



Ready for a Better Tomorrow

Platform of the Liberal Party of
Newfoundland and Labrador

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 **LIBERAL**



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January 29, 1996

My fellow Newfoundlanders and Labradorians,

The new Liberal government has a plan for the future. This plan is set out in our Platform.

The Platform reflects the tremendous new opportunities for growth and development throughout our province. It reflects, as well, the challenges we must overcome.

A key element of our Platform is partnership. We are committed to an open, on-going process of dialogue and discussion in decision-making.

Government must promote new opportunities and provide vital public services. But, growth and development will come from the energy, commitment and talents of all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

The future is in our hands. Together, we are ready for a better tomorrow.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Brian Tobin".

Brian Tobin
Leader,
Liberal Party of Newfoundland and Labrador



PLATFORM OF THE LIBERAL PARTY OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

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Ready for a Better Tomorrow

Ready for a Better Tomorrow

 **LIBERAL**

The future of Newfoundland and Labrador is in our hands.

This is a time for partnerships involving government, industry, labour, social action groups and communities.

Together we will:

- Manage resources effectively to achieve maximum benefits for our people, especially in major new resource projects in mining and petroleum.
- Manage renewable resources wisely to achieve sustainable development, good incomes and commercially viable enterprises, in fisheries and aquaculture, forestry, agriculture and tourism.
- Invest effectively in the training of our people.
- Encourage and promote advanced technology industries, especially in marine-related applications and the information highway.
- Encourage and promote manufacturing and processing in non-resource based sectors.
- Encourage and promote small business enterprises.
- Focus our efforts on renewing the economies of areas with special needs, especially communities affected by the groundfish crisis.

- Give special attention to the particular needs and opportunities of Labradorians.
- Deliver the public services that our people need in the most cost efficient way possible.
- Renew our social policies to achieve greater fairness and opportunity for all our citizens.
- Maintain sound fiscal policies.
- Promote the unity and strength of our country and, thereby, promote the strength of our province and the future of our people.
- Do all of these things in a way that is open and involves the full participation of our citizens.

By doing this together, Newfoundlanders and Labradorians can be ready for a better tomorrow.

New Wealth from the Land and from the Sea

Full Benefits from Major Resource Projects

- Major new projects in mines and petroleum provide exciting new opportunities to boost the provincial economy at a critical time in our development.
- These are non-renewable resources, but they will last well into the 21st century, especially as new discoveries continue to be made.
- These projects can generate enormous growth and new jobs in our economy.
- These projects create tremendous opportunities for new and existing businesses to provide needed products and services.
- These projects can be used to develop new skills, particularly on the part of young Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.
- These projects can be the basis for the creation of major new integrated industries in petroleum and mining.
- These projects offer existing small and medium-sized businesses the chance to grow and develop into major national and international firms.
- These projects can provide increased public revenues support needed public services and to re-build renewable resource industries.

- These projects can be the means to achieve all of these things.
- **But, to do so, we must have the foresight to plan, the entrepreneurial drive to seize new business opportunities, and the commitment as a government to gain the full benefits from these projects for our people.**
- This is a time to be strong, resolute and clear as to our purposes. We must do so to be ready for a better tomorrow.
- **The new Liberal government will gain the full benefits for our people, in terms of direct employment, skills development, support services, processing of raw materials, and revenues for the province from major new petroleum and mining projects.**

A New Department of Mines and Energy

- Gaining full benefits from further development of our mineral and petroleum resources is critical to our future.
- To gain those full benefits, we need a Minister and a department that will direct all their efforts and energies to achieving this crucial goal.
- **The new Liberal government will establish a new Department of Mines and Energy to focus sharply on gaining full benefits from new developments in non-renewable resources.**

Mines

Voisey's Bay

- The Voisey's Bay mineral find, 35 kilometres South of Nain, is one of the richest nickel, copper and cobalt reserves in the world.
- Initially, reserves were estimated at 31.7 million tonnes, with a production life span of 15 years.
- Reserves are now estimated at about 100 million tonnes.
- Pending completion of an environmental review, construction of an expanded exploration camp, marine landing, airstrip and a 12-kilometre access road will be completed this year.
- Environmental approvals for the mine and ore concentration facility should be completed by early 1998. These approvals should be granted under a joint federal centre provincial process for environmental assessment.
- The Voisey's Bay mine and other projects in Labrador should yield benefits, to the greatest extent possible, for Labradorians, including aboriginal peoples.
- **The new Liberal government will take every step necessary by government to develop and gain full benefits from the Voisey's Bay mine, including the construction of a smelter and other ore processing facilities in our province.**

Current Mine Development Prospects

- There are a number of current mine and quarry development prospects; most could enter production in 1996 or 1997:
 - Nugget Pond deposit on the Baie Verte Peninsula (gold)
 - Hammerdown deposit near Springdale (gold)
 - Beaver Brook deposit southwest of Gander (antimony)
 - Re-opening of the St. Lawrence fluorspar mine
 - Island Pond peat deposit near the Gander Bay Highway
 - Long Harbour slate deposit
 - Keels slate deposit, Bonavista Bay
 - Roddickton marble deposit
 - Fischells Brook gypsum deposit
 - Processing of tailings from the Rambler Mine to extract gold.
- This is in addition to the 16 mines and quarries currently operating in the province, producing: iron ore, gold, copper, gypsum, magnetite, limestone, dolomite, dimension stone, sandstone, granite, peat, slate and pyrophyllite.
- **The new Liberal government will work in close co-operation with the mining industry to promote the opening of new mines and quarries in Newfoundland and Labrador.**

Significantly Increased Mineral Exploration

- Mineral exploration in our province has gone from about \$12.5 million in 1994 to \$55 million in 1995 and is estimated to exceed \$70 million this year.

- This is reflected in the number of mineral claims staked annually, which went from about 20,000 in 1994 to 250,000 in 1995. Exploration on the island is increasing; it has increased dramatically throughout Labrador.
- This points to increased mining activity in Newfoundland and Labrador in the future.
- **The new Liberal government will work in close co-operation with the mining industry to encourage exploration for new mineral resources in Newfoundland and Labrador.**

Petroleum

Hibernia

- In September 1990, a binding agreement for the development of the Hibernia oilfield was signed.
- Hibernia is located 315 kilometres east southeast of St. John's.
- Hibernia contains 600 - 800 million barrels of recoverable oil.
- Construction of the Gravity Based Structure began at Bull Arm in 1990. This structure will be towed to the Hibernia site in 1997, after which production will begin.
- A total of 83 development wells are planned. Over the 20 year life of the field, production will average 125,000 barrels a day.

- Pre-production costs alone for Hibernia will total \$5.8 billion. During production, expenditures in our province will total \$400 million a year. This is the most complex and expensive offshore oil project in the world today.
- The Hibernia project has laid the foundation for a new, integrated offshore petroleum services industry in our province and has helped make possible further projects, the first of which will be Terra Nova.
- **The new Liberal government will gain full benefits from the production phase of the Hibernia project in terms of employment, services and development of an integrated offshore petroleum industry, in accordance with the Hibernia agreement.**

Terra Nova

- In December 1995, Petro-Canada on behalf of its partners announced that they will develop the Terra Nova oil field.
- Terra Nova is located 35 kilometres southeast of Hibernia.
- Terra Nova contains 400 million barrels of recoverable oil. Recoverable reserves could substantially increase as development proceeds.
- Pre-production, capital and operating costs for the project will exceed \$5 billion during the 15-20 year life of the project. Production of oil is expected to begin by 2001. Further work on development of Terra Nova could begin next year.

- The skills gained by our people from the Hibernia development have given them the means to provide key services to Terra Nova and other offshore projects to follow.
- **The new Liberal government will complete negotiations this year with the Terra Nova consortium for early development of the project, with full benefits for the province, in terms of employment, skills development, services, royalties and other revenues.**

Trans-shipment of Oil

- **The new Liberal Government will ensure that any new trans-shipment facility for offshore oil is built in Newfoundland to serve Hibernia, Terra Nova and other offshore developments (such as Hebron, White Rose and Ben Nevis) that will follow.**

Renewed Offshore Exploration

- In September 1995, Amoco Petroleum bid \$90 million for a parcel of land located just to the northeast of Terra Nova. It is expected that Amoco will drill three exploratory wells.
- As well, Husky Oil and Murphy Oil have been awarded rights to explore on 13,800 hectares just North of the Hebron oil field.
- **The new Liberal government will work in close co-operation with the petroleum industry to promote further exploration of our offshore petroleum resources, with full participation by provincial firms and employees.**

Petroleum in Western Newfoundland

- Oil exploration on the West Coast continues to increase. Hunt Oil and Pan Canadian Petroleum have drilled two wells onshore and plan to drill an offshore well in the summer of 1996.
- Talisman Energy Resources is drilling a well at Cape St. George.
- Seismic programs have been conducted in the area of Port-au-Port, Stephenville and Parson's Pond, and will follow in other areas of the West Coast this year.
- A request for bids has been offered for onshore petroleum exploration in western Newfoundland. Thirty-one parcels of land have been offered, totalling almost 1 million hectares. The bidding process will be completed in March 1996.
- **The new Liberal government will work in close co-operation with the petroleum industry to promote exploration for petroleum resources on the West Coast of Newfoundland.**

Developing our Renewable Resource Industries

Ready for a Better Tomorrow

A New Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

- The fishery has been the backbone of our economy for centuries. It is a central part of our future.
- Aquaculture requires special attention, given its considerable potential to increase employment and production of seafood for export markets.
- **To reflect the importance of this industry to our economy and especially the hundreds of our fishing communities, a new Liberal government will create a department devoted solely to the fishery, the new Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture.**

The Fishery of the Future

Protecting and Re-Building Resources

- The groundfish crisis need never have occurred:
 - if the federal government had taken a pre-cautionary approach and managed groundfish as part of the marine ecosystem,
 - if the federal government had worked in close partnership with the fishing industry and the provincial government, and
 - if the federal government had protected resources from foreign overfishing.

- Over the past two years, the Liberal government in Ottawa has acted decisively to end these mistakes. Conservation has become the top priority. As well, the Liberal government provided \$1.9 billion under The Atlantic Groundfish Strategy to assist those affected by the groundfish crisis.
- Now, groundfish resources are being protected and the process of re-building has finally begun.
- We have started on the road to recovery. There are encouraging signs of cod in sentinel fisheries, for example on the South and Southwest coasts. In some areas, recovery may take longer, given the severe depletion of resources.
- We must carefully assess the state of groundfish stocks, using new scientific methods like acoustic research and especially using the experience of fishers gained from sentinel fisheries.
- We must also integrate information on ocean conditions, as well as the effects of predators (notably, seals) and prey species (for example, capelin).
- Above all, we must stay the course with the new conservation ethic established over the last two years, to ensure that resources re-build fully, are managed cautiously as they rebuild and are harvested on a sustainable basis for the long term.

- **The new Liberal government will work in close co-operation with the federal government and the fishing industry to ensure that groundfish and other resources are protected, re-built and sustainably harvested for the benefit of present and future generations of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.**
- Burgeoning seal herds can seriously retard the re-building of groundfish stocks.
- The measures adopted by the federal government to increase harvesting of seals are an important step toward bringing seals back into balance with other marine resources, especially cod and other groundfish.
- Every effort must be made to ensure that the largest harvest possible of the TAC of 250,000 seals for 1996 is taken and that our sealers receive the greatest return for their harvesting efforts.
- **The new Liberal government will support efforts to harvest the full TAC for seals by increasing its subsidy for seal meat from 10¢ a pound to 15¢ a pound. The additional 5¢ a pound will be paid directly to sealers.**

A Strong Harvesting Sector

- In future, resources must be harvested in a cautious and sustainable way.
- It must also be a source of better and more secure incomes for our fishers.

- Critical to this is the establishment of a balance between harvesting capacity and the capacity of the resource.
- The core of the new fishery must be full-time, professional fishers, who have made a serious commitment to the industry and, therefore, should have priority of access to resources.
- The buy-out of harvesting capacity (by the Harvesting Adjustment Board), early retirement for fishers and licensing policy reforms are steps taken in this direction by the federal government.
- The provincial government must take measures, as well, through legislation to put in place the professionalization of fishers.
- **The new Liberal government is committed to working with the federal government and the fishing industry to create an ecologically sustainable and economically viable fishery, with better and more secure incomes for harvesters and processors.**
- As the groundfish crisis deepened, the fishing industry moved to diversify and increase fishing effort toward non-traditional species.
- While this cannot make up for the very serious losses caused by the collapse of groundfish stocks, it has provided an important source of income for fishers in a position to harvest these resources.

- Last year, harvests of crab, scallops, shrimp, and surf clams resulted in record export values, a remarkable achievement for an industry that had been so highly reliant on cod, flounder and other groundfish.
- This diversification of species and development of new fishing areas must continue, to include resources such as toad crab, sea urchins, skate and monkfish.
- This more diverse, multi-species approach to the fishery will be an important part of a more prosperous and stable fishery of the future.
- **The new Liberal government will work closely with the federal government and the fishing industry to promote continued diversification of species and fishing areas, to yield the maximum benefits for our harvesters and processors from the resources off our coasts.**

Strong Processing Sector

- The processing sector of the fishing industry must become commercially-viable and capable of providing good incomes for its employees.
- This will require a longer season of operation by processing facilities serving all areas of the province.
- When groundfish resources re-build and this fishery begins again, less processing capacity will be needed than in the past.

- This must be addressed in an open and orderly way that is fair to all communities.
- Consolidation of processing capacity must be carried out in a way that recognizes adjacency and historical dependence of coastal areas on groundfish resources.
- **The new Liberal government will establish a joint government-industry-union task force to develop proposals for dealing with the need to bring processing capacity into line with resource capacity, to ensure that adequate processing capacity is available to harvesting enterprises along all areas of our coasts, to move toward longer operating seasons and the production of more value-added products.**
- There will be a full public consultation on the task force report.

New Partnerships in the Fishery

- New partnerships are needed involving governments, the harvesting sector and the processing sector.
- These new partnerships will bring practical decision-making closer to those who make their living from the fishery.
- An example of this is the combined effort of the federal government, the provincial government and the fishing industry to put in place professionalization of the fishery.
- **The new Liberal government will work closely with the federal government, harvesters and processors to create new, productive partnerships for the fishing industry.**

Aquaculture

- Aquaculture has become a major food source worldwide.
There is tremendous potential for expansion in our province.
- This is an important renewable resource industry that can create new jobs and growth in our fishing communities.
- Norway has set an example of what can be achieved. From 1985 to 1995, production of salmon increased from 20,000 tonnes to 280,000 tonnes. Most of this production is by commercial fishers and their families.
- Aquaculture is a new industry in our province employing only a few hundred people.
- In 1995, 1,280 tonnes of salmon, steelhead (trout), mussels, scallops and char were produced in our province, with a value of \$5.2 million.
- Other species undergoing development toward commercial production include: cod, flounder, halibut, wolffish and sea urchins.
- In November of last year, the Strategic Action Plan for the Development of the Newfoundland and Labrador Aquaculture Industry was released.
- This Plan builds on the Federal Aquaculture Development Strategy, released in February of last year.

- With vigorous development, the aquaculture industry can expand rapidly in our province.
- **The new Liberal government will provide financial and marketing assistance to new and existing aquaculture enterprises, and support coastal zone aquaculture planning, education in aquaculture technologies, research and development, and extension services to assist aquaculture operators.**

Forest Resources and Agrifoods

A New Department of Forest Resources and Agrifoods

- **The new Liberal government will create a Department of Forest Resources and Agrifoods to focus on these land-based, renewable resources.**
- These resources can provide secure, well-paying jobs long after the current major mineral and oil projects have run their course.
- Our future for generations to come must be based on careful management and full development of our renewable resources of the land and the sea.

Forest Resources

- The pulp and paper industry is thriving. Exports of newsprint totalled more than \$670 million last year. Sawmilling (which brought in \$30 million in 1995) has considerable potential to diversify. Fuelwood is an important local employer.

- Overall, forest industries account for 10,000 direct and indirect jobs.
- More than 80 communities have a moderate to heavy reliance on forestry for their income.
- Current wood demand is about 2.7 million cubic metres per year. Of this, the newsprint industry uses 75%, sawmilling 8% and fuelwood 15%.
- The major issue facing the forest industry is the availability and security of short-term (10-15 years) wood supply. Demand for wood on the island exceeds supply by about 20% or 500,000 cubic metres annually.
- A sustained wood shortage of this size could result in major problems for the industry. However, with proper resource management, opportunities exist to sustain and expand forest industries.
- The greatest opportunity for further expansion is in value-added manufacturing, using lumber and specialty wood products. Employment and value generated in this sector could increase very significantly over the short and medium terms.

Forest Renewal Program

- Ensuring an adequate supply of good quality wood over the next 10-15 years is critical to maintaining viable, healthy forest industries.
- **To deal with this problem, create immediate employment, as well as longer-term jobs, the new Liberal government will negotiate a multi-year Forest Renewal Program with the federal government.**
- This Program will consist of three elements:
 - planting and pre-commercial thinning, to increase wood supply;
 - introduction of new harvesting technology, to increase wood utilization; and
 - commercial thinning and reclamation of insect-damaged stands, to increase wood supply.
- **As a further response to this problem, the new Liberal government will enter a five year shared-cost silviculture agreement with Abitibi-Price and Corner Brook Pulp and Paper.**
- Within 20 years, the entire shortfall of 500,000 cubic metres should be made up, providing an adequate and secure supply of wood for existing and expanded forest industries.
- The benefits of these two initiatives will include an immediate creation of silviculture jobs. Furthermore, as a

result of the increased wood supply, the value-added sector will be better positioned for increased growth. Direct and indirect jobs will be created over the short and medium term as the industry expands. As well, existing jobs in forest industries will be made more secure by these two initiatives.

Canadian Centre for the Management of Sustainable
Forest Ecosystems

- **The new Liberal government will establish a forest research and education facility at Corner Brook. This facility will integrate the research capacity of the federal and provincial governments and the private sector. The Centre will complement existing facilities in Corner Brook at which Memorial University will offer programs in forestry and environmental science.**
- The Centre will ensure that Newfoundland and Labrador plays a vital role in maintaining Canada's world leadership in the development of techniques for sustainable forest management and efficient forest utilization.
- It will enhance our international competitive advantage by providing direct access to the latest theoretical and practical knowledge and expertise in forest resource management.
- The Centre will integrate research capacity of the Department of Forest Resources and Agrifoods with that of the Canadian Forest Service and the Western Newfoundland Model Forest.

- The Centre will combine education and research functions under two new initiatives planned for the Sir Wilfred Grenfell College: the relocation of the Memorial University Forestry program to the College; and the introduction of a degree program in Environmental Science.
- Research and technology development at the Centre will support integrated forest resource planning and monitoring to ensure effective forest ecosystem management.
- The Centre will contribute significantly to ensuring that the uses to which our forest resources are put, from newsprint to ecotourism, are both sustainable and achieve the maximum returns for our province.

Agrifoods

- Over the 1982 - 1994 period, the agrifoods industry experienced an 88 percent increase in farm gate receipts.
- A major challenge in the decade ahead is to increase overall production of value-added agrifood products for import substitution in local markets and for export markets. Considerable progress has been made in this area over the past decade, but further progress is possible.
- Government and industry must focus on development initiatives that promote efficiency and competitiveness in this sector of the economy.

- A further challenge for the agrifoods sector is to strengthen its marketing and product development capability. Continued development of alliances and partnership throughout the food production and marketing chain is critical to the industry's ongoing strong performance.
- Cooperative marketing is essential for the further expansion of root crop production given seasonality and external competition considerations.
- There are opportunities for increased production of small fruits, such as blueberries and partridgeberries.
- **The new Liberal government will work closely with the agrifoods sector to further develop production and marketing.**

Tourism & Cultural Industries

The Potential

- The magnificence of our wilderness areas, the rugged beauty of our seacoasts, the richness of our history, the unique character of our communities, the dynamism of our culture and the wealth of our wildlife, are all renewable resources for our tourism and cultural industries.
- Ecotourism has enormous potential, with whales, seabird colonies and forest wildlife, as well as the unspoiled magnificence of areas such as Northern Labrador.

- Adventure tourism has great potential, especially in our coastal areas, in the vast expanses of wilderness on the island and in Labrador, and in the unique contrasts of Gros Morne.
- Our province has a rich history, from its archeological record of ancient aboriginal peoples, to the first Viking settlement in North America, through the five centuries of development since Europeans first arrived on our shores.
- Our cultural industries provide a unique mixture of the traditional and modern, from ancient ballads, to feature films, to the works of internationally renowned painters.

Contribution to the Economy

- Tourism is an important contributor to the provincial economy. In 1995, more than 300,000 visitors came to our province and spent over \$150 million.
- As well, Newfoundlanders and Labradorians spent over \$300 million on tourism within the province.
- The potential for developing tourism, recreation and cultural industries is enormous. We have made a start in developing this potential.
- Some notable successes include the Marble Mountain resort, the Trinity Pageant (that has increased tourism on the Bonavista Peninsula by 900%) and the St. Mary's Bird Ecological Reserve (where visits increased by 60% last year).

Enhanced Marketing Efforts

- Emphasis needs to be placed on developing the important cruise, motorcoach and convention markets.
- As well, a special effort is needed to boost tourism in the rich American, German, French and Japanese markets, where the primary selling features are adventure tourism and cultural tourism.
- **The new Liberal government will enhance efforts toward attracting tourists from these markets.**

Reservation System

- Development of a tourism reservation system will contribute significantly to the promotion of our province as a tourist destination.
- Such a system would allow prospective tourists to book accommodations, events and transportation through a central 1-800 number. This system has been found to be effective in other jurisdictions.
- **The new Liberal government, in partnership with Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador, NewTel Enterprises and the federal government, will develop a central reservation system to increase tourism to our province.**

Resort Development: Marble Mountain

- Since the 1960's, the federal and provincial governments have spent \$27.5 million to develop Marble Mountain as the province's first four season recreational resort.
- Marble Mountain is the major travel generator for winter tourism in Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Marble Mountain can now attract private investors to complete development of the resort, (to include a golf course, hotel/convention facility and condominium development).
- **The new Liberal government will seek private sector participation to complete the Marble Mountain four-season resort development.**

Interpretation Facilities

- Throughout Newfoundland and Labrador many significant historic and natural sites are unknown to visitors.
- Interpretation centres can play a key role both in attracting tourists and in enriching their appreciation of these sites.
- Examples of such sites include:
 - Ryan Premises – Bonavista
 - Avalon Colony – Ferryland
 - Grenfell Mission – St. Anthony
 - Dorset Eskimo Site – Fleur de Lys

- Other sites of historic and natural interest are in our national parks. These will attract more visitors through the establishment or enhancement of interpretation centres.

Examples include:

- L'Anse Aux Meadows – Enhance Reception Area
- Terra Nova National Park – Marine Visitor Centre at Salton's Brook
- Cape Spear – Marine Interpretation Component
- Signal Hill Tattoo – Construction of facility to house Tattoo Military Animation Program

- **The new Liberal government will support the establishment of new interpretation centres and the enhancement of existing interpretation centres at various points of historic and natural interest throughout the province.**

- These will be in addition to the development of interpretation sites already announced at:

- Gros Morne National Park – Entrance Kiosk
- Port aux Choix – Visitor Reception Centre
- Red Bay – Visitor Reception Centre
- Brigus – Hawthorne Cottage
- Gander – North Atlantic Aviation Museum
- North West River – Labrador Interpretation Centre
- Cape St. Mary's Interpretation Centre
- Trepassey – Southern Avalon Archaeology
- Boyd's Cove – Beothuck Interpretation Centre
- Trinity – Site Development
- Bonavista – Site Development
- Point Armour – Lighthouse/Visitor Centre

- **The new Liberal government will finalize negotiations on the amendment to the Gros Morne Agreement with the federal government which will allow for the construction of the Discovery Centre at Gros Morne National Park.**

Cultural Festivals and Historic Pageants

- Cultural festivals are an attraction for tourists, as well as an important opportunity for members of the performing arts to showcase their talent.
- The success of the Trinity Pageant, in drawing 6,000 – 10,000 people in the last two years, demonstrates the attraction to tourists of “living interpretation”.
- **The new Liberal government will support the development of self-sustaining events that showcase provincial artists and historic pageants.**

Outfitting

Big Game

- In the past five years, big game outfitters have made major investments to build new camps and upgrade existing camps. As a result, the facilities in our province are among the best in North America. Sales have increased more than 100%.
- Big game outfitting contributes \$20 million annually to our economy, employing 800 people on a seasonal basis.

- **The new Liberal government will implement a five year plan to allocate big game to individual outfitters. This will allow them to do more effective financial planning and marketing.**

Sport Fishing

- More than 70 outfitters offer sportsfishing packages in our province. Sport fishing contributes more than \$4 million annually to our economy.
- Depleted salmon stocks are being re-built through a moratorium on commercial salmon fishing and enhancement projects under the federal-provincial Salmon Enhancement/Conservation Agreement.
- Significantly increased salmon runs are forecast for Island rivers in 1997 and 1998. This will provide new opportunities for expansion in sport fishing outfitting.
- **The new Liberal Government will undertake initiatives, as outlined in the Strategy for Development of Recreational Fisheries in Newfoundland and Labrador, to rebuild resources and further develop the sport fishery. This will provide better sports fishing for resident and non-resident anglers.**

Major Events

Cabot (1997) Anniversary Project

- The Department of Tourism and Culture will carry forward preparations for the Cabot 500 celebrations.
- A total of \$5 million has been committed for this purpose, plus a target of \$500,000 from various sponsorships.
- Major international events relating to the Cabot 500 celebrations include:
 - Festival 500
 - Visit of The Matthew
 - Northern Lights Celebration
 - Newfoundland Irish Festival
 - Summit of the Sea
 - Flotilla of Yachts
- In addition, the Year of the Arts will celebrate our history and culture through a series of artistic events.
- **The new Liberal government will support the Cabot 500 celebrations as a major event to boost tourism in the province and highlight this historic anniversary.**

Canada Winter Games 1999

- Corner Brook will host the 1999 Canada Winter Games.
- The City is now developing a civic centre to serve as a venue for the 99 Games.
- Other venues in preparation for the 99 Games include: the Marble Mountain ski resort, a new gymnasium and the expansion of cross country ski trails.
- **The new Liberal government will continue to work with the committee for the Canada Winter Games in 1999, to highlight the athletic achievements of our citizens, to promote winter recreational facilities and to attract visitors to the Games.**

Building the New Economy

Ready for a Better Tomorrow

Building the New
Economy

 **LIBERAL**

Advanced Technologies

World Leaders in Marine Research and Development

- The research and development facilities at Memorial University and the Marine Institute have been a launch pad for many advanced technology companies. These facilities include: Seabright Corporation, C-Core (the Centre for Cold Oceans Research), the Centre for Earth Resources Research, the Oceans Sciences Centre (research in fish farming and biotechnology), the flume tank at the Marine Institute (for design and testing of fishing gear), the Institute for Marine Dynamics (applied research in ice dynamics), the Canadian Centre for Fisheries Innovation, the Canadian Centre for Marine Communications and the Marine Simulation Centre at the Marine Institute.
- The world class capacity of these marine research and development facilities was recently recognized by the opening of a joint facility by C-CORE in Beijing, China.
- **The new Liberal government, through a research infrastructure investment fund, will ensure that these facilities continue to foster the establishment, growth and diversification of advanced technology business in our province.**
- **New funding will be provided to continue the operation of the Canadian Centre for Marine Communications.**

Partnerships for Research and Development

- Increasingly, research and development facilities are seeking new sources of funding through partnerships with the private sector.
- This is mutually beneficial; industry gains from the contribution made by researchers and researchers gain further experience in the practical application of their work.
- These partnerships need to be pursued not only nationally, but internationally, as well.
- **The new Liberal government will support efforts to form partnerships to attract national and international research and development projects to our province.**
- Support for research and development through the tax system is important to keep our province's companies on the leading edge of technology.
- **The new Liberal government will institute the 15% tax credit recently announced for basic research, applied research and development in our province.**

A Vibrant and Growing Sector

- There are approximately 130 advanced technology companies in the province, employing about 3400 people, many in the St. John's area.

- In addition, there are about 50 smaller firms involved with innovative technologies, employing 300 people and another 250 professional service firms (employing a further 3000 people) that rely heavily on work generated by the 100 advanced technology companies.
- In all, information technology firms generate annual revenues of about \$470 million, a major contribution to the provincial economy.
- Offshore oil exploration and the Hibernia project have generated the demand and provided key experience for start up and development of many of our advanced technology companies.
- As offshore oil exploration and development continues, as onshore and nearshore petroleum exploration proceeds on the West Coast and as mineral exploration and development accelerates, these will generate increasing demand for services that our advanced technology companies will be ready to provide.
- More and more advanced technology companies are selling their goods and services worldwide. These include, among others:
 - **NewEast Wireless Technologies** which specializes in global mobile communications, is marketing its hardware and software in the US, Europe and Asia.
 - **Provincial Airlines** has developed the most advanced aerial surveillance program in the world to combat foreign overfishing ... and is now marketing its know-how from the Philippines to Peru.

- **Guigné International** of St. Thomas is a global leader in acoustic research.
 - **RDS Engineering** used computer-assisted drafting systems to make design blueprints for the Hibernia Project.
 - **Compusult** develops software for government, business, and scientific uses, including the Ice Centre in Ottawa.
 - **New Tech Instruments** produces high technology instrument systems for the Canadian Forces' armoured personnel carriers.
 - **Nautical Data International** provides digital hydrographic products to geographic information users around the world.
 - **Instrumar** has developed clean wing de-icing technology.
- Our advanced technology businesses now form a critical mass for the promotion of our province as a centre of high technology industry.

International Promotion

- Across-the-board efforts by government are needed to parallel the efforts that helped build companies like Northern Telecom (in Ontario) and SNC Lavalin (in Quebec) into major global suppliers of advanced technology products and services.
- This is especially important to keep our brightest and best young engineers and technicians in our province.
- These highly skilled and motivated people will go wherever there are opportunities to use their talents. We must give them opportunities to do so in Newfoundland and Labrador.

- It is time for government to take a major initiative, in partnership with industry and our educational institutions, to promote our province as a global centre for advanced technologies.
- “Going international” means not only having the capability to provide products and services that others need around the world.
- It means knowing those opportunities exist. It means acting quickly to capture those opportunities before others do.
- This requires a public-private partnership involving business leaders in our province and in key commercial centres around the world to identify new trends, and resulting opportunities.
- It also requires the participation of the Premier, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology and other Ministers, to act quickly with provincial businesses to capture these new opportunities.
- **The new Liberal government will create an International Investment and Marketing Council, consisting of key business leaders here and abroad as well as Ministers, to identify and act quickly to capture new opportunities worldwide for provincial businesses.**

New Technologies and Entrepreneurship

- New technology firms must be able to draw on the full resources of Memorial University to assist in start up and expansion.
- Establishing sound management practices is an important step for these businesses, as is the assessment of risk attached to various ventures.
- Our advanced technology businesses often identify promising new product opportunities in emerging markets, but sometimes do not have the financial means to develop the products for the market.
- For technology-based businesses, partnering with businesses, research institutions and venture capital sources in other markets can often open up new commercial opportunities.
- **The new Liberal government will undertake initiatives to meet the foregoing needs for new and existing technology-based businesses.**

The Information Highway

- Under the new Liberal government, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology will also become the Minister Responsible for the Information Highway.
- The Minister will be supported by a small secretariat and an Advisory Board drawn from private industry and Memorial University.

- This initiative will have three main goals:
 - To foster public-private partnerships to extend the use of information technologies by businesses in the province;
 - To increase efficiency in the delivery of government services through the use of information technologies; and
 - To provide advice to industry and government on emerging opportunities in information technologies.

- Our province is especially well-placed to build industry and deliver services on the information highway using fibre optic networks.

Fibre Optic Networks

- Fibre optic networks allow especially high-speed data transmission. Instead of sending information via electrical signals along ordinary telephone cables, information is transmitted in tiny pulses of light.

- Fibre optic networks can transmit greater volumes of information more quickly than can ordinary telephone cables.

- A second fibre optic route across the island will be completed this spring. Both routes will be connected to national fibre optic networks by submarine cable across the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

- Our province will then enjoy the second highest penetration of this fibre optics technology in all of Canada. As this second route travels along much of the coast of Newfoundland, many smaller communities will benefit from “on ramps” to the information highway.
- Last year work began on a fibre optic “feeder route” traversing the Great Northern Peninsula, which will become part of an extensive fibre optic network connecting rural communities.
- With this critical infrastructure, our province is “closer” to users of the information highway globally than almost any other part of Canada or the United States.
- Over the next several years, we must extend the fibre optic network throughout our province and capitalize on the advantage this gives us on the information highway.

Operation Online

- **The new Liberal government will vigorously pursue new opportunities relating to the information highway under the strategy being finalized by the Operation Online (government-private sector) Task Force.**
- The Operation Online Task Force is setting out a five-year strategy to pursue new opportunities relating to the information highway including:
 - shaping government policies;
 - attracting industry;

- promoting excellence, especially in niche content provided by small businesses;
 - developing choices in content from provincial sources; and
 - acting as a catalyst for strategic alliances involving private sector firms, government and Memorial University.
- The government and NewTel Information Solutions have formed a public-private partnership (jointly funded by the provincial government and NewTel) to pursue new opportunities relating to telecommunications and information technology. Twenty such opportunities have been identified.
- **The new Liberal government will work with the private sector to develop and promote business opportunities in telecommunications and information technology.**

Tele-medicine/Distance Education

- Government must set an example in the integration of information technologies in its operations, especially in delivery of services to the public.
- Newfoundland and Labrador has made an important start in this:
- Memorial University's Tele-medicine and Educational Technology Resource Agency (TETRA) is a world leader in research and development. Its distance education programming is used by over 1,000 students in our high

schools. TETRA also operates the Tele-Medicine Network which is one of the most extensive in the world, extending specialized services to all parts of the province.

- The Stem-Net distance education network includes three quarters of the province's schools. Stem-Net fully assists teachers to provide high quality instruction, especially in the important areas of mathematics and the sciences.
 - The Open Learning and Information Network broadens the choice of curriculum for students in smaller centres.
-
- Memorial University continues to play a key role in all these initiatives.
 - **The new Liberal government will work closely with Memorial University, educators and health care providers to promote the use of the distance education and tele-medicine networks in our province.**
 - We must develop a new export industry for our province, based on our expertise and experience in these innovative means of providing services to the public.
 - **The new Liberal government will support the export of our world class expertise in distance education and tele-medicine.**
 - Distance education is a valuable tool to deliver high quality instruction in a wide variety of subjects to all parts of our province.

- **The new Liberal government will support initiatives to enhance and extend the reach of distance education by creating a Chair of Distance Education at Memorial University; and establishing a Distance Education Centre of Excellence to provide leadership and direction.**

- **Specific initiatives will include:**
 - **developing, producing and delivering college programs in apprenticeship, adult basic education and technology;**
 - **developing, producing and delivering university courses;**
 - **providing satellite links to provincial colleges campuses;**
 - **delivering science and mathematics courses to rural areas;**
 - **delivering services through provincial libraries and community learning centres;**
 - **upgrading college campuses to full multimedia capacity.**

Ready for a Better Tomorrow

 **LIBERAL**

Revitalizing our Rural Communities

Ready for a Better Tomorrow

A New Department of Rural Renewal and Economic Development

- Major new resource projects will focus development in key centres in the province. Advanced technology enterprises are largely clustered in the St. John's area.
- However, economic growth and job creation must also be fostered throughout the remainder of the province, especially in rural areas.
- **To foster development throughout the province, the new Liberal government will establish a Department of Rural Renewal and Economic Development, focusing on the 19 economic zones, as outlined in the report of the Task Force on Community Economic Development in Newfoundland and Labrador.**
- This new department will take over some of the functions now carried out by the Economic Recovery Commission. Other functions of the Commission will be carried out by the Department of Industry, Trade and Technology. The Economic Recovery Commission will, therefore, cease to exist.
- The new Department of Rural Renewal and Economic Development will be responsible for the 19 Economic Zones throughout the province.

A New Cabinet Committee on Revitalization of Rural Communities

- The difficulties that our rural communities face, particularly fishing communities, require special attention.
- **To ensure this occurs, the Premier will appoint a Committee of Cabinet on the Revitalization of Rural Communities.**
- This committee will focus on new development opportunities for rural areas, to complement development in existing resource industries.

Manufacturing and Processing

- Manufacturing and processing (outside of the fishery, forestry, mining and agrifood sectors) is carried out by 350 businesses, employing 6000 people and generating \$550 million in annual sales.
- Many of these are smaller enterprises located in rural areas. Some examples include:
 - **Superior Glove Works**, Point Leamington, employs 74 people and produces work gloves, mainly for the auto industry.
 - **Terra Nova Shoes**, Harbour Grace, employs 120 people.
 - **TUC**, a subsidiary of the Labrador Inuit Development Corporation, operates a labradorite quarry at Nain that employs 30 people.
 - **Piccadilly Plastics**, on the Port-au-Port Peninsula, employs 31 people producing plastic creamer cups.

- **Newfoundland Slate**, at Burgoyne's Cove near Clarenville, employs 77 people.
 - **Glamox Canada**, at Trepassey, produces marine lighting equipment and employs 25 people.
- This sector has the potential to grow into an increasingly important part of our economy, especially in rural Newfoundland and Labrador.
- **In the new Liberal government, the Premier and other members of Cabinet will take a leading role in attracting new investment and promoting the expansion of manufacturing and processing enterprises, especially in rural areas.**

EDGE

- The Economic Diversification and Growth Enterprises (EDGE) program has 28 companies participating, with potential new investment of \$100 million.
- **The new Liberal government will continue the innovative EDGE program.**

Small Business

- Small business is diversifying our economy in Newfoundland and Labrador by expanding into new areas such as advanced technology, aquaculture, tourism, manufacturing and processing, and various forms of specialized services.
- In Newfoundland and Labrador, 65% of all businesses are in the smallest category (1-4 employees); this is higher than the

national average. This sector has created more than 80% of new jobs in the province since the 1980s.

- Despite the difficulties facing our economy, there has been significant growth in small business in many sectors including: educational services, health and social services, mining, business services, accommodation and food services (tourism generated), manufacturing, finance and insurance.
- **The new Liberal government will foster the entrepreneurial spirit through enhanced access to small business training and counselling services, particularly in rural areas.**
- Many small businesses face their greatest challenges in the first few years after they start up. The advice of experienced business persons can often assist in overcoming these difficulties.
- **The new Liberal government will support the development of mentoring by experienced business persons to advise those operating new businesses.**
- More and more small businesses are penetrating out-of-province markets to expand production and sales.
- Many businesses in Newfoundland and Labrador can increase commercial opportunities in markets outside the province by establishing cooperative networks with businesses operating in other markets.
- **The new Liberal government will support efforts by small and medium-sized businesses to establish cooperative networks with businesses in other markets.**

Aboriginal Peoples

- The aboriginal peoples of our province are an extremely important part of our heritage, our culture and, more importantly, our future.
- Economic and social issues relating to aboriginal peoples require priority attention.
- The land claims process must be made more effective to provide for the earliest possible agreements. Settlement of land claims is critical to the effective advancement, socially and economically of aboriginal peoples and our province as a whole.
- **The new Liberal government will give priority to negotiation of aboriginal land claims.**

Ready for a Better Tomorrow

Integration of Economic and Social Policy

to national
economic and social
policy

Strategic Economic Plan

- The Strategic Economic Plan is a valuable blueprint for developing the economic potential of our province.
- The Strategic Economic Plan was developed through an extensive process of public consultation.
- That process began with the publication of a Consultation Paper, followed by an extensive series of community meetings held throughout our province.
- These meetings were conducted by an independent Advisory Committee made up of knowledgeable persons drawn from all parts of our province.
- This Advisory Committee then prepared a report setting out in detail the views expressed during the public consultations.
- This was a highly successful process. It resulted in a Strategic Economic Plan that incorporated many new ideas generated from the public consultations.
- Equally important, the process resulted in a Strategic Economic Plan that enjoys strong public support.
- In addition to the Strategic Economic Plan, there needs to be a Strategic Social Plan, to create an integrated framework for the economic and social development of the province.

- **The new Liberal government will continue the implementation of the province's Strategic Economic Plan and will integrate this with a Strategic Social Plan.**

Strategic Social Plan

- Our province faces significant social problems, but the public funds available to assist in dealing with these problems is limited.
- To meet this challenge, we must plan our social policies and programs carefully and deliver services in the most efficient way.
- This requires a partnership involving those who provide public services, the voluntary sector, social action groups, women's groups, environmentalists, persons with disabilities, aboriginal groups, business, labour and government.
- A Strategic Social Plan is needed to meet the basic human needs of our citizens and to advance the economic development of our province.
- **The new Liberal government will develop a Strategic Social Plan following the process used to develop the Strategic Economic Plan.**
- The issues to be dealt with in the Strategic Social Plan are of fundamental importance to our province. They include:
 - Income Security
 - Social Services
 - Employment and Labour Relations
 - Education

- Health
 - Environment
 - Justice
 - Women's Issues
 - Persons with Disabilities
 - Communities
 - Voluntary Sector
-
- These are complex issues that require a comprehensive approach. Considerable work has been done to outline a framework for consideration of these issues.
 - **The new Liberal government will prepare and release a Consultation Paper for a Strategic Social Plan within 60 days of the election.**
 - **An independent Social Policy Advisory Committee will then be formed made up of persons drawn from social action groups, the voluntary sector, educators, health care providers, environmentalists, women's groups, persons with disabilities, aboriginal peoples, business, labour and the academic community.**
 - This independent Advisory Committee will carry out a province-wide series of community meetings and report to government later this year. The Committee will continue to advise the government during the implementation of the Strategic Social Plan.
 - **The new Liberal government will draw on this report to complete the development of a Strategic Social Plan by early 1997.**

- Together, the Strategic Economic Plan and the Strategic Social Plan will constitute an overall policy framework for the economic and social development and well being of our province into the 21st century.

Educational Reform

- Our educational system is a vital public service, key to the future of our province. The quality of education is of great importance to all of us.
- Since Confederation we have made tremendous progress in education.
- Newfoundlanders and Labradorians have built an educational system in which we can all have pride.
- One recent example is the first place finish by students from Memorial University's Faculty of Business Administration in an international competition on business problem solving involving 27 universities.
- In the past eight years, the Memorial University team has placed first in four years and second or third in the other four years.
- We have accomplished much, but there is much yet to accomplish.
- Our educational system faces major challenges, among them a declining number of students, the need to adapt the curriculum to a changing economy and the very difficult fiscal situation of the provincial government.

- Last year, a referendum was held on the important question of denominational schools. **The people have spoken. Educational reform will proceed.**
- What we now face is the complex task to implement reform in a manner that is effective and fair. It is more important that we do things the right way than that we do them in a quick way.
- In January, the Minister of Education, released for consultation proposed changes to the Schools Act and proposed School Viability Regulations.
- These proposals describe one way in which educational reform could be implemented. There are other ways in which reforms can be made.
- **The new Liberal government is committed to dialogue and discussion on all elements of implementing educational reform before decisions are made.**
- We need a new partnership involving educators, school boards, the churches, parents, students, other interested members of the public and the provincial government.
- Those involved in the educational system should bring forward their ideas as to how best to implement reforms.
- In doing so, there are several things we must all bear in mind.
 - Our ability as a province to pay will, in part, determine the scope and pace of educational reform.
 - Reform will mean some consolidation of schools in the next few years.

- As this occurs, there will be special cases, such as isolated communities, where schools must continue to operate.
- Any plan for consolidation of schools must meet the test of public scrutiny and common sense.
- **There will be no new school viability rules for September 1996. There will be extensive public consultation before any new school viability rules are adopted.**
- While many decisions require further discussion (for example, the length of the school day and the school year), there are several others that can be made now.
- The first is the time that pupils spend on a bus to get to school. **There will be no change in the current times for busing students.**
- Another is centralization versus decentralization of decision-making. **De-centralized decision-making will yield decisions that are more sensitive to local circumstances. That is important and must be maintained.**
- **School superintendents will continue to be appointed by school boards, in consultation with the Minister of Education.**
- **To lessen administrative overhead, the number of school boards will be reduced from 27 to 10 in 1996.**

- The goal of reform is clear: to achieve the highest quality of education in our province.
- The means to achieve that goal should flow from dialogue and partnership.

Health

- Government has no greater responsibility than to provide quality health care to our citizens.
- New methods of treatment, an aging population, a new emphasis on prevention and the difficult fiscal situation of the provincial government all point toward changes in how health care is provided. These changes include greater emphasis on services at the community level, disease prevention and health promotion.
- Change and reform do not threaten the health system.
A far greater threat would be not to pursue change and reform.
A reformed health system will emphasize the quality of care and best use of resources.
- In some cases, such as St. John's, the quality of care will be enhanced by the consolidation of facilities.
- The Janeway Child Health Centre is an example. **The Janeway will be relocated to a dedicated area adjacent to the Health Sciences Complex. It will include the Children's Rehabilitation Centre. The Janeway will maintain its identity as a child health centre.**

- Relocating the Janeway will increase the quality of health care for our children. It will result in many advantages, for example, more ready access to specialists and advanced medical equipment.
- A further benefit will be the housing in a single facility of health care services for children and new born babies. Mothers will be close to their newborns requiring medical care.
- With the restructuring of health care services in the St. John's region, the Janeway will continue to be the major force for meeting the specialized health care needs of the children of our province.
- We should not focus on maintaining health care infrastructure. Rather, we should focus on the quality and accessibility of health care, particularly in rural areas. We will continue to assist in providing physician services in rural areas.
- **To govern is to choose. Health care is a priority. There will be no across-the-board expenditure reductions to health care.**
- We need a new partnership involving health care providers, hospital boards and interested members of the public, to fully discuss alternative approaches to providing quality health care to our people.
- It is more important to arrive at the right decisions, than to arrive at quick decisions. A process of dialogue and partnership is vital to arriving at the right decisions.

- The new Liberal government is committed to dialogue and partnership to provide quality health care for our people.

Ready for a Better Tomorrow

 **LIBERAL**

Meeting the Needs of Our People

Ready for a Better Tomorrow

The Fiscal Situation

- 1996 and 1997 will be difficult years for our province's economy. They will be difficult years for the provincial government's finances.
- The outlook for the years that follow is for a much improved economic and fiscal situation.
- Strong economic growth is expected in 1998, 1999, 2000 and thereafter.
- However, the provincial government's overall revenues will grow more slowly than the economy, in part because equalization payments go down as receipts from taxes and royalties go up.
- **The new Liberal government will maintain a sound fiscal position in 1996 and 1997 and will continue to move toward a balanced budget during its term of office.**

The Budgetary Process

- Traditionally, the making of budgets is shrouded in secrecy.
- The time has come to take a more open approach to these decisions.

- Budgets involve critical choices that affect all of our people. They have a right to participate in an open process leading to budgetary decisions.
- This has been done by the federal government and some other provinces, notably Saskatchewan.
- The time has come to open up the budgetary process, to give our citizens the opportunity to participate more fully in these important decisions.
- **Starting with the 1996 Budget, the new Liberal government will:**
 - **release a pre-budget document setting out fully the state of the provincial government's finances;**
 - **hold public meetings across the province to receive the views of the business community, the labour movement, social actions groups, communities and others interested in contributing to the budgetary process.**
- This process will be completed within 60 days of an election.

Public Service Workers Make a Valuable Contribution to the Quality of Life in our Province

- Our public service makes a valuable contribution to the quality of life in our province.
- This province needs the commitment, the energy and the dedication of those who provide services to the public.

- Those who serve the public have borne the burden of restraint and have continued to perform their duties in a diligent and professional way.
- The time has come for a new partnership with those who serve the public, to draw on their talents and their ideas to maintain and improve service delivery.
- **In making reforms to public services, notably in education and health, the new Liberal government will fully involve those who provide these vital public services in a process of dialogue and partnership.**

Partnerships in Service Delivery

- One way we must work toward greater efficiency in the delivery of public services is through partnerships with the federal government, the private sector and volunteer groups.
- **As a first step, the new Liberal government will negotiate arrangements with the federal government to combine its network of regional business centres with those being established by the federal government. This will result in a “one-window” operation for both federal and provincial programs offered to businesses in the province.**
- Environmental assessment is critical to ensure the environment is protected in a way that allows full public participation.
- However, un-necessary expense and delay can arise where the federal and provincial governments carry out separate environmental assessments for the same project.

- **The new Liberal government will seek arrangements, wherever possible, with the federal government whereby environmental assessments in the province are carried out under a single, joint, federal-provincial process.**
- Responsiveness to practical problems is a key element of good government. That means decision-making by those who have direct knowledge of problems.
- **The new Liberal government will decentralize decision-making in policy and program administration.**

A Strong Canada for a Strong Newfoundland and Labrador

- According to the UN, Canada ranks number one in the world as a place to live.
- The UN also ranks Canada as number one in the world for human development. Our combined success in health, education and life-span is the best in the world.
- While Canada is 31st in terms of population, it has the seventh largest industrialized economy in the world.
- According to the World Bank, Canada is the second wealthiest country in the world.
- We are not perfect, but Canada has done more as a nation for our people than any other country in history.
- Ours is a country worth defending. The separatists want to throw that away. Liberals want to defend it and make it better.
- Our vision for Canada is one of unity, progress and growth ... growth economically and growth in fairness and opportunity.
- That is the kind of country that Newfoundlanders and Labradorians want. That is the kind of Canada that will make our province a better place in which to live.
- We cannot build up our province by weakening our country. We strengthen our province and better our future by maintaining a strong and united Canada.

- To a greater degree than any other province, the future of Newfoundland and Labrador is linked to the unity and strength of Canada.
- In other, wealthier provinces, those concerned with the unity of our country contemplate the possible fracture of Canada as the loss of a dream of great nationhood.
- In our province, what that dream has meant in reality is within living memory. It was less than 50 years ago that we joined Canada and realized the many benefits of being a part of this great country.
- The solution to national unity is not simply to devolve more and more federal powers to provincial governments, as some have suggested.
- Liberals want national standards in health care. We do not want a health care system managed by private insurance companies
- Liberals want national standards in pensions and income security programs. We do not want to lose these national programs.
- Liberals want equalization of opportunity among provinces. We do not want "every man for himself" federalism.
- There is a need for dialogue and discussion to achieve the greatest possible efficiency in Canadian federalism. We have no money to waste on duplication and overlap.

- The new Liberal government will take an open, pragmatic approach to reforming federalism, to maintain a Canada and a strong national government that helps meet the needs of all Canadians.

