

# New directions for British Columbia in the 70's

A statement on key policy objectives by

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There are a number of common themes which run throughout the policy objectives stated below and all the policy papers that have been published by the Progressive Conservative Party. The themes themselves are as significant as the specific policies. These themes include:

- Placing a high priority upon the economic affairs of British Columbia and, in particular, recognizing that economic growth is a prerequisite to attaining other objectives and goals;
- Emphasizing the need for closer co-operation, consultation and partnership with the federal government;
- Placing an emphasis on the importance and value of research and of the application of research. They recognize the economic potential of the province and that good and adequate research well applied, is one of the keys to releasing this potential;
- A concern for the environment and a feeling that true conservatives, and a true Conservative Party, have a natural and specific obligation to care for the environment, to ensure that it is properly treated, and that the best and wisest use is made of land and water and the other things which go to make up our total environment. In the process of economic growth, there must not be a raping of the land or a squandering of the resources which comprise our common inheritance;
- Finally, a belief in the wealth of initiative of the independent sector. The growth of government must be curtailed and in some areas, government must withdraw, not only to reduce our present levels of excessive taxation, but also to direct government services to those who truly are in need of such services.

## AGRICULTURE

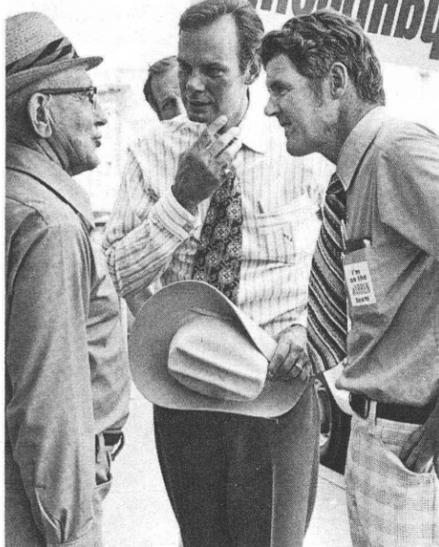
The Progressive Conservative Party's Agricultural Policy is designed to encourage maximum efficiency in all aspects of the agricultural industry. Its aims are to promote the production of a greater variety of products; to develop more effective domestic and export marketing of these products; and to achieve successful competition with other segments of the economy for capital, manpower and other resources which are needed for the effective development of the industry. The Party supports the continuance and growth of the family farm.

### Policy Highlights

- The establishment of a new "Federal-Provincial Agricultural Credit Board"
- A direct subsidy based on acreage percentage rather than on a production percentage.
- The elimination of property tax for social services on agriculture producing lands.
- The establishment of a corporation called the British Columbia Agricultural Corporation, responsible to The Minister of Agriculture. The responsibilities of this corporation shall be:
  - to make regulations to prescribe and issue licenses to persons engaged in the marketing of agricultural products;
  - by incentive, to encourage the establishment of packing houses, processing plants and other facilities to farmers;
  - to guarantee repayment of monies borrowed by the Corporation. It is intended that where any facility is developed, the Corpor-

ation will arrange for operations to be carried out under suitable agreements with provisions for co-operative organizations.

- The recommendation of a two price system for feed grains.



## THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

Continual review and reformation of the political structure and process is necessary to maintain a climate of trust and benefit between the people and their elected officials.

To meet these needs and to make the government process open and equitable for all British Columbians, a Progressive Conservative Government will:

### Policy Highlights

- Introduce a **Conflicts of Interest Act** defining the obligations and responsibilities of a Minister of the Crown, a Member of the Legislative Assembly, and a holder of the Municipal Office, with strict penalties for breaches thereof.
- Introduce legislation establishing:
  - Bill of Rights;
  - The Office of Ombudsman;
 The function of the Ombudsman will be to investigate complaints from any person relating to a matter of administration by any department or agency, including crown corporations, official employees or members of the government of British Columbia.
- Establish the office of **Auditor-General** whose task it will be to report on the expenditures of government and government agencies, including British Columbia Hydro and Power, British Columbia Ferries, and the British Columbia Railway.
- Divide the legislative sittings into two sessions — Spring and Fall for the proper and adequate conduct of the Province's business; and abolish night sittings.
- Establish a truly Independent Regulatory Agency designed to protect the public interest in areas of provincial concern, including energy development, insurance coverage and costs, and transportation facilities and costs.
- Remove the Fiat System which now prohibits suits against the government without the government's permission.

- Commence the publication of a timely and unedited Hansard.

- Decentralize Provincial Government Departments to provide greater contact with local problems.

## ECONOMIC EXPANSION

Unemployment is one of the most significant provincial issues facing British Columbia: it is not beaten by Welfare Policies but planned development of economic expansion.

This development is essential if employment is to be available to not only the present labour force, but to the thousands of people who annually become eligible to play a part in our economy.

The policies of the Progressive Conservative Party for economic expansion encompass four major areas: Regional Development; Pacific Rim Trade; Industrial Expansion; and orderly Extraction of Natural Resources.

## INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

A Progressive Conservative Government will create a Provincial Capital Development Fund which will provide:

- Long term low interest loans to industries that are Canadian Owned, that will provide jobs for Canadians either directly or indirectly and will provide financing for new and expanding facilities;
- Short term funds for peak period financing in cyclical industries;
- The fund will be managed outside of the direct influence of individual elected representatives in order that independent management can be attracted to meet goals consistent solely with industrial expansion. Loans or investments will only be made to those industries which meet rigid environmental criteria.

Secondary industry has too long been ignored in British Columbia. The Development Fund would have as its initial objective, the establishment of viable industrial concerns which would stimulate secondary industry.

## REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A Progressive Conservative Government will:

- Institute an immediate program of highway improvement and extension throughout the Province. Highway projects of the highest priority include the completion of the Alaska Highway, the construction of the Fort Nelson — Fort Simpson Highway, Okanagan and Kootenay arteries, and the North-South Vancouver Island mainline;
- Seek Federal incentive designations for all areas in British Columbia requiring such assistance;
- Establish working regional offices throughout the Province under the Department of Industry.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

The highest standard of living enjoyed by British Columbians today is due to our plentiful supply of natural resources, ranging from Douglas Firs to water resources — from natural gas to asbestos — from copper to zinc.

A Progressive Conservative Government will manage the resources of the province with due regard to the requirements of conservation and resource renewal procedures. It will manage the resources to the maximum long term benefit of the Province and encourage further processing of natural resources within the Province.

## PACIFIC RIM TRADE

For too long, we have looked to the Atlantic and the South for our trade potential. We must make an effort to recognize and tap the tremendous potential in the Pacific Area.

To this end, a Progressive Conservative Government will seek a Federal-Provincial partnership agreement for:

- the development of British Columbia Ports;
- the restructuring of Canadian foreign aid and foreign policy emphasizing the importance of the Pacific Rim nations;
- the increased development of northern airfields;
- The further extension of national and regional railway and highway lines; and improve communications and transportation amongst coastal ports, north central British Columbia and the prairie provinces;

- Establish British Columbia trading offices in Japan, Southeast Asia and China.

- Seek a joint venture with the private sector for the commencement of a British Columbia Merchant Marine.

## EDUCATION

Despite education being the largest single item on the provincial budget, educational planning in recent years has been limited to short term plans. Capital and operating expenditures, curriculum goals and teaching requirements have not been administered according to any long term plan. The Progressive Conservative Party has always looked to the vehicle of education to instill in our children a sense of responsibility, a sense of self-discipline and a sense of achievement. Our primary educational policy objective is the CHILD.

### Policy Highlights

- the financing of education should be altered by the removal of part of the local property tax now utilized for educational purposes.
- Ensure that educational problems of only local concerns be solved locally.
- An Education Research Institute of B. C. must be established to conduct research into all phases of education and distribute its findings amongst all school districts.
- Support the right of equality of bargaining to teachers. Final settlement will not be dictated by any one party. Resolution will be based on independent determination removing the opportunity of arbitrary or political decision.
- Establish a professional body with a professional view, representing and responsible to all teachers. This body must be prepared to examine and improve the training of teachers, the improvement of teachers' qualifications and ability; curriculum content; cost saving programmes; and the problems of tenure and collective bargaining rights of teachers and support staff.



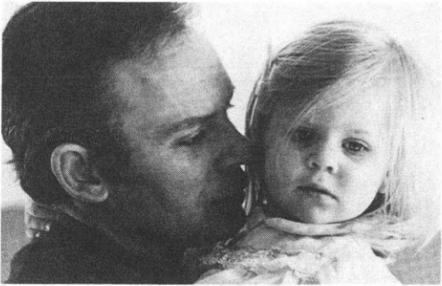
## HEALTH SERVICES

The basic aim in the provision of health services must be the efficient integration of the many forms of medical treatment and hospital care which modern technology and scientific research have made possible. Such an integrated programme of unavoidably expensive services would be made available to every person in need of care or treatment.

A Progressive Conservative Government would ensure that every citizen, regardless of age, or level of care required, would be assisted financially so that the cost to the patient would be neither a barrier to proper treatment, nor would result in the elderly person having to seek Social Assistance.

### Policy Highlights

- Encourage and support local autonomy in the operation and administration of all hospital facilities.
- Accelerate the construction of extended care beds to alleviate the current wasteful misuse of acute beds by extended care patients who have nowhere else to go.
- Provide immediate financial assistance to all patients presently receiving intermediate care in nursing homes.
- Provide free prescription drugs to all citizens over 65.
- Ensure free collective bargaining for hospital employees and all other employees in the health care field, excluding, however, the right to strike.



## INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The unequivocal policy objective of the Progressive Conservative Party of British Columbia is the elimination of strikes and lockouts as the means of settling industrial disputes.

It is essential to bring about a spirit of trust and dialogue amongst government, labour and management, leading to the introduction of a viable programme for the settlement of industrial disputes to protect the public interest.

Our aims in the area of industrial relations are to provide employment and security to workers, to protect the public interest from increasing economic dislocation, and finally, to place a heavy onus on the private sector to co-author the solutions so critically required for the future of British Columbia.

### Policy Highlights

- The calling of a tri-party convention with representatives from labour, management and government to consider and make recommendations to the government and the Legislative Assembly, concerning:
  - automation and job evaluation;
  - full economic use of plant and equipment;
  - the Canadianization of unions;

— the creation of specialized agencies designed to improve the settlement of disputes arising out of the currency of collective agreements;

— improving the research facilities of the present Mediation Commission by expanding the scope of research and making it truly independent from government influence;

— the reconstruction of existing labour-management committees to carry on year-round discussions concerning matters of mutual interest; and measures to bring about equal balance of negotiating power between labour and management.

- Repeal Section 18 of the Mediation Commission Act (that section which requires compulsory government arbitration) and substitute a provision requiring independent arbitration.
- Introduce legislation requiring a "cooling off" period not to exceed 60 days.

## NATIVE PEOPLE

The preservation of the cultural and individual identity of the Native People in the highly competitive world of the white man, presents an enormous challenge — both to the Native People and to Canadian Society.

The Progressive Conservative Party seeks to achieve healthy, productive and economically secure lives for the Native People of this Province. We respect their heritage and traditions and believe they deserve the understanding and support of all people along with the assistance of enlightened government policies.

### Policy Highlights

- The establishment, under a new portfolio of cultural affairs, a Provincial Council of Native People.
- Seek a partnership agreement with the federal government which will allow more local responsibility for development as the Native People see fit.
- Implement under guidance from spokesmen of the Native People a citizenship training programme designed to allow an educational training course in the electoral and legal process.
- Remove all distinction between Native People and others insofar as the distinction may relate to provincial affairs.
- Implement immediately a system of legal aid, including lay advocates which will guarantee the Native People fair treatment with respect to legal matters.



## POLLUTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

The challenge to modern government is to harness the forces of continued economic expansion along with the preservation of an enriched quality of life.

Our programme as outlined will allow for representations from all groups before implementation — however, — one word of caution: The time has come for a government to commit itself to a clear policy of cleaning up our natural environment. The first legislative session under a Progressive Conservative government will see the introduction of the initial phases of our pollution policy.

### Policy Highlights

- The establishment of a separate provincial department solely responsible for pollution control and its elimination.
- The introduction into the Legislative Assembly, a Pollution Control Act which will:
  - introduce an Accelerated Capital Cost Allowance on pollution control equipment written off against provincial taxes and up to a maximum allowance percentage of 150%;
  - Introduce a pollution tax. Following the expiry of the period of accelerated write-offs, the pollution tax, which would automatically come into effect, would be levied on those companies which did not meet the standards as announced prior to the expiry of the accelerated write-off period;
  - Grant the balance of revenue from the pollution tax to municipalities for the installation and completion of sewage systems, treatment plants and environmental improvement projects;
  - Establish an Environmental Research Council. The task of this council will be to make British Columbia a world leader in pollution control and environmental studies;
  - Set a deadline for the elimination of auto pollution in the Province of British Columbia.
- Removal of the sales tax on pollution control equipment.

## SENIOR CITIZENS

The contribution of Senior Citizens to the growth and development of our province is recognized by the Progressive Conservative Party. Many of these citizens wish to make a continued contribution to our society and it is the intention of this Party to utilize these resources and talents.

The greatest attention of the present government has been only to increases in the pension schemes. While the basic income of our Senior Citizens is important, we feel that in addition to increases in the basic pension amounts, there are a host of steps which could be taken to increase the financial support of those in need.

### Policy Highlights

- For those Senior Citizens in need . . .
- Increase the Supplementary Allowance from \$41.10 to \$50.
  - Grant increased yearly increments based on the cost-of-living index.
  - Remove all educational taxes assessed on real property.
  - Remove the cost of all drugs, hospital services and doctors' fees.
  - Eliminate all fares for public transportation.
  - Establish Senior Citizens Assistance Agencies which would provide telephone answering services (24 hours), transportation for essential trips, companion visits, assistance in light house-keeping, home nursing service and other assistance programmes.
  - Provide part-time employment and tax benefits for the Senior Citizen who is physically able and who desires to secure additional income and remain active.



Under a Progressive Conservative government, the following new government portfolios and offices will be established; the portfolios of Cultural Affairs and Small Business; the Department of Pollution and Environmental Control; an Independent Regulatory Agency, and a Highway, Bridge and Ferry Authority.

In addition to the above policy topics, complete papers are available for the following areas: Consumer Affairs; Energy; Finance; Legal Reform; Medical Profession; Small Business; Welfare.

If you wish the complete text of any of the policy papers, please write the Central Office of the Progressive Conservative Party #1414 - 510 West Hastings Street, Vancouver 2, B. C.

"These policy papers have been published so that the people of British Columbia will have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the stand this Party is taking on the vital issues which concern us all. These papers endeavour to explore subjects in depth and to deal with some of the major issues in a contemporary and fully balanced manner. We make no idle election promises to claim votes for ourselves or to tarnish the image of other Parties.

There are two points to be made in closing that are not covered specifically in the text printed herein — The Progressive Conservative Party is committed to the continuance of the Homeowners Grant and to repealing Gift and Succession Duties."

Derril T. Warren

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