

Together . . . The Land Is Strong



(the work the next Parliament must do for Canadians)

1972

TOGETHER....THE LAND IS STRONG

A federal election campaign is an occasion for Canadians to take a look at themselves, at work now in progress, and goals for the future. During a good election campaign Canadians are invited to think carefully about their country as a complete unit. Work now in progress in all parts of Canada strengthens each region and is work therefore that is valuable for the future of all Canadians.

When we look around us, we see and feel the vitality of the land: farmers have better incomes; family incomes are rising; fishermen are getting better prices; businessmen report improved earnings. We have experienced real increases in salaries and wages. At the same time, there are still problems that remain to be solved, work that has to be done.

This election campaign is an important opportunity for all Canadians to help chart the course they want to take into the last quarter of the 20th Century.

The Liberal Government invites all Canadians to work together for these four objectives:

- A to strengthen our national integrity;
- B to ensure economic growth;
- C to provide for personal fulfillment;
- D to extend social justice.

A WORKING TOGETHER FOR NATIONAL INTEGRITY

The Liberal Government ensured Canada's integrity in the Arctic and extended our autonomy along our coastline with the 12-mile limit. Canadian fishermen were given exclusive use of much larger fishing areas. The Liberal Government brought the dialogue on control of the national economy to the House of Commons. We strengthened national policies beyond our shores - especially in our relations with the United States, the Commonwealth, Russia and China.

By the gradual acceptance of bilingualism in the federal civil service, by a new set of multicultural policies, by greatly increased federal/provincial consultation, the Liberal Government strengthened unity among our people and strengthened Canada's identity as a federal state.

Detection and prevention of subversion, containment of crime, maintaining the effectiveness of our armed forces - the Liberal Government is vigilant over national security.

1. Canadian Control of the Economy

We insist on Canadian ownership and control of our banks, insurance companies and financial institutions. We insist on Canadian ownership of radio and television stations and newspapers. We made sure our largest uranium reserves stayed in Canadian hands. We are developing our own film industry. The Canadian music and entertainment industries thrive, they provide more and more Canadian content for radio and television (thanks to the Canadian Radio and Television Commission created by the Liberal Government in 1969).

We will re-introduce the foreign take-over review and we will continue developing industrial strategies to strengthen Canadian companies to promote jobs and development.

2. Canada/U.S. Relations Review

The United States and Canada share the North American continent, enjoying great benefits from trade and interchange of all kinds. The Canadian government has explored thoroughly all the questions of this relationship and is presenting an option for Canada with a series of policies that will retain the benefits of this association but which will also ensure the maintenance of Canadian sovereignty.

3. New Initiatives in Federal/Provincial Relations

The world is increasingly moving to federal systems as the most effective form of government. The last four years have continued to show the

viability and flexibility of the Canadian federal system. There has been an unprecedented number of meetings between the federal and provincial governments on a wide range of subjects of concern to Canadians which have resulted in most cases in satisfactory solutions. The federal government will continue to work with the provinces and will take new initiatives to ensure this continued viability and flexibility.

4. A New Policy of Citizenship

The Government will introduce a Citizenship Act which will ensure that all residents of Canada, no matter what their national origin, will receive equality of treatment in terms of gaining the advantage of Canadian citizenship.

5. A National Oceans and Sea Bed Policy

Canada is bordered on three sides by mighty oceans. The oceans and the sea bed represent a frontier of new knowledge and a source of immense wealth for Canadians now and in the future. If the information-gathering and their exploitation is to be planned so that Canadians will dominate this increasingly important field of the future, attention has to be given to this matter now. This is work the Government has now started and it will come into fruition in the next four years.

6. Techniques for Crisis Management

As society becomes more complex and as communications improve, it becomes more vulnerable to breakdown, arising from natural disasters or those of a man-made type, such as skyjacking or international terrorism. This Government has demonstrated it has the strength to meet these kinds of situations and will develop better skills, and better instruments for crisis management.

7. Limitation on Election Expenses

We will present legislation in the next Parliament affecting expenditures by candidates and parties in federal elections.

B. WORKING TOGETHER FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

The Social goal of Liberal economic policy is full employment for more skilled better educated people. Therefore, all post-secondary centres of learning and re-training, manpower re-training programs, manpower mobility are top priorities for economic growth.

Our renewable resources must be conserved and used wisely. Our non-renewable resources must be used wisely. Our industrial resources - primary, secondary, and tertiary - should grow steadily for all the new people coming into the economy. Science and technology, ownership and control, monetary and fiscal policies help build the Canadian nation.

1. A New Industrial Relations Policy

Our record in industrial relations policy is good, so we will continue to develop and pursue a preventive mediation program. The objective is to reduce or eliminate productive time lost during industrial disputes. We will also seek the cooperation of labour and business to increase their use of voluntary arbitration which has been helpful in avoiding strikes in the Public Service.

2. Manpower Re-training Programs

New technology creates great demands for new skills and makes some old skills obsolete. Liberal governments have been world leaders in the development of manpower re-training programs and on-the-job training programs, improved continuing education facilities, more and better teachers. In addition, we introduced the idea of financial help for people moving to where the jobs are. We will also develop the best possible job and worker information system so that there will be a direct relation between skilled people and jobs available.

3. National Energy Policy Review

One of the major economic problems in the balance of the century will be management of our energy resources. A national energy policy review will be completed early in the next Parliament to provide national guidelines for the wisest use and development of our energy resources.

4. An Industrial Strategy

Since 1968 we have provided more than one million new jobs for Canadians coming into the labour force because our objective is full employment. With one of the fastest growing labour forces in the world and a need to provide a million jobs or more over the next five years, with the changing patterns of international markets and trading blocs, with rapidly increasing technology, the government will continue to develop and put in place an industrial strategy that is designed to ensure the provision of the jobs that Canadians will need and the maintenance of Canada's strong trade position.

5. A Continued Emphasis on Control of Expenditures

Since 1968 this Government put under control the number of people in the federal civil service. Since 1968 the total Canadian labour force grew 3% each year. Municipal and provincial civil service grew 4½% each year. In the same period, growth in the federal civil service has been restricted to 1.25% each year. We are now working with the provinces to control costs of welfare and post-secondary education.

6. Economic Growth in a Clean Environment

The Canadian government has led the world in the search for balance between life-giving economic growth and a life-giving clean environment. It is not a question of choice. It's essential we learn how to achieve both.

In the fight against pollution we have important new work to initiate:

- a) establish an incentive system for industrial clean-up;

- b) prepare a toxic substance act, legislation to control disposal of new man-made chemical products;
- c) develop low-cost ways of conserving and re-using waste products now being allowed to pollute our land and water; and
- d) with the new Ministry of Science and Technology, develop a national oceans and sea bed policy for Canada, the country with the longest ocean coastline in the world.

7. More Farm Income

For the future there must be unity of purpose among farmers, processors, farm organizations, and Governments. We will have to be more imaginative in the way we develop specific markets for specific products. For the long-term stability we must expand and diversify markets. Our revitalized marketing system must have modern transportation, storage, and processing support systems.

Our underlying objective is to bring average income per farmer to a level equivalent to that earned by the average in other sectors of the economy.

For the grain and oilseed sector this means that we propose to build our export capacity to one billion bushels per year. To this end we have ordered 2000 hopper cars and we have the cooperation of the industry to build more facilities as we grow.

We have assisted the poultry industry to improve incomes and will further assist in achieving the new marketing system requested by the producer organizations.

In the livestock sector unprecedented opportunities for growth based on expanding markets at home and abroad give producers renewed confidence. We will provide tangible leadership and commit resources to ensure the potential is achieved.

Increased returns to dairy producers now show the results of coordinated efforts by the producer organizations and government agencies. We will develop longer term programs to provide greater confidence in the future.

The fruit and vegetable sector will be further strengthened by additional marketing and handling facilities to help meet the increasing demand from a growing population and a changing diet.

Enabling legislation now available to producers who wish to coordinate their marketing efforts coupled with escalating demand brings success in improving the income of farmers within their grasp. We will assist this development in both the domestic and export markets.

C WORKING TOGETHER FOR PERSONAL FULFILLMENT

Individual fulfillment, self-renewal, these are worthy goals for people in the fastest-growing economy in the world. They want continuing education for the mind. They want better access to the arts and humanities and to cultural institutions, not only for the benefits of good citizenship but for the responsibilities of good citizenship.

For the body - sports, fitness programs. Greatly improved facilities for leisure and recreation - to give their work a worthy reason.

1. Increased Federal Attention to the Quality of Urban Life

60% of Canadians live in cities and the number is increasing. Four years ago there was no federal department which acknowledged this fact. Since that time, a Ministry of State for Urban Affairs and Housing has been created to work with other governmental authorities and to ensure that the actions of the federal government will help to shape and improve the quality of urban life in Canada. The focus will be on housing, rapid-transit, anti-pollution measures, neighbourhood preservation and renewal. In many cities the renewal will be helped by relocation of federal railway properties.

2. A National Sports and Fitness Policy

A great deal has been done in assisting and developing Canadian athletes to participate in national and international sports competitions such as the Canada Games, Commonwealth Games, the Pan American Games, the Olympics. A much enlarged program is planned that will place its emphasis on maintaining the good health of Canadians and on training athletes of international calibre to represent us at home and away.

3. An Enlarged National Parks Responsibility

As cities become more congested and as growth of all kinds occurs, there is a need to preserve the most beautiful parts of Canada to be enjoyed now and in perpetuity. The last four years has shown a phenomenal development in the national parks system and in their use by Canadians of all ages from every part of Canada, as well as by many tourists. Eleven of our 28 parks have been created in the last four years; others, including canal and marine parks, are planned. Steps will be taken to develop, mark and preserve the trails and canoe routes that are an important part of our history and which can provide great enjoyment for Canadians today. A slow-speed scenic highway linking some of the parks is also planned.

4. Easier Access to our Cultural Institutions

The theatres, museums, and galleries of Canada have been accessible only to those few Canadians who live close to them. The government will take steps to provide easy access to our own cultural institutions for all Canadians in every part of the country.

D WORKING TOGETHER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

To be concerned for the dignity of the individual means that we recognize the interdependence of all people, all groups in our society. This individual dignity in a strong spirit of community creates Canada's stable society.

When citizens and governments work together for social justice, their concern is for the most vulnerable groups in our society - those who suffer the most from a lack of the spirit of community.

Canadians are proud of their impressive safeguards of social justice: family allowances, youth allowances, family assistance allowances, Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security, the Guaranteed Income Supplement for the aged receiving Old Age Security, unemployment insurance, war veterans' allowances, and disability and dependent's pensions, assistance to Indians and Eskimos, hospital and medical care, low-cost housing, the Canada assistance plan, vocational training and rehabilitation, special assistance for the aged, the blind and the disabled, workmen's compensation, consumer protection laws.

The Liberal Government wants to concentrate in these specific areas of social policy:

1. Better Pension Schemes

Canadians are retiring younger and living longer. As a result we must channel more income to the group in our population that are retired. The bulk of the money must come from private and public contributory pension plans.

When people move from province to province, their pension schemes should move with them without penalty, without discrimination. When people pay into pension schemes, they have a right to a plan that is secure because it is funded properly. We need to make the combination of private and public pension schemes financially able to pay the benefits required by the population regardless of its age composition.

An all-party Parliamentary Committee will be formed to work together with the provinces and the private sector to make recommendations which ensure all Canadians are adequately provided with income throughout their retirement years.

2. New Opportunities for Persons who are Retired

The Guaranteed Income Supplement was increased again this year - this time by \$15 per month - and together with the old age security payment now automatically increases with the cost of living. Increased benefits like this can solve some but not all of the problems of the people who have retired.

Too often we isolate the older people in our society at a time when they want to continue to contribute to society. We will give people over 65 better access to retraining and continuing education programs. The experimental New Horizons for the Aged Program will help determine future directions.

3. Better Access to Government for People with Problems

When citizens want help or have problems with a more complex society, they need better access to government. The Liberal Government encouraged and financed the formation of more and more citizens advisory groups. The Liberal Government has already strengthened the role of the Member of Parliament as a problem-solver for his constituents.

It is our aim to reinforce the ability of the Member of Parliament to act quickly to help solve problems.

4. Programs for Equal Opportunities for Women

This Government gave priority consideration to the removal of discrimination and the provision of opportunity to women in all fields of Canadian life. We now have an Office of the Coordinator, Status of Women, 5 inter-departmental working groups, the Equal Employment Opportunities Office in the Public Service, a Cabinet Minister responsible for the Status of Women. Since there are more than 3 million working women in Canada's labour force (more than one third) the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women are being worked on for action in the next four years.

5. New Initiatives for Indian, and Eskimo Citizens

In the last four years the federal government has made considerable progress in a dialogue with Indian and Eskimo citizens and has assisted them in developing an effective leadership to speak for them and their needs. The government will take the initiatives necessary to ensure that each group will develop at a pace and in a direction of its choosing.

In addition the Government wants to focus on the problems of the less privileged members of the Métis communities of Canada.

6. An Improved Grant System for Volunteer Citizens Groups

Volunteer citizens groups play a very important role in the functioning of Canadian Life. The government intends to review its grants system to these groups to ensure that it is as effective as possible.

7. Access to Legal Services for Everyone

Work will continue on improving the way the law affects the poor and the disadvantaged. In cooperation with the provinces, further changes will be introduced in the law to advance the ideal of being fully fair to the ordinary citizen as well as to the rich.

8. An Opportunities for People Program

Opportunities for Youth, Local Initiatives Program and New Horizons have all been very well received. With the experience gained, it should be possible to rationalize all of these programs to provide a broad Opportunities for People Program that will continue to release a great amount of creative energy and permit Canadians to work in imaginative ways for their local groups and communities.

9. A Commission for the Protection of Human Rights

We will be proposing a Commission for the Protection of Rights. Individual groups in our increasingly complex society need new forms of help in their relationships with governments, corporations, union and so on. This fits in with the objective of the Liberal Party and Government to equalize opportunities between individuals and between regions in Canada.

.....

We Canadians have confidence in our ability to achieve whatever we set out to achieve. We have the will to manage our own affairs. This ability and this will together propel us into a future full of promises for all Canadians. No other nation in the world has so much within its grasp. Together, let us protect it, nourish it, grow great on it.