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Other definitions and references used in this paper:

Please note that the following definitions have not been consensed by the Green Party Political Association of B.C. membership and are presented only to assist in policy interpretation.

"Consensed"	That which has been officially adopted by the G.P.P.A.B.C. through Consensus, a less confrontational decision-making process adopted by the G.P.P.A.B.C. at its 1985 Annual General Meeting.
"Conservator Society" 5.2, 5.2.a, 12.2.a, 13.3.a	A society where energy and resource wastes are reduced to offset ever-increasing consumption, ie. a society that lives within its means.
"Bioregion" 3.5, 9.3, 9.3.1, 10.6.2, 10.8.a, 10.8.d, 10.8.1, 13.1.3, 14.2, 14.2.a, 14.2.1, 14.3.a, 14.3.1	A life region - a geographical area whose rough boundaries are set by nature (not humankind), distinguishable from other areas by characteristics of flora, fauna, water, climate, rocks, soils, land forms, and human settlements. See also appendix II.
"Soft energy" 5.1.a, 5.2.1, 5.2.3, 8.1.a	Energy sources which are decentralized, renewable, and ecologically sustainable.
"biomass conversion" 5.2.4	Any conversion process that turns non-usable organic matter into a more usable form, such as municipal/commercial anaerobic composting which converts organic garbage and sewage solids into methane gas and organic fertilizer.
"fossil energy" 5.3.a	Energy produced from non-renewable fuels obtained from the earth.
"workers' association" 18.1.8	An organization of employees formed for purposes that include the regulation of relations between employees and employers, ie. a Trade or Labour Union.
"stumpage fees" 9.4.1, 9.7.5	Money due to the province for the harvest of timber; Stumpage and Royalty rates as defined in the <i>B.C. Forest Act</i> .
"direct democracy" 14.1.a, 14.4.3	Democracy where an individual has a direct say in the affairs of government.
"watershed democracy" 14.2.1	Democracy on a scale of watersheds; democratic regions whose boundaries follow the line of separation between two contiguous drainage valleys.
"multiple means" 22.1.3, 22.1.4	A method of using something in different ways, each of which does not compromise any other.
"reinhabitation" 14.2.1	To restore to a former sense of living in place; to restore a "critical awareness of, and respect for, the integrity of our ecological communities"; to restore to the bioregional perspective outlined in the "Welcome Home" statement in appendix II.

CONSENSED POLICY

The following statements have been consensed at Green Party Political Association of B. C. policy conventions.

Basic Assumptions and Principles

The following are basic assumptions and principles that underlie all Green policies and activities.

1.0 COEVOLUTION

1.1 Interdependence

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

The biosphere and ecosphere are dynamic interacting systems of energy flow, cycles of matter, and plant and animal species. Within these systems Greens recognize the complete and total inter-connectedness of all things. Within nature and society every activity in some way affects everything else. All things are joined in the web of life and so are fundamentally interdependent with each other.

1.2 Process

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

Within this net of interdependence, all things are in process and are changing in response to a changing environment and each other. The Greens accept change as a consistent feature within nature and society. Our view must account for this coevolving environment and thus be, itself, always in process.

1.3 Adaptation

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

Recognizing the changing environment we are in, human societies must be able to adapt to changing circumstances; what worked in the past may not work in the future. Also, assuming a high degree of interdependence with nature, our societies must be carefully adapted to each particular ecological and social situation. We cannot, in the long term, expect nature to adapt to us; we must adapt to it.

Green Philosophy and Key Concepts

The Green vision includes a responsibility to create both a healthy environment and a healthy society, both of which are fundamentally interrelated. The following concepts and values have been organized into these three basic categories: Ecological Concepts, Social Values, and Deep Ecology.

2.0 ECOLOGICAL CONCEPTS

The following are ecological concepts and values that should be reflected in all Green policies and activities.

2.1 Ecological Responsibility

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

A Green ethic is based upon a more complete perception of reality than one which places only economic values upon nature, living and non-living. As Greens, we recognize the complete interdependence of all things in nature. In light of this, we have an ethical responsibility to preserve and maintain other species and natural processes. It is clear that if we destroy nature, we will be destroyed ourselves.

2.2 Appropriate Scale

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

Bigger is not better and there are ecological limits to both size and growth. This applies throughout nature and was the primary message in Schumacher's "Small is Beautiful."² The appropriate scale for anything is that which is carefully adapted and fitted to the particular ecosystem, society or job at hand.

2.3 Sustainability

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

Sustainability in nature represents a successful adaptation that maintains both the organism and its environment in a state of health and balance. As a basic ecological value, organisms, ecosystems, or societies which are sustainable and can continue to function are better off than ones that cannot. To be concerned with sustainability is to take the long-term view.

2.4 Diversity

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

Diversity is recognized as a positive feature in nature, creating flexibility and thus stability in any system. Greens can encourage natural diversity by halting the extinction of animal species, saving indigenous plant and seed stocks, and valuing all human cultures. The principle of diversity stands full against current world trends toward standardization and monoculture.

3.0 SOCIAL VALUES

The following are social values and concepts that should be reflected in all Green policies and activities:

3.1 Social Responsibility

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

Recognizing our interdependence within society, and the common source of the human species, we have an ethical responsibility to create a society which guarantees the welfare and well-being of all peoples. This includes the encouragement of self-determination and the discouragement of oppression of any kind.

3.2 Non-Violence and Peace

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

Greens believe in total global disarmament, but our notion of non-violence and peace runs deeper than this. It represents our basic approach to all social and ecological problems. A rich body of theory exists around non-violence which can be consulted.

3.3 Decentralization and Grass Roots Democracy

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

The social expression of diversity is decentralization. Applied to our political structures, this means grass roots democracy. Greens are calling for the decentralization of our economies, populations, education systems, and manufacturing; in short, every aspect of our society. For local people, decentralization means a maximum degree of self-determination and involvement in decision-making.

3.4 Feminism

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

Feminism is an important concept for Greens. It aims at developing wholistic personalities and a balance between the male and female principle; and at creating a non-sexist, non-violent and egalitarian society.

3.5 Community

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

Local, democratic communities are the most decentralized way to fulfill the Green commitment to social responsibility. Communities, as face-to-face relations, represent the appropriate scale for personal caring and for developing sensitivity to a particular bioregion. Communities and the individuals within them must be empowered politically, economically, and socially. Communities are the basic sustaining unit of a Green society.

3.6 Co-operation

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

In a world obsessed with competitive values, Greens believe that co-operation, not competition, is the basis for human societies. Green societies should be structured around the co-operative principle. This has ramifications in decision-making where co-operative solutions are favored over win-lose situations.

4.0 DEEP ECOLOGY

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

- 4.0.a WHEREAS the Western technical cultural evolution of the human species has been characterized by progressive physical and spiritual alienation from other life forms and natural processes of the earth's ecosystems; and
- 4.0.b WHEREAS this alienation has been manifested as an illusion of arrogant uniqueness, human exemption from, and control of, these life forms and processes; and
- 4.0.c WHEREAS some Greens envision a planet on which the human population lives harmoniously and dynamically by employing a sophisticated and unobtrusive technology in a world environment which is left natural; and
- 4.0.d WHEREAS some Greens are of the opinion that the institutionalization of an ecological consciousness will occur when most persons begin to see the diminishment of people and the diminishment of the planet and its non-human inhabitants as essentially one and the same problem; and
- 4.0.e WHEREAS some Greens believe that to achieve the aforementioned, it will require a total reorientation of the thrust of Western culture; and
- 4.0.f WHEREAS some Greens believe that without a major change of consciousness, a profound and intimate sense of interrelatedness with non-human nature, there is no hope for beginning to turn the situation around; and
- 4.0.g WHEREAS these ecological and evolutionary insights have become synthesized and extended as principles of "Deep Ecology", such as the following:

"Shallow" Ecology:

- Natural diversity is valuable as a resource for us.
- It is nonsense to talk about value except as value for mankind.
- Plant species should be saved because of their value as genetic reserves for human agriculture and medicine.
- Pollution should be decreased if it threatens ecological equilibrium.
- Third World population growth threatens ecological equilibrium.
- "Resource" means resource for humans.
- People will not tolerate a broad decrease in their standard of living.
- Nature is cruel and necessarily so.

"Deep" Ecology:

- Natural diversity has its own (intrinsic) value.
- Equating value with value for humans reveals a species prejudice.
- Plant species should be saved because of their intrinsic value.
- Decrease of pollution has priority over economic growth.
- World population at the present level threatens ecosystems but the population and behavior of industrial states more than any other. Human population is excessive.
- "Resource" means resource for living beings.
- People should not tolerate a broad decrease in the quality of life, but in the standard of living in overdeveloped nations.
- Humans are cruel, but not necessarily so.

- 4.0.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens work towards incorporating the principles of deep ecology in all policies, programs and platforms.

The following are policy guidelines that should be reflected in all Green activities:

Resources and Industry

5.0 ENERGY

5.1 Energy Conservation

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

- 5.1.a WHEREAS the Greens wish to implement a "soft energy path" for the province, which shall include energy sources which are decentralized, renewable and ecologically sustainable; and
- 5.1.b WHEREAS the Greens endeavor to emphasize conservation to reduce energy demand to manageable levels;
 - 5.1.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens encourage the construction of small decentralized power plants; and
 - 5.1.2 F-B-R-C that government and research aid be directed to support alternate/appropriate energy sources; and
 - 5.1.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens support a change/raise in energy prices to true replacement costs for all users; and
 - 5.1.4 F-B-R-C that the Greens support a change in rate structures to encourage conservation; and
 - 5.1.5 F-B-R-C that the Greens support local recycling efforts.

5.2 Conserver Society

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

- 5.2.a WHEREAS the Greens seek a transition to a conserver society where regional control is based on a decentralized energy policy and supply, with meaningful work for all able-bodied persons; and
- 5.2.b WHEREAS conservation is the best job creator of them all;
 - 5.2.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support the creation of regional soft energy supply councils to advise all levels of government on soft energy issues, with representatives from government, small soft energy companies, and interested groups and citizens; and
 - 5.2.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens support the replacement of coal-fired thermal generating plants as soon as possible and oppose the construction of any new coal-fired facilities; and
 - 5.2.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens support increased funding to study "soft energy" production; and
 - 5.2.4 F-B-R-C that the Greens support transitional financing to municipalities instituting biomass conversion [of non-toxic organic wastes including sewage solids]; and
 - 5.2.5 F-B-R-C that the Greens support the creation of, and already existing, areas in "soft energy" and conservation; and
 - 5.2.6 F-B-R-C that the Greens support the funding to municipalities for the reduction of collection at the source, and the large scale reduction, of garbage.

5.3 Renewable Energy

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

- 5.3.a WHEREAS the consequences of a growth-oriented society is a dependence on "fossil energy" and an economy sustained by the thread of a rapidly disappearing non-renewable resource;

5.3.1 T-B-R-C that development of renewable energy resources and technologies such as wind, water, solar, and small scale geothermal should receive the highest priority and commitment by Greens.

5.4 **Leaded Gasoline**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

5.4.a WHEREAS lead is recognized as a significant environmental contaminant;

5.4.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens call for legislation to increase the price of leaded gasoline to [not lower than] the price of unleaded gasoline.

5.5 **Power Export**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

5.5.a WHEREAS the Greens are opposed to the export of power;

5.5.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens oppose the export of electric power from the province; and

5.5.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens oppose the export of water from the province.

5.6 **Energy Export and Site C Dam**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

5.6.a WHEREAS until 1985 the province had resisted a policy of building hydro electric dams solely for power exportation; and

5.6.b WHEREAS the "mega-project" mentality of B.C. Hydro and our present government delays the establishment of energy conservation measures in the industrial, commercial and residential uses of energy; and

5.6.c WHEREAS the building of the Site C dam and other planned hydro-electric projects will destroy wildlife habitat, arable land, scenic values, and adversely affect the Native culture of the area; and

5.6.d WHEREAS the Site C dam will lose money at a time when B.C. Hydro already owes more than \$5.5 billion to its bondholders;

5.6.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens oppose power exportation from the province and the construction of the Site C dam and other hydro-electric projects planned for this purpose.

6.0 **AGRICULTURE AND FOOD**

6.1 **Regional Food Self-sufficiency**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

6.1.a WHEREAS the non-agricultural population now controls the political structure so that cheap food policies are now endorsed by all political parties; and

6.1.b WHEREAS this policy has had an adverse effect on farming since all technological methods possible have had to be used in order for farmers to survive; and

6.1.c WHEREAS this means use of chemicals of all sorts, soil erosion, factory-style production of animals, and monoculture of plants; and

6.1.d WHEREAS the increasing capital costs of farming are causing more farmers to go bankrupt;

6.1.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens promote regional food self-sufficiency globally; and

- 6.1.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens encourage methods that reduce dependence on chemicals and fossil fuels, and pursue renewable energy and ecologically sustainable agriculture, and promote this in urban and rural areas; and
- 6.1.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens discourage cheap food import policies; and
- 6.1.4 F-B-R-C that with the aim of regional self-sufficiency, decisions regarding agricultural goals and commodity pricing would be locally decided; and
- 6.1.5 F-B-R-C that the Greens advocate changes in the tax system that would eliminate speculation in agricultural land.

6.2 Local Food Self-sufficiency

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

- 6.2.a WHEREAS the local production of food for local consumption is essential to strong local economies and self-sustaining communities; and
- 6.2.b WHEREAS reliance on the global market economy for food production perpetuates exploitation of the Third World, minority people, and the environment;
- 6.2.1 T-B-R-C that the development of small-scale sustainable agriculture directed toward meeting local needs must be a resource priority for the Greens; and
- 6.2.2 F-B-R-C that suitable Crown land should be made easily available for small-scale sustainable agriculture and homesteading.

6.3 Agricultural Land Preservation

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

- 6.3.a WHEREAS the demand for food is increasing;
- 6.3.1 T-B-R-C that agricultural land must be preserved for future agricultural use; and
- 6.3.2 F-B-R-C that potential agricultural land (open spaces and treed land) must also be preserved for possible future agricultural use, provided that it is not required for other ecosystem functions such as genetic diversity or oxygen balance; and
- 6.3.3 F-B-R-C that effective agricultural land reserves must be established; and
- 6.3.4 F-B-R-C that where speculation and development pressures drive land costs up to prohibit agricultural uses of the land, government should consider buying land for agricultural land banks to make farming viable (perhaps by leasing to private renters for agricultural use).

6.4 Agricultural Land Care

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

- 6.4.a WHEREAS the Greens recognize that people do not "own" land but are simply co-inhabitants together with other plants and animal species, and as such must further recognize their ecological responsibilities to the land and its sustainability;
- 6.4.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens reorient agricultural philosophy toward enriching the earth rather than depleting it; and
- 6.4.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens recognize that soil is a critical resource, and would take appropriate measures to stop the process of soil erosion and degradation, and develop policies and actions toward regeneration of this vital life support system; and

- 6.4.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens would make pollution of water from agricultural chemicals a legal offense; and
- 6.4.4 F-B-R-C that the Greens support development of programs to restore damaged soils; and
- 6.4.5 F-B-R-C that the Greens support the implementation of educational programs on soil conservation and sustainable agriculture; and
- 6.4.6 F-B-R-C that as a transitional measure, the Greens support granting of tax exemptions or other support to those food producers who resist the machine intensive, chemical fertilizer/spray trend in agriculture; and
- 6.4.7 F-B-R-C that the Greens encourage the development of farmers' markets and community gardens.
- 6.5 **Genetic Diversity** POLICY CONVENTION, 1986
- 6.5.a WHEREAS the genetic diversity of plants and animals is threatened;
- 6.5.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens encourage steps to ensure that the vital "re-source" of the genetic diversity of plants and animals is preserved and protected.
- 6.6 **Food Nutrition** POLICY CONVENTION, 1986
- 6.6.a WHEREAS information about the nutritional requirements of humans has been obscured by the food industry;
- 6.6.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support education programs that would enable people to attain food nutrition by eating healthy, uncontaminated, locally grown food.
- 6.7 **Agriculture and Monoculture** POLICY CONVENTION, 1987
- 6.7.a WHEREAS in ecological terms, one-species plant monoculture agricultural practices have resulted in disturbed ecosystems in which natural succession has been halted or set back; and
- 6.7.b WHEREAS methodical use and abuse of fertilizers and pesticides have dangerously oversimplified these ecosystems; and
- 6.7.c WHEREAS such simplified ecosystems are vulnerable to pests and other imbalances;
- 6.7.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support integrated plant species farming and support the adoption of a more ecological approach to agriculture.
- 6.8 **Organic Food Consumer Advisory Board** POLICY CONVENTION, 1987
- 6.8.a WHEREAS consumers have the right to know what is in or on the food they buy, for the sake of their health and peace of mind; and
- 6.8.b WHEREAS producers of organic food should receive greater encouragement and co-operation from governments (as well as consumers);
- 6.8.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support the creation of an Organic Food Consumer Advisory Board, regionally based, and democratically run, and also involved in marketing excess produce between regions and outside the province; and

6.8.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens support the development, with input from producers and consumers, of a system of organic food certifications; and

6.8.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens support a "Food Information Act" which would require all food being sold, packaged or fresh, to list the contents and any processing, including irradiation, the food has undergone.

6.9 **Plant Patent Legislation**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1985

6.9.a WHEREAS plant patent legislation in various countries around the world, mainly in the so-called western democracies, has been, and is, instrumental in destroying the world's plant genetic diversity, thereby threatening world food supply;

6.9.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens adopt an official policy of opposition to Federal Bill [C-107 (formally Bill C-32)] "The Plant Breeders' Rights Act".

7.0 **FISHERIES**

7.1 **Salmon Fish Farming**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

7.1.a WHEREAS the Greens believe that interfering with the natural cycles of wild species is morally wrong; and

7.1.b WHEREAS the production of salmon on commercial farms is an industry which is chemically intensive utilizing algacide, molluscides, antibiotics and coloring agents; and

7.1.c WHEREAS the raising of salmon in crowded conditions encourages epidemics which have the potential to infect wild populations; and

7.1.d WHEREAS dependence on farm-raised salmon may weaken concern for the preservation of spawning streams; and

7.1.e WHEREAS fish farmers have been cited for shooting at and poisoning seals, sea otters, herons and eagles which they view as a threat to their livestock; and

7.1.f WHEREAS fish farming is infringing upon the natural beauty of the coastline and encroaching on the rights of human and other species to use same; and

7.1.g WHEREAS fish farming permits are being granted without the benefit of environmental impact studies and without scientific analysis of the health and economic impact the industry may inflict upon society; and

7.1.h WHEREAS the Native community is concerned that fish farming represents a spiritual interference with the life cycle of the salmon and thus degrades and debases the spirit of the salmon itself;

7.1.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens oppose the issuing of salmon fish farming permits by the government of British Columbia; and

7.1.2 F-B-R-C that wholesalers and retailers (including restaurants) be required to state the source or origin of the salmon being sold. All farm-raised salmon should be labeled as such.

8.0 **MINING**

8.1 **Exploration and Conservation**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

- 8.1.a WHEREAS the Greens wish to implement a "soft energy path" for energy sources which are decentralized, renewable, and ecologically sustainable; and
- 8.1.b WHEREAS the Greens work towards an economic system based upon sound environmental and ecological principles;
- 8.1.1 T-B-R-C that a moratorium be placed on off-shore oil drilling; and
- 8.1.2 F-B-R-C to review the mining industry establishing mineral conservation, environmental protection, and human safety; and
- 8.1.3 F-B-R-C ban the mining and export of uranium.

8.2 **Uranium Mining**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

- 8.2.a WHEREAS the nuclear industry by way of the hazards of radioactivity is unsafe for life at any stage, from extraction of raw materials to disposal; and
- 8.2.b WHEREAS no safe, permanent means of disposing of radioactive wastes has yet been found; and
- 8.2.c WHEREAS uranium mining itself is hazardous to humans and the environment; and
- 8.2.d WHEREAS the geological occurrences of uranium are such that commercial quantities of other materials are not likely to occur with it;
- 8.2.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens advocate a legislated permanent ban on the exploration for and the mining of uranium in the province, and the transport of uranium in the province.

9.0 **FORESTRY**

9.1 **Local Sustainable Forests**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

- 9.1.a WHEREAS Green politics are based on the principles of ecology, including integrating agriculture into natural systems, building soil, supporting organic methods, sustainability and increased genetic diversity;
- 9.1.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens develop policies whereby the forest industry and its products would be gradually integrated into local sustainable economies and cease to be primarily for international export; and
- 9.1.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens encourage pilot projects of local forest farming, including farmsteading.

9.2 **Forestry Eco-empathy**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

- 9.2.a WHEREAS forestry is a very extensive industrial operation in the province and that many peoples' livelihoods directly or indirectly derive from it; and
- 9.2.b WHEREAS forestry operations frequently disregard the destructive results of their practices;
- 9.2.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support and develop eco-empathetic practices of forest management leading to a variety of sustainable uses; and
- 9.2.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens recognize that some forest "resources" may also be designated as minimal or no-use areas in the form of wilderness zones or spiritual sanctuaries.

9.3 Bioregional Forestry

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

9.3.a WHEREAS current forest management is largely in the hands of the Ministry of Forests and large corporations;

9.3.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens encourage greater control of forest "resources" by bioregional organizations, whether municipalities, local communities, local co-operatives, or small business, from the perspective of sustainable yield of forests for the purpose of providing long-term local employment and a secure local economic base, and for the purpose of developing and disseminating cultural and educational values for the bioregional forest ecosystems.

9.4 Stumpage Fees and Log Export

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

9.4.a WHEREAS the Greens stand for protecting essential ecological processes and life-support systems;

9.4.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support an increase in stumpage fees to a level to allow for reforestation of logged lands; and

9.4.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens call for an immediate ban on the export of raw logs.

9.5 Community Forest Boards

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

9.5.a WHEREAS the people of the province have no direct say in the care or use of the public forest land in the province; and

9.5.b WHEREAS the companies which now control public forest land through the tenure system have low priority in taking responsibility for the long-term health of the public forests; and

9.5.c WHEREAS citizens of communities are best entrusted with the long term care and use of the public forests;

9.5.1 T-B-R-C that the existing tenure system of corporate forest use be phased out; and

9.5.2 F-B-R-C that tenure be transferred to the citizens of the watershed area, and that these citizens can implement a diversity of tenure best suited to the particular needs of their region; and

9.5.3 F-B-R-C each watershed region elect a Community Forest Board which shall ensure the responsible care and protection of the watershed forests.

9.6 Wholistic Forestry

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

9.6.a WHEREAS the Greens are working towards creating a wholistic forestry practice in the province;

9.6.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens promote policies which recognize that water is the connector in all ecosystems, including forests, and therefore must receive critical attention; and

9.6.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens promote policies which recognize the importance of maintaining intact forest soils.

9.7 Regional Forest Boards

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

9.7.a WHEREAS the Greens are working towards creating a forestry practice in the province which is sustainable and based on local economics and local decision making;

- 9.7.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support the creation of elected Regional Forest Boards with a majority representation of citizens, and with native, labour, environment, and business representatives to oversee planning, inventories, ecological concerns, forest use allocation and other aspects of human interaction with the forests; and
- 9.7.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens support legislation to end large-scale tenure for corporations or individuals, replacing it with a long term system of sustainable woodlots, subject to periodic review by the local Forestry Board; and
- 9.7.3 F-B-R-C that the local Forest Board has the power to revoke tenure; and
- 9.7.4 F-B-R-C that the Greens support phasing out of the involvement of large corporations in timber harvesting or reforestation, permitting instead only small-scale businesses to do this work while processing work may still be done by the larger businesses; and
- 9.7.5 F-B-R-C that stumpage fees be determined by the local Forest Boards and/or a council representing all regional Forest Boards, and that the stumpage fees be sufficient to cover all costs of forest use including road building, reforestation, ecological impact studies, etc.; and
- 9.7.6 F-B-R-C that the Greens support a policy of broadening the selection process for forest ministry staff to include any citizens with appropriate skills, knowledge, or experience; and
- 9.7.7 F-B-R-C that the Greens support the development of an apprenticeship program for professional foresters whereby extensive practical experience (several years) will be part of becoming a registered professional forester; and
- 9.7.8 F-B-R-C that the Greens support the development of a marketing system for small producers of forest products; and
- 9.7.9 F-B-R-C that the Greens support the development of extension programs for the public to assist people in following ecologically sound forest practices.

9.8 **Silviculture**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

- 9.8.0 **Silviculture shall be expanded to include sustaining a mix of life-forms and processes within a long-term sustainable plan. From this point of view, all logging decisions must be married to forest rebuilding decisions, so that these functions are not being determined by different people or at different times. This plan must recognize that profits that may be deferred by ecological logging practices can be expected to be regained through decreased silvicultural expenses. The goal of silviculture shall be to maximize natural regeneration by promoting partial-cut methods which maintain an uneven edge forest.**

9.9 **Last Stands of Old Growth Forests**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

- 9.9.a **WHEREAS accelerating "high-grading" is destroying last stands of old growth forests:**
- 9.9.1 **T-B-R-C that Greens support non-violent civil disobedience aimed at opposing the accelerating "high-grading" of the last stands of old growth forests.**

9.10 **Residency Requirement**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

- 9.10.a **WHEREAS residency requirements are necessary to ensure priority in tenure and cutting rights:**
- 9.10.1 **T-B-R-C that priority in tenure and cutting rights will be given to applicants meeting bioregional residency requirements to be regulated by Community Forest Boards through watershed management**

districts.

9.11 **Forest Management**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

- 9.11.a WHEREAS current methods are to be phased out in favour of more ecological methods;
- 9.11.1 T-B-R-C if there be a dispute of decision between the elected watershed Forest Boards, there [shall] be a cessation of the disputed land use until an arbitrated settlement is reached; and
- 9.11.2 F-B-R-C that there [shall] be established a council of Forestry Board representatives to function in the arbitration process; and
- 9.11.3 F-B-R-C that there be an end of all use of pesticides in forest management strategy; and
- 9.11.4 F-B-R-C that large scale clear-cutting as a forest management strategy be replaced by ecological models of cutting.

10.0 **ENVIRONMENT**

10.1 **Watershed Conservation**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

- 10.1.a WHEREAS all life and well-being of human habitation depends upon sufficient supply of quality water;
- 10.1.1 T-B-R-C that maintaining the integrity, quality, quantity, and timing of flow of watersheds should be given priority over any other resource use.

10.2 **Wilderness Preservation**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

- 10.2.a WHEREAS the province has failed to identify in legislative terms one of its most priceless heritage values, namely its wilderness; and
- 10.2.b WHEREAS areas of unmodified natural environment are diminishing daily; and
- 10.2.c WHEREAS the constitution of the G.P.P.A.B.C.³ commits the party to "work towards developing a society that accepts responsibility for and upholds the inalienable rights of all life forms and natural processes that share the Earth;"
- 10.2.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens, if in government, would identify and establish a series of wilderness preserves in which there would be little or no human impact.

10.3 **Wilderness**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

- 10.3.a WHEREAS areas of unmodified natural environment are diminishing daily; and
- 10.3.b WHEREAS a society founded on ecological, that is "Green" principles, or any civilized society for that matter, would accept the need for, and existence of, such unmodified natural environments; and
- 10.3.c WHEREAS the constitution of the G.P.P.A.B.C.³ commits the party to "work towards developing a society that accepts responsibility for and upholds the inalienable rights of all life forms and natural processes that share the Earth;"
- 10.3.1 T-B-R-C that the province's wilderness be accorded, by any and all legislative means, the significance and protection it deserves.

10.4 **Parks**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

- 10.4.a WHEREAS the provincial parks system of the province was established to protect and preserve outstanding natural scenic and historical features for present and future generations; and
- 10.4.b WHEREAS until recently, Class A provincial parks have had a high degree of legislative protection against commercial exploitation and alienation; and
- 10.4.c WHEREAS the present [1987] government is eroding the integrity of Class A provincial parks to cater to commercial and industrial interests; and
- 10.4.d WHEREAS such commercial and industrial interests include: mining exploration, timber harvest, and concessions to mechanized recreation and access;
- 10.4.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens recognize the value of parks to society and adheres to the intent of the Parks Act to protect parks from intrusive and industrial activities.

10.5 **Water Safety**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

- 10.5.a WHEREAS marine and fresh waters in the province variably exceed (and in some areas by drastic amounts) the recommended recreational safety limits for bacterial levels and toxic chemicals and other pollutants; and
- 10.5.b WHEREAS studies in other provinces and countries suggest that there may be better ways in which to determine recreational water safety; and
- 10.5.c WHEREAS the current solutions to excess sewage disposal problems are to extend deep sea sewage outfalls of sewage treatment plants and/or discharge effluent without secondary treatment, thus transporting problems to other areas; and
- 10.5.d WHEREAS testing of some water areas are averaged out over long distances thus concealing "hot spots"; and
- 10.5.e WHEREAS the criteria of sampling sites does not take into account existing storm drains or industrial outfalls which are often the source of localized high levels of pollution; and
- 10.5.f WHEREAS waters are not only used recreationally for swimming but are used year round for windsurfing, scuba diving, and other special events where people enter the water;
- 10.5.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support using "enterococci" testing of marine waters on a trial basis, paralleled with current standards, to determine if water safety can be more accurately determined; and
- 10.5.2 F-B-R-C that regional districts investigate alternate ways of sewage treatment and adopt the policy of "source control and responsibility" for all kinds of wastes and strictly enforce the law; and
- 10.5.3 F-B-R-C that the Ministry of Health make public via the media recreational water quality counts for each sampling point (in lieu of geometric means,) ongoing year round, at the frequency that they are sampled, with a clear explanation as to what is considered safe and in a form that is easy to understand, in the same way that the daily air quality levels are currently published; and
- 10.5.4 F-B-R-C that agencies responsible for testing water quality adopt a policy of sampling sites that are not posted for all water activities where people would enter that water; and
- 10.5.5 F-B-R-C that agencies responsible for testing water quality also adopt a policy of arranging sample sites to test waters that would be most affected by faulty storm drains and industrial outfalls; and

10.5.6 F-B-R-C that agencies responsible for testing water quality adopt the policy of "full spectrum" testing so that toxic and harmful substance levels are also checked in addition to indicator bacteria, for all water quality tests, including drinking water.

10.6 **Garbage Disposal**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

10.6.a WHEREAS the shipping of garbage from the Greater Vancouver Regional District to a dump in the Interior will do nothing to encourage the G.V.R.D. and Vancouver citizens to find a permanent solution for garbage disposal and will in fact encourage the present "throw away" attitude:

10.6.2 T-B-R-C that Greens oppose shipping garbage from major metropolitan areas to other bioregions and call upon the regional districts to immediately begin recycling, coupled with consumer education on the need to reduce waste.

10.7 **PCPs**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

10.7.a WHEREAS the proposed PCP incinerator in the Thompson watershed in the Interior [of the province] will be detrimental to the health of people living there and is not desired by them; and

10.7.b WHEREAS use of PCPs in industry has been shown to constitute a health hazard to workers using the chemicals;

10.7.1 T-B-R-C the Greens oppose location of a PCP incinerator in the Thompson watershed; and

10.7.2 F-B-R-C that existing stocks of PCPs should be disposed of by the latest bio-chemical means and that the lumber industry be given a fixed time in which to find alternative methods of treating lumber.

10.8 **Toxic and Hazardous Waste**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

10.8.a WHEREAS establishment of a hazardous waste dump in the Central Interior bioregion of the province for disposal of toxic wastes from the province and the U.S. would be harmful to the ecology of this bioregion; and

10.8.b WHEREAS no technology now exists for safe permanent disposal of these chemicals yet their use is increasing; and

10.8.c WHEREAS the "cheap and easy" methods of landfills and incineration merely move the poisons from one medium and region to another and provide no incentive to develop real solutions; and

10.8.d WHEREAS it should be the responsibility of each bioregion to dispose of the wastes generated there within the borders of that bioregion;

10.8.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens oppose construction of a toxic waste dump in the Interior bioregion of the province, and call upon the government and the private sector to encourage by all means the altering of production techniques and recycling, so that there is treatment and reduction of toxic waste at the source; and

10.8.2 F-B-R-C that the need for these hazardous chemicals be evaluated and alternatives explored; and

10.8.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens advocate incentives for industry to implement pollution prevention approaches, including:

- 1) Tax breaks for industries that install and utilize pollution prevention approaches and demonstrate "real" reductions in the production of residuals; and

- 2) Establishing tax-exempt industrial revenue bonds for underwriting industrial change-over to pollution prevention approaches; and
- 3) Offering awards to industries that have done outstanding jobs of reducing or eliminating residual production; and
- 4) Supporting the use of Residual Exchanges (Waste Exchanges); and
- 5) Encouraging on-site re-use of residuals; and
- 6) Assisting the business community to reduce wastes, above and beyond assisting them to dispose of wastes. (Note: Future subsidies on pollution control can be expected to shrink.)

10.8.4 F-B-R-C that because the two most significant factors impeding [a] greater [degree of] waste recycling are:

- 1) the unrealistically cheap cost of land burial; and
- 2) the lack of nationwide regulations to mandate minimum safe disposal practices;

[therefore] the Greens support the use of disincentives for industry to continue to utilize unsatisfactory residual management approaches, including:

- 1) Banning the use of landfills and deep well injection; and
- 2) Enacting and enforcing strict liability laws; and
- 3) Enacting and enforcing "Waste-end" taxes; and
- 4) Enacting and enforcing worker's and citizen's right-to-know laws; and
- 5) Introducing a waste audit system; and
- 6) Making use of the Way Bill system to track and identify potentially recyclable wastes.

10.8.4 F-B-R-C that the Greens encourage research and development into:

- 1) Safe methods for the conversion of residuals into useful products; and
- 2) New products and/or [the] re-design [of] old products in order to minimize [the use of] materials and energy in their manufacture; and
- 3) Ways to educate citizens to distinguish between the concept of waste and the concept of residuals; and
- 4) Ways to develop an awareness within the minds of our political, industrial, academic, and civic leaders of the ecological and economic advantages of managing wastes through pollution prevention approaches; and
- 5) Non-polluting products to produce fewer pollutants (e.g. substituting water-based adhesives for solvent-based adhesives); and
- 6) Modification of industrial processes; and
- 7) Re-design of equipment used in the manufacturing process; and
- 8) Recycling or recovery for re-use or resale.

10.9 **Environmental Chemicals**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

- 10.9.a WHEREAS world wide, about 100,000 chemical substances are in commercial use, and the number is growing annually; and
- 10.9.b WHEREAS research has begun to clarify the links between some chemicals and cancer, respiratory, cardiovascular, neurological and behavior disorders and detrimental effects on immune systems and the physiology of reproduction; and
- 10.9.c WHEREAS the home, work-place and general environment all pose potential risks from chemical exposure;
- 10.9.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens advocate the expansion and upgrading of environmental monitoring of chemicals in our environment; and
- 10.9.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens request that the Ministries of Health, Environment and Agriculture co-ordinate their roles in this monitoring in a more rigorous and comprehensive manner than at present.

10.10 **Acid Rain, Pesticides and Herbicides**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

- 10.10.a WHEREAS the Greens stand for protecting essential ecological processes and life-support systems:
- 10.10.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support taking immediate steps to stop acid rain; and
- 10.10.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens support research and implementation of alternatives to pesticides and herbicides, such as biological controls.

10.11 **Pesticides**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

- 10.11.a WHEREAS despite steadily increasing pesticide use, "pest" damage to crops has also increased due to pesticide induced "pest" resistance, the triggering of new "pest" outbreaks via species eliminations and species distributional changes in the pesticide disturbed ecosystem, and removal of predator and parasite species that are the natural enemies of "pests"; and
- 10.11.b WHEREAS EPM (Ecological "Pest" Management) deploys a wide range of "pest" control techniques based on taking advantage of the natural enemies of "pests" in an ecosystem, and de-emphasizing the widespread use of pesticides;
- 10.11.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens advocate the adoption of Ecological "Pest" Management as an adjunct to, and eventual replacement of, pesticide use in the province.

10.12 **Aerial Spraying**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

- 10.12.a WHEREAS in aerial spraying of pesticides, less than 50 per cent of the spray reaches the target area due to drift;
- 10.12.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens advocate a legislated ban on the spraying [of] pesticides from the air.

10.13 **Wasted Pesticides**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

- 10.13.a WHEREAS in excess of 99 per cent of applied pesticide does not reach the target pest; and
- 10.13.b WHEREAS this wasted pesticide contaminates soil, water, atmosphere and non-target organisms; and

- 10.13.c WHEREAS such generalized contamination is not only costly but is also a hazard to the health of humans and other organisms; and
- 10.13.d WHEREAS these pesticides increase the stress placed on an ecosystem's species richness, stability and natural balance of pests and their predators and parasites; and
- 10.13.e WHEREAS by proper timing of application and more specific ground application techniques, pesticide use could be reduced by 50% without losing pesticide effectiveness;
- 10.13.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens advocate an education program to reduce pesticide use with the aim of eventually eliminating pesticide use; this to be administered by the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture.

10.14 **Pesticide Appeals**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

- 10.14.a WHEREAS the current pesticide appeal procedure is arbitrary and undemocratic; and
- 10.14.b WHEREAS pertinent medical and ecological data are usually excluded from the process; and
- 10.14.c WHEREAS almost 200 appeals have been launched since the procedure was instituted, with none being upheld;
- 10.14.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens work towards democratization of the pesticide appeal process by inclusion of pertinent medical and ecological data in its terms of reference.

10.15 **Conservation**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

- 10.15.a WHEREAS disposable product packaging constitutes a large portion of our solid waste garbage; and
- 10.15.b WHEREAS much of this packaging contains plastics, which when burned release toxic substances into the air; and
- 10.15.c WHEREAS a re-usable packaging industry is more labour-intensive and resource-conserving than the production of disposable packaging; and
- 10.15.d WHEREAS excess and disposable packaging adds to the cost of products;
- 10.15.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support the creation of a "Product Packaging Act" for the province which, through regulation and encouragement, will serve to standardize packaging wherever possible (i.e.: jars, bottles, containers, shipping boxes, etc.), reduce unnecessary packaging, and restrict the use of plastic containers and bags in favour of bio-degradable industry standardized materials and encourage the refilling and other forms of recycling of re-usable containers.

10.16 **Strathcona Park**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1988

- 10.16.a WHEREAS in February of 1987, the Government of B.C. passed an Order-in-Council which removed certain areas from Strathcona Park (B.C.'s oldest park); and
- 10.16.b WHEREAS these areas were reclassified as Recreation Areas; and
- 10.16.c WHEREAS Recreation Areas allow resource extraction such as mining and logging; and
- 10.16.d WHEREAS this action in Strathcona Park and other Parks destroys the integrity of those parks and if continued could result in significant losses by increments of all park land;
- 10.16.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens advocate restoration of the boundaries and status of Strathcona Park to

December 31, 1986 positions; and

- 10.16.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens support the Friends of Strathcona Park and similar groups in all their non-violent actions, including their civil disobedience, in their efforts to keep any industrial activity out of Strathcona Park (pre-December 1986 boundaries).

10.17 **Wilderness Definition**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1988

- 10.17.a WHEREAS the Ministries of Forests and Environment [and Parks] have continuously been ambiguous regarding the meaning of wilderness; and

- 10.17.b WHEREAS this ambiguity creates frustration among wilderness defenders and [creates] obstruction to wilderness protection;

- 10.17.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens adopt the following definition as the fundamental guiding principle of wilderness protection:

wilderness/ wild-er-nes / n (ME., fr. wildern wild, fr. OE. wildeoren of wild beasts) (1.3c) 1 a (1): a tract or region uncultivated and uninhabited by human beings (2): an area essentially undisturbed by human activity together with its naturally developed life community b : an empty or pathless area or region c : wild or uncultivated state

wilderness area : an often large tract (such as at least 5000 hectares) of public land retained essentially in its natural state and protected against introduction of intrusive artifacts (as roads and buildings and motorized travel) where government has the authority to regulate access on a case-by-case basis.

11.0 **WILDLIFE**

11.1 **Wildlife Management**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

- 11.1.a WHEREAS due to large-scale timber harvests and extractive and other industrial activity throughout the province's history (i.e. transportation corridors, mining, forestry, hydro-electric dams and reservoirs) the most familiar and accessible parts of the province exist in [an immature, that is, disturbed] state of ecological succession; and

- 11.1.b WHEREAS immature states of early ecological succession are characterized by, among other parameters, high rates of population growth in the few species present; and

- 11.1.c WHEREAS current wildlife and outdoor recreation practices are mostly occurring in these disturbed immature environments; and

- 11.1.d WHEREAS as undisturbed climax wilderness environments disappear as a consequence of human activity, the expectations of the general population will be more and more focused on the wildlife and outdoor recreation opportunities in these disturbed areas; and

- 11.1.e WHEREAS sport hunters and other outdoor recreationists will fail to gain an awareness of undisturbed environment of integrated complexity and species richness; and

- 11.1.f WHEREAS wildlife and outdoor recreation managers will fail to incorporate the concept of undisturbed wilderness into their management policies;

- 11.1.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens advocate an ecologically grounded and comprehensive preservation strategy for all the ecosystems of the province, to be undertaken by the Ministries of Environment and Culture, Parks and Recreation; and

11.1.2 F-B-R-C that all efforts be made to educate sport hunters and other outdoor recreationists to the values of low population (but many species) undisturbed environments; that is, quality over quantity, and diversity over monoculture.

11.2 **West Coast Seal Hunt**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

11.2.a WHEREAS within the context of the western cultural world view, all components of non-human nature are considered valuable only insofar as they represent resources to the human population; and

11.2.b WHEREAS this "resourcist" world view has rationalized the exploitation of a multitude of life forms and natural processes for which any human use has been found; and

11.2.c WHEREAS such exploitation has resulted in an accelerating domination and pre-emption of the earth's ecosystems by the human population; and

11.2.d WHEREAS this pre-emption for human use has resulted in a calamitous decline and outright extinction of many species once part of those ecosystems; and

11.2.e WHEREAS non-resource components of nature are treated as valueless, or as competitors which must be eliminated; and

11.2.f WHEREAS the natural predator-prey relationship of West Coast seals and fish species has produced such tyrannical statements as: "there isn't room for the both of us," and "they (seals) are taking more than their share,"; and

11.2.g WHEREAS, there are scientific studies that indicate that healthy marine mammal populations are essential for the existence of healthy fish populations; and

11.2.h WHEREAS a West Coast seal hunt has been proposed by government and fishing interests to reduce seal populations and enhance fish stocks;

11.2.1 T-B-R-C that Greens oppose the establishment of a West Coast seal hunt.

11.3 **Sport Hunting**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

11.3.a WHEREAS predators and prey species interact together in a natural, ecological equilibrium over time, without damaging their environment; and

11.3.b WHEREAS special interest groups such as sport-hunters and fishers, guide-outfitters, commercial fishers and sheep and cattle ranchers, have exerted a disproportionate influence on public officials for the purpose of instituting predator control programs for commercial gain and/or recreation; and

11.3.c WHEREAS the greater proportion of British Columbians value wildlife, including predators, as natural components of the province's ecosystems,

11.3.1 T-B-R-C that predator control measures for such species as wolf, grizzly and cougar, for the enhancement of game species, be ceased immediately; and

11.3.2 F-B-R-C that predator control measures for the support of grazing operations and commercial fisheries also be ceased immediately; and

11.3.3 F-B-R-C that the government institute programs which will eliminate activities such as the use of all-terrain vehicles, fly-in hunting camps for non-resident hunters, etc., in de facto wilderness, which shift predator populations towards inhabited areas.

11.4 Game Ranching and Game Farming

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

- 11.4.a WHEREAS the confinement of wild animals on game farms and ranches violates their intrinsic rights to roam freely in their natural environments; and
- 11.4.b WHEREAS a market for wild meat promotes poaching of wild populations and illicit, black market sales of wild meat; and
- 11.4.c WHEREAS wild populations are exposed to disease and parasites through proximity to, and contamination from, game ranches and game farms; and
- 11.4.d WHEREAS natural predators in the vicinity of game ranches and game farms would not be tolerated by game ranch and farm operators;
- 11.4.1 T-B-R-C that Greens oppose the commercial farming of wild animals for meat, and trophy hunts on farms and ranches, on private or crown land, in the province.

11.5 Wolf Kill

POLICY CONVENTION, 1988

- 11.5.a WHEREAS the Government of B.C. continues to eliminate the wolf by hunting and trapping from areas where it "competes" with human hunters for large ungulates; and
- 11.5.b WHEREAS the B.C. Government continues to use poisoned bait to "control" wolves and coyotes in ranching and farming areas;
- 11.5.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens call for the immediate halt to these predator control activities; and
- 11.5.2 F-B-R-C that the Government of B.C. undertake research and implementation of (preferably non-lethal) ways of reducing livestock losses from predators and find ways of compensating farmers and ranchers for their losses.

Economics and Government

12.0 CONSUMER AFFAIRS

12.1 Municipal Recycling

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

- 12.1.a WHEREAS the Greens support recycling;

- 12.1.1 T-B-R-C that all municipalities be encouraged to supply curbside pick-up, resource recovery, sorting, and marketing of all municipal garbage, with relocation/retraining of displaced waste disposal personnel.

12.2 Truth in Packaging

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

- 12.2.a WHEREAS in order to promote consumer principles and values:

- 12.2.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support a truth-in-packaging law requiring producers to disclose, where applicable, the contents and/or ingredients, how [long] the good or service will last, and how much it will cost for servicing or repair in that period; and

- 12.2.2 F-B-R-C that non-information advertising shall not be considered a legitimate business expense for tax purposes.

12.3 Styrofoam

POLICY CONVENTION, 1988

- 12.3.a WHEREAS the CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) contained in most styrofoam products are partially responsible for the depletion of the Earth's ozone layer; and
- 12.3.b WHEREAS styrofoam, when burned, releases other toxic substances into the atmosphere; and
- 12.3.c WHEREAS there are other materials, such as paper, for food service containers, and recyclable containers which could replace most styrofoam now used;
- 12.3.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support a ban on the use of CFC-producing styrofoam containers for food service, egg sales, and packaging material; and
- 12.3.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens support regulations requiring all restaurants and food outlets (including [the] B.C. Ferry Corporation) to use permanent wares except for biodegradable containers for take-out orders.

12.4 Tobacco Advertising

POLICY CONVENTION, 1988

- 12.4.a WHEREAS the addictive qualities and health hazards of tobacco products [are] well documented; and
- 12.4.b WHEREAS the demands imposed on already limited provincial medical services by tobacco related health problems is high;
- 12.4.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support a ban on all advertising and promotion of tobacco and allied products; and
- 12.4.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens would provide adequate funding for preventative education and withdrawal programs related to nicotine addiction.

12.5 Alcohol Advertising

POLICY CONVENTION, 1988

- 12.5.a WHEREAS alcohol is a common factor in a high number of criminal and violent crimes. [and it produces] large numbers of victims of social and emotional problems related to drinking; and
- 12.5.b WHEREAS alcohol as a drug distorts reality and impairs normal social behavior and interaction;
- 12.5.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support a ban on all advertising and promotion of alcoholic products; and
- 12.5.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens would provide adequate funding for preventative education and withdrawal programs related to alcohol addiction.

13.0 ECONOMY AND INCOMES

13.1 Local Economies

POLICY CONVENTION, 1988

- 13.1.a WHEREAS the long term policies of the Green Party should favour and foster the development of strong local economies;
- 13.1.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support and encourage the development of democratic control of local economies; and
- 13.1.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens encourage local economies to be adapted to their own bioregions, thereby reducing their dependency on the ecologically destructive and socially exploitive aspects of the world market system.

13.2 Guaranteed Income

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

13.2.a WHEREAS the Greens endorse a more equitable distribution of wealth as well as individual/community control over our economic environment;

13.2.1 T-B-R-C that all individuals within a region shall receive an income high enough to ensure a reasonable standard of living.

13.3 Economics

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

13.3.a WHEREAS Greens acknowledge that population levels [must be] appropriate/compatible to [achieve] ecological balance, and recognize that ecological balance is a function of numbers of population, economic expectations and appropriateness of technology; and

13.3.b WHEREAS Greens acknowledge the intrinsic values of all life forms and natural processes and our responsibility to interfere with those processes as little as possible (i.e. many of these have values that we recognize to be more important than the economic values we could assign to them); and

13.3.c WHEREAS Greens acknowledge sustainability (i.e. that economic activities must not effect irreversible deterioration within an ecosystem [or] its components); and

13.3.d WHEREAS Greens acknowledge the need to achieve a "stable-state economy" which involves the development of a conserver rather than a consumer society, and [that Greens] acknowledge that the movement away from consumerism must necessarily include the development of values based on other than the acquisition of material goods;

13.3.1 T-B-R-C that Greens be committed to everyone having the right to the basic necessities of life and to a reasonable quality of living; and

13.3.2 F-B-R-C that Greens support the principle of human scale and appropriate technological economic activity, and that resources should be used according to this principle.

13.4 Waste Management & Disposal Tax

POLICY CONVENTION, 1988

13.4.a WHEREAS the retail price of a product does not include its disposal and/or recycling cost; and

13.4.b WHEREAS disposal and recycling costs are, in many cases, currently borne by municipalities;

13.4.1 T-B-R-C that the disposal or (preferably) recycling cost of a product be internalized in the price of [the] product by an appropriate level of taxation at the source and manufacturing level. Taxation would be applied in a manner which encourages manufacturers to innovate to reduce the environmental and social costs of their products.

13.5 Access To Resources

POLICY CONVENTION, 1988

13.5.a (Preamble as per basic economic statements already in [this] policy [booklet])

13.5.1 T-B-R-C That the Greens support an incomes policy [which] includes:

a) a guaranteed cash income intended to meet the basic survival needs of shelter, food and clothing, at a level determined by the method used by the federal government to calculate the poverty line. This guaranteed cash income is to be universal and taxable.

b) a program of incentives which would encourage the development of community resources and

projects including:

- a capital fund available to groups who wish to develop local community projects;
- a process whereby public land, subject to Native land claims settlement, would be trusted to groups for use in community development projects; and
- providing information, technical assistance, and skilled persons to assist in the community development projects.



13.5.2 [F-B-R-C that] funding would be administered at a local level by a bioregional or neighbourhood board. Priority in community funding would be given to projects which:

- conform to Green philosophy and other Green policy, ie; sustainability, non-exploitive, non-polluting, etc.; and
- contribute to the improvement of community self-reliance.

13.6 "Sustainable Development"

POLICY CONVENTION, 1988

- 13.6.a WHEREAS in general, the common accepted use of the word "development" is held to be economic development leading to the material betterment of the conditions of human beings; and
- 13.6.b WHEREAS [a good] definition of "sustainable" compatible with [G.P.P.A.B.C.] philosophy would be "to endure and continue without perishing or yielding"; and
- 13.6.c WHEREAS the common usage of both terms does not recognizes the interests of "all life forms and natural processes that share the Earth"; and
- 13.6.d WHEREAS within the constraints of finite ecosystems, "sustainable development" for the human population will only be possible at the expense of non-human populations and processes in these ecosystems; and
- 13.6.e WHEREAS the exploitation, or development, of non-renewable resources is non-sustainable by definition of a non-renewable resource; and
- 13.6.f WHEREAS the term "sustainable development" does not address the myths and fallacies of the dominant paradigm (view) of unlimited simultaneous population growth and economic growth as illustrated by the phrase from [the World Commission of Environment and Development's report] "Our Common Future" page 89 "the international economy must speed up world growth while respecting the environmental concerns"; and
- 13.6.g WHEREAS this definition is incompatible with Green Party [Political Assoc.] of B.C. philosophy and commitment to a conserver society rather than a consumer society;
- 13.6.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens express [concern at] the common understanding of the term "sustainable development" and that Greens will instead encourage the use and understanding of the term "sustainable dynamic equilibrium"; and
- 13.6.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens reaffirm its commitment to the principles of Deep Ecology by recognizing the threat to stable ecosystems that continued adherence to hierarchical, anthropocentric, and non-ecological belief-systems will promote.

14.0 GOVERNMENT REFORM

14.1 Local Communities

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

- 14.1.a WHEREAS strong local communities are the only social units sensitive enough to local conditions to be able to adapt to their environments, and are the loci of grassroots direct democracy;

14.1.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens adopt as a general principle the development of strong local communities.

14.2 **Bioregionalism**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

14.2.a WHEREAS the Greens should adopt or work into its policy guidelines basic bioregional principles:

14.2.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens endorse the principles of bioregionalism; the fostering of strong regional identities and cultures; watershed democracy; bioregional economies of place; living in place and reinhabitation.

14.3 **"Welcome Home" Statement**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

14.3.a WHEREAS to live in place is to live within the means of the local bioregion rather than relying on the exploitive mass market system;

14.3.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens endorse the "Welcome Home" statement of the 1st North American Bioregional Congress.

14.4 **Grassroots Democracy**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

14.4.a WHEREAS Greens endorse the decentralization of decision making and the principle of grassroots democracy;

14.4.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens endorse the principle that all government should be decentralized to the most appropriate human scale; and

14.4.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens endorse the principle that all people should have the opportunity to be directly involved in the decisions that affect their lives through direct participatory democracy; and

14.4.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens endorse the principle that the local community or neighbourhood and its watershed is the basic unit of self-government since it is the locus of direct democracy, human-scale institutions, and fine-grained adaptation to place; and

14.4.4 F-B-R-C that the Greens endorse the principle that government at regional and provincial levels would serve primarily as coordinating bodies needed to accomplish larger co-operative projects, as well as arbitrate disputes, address broader human and non-human interests, and provide information and expertise.

14.5 **Social Ecology**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

14.5.a WHEREAS the development of an ecological society is not just a legislative project, but [also] a cultural one; and

14.5.b WHEREAS there is concern about the tendency in the environmental movement that would force people into ways of behaving that a minority believe to be ecological:

14.5.1 T-B-R-C that the role of Green government must be primarily the positive encouragement of an ecological culture and not just to impose negative sanctions on those reluctant to co-operate.

14.6 **Provincial Constitution/Legislative Change/Recall**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

14.6.a WHEREAS individuals acting collectively are the ultimate source of authority for the existence and

actions of government; and

- 14.6.b WHEREAS any group of individuals may form an autonomous government to provide goods and services which affect only those individuals; and
- 14.6.c WHEREAS all individuals shall have equal input into government in regard to their interests; and
- 14.6.d WHEREAS all decisions by government at any level must promote the long-term good for all individuals collectively;
- 14.6.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support the development of a transitional provincial constitution which would establish and entrench the complete autonomy of municipalities and regions over all matters appropriate to those jurisdictions; and
- 14.6.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens endorse the principle that all individuals would have the right to initiate legislative change; and
- 14.6.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens endorse the principle that all elected officials be subject to recall procedures.

14.7 **Freedom of Government Information**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

- 14.7.a WHEREAS the Greens promote grassroots, participatory democracy, and full involvement of individuals in the governmental process;
- 14.7.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support the Freedom of Information legislation for the province which will ensure public access to all information held by government which is necessary for citizens to make sound decisions (Virtually all information, except, of course, personal information); and
- 14.7.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens support development of a funding program for intervenor groups at public hearings and commissions.

15.0 **ELECTORAL REFORM**

15.1 **Provincial Electoral Reform**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

- 15.1.a WHEREAS individuals acting collectively are the ultimate source of authority for the existence and actions of government; and
- 15.1.b WHEREAS any group of individuals may form an autonomous government to provide goods and services which affect only those individuals; and
- 15.1.c WHEREAS all individuals shall have equal input into government in regard to their interests; and
- 15.1.d WHEREAS all decisions by government at any level must promote the long term good for all:
- 15.1.1 T-B-R-C that the provincial legislature should be moved to fixed-term sessions, with regularly scheduled elections except when there is a motion of non-confidence; and
- 15.1.2 F-B-R-C during a provincial election campaign no political party or candidate would be permitted to spend directly or indirectly more than \$0.50 (indexed for inflation) per eligible voter in the riding; and
- 15.1.3 F-B-R-C that no political party or candidate for elected office be permitted to receive more than \$3000 per year from any one individual or other agency.

Social Issues

16.0 RIGHTS AND ENTITLEMENTS

16.1 Human and Animal Rights

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

16.1.a WHEREAS the Greens are working towards, and will continue to work towards, developing a society that recognizes and respects the dignity and worth of each person, and upholds human rights and responsibilities, and the inalienable rights of other living forms and natural processes that share the Earth with us;

16.1.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens recognize that every human being shall have equitable access to food, clothing, shelter, and health care; due process under a just system; control of her/his thoughts; education as and when needed, in accordance with the philosophy of non-violence and respect for the biosphere; and

16.1.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens recognize that every human being shall have equitable access to opportunities regardless of race, creed, colour, sex, mental or physical condition, nationality, language normally spoken, ancestry, place of origin, age, sexual orientation, religion, marital status, family composition, source of income, or political belief; and

16.1.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens promote the development of alternatives to animal experimentation; and

16.1.4 F-B-R-C that the Greens promote the preservation of wildlife and wildlife habitats; and

16.1.5 F-B-R-C that the Greens oppose entertainment involving animal exploitation; and

16.1.6 F-B-R-C that the Greens support expansion of spay/neuter programs to control the "unwanted pet" population.

16.2 Animal Rights

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

16.2.a WHEREAS animals experience pleasure and pain, have needs and wants, seek companionship and, in many cases, family life;

16.2.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens recognize the inherent rights of all animals to live their lives, as brothers and sisters, free of oppression and exploitation by people; and

16.2.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens, whenever possible, publicly and actively support any action carried out to uphold the rights of animals providing such action is compatible with the Green philosophy on non-violence.

17.0 DEFENCE

17.1 Nuclear Weapons Free Canada

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

17.1.a WHEREAS the Greens are working towards a goal of global peace; and

17.1.b WHEREAS the international nuclear industry complex is intimately tied in with the nuclear arms race; and

17.1.c WHEREAS the non-disposable radioactive wastes endanger life wherever they enter the biosphere, most particularly as a product of nuclear warfare.

17.1.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support a nuclear-free policy for Canada which includes:

- cessation of exploration for and mining of radioactive materials;
- the shut-down of the nuclear industry including nuclear power plants;
- the cessation of trade in nuclear technology inside and outside Canada with the exception (at this time) of that related to medical research; and
- the banning of nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons technology from Canadian territory.

- 17.1.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens would declare Canada a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone and require proof that persons or vehicles wishing to enter Canada ([via] land, sea, or air) are not carrying nuclear weapons; and
- 17.1.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens endorse the concept of an International Arctic-Nordic Nuclear Weapons Free Zone; and
- 17.1.4 F-B-R-C that the Greens would close Canadian ports and related facilities to all nuclear-powered vessels.

18.0 FEMINISM

18.1 Eco-Feminism

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

- 18.1.a WHEREAS Green politics implies the development of whole persons, which includes educating our own members on feminist theory;
- 18.1.1 T-B-R-C that t-b-r-c that the Greens encourages women to participate in political activity at every level of the decision-making process, including affirmative action; and
- 18.1.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens advocate the replacement of school materials which portray people in sexist stereotypes with non-sexist material; and
- 18.1.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens advocate that non-sexist life programs and education be available to all students, appropriate to the age level; and
- 18.1.4 F-B-R-C that the Greens advocate that provisions for women's studies courses be made in public schools, along with an inclusion of the contributions of women to other courses of study; and
- 18.1.5 F-B-R-C that the Greens advocate that every student has the choice of a full range of programs and activities to achieve excellence in non-traditional and/or traditional areas of endeavor and unique talents, without discouragement based on sexist attitudes from teachers or counselors; and
- 18.1.6 F-B-R-C that the Greens advocate that access to non-sexist vocational and academic counselling be ensured; and
- 18.1.7 F-B-R-C that the Greens will ensure that a procedure to address sexual harassment of students be activated in the current school systems; and
- 18.1.8 F-B-R-C that the Greens encourage worker's associations to negotiate sexual harassment clauses into their contracts which would include definition of same and grievance procedures in the event of such harassment; and
- 18.1.9 F-B-R-C that the Greens advocate equal pay for work of equal value; and
- 18.1.10 F-B-R-C that the Greens advocate the decriminalization of prostitution between consenting adults; and
- 18.1.11 F-B-R-C that the Greens support community-based funding for housing for street people; and
- 18.1.12 F-B-R-C that the Greens recognize that the term "violence against women" is inclusive of females of

all ages; and

- 18.1.13 F-B-R-C that the Greens advocate community-based financial support for emergency care centers for rape or assault victims; and
- 18.1.14 F-B-R-C that the Greens advocate the designation of crisis centre information as public service announcements for all media; and
- 18.1.15 F-B-R-C that the Greens advocate the position of their party as a medium for the distribution of information concerning women's support groups, whether that information be printed, verbal, or in the form of future seminars; and
- 18.1.16 F-B-R-C that the Greens advocate that information concerning women's support groups become a part of the G.P.P.A.B.C. Resource Centre Library; and
- 18.1.17 F-B-R-C that the Greens advocate the establishment of a guaranteed annual income for all homemakers; and
- 18.1.18 F-B-R-C that the Greens advocate the establishment of financial services specifically designed for the needs of single parents; and
- 18.1.19 F-B-R-C that the Greens advocate the provision of quality childcare centers and services, that meet the needs of children from infancy to adolescence, are universally accessible, and are responsive to the needs of parents and the community; and
- 18.1.20 F-B-R-C that the Greens support the alternative of any person being legally entitled to a chosen name.

18.2 Feminist and Post-patriarchal Studies

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

- 18.2.a WHEREAS the Greens recognize the demise of patriarchal civilization and its related ideologies of competitiveness, violence, hierarchical structures, centralization, and environmental degradation; and
- 18.2.b WHEREAS Vancouver in particular, and the province in general, are vibrant regions of feminist thought and practice;
- 18.2.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support the creation of post-secondary institutes of feminist and post-patriarchal studies.

18.3 Green Day Care

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

- 18.3.a WHEREAS Green politics implies the development of whole persons, which includes educating our own members on feminist theory; and
- 18.3.b WHEREAS the care of children and their socialization has traditionally been the responsibility of the community or tribe; and
- 18.3.c WHEREAS the relatively recent formation of the nuclear family has led to the expectation that the mother will be the primary care giver, resulting in alienation of both mothers and children from the larger community; and
- 18.3.d WHEREAS this 20-year responsibility prevents the mother from fully contributing to her community in other capacities, and does not permit children to attain their full social potential; and
- 18.3.e WHEREAS it is recognized that the contributions of women are as valuable to society as those of

men, and that children reared in a loving and caring situation will be co-operative and harmonious members of the community;

- 18.3.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens advocate the provision of quality government or community funded childcare, including direct support of primary care givers, that meets the needs of children from infancy to adolescence, is universally accessible, and [is] responsive to the needs of parents and the community.

18.4 **Single Parent Families**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

- 18.4.a WHEREAS in 1987 approximately 50 per cent of today's marriages end in divorce; and
- 18.4.b WHEREAS in 1987 approximately 50 per cent of the province's school children live in single parent families; and
- 18.4.c WHEREAS, according to 1983 Statistics Canada statistics, the poverty rate for lone-parent, female-headed families is 49.1 per cent; and
- 18.4.d WHEREAS in 1987 approximately 75 per cent of family court maintenance orders in the province are in default;
- 18.4.1 T-B-R-C that as a short term resolution, the Greens call for the immediate raise of the amount of money that welfare recipients may keep from their earned incomes.

18.5 **Parental Responsibilities**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

- 18.5.a WHEREAS family breakdown is an extremely emotional experience for children and both parents; and
- 18.5.b WHEREAS the current practice of giving custody to one parent places a heavy responsibility on the custodial parent and makes it difficult for the non-custodial parent to fulfill his/her responsibilities; and
- 18.5.c WHEREAS courts have little concern for the relationship between non-custodial parents and their children, a relationship which is important to the well-being of the children; and
- 18.5.d WHEREAS the current child support system encourages adversarial relations between divorced or separated parents, and does not adequately address children's needs; and
- 18.5.e WHEREAS the responsibilities of separated parents should be to the children and not to a former partner;
- 18.5.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens are committed to family legislation which encourages both parents in a separation or divorce to continue to be directly responsible to their children (e.g. visiting, attending school functions, providing clothes, etc.); and
- 18.5.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens call for a system to ensure that both parents in a separation or divorce share the financial responsibility of caring for their children and establish a publicly-funded enforcement system to ensure that both parents live up to this responsibility; and
- 18.5.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens call for the provision of resources to encourage and enable divorced or separated parents to resolve disputes without involving the court.

19.0 **EDUCATION**

19.1 **Education Curricula**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

- 19.1.a WHEREAS the long-term goals of Green education must lead towards global survival and toward the emergence of healthy, wholistic societies; and
- 19.1.b WHEREAS developing social and democratic skills is necessary for people to govern themselves peacefully in a decentralized system; and
- 19.1.c WHEREAS the world of the future will need people who are adaptable, innovative, thinking and with basic skills and wide general knowledge;
- 19.1.1 T-B-R-C that the Green educational curricula be oriented toward not only providing facts and technical skills, but also toward encouraging ecological awareness, social responsibility and quality in human relations; and
- 19.1.2 F-B-R-C the the Greens encourage development of skills in critical thinking, basic communications, and conflict resolution; and provide peace education within the educational framework; and
- 19.1.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens encourage education in family and community living, skills such as parenting, child rearing and personal financial planning for both males and females.

19.2 **Community Integration**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

- 19.2.a WHEREAS we need an education structure that will promote ongoing inquiry, open communication, community cohesion and caring;
- 19.2.1 T-B-R-C that schools should be decentralized from Provincial control to the level of the community and be integrated into community life; and
- 19.2.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens endorse opening up existing school facilities such as libraries, laboratories, workshops and art studios to all members of the community; and
- 19.2.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens encourage community and student participation in both academic and non-academic activities and a diversity of groupings for learning, such as mixed age classes, home schooling and self directed learning; and
- 19.2.4 F-B-R-C that the Greens support broadening the concept of learning. That learning take place outside of school as part of the daily functioning of the community, so that young and old alike share their skills, knowledge and information, with everyone becoming both student and teacher.

19.3 **Alternate Resource Studies**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

- 19.3.a WHEREAS the Greens endorse the need for new approaches to "resource" use, agricultural practices, forestry, fisheries, mining practices, energy generation, and environmental protection;
- 19.3.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support the establishment of alternative energy and ecology research institutes in the province; and
- 19.3.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens endorse increased funding for alternative energy studies in university engineering departments across the province, including small scale hydro and appropriate wind power, methane gas, biomass conversion, and use of industrial waste steam.

19.4 **World Peace**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

- 19.4.a WHEREAS the Greens work towards a goal of nuclear and general disarmament and world peace through the non-violent resolution of conflict;

- 21.2.b WHEREAS studies indicate a considerable loss of nutritional value in foods which have been irradiated; and
- 21.2.c WHEREAS the process of irradiating food can involve the use of deadly radioactive substances and therefore put the province at risk of catastrophe from nuclear accidents; and
- 21.2.d WHEREAS people should be encouraged to eat fresh, natural food as much as possible rather than packaged or processed foods;
- 21.2.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support a permanent ban on the sale or production of irradiated foods in the province.

21.3 **Hospital Boards**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

- 21.3.a WHEREAS the funding of public hospitals in the province comes solely from the provincial health plan but the operation of the hospitals and thus control of public money is done by privately elected hospital boards;
- 21.3.1 T-B-R-C that Greens advocate that hospital boards should be elected by the citizens of the province in the same manner and time as the municipal elections in the province.

21.4 **Health Care System**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1988

- 21.4.1 B-R-C that the Greens [advocate] a health care system where the inability to pay must not be an impediment to health care services.

22.0 **LIFESTYLES AND RECREATION**

22.1 **Lifestyles**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

- 22.1.a WHEREAS in many cases, the behavior of society, not of ecosystems, requires adjustment and hence a need to define resource problems in human terms;
- 22.1.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens recognize that human lifestyle may need to adjust to the natural carrying capacity of the region; and
- 22.1.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens recognize that resource management must be heavily weighted toward the long-term and global perspective; and
- 22.1.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens recognize that a "multiple means" (land use) approach is generally useful but some areas must be designated for special use, e.g. ecological reserves; and
- 22.1.4 F-B-R-C that the Greens recognize that a "multiple means" approach is desirable, including examination of the end goals of the population and then considering the widest range of possible means of achieving those goals; and
- 22.1.5 F-B-R-C that the Greens recognize that irreversible decisions should be avoided.

22.2 **Human Population**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

- 22.2.a WHEREAS the interaction of the human population with its surrounding environment imposes demands on that environment in the form of resource utilization, energy requirements, and waste treatment; and
- 22.2.b WHEREAS these demands are a function of population numbers and the level of technology attained by

- 19.4.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens encourage cultural alliances with East Bloc Countries, other nuclear powers, and other countries where we need to improve mutual understanding; and
- 19.4.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens support, and where necessary, establish organizations of peace research and education.

19.5 **Alternative and Experimental Schools**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

- 19.5.a WHEREAS the Greens support the funding of alternative and experimental schools:
 - 19.5.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens develop financial approaches to encourage the funding of alternative and experimental schools.

20.0 **NATIVE ISSUES**

20.1 **Aboriginal Title**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

(Replaces 1985 [Policy Convention*] special resolution #5 regarding "Native land and sea claims")

- 20.1.a WHEREAS Canadian society has been both unjust towards and lacking in understanding of Native societies; and
- 20.1.b WHEREAS most of B.C. is subject to Native land claims based on aboriginal title;
- 20.1.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support and recognize aboriginal title as that title is defined and demonstrated by each people for their own lands; and
- 20.1.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens stand in opposition to federal and provincial government policies which insidiously or overtly promote extinction of indigenous culture; and
- 20.1.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens, both as a Party and as Government, will work to inform and organize non-indigenous people within each aboriginal territory so that ultimately they can meaningfully negotiate with the indigenous people regarding non-indigenous use and occupancy of aboriginal territories and regarding mutually acceptable, ecologically responsible land management goals.

20.2 **Meares Island**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1985

- 20.2.1 B-R-C that the Greens recognize Meares Island as a tribal park.

21.0 **HEALTH**

21.1 **Health Care**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

- 21.1.a WHEREAS the Green aim is for people to have the opportunity for healthy lives;
 - 21.1.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens would encourage the health care practitioners to emphasize wellness through holistic and preventative approaches to the practice of medicine.

21.2 **Food Irradiation**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

- 21.2.a WHEREAS there are no studies which show the long term effects of eating irradiated foods; and

- 21.2.b WHEREAS studies indicate a considerable loss of nutritional value in foods which have been irradiated; and
- 21.2.c WHEREAS the process of irradiating food can involve the use of deadly radioactive substances and therefore put the province at risk of catastrophe from nuclear accidents; and
- 21.2.d WHEREAS people should be encouraged to eat fresh, natural food as much as possible rather than packaged or processed foods;
- 21.2.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support a permanent ban on the sale or production of irradiated foods in the province.

21.3 **Hospital Boards**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

- 21.3.a WHEREAS the funding of public hospitals in the province comes solely from the provincial health plan but the operation of the hospitals and thus control of public money is done by privately elected hospital boards;
- 21.3.1 T-B-R-C that Greens advocate that hospital boards should be elected by the citizens of the province in the same manner and time as the municipal elections in the province.

21.4 **Health Care System**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1988

- 21.4.1 B-R-C that the Greens [advocate] a health care system where the inability to pay must not be an impediment to health care services.

22.0 **LIFESTYLES AND RECREATION**

22.1 **Lifestyles**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

- 22.1.a WHEREAS in many cases, the behavior of society, not of ecosystems, requires adjustment and hence a need to define resource problems in human terms;
- 22.1.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens recognize that human lifestyle may need to adjust to the natural carrying capacity of the region; and
- 22.1.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens recognize that resource management must be heavily weighted toward the long-term and global perspective; and
- 22.1.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens recognize that a "multiple means" (land use) approach is generally useful but some areas must be designated for special use, e.g. ecological reserves; and
- 22.1.4 F-B-R-C that the Greens recognize that a "multiple means" approach is desirable, including examination of the end goals of the population and then considering the widest range of possible means of achieving those goals; and
- 22.1.5 F-B-R-C that the Greens recognize that irreversible decisions should be avoided.

22.2 **Human Population**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1986

- 22.2.a WHEREAS the interaction of the human population with its surrounding environment imposes demands on that environment in the form of resource utilization, energy requirements, and waste treatment; and
- 22.2.b WHEREAS these demands are a function of population numbers and the level of technology attained by

the population; and

22.2.c WHEREAS the extent of these demands will constitute a quantifiable "people pressure" impact on this environment; and

22.2.d WHEREAS the human species has, in its technological advances, intervened in the natural processes of human population control by medical techniques which reduce the death rate,

22.2.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support easy access to birth control information and methods; and

22.2.2 F-B-R-C that the Greens support offering assistance in family planning to others who desire this; and

22.2.3 F-B-R-C that the Greens support better and more equitable methods of contraception.

22.3 Lifestyle Counselling

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

22.3.a WHEREAS prevention of disease is a well established principle and practice of modern medicine; and

22.3.b WHEREAS many diseases and other body malfunctions are caused by lifestyle factors and can be prevented by a change in living habits; and

22.3.c WHEREAS the B.C. Medical [Services] Plan removed from this plan payment to physicians for lifestyle counselling services;

22.3.1 T-B-R-C that Greens request that the ministry of health reinstate lifestyle counselling as part of the B.C. Medical [Services] Plan.

22.4 Family Life Education

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

22.4.a WHEREAS [the] ecological paradigm recognizes that the increasing size of the world's human population has affected most of the earth's ecosystems; and

22.4.b WHEREAS without reproductive choice, the value of female members of a society will inevitably be defined in terms of their capacity to bear children, and thus just as inevitably increase the population's size;

22.4.1 T-B-R-C that sex education and family life planning be part of the school curriculum in British Columbia, being brought into the curriculum appropriately at several levels in a child's education; and

22.4.2 F-B-R-C that abortion be removed from the Criminal Code of Canada.

22.5 Abortion Funding

POLICY CONVENTION, 1988

22.5.a WHEREAS the Supreme Court of Canada has declared that the provisions of the Criminal Code dealing with abortion were not in accordance with the Charter of Rights; and

22.5.b WHEREAS the B.C. Government has stated it will not pay for abortions through the provincial medical plan except in life threatening situations; and

22.5.c WHEREAS all provinces receive funds from the Government of Canada in order that a common health care standard exists throughout the country; and

22.5.d WHEREAS other provinces do fund such operations through their health care systems;

22.5.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support payment by [the] province of B.C. from the provincial health plan for abortions performed by qualified medical personnel.

22.6 **Choice on Abortion**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1988

22.6.a WHEREAS the Supreme Court of Canada has struck down Section 251 of the Criminal Code; and

22.6.b WHEREAS women can now legally seek an abortion because of this ruling; and

22.6.c WHEREAS in response to this ruling, the B.C. Social Credit government is pursuing a health policy for women which is tantamount to compulsory pregnancy; and

22.6.d WHEREAS such a health policy discriminates against a woman's right to choose medical care, according to the Canadian Charter of Rights;

22.6.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support payment from the provincial health care plan for counselling for birth control and pregnancy to be made available to both sexes.

22.7 **Birth Control**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1988

22.7.a WHEREAS our ultimate objective is to prevent unwanted pregnancies; and

22.7.b WHEREAS it is essential that there be equal access to health education and birth control devices;

22.7.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens advocate more adequate youth fertility education, education about pregnancy, and better access to contraceptives.

22.8 **Alternatives to Abortion**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1988

22.8.a WHEREAS abortion is not [a chosen] alternative for some pregnant women;

22.8.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens endorse establishment of a support system for women who do not choose abortion. In addition to:

- Guaranteed Annual Income and childcare support; and
- [other] consensed [G.P.P.A.B.C.] policies.

[This support] system should include such things as:

- education about adoption;
- more homes for single mothers;
- single parent support groups;
- pre-natal and post-natal services; and
- life skills training.

22.9 **Midwifery**

POLICY CONVENTION, 1988

22.9.a WHEREAS Greens support the right of women to choose freely the option of home birth:

22.9.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support the recognition of midwifery as a professional service available to all women in B.C. and that the provincial government should work with the Midwives Association of B.C. to establish a professional midwifery license.

22.10 Naturist Policy

POLICY CONVENTION, 1987

- 22.10.a WHEREAS Greens believe in a society which guarantees the welfare and well being of all peoples including the discouragement of oppression of any kind and that every human being shall have equitable access to opportunities regardless of race, creed, color, sex, mental or physical condition, nationality, language normally spoken, ancestry, place of origin, age, sexual orientation, religion, marital status, family composition, source of income, or political belief; and
- 22.10.b WHEREAS clothes-optional recreation is practiced by thousands of people on the beaches of the Marine Drive Foreshore Park and to a lesser extent on isolated beaches and areas throughout the province; and
- 22.10.c WHEREAS the state of being nude is not offensive or obscene and currently constitutes a criminal offense; and
- 22.10.d WHEREAS people nude can coexist with people clothed; and
- 22.10.e WHEREAS in other countries in the world, most notably European, it is no longer, or it never was a crime to be nude at public beaches or parks;
- 22.10.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens support the legalization of special recreational areas for public clothes-optional use in places already traditionally used for such, as a first step toward removing nudity as an offense in the criminal code and leaving what is acceptable to local laws and customs.

22.11 Air Pollution and Smoking

POLICY CONVENTION, 1985

- 22.11.a WHEREAS air pollution is among the many concerns of the Greens; and
- 22.11.b WHEREAS the smoking of cigarettes, marijuana, or any other weed is an air pollutant; and
- 22.11.c WHEREAS the Greens are a political party and smoking is a political activity that supports the exploiters of those who we, the Greens, would support, namely the peoples of the Third World nations;
- 22.11.1 T-B-R-C that the Greens adopt as official policy no smoking within [G.P.P.A.B.C.] meetings.

ENDNOTES

1. Definition from the 2nd North American Bioregional Congress press release dated January 1987, announcing the N.A.B.C. II Proceedings.
2. *Small is Beautiful: Economics As If People Mattered*, by E. F. Schumacher, Harper, New York, 1973.
3. Constitution of the Green Party Political Association of British Columbia. See Appendix I.
4. Statement of the 1st North American Bioregional Congress. See Appendix II.
5. *B.C. Green Party News*, Volume 2 Number 2, Green Party Political Association of B.C., Vancouver, June 1985. (page 7)
6. *B.C. Human Rights Act*, Province of British Columbia, Queen's Printer for B.C., Victoria, 1985. (section 1 - Interpretation)
7. *B.C. Forest Act*, Province of British Columbia, Queen's Printer for B.C., Victoria, 1986. (sections 82 through 87, and Schedule A)
8. *"Our Common Future"*, the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), Oxford University Press, June 1987. (Otherwise known as the "Brundtland Report" named after the chairperson of the WCED, Madam Gro Harlem Brundtland.)

- * The Party's first Policy Convention coincided with the Party's 2nd Annual General Meeting held at the University of British Columbia Geological Field Station, Oliver, B.C., June 30 & July 1, 1985.