

1974

**People  
matter  
more.**

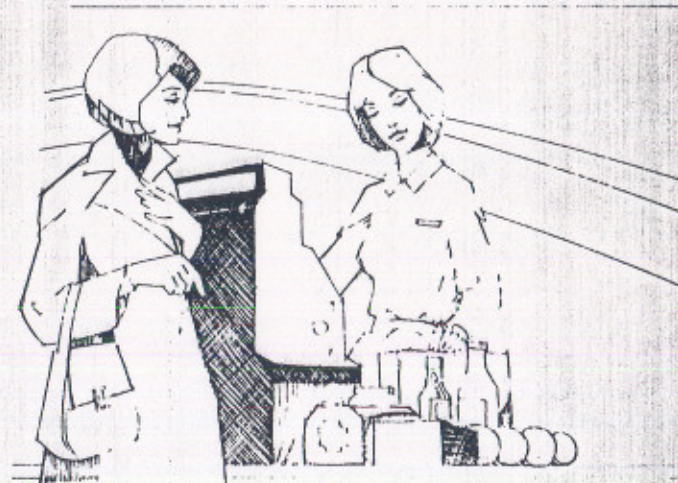


**The program  
of the  
New Democratic Party**



# To brake rising costs—not just for food but all essentials

Sharp rises in the cost of living—not just food but many other essentials—are causing real hardship for Canadians. Some steps have been taken under NDP pressure to brake the increase and soften its impact, but more action is needed. We must:



- encourage farmers to produce more food. Among other measures we should guarantee high enough prices at the farm gate that farmers are not afraid of raising a surplus.
- set up a tough new Prices Review Board with real power to force roll-backs in all fields, not just food, whenever prices or profits reach unjustified levels.
- increase federal pensions so no pensioner has less than \$200 a month to live on.
- set up a Crown corporation in food processing and distributing to give the private companies some real competition.
- apply a two-price policy to energy and other resources when international market prices get away ahead of Canadian prices. Producers could charge their foreign customers whatever the market would bear, but they would have to

charge Canadians a lower price based on their costs and a reasonable profit margin.

- toughen up anti-combines legislation to curb the power of big corporations to control prices and to give small business more incentives and protection.
- crack down on unfair sales practices and end tax allowances for advertising aimed at stimulating artificial demand.
- encourage co-operatives, credit unions, and consumer groups to undertake programs that will help contain prices and give consumers more power.
- let the exchange rate of the Canadian dollar float freely.
- help keep interest rates down by limiting the spread between what banks and other lenders pay their depositors and what they can charge borrowers.



# We can control our own economy

## We must act now

To control our future, we must recover our economic independence. The foreign investment review legislation adopted by Parliament in 1973 is a start. We must now:

- control the expansion of existing foreign-owned corporations into related areas.
- place all resource industries under public control. This would sometimes mean outright public ownership, sometimes joint participation with private industry.
- avoid any continental energy deal.
- plan investment so more resources are processed in Canadian plants by Canadian workers before they are shipped out of the country.
- end tax concessions that benefit mainly foreign corporations in the resource industries.

# Taxes—plugging costly loopholes

Most Canadians are paying heavier taxes than they should. The tax system must be reformed to plug loopholes that cost us more than \$1-billion every year—\$170 or so for every Canadian family. We must:

- cut personal income taxes, replacing the present system of deductions with tax credits, which are fairer.
- end the corporate tax rip-off—the fast write-offs, deferred taxes, depletion allowances, and so on.
- tax capital gains at full rates, instead of the present half-rates.
- provide tax credits for employment expenses like day-care and tools, for medical devices like artificial limbs, and for the fees of wage or salary earners who are in school.
- continue using taxation to encourage co-operatives and credit unions.
- integrate the tax system with a guaranteed annual income so no one below the poverty line pays taxes and so taxation does not remove from income security programs incentives to work.



# Health—our most basic resource

Building on the twin foundation stones of hospital insurance and medicare, new steps are needed now to guarantee all Canadians complete health care at lower costs. We must:

- support consumer-oriented, non-profit clinics that can provide preventative health services of all kinds as well as the traditional care in sickness.
- train para-medical workers to carry out many routine services. This would free doctors to concentrate on difficult cases that require their special training.
- set up a federal-provincial plan to provide capital and development grants for the community health centres, and give them cost-guaranteed CMHC mortgages.
- provide grants to local, provincial, and national organizations to promote development of these clinics.
- step up construction of nursing homes, chronic care units, and convalescent homes, to ease the demand for high-cost hospital beds.

# A standard of living to ensure health, self-respect

The goal of a free and generous society will elude us as long as one-fifth of Canadians—by the estimate of the Economic Council of Canada—live in poverty. To give all Canadians a standard of living that ensures health and self-respect, we must:

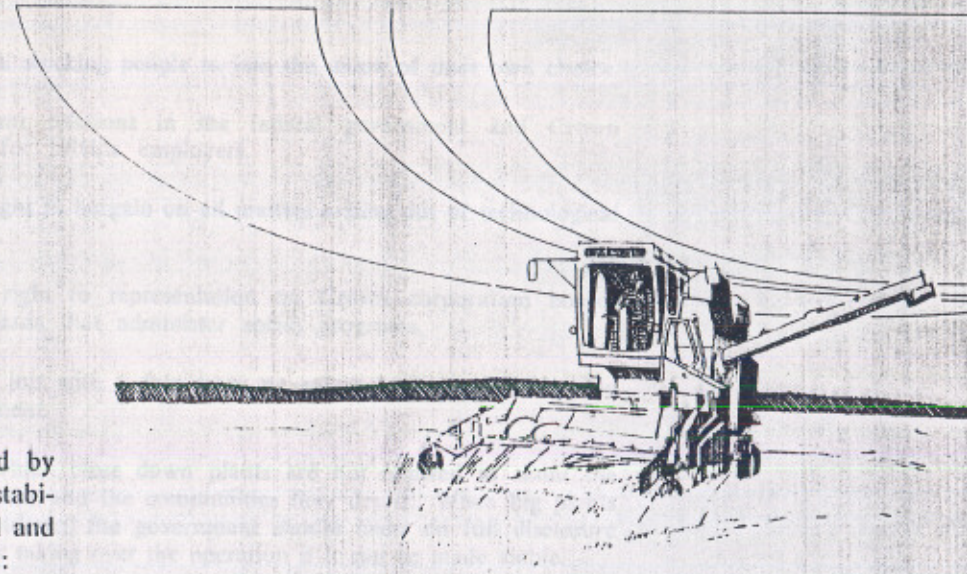
- make sure there are enough jobs at wages and salaries that let all Canadian workers support themselves and their families.
- push up the federal minimum wage and improve benefits for sickness, unemployment, and disruptions caused by technological change.
- support the organization of more workers to bargain collectively for adequate wages and salaries.
- be prepared to replace the present patchwork of social welfare allowances with an income floor that would assure all Canadians a decent standard of living. This is not a complete answer to poverty, nor does it substitute for good jobs.



# Halting the erosion of rural life

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The erosion of rural life can be halted by decisive government action. In order to stabilize the farm population at a proper level and ensure adequate farm incomes, we must:



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- set floor prices for farm products, to ensure farmers a fair return and to take some of the uncertainties out of their planning.
- suspend rail line abandonments, and plan a sensible branch line and grain delivery system.
- stabilize farm production costs. For example, farm machinery should be standardized and it might sometimes be necessary to control the price of farm fuel and other supplies.
- make the Canadian Wheat Board the sole marketing agency for all Western grains, including feed grains, flax, rye and rapeseed.
- make sure the family farm remains viable. Measures aimed at this goal would include assuring farmers a reasonable net income, making public services reasonably accessible

in rural areas, allowing farmers in each region to set limits on farm size, and halting foreign and corporate takeovers of farm land.

- set up national producer-controlled marketing agencies for farm products.
- create a land bank to buy farms at market prices as they come up for sale and then lease the land to farmers, with guaranteed tenure and an option to buy.
- have the government share the cost of maintaining inventories of export grains in commercial positions so we can respond quickly to changing world demands.
- encourage establishment of co-operative or publicly-owned plants in the West to process foods and to manufacture farm supplies.



## Fair incomes for fishermen

To develop Canada's fishing industry and guarantee fishermen a fair income, we must:

- extend Canadian control of fisheries to the edge of the continental shelf, or 200 miles, whichever is greater. Canadian fishermen should have exclusive rights to salmon that spawn in Canadian streams.
- spell out in law the rights of commercial fishermen. Licencing should be removed from the uncontrolled discretion of the minister and a limitation on commercial licences should be studied with organized fishermen's associations.
- establish a Frozen Fish Corporation, similar to the present Salt Fish Corporation, to help fishermen market their catch.
- avoid salmon spawning streams as power sources and protect watersheds from uncontrolled logging operations.
- provide federal aid to modernize the fishing industry and to develop new markets throughout the world.
- set up an independent commission to carry out a public investigation of the fishing industry and of the role of the federal fisheries service. Among other things it should look into steps to prevent further concentration of the fisheries in the hands of a few big corporations, and into establishment of a Freshwater Fish Marketing Board.
- give fishermen a say in conservation closures.

## A duty to future generations

As citizens of one of the few countries with more space and resources than we need right now, Canadians have a special responsibility as trustees for the world and for coming generations. We must:

- launch a thorough study of our resources and the steps we can take to avoid wasting them.
- step up research into renewable energy resources like hydro-electric power and solar power, so we can protect limited resources like oil and natural gas as long as possible.
- co-ordinate the environmental control activities of all federal departments, and harmonize federal programs with those of the provinces.
- ban supertankers from a 200-mile (or more) pollution control zone off the West Coast. We must also press the Canada-U.S. International Joint Commission to bar supertankers from the Strait of Juan de Fuca.
- protect river estuaries, which are among the most fertile areas in the world, against urban sprawl. Further port and industrial development should be directed to non-estuary sites.
- set tougher penalties, including possible jail sentences, for senior officials of companies that repeatedly pollute, despite warnings.
- strongly support United Nations efforts to deal with international pollution problems.



# Energy—fair prices, good supplies now...

The results of letting giant, foreign-owned corporations run our oil industry became painfully evident as prices and profits shot upwards in the face of threatened shortages. To guarantee Canadians enough oil at fair prices, we must:

- aim at self-sufficiency in oil by 1980. We already produce more oil than we use, and we must make it available to all Canadians.
- replace private profit-making with public planning. This will mean public ownership of large slices of the oil industry and careful control of the rest by both federal and provincial governments.
- make the National Petroleum Corporation big enough to give the private oil companies real competition. The NPC should take over one or more of the existing oil companies in Canada; it must not be confined to exploration and research, but must get into all phases of the industry including wholesale distribution to dealers.
- set a single price for Canadians right across the country, and keep it below swollen world prices—high enough to pay for production and for the development of new energy resources, but no higher.
- pursue a national development plan that compensates oil-producing provinces for revenues they lose when their resources are sold in Canada below world prices.
- make sure Canadians benefit from higher prices paid for Canadian oil in foreign markets. The extra margin of profit should not be reaped by the multinational companies, like the extra \$700-million they pocketed in 1973 without any extra effort or expense, just by taking advantage of rising prices. The public treasury should get these windfalls and use them for the benefit of Canadians.
- build a two-way, cross-Canada pipeline through northern Ontario so Canadian and foreign oil can both be used in all parts of the country. Extending the Edmonton-Toronto pipeline to Montreal by 1975 is the first step towards Canadian self-sufficiency.
- bring all interprovincial and international oil and gas pipelines under federal ownership.



## ...and in future

Canadians, through their federal and provincial governments, must play the dominant role in the massive development projects required to meet our future energy needs.

We must not repeat the mistakes of the past; we must never again jeopardize our interests by turning priceless resources over to corporations that are mostly interested in profits for foreign shareholders. We must not let the tar sands of Alberta and Saskatchewan—perhaps the biggest single reserve of oil in the world—be given away.

Like the oil resources of the North, they must be developed under public control and used for the good of Canadians.



# A new deal for native peoples

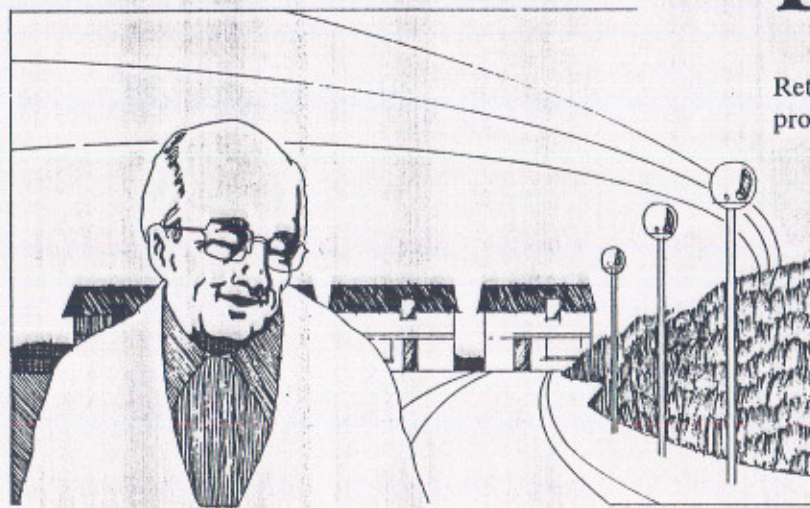
## —after years of indifference

After long years of paternalism, exploitation, and cruel indifference, the native peoples of Canada are entitled to a new deal. We must:

- recognize aboriginal land claims and compensate native peoples any land they have lost without payment.
- squarely fulfill all treaty promises. Where treaties were unfair with, new arrangements should be worked out with the Indians co
- restore—or, with the consent of those concerned, compensate onal rights that have been taken away, for example hunting rights c the Migratory Birds Convention Act.
- consult native peoples and northerners in general before developern resources. When these resources are developed, care must be tpect sites of religious or cultural importance to native peoples.

## Higher pensss

Retired Canadians have a right to share fully onal prosperity they helped build during years of wust:



- keep pushing pensions upwaruntil no pensioner has less than \$1h to live on.
- make old age security pensinada Pension Plan benefits availa who are voluntarily off the labo after reaching the age of 60. The are now available only at 65.
- tie pension increases to the stiving, not just the cost of living.



# Jobs for all —the first goal

A good job for every Canadian able to work is the NDP's top economic goal. To overcome the massive unemployment of recent years — consistently over five per cent since February 1970 — we must:

- reduce income taxes for most Canadian families so they have more money to buy goods and services provided by Canadian workers.
- launch a 350,000-homes-a-year housebuilding program that would employ tens of thousands of men and women as well as go a long way towards providing comfortable housing for all Canadians.
- get federal and provincial governments more actively involved in planning economic development by direct investment and resources to meet social needs like housing, pollution control, and elimination of regional disparities.
- in particular, provide \$1-billion in federal funds to the provinces now to help them and the municipalities catch up with the backlog of public works and community projects, creating 150,000 jobs directly. This money could also be used for projects like training para-medical workers needed to take the load off doctors and other highly-trained health workers.
- aim manpower and regional expansion policies at long-term development rather than use them as a statistical 'band-aid' to cover up the failures of economic policy by getting people temporarily off the welfare roles without giving them real jobs.
- reduce interest rates, especially for housing. This would also prevent the value of the Canadian dollar from rising to heights where it could hurt our exports.
- stimulate the labour-intensive manufacturing industries and ensure more processing of our natural resources in Canada.



## To build economy

The government's own Gray Report showed that most of the money used by foreign corporations to buy out our industry is made or borrowed in Canada. **Canadians** should be using this money to build the economy the way **they** want it. We must:

- overhaul the Canada Development Corporation to invest our individual savings as well as institutional funds in developments we need — for example, expanding our capacity to produce fully-processed goods for home and foreign markets.
- encourage public and co-operative ownership to begin righting the balance of power now concentrated in the hands of giant corporations whose decisions may — and often do: the energy crisis is a good example — run contrary to the public interest.



# Making our cities good places to live

Canada's cities can be made better places to live. We must:

- start eliminating regressive property taxes as the financial mainstay of local government, by making federal per capita grants available through the provinces.
- use federal spending and tax policies to discourage the concentration of urban development in a few major centres that are already strangling on their own growth. Federal funds should be available to build new cities and towns, based where possible on established smaller centres.
- set up an Urban Transit Fund with \$500-million over five years for public transit systems and the development of new forms of transit.
- spend \$500-million a year in federal funds for five years to bring more urban land under public ownership.
- offer federal loans to provinces and municipalities for urban needs like land and public transit. There should be forgivable loans for sewage treatment plants and other projects to ease the shortage of serviced land.

# A positive role in the world

Canada can play a constructive and independent role in world affairs. In the conquest of peace and security around the globe, we must:

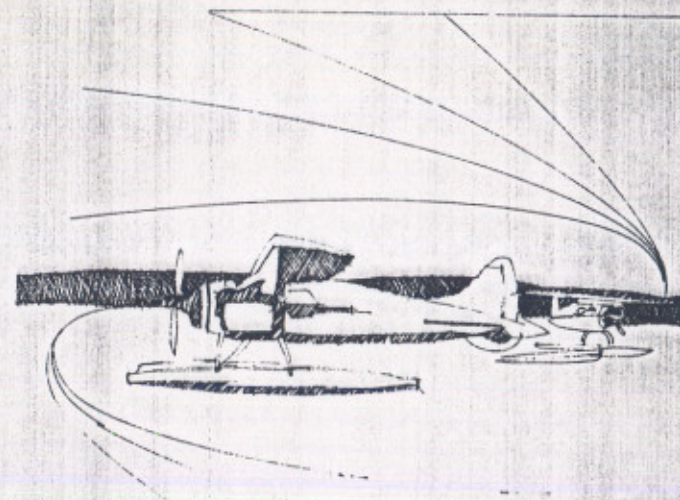
- stand ready to take part in United Nations peacekeeping forces, despite the frustrations and disappointments of the past. We must press for social and economic action to parallel police duties in world trouble spots.
- work for world disarmament and oppose the use or testing of nuclear weapons.
- quit NATO and NORAD, which have outlived their usefulness.
- increase our external aid to one per cent of the Gross National Product, and direct more aid through international agencies.
- encourage imports from developing countries.
- take a forceful stand against continued racial oppression and colonialism in Africa, for example, by ending preferential trade arrangements with South Africa, by withdrawing our trade commissioners from South Africa and Angola, by seeking enforcement of UN economic sanctions against Rhodesia, and by granting non-military aid to African liberation movements.
- press for immediate withdrawal of U.S. forces and war materials remaining in Southeast Asia.
- seek international action for the release of tens of thousands of political prisoners still locked up in South Vietnamese jails.



# Northern development

## don't repeat the same old mistakes

It would be tragic to repeat all the errors of the past as we develop Canada's far northern resources. So that this development can take place under community control, with respect for human values and for the environment, we must:



- guarantee northern people real self-government. The Yukon Territory should be made our eleventh province so the elected council is no longer under a federal veto power. In the Northwest Territories, the territorial commissioner appointed by Ottawa should be made accountable to the elected council.
- delay development of the Mackenzie Valley transportation corridor until the full ecological impact has been studied and until, subject to this study, a transportation network has been built to link mid-Canada and the North with the rest of the country.
- put off construction of the Mackenzie Valley natural gas pipeline until Canadians need it, and only then with respect for the ecology and for native rights.
- study alternative methods of moving natural gas.
- undertake meaningful consultation with native peoples concerned before proceeding with the development of northern resources. All development in the north should respect sites of religious or cultural importance to native peoples.
- place the development of oil and natural gas in the territories under a Crown Corporation, with provision for farm-outs and for joint ventures under public control. We must not repeat our old mistakes, jeopardizing Canada's interests by turning priceless resources over to corporations that are mostly interested in profits for foreign shareholders.
- develop a communications network that will let northern communities keep in closer touch, and let them communicate easily with the rest of the country.



# Transport

## — respect for real needs

Deteriorating rail service, dependence on foreign shipping, contempt for local needs — these are the legacies of national transportation policies designed only to promote private profit. We must:

- end unfair freight rates that make it cheaper to ship raw materials to Central Canada for processing than to process them at the source, in the West.
- suspend rail line abandonments.
- improve and extend passenger services, with particular emphasis on commuter train services and service to smaller communities.
- bring CP and its airline and trucking subsidiaries under public ownership.
- restrict Canadian coastal shipping to Canadian ships, and create a Canadian merchant marine.
- make Churchill and Prince Rupert into major seaports.
- re-assess the construction of major new airports pending a cost-use analysis of facilities and technology.

# The regions

Canada's national prosperity is marred by the stubborn persistence of great regional inequalities. To let all Canadians share fairly in our country's wealth, we must:

- expand government's role in fostering industrial development in slow-growth regions. Instead of making haphazard grants to private enterprise, Ottawa should invest directly in job-creating industries in line with an overall plan for each region. When grants are given the government should get shares in return.
- co-ordinate all aspects of federal and provincial policy so Department of Regional Economic Expansion aid is not cancelled out by, for example, unfair freight rates.
- guard against operations that open new plants with federal aid in one place while they lay off workers in another.
- extend DREE aid to service industries and co-operatives.
- develop secondary industry in all parts of the slow-growth regions instead of concentrating it in a few places.
- give local industries priority over foreign corporations for DREE assistance.
- insist on fair wages in enterprises that get federal aid. Ottawa should show the way by ending regional pay differentials for its own employees.

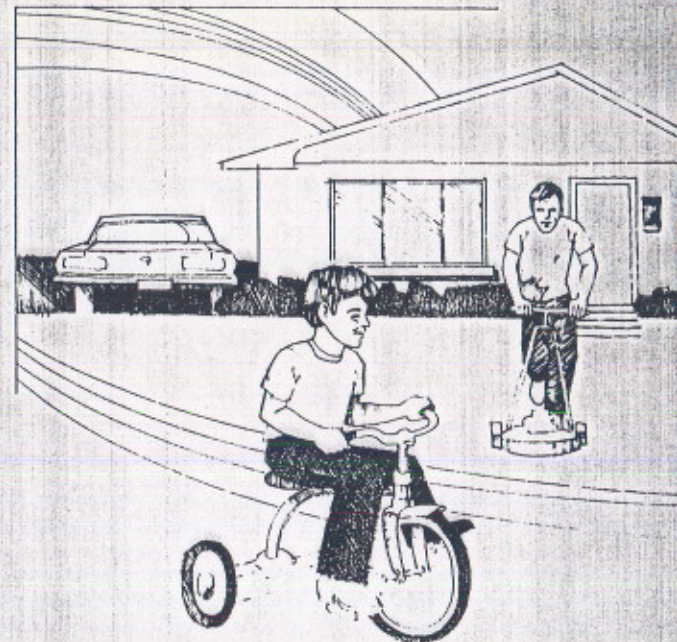


# Comfortable homes

## Canadians can have them at fair prices

All Canadians should be able to find comfortable housing at prices they can afford to pay. We must:

- set a six-per-cent ceiling on mortgage interest paid by most Canadians. This can be done by making the banks and other lenders set aside a certain amount of money for six-per-cent mortgages, and by tax credits for those now paying more than six per cent.
- tie rent increases in all federally-financed housing to increases in real costs.
- offer forgivable loans of up to \$3000 at six per cent for renovation of older homes.
- provide mortgages for up to the full cost of a home.
- require tough builder warranties on all federally-financed or guaranteed housing.
- carry out a national plan to focus federally-controlled funds for housebuilding, repairs, and land on the areas and the families that need them most.
- level out the ups and downs of housebuilding so developers are no longer encouraged to take quick profits on luxury



homes while they ignore the needs of most Canadians. The target would be 350,000 new homes every year for the next five years, compared with the 260,000 completed in 1973.

- set up a National Building Corporation to fill in any gaps left by private developers, provincial housing authorities, co-operatives and other non-profit builders.
- plug tax loopholes that favour office towers, shopping centres, and land speculation over housing.
- encourage housing co-ops and other non-profit builders. For example, co-ops should be eligible for the six per cent mortgage rate.
- buy \$500-million worth of urban land every year for the next five years to keep it out of the hands of speculators and put a rein on skyrocketing land prices.
- put stiff taxes on exorbitant land profits, to discourage speculation. This would not apply to family homes or to farms sold for agricultural use.



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A slim booklet like this can touch only the highlights of the NDP program for a more humane society. If you would like to study our policies in more depth, a bound set of all resolutions adopted by federal conventions and by the party's federal council from 1961 to 1973 is available. The cost is \$3. Send your order with cheque or money order to:

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