximum utilization of this water in Canada in general, and in Alberta in particular;

(7) Initiate experiments of shared labour management control in selected public corporations on an experimental basis with the objective of dividing techniques to eliminate industrial warfare and increase the dignity of employees at all levels in the corporate structure.

- Provincial Convention, 1966

- Provincial Programme, 1967

2. A New Democratic provincial government will give immediate consideration to a maximum development of

1. electric power production
2. petrochemical industry and allied research
3. pulp, paper and lumber, with emphasis on assisting the small operator
4. fertilizer and other farm chemicals
5. development of a primary steel industry in Alberta under public auspices
6. the Alberta fishing industry, and
7. coal by-products plants if feasibility studies indicate their practicality.

- Provincial Convention, 1966

- Provincial Programme, 1967.

3. In further amplification of the above policy statements the following resolutions have been passed:

- 3.1 BE IT RESOLVED that industrial development will be planned to meet the long term needs of Albertans. This would include the establishment of a comprehensive primary and secondary industrial system across Alberta to provide a balanced, province wide, economy.

- Provincial Convention, 1974

- 3.2 BE IT RESOLVED that a provincial economic development board be established under the control of the provincial

government to set policy for short and long term economic development, and the transformation of Alberta into a socialist province.

- Provincial Convention, 1974.

- 3.3 BE IT RESOLVED that an Alberta development corporation be established which would have overall responsibility for technological innovations in industry to ensure that our technology is in harmony with humanity's organic basis.

- Provincial Convention, 1974.

- 3.4 BE IT RESOLVED that industry will be developed only in unison with the environment and will be located across Alberta to establish alternative industrial basis.

- Provincial Convention, 1974.

#### 4. Public Ownership

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta New Democratic Party AFFIRMS the principle of public ownership as being the basic economic principle of democratic socialism; and

RE-AFFIRMS our commitment to the public ownership of:

- (a) All utilities in the Province presently in private hands, with equalized rates across the province,
- (b) All exploitation of the Tar Sands,
- (c) All exploitation of the Grande Cache Coal Reserves,
- (d) As much low-rental housing as may be economically justified,

- (e) Public ownership of land for land-banking purposes to meet housing needs.

AND RESOLVES that the further areas of industry and commerce in the Province in which public ownership should exist, the form of it, the terms upon which it should come about, the various transitional steps that should occur, the financial implications involved and all related matters be the subject of study and policy formation;

AND THAT this study and policy formation should be the task of a committee on public ownership;

AND THAT responsibility for the study of particular areas of economy be delegated by the committee to particular groups whether constituency, affiliated, regional or otherwise, within the party, to report back to the committee within a specified time;

AND THAT the committee shall report to council from time to time, but in any case so that by the next convention of the Alberta New Democratic Party, we shall have a coherent and integrated policy statement on these matters to form the basis of economic plans when the people of Alberta are returned to power.

- Provincial Convention, 1973.

## 5. Industrial Labour Policy

5.1 Recognizing the need for close co-operation between the labour groups of Alberta and any Alberta Government in order to enact and maintain legislation for the benefit of all Albertans, the Alberta New Democratic Party affirms its support of the general aims of organized labour in this province and in Canada as a whole.

A New Democratic government would revise the Labour Act to serve the interests of the workers and end the discrimination that now exists. This revised Labour Act will guarantee all workers, including provincial and municipal employees, the right to organize and negotiate collectively without interference from management, with particular references to indiscriminate use of injunctions by managements in labour disputes. Legal protection of minority groups in fair employment and fair accomodation would be provided in the Act.

The Labour Act will include the following points, to cover employers with two or more employees:

1. A 40 hour - 5 day work week for all workers regardless of area of occupation; bearing in mind the possibilities of an even shorter work week to offset the problems of automation and unemployment, thus providing full employment for all willing and able to work.
2. A minimum wage of \$1.50 per hour, less any provisions for room and board for farm labour.
3. Ten paid statuatory holidays per year for every employee.
4. Two weeks' vacation with pay after one year's service; three weeks' vacation with pay after five years ser-

vice.

We further endorse the policy of extended holidays after five years' service to all employees, with a view to altering the serious unemployment situation which exists and with no hope for improvement in the foreseeable future.

Under an Alberta New Democratic government, the Industrial Relations Board would take over the investigation and prosecution of violations of the Alberta Labour Act. The Board would be reconstituted with the purpose in mind of divorcing the members thereof from direct control by the government in power.

A New Democratic government would completely redraft the Workman's Compensation Act in the light of present day social conditions, including definitions and rules as to what constitutes light duty and a substantial increase in widows' and dependents' pensions as well as disability pensions, including farm labour where possible.

A New Democratic government would promote and encourage the expansion of the National Employment Service into the field of part time or emergency employees.

A New Democratic government would co-operate with the Federal Government on a sound and realistic program for the development of full health and Social Security programs and would take whatever legislative means necessary to assist the Federal

government to achieve this end.

The New Democratic Party feels that management no longer should have the sole right to determine changes in employees' relations and conditions as a result of technological advancements. To achieve communications and arbitration in this field, a New Democratic government would promote the establishment of a permanent government commission on the effects of automation, sufficiently qualified to be able to intervene and assist in the settlement of labour disputes in the field of management-employee relations.

In addition to any Federal plan for full employment, a flexible provincial development program of public works would be planned for the needs of seasonal and short-term periods of unemployment, and to assist municipalities financially with a similar program.

Such a program would not only provide jobs in time of need, but could provide schools, hospitals, roads, parks and other public facilities in an efficient and orderly manner.

- Provincial Convention, 1966

- Provincial Programme, 1967

5.2 BE IT RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party support the Alberta Federation of Labour in its long term goal of a four day work week of eight hours per day\*.

- Provincial Convention, 1973.

- 5.3 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta New Democratic Party stands firmly committed to the principle that it is the right, and not the privilege of all workers to organize for their own betterment and in the interest of protecting this right this convention directs that legislation shall be proposed to revise the Provincial Labour Act (R.S.A. ch. 196, sec. 84 and 87) to the effect that

Where any person suffers termination of employment, demotion, or is at any later date denied promotion or employment as a result that he or she has attempted to organize the workers within any company or industry for the purposes of negotiation, or has been a participant in or supporter of any such movement to organize the workers within any company or industry, such action on the part of an employer or industry shall be considered guilty of an infraction of this code; and the person so effected may bring before a Board of Inquiry, to be composed of five (5) persons, or at least two (2) of whom shall be members in good standing of a trade union or labour organization recognized by the Alberta Federation of Labour, or an official thereof, and no more than two (2) of whom shall be classifiable as employers, and none of whom shall be directly or indirectly involved in the company and industry in question, to be appointed by the Minister of Labour upon the request of the complainant and for the purposes set forth herein, a complaint to that effect, provided that such a complaint has been submitted in writing to the Department of Labour within a period of three (3) months following the alleged infraction; and it shall be the duty of the Board of Inquiry to decide whether an infraction has taken place; and any employer or industry found guilty of such an infraction shall be subject to a fine of no less \$1,000 nor more than \$10,000 for each day following the infraction until the complainant has been restored to his or her proper employment status, or until such sum has tendered into court, and/or imprisonment of

no longer than one (1) year for each infraction, to be determined by a justice of the Alberta Supreme Court upon the recommendation of a Board of Inquiry, and shall reinstate the complainant to his or her proper employment status as determined by the Board of Inquiry, and shall reimburse the complainant retroactively for any wages lost or damages incurred as a result of the infraction, as determined by the Board of Inquiry.

- Provincial Convention, 1974.

- 5.4 BE IT RESOLVED that the Labour Act be amended to encourage organization of unions in all places of work.

- Provincial Convention, 1974.

- 5.5 BE IT RESOLVED that the Industrial Relations Act be amended to encourage industrial democracy by legislating labour and community participation in management.

- Provincial Convention, 1974.

- 5.6 BE IT RESOLVED that legislation will be provided to ensure that all workers have the right (and protection of democratic participation) in the decision making in their place of work or employment.

- Provincial Convention, 1974.

- 5.7 BE IT RESOLVED that an independent board of appeal be established by the government to hear appeals against the Workmen's Compensation Board. If no settlement is reached, the worker may pursue action in the civil court.

- Provincial Convention, 1974.

5.8 WHEREAS the minimum wage in the Province of Alberta will be \$2.00 per hour effective April 1st., 1974,

WHEREAS the cost of living has continually increased, many unorganized workers in the province of Alberta find themselves in a position whereby the minimum wage become maximum.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta New Democratic Party press for a \$3.00 per hour minimum wage.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a cost of living clause be added which would provide for an automatic increase everytime the cost of living increases.

- Provincial Convention, 1974.

## VI

### ENERGY

#### 1. Oil and Gas Policy

1.1 It is in the interests of the people of Alberta to implement an oil and gas policy with the following main objectives:

- (a) the maximum possible revenue for the public treasury;
- (b) the maximum possible conservation of oil and gas;
- (c) the minimum possible domination of the industry by a few giant corporations, particularly those under foreign ownership.

In order to achieve these objectives, the Alberta New Democratic Party government will:

- (1) develop the Athabasca Tar Sands through a crown corporation, and place all existing private development projects under crown ownership;
- (2) Increase royalties on the production of oil and gas from conventional fields, introduce a royalty bidding system in addition to the existing cash bid system for

sale of crown leases and implement a 2% road allowance tax;

(3) demand an oil pipeline to Montreal, in order to supply the entire domestic market with Canadian crude, and aggressively strive to expand markets for oil in foreign countries;

(4) reform the Right of Entry Arbitration Board and the Expropriation Procedures Act to assure fair dealing for the owners of surface rights in connection with the exploration and development of the oil and gas industry. This reform would include provision for rental payments on pipeline rights of way.

(5) supply government aid through the Department of Co-operatives, to expand the existing Co-operative Oil Refineries of Regina into Alberta, or establish a separate but similar integrated producer-consumer co-operative oil company in Alberta for the purpose of reducing the price of gasoline to the consumer;

(6) examine the oil and gas allowable systems and make suitable changes which will provide the smaller operators with a fair share of the oil and gas market and stimulate the development of all commercial oil and gas pools;

(7) terminate the practice of permitting tariff changes consisting of operating costs and plant and gathering

system amortization, to be deducted before payment of crown royalty;

(8) review the regulations concerning mineral rights acquisition, paying particular attention to

- (a) amending the rules for lease selection from a crown reservation in such a manner

- that the proportion of valuable mineral rights reverting to the crown for resale is increased;

- (b) increasing work obligations on crown reservations and shortening lease terms in order to increase the tempo of oil and gas exploration and development, increase the revenue to the crown for more frequent mineral rights sales (rather than modest long term rentals from major oil companies) and give a greater opportunity to smaller oil companies to acquire mineral rights;

- (c) instituting immediate disclosure of technical information affecting crown lease sales, thus increasing the revenue from these lease sales and eliminating the present unpleasant practice of spying by oil scouts and forcible detention of same oil scouts if caught spying.

(9) introduce compulsory unitization for the purpose of

preventing physical and economic waste, but with easy recourse to the courts for interest owners who might legitimately feel that they have not been awarded a just and equitable share of the unitized substances.

- Provincial Programme, 1967.

#### 1.2 Alberta Petroleum Marketing Board

BE IT RESOLVED that an Alberta New Democratic Party government would empower an Alberta Petroleum Marketing Board to be the sole purchaser of oil, gas, and its by-products in the Province of Alberta. The Board will establish the purchase price. The re-sale price of such products would be set in consultation with the Federal government and would reflect a maximum return for the people of Alberta.

- Provincial Convention, 1974.

#### 1.3 Alberta Energy Corporation and the Athabasca Oil Sands

BE IT RESOLVED:

(a) that the Alberta Energy Corporation be transformed into a 100% government owned corporation.

(b) it would be responsible for

(i) the total development of the Athabasca Oil Sands

(ii) the repatriation of private interests already operating in the Oil Sands as well as private interests in other energy resources;

(iii) co-ordination of Oil Sands research with a special branch of the Alberta Research Council;

(iv) the development of the Oil Sands at a rate compatible with Canadian Petroleum needs, environmental limitations, and ability to train and supply Canadian people and expertise;

(v) involvement in exploration and development of conventional oil sources.

- Provincial Convention, 1974.

#### 1.4 Federal-Provincial Resource Revenue Sharing

BE IT RESOLVED:

(a) that consistent with the British North America Act which places natural resources under the jurisdiction of the Provincial government, an Alberta New Democratic government would insist that all revenues deriving from an Alberta resource revert to the people of Alberta through their provincial government;

(b) to the extent that such increased revenues place Alberta above the national income average an Alberta New Democratic Party government would be willing to pay its fair share towards equalizing income and petroleum price differences within Canada.

- Provincial Convention, 1974.

#### 1.5 Retail Prices Policy

BE IT RESOLVED:

(a) that where an unjustified increase in price has taken place, such as with propane, an Alberta New Democratic Party government would roll back such prices. To achieve this, all petroleum products retailed in Alberta would be subject to regulations by the Public Utilities Board;

(b) where an unnecessary increase in the price of petroleum-derived product such as nitrogen-fertilizers, has taken place, an Alberta New Democratic Party government would roll back and regulate the price of such products;

(c) an Alberta New Democratic Party government would legislate price control for all energy products in the interest of the people of Alberta.

(d) as long as the energy resources remain under private corporate control the New Democratic Party advocates a price freeze on energy products.

- Provincial Convention, 1974.

#### 1.6 Arctic Oil Development in Northern Alberta

BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government commission an immediate study to consider the consequences of Arctic Oil Development on Northern Alberta and more specifically that such a study should examine:

(a) the economic advantages to Alberta of a MacKenzie railroad as an alternative to a MacKenzie pipeline;

(b) the feasibility of linking said railroad with the Great Slave Railroad to Peace River, extending the N.A.R. from Fairview to Rycroft and Rycroft to Dawson Creek;

(c) the practicality of integrating the MacKenzie, the G.S.R., and N.A.R., and A.R.R. and P.E. and E. with a view to eliminating the switching charges;

(d) the practical steps necessary to bring all railroads in Canada under public ownership;

(e) the possible impact of a MacKenzie railroad on recovering the public investment made on the A.R.R.;

(f) until such a study is completed, the Government of Alberta should demand a freeze on any further development of the MacKenzie Pipeline project.

- Provincial Convention, 1973.

## 2. Alternative Sources of Energy

BE IT RESOLVED that this convention approve the setting up of a provincial NDP committee charged with developing an informed policy with regard not only to nuclear fission and its hazards, but also in relation to possible alternative sources of energy that will neither exhaust our natural resources nor pollute the planet.

- Provincial Council, 1973.

3. The Alberta New Democratic Party endorses and supports the following statements, policies and programmes of the federal New Democratic Party.

### 3.1 Natural Resources

The Canadian natural resource industries, more than any other sector of the economy, are characterized by almost complete foreign ownership and control and by extremely high degrees in economic concentration and resultant monopoly. At the present time non-residents, mainly U.S., control 82.6% of our oil and gas wells, 86.2% of our iron mines industry, 84.9% of our non-metal mining industries and 88% of our non-metallic mineral products industries.

In addition, for most of the extractive industries, five or six large foreign based multi-national corporations account for 90-95% of the respective industry's output and production.

Canada will continue to face serious unemployment crisis as long as our economy is a branch plant economy, based almost exclusively on exploitation and export of raw materials.

The NDP believes that our natural resources should be managed in the long term best interests of Canadians; that Canada's natural riches should be the basis for highly efficient and competitive processing and manufacturing industries - not merely the raw material for the economics of other nations.

BE IT RESOLVED that an NDP government would:

- (1) increase public investment in and control of Canada's resource industries by all available and appropriate means, including public ownership and joint participation with private corporations; and especially, through public ownership of the oil and natural gas distribution systems, and the acquisition of effective control of the Pan Arctic Oil Company;

- (2) establish a Canada Development Corporation totally owned and controlled by the Canadian people as a whole as the primary vehicle whereby participation in the use and development of our natural resources is accomplished;

- (3) ensure through legislation that preservation of the ecology and unresolved Indian and Eskimo land rights are given top priority in the future development of our natural resources;

- (4) co-operate with the provincial governments, in whose jurisdiction most of our natural resources reside toward the establishment of uniform standards of

resource planning and development throughout Canada;

(5) implement tax laws which would replace the present wasteful and inefficient tax concession given to natural resource industries with a tax system which is equitable as between resource industries and other corporations;

(6) actively promote the processing of raw material in Canada and economic diversification of resource based communities;

(7) act when necessary in Canada's interest to regulate the prices of certain vital resource products and take such other measures as are within its power to ensure the planned and orderly management of Canada's natural resources;

(8) evolve a socialist plan for Canadian resources development that will determine how much of our resources are genuinely surplus to Canadian needs; seek world-wide trading relationships in Canadian surplus resources with a view to international development and recognizing that Canadian economic freedom is now inhibited by existing trade patterns which are not controlled by the Canadian people, an NDP government would seek to establish a much greater diversity in our patterns of trade so that greater options and flexibility would be available to us; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the NDP immediately undertake a campaign of the public information and protest to mobilize Canadian people against the continental energy deal with the U.S. and the sell-out of our resources to that country.

- Federal Convention, 1971.

### 3.2 A National Energy Policy

Energy, the life-blood of any nation, is quickly becoming the cause of this nation's deepest malaise. When the people

of a nation as richly endowed as is Canada come to believe that not only are their energy resources being depleted in flagrant disregard for the long-term public interest, but that the natural habitat of man is being done irreparable harm in the process, then we may be sure that the mismanagement of our energy resources is approaching crisis proportions.

The crisis is in the dawning realization that what we thought was inexhaustable wealth is showing signs of running out and in the fear that the national leadership lacks both the courage and the will to provide constructive direction and responsible control over our spiralling consumption of energy resources;

The objective of a national energy policy should be the conservation and the best use of our energy sources for the present and future generations at the lowest possible prices.

Canada's known oil reserves at the present rate of consumption will be depleted in 15 years and our supply of natural gas will be exhausted in 23 years. After that we will be forced to resort to more costly sources which will double or triple in price by 1990. This underlines the economic insanity of selling our cheap supplies of oil and gas to the United States when we know that in a few years we will be compelled to turn to much more expensive fuels.

### Public Ownership and Control

The NDP believes that the energy crisis demands that all energy resources in Canada be brought under public control. We contend that Canadians can only be protected with regard to price and security of supply by embarking upon a program of greatly increased public ownership and control by both federal and provincial governments. Only public bodies have the long-term outlook and overview of competing energy sources to bring about the planned management of our resources from an economic, social and ecological standpoint. Short-run profits must not be put ahead of long-run planning.

Towards our purpose of conserving our resources and environment and improving the quality of life, an NDP government would adopt the following policies:

#### An Oil and Gas Crown Corporation

We would establish a government-owned Canadian Petroleum Corporation. It would undertake the exploration, development, processing and marketing of oil and gas resources. It would carry out these activities directly or contract them out to co-operatives or the private sector.

Its first step would be to bring Pan Arctic Limited under full government ownership.

The activities of the Canadian Petroleum Corporation would include:

- (1) establishment of its own refineries in Canada in locations which would minimize associated environmental hazards;
- (2) development of petrochemical and other resource based industries to make fuller use of our energy resources to create jobs for Canadians;
- (3) acquisition of existing producing and processing facilities to the extent necessary to achieve control over prices and supply Canadian consumers must be protected against unwarranted price increases by multinational corporations;
- (4) operation of wholesale outlets for refined products produced offshore and for its own refined products;
- (5) assistance to co-operatives to expand refinery and retail operations;
- (6) assistance to independently owned and operated retail outlets.

An NDP government would assist the provinces by financial aid to set up similar provincial Crown Corporations to bring more provincial resources under public ownership.

National Energy Planning Board

The present National Energy Board in no way fulfills the need for long-term planning of our energy resources. It has served mainly as a regulatory and quasi-judicial body. More important, it has been used by the Liberal government as a shield to hide behind, while avoiding responsibility for making decisions which should properly be made by elected persons.

We propose the establishment of a National Energy Planning Board which will assist the government in developing a national energy policy. The Board would make regular reports to Parliament which would make the final decisions on policy. Opportunities for public hearings at all stages of policy making would be provided.

Because the provinces have jurisdiction over natural resources within their boundaries (except uranium) while the federal government has jurisdiction over the inter-provincial and international movement of such resources, there is urgent need for co-ordinated planning of energy resources in Canada. We believe that the National Energy Planning Board must work in co-operation with provincial agencies in the area.

The energy planning agencies, in their respective jurisdictions would plan the exploration, development, processing,

distribution and marketing of all energy sources in Canada. They would determine the best mix of sources and investment priorities, and see that our resources are used to serve Canadian needs and produce the maximum number of jobs while preserving the environment and the interests of future generations.

#### Energy Marketing

Control over the allocation and use of energy sources and over inter-fuel competition would be achieved through pricing policies worked out jointly by federal and provincial marketing boards, taking into consideration the rights of the provinces owning the resources to a fair return and the needs of Canadian consumers to supplies at reasonable cost.

A federal National Energy Marketing Board would be established to undertake the buying and selling of energy entering into interprovincial trade. The provinces would be encouraged to set up similar boards which could buy from and sell to the National Board.

The National Board would also assist provinces in programs to supply co-operatives and individual gasoline retailers in order to free them from their present state of vassalage to the big oil companies.

We would provide financial aid to the provinces to develop interprovincial electric power connections, working towards a national power grid which would conserve electricity and reduce power costs.

The marketing activities of the Canadian Petroleum Corporation would be subject to the overview of the National Energy Marketing Board, as would the activities of all petroleum corporations in the private sector.

#### Pipelines

All interprovincial and international pipelines would be brought under federal ownership. They would be operated by the National Energy Marketing Board or by a Crown Corporation set up by the Board.

All pipeline development must be preceded by an environmental impact study with full opportunity for public hearings and with full consideration of the rights and claims of native peoples.

Where energy products are moved by coastal or inland waters in Canada, they must be in ships with Canadian crews and Canadian registry.

#### Ottawa Valley Line

We propose the immediate removal of the Ottawa Valley Line to permit free movement of offshore and domestic crude oil. A reversible pipeline to Montreal must be constructed to encourage

price competition and security of supply.

#### MacKenzie Valley Pipeline

We call for the postponement of the construction of the proposed MacKenzie Valley natural gas pipeline which as now planned would transport Canadian natural gas primarily to the United States without regard for Canada's future needs, and would siphon off capital which should be available for the expansion of labour intensive areas of the economy. When Canadian needs require a pipeline at some future date, the construction should only be proceeded with when it can be assured that there will be no environmental damage and that native rights and claims will be safeguarded. Greater priority and funds must be given to studies of alternative methods of transportation, and the results of such studies must be published.

#### Export Policy

NDP policy would be to phase out over a period of years the export of raw energy resources and to substitute where appropriate the export of processed products such as plastics and petrochemicals. Under no circumstances would we support a continental energy policy.

We call for the following immediate policies:

- (1) the reduction of exports of crude oil and natural gas to 1972 levels in order to conserve our dwindling

reserves against the time when we must seek other less accessible sources at much higher costs. In this connection we express strong opposition to the decision of the government to permit an increase in the capacity of Interprovincial Pipeline;

(2) the review of existing contracts for the export of natural gas with a view to setting minimum prices based on the cost of competitive fuels and to impose export taxes equal to the required price increases. We propose that the proceeds of such tax accrue to the province to whom the resources belong;

(3) the establishment of a two-price system for Canadian produced oil and gas so that domestic consumers of Canadian production will be protected against rising world prices while at the same time exports would be sold at international market prices.

#### Alberta and Saskatchewan Tar Sands

The tremendous reserves in the Alberta and Saskatchewan tar sands are becoming of crucial importance in the Canadian energy scene. Federal funds should be made available to the provinces to develop the tar sands under public ownership at a rate timed to suit our future needs.

### Uranium Development

Uranium resources are now under federal control, but are mainly being used for provincial power developments. However there are serious unresolved problems in nuclear energy production. We believe that the federal government must give first priority to research into various types of reactors, methods of disposal of nuclear wastes, thermal pollution and radiation hazards.

The exploration and development of possible future uranium resources could be done jointly by the federal and provincial governments.

### Conservation

In view of the looming world energy shortage, we must vigorously encourage energy conservation in Canada. Advertising to increase energy consumption must be discouraged. Recycling, smaller automobiles and more public transit must be encouraged.

### Research

The federal government should undertake the chief research role in the energy field.

We need research in areas such as:

- (1) new sources of energy, including solar, geo-thermal and tidal power. We should seek sources which are least

harmful to people and the environment;

(2) new technologies for more efficient use of energy;

(3) safer methods of transporting energy;;

(4) environmental standards.

We propose that research centres specialize in one or more fields and be established at various centres across Canada.

- Federal Convention, 1973.

## VII

## TAXATION

1. Progressive Taxes

1.1 A New Democratic government will raise money by the following means:

- (a) Increase corporation taxes, reduce depreciation allowances and eliminate the tax-dodging which now takes place through such devices as excessive expense accounts and sales promotion.
- (b) Adopt a progressive policy regarding the prices paid to breweries and distilleries to divert a large proportion of the exorbitant profits into the public treasury without affecting the price to the consumer.
- (c) Collect a proper share of the tremendous revenues now being realized by companies exploiting the province's natural resources.
- (d) Impose a weight-distance tax so as to require highway carriers to pay a fair share of the cost of building and maintaining the highways they use.
- (e) Urge the Federal government to amend the Bank Act to

provide that assets of a province (including municipal assets) be discounted in a manner similar to the discounting of bankers' securities now in practise. This would mean a great reduction in excessive interest-carrying charges.

(f) If our province becomes responsible for Income Tax collections, increase tax-deductions to compensate for increased cost of living.

- Provincial Programme, 1967

1.2 The New Democratic Party sets as its goal equity in taxation. This involves four major principles:

- (1) Taxes should be related to ability to pay.
- (2) Taxes imposed by the community should bear fair relation to benefits provided by the community.
- (3) Taxes should be imposed on the full income of persons, regardless of source.
- (4) A refund does not constitute income.

(a) Municipal Taxation

The burden of local taxes in Alberta has fallen disproportionately on residential property because of the inclusion of education taxes, and this has been only partly and haphazardly

alleviated by the \$50.00 rebates to owner-tenants. These taxes have no relation to ability to pay or benefits provided. The New Democratic party will, at the very least:

(1) As a government, relieve residential property, including all apartment buildings, of all education taxes, substituting revenue from resources and income taxes, ending the rebate and administration expense involved.

(2) Press for the extension of tax rebates if not attainable to renters as well as property owners, since renters in fact pay the taxes on their residences, plus a mark-up.

(b) Provincial Taxation

A New Democratic party government would levy a 2% road allowance tax on oil and gas production in Alberta, since no lease rentals are now paid for the portions of petroleum pools underlying road allowances.

A New Democratic party government would seek joint development of Wood Buffalo Park with the federal government, providing generous game sanctuaries and sharing equally the costs and revenues of opening up the timber and mineral resources of areas

not required for conservation purposes. Substantial additional revenues should come from this source, reducing provincial taxes.

(c) Federal-Provincial Taxation-General

Since the great bulk of provincial revenues come from tax fields shared with the federal government, major improvements in the revenues of Alberta and equitability of the taxes borne by its residents can only be achieved by joint federal-provincial action.

We therefore hail the Carter Commission Report on Taxation and pledge all possible support for the implementation of this highly satisfactory program.

We find the Commission's recommendations on estate and gift taxes to be far superior to the short-sighted approach of this provincial government and advocate the implementation of this self-contained section of the proposals at the earliest possible date.

We object, however, to the distinction between adoptive and natural born children in establishing the right to transfer property tax-free inside the family unit.

We are most strongly in favour of the inclusion of capital gains in taxable income, and accept the income averaging pro-

posals as a good solution to the temporary tax inequities that will result.

The New Democratic party maintains its opposition in principle to all sales taxes (and notes the identical position taken by the Carter Commission) but for the sake of achieving the major objectives of the Report, accepts the necessity of a five-year transitional direct sales tax in place of the current indirect federal tax.

(d) Federal-Provincial Taxation - Objections

In reviewing the Carter Commission proposals, we take issue with two points:

- (1) We reject the Commission's inclusion of retail co-operative patronage dividends and credit union interest rebates in taxable income.
- (2) We do not accept the Commission's proposal to limit personal tax rates to a maximum of 50% on all income over \$100,000 - further consideration is required.

(e) Provincial Lottery

A New Democratic Party government will conduct a plebiscite on the question of a provincial lottery for Alberta, and, if approved by a majority vote, would take the necessary steps to establish a government operated lottery. (It should be noted

that revenue from such a source is likely to be less than \$1,000,000 per year - about 1/10 of 1% of provincial expenditures.)

- Provincial Convention, 1967.

2. The Alberta New Democratic Party endorses and supports the following statement of policy of the federal New Democratic Party:

2.1 Tax Reform

- (1) Canada has a tax system which continues to favour the well-to-do, the corporations and those with unearned income. While some inequities have been removed, new ones have been created;
- (2) as a result Canada is still saddled with a grossly unfair tax structure which bears too heavily on lower and middle income groups;
- (3) an NDP government would bring in real tax reform based on the principles of ability to pay and equality in tax treatment between men and women and between persons in like circumstances. The tax system should reduce the gap between the rich and the poor by greater reliance on progressive direct taxes on income and wealth;
- (4) among measures which an NDP government would adopt

to implement these principles are the following:

(a) a substantial cut in personal income taxes on the lower and middle income groups, through tax credits in order to increase their purchasing power;

(b) an end to special concessions to corporations such as investment credits, fast write-offs, tax deferrals, depletion, reserves, etc. A review of depreciation, advertising, entertainment allowances, and the taxation of excess corporate profits;

(c) capital gains, now taxed at half rates, would be subject to full rates;

(d) re-establishment of federal inheritance and gift taxes with 75 percent of the yield going to the provinces on condition they vacate the field. Safeguards would be built into the estate tax and capital gains tax to prevent the break-up of family farms and small businesses when passed on to sons and daughters or spouses;

(e) an end to special tax concessions for land speculators and developers;

(f) integration of the tax system with a guaranteed annual income system, with particular attention paid to pensioners, so that no one be-

low the poverty level pays tax, and incentives to work are not eliminated from income security programs by the tax system;

(g) continue the tax arrangements encouraging co-operatives and credit unions and ensuring that regulations or other actions don't violate the principles now established for them.

(h) tax credits be allowed for student wage and salary earners, as well as the self-employed for legitimate day-care and employment expenses and medical devices such as artificial limbs, wheelchairs, etc.

- Federal Convention, 1973.