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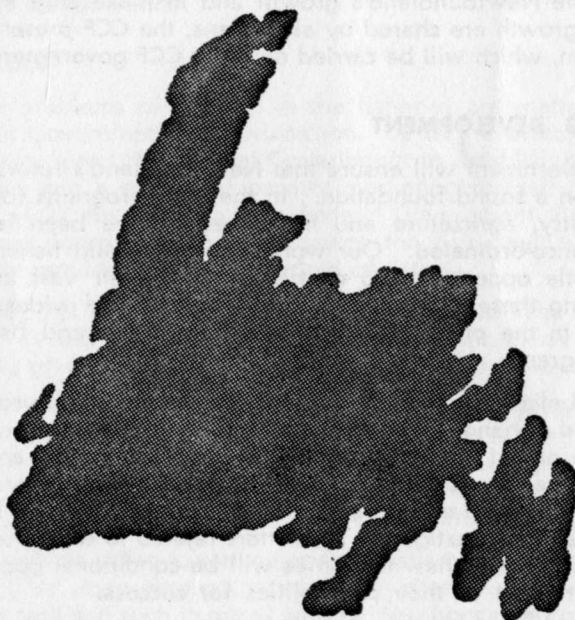
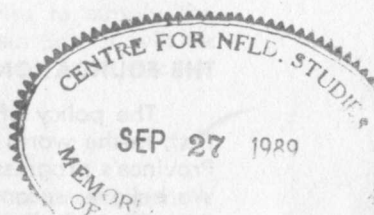
P R O G R A M

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AS ADOPTED BY THE CCF PROVINCIAL
CONVENTION, HELD AT BAY ROBERTS,
NOVEMBER 5 AND 6, 1954

C.C.F. Program for Newfoundland

(As adopted by the CCF Provincial Convention, Bay Roberts,
November 5 and 6, 1954)

THE FOUNDATION OF THE CCF POLICY

The policy of the CCF is built upon a two-fold faith. We believe, first, in the worth of every individual—in his ability to contribute to our Province's progress and in his right to share in the fruits of that progress. We believe, second, that real progress comes only through the co-operative effort of all to develop our resources—human and material.

Because of those beliefs the CCF is a movement, not of vested interests, but of common people. Our growth as a political party in Newfoundland will be based upon democratic organization among interested individuals and groups within the province.

The CCF movement, as a new political force in Newfoundland, pays tribute to the people of the province for the advances which have already been made. We are even more proud of the contribution which Newfoundland can make, through Confederation, to the advancement of Canada as a nation.

To promote Newfoundland's growth and to make sure that the rewards of that growth are shared by all citizens, the CCF presents the following program, which will be carried out by a CCF government :

1. PLANNING DEVELOPMENT

A CCF government will ensure that Newfoundland's future development is built on a sound foundation. In the past, programs for development of industry, agriculture and the fisheries have been largely unplanned and unco-ordinated. Our workers, farmers and fishermen have been given little opportunity to contribute from their vast knowledge, ideas concerning these projects. As a result, there is a widespread lack of confidence in the prospects for both the economic and fisheries development programs.

The CCF believes in the planned development of resources and industry. Instead of handing the reins to a single economic czar over whom public or government has little control, the CCF will set up an Economic Planning Board responsible to the people's elected representatives. This board will be composed of men of varied experience, and will be responsible for thoroughly investigating all matters related to economic development. Establishment of new industries will be conditional upon the best available information of their possibilities for success.

A complete investigation will be made into the finances of those corporations where the government has either invested or loaned money, or guaranteed loans. The law will require that yearly reports on activities be made available to the public.

Consideration will be given by a CCF government to the fields of development which ought to be undertaken by publicly-owned corporations. Strict control over private companies in these fields will be effected in order to prevent actions detrimental to the public interest.

Stress will be placed on development of industries to supply the needs of the Newfoundland market. Development Loan Boards will be used to finance small industries by individuals or groups with practical experience, on terms that will stimulate their progress.

2. LOCAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT

The CCF regrets the present government's failure to promote more vigorously the growth of local democratic government. Sound provincial policies depend upon co-operation and understanding on the part of active local governments. A CCF government will assist communities in the establishment of municipal organizations and town councils.

3. TERMS OF UNION

A CCF government will press for revision of existing arrangements between the Federal Government and Provincial Government with a view to creating greater equality of opportunity as between citizens in different parts of Canada. We feel that consideration should be given to readjustments in view of Newfoundland's more favourable debt position at the time of confederation.

4. FISHERIES

Many problems of concern to the fisheries are matters over which the Federal Government has jurisdiction. A CCF Provincial Government will, however, prod the Federal Government to establish guaranteed forward prices, and a system of orderly marketing for salt codfish, similar to that provided for wheat by the Federal Government through the Canadian Wheat Board, which would assure the fisherman a stable income sufficient to provide a decent standard of living.

The Federal Government will be urged also to keep the promise it made in 1944 and repeated in 1954 to enact a Fishermen's Loan Improvement Act to give fishermen better credit facilities at lower cost.

A CCF Provincial Government will thoroughly review the present set-up of the fresh fish industry with a view to increasing returns to the fishermen. Government assistance in marketing arrangements and government processing plants may well prove desirable means to this end by reducing the drain of profits to private merchants.

Steps will be taken to reduce costs of fishermen's necessities. Where this cannot be done through co-operative channels, government stores and depots will sell such items as salt, twines, hooks and gasoline at cost.

A program will be instituted to provide fishermen with cash advances at the beginning of the fishing season to enable them to purchase their provisions for cash savings and to be free of dependence on "being supplied."

The whole program of fisheries re-organization will be reviewed in the light of criticisms it has received. Problems of rehabilitation and alternative employment, largely ignored under the present plan, will be fully considered.

5. FORESTS AND MINES

A CCF government will immediately undertake a thorough-going survey of the forest and mining resources of the province, with a view to their conservation and development in the interests of the people. Where previous development proves to have been one of wholesale exploitation for private profit, every possible step will be taken to correct this situation; and through increased royalties on timber and minerals, to bring a fair and greater share of revenue into the public treasury.

In particular, the Newfoundland and Labrador Corporation will be made a wholly crown-owned corporation and its authority to undertake survey and development projects greatly extended. A program will be implemented to ensure that the cutting of our timber resources is on a sustained yield basis.

6. AGRICULTURE

Close attention will be paid by a CCF government to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture. Necessary steps to increase agricultural productivity will be undertaken or encouraged, including land reclamation and conservation, improvement of stocks, and extension services to agricultural producers.

7. LABOUR

The CCF recognizes labour's claim to a greater share of the value of what they produce, than now they normally receive. A CCF government will enact legislation which will give proper protection to unions in organizing and bargaining collectively by, among other things, effectively outlawing "company" unions.

Legislation to provide for a minimum wage of 75 cents an hour and a maximum work-day of eight hours will be enacted. A CCF government will require equal pay for equal work. Legislation will be introduced to provide for a minimum of two weeks' annual holidays with pay for all employees, whether payment is made on an hourly, weekly or monthly basis. Provisions for declaration of statutory holidays will be extended to cover industrial workers as well as shop and office employees. Workmen's compensation benefits will be increased to provide for payments up to 75 percent of income.

Government employees can expect to share fully these rights and benefits, as a CCF government will consider itself a model employer which other employers should follow.

8. EDUCATION

The CCF believes that every child has a right to education in accordance with his ability and regardless of his parents' income. Thus every

effort will be made to equalize educational opportunity throughout the province. Steps towards this goal will include an expanded program of school building and improvement of facilities especially in more remote areas; increased teachers' salaries and bonuses in areas where conditions are more difficult; and free books and transportation for students.

The CCF will continue the present system of denominational education and will assist amalgamation where requested by interested groups, provided that there shall be no discrimination whatsoever against such groups as do not desire to amalgamate.

A CCF provincial government will continue the CCF fight for Federal aid to education, without any interference with provincial jurisdiction over education, because only in this way can all Canadian children be assured an opportunity for the best education.

9. HEALTH

Health needs in Newfoundland demand greatly expanded medical and hospital services.

A CCF government will increase provincial grants to extend the cottage hospitals, so that every district in the province will be adequately served. Health regions will be established throughout the province to provide all areas with the best available medical and dental care.

A province-wide hospital plan will be inaugurated to provide full coverage for hospital services to all citizens regardless of income.

An air ambulance service will be maintained and improved to assure that specialized hospital and medical care is quickly available to those who need it.

Medical and dental training at our provincial university will be extended and our young people will be encouraged and assisted to train for the medical and dental professions. Special financial assistance will be given to deserving students, who are prepared to practise within the province, to complete their training in these fields.

10. SOCIAL WELFARE

Newfoundland's welfare payments are at present inadequate in every field. A CCF government will undertake an over-all extension of coverage and benefits.

(a) At present the maximum **Old Age Assistance** for people from 65 to 69 years is limited to \$30 a month, of which the province pays \$15 and the Federal government \$15. But the Federal government stands ready to pay \$20 and does pay that much in all other provinces, where it is matched by a provincial contribution of \$20. A CCF government in Newfoundland will take this first step to raise the basic pension to \$40 and will make supplementary allowances available to all over the age of 65 on the basis of need.

(b) A CCF government will increase the basic **Mothers' Allowance** to \$35 with increased additional allowances for each dependent.

(c) A CCF government will seek to have the amount of Federal old age and other pension payments, and family allowances, at least to equal the value in purchasing power they had when originally set at the present figure, with \$50 a minimum figure for the old age pension.

(d) **Homes**—A special program will be undertaken to provide adequate housing accommodation for the aged and for neglected children, or alternatively, assistance will be provided for private care to ensure that all such persons can live in comfortable and pleasant surroundings.

(e) **Medical and Hospital Care**—The CCF will provide all old age and blind pensioners, and those in receipt of mothers' allowances in the province with completely free medical, dental, optical and hospital care.

11. INSURANCE

Losses arising from some of the hazards of nature, such as storms at sea, can completely ruin an individual or family if they are left to face them alone. But the impact of such losses can be greatly reduced if they are shared co-operatively through the medium of insurance. At present insurance protection, particularly for fishermen, is completely inadequate and the rates are far too high. The Federal government's Fishermen's Indemnity and Loan Plan covers only the fishing vessel, certain fixed equipment and certain kinds of gear. The deductible amounts are too high. There is no protection against injury or loss of life.

A CCF government will organize through a provincial insurance office a voluntary Newfoundland Fisherman's Insurance Plan to provide the fishermen of our province and their families with low cost comprehensive insurance against financial losses arising not only from damage or loss of fishing vessels, equipment and gear, but also from personal injuries and loss of life.

An automobile accident insurance fund will be established by a CCF government for a two-fold purpose. First, it will provide insurance at greatly reduced rates compared with private insurance and, second, it will provide that all persons suffering injury or loss through accident will be adequately compensated.

Fire and other forms of insurance will also be provided through the provincial insurance office in order to give insurance coverage at much cheaper rates than those charged by private companies.

12. CO-OPERATIVES

The services of the Department of Co-operatives will be improved and extended. Encouragement will be given to both consumer and producer groups to establish and expand co-operative facilities, and to improve credit provisions through credit unions. The CCF will continue to press the Federal government for elimination of its taxation of co-operatives.

13. POWER AND TELEPHONES

A CCF government will plan for expansion of power and telephone services at reduced cost by acquiring public ownership of both and estab-

lishing integrated provincial systems. A complete survey of Newfoundland's power resources will be made and a program of planned development undertaken.

14. ROADS AND PUBLIC WORKS

A CCF government will take steps immediately to complete the Newfoundland section of the Trans-Canada Highway to provide better communication, to assist in opening up and developing the province, and to lay the base for a future tourist industry.

An expanded program of road construction and public works will be undertaken with priority given to those areas where present facilities are poorest and the use—need the greatest. A CCF government will greatly expand the activities of the Construction Division, and will thus save large amounts of money which ordinarily go into the treasuries of privately owned companies. As far as possible, local workmen will be employed on government projects in their own communities. Wages and working conditions of workmen engaged in road work will be given upward revision.

15. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY PLANNING

Advantage will be taken of Federal housing legislation as far as it can be used to assist Newfoundlanders to obtain good low-cost housing. The government planning agency will assist communities in planning home building projects and other local improvements such as parks and playgrounds.

16. LIQUOR

The distribution of all alcoholic liquors throughout the province will be placed under strict public ownership and control, diverting exorbitant profits from private hands to the public treasury and eliminating this phase of political corruption.

The CCF will pass special legislation prohibiting any member of the government, any member of the House of Assembly, or any civil servant from having any financial interest whatsoever in any firm or business engaged in or premises used for the manufacturing, distributing or selling any alcoholic beverage. Heavy penalties will be provided and the legislation will be strictly enforced.

Courses on the effects of the use of alcohol will be provided for Newfoundland schools, and an expanded program of prevention and rehabilitation of alcoholics will be undertaken.

17. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

A CCF government will put an end to political patronage in Newfoundland. All government contracts will be awarded on a strict tender basis with no political strings attached.

A Public Service Commission will make all appointments to the Public Service, except top executive positions; all appointments to be

made on the basis of seniority and merit. A CCF government will encourage government employees to join their own union and will bargain collectively with them. The CCF government will become a model employer and will endeavour to set a high standard for other employers throughout the whole province. War veterans preference will apply in appointments to government service, a practice which has hitherto not been adequately enforced.

All government departments and all Crown companies and agencies will be required to make public regular annual reports and audited financial statements.

A CCF government will restore to the House of Assembly the authority and responsibility which rightly belongs to it. At no time will any combination consisting of Speaker or Deputy Speaker and Cabinet Ministers, with or without portfolio, exceed in number the private members of the Assembly.

18. TAXATION

A CCF program of extended services to the people of Newfoundland will cost money. A good part of the necessary revenue will come from the elimination of waste, inefficiency and needless expenditure of public funds which has been so much a feature of past governments. Sources of new income will come from publicly owned services and from increased royalties and taxes on corporations presently making large profits from the use of provincial resources. An economy expanded under public auspices will further increase the flow of revenue to the public treasury.

There will be no increase in general personal taxes. The CCF believes that taxes such as the sales tax are basically unsound, and a CCF government would immediately remove this tax from a wider range of necessities.

A CCF provincial government will pay full municipal taxes on all provincial government property in any municipality where such taxes are levied.

19. ELECTIONS

A CCF government will ensure that the distribution of provincial seats shall be determined according to population. The deposit required for candidates in provincial elections will be abolished and the voting age will be lowered to 18 years. A CCF government will enact legislation declaring that election days shall be proclaimed as holidays without loss of pay. Provision will be made for an absentee ballot in provincial elections.

20. FAITH IN THE PEOPLE

This CCF program is based upon a keen faith in the people of Newfoundland. We believe it offers all our citizens the opportunity to contribute their best to Newfoundland's growth and well-being, and that it provides the means to sharing fairly among our citizens the rewards of our progress.