

Canadian Action Party Policies

Introduction to Policies

All of CAP's policies are common sense and solution oriented. They are fundamental and basic to the very nature of a sovereign, free and democratic Nation. A nation must have control over its monetary system in order to implement any social programs. We must have truly responsible, transparent, accountable representation in our elected officials. All trade deals must be in the best interest of Canadians and our environment as the foundation of the deal. The Canadian Action Party is committed to ensuring that we stop the erosion of Canada as an independent nation capable of governing itself. Our policies focus on these (4) main points, which all other policies connect to and are dependant upon. Without these solid points addressed, Canada becomes a shell of a country, a colony under corporate rule. *(This is the short version please refer to the pdf for the in depth version)*

1-Sovereignty- the ability to make laws and decisions for Canadians by Canadians

2-Monetary Control- the ability to use our Bank of Canada as it was intended

3-Civil Rights – as guaranteed under our Charter of Rights

4-Parliamentary Reform-the changes needed to bring our country to a state of complete interactive democracy, for the people, by the people

1) National Interest – Public Purse

Canada's over \$500 billion national debt is unnecessary and a direct result of mismanagement by government.

Less than 5% of Canada's federal debt is due to program spending while the other 95% resulted from compound interest (owed to private banks and investors)

▪ **The Canadian Action Party would :**

- ensure that 50% of new money supply would be Government Created Money on which no interest is paid
- amend the Bank Act requiring banks and other deposit taking institutions to maintain cash reserves with the Bank of Canada.

2)Freedom of Speech & Responsible Interactive Democracy

Canadian Nationalism – We agree with most Canadians that now is not the time for another constitutional wrangle. In fact we believe the threat of globalization and the loss of sovereignty it entails is a greater threat to both Quebec and Canada than our internal differences.

Canadian Nationalism

Most Canadians believe that this is not the moment for another constitutional wrangle. They think there are more important priorities and we agree. In fact, we think the threat of globalization and the loss of sovereignty it entails is a greater threat to both Québec and Canada than our internal differences.

Within Canada the greatest single contribution to unity would be a country that works. Young people everywhere want opportunity, challenge and excitement in their lives. This will come when Canada turns it back on mediocrity and pursues excellence on many fronts once again.

Recent polls indicate that English and French-speaking Canadians may be a lot closer in their views than is commonly thought. We believe that a wording can be found which will recognize Quebec's distinctiveness while reassuring other Canadians that this does not deny equality.

Most important, the Canadian people would be widely consulted before any decisions were reached and the final recommendations would be submitted to electors for a decision by means of a binding referendum.

A United and Independent Canada- Whether it is Quebec's dissatisfaction or the alienation feelings of the West, Canada has experienced internal

turmoil for over a quarter of a century. We must recognize that our internal differences pale in comparison to the threat from external sources. Canadian Action Party has repeatedly pointed out that Canada cannot survive as an independent country if we continue to be the victims of the "national treatment" clause in the FTA and NAFTA , and new agreements like NAISP(North America Initiative for Security and Prosperity).

A United and Independent Canada

For more than a quarter of a century Canadian unity has appeared to be an elusive goal. The threat of Québec separating from the rest of Canada has never been far beneath the surface. The immediate threat has waxed and waned but never disappeared. Some parts of western Canada have threatened separation as an expression of acute frustration. Much political energy has been diverted from constructive pursuits to damage control and rearguard actions. Western alienation reflected exasperation with a central Canadian establishment that appeared neither to understand nor be concerned about western problems. The sources of Québec's dissatisfaction were more varied and complex. There is the old perennial of Ottawa's intrusion in areas of provincial jurisdiction. While this centralization of power was essential in wartime it has never been totally given up in peacetime which has annoyed Québec and some of the other provinces. So the division of power remains an irritant.

In Québec's case the demand for independence gained impetus from an outside source. That source was a petulant general Charles de Gaulle who wanted to get even with western leaders for the slights, both perceived and real, he received during World War II. Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt excluded him from many top level discussions and this was deeply resented. Causing trouble in Québec was an outlet for his peeve, so he sent "moles" from France and Morocco to propagate separation and socialism in Québec schools and universities and some media outlets, with notable success.

The Pearson government provided the French government with more tangible reason for interference when it refused to sell it uranium for its atomic weapons on the same open conditions that applied to the U.S. and Britain. Treating France as a second-class "mother country" did not sit well in Paris and provided incentive for continued "subversion". Patriation of the Canadian constitution became another potent weapon in the hands of the separatists. It was not a significant issue, at first, despite René Levesque's sense of betrayal. It was Brian Mulroney's treatment of the issue which made it explosive.

Mulroney's real appraisal was probably his immediate one when he crossed the floor of the Commons to shake Pierre Trudeau's hand and congratulate him on a remarkable

achievement. The tone changed when Mulroney went all out in an attempt to convert Québec from a Liberal fiefdom to a Conservative stronghold.

He told the people of Québec that they had been betrayed by the rest of Canada. Québec had been excluded - it was the Canadian knife in Québec's back. The charge was repeated over and over again until Québécois accepted the distortion as truth. Mulroney made no mention of the fact that Québec members of parliament, like members of parliament from the rest of Canada, had voted enthusiastically for one of Canada's major achievements - bringing the constitution home after 50 years of failed attempts. Mulroney's political expediency did Canada a great disservice. Finally Canada's unwillingness to recognize Québec's distinct nature became a source of aggravation. Of course Québec is not the only part of Canada which is distinct. Newfoundlanders claim as much and so does Nunavut.

But Québec is not a province like the others. It never has been. It operates under the Napoleonic code rather than the British common law. But its biggest difference is that the majority of its inhabitants are French-speaking and it has its own distinctive majority culture.

So the recognition of this distinctiveness was primarily symbolic, like admitting to your wife that she is both equal and different. The rest of Canada refused because it feared that "equal but different" meant superior, in some mysterious way which, of course, it did not.

But all of this relates to an era which is past. It carried some legitimacy in the days before the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, the North American Free Trade Agreement, the World Trade Organization and globalization, the substitution of corporate and plutocratic rule for democracy. These events have become the new and potent threat to Québec's survival.

As the Canadian Action Party has repeatedly pointed out, Canada cannot survive as an independent country if we continue to be the victims of the "national treatment" clause in the FTA and NAFTA. We are losing control of our industries and resources at a rate that indicates we are probably only about two years (or less) away from the point of no return after which annexation by the U.S. will become inevitable.

If Canada dies, so will Québec. And the French language and culture in North America will soon disappear. So if the goal of Québec sovereigntists is to preserve the French language and culture in North America, they will have to change strategy completely. Their survival depends on a strong independent Canada.

The Canadian Action Party reminds Québécois that it was French-speaking Canadians and Aboriginals who made the difference in keeping Canada from being annexed by the U.S. both in 1776 and again in 1812-14. Had they decided differently then there would be no Canada today, and consequently no Québec.

Now they have the same choice again. They can opt for an independent Canada, including a strong and influential Québec, which would achieve their goal. Any other choice will lead to assimilation and disappearance of us all in the great American

polyglot. This would not be an appropriate end to several hundred years of proud and fascinating history.

The people of Québec are intelligent people who will quickly discern where their true interests lie. But they can't survive on their own. All Canadians will have to cooperate in order to regain our sovereignty as the foundation for an independent Canada comprising a strong central government and strong provinces willing to put petty politics aside and work cooperatively in the interests of all citizens of this unique, richly blessed and beautiful land.

My dream is that this beautiful country will never die
Pierre Elliot Trudeau, October 1984

Arts, Culture and CBC – Canadian Action Party believes that culture is the soul of a nation and for that reason it would increase funding to the National Arts Council and the CBC

Although not all Canadians see the significance of our CBC it provides much of the sinew of continuity that makes us Canadian. The Canadian Action Party believes that a vibrant CBC is a symbol of a vibrant Canada. We would like it to be a vehicle for our national voice reflecting all regions and views of Canada.

Law, Order and Justice – Canadian Action Party recognizes that fear is the most critical factor threatening freedom in any country. Whether it be fear of freedom to speak, voice opinions that differ from government or the freedom to walk at night on our streets.

We believe laws are created to facilitate ease of movement in a civilized society. They are not meant to control society as in a police state.

There are several laws which are being passed or have already been passed in the name of security which CAP believes are threats to our civil liberties and democracy.

It has to be acknowledged that fear is one of the predominant emotions of our times. Women, especially, are afraid to walk alone at night - sometimes, even in the daytime. So a principal aim of CAP's policy is to reduce that fear to the maximum extent possible in today's society.

There are two characteristics predominant amongst people who commit crimes. First, the vast majority have been abused at some stage of their lives. Second, the majority are unemployed at the time the crime is committed. This is one more powerful reason that the Canadian Action Party is committed to a policy of full employment (about 4% unemployed). Achieving that, in itself, would reduce the crime rate significantly.

Of those who do commit crimes there are two distinct categories. The first includes hardened criminals and repeat offenders. For those, we would provide stiff penalties and eliminate automatic parole. The second comprises first-time offenders and persons guilty of minor crimes. For these we would ease their path back into civil life and encourage them to stay clean. Rehabilitation is by far the most cost-effective way of treating criminal behaviour.

We would give judges wider discretion about trying young offenders in adult court. We know of young people who have committed serious crimes because they knew they would not be subject to the full impact of the law. Another reform would be to fund enough additional judges so that cases could be tried more expeditiously. It is totally unacceptable to see cases, including serious crimes, being dismissed because too much time had elapsed.

Canadian Action Party believes that prevention should be, the policy of choice for a just society. We know that poverty contributes to crime rates. We know that children who live in poverty are less likely to excel in school, and to be left unsupervised. We know that opening up extra-curricular activities to all our children will keep them healthy, active in positive ways and less likely to begin a path of criminal behaviour out of boredom. A full athletic program within a publicly funded school system would assist with that goal. Criminals are not born they are created! All people in our society need to be given the tools to become contributing members of society and we believe it is government's role to create policy that encourages that atmosphere.

On the subject of abortion, we respect the Supreme Court decision of 1998 which ruled in favour of a woman's right to choose. And we fully endorse the Charter of Rights declaration of equality of gender, race, religion, and sexual orientation. We also fully respect our members right to moral conscience. Therefore all elected Canadian Action Party MP's would be free to vote according to their conscience on moral issues.

Responsible Gun Ownership is a Privilege - Gun Control Legislation has been a 'Boondoggle'!

Like most Canadians we are deeply concerned about the irresponsible use of guns and applaud measures to keep them out of the hands of criminals, people with criminal records and the mentally challenged. Further effort is required to restrict the import of guns into Canada illegally.

We also note that since the inception of the latest 'boondoggle' called the new gun registry, it appears that violence with the use of guns has risen. Prior to it being brought into effect Canadian Action Party had this to say, "*We have searched widely but have found no evidence, however, that the registration of rifles and shotguns, as set out in Bill C-68, will save lives. The available evidence merely indicates that the exercise will be very, very expensive and a considerable nuisance to some Canadians, especially those from rural areas, westerners, northerners, and Aboriginal people.*

Consequently we would repeal Bill C-68 so that it would no longer be necessary to have a permit to own rifles and shotguns and there would be no necessity to register them. We are convinced that there are other ways to spend the same amount of money that would save more lives while eliminating a lot of aggravation for thousands of honest Canadian citizens. Firearm Acquisition Certificates would, of course, still be required to prevent angry or unstable persons from buying firearms."

Now that we have seen it implemented, we once again are forced to observe that our money has been mismanaged. As we suspected registration of long-guns or rifles would do little to decrease crime or prevent loss of life. We need responsible government capable of making solid policy on the issues that matter. We cannot afford government that overspends, underestimates costs of projects and doesn't do the necessary homework before creating policy.

An elected Senate –Canadian Action Party sees the need to reform the Senate.

We see it as a very important vehicle for second thought before legislation is passed. We have reviewed various ideas on senate reform and believe that the 'Jury Senate' is by far the best proposal for real democracy to function.

An Elected Senate in Detail

From the 1930s to the end of the 20th century, senate reform has periodically appeared in the platform of some political parties. The only reform that took place, however, was that when the Liberals were in power they appointed Liberal senators and when the Tories

were in power they appointed Tory senators. The handful of Independents were rare exceptions.

More recently the Reform Party (Alliance) has been pushing the Triple E Senate - elected, equal and effective. But this American idea wouldn't fly in Canada. We don't have 50 states. We have ten provinces and three territories of vastly different size and population. There is no way that British Columbia, Ontario and Québec would settle for the same number of seats as Prince Edward Island. Other ideas have included giving the power to appoint senators to provincial governments. But this was perceived as potentially fractious and self-serving on the part of the provinces. The search remained for an elected senate which would not have the wide-ranging power of the U.S. Senate but would still act as a genuine check on a House of Commons dominated and dictated to by the government party whip at the whim of an all-powerful prime minister.

The "Jury" Senate

Originally the brain child of Frank Stronach, the concept of a jury senate is novel and meets the test of providing both fundamental reform and a workable system. It would provide both the "sober second thought" that has been the present Senate's principal rationale for continued existence, in the face of pressure to abolish it altogether, and a real populist counter-balance to the near absolute power of Canada's prime ministers - greater, proportionally, than the president of the United States.

The original plan for the "jury" senate called for one senator to be elected for each two electoral districts for a total of 150. The Canadian Action Party has opted instead for one senator for each three electoral districts (approximate) for a total of 101. There are two reasons for the change. The first reason is practical housekeeping. The present Senate Chamber will accommodate 101 whereas it is too small for 150. Even more compelling is the fact that under the following proposal 101 is ample to balance the power of the Commons while 150 might be too over-powering and dominant.

With a 101 total the initial distribution would be something like this. Newfoundland 2, Prince Edward Island 1, Nova Scotia 4, New Brunswick 4, Québec 25, Ontario 34, Manitoba 5, Saskatchewan 5, Alberta 9, British Columbia 11 and the three Northern Territories 1. In order to keep provincial representation in round numbers some senate constituencies would be slightly more or slightly less than the Commons constituencies. This would not interfere in any way with the smooth operation of the system.

The House of Commons would be elected as it is now on a partisan basis. The "jury" senate, on the other hand would be non-partisan and vote as individuals. Candidates for the "jury" senate would be chosen by the Chief Electoral Officer by computer random selection from the permanent list of electors. Twenty or twenty-five names would be drawn and they would be asked to indicate whether or not they would like to stand for election.

Those that replied in the affirmative would be asked to submit a two-page summary of their background experience and reasons why they would like to serve in public office, together with a photograph. The Chief Electoral Officer would have the information

transcribed in standard form and mail it to each qualified elector in the senatorial district at public expense.

This would eliminate the need for campaigning in the traditional way, putting up signs and buying advertising, which would be prohibited, so that there would be a level playing field between candidates and they would be beholden to no one except the taxpayers at large. Once elected, the senate would vote with the Commons on all measures. This means that government legislation would have to meet the non-partisan test of the senators. It is doubtful that measures such as the GST or the restricted compensation for victims of Hepatitis C would have withstood such a test. "Jury" senators would only be allowed to serve for one term unless, by miraculous coincidence, their name was drawn a second time by random sample. This way they would be completely free to vote as their conscience and common sense dictated. The only general exception to the one term rule would be in the event parliament was dissolved before it had served 2½ years of its statutory 5 year limit in which case the entire senate would be considered re-elected and only any vacancies existing at the time would be filled by ballot.

The Canadian Action Party is convinced that of all the proposals it has seen so far for senate reform, or an elected senate that the "Jury Senate" is by far the best. It is fair, fundamental and populist. Ordinary voters would have their voices clearly heard without the distortions that often occur when they are screened through political parties. The "Jury Senate" would be a giant step in the direction of a more genuine democracy.

Making Democracy Work – Canadian Action Party fully supports the need to introduce more open participatory democracy. There are several proposals open for discussion. We believe that there are occasions when Canadians ought to be called on to assist in choosing the right plan for Canada. Referendum is one of those options. We are open to discussion on this subject.

Parliamentary Reform – Canadians have expressed a great dissatisfaction with the way parliament works today. Canadians are insulted by the way MP's behave in Question Period, they don't like to see the party whip used to make MP's follow party line; we understand and agree. We would change the rules for question period-in part, limiting the number of days ministers spend in Question period.

Parliamentary Reform

Many Canadians we have talked to are very dissatisfied with the way parliament works. They don't like the way MPs behave during question period, for example, and they don't like to see the whip cracked to make MPs support the party position rather than what their constituents want. We understand and agree.

We would make all votes in the Commons, except those clearly defined as votes of non-confidence, "free votes" where MPs could vote according to their conscience and the wishes of their constituents.

We would change the rules for Question Period. The principle of Question Period is good. Ministers should be accountable for their actions. But to have them all there five days a week - like a row of sitting ducks in a shooting gallery - is an incalculable waste of time. Instead, we would adopt some variation of the British system under which ministers are questioned in rotation. Advance notice of the questions would be given, but supplementary questions on the same subject would be allowed. Two days a week the Prime Minister would answer questions of either a general or urgent nature. Not only would a change along these lines bring improved decorum to the House, it would multiply the hours ministers have available to learn their departments and make the decisions that might otherwise be left in abeyance.

We would give Members of Parliament a real function in the legislative process. We would actually have MPs in all party committees draft legislation for submission to Parliament. This would be a sharp departure from the present practice where nearly all legislation is written by public servants, approved by cabinet and rammed through parliament with the help of the government whip. The advantage of giving MPs a greater role is that most legislation would then be non-partisan, the product of the best minds from all the parties. It would allow MPs to more clearly express their constituents' wishes, and it would make MPs "somebodies" instead of nobodies.

As the "first past of the post" method of electing members of parliament does not result in a House which truly reflects the views of the electorate, the Canadian Action Party is committed to the principle of proportional representation which would result in a Commons more in tune with the real wishes of voters.

One of our reform policies has already been addressed. Specifically that is with regard to drastically reducing the amount of money corporations could contribute to a party, so their money wouldn't play such a dominant role in election campaigns. We would require television and radio stations to provide limited amounts of free advertising to all parties as a public service.

One further concern is the lack of any popular control of government between elections. The party whips are so pervasive that voters wishes are often ignored. Consequently we are committed to citizens initiatives and referendum based on the Swiss model. We are convinced that if such a system had been placed it is likely that we would have been spared the Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA and the Goods and Services Tax.

3)Pro-Active Trade Deals

Canadians have been duped! We were led to believe that the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) were “free trade” agreements. They were not! They are a Charter of Rights for Corporations.

Canadian Action Party fully supports fair and responsible trade.

FTA, NAFTA, CAFTA do not represent fair trade.

- The National Treatment Clause – the most under-discussed ‘clause’ means that foreign investors have the unrestricted right to invest in Canada: (a) without conditions and, (b) without limits. We have lost the right to say that only foreign investment that is beneficial to Canada is welcome.
- NAFTA must be abrogated (it must be canceled!)
 - NAFTA is worse than FTA because of ‘Chapter 11’ which allows U.S. and Mexican investors the right to sue us if any of our governments, federal, provincial or municipal, passes or amends a law that affects their profits or future profits.
- North American Security and Prosperity Initiative must be canceled
- Smart Regulations must be canceled

4)Environmental-Cleaning Up Our Toxic Country

All policies must be respectful of our environment. We must always strive to create an atmosphere where people can live in a healthy manner. We must encourage responsible decisions and penalize decisions which are detrimental to the environment. Our food, water, air and soil are the basis to sustain all life forms. We cannot afford to sacrifice one for the sake of greed or pursuit of profit.

We support the family farm, organic foods, sustainable, responsible agriculture, fisheries and forests.

We support the Kyoto Protocol and water as a human right

Agriculture

Preamble -- Canadian agriculture as a major industry got its start as a result of European wars, revolutions and by being under the umbrella of the British empire. Traditionally the Ukraine was considered the breadbasket of Europe. As a result of the Russian Bolshevik revolution Canada was able to claim the title "Bread basket of the world". Via the British connection we: cleared land, settled land, built railways and supplied about 80% of grains to Europe. The point is it was a volume production model and unfortunately still is. In the 21st Century a profit based model for rural communities is critical if the nation's farm resource is to survive. The world situation is vastly different and the problems faced by farmers are many faceted.

We now have competition from the former customers in Europe, and from most of South America as well as New Zealand, Australia and the US.

Nation-states have given way to global corporations with more trading power and ability to manipulate the market than the nation-states ever had. The 'produce volume at any cost' mind set is an unparalleled opportunity for the transnationals to pit farmer against farmer, and powerless nations against each other in downward price spirals. Canada can't compete very effectively in this scenario because of higher land costs, higher standard of living, short growing season, and being a subsidiary, in terms of market decision making, to the American dominated corporate sector.

Agriculture at the present depends on high input costs in relation to intolerably thin profit margins. In fact, we experienced negative margins in 2003. The supply management sectors which are geared to domestic consumption are the only profitable sectors aside from a few niche specialty operations.

Global Climate change is beginning to show some worrisome effects.

Current agriculture policy appears blissfully unaware of any of these problems, and offers no real solution. The market place has not, and will not, respond to the needs of rural Canadian communities. The market place responds to profit taking by the transnational traders. The crisis in Canadian agriculture is left unattended. The market rule of compete or fail places the total burden on farmers who have no resource to deal with them. We are losing, and will continue to lose independent farmers under a hand of “the market economy”.

The Canadian Action Party Policy

The Canadian Action Party is the only political force that embraces a comprehensive foundation needed to transform agriculture into a new, dynamic and profitable vocation for farmers, rural communities, and by extension, all of Canada.

The Canadian Action Party’s two most urgent priorities are:

The abrogation of NAFTA

Restoring money creation to the Bank of Canada

These priorities will help to preserve agriculture and farmers in the following ways:

Abrogation of NAFTA – It is absolutely necessary to reclaim sovereignty, and with it the ability to formulate our own policies, which have the sole objective of long term economic and environmental sustainability. We will create profit based policies to put realistic dollars into farmers’ pockets. We must be free of corporate agriculture which is volume based and controlled by a few international corporations. NAFTA is the tool they have created to successfully intrench rules that guarantee their power and profit. We as an independent nation are capable of finding markets, developing markets, and diversifying products and markets that will benefit and revitalize rural communities. In a shrinking world, the value is in the resources. We must not lose control of our farmland and the skilled people who live there. Encroaching foreign corporate ownership must be stopped. NAFTA as an investment agreement using farmers as pawns in the hands of global traders is not in rural Canada’s best interests.

A sovereign Canada with a re-empowered Bank of Canada is critical for the transformation of agriculture. Suffice it to say, a home grown agriculture policy will require large amounts of Canadian capital. State created money makes it possible to:

Do major research into finding new products that will grow on farms here for a predominant Canadian market. Many of these may be non-food products such as paper, fuels and building materials. In a world that depends on stripping natural resources, it is time to develop products that can have a renewable base. It is important to develop products for domestic consumption and lessen our dependence on foreign volatile markets. Pricing for domestic consumption can reflect true costs and reasonable profit margins.

We will trade globally but our survival should not be dependant on the whims of the global market place. We will strive for as much independence as possible .It is to our long term benefit that shrinking natural resources in the world will create a demand for our surplus products and commodities

By implementing agriculture policy's that put money into farmers hands we will revitalize entire rural communities. This includes better margins between cost and returns. It means not accepting transnational price-fixing on either inputs, nor commodity returns.

Climate change is real and it's a national crisis. It will require state money to change practices if we are to attempt to divert this crisis. A sovereign Canada in control of the economic levers working in cooperation with farmers is the only way to avert problems of climate change. Possible solutions may range from reestablishing wet lands on farms and the reestablishment of water replenishment areas such as wood lots. Changes and diversifying cropping practices designed to work with the nature cycles will be employed. The ability of farmers with a history of innovation skills is critical in the battle to avert the serious effects of climate change. The money to achieve this is available at no cost. It is the same funding formula that financed the 2nd World War, the Trans-Canada highway, and the St. Lawrence Seaway. It is time to act in rural Canada's interests. It can only be done by laying the foundation as advocated by the Canadian Action Party.

Agriculture that is Sustainable

The Canadian Action Party supports the following positions as set out by the National Farmers Union:

"A few decades of international trade liberation have increased the volumes of agricultural trade significantly. It has worked very well for the transnational processors, traders and retailers. Well paying stable markets within the region or within the country have been replaced by volatile unstable markets abroad. Trade in agricultural commodities is dictated by volumes that traders can extract for the lowest possible price from farmers in countries where they have the market power and the infrastructure to do so.

Farmers in Canada that are producing for the international commodities market are increasingly battered by low commodity prices and increased input costs. Without government subsidies, which are all geared to reward volume of production, not one farmer would survive the consequences of this trade agenda. The IMF, WORLD BANK, WTO, NAFTA and most agricultural policies of provincial governments and the federal government have one thing in common: they work very well for transnational processors, traders, and large retailers. They do not work for the natural environment, for farmers, nor for consuming taxpaying citizens at large.

The Canadian Wheat Board and the Supply Management arrangements in the dairy and poultry sectors are the only tools left for Canadian farmers to exert some market power.

Canadian sovereignty is crucial to defend these institutions at trade negotiations. They are under permanent attack by trade institutions.

Another phenomena with the international commodification of agricultural production is that there is a delinking of the prices that consumers pay and farmers receive. There seems to be enough power in processing, trading and retailing that they can extract the commodities for less and sell the consumer items for more" ... Jan Slomp

- The objectives and needs of the family farmer are set out by Richard McKelvie as follows:
- The issue at its core is not money for long term loans.
- The goal is to get reasonable prices for the commodities. No loans would then be needed. The goal is to promote small farms because they are and can be much more efficient than large corporate agriculture. (Diverse production involving vegetables etc will produce 1000 times more food than industrial monoculture.) The integrated transnational factory model is not ecologically sustainable. We need small farms producing for the domestic market.
- We need research to find alternate crops for the land resource, i.e., building material, fuel, etc. Foreign international corporations conduct research to assist them to find the best way to extract the highest profits for them. Under NAFTA we have no power to compel research to help the small farmer or the sustainability of the land. NAFTA must be abrogated.
- Climate change and "serf" prices for commodities are the deadly combination that family farmers face.
- Industrialization in forestry and factory farming are the primary cause of agricultural poverty and failure, and they play a major role in climate change. On the Canadian prairies, climate change means the desertification of the great plains. (The creation of desert wasteland.)
- Dependence on oil to operate agriculture is not sustainable. Estimates are that Canada will run out of our oil and gas reserves in about 10 to 15 years. Under NAFTA, Canada cannot cut off or reduce the supply to the U.S.A of that energy from Canada even if we need what is left for our own survival. It takes 8 units of oil to produce one unit of food. When we run out of oil, we run out of food.

Environmental Concerns

One area where global cooperation is essential is in protecting our planet and preserving it for the enjoyment of future generations. People almost everywhere, but especially in the industrialized countries, have taken far too many liberties with nature. We have, in reality, been soiling our own nest without realizing the consequences.

We have been polluting the air we breathe, the water we drink, the oceans we use as intercontinental highways and the earth from which we get our food. It is a process we must reverse. Bad habits are difficult to change, but we must if we are to be good stewards of our heritage for our children and grandchildren.

Similarly we must reduce the use of fossil fuels to slow the rate of global warming. Fortunately there are alternate sources of energy. At the Climates of Change Congress held in Victoria in March, 2000, there were reports of spectacular developments on many fronts. Power from wind, wave, and cold fusion of hydrogen, for example. One of the most promising areas is the use of fuel cells which are only a few years away from commercial use in automobiles. Of course there are problems - getting public acceptance, production on a scale to be competitive, and the development of the infrastructure necessary for the production of ultra-clean hydrogen or methanol.

The Canadian Action Party acknowledges the extremely high priority which environmental concerns demand and would provide financial assistance in research, development and application of all progressive measures necessary to meet the objectives of the Kyoto accord.

Another high priority would be recycling garbage to eliminate the need to dump it in landfill sites. Toronto's decision to truck its garbage to Michigan, highlights the extreme urgency of better solutions. The Canadian Action Party would help fund all Canadian cities willing to accept new technology to the end that dumping in landfill sites would soon be only a distant memory.

Food, Fish and Forests

It is no secret that the Canadian farming industry is in crisis. Instead of small is beautiful, which it really is, it has become small is bankrupt or soon to be driven out of business. This is largely the product of globalization and the so-called "free trade" agreements that have opened our country to predatory practices. A few large transnational corporations want to monopolize the world food supply from seed to feed to production and finally processing in order to make both producers and consumers totally dependent.

Canadian officials, over-zealously pushing the ideology of a world without borders, reduced subsidies on Canadian wheat unilaterally ahead of the U.S. and the European Union. This has resulted in more than 25,000 Manitoba and Saskatchewan farmers going bankrupt in 2001 ~V a portent of worse to come.

Our supply management system for dairy and poultry products is also under attack. The Liberal government tells us that the system is not open to negotiation. But they are not telling us the truth. As long as we are subject to the FTA, NAFTA and the World Trade Organization our supply management system is doomed. There is no way to protect it as long as these treaties are in effect.

That is just one of the reasons CAP would abrogate (cancel) the FTA and NAFTA and take agriculture off the negotiating table under the WTO. Immediate and urgent action is required and if CAP is given the balance of power we will insist on regaining control over our destiny and negotiating "fair trade" agreements that are mutually beneficial. Meanwhile the situation is so desperate, comparable to the 1930s for western farmers, we would demand extraordinary measures.

First: A moratorium on the foreclosure of mortgages on farm properties to stabilize the situation until remedial action can be taken.

Second: Farm mortgages would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and debt written down to the point where the farm could be reasonably expected to operate at a profit.

Third: Grain subsidies would be restored until the U.S. and the European Union abandon theirs - which could be quite a long time if one can believe spokesmen for the European Union.

The purpose of these extraordinary measures will be to restore a way of life which is loved by many and to prevent Canada from becoming dependent on foreign sources for our food supply. Every country should retain some independence - especially when it comes to the staff of life.

The fishing industry, too, requires careful review. Ottawa officials refused to listen to the pleas of fishermen in the Atlantic provinces and the result has been chaos in the industry. CAP would either listen to the people who know the business, or turn jurisdiction over to them if that proved to be the only solution. Again the needs of the inshore fishermen would be given preference over the interests of transnational corporations.

Canada needs a hard and fast policy to protect its forests. Clear-cutting should be abolished through a national policy, and the provinces urged and rewarded for observing it. The object should be a sustainable harvest of forest products in perpetuity.

Another area of concern is our boreal forests. They are slow-growing trees and are being harvested at an unacceptable rate. We complain about the Brazilians devastating their rain forests to the detriment of world conservation measures. They have equal right to fault us for not protecting the boreal forests which are also essential to the preservation of the ozone layer and the survival of our planet.

5) Protecting the Nation and Peace in the World

Canadian Action Party is fully committed to a Canadian National Defence Program, for Canada, commanded by Canadians in the service of Canadian interests, both domestic and international.

Years of under-funding and reductions in manpower have taken their toll on morale in the Armed Forces. CAP is committed to -increase number of personnel in the Armed Forces, fully fund, fully equip and fully support our troops, in their mandate to defend Canada's interest both at home and around the world.

Canadian Action Party Would:

- perform a parliamentary review of future roles and capability of Canada's

military.

use a common sense monetary policy that would make it possible for us to afford funding for defence without sacrificing social programs.

Ensure adequate funding for the sole purpose of peacekeeping, protecting our sovereign coastal and arctic borders and disaster relief

- Stop investing Canadian Pension Plan funds in companies that manufacture 33 of the weapons used in the War against Iraq

- End government contracts to military companies involved in missile defence, land mines and weapons containing depleted uranium

- Remove Canadian war planners from the Bi-national Planning Group and NORTHCOM

- End the culture of war mentality that is driving the greed and lust for power, control and dominance of people all over the world. CAP seeks to promote policies, which support peace and freedom for all.

6)Health – Healthy Babies Healthy Society

Today, our health care system is a national emergency. Canadian Action Party knows how to fix it without turning the system over to private for profit interests. The Bank of Canada could be used to finance its health and survival. This could be achieved by creating and *spending money into circulation* specifically targeted for health care needs: hospitals (see also CANADA INFRASTRUCTURE BONDS), doctors, nurses, technicians, equipment, and so on.

After federal funding cuts of \$25 billion over the past ten years, CAP supports the minority government decision to put federal funding back up to 25%. We need more, we need to immediately:

-make natural holistic remedies available under Medicare.

-scientific studies on Genetically Modified Organisms, irradiation and vaccines

-foster a genuine Canadian drug industry vs. giant for profit U.S. drug industry

-promote preventative medicine with emphasis on how poverty, stress and pollution affect health.

Canadian Action Party Supports the implementation of The Romanow Report which made it abundantly clear that Canadians want adequately funded universal

health care that includes home care and a drug plan. Two years of intergovernmental bickering have brought federal funding back up to 25% however, there are no conditions attached and prime minister Paul Martin, has already created a new cabinet post to oversee public-private partnerships.

To prevent the privatization of health care the Canadian Action Party would:

- place a moratorium on all public/private partnerships
- enforce labeling of genetically modified and irradiated foods
- ensure that Canada Health Act is enforced

Finally, Canadians must understand that any decent health-care system in this country requires three major changes:

We must cancel the Canada/U.S. Free Trade Agreement and NAFTA because these "trade" deals give U.S. corporations the right to challenge the very existence of Medicare by claiming it is a trade irritant which distorts the "free" market. We can do so with six months notice.

We must stop the sell-out of Canada to large foreign corporations, and maintain control over our resources and industries. A country is no longer independent -- and can't afford social programs -- if its assets and decision-making are controlled beyond its borders. The end of Canada means the end of Medicare.

We must reform our monetary system. Right now, our money creation is a virtual monopoly of the private banks. The Canadian ACTION Party will return to the economic and monetary system we had from 1939 to 1974 when the money-creation function was shared between the government of Canada, through the Bank of Canada, and private banks. This would provide the fiscal flexibility necessary to fund health care and other essential services without increasing taxes.

7)Social Policy –Empowering the Citizenry

Social policies are tied to our trade and monetary policies. Most importantly, CAP would abrogate (cancel) trade agreements that contain a "national treatment clause" allowing us to regain control over our social policies.

- we would ensure that money creation was shared between the Bank of Canada on behalf of the people and private banks to adequately fund our social needs
- ensure that all of society has access to affordable housing, especially our most

vulnerable, our mentally ill, disabled, elderly and our children.

-support construction of co-operative housing and (subsidized housing in mixed income neighbourhoods to assist the working poor

Ensure that the minimum wage across Canada is sufficient to sustain a reasonable standard of living.

Elimination of Poverty

There is no greater problem facing Canada and the world than the elimination of poverty. This very large task is within our abilities because there is more than enough wealth and production ability in the world to accomplish it. In 1989 the 3 main political parties in Canada agreed to alleviate poverty in Canada by the year 2000. Today (16 years later) poverty has increased by 20%

8)Education - Investing in our Future

The Canadian Action Party believes in universal access to a public educational system. And whereas education is a provincial responsibility. All Canadians have a direct interest in a well educated future generation .

To ensure education is not just a choice dependant on family or personal wealth CAP would:

- transfer between \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion a year to the provinces for the express purpose of reducing tuition fees and bringing them down to 1990-91 levels.

-make direct, low interest loans to students.

-allow the interest paid on existing loans to be deducted from taxable income

for tax purposes.

- support the teaching of the liberal arts and resist the effort to restrict education to readily marketable skills.
- prevent corporations from having too much power and influence in the educational process
- reinstitute the teaching of skills that encourage how to think, calculate, assess and adapt to real life; as opposed to being indoctrinated or taught what to think
- keep universities free of public/private partnerships which benefit private corporate interests like military contractors and scientific experimental labs involved in the genetic modification of life etc.

See

<http://torontoraginggrannies.nonprofitnet.ca/Militarization%20of%20OISE%20and%20UofT.htm> for background information

- bring back the basics of teaching government function, how it works, the purpose of government and encourage all citizens to participate fully in the democratic process
- Make monetary systems, (economics, how money is created, etc.) part of the education curriculum from K to grade 12 mandatory, in conjunction with Civic responsibilities

9)Research and Development

Canada has fallen behind world leaders because so much of our industry is owned by foreigners. The Canadian Action Party would:

-reinstate grants that were cut back to the National Research Council, Social Sciences Research Council and Universities to help create high tech jobs in microbiology, robotics, energy and communications replacing lost jobs in manufacturing.

-invest in Research and development into greener environmentally friendly products, alternative energy choices are no longer an option they are mandatory for our planet and our country.

-invest in Research into cause and cure of illness such as Autism, Juvenile Diabetes and Learning Disabilities must be a priority

-ensure that proper independent testing and approval of all pharmaceuticals, agriculture products, pesticides etc. were conducted before they enter the market.

10)First Nations Concerns – Respecting Our Past

The Canadian Action Party policy on Aboriginal rights is based on the spirit of the report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. Some specific points may be open to discussion and negotiation but the Commission Report is a solid foundation on which to build progressive and forward-looking solutions to long-lasting problems.

Poverty on reserves in Canada must be addressed without delay.

Detailed information:

The Canadian Action Party policy on Aboriginal rights is based on the spirit of the report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. Some specific points may be open to discussion and negotiation but the Commission Report is a solid foundation on which to build progressive and forward-looking solutions to long-lasting problems.

The present situation is desperate. The percentage of child poverty in aboriginal communities is totally unacceptable. The number of aboriginals in jail in proportion to the total population is shocking and reflects badly on our system of "justice". It is the abandonment of hope on the part of so many young people, however, which is the greatest cause for concern. Hope must be restored, and anger abated, before we can claim any degree of success.

Land claim settlements are, of course, a source of aggravation and some means must be found to speed up the process for the benefit of all involved. One has to wonder, however, even if even all of the claims were expeditiously resolved, if that would solve the problem of youth alienation of which part, at least, appears to be a function of boredom. As the National Chief, Matthew Coon Come, has said, his dream is that the coming generation will have their choice of the old ways and the new ways, living off the

lakes and forests in the tradition of their ancestors or of participating fully in the dynamic new horizons of the information age.

Canadian Action Party believes that one way this dilemma might be resolved would be to select one or two new city sites - perhaps one in the west and one in the east - as part of an overall, comprehensive land-claims agreement. New cities that would be designed, built, operated and governed by Aboriginal peoples. Cities that would respect the environment but would, at the same time, offer exciting opportunities for creative young people in every area of human development imaginable.

The idea is one that would provide both the challenge and the comfort level that young aboriginal people are looking for - one where fear of discrimination does not exist. It is understood, of course, that the aboriginal communities would be in accord and substantial financial assistance would be available as part of the settlement package - money that would go into something concrete and useful for generations to come.

It is possible that this idea may not appeal, but it is novel, positive and forward-looking. That, in itself, is a step in the right direction.

11)Respecting Our Elders

Pension Reform

The pension system in Canada is really a mess and the adjustments Paul Martin made to the Canadian Pension Plan when he was finance minister were merely tinkering. They result in a huge tax increase without producing either stability or equity. Generation X has no confidence that the CPP will survive until they retire. In addition, some people now retire with four or five pensions, while others have only one.

There is a need to call a round table on pension reform that includes seniors, economists, pension consultants and industry with federal and provincial governments. The objective will be to devise a universal system that will be fully vested from day one, fully portable, completely fair and adequate to meet retirement needs. Meanwhile the existing pension rights for seniors will be fully guaranteed.

One of the great injustices in the present system is pensions for Members of Parliament. CAP would change the law so that MP's would not get their pensions until age 65. One of the objects of pension reform would be to treat Members of Parliament in exactly the same way as other citizens.

12)Responsible Fair Taxation

Responsible Fair Taxation

Cutting taxes is only part of the problem. The manner which our tax dollars have

been spent or mismanaged must be resolved immediately. Almost everyone would like to see further tax cuts but the extent of these would have to be weighed against other priorities like health-care, affordable housing, day-care, and a dozen other areas including better safety inspection of our food, water and transportation systems.

Corporate taxation needs to be reviewed immediately. Everyone that does business in Canada uses the systems of Canada and must pay their share to support a viable progressive system. We must ensure that we have the funds in place to pay for corporate mistakes in environmental issues and not put the burden solely on individual taxpayers.

There is one tax, however, that should be removed and that is the Goods and Services Tax. So CAP confirms its long-standing policy in that regard. The GST on books, newspapers, periodicals, postage stamps and theatre tickets would be eliminated immediately. The tax on all other items would be reduced from 7% to 5 percent.

In the second budget the GST would be reduced from 5% to 3 percent.

In the third budget the GST would be TOTALLY ELIMINATED.

The Canadian Action Party would pursue the full employment strategy that was envisioned when the Bank of Canada Act was passed. The unemployed people go back to work, Employment Insurance and welfare costs would decrease, and tax revenues would increase to help offset the loss of revenue from the GST. **Computer simulations show that the tax can be eliminated over three years, by injecting 68-70 billion dollars into the economy over 4 years without any new tax and maintaining a balanced budget. (\$68-70 billion equates to 50% of money supply over 4 years).**

When we say that the GST would go, it would go.

Other Taxes

Payroll taxes should be further reduced. The Liberal government has milked the system to bolster general revenue at the expense of workers and employers. Our monetary policy would end the boom-bust cycle so there would be no need to maintain big surpluses in anticipation of the next recession.

Tax Reform

We would undertake a general review of our extremely complicated tax system to make it fairer, simpler and more equitable.

