

Prairie Manifesto Project

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Province: Alberta Saskatchewan Manitoba

Party: PC Election Year: 1967

AA = Alberta Alliance
CON = Conservative Party
LP = Liberal-Progressive Party
PC = Progressive Conservative Party
SKP = Saskatchewan Party
UFM = United Farmers of Manitoba

CCF = Cooperative Commonwealth Federation
LIB = Liberal Party
NDP = New Democratic Party
SC = Social Credit
UFA = United Farmers of Alberta
WCC = Western Canadian Concept

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AB = Alberta
SK = Saskatchewan
MB = Manitoba

UofA = University of Alberta
UofC = University of Calgary
UofR = University of Regina
UofS = University of Saskatchewan
UofM = University of Manitoba
BU = Brandon University

PARC = Provincial Archives
LEG = Legislative Library
SPC = Special Collections
ULIB = University Library

GUIDEPOSTS OF THE
PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE
PARTY OF ALBERTA

First introduced by Peter Lougheed in a speech to the Alberta Progressive Conservative Annual Meeting January 29, 1966 and subsequently ratified and approved at the next Annual Meeting on November 25, 1967.



Peter Lougheed – Leader

"OUR PURPOSE IS NOT MERELY A VICTORY AT THE
POLL. WE ARE CONCERNED WITH THE USE WE ARE
GOING TO MAKE OF THE VICTORY."

First of all it is important to have "guideposts" as terms of reference within which policy platforms can be developed. These guideposts should not themselves form a platform or legislative program. They represent a statement of the position of the Progressive Conservative Party in the provincial politics of Alberta. They also clearly illustrate the distinction between the progressive conservatism proposed by our party and the policies which guide the present administration in Alberta. There are important differences which must be understood.

The following are the twelve guideposts which have been approved for the Alberta Progressive Conservative Party:

1. We believe that public laws should be made in public. This principle must be protected against the comfortable drift to government by cabinet or through Order in Council. It must be applied to open the doors of federal, provincial, or any other conferences whose private decisions today profoundly affect our future. The public has a right to know.

2. **We believe in local government** in this province wherever practical; in a return of the decision-making process by local councils, school boards and other municipal authorities. We believe that the most democratic form of government is that which is closest to the people. We believe that the proper role of provincial government is guidance, advice, and assistance to local government - not direction, control and restriction of their affairs. This entails adequate financial resources being made available at the municipal level. This view involves acceptance of the diversity of both the interests and the society of this province and the value of local knowledge in reaching decisions. We do not believe that alleged central efficiency should always be allowed to override the special judgement of one's elected-neighbours.

3. We believe in a provincial government which gives **strong support** to the need in Canada for an **effective central government**, a government that recognizes the inherent dangers of eroding the federal government's powers. We believe in a provincial government which appreciates the changing Canadian scene and considers the field of federal-provincial relationships as warranting the prime attention of the most able of the province's cabinet ministers. We believe in an Alberta government which recognizes the important role of leadership which can be performed by this wealthy and strategically located province in federal-provincial relations in the next decade. We believe in an Alberta government which considers themselves Canadian before Albertan, and hence promotes the cause of national unity and economic sovereignty as well as the determination of national purpose.

4. We do not believe that the role of provincial government is passive. We believe that the role of provincial government in the decade ahead will be even more demanding, as it will call for leadership and initiative in a rapidly changing society. But, as Conservatives, we feel strongly that the role of government should be such as to **protect the individual citizen as much as improving the public good.** We believe that every single item of proposed new legislation should be thoroughly examined by the members of the Legislature to determine its impact on individual Albertans. The rights and liberty of the individual citizen, such as the right of privacy or freedom to pursue one's own destiny, should never be trampled by legislation in the guise of public benefit.

5. We believe that a provincial government should always have a long range plan for its future development. We believe that new legislation should be enacted within the framework of such a plan. We do not believe that provincial legislation should be enacted on a piece-meal basis in accordance with the most strident voices of the moment. We believe that it is a proper function of provincial government to anticipate problems and prepare for shortages. We do not believe that provincial government's role is merely to wait until it hears from an aroused electorate and then react.

6. We believe that adequate warning should be given of proposed new legislation to those affected and that a full opportunity should be granted, particularly to those adversely affected, to air their objections in a public forum. We believe that the performance of provincial government should be judged to an extent by the degree of voluntary participation by the citizens of the province in its political and public affairs. We do not believe in administration within a vacuum and would require the constant public comparison of our programs and legislation against those of the other nine Canadian provinces.

7. We believe that provincial government should establish a set of legislative priorities in relation to its financial resources and publish these priorities for scrutiny by the community at large. We believe that provincial government, even in Alberta, must recognize that demands for public expenditures will exceed anticipated revenue and that priorities are thus essential. We believe, in any establishment of priorities, that expenditures on all aspects of education (not just on the bricks and mortar of education) must be given the highest priority to equip younger Albertans to compete in the decade ahead.

8. We believe that one of the greatest challenges of provincial government is to administer welfare in relation to need without detracting from human dignity. As Conservatives, we feel that there is no question that the provincial government is responsible for generously helping those unable to help themselves. We also reject those who suggest that easy solutions exist in this area of public administration. We feel, however, that the emphasis should be changed to concentrating on programs which reduce the portion of our society dependent on welfare, particularly in the areas of employment of those forced into automatic retirement, or possessing outmoded skills due to automation and other technological development. We believe that adequate support and co-operation should be given by provincial government to the many voluntary and charitable associations working so hard in this province for the less fortunate. They should not be discouraged or frustrated either by red tape or lack of support. We believe that proposed welfare programs should weigh carefully the dangers of compulsion and the unnecessary cost arising from compulsion. But we do not believe that adherence to dogma or lack of planning is any excuse for failure of provincial government to provide adequate care and help those unable to fend for themselves in our changing society.

9. We believe that provincial government should always accept the necessity for sound financial responsibility of its affairs and the affairs of the municipal authorities financially dependent upon it. This should obviously include a refusal to support radical and irresponsible monetary

theories. But we do not believe that the necessity for financial responsibility should be an excuse for ultra-cautious fiscal policies. We believe in the concept of putting one's money and resources to work for improvement and development. We consider unnecessary hoarding of surplus funds as a lack of progress. We further believe that provincial government has a constant responsibility to communicate to the public a clear picture of its total financial position, including all its operations as well as the combined obligations of the municipal authorities dependent upon it. Such communication should include a comparison with the other provinces.

10. We consider that provincial government should constantly struggle with the task of full development of our natural resources by private economic means, but in such a way as to also provide adequate returns to our own citizens for the fortunate location of these resources within our boundaries. We consider the pursuit of maximum use of our natural resources from one end of the province to the other as a proper role of provincial government. This requires a full appreciation of the increasing importance of science in our daily life. Agriculture is the basic industry of this province and hence this involves substantial research programs for new agricultural methods, products and their uses.

11. We believe that a provincial government should not just preach free enterprise but should also promote this system by creating an atmosphere consistently favourable to it. This requires an acceptance that the free enterprise system may have defects but that it is by far the best economic system for the people of this province. It requires the avoidance of unnecessary government interference with our citizens. It requires the role of the provincial government to be one of helping, through guiding and informing, rather than controlling and restricting. Emphasis on research support should be the most prominent of the proper roles of provincial government. It requires a recognition that responsible labour organizations can be a valuable asset to this province. It requires an acceptance of the dangers of the trend in international business to larger and larger integrated business organizations, but a wariness in invoking restrictions rather than encouragement and incentives for those affected. In short, it requires an acceptance of the "carrot rather than the stick" approach to government involvement. It requires a recognition of the economic potentialities of the smaller centres of the province. It requires the acceptance of the need for imaginative new programs being constantly developed to encourage new job opportunities. It thus requires an obligation for constant investigation of every new measure introduced by provincial or state administration in North America. It requires the acceptance of the position that the economy is stronger by maximizing the number of our citizens controlling their own economic destiny.

12. Finally, we sincerely believe that God's endowment of this province with such abundant natural resources complimented by the skills and talents of our own people permits us realistically to set as our objective a society that is not inferior to that in any province or state in North America. This includes the encouragement of the cultural, social and athletic aspects of our society, without resorting to paternalism. We do not believe that we should ever be self-satisfied or complacent unless we are rapidly progressing toward attainment of such an objective for Alberta in the 1970's.