

BUILDING NEW CANADA

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REFORM PARTY

OF
CANADA

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PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES

THE BLUE BOOK

1991

"BUILDING NEW CANADA"

REFORM PARTY OF CANADA PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES

1991

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE iii
--------------------------	--------------

LEADER'S FOREWORD: "BUILDING NEW CANADA" iv
---	-------------

PRINCIPLES

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES 1
--	------------

POLICIES

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Triple-E Senate	5
Regional Fairness Tests	6
Popular Ratification of Constitutional Change	6
Entrenchment of Property Rights	6
Supreme Court	7
Status of The Territories	7
Future Constitutional Negotiations	7

POLITICAL REFORM

Better Representation in Parliament	9
Parliamentary Reform	10
Referendum, Initiative and Recall	11
Electoral Reform	12

ECONOMIC REFORM

Industrial Development and Diversification	13
Domestic Trade and Transportation	14
Agriculture	15
Energy	17
Monetary Policy and Interest Rates	18
Banking System	18
Labour-Management Relations	18

FISCAL REFORM

Deficit Reduction	.20
Tax Reform	.21
Balanced Budget	.22
Privatization and Crown Corporations	.22
Parliamentary Spending	.22
Government Procurement	.23

ENVIRONMENTAL REFORM

Sustainable Development	.24
Coordinated Action	.25
Pollution Control	.26
Environmentally-Sensitive Zoning	.27
Drift-Net Fishing	.27

SOCIAL REFORM

Alternatives to the Welfare State	.28
Income Security and Income Support	.29
Unemployment Insurance	.29
Social Services	.30
Medicare	.30
Child Care	.30
Family Law	.31
Justice	.31
RCMP	.31
Native Affairs	.32
Official Languages	.32
Immigration	.33
Multiculturalism	.35

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

International Trade	.36
Defence	.37
Foreign Affairs	.38

MORAL DECISION-MAKING

Abortion	.39
----------	-----

MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

LIST OF OFFICES

PREFACE

The Reform Party's *Principles and Policies 1991* is the authoritative reference guide for the official policy positions of the Reform Party of Canada as adopted by Party Assemblies.

The basic format of this "Blue Book" remains unchanged from the 1990 edition. The principal objective of this format is to assist Party Members and Party Assemblies in understanding, debating, and deciding the policy positions of the Party.

Those comparing this edition with the 1990 edition will notice the following changes:

1. This edition incorporates changes to principles and policies adopted by resolutions of the Party Assembly in Saskatoon, April 4-7, 1991. These changes include amendments, additions, and deletions to previous policy statements.
2. There have been some minor alterations and reordering of material in various subsections, most notably in the Political Reform section. These have been done for clarity and involve no changes in substance.
3. There have been some minor wording changes to reflect the national perspective of the Party in preparation for the next election. These have been done only where they involve no changes in substance.

Any inquiries regarding the editing of this document or the policy development procedure should be sent to the Head Office of the Party to my attention.

STEPHEN J. HARPER
Chief Policy Officer

LEADER'S FOREWORD

Today, as the world rushes toward the 21st century, many Canadians are asking, "What's happening to Canada?"

This question is prompted by deep concerns about the economy and loss of jobs, rising government debt and taxation, the deterioration of our physical environment and social safety nets, the unresponsiveness of our Parliament, and the threat of Quebec secession.

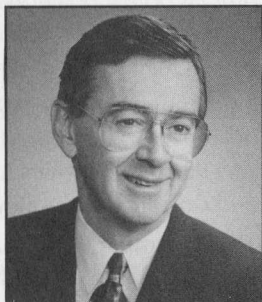
In addressing this question, the Reform Party of Canada has revived Lord Durham's famous observation that Canada consists of "two nations warring in the bosom of a single state."

Lord Durham, however, was referring to the English and the French, whereas Reformers are referring to an "Old Canada" that is dying, and a "New Canada" that is struggling to be born.

The Old Canada that is dying defines itself as "an equal partnership between two founding races, languages, and cultures," the English and the French.

Its leaders have focused their attention, not on building a federation of equal provinces, but on building a federation of founding peoples distinguished by official languages policy and government-supported culture.

Under such leadership, Old Canada has become a "house divided against itself." And its distinguishing features have become an economy ill prepared to compete in the free-market/



free-trade environment of the 21st century, governments that consistently live beyond their means, an undemocratic Parliament where party discipline reigns supreme, and a top-down approach to public decision-making which brought us the Meech Lake fiasco and the G.S.T.

Old Canada is now in the process of being rejected as unattractive and unsustainable by a majority of its people.

In Quebec, this rejection is manifesting itself in efforts to define a New Quebec whose leaders show little interest in remaining within Old Canada.

In the rest of Canada, this rejection is manifesting itself in the willingness of increasing numbers of Canadians to consider political and constitutional alternatives beyond those offered by the three traditional federal parties.

The Reform Party of Canada is a product of this search for new constitutional and political alternatives, and has dedicated itself to the task of defining and building a New Canada.

We seek to define this New Canada by subjecting the wisdom of expert opinion to the common sense of the common people. And although our work is far from complete, we offer the following definition as a starting point:

New Canada should be a balanced, democratic federation of provinces, distinguished by the conservation of its magnificent environment, the viability of its economy, acceptance of its social responsibilities, and recognition of the equality and uniqueness of all its provinces and citizens.

Reformers believe that New Canada must be a *federation of provinces*, not a federation of founding races or ethnic groups.

Reformers believe that New Canada must be a *balanced federation*, not an unbalanced federation where one province has special status or a special deal; or where all the provinces have special status and Canada has no status; or where one generation centralizes all the power in Ottawa, and the next generation centralizes it all in the provincial capitals in the name of decentralization.

Reformers believe that New Canada must be a *democratic federation* where the people take ownership of their own Constitution through Constitutional Conventions, and where the rules of a reformed Parliament make the members more responsive to the real interests of their constituents.

Reformers believe that the more that the *people* of Quebec and the *people* of the rest of Canada are involved in the defining of the New Quebec and the New Canada, the higher will be the probability that the two visions can be reconciled.

This is because people everywhere want more or less the same things for themselves and their children - a safe environment, good jobs with good incomes, high-quality education and health services, respect for their personal values and cultural heritages, and the freedom to live their lives in peace and dignity.

New Canada must be viable without Quebec, but it must be open and attractive enough to include a New Quebec.

As a new federal political party, the Reform Party is obligated to answer questions concerning our positions on the myriad issues which will come before the Parliament of Canada in the 1990s.

The following statement of principles and policies, as approved by our Party Assemblies, should serve this purpose.

The reader should be aware, however, that *the heart of our platform and our reason for being* resides in those reforms designed to get Canada's constitutional, fiscal, economic, and Parliamentary houses in order during the 1990s.

If such reforms are not instituted, there will be no New Canada, and the federal government will be an ineffective instrument for dealing with the future concerns and aspirations of Canadians, no matter what those concerns and aspirations may be.

I therefore strongly encourage you to examine our principles and policies for yourself, and to judge our positions on their own merits rather than the opinions of others.

If you have dreams for yourself or your children; if you agree that whatever it is Canadians want to achieve we must get our constitutional, fiscal, economic, and parliamentary houses in order; if you are concerned and disillusioned with the unwillingness and inability of our traditional federal parties to address the challenges of the future; then you owe it to yourself, to your children, and to your country to join with Reformers in defining and building New Canada.

E. Preston Manning

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

1. We affirm the need to establish a Triple-E Senate in the Parliament of Canada — that is to say, a Senate which is Elected by the people, with Equal representation from each Province, and which is fully Effective in safeguarding regional interests.
2. We affirm that political parties should be guided by stated values and principles which are shared by their members and rooted in the political beliefs of Canadians.
3. We believe in dynamic and constructive change — in a renewal of the "reform tradition" of Canadian politics.
4. We believe that Canada's identity and vision for the future should be rooted in and inspired by a fresh appreciation of "our land" and the supreme importance to our well-being of exploring, developing, renewing, and conserving our natural resources and physical environment.
5. We believe that the people of Canada are this country's most valuable resource, and that the nurture and development of human knowledge, skills, and relationships are the keys to full participation in the knowledge-based service economy of the 21st century.
6. We affirm the value and dignity of the individual person and the importance of strengthening

and protecting the family unit as essential to the well-being of individuals and society.

7. We believe that every individual, group, province, and region in Canada is entitled to fundamental justice, and that fundamental justice entitles the people of each region to benefit equally, without discrimination, from participation in Confederation and from the programs and expenditures of the Government of Canada.
8. We believe in the value of enterprise and initiative, and that governments have a responsibility to foster and protect an environment in which initiative and enterprise can be exercised by individuals and groups.
9. We believe that the creation of wealth and productive jobs for Canadians is best achieved through the operations of a responsible, broadly-based, free-enterprise economy in which private property, freedom of contract, and the operations of free markets are encouraged and respected.
10. We believe that Canadians have a personal and collective responsibility to care and provide for the basic needs of people who are unable to care and provide for themselves.
11. We believe in freedom of conscience and religion, and the right of Canadians to advocate, without fear of intimidation or suppression, public policies which reflect their most deeply held values.
12. We believe that public policy in democratic societies should reflect the will of the majority

of the citizens as determined by free and fair elections, referenda, and the decisions of legally constituted and representative Parliaments and Assemblies elected by the people.

13. We believe that the interest of minorities and the people of the underpopulated regions of Canada should be safeguarded by constitutional guarantees and parliamentary institutions which effectively balance representation by population with regional representation.
14. We believe in the common sense of the common people, their right to be consulted on public policy matters before major decisions are made, their right to choose their own leaders and to govern themselves through truly representative and responsible institutions, and their right to directly initiate legislation for which substantial public support is demonstrated.
15. We believe in accountability of elected representatives to the people who elect them, and that the duty of elected members to their constituents should supersede their obligations to their political parties.
16. We believe that the legitimate role of government is to do for people whatever they need to have done, but cannot do at all — or do as well — for themselves individually or through non-governmental organizations.
17. We believe in public service — that governments, civil servants, politicians, and political parties exist to serve the people, and

that they should demonstrate this service commitment at all times.

18. We believe that public money should be regarded by governments as “funds held in trust,” and that governments should practice fiscal responsibility — in particular, the responsibility to balance expenditures and revenues.
19. We affirm our commitment to the rule of the law, and to the concept that governments and law-makers are not above the law.
20. We believe that Canada’s conduct in international as well as domestic affairs should be consistent with the above principles.
21. We believe that Canadians should seek to maximize the benefits of our unique geographic and economic relationship with the United States, and that the establishment of more positive relations with the U.S. need not in any way impair Canada’s national sovereignty or cultural identity.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

We affirm the need to establish a Triple-E Senate in the Parliament of Canada — that is to say, a Senate which is Elected by the people, with Equal representation from each Province, and which is fully Effective in safeguarding regional interests.

We believe in dynamic and constructive change — in a renewal of the "reform tradition" of Canadian politics.

We believe that every individual, group, province, and region in Canada is entitled to fundamental justice, and that fundamental justice entitles the people of each region to benefit equally, without discrimination, from participation in Confederation and from the programs and expenditures of the Government of Canada.

We believe that the interest of minorities and the people of the underpopulated regions of Canada should be safeguarded by constitutional guarantees and parliamentary institutions which effectively balance representation by population with regional representation.

Triple-E Senate

- A. The Reform Party fully endorses the Triple-E Senate concept as outlined in the Draft Constitutional Amendment prepared by legal experts and ratified by Party members in May, 1988.

Regional Fairness Tests

- A. The Reform Party supports public analyses of the regional distribution of the expenditures and revenues of all federal government policies and contracts as a routine part of the legislative process. These distributions would be analyzed on both an East-West and a North-South basis within Canada.
- B. The Reform Party supports the inclusion of economic rents from hydroelectric activities in the public revenue of all provinces for the purpose of calculating the size of federal-provincial transfer payments.

Popular Ratification of Constitutional Change

- A. The Reform Party opposes the implementation of any amendments to the Constitution until ratified by the electorate.
- B. The Reform Party supports amending the Constitution Act 1982 to provide for the popular ratification of constitutional change. Each province would have to secure approval of its position from its electorate by way of achieving a simple majority of votes cast during a popular and democratic referendum. A simple majority in at least two-thirds of the provinces as well as approval by the Parliament of Canada would be required for passage of an amendment.

Entrenchment of Property Rights

- A. The Reform Party supports amending the Charter of Rights to recognize that in Canada there has existed and shall continue to exist the right of every person to the use and enjoyment of property, both real and personal, and the right not to be deprived thereof except by due process of law. Furthermore, it should

recognize that in Canada no person shall be deprived, directly or indirectly, by any law of Parliament or a provincial Legislature, of the use and enjoyment of property, unless that law provides for just and timely compensation.

Supreme Court

- A. The Reform Party supports more stringent and more public ratification procedures for Supreme Court Justices in light of the powers our legislators are handing to the courts. Our Draft Constitutional Amendment calls for Senate ratification of Supreme Court appointments.
- B. The Reform Party supports efforts to secure adequate regional representation on the Supreme Court.

Status of The Territories

- A. The Reform Party supports the right of the Northern Territories to achieve full provincial status.

Future Constitutional Negotiations

- A. The Reform Party opposed both the Meech Lake Constitutional Accord and the process by which it was negotiated. We remained to the end the only federal party opposed.
- B. The Reform Party supports a bottom-up process of public consensus-building in the next round of constitutional negotiations. This would begin with elected Constitutional Conventions at the provincial or regional level.
- C. The Reform Party supports a re-examination and re-establishment of a clear division of powers between the constitutional levels of government. Legislative authority should rest with the level most able to effectively govern

in each area, with a bias to decentralization in cases of uncertainty.

- D. The Reform Party supports the position that Confederation should be maintained, but that it can only be maintained by a clear commitment to Canada as one nation, in which the demands and aspirations of all regions are entitled to equal status in constitutional negotiations and political debate, and in which freedom of expression is fully accepted as the basis for language policy across the country. Should these principles of Confederation be rejected, Quebec and the rest of Canada should consider whether there exists a better political arrangement which will enrich our friendship, respect our common defence requirements, and ensure a free interchange of commerce and people, by mutual consent and for our mutual benefit.

POLITICAL REFORM

We affirm that political parties should be guided by stated values and principles which are shared by their members and rooted in the political beliefs of Canadians.

We believe that public policy in democratic societies should reflect the will of the majority of the citizens as determined by free and fair elections, referenda, and the decisions of legally constituted and representative Parliaments and Assemblies elected by the people.

We believe in the common sense of the common people, their right to be consulted on public policy matters before major decisions are made, their right to choose their own leaders and to govern themselves through truly representative and responsive institutions, and their right to directly initiate legislation for which substantial public support is demonstrated.

We believe in accountability of elected representatives to the people who elect them, and that the duty of elected members to their constituents should supersede their obligations to their political parties.

We affirm our commitment to the rule of the law, and to the concept that governments and law-makers are not above the law.

Better Representation in Parliament

- A. The Reform Party supports changing Parliamentary rules to allow more free votes in

the House of Commons. We believe that the defeat of a government measure in the House of Commons should not automatically mean the defeat of the government. Defeat of a government motion should be followed by a formal motion of non-confidence, the passage of which would require either the resignation of the government or dissolution of the House for a general election.

- B. Until Parliamentary Reform is enacted, the Reform Party pledges that, having had a full opportunity to express their views and vote freely in caucus, with such caucus vote always made public, Reform M.P.s shall vote with the Reform Party majority in the House unless a Member is instructed to abstain or vote otherwise by his/her constituents. The Reform Party of Canada shall provide criteria for proper processes to elicit the will of the constituency. Such processes shall be initiated by constituents or by the Member.

Parliamentary Reform

- A. The Reform Party supports amending the Canada Elections Act to eliminate clauses which place Members of Parliament in a position beholden to their national Party Executive or Leader rather than their constituents (such as the provisions for the signing of nomination papers).
- B. The Reform Party supports amending the M.P.s' oath of office such that they swear or affirm fundamental allegiance to their constituents as well as to the Queen.
- C. The Reform Party supports restrictions and limitations on the number and types of Orders-in-Council permitted by a government during its term of office. In the interim, Reform Party M.P.s will strive to make

Parliamentary Committees effective in reviewing any regulations before implementation.

- D. The Reform Party will insist that all laws applying to individuals and the private sector apply equally to the Government of Canada, its personnel, its agencies, and Parliament.

Referendum, Initiative and Recall

- A. The Reform Party supports the mechanism of binding referenda on the current Government of Canada by a simple majority vote of the electorate, including a simple majority in at least two-thirds of the Provinces (including the Territories).
- B. The Reform Party supports voters' initiatives by way of a plebiscite, if three percent (3%) or more of the eligible voters of Canada sign a petition to the Chief Electoral Officer requesting that a question or legislative proposal be put before the people. Such a question or legislative proposal should be placed on the ballot at the subsequent federal general election. Such petitions must be delivered to the Chief Electoral Officer prior to the election call.
- C. The Reform Party supports a direct democratic process without partisanship or suppression on moral issues such as capital punishment and abortion, and on matters that alter the basic social fabric such as immigration, language, and measurement.
- D. The Reform Party supports the principle of allowing constituents a recall procedure against an M.P. they feel has violated his/her oath of office.

Electoral Reform

- A. The Reform Party supports the holding of elections every four years at a predetermined time of the year. If a Government were defeated in the House such that an election had to be called immediately, the date of the subsequent election would be four years from the predetermined time of the year following the election.
- B. The Reform Party supports fixing a specific length of time, not exceeding six (6) months, within which by-elections for vacant Commons' seats must be held.
- C. The Reform Party opposes any assistance to political parties and political lobbies from public funds, including any refund of candidate or party expenses, government advertising during the electoral period, the "renting" of Parliamentary staff for reimbursement, tax credits for contributions to federal political parties, and the transfer of tax credits to leadership campaigns, to nomination campaigns, or to parties at the provincial or municipal level.

ECONOMIC REFORM

We believe that the people of Canada are this country's most valuable resource, and that the nurture and development of human knowledge, skills, and relationships are the keys to full participation in the knowledge-based service economy of the 21st century.

We believe in the value of enterprise and initiative, and that governments have a responsibility to foster and protect an environment in which initiative and enterprise can be exercised by individuals and groups.

We believe that the creation of wealth and productive jobs for Canadians is best achieved through the operations of a responsible, broadly-based, free-enterprise economy in which private property, freedom of contract, and the operations of free markets are encouraged and respected.

Industrial Development and Diversification

- A. The Reform Party supports depoliticizing economic decision-making in Canada through the long-term elimination of grants, subsidies, and pricing policies and all federal taxes, direct or indirect, imposed on the natural resources of the provinces, other than income tax of general application.
- B. The Reform Party supports the long-term removal of all measures which are designed to insulate industries, businesses, financial

institutions, professions, and trade unions from domestic and foreign competition.

- C. The Reform Party supports vigorous measures to ensure the successful operation of the marketplace, through such means as the promotion of competition and competitive pricing, and the strengthening and vigorous enforcement of Competition and Anti-Combines legislation with severe penalties for collusion or price fixing.
- D. The Reform Party supports orienting federal government activities toward the nurturing of human and physical infrastructure.
- E. The Reform Party supports giving greater priority to the development of skills, particularly those that provide future job flexibility (such as literacy and computer education). As well, such training should be made more flexible in terms of the type of institution providing the training. We would encourage cooperative training in industry.
- F. The Reform Party supports directing physical infrastructure priorities to the regions which have historically suffered underdevelopment as a result of federal interference in the free market.
- G. The Reform Party supports development through research aimed at particular industrial objectives, particularly private sector research in commercial areas where feasible.
- H. The Reform Party opposes bureaucratic, politically motivated slush funds like the Western Diversification Initiative (WDI).

Domestic Trade and Transportation

- A. The Reform Party supports the removal of interprovincial barriers to trade by agreements which include trade dispute settlement

mechanisms amongst the provinces. This process could begin on a regional basis.

- B. The Reform Party supports upgrading transportation and increasing port facilities so that Canada may capitalize on burgeoning export trade opportunities.

Agriculture

- A. The Reform Party seeks an agricultural policy that is frank and honest in facing up to the economic realities confronting Canadian agriculture, namely:
- that the consumer interest in safe, affordable, secure food supplies will eventually guide and shape agricultural policy;
 - that there is increasing need, both internationally and domestically, to reduce rather than increase government subsidization of agriculture due to the inability of governments and the community at large to finance such subsidization in the long run; and
 - that there is a need for transitional support to protect agricultural producers against policies over which they have no control, including international subsidies that increase supplies and depress prices.
- B. The Reform Party believes that the Canadian agricultural producer should offer the rest of the world and the rest of the country a deal leading to a step-by-step reduction of government agricultural support at home and abroad if other economic sectors and our trading partners will do the same. This would result in a general improvement in export prices and a general lowering of the cost of doing business for primary producers.

- C. The Reform Party supports a Trade Distortion Adjustment Program to compensate for the adverse effect of subsidies by other countries. The fund would be activated on the total volume of Canadian commodities that have historically relied on the export market. This fund could be subject to a sunset provision.

- D. In the event that international trade liberalization cannot be achieved in agriculture, the Reform Party supports No-Proof-of-Injury Countervailing Duties on any subsidized competing product coming into the Canadian market. The countervail would be extended to include secondary products that are manufactured or derived from a subsidized primary product.
- E. The Reform Party supports the establishment of a voluntary self-funded and self-administered Income Averaging Fund for all agricultural producers. This safety-net plan would operate similar to an RRSP but with appropriate guidelines and restrictions.
- F. The Reform Party supports vigorous measures to ensure competition and to severely penalize price collusion in the markets in which farmers buy and sell.
- G. The Reform Party supports an agricultural policy based on market mechanisms with the objective of meeting the needs of consumers for safe, affordable, and secure supplies of food. Where circumstances allow, this would mean a shift from a government-supported agricultural industry to an industry shaped by the free operation of comparative advantage between regions and commodities, free entry into all sectors of production and marketing, and free trade on a global basis.
- H. If other domestic sectors and countries will do the same, the Reform Party supports the phased reduction and elimination of all

subsidies, support programs, and trade restrictions, and the reform of supply/price controls in domestic and international agriculture. This would apply to the production and marketing of both agricultural commodities and agricultural inputs.

- I. The Reform Party supports the phased reduction of the subsidy on grain and oilseeds in the Western Grain Transportation Act (Crow subsidy) and the Feed Freight Assistance Program, with the market place eventually paying all of the transportation costs.

Energy

- A. The Reform Party supports an energy policy based on market mechanisms with the objective of meeting the demands of consumers for safe, secure supplies of energy at competitive prices.
- B. The Reform Party has supported the elimination of the National Energy Program despite a period of low oil prices, and will oppose any new National Energy Program under any circumstances by any political party as a fundamental attack on the economic rights of the West and the political unity of this country.
- C. The Reform Party supports private-sector development of energy mega-projects without federal government subsidies, grants, loan guarantees, or special tax treatment. The role of government with respect to mega-projects is to provide the appropriate regulation, including environmental regulation, and to support appropriate infrastructure development.
- D. The Reform Party supports the integration of energy development and environmental conservation, by ensuring that the "cost" of energy development includes the associated

costs of environmental protection, and by supporting conservation of energy and the development of alternate energy sources for the purposes of environmental protection. We will rely primarily on marketplace mechanisms where possible to achieve these objectives.

- E. The Reform Party supports streamlining administrative and regulatory processes in the energy sector to minimize unnecessary regulatory burden.

Monetary Policy and Interest Rates

- A. The Reform Party supports a truly national monetary policy — a slow but steady growth in the money supply.
- B. The Reform Party has opposed the high interest rate, high exchange rate, tight money policy of the Bank of Canada, supported by the Minister of Finance. We believe that it is inappropriate to use national macroeconomic policy to address the regional problems of areas with high inflation.

Banking System

- A. The Reform Party supports a more competitive banking system, including the presence of regional banks.

Labour-Management Relations

- A. The Reform Party supports the right of workers to organize democratically, to bargain collectively, and to strike peacefully.
- B. The Reform Party supports the harmonization of labour-management relations, and rejects the view that labour and management must constitute warring camps.
- C. The Reform Party supports the right of all Canadians, particularly the young, to enter the

work force and achieve their potential. Unions and professional bodies may ensure standards, but should not block qualified people from working in a trade or profession or from gaining the necessary qualifications.

"BUILDING NEW CANADA"

FISCAL REFORM

We believe in public service — that governments, civil servants, politicians, and political parties exist to serve the people, and that they should demonstrate this service commitment at all times.

We believe that public money should be regarded by governments as "funds held in trust," and that governments should practice fiscal responsibility — in particular, the responsibility to balance expenditures and revenues.

Deficit Reduction

- A. The Reform Party supports a general program of expenditure reduction or elimination characterized by the following priorities:
- spending on Parliamentary institutions and party caucuses;
 - thick layers of middle management in federal administration;
 - federal "pet projects" such as official bilingualism, multiculturalism, and certain government advertising;
 - grants to interest groups for the purposes of political lobbying;
 - foreign aid;
 - subsidies and tax concessions to business;
 - selling of most Crown Corporations;
 - any area of spending that fails to achieve a fair regional distribution; and
 - universal and bureaucratic social policy in areas such as daycare.

- B. The Reform Party has advocated across-the-board reductions in federal discretionary spending in areas of high inflationary activity to allow for a reduction in interest rate differentials between Canada and the United States.
- C. The Reform Party supports the establishment of a Debt Retirement Fund, to which all revenue raised by the G.S.T. or proceeds from the sales of Crown assets could be applied, rather than being included in the federal government's budgetary process.

Tax Reform

- A. The Reform Party supports the elimination of special treatment, credits, writeoffs, and deductions, especially where the Income Tax Act establishes income or expenditure definitions that do not conform to generally accepted accounting standards.
- B. The Reform Party supports a taxation policy that has as its principal objective the raising of funds to pay for government programs, and opposes the use of tax concessions as an instrument for manipulating investment behaviour and the industrial structure.
- C. The Reform Party will work toward a simple and visible system of taxation, including the possibility of a flat tax.
- D. The Reform Party opposes the Goods and Services Tax (G.S.T.).
- E. The Reform Party supports the calculation of any and all taxes levied on a consumer for any commodity or service over and above the actual price of the item so that the consumer is fully aware of the amount of tax involved.

Balanced Budget

- A. The Reform Party supports "Resolution One." The Federal Government shall forthwith enact a law under which all future increases in total revenue must be exceeded by reductions in overall expenditure until the budget is balanced.
- B. The Reform Party supports requiring the Government of Canada to balance the budget in each three year period or to be obliged to call an election on the issue. The first period would commence three years from the passage of such a measure.

Privatization and Crown Corporations

- A. The Reform Party supports placing the ownership and control of corporations in the sector that can perform their function most cost-effectively, with greatest accountability to owners, and the least likelihood of incurring public debt. We believe that there is overwhelming evidence that this would be the private sector in the vast majority of cases.
- B. The Reform Party supports the complete privatization of Petro-Canada and using the revenue to retire some of the national debt.
- C. The Reform Party supports free competition for the post office. There should be no restrictions on private competition in the delivery of mail.
- D. The Reform Party supports the reform of postal service that ensures that rural and remote areas receive postal services comparable in quality and cost.

Parliamentary Spending

- A. The Reform Party opposes the current pension schemes for Members of Parliament. We

would end full indexation of these pensions. We would postpone eligibility for benefits until at least age 60, with eligibility further postponed by the amount of time in which the person has already been paid prior to age 60. We would subject the M.P. pension to a tax-back according to a formula identical to that of the Old Age Security.

- B. The Reform Party supports a re-examination of M.P.s' and Senators' expense allowances, free services, staff privileges, and limousines, in light of private sector standards and the failure of M.P.s to reform the House of Commons. Until a balanced budget is achieved, the salaries and expenses of government M.P.s and their offices should at least be frozen.
- C. The Reform Party supports the re-examination of the appointed positions on boards, agencies, and councils with the object of eliminating patronage positions, not just individual appointments.
- D. The Reform Party opposes the practice of paying multi-salaries to those M.P.s who are also Cabinet Ministers, Committee Chairmen, and/or any other such parliamentary positions.

Government Procurement

- A. The Reform Party favours a government procurement policy based on fairness and normal commercial criteria of price and quality, rather than lobbying and political motives.
- B. The Reform Party opposes the Western Procurement Initiative and its politically motivated procurement criteria.

ENVIRONMENTAL REFORM

We believe that Canada's identity and vision for the future should be rooted in and inspired by a fresh appreciation of "our land" and the supreme importance to our well-being of exploring, developing, renewing, and conserving our natural resources and physical environment.

Sustainable Development

- A. The Reform Party supports ensuring that all Canadians and their descendants dwell in a clean and healthy environment. The Party supports sustainable development because, without economic development and the income generated therefrom, the environment will not be protected or enjoyed.
- B. The Reform Party supports the view that environmental considerations must carry equal weight with economic, social, and technical considerations in the development of a project.
- C. The Reform Party supports the integration of environmental and economic objectives in management philosophy, structure, procedures, planning, and all decision-making matters involving economic and environmental issues in which the federal government has constitutional jurisdiction.
- D. The Reform Party supports the initiation of a public education program of environmentally conscious purchasing. The federal government and private sector should cause their purchasing departments to be environmentally conscious in all their purchasing.

- E. The Reform Party supports the federal government taking leadership in developing a new discipline integrating economics and the environment.
- F. The Reform Party supports the participation of the federal government in international commissions formed to regulate the clear cutting of tropical rain forests, ocean transportation of materials potentially damaging to the environment, fishing of international waters, and population control.

Coordinated Action

- A. The Reform Party supports federal leadership and commitment to sustainable development. This includes promoting partnerships with provincial governments, private industry, our educational institutions, and the public, to promote meaningful progress in the area of environmental protection.
- B. The Reform Party supports the Multipartite Round Table approach to environment and economy, as a means of finding common ground and building consensus in the development of measures to deal with environmental issues.
- C. The Reform Party supports harmonization of federal and provincial environmental assessment and regulation procedures, so as to reduce duplication, confusion, and unnecessary regulations.
- D. The Reform Party supports the encouragement of regional development as a means of alleviating concentrated areas of industrial activity and population.
- E. The Reform Party supports the development of acceptable environmental regulations through consultation and cooperation between industry and the public. The government

should be directed to enforce these regulations firmly, fairly, and equally on everyone.

- F. The Reform Party supports making government sponsored research available to the private sector.

Pollution Control

- A. The Reform Party supports the directing of industrial research and development so that, within a specified period of time, emissions from industry will be subject to control such that water discharged from industrial plants will be of equal or better quality than the water taken into the plant for its use, and gaseous emissions will not contain any harmful ingredients.
- B. The Reform Party supports the undertaking of a country-wide program of improving the treatment of municipal sewage involving the introduction of tertiary treatment facilities wherever possible.
- C. The Reform Party supports the immediate implementation of long-term restoration programs for those parts of our physical environment, including land, air, and water, which are already suffering damage as a direct result of inadequate regulations or the lack of proper enforcement of the regulations.
- D. The Reform Party supports the principle that the polluter shall pay for its pollution controls, that this be stringently enforced in an unbiased manner, and that penalties be severe enough that polluters will not consider them as a "license fee" to pollute.
- E. The Reform Party supports fines and jail sentences for officers and executives of companies violating environmental laws.

Environmentally-Sensitive Zoning

- A. The Reform Party supports the concept of "environmentally-sensitive zoning."

Drift-Net Fishing

- A. The Reform Party supports international action in having the practice of "drift-net" fishing stopped until an agreement can be reached by all parties on an intelligent and rational harvesting of the oceans of the world.

"BUILDING NEW CANADA"

SOCIAL REFORM

We affirm the value and dignity of the individual person and the importance of strengthening and protecting the family unit as essential to the well-being of individuals and society.

We believe that Canadians have a personal and collective responsibility to care and provide for the basic needs of people who are unable to care and provide for themselves.

We believe that the legitimate role of government is to do for people whatever they need to have done, but cannot do at all — or do as well — for themselves individually or through non-governmental organizations.

Alternatives to the Welfare State

- A. The Reform Party opposes the view that universal social programs run by bureaucrats are the best and only way to care for the poor, the sick, the old, and the young.
- B. The Reform Party supports greater compassion in the delivery mechanisms for social policy. We would actively encourage families, communities, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to reassume their duties and responsibilities in social service areas.
- C. The Reform Party supports greater focusing of social policy benefits. We prefer to target benefits on those who need the help, and to do so in a rational and compassionate manner.

- D. The Reform Party supports greater financial sustainability in social policy over the long term. This requires a new commitment to sound, long term financial management. No citizen should be denied access by reason of financial status or inability to pay. Likewise, this does not necessitate the full subsidization of those able to pay all or part of the costs themselves.
- E. The Reform Party supports greater simplification and comprehensiveness in social policy where possible. We believe a fairer income tax system would contain the data necessary for payment eligibility, and is a logical basis for social policies that mainly require raised purchasing power, without complex means or needs tests.

Income Security and Income Support

- A. The Reform Party supports the development of a family or household-oriented comprehensive social security system administered through the income-tax system. This could replace many forms of social policy, such as the Family Allowance, Child Tax Credit, Spousal Exemption, Child Exemption, federal contributions to social assistance payments, retirement plans, federal social housing programs, day-care deductions, and minimum wage laws. We will explore options from among existing proposals such as the guaranteed annual income, security investment fund, and negative income tax.

Unemployment Insurance

- A. The Reform Party supports the return of Unemployment Insurance (UI) to its original function — an employer-employee funded and administered program to provide

temporary income in the event of unexpected job loss.

- B. The Reform Party supports the immediate elimination of discriminatory UI elements, such as regional entrance requirements and regionally-extended benefit phases, in ways that do not increase the costs of the program.

Social Services

- A. The Reform Party opposes the increasing use of the spending powers of the federal government in areas of provincial jurisdiction, such as medicare, education and the like.
- B. The Reform Party supports the establishment of an agreement to provide unconditional transfers of the tax base from the federal government to the provinces, adjusted for differential provincial economic development, so that the content and particulars of provincial policy would be set provincially by provincial governments clearly accountable to the electors of each province.

Medicare

- A. The Reform Party recognizes the importance of ensuring that adequate health-care insurance and services are available to every Canadian, that it is the Provinces which currently possess the legal and constitutional responsibility to provide such insurance and services, and that federal funding in support of such insurance and services should be unconditional and recognize different levels of economic development in the provinces.

Child Care

- A. The Reform Party supports child-care programs that subsidize financial need, not the method of child care chosen, and that subsidize

children and parents, not institutions and professionals.

- B. The Reform Party opposes any expenditure-increasing child-care initiative in light of the current fiscal situation of the Government of Canada.
- C. The Reform Party supports government regulation of day-care standards.
- D. The Reform Party opposes state-run day care.

Family Law

- A. The Reform Party recognizes child abuse and family violence as acts which attack the very foundations of organized society, and the Party supports the enactment, communication, and enforcement of laws designed to protect family members against such acts and to provide a program of assistance to both victims and abusers through therapy. Effective programs aimed at prevention of family violence will be a priority in this area.

Justice

- A. The Reform Party supports a judicial system which places the punishment of crime and the protection of law-abiding citizens and their property ahead of all other objectives.

RCMP

- A. The Reform Party supports the traditional role of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) as a police force representative of and responsive to the populations it serves in Canada's regions.
- B. The Reform Party supports the preservation of the distinctive heritage and tradition of the RCMP by retaining the uniformity of dress code. Changes should not be made for religious or ethnic reasons.

Native Affairs

- A. The Reform Party supports the establishment of a new relationship with aboriginal peoples beginning with a constitutional convention of aboriginal representatives to consider their position on such matters as the nature of aboriginal rights, the relationship between aboriginal peoples and the various levels of government, and how to reduce the economic dependence of aboriginal peoples on the federal government and the Department of Indian Affairs.
- B. The Reform Party supports the federal government enabling aboriginal individuals, communities, and organizations to assume full responsibility for their wellbeing by involving them in the development, delivery, and assessment of government policies affecting them. This would proceed with the goals of:
 - the replacement of the Department of Indian Affairs with accountable agencies run by and responsible to aboriginal peoples; and
 - the replacement of the current economic state of aboriginal peoples by their full participation in Canada's economic life and achievement of a state of self-reliance.
- C. The Reform Party supports processes leading to the early and mutually satisfactory conclusion of outstanding land-claim negotiations.
- D. The Reform Party supports the principle that aboriginal individuals or groups are free to preserve their cultural heritage using their own resources. The Party shall uphold their right to do so.

Official Languages

- A. The Reform Party supports a language policy based on freedom of speech. We reject

comprehensive language legislation, whether in the nature of enforced bilingualism or unilingualism, regardless of the level of government.

- B. The Reform Party opposes the conception of Canada as "a meeting of two founding races, cultures, and languages" as an inappropriate description of the reality of the regions outside Central Canada, as unfair to the vast majority of unilingual Canadians, and as completely inconsistent in its own application.
- C. The Reform Party supports "asking the people," through a referendum, to create a language policy that reflects both the aspirations of Canadians and the demographic reality of the country.
- D. The Reform Party supports a recognition of French in Quebec and English elsewhere as the predominant language of work and society.
- E. The Reform Party supports official bilingualism in key federal institutions, such as Parliament and the Supreme Court, and critical federal services where need is sufficient to warrant provision of minority services on a cost-effective basis.
- F. The Reform Party supports protection of minority education rights, possibly by interprovincial agreement.
- G. The Reform Party in no way discourages personal bilingualism.
- H. The Reform Party supports removal of bilingual bonuses to civil servants as a federal cost-reduction measure.

Immigration

- A. The Reform Party supports an immigration policy that has as its focus Canada's economic needs and that welcomes genuine refugees. The Reform Party remains convinced that

immigration has been, and can be again, a positive source of economic growth, cultural diversity, and social renewal.

- B. The Reform Party opposes any immigration policy based on race or creed.
- C. The Reform Party supports an immigration policy which would be essentially economic in nature. Immigrants should possess the human capital necessary to adjust quickly and independently to the needs of Canadian society and the job market.
- D. The Reform Party supports restricting sponsorship privileges to members of immediate families, that is, wives or husbands, minor dependent children, and aged dependent parents. All others should apply for entry through the normal selective process.
- E. The Reform Party supports a policy accepting the settlement of genuine refugees who find their way to Canada. A genuine refugee is one who has a well-founded fear of persecution and qualifies under the strict requirements of the United Nations Convention.
- F. The Reform Party supports a policy of immediate deportation of bogus refugees and other illegal entrants, and persons who encourage or promote such activities should be subject to severe penalties without exception. The Constitution may have to be amended to ensure that Parliament can ultimately control entry into Canada, and, in the interim, the "notwithstanding" provision of the Charter should be used to ensure that this is the case.
- G. The Reform Party opposes the use of immigration policy to solve the crises of the welfare state through forced growth population policy. The problem of the pension

costs of an aging population is neither caused nor cured by immigration policy.

- H. The Reform Party supports submitting all major changes to immigration, including sponsorship requirements and amnesties, to referendum.

Multiculturalism

- A. The Reform Party stands for the acceptance and integration of immigrants to Canada into the mainstream of Canadian life.
- B. The Reform Party supports the principle that individuals or groups are free to preserve their cultural heritage using their own resources. The Party shall uphold their right to do so.
- C. The Reform Party of Canada opposes the current concept of multiculturalism and hyphenated Canadianism pursued by the Government of Canada. We would end funding of the multiculturalism program and support the abolition of the Department of Multiculturalism.

“BUILDING NEW CANADA”

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

We believe that Canada's conduct in international as well as domestic affairs should be consistent.

We believe that Canadians should seek to maximize the benefits of our unique geographic and economic relationship with the United States, and that the establishment of more positive relations with the U.S. need not in any way impair Canada's national sovereignty or cultural identity.

International Trade

- A. The Reform Party has supported the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the United States.
- B. The Reform Party supports ensuring that free trade means fair trade in the implementation stages of the FTA in terms of the business-opportunity initiatives and worker-adjustment programs.
- C. The Reform Party supports a comprehensive effort to realign Canada's economic policies to be consistent with our international trade requirements. This realignment must include industrial development policies, science and research policies, regulatory policies, taxation policies, transportation policies, education policies, and fiscal and monetary policies.
- D. The Reform Party supports the formation of Interprovincial Trade Groups to promote external trade relations, initially with Pacific Rim countries.

Defence

- A. The Reform Party supports the maintenance of a professional, well-equipped, and sufficiently strong Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard, to:
- assert Canada's political, economic, and environmental sovereignty over its entire territory;
 - continue our participation in NATO and NORAD, or any similar organization which is likely to be created in the near future;
 - participate in international peacekeeping missions when and where the need arises;
 - provide fast, efficient, and readily available search and rescue capability, where needed; and
 - provide a fast response to national or international conflicts, where it is required, as well as providing assistance to civil authorities during natural or manmade disasters (i.e., oil spills, chemical spills).
- B. The Reform Party supports the development of future defence policies based on:
- greater reliance on reserves;
 - adaptable and general-purpose equipment;
 - reduced base and headquarters overheads;
 - careful and specified commitments to alliances including U.N. peace-keeping efforts; and
 - lower costs.
- C. The Reform Party supports the maintenance of Reserves equal to the number of regular troops in the military force. Legislation should be passed that would ensure that Reservists be guaranteed their jobs upon returning from their training and/or active duty.

Foreign Affairs

- A. The Reform Party supports foreign policy guided by the values and principles of Canadians — political democracy, economic freedom, and human rights. The Reform Party will strive for greater integrity and consistency in the application of Canadian policy abroad and in the practices of this policy at home.

MORAL DECISION-MAKING

We believe in freedom of conscience and religion, and the right of Canadians to advocate, without fear of intimidation or suppression, public policies which reflect their most deeply held values.

Abortion

- A. The Reform Party commits its Members of Parliament to stating clearly and publicly their personal views and moral beliefs on the question of abortion; to asking their constituents to develop, to express, and to debate their own views on the matter; and to seeking the consensus of the constituency on the issue.
- B. In the absence of a national referendum, the Reform Party expects its Members of Parliament to faithfully vote the consensus of the constituency in the appropriate divisions of the House of Commons if such a consensus exists. If such a consensus does not exist or is unclear, Members of Parliament shall vote in accordance with their publicly-recorded statements on the issue.

Get Involved

☒

- ☐ Become a member of the REFORM PARTY OF CANADA (enclose \$10 payable to REFORM FUND CANADA). Income tax receipts are not issued for membership fees.
- ☐ Make a financial contribution to the REFORM PARTY OF CANADA (make cheque payable to REFORM FUND CANADA). NOTE: with your pledge of \$120 to support the party you will automatically receive an attractive Reform memento. Contributors are eligible for the federal tax credit, i.e. a \$120 contribution is eligible for \$85 tax credit so that the actual out-of-pocket cost is \$35. Income tax receipts are issued for contributions of \$10 and over.
- ☐ Assist REFORM CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATION activities in your riding such as membership recruitment, information initiatives, organization, fund raising, and policy development.
- ☐ Organize a local meeting for REFORM PARTY spokespersons.
- ☐ Request additional information (specify).





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