

# for Alberta!

**A proud record of positive action...  
in education and other areas**



### Creating job opportunities

- 175,000 new jobs in Alberta since 1979 — over 450,000 new jobs since 1971 — the best job creation record in Canada
- diversification into petrochemical, agricultural processing, research, finance, tourism and many other areas during the 1970s — so our young Albertans could find jobs in their own province
- more Albertans working today in relation to total population than any province in Canada
- a major new winter works program for road construction and expanded Priority Employment Program to help reduce unemployment through this coming winter
- job security for the vast majority of working Albertans — in part the result of the Progressive Conservative Economic Resurgence Plan

### Education

- Quality is our priority for Alberta's schools. New initiatives in the past four years have reaffirmed the importance of thorough, basic education for our children.
- the provincial education budget for basic education to top \$1 billion in 1982
  - province-wide exams to test basic skills in grades 3, 6, 9 and 12
  - emphasis on Alberta and Canadian history and geography in a new social studies curriculum
  - important new Canadian teaching material for all grades in natural and social sciences as well as literature, through the Heritage Learning Resources Project
  - Alberta has become a leader in multi-language education in Canada; curricula have also encouraged more awareness of our ethnic diversity.
  - Instead of closing local schools, new programs will tackle the special problems of some urban and rural areas. These include the small jurisdiction grant, the small school grant, declining enrollment grant, and the supplementary requisition equalization fund.
  - Education for the mentally and physically disabled has received greater attention since 1979.
  - new initiatives to train students in using computers

### Preserving our multicultural heritage

- Your Progressive Conservative team has a strong commitment to our multicultural heritage in Alberta.
- The Alberta Bill of Rights and the Individual Rights Protection Act strongly protect all Albertans from discrimination on the basis of race, religious beliefs, colour, sex, age, ancestry or place of origin.
- Thousands of students attend Heritage schools on weekends and after school to learn over 30 languages.
- Heritage Day was established in 1974 to increase awareness of the importance of our diverse cultures.
- Support is provided for a wide variety of programs in the ethnic communities such as festivals, arts instruction, language education and workshops.

### Alberta's parks

- eight new provincial parks since 1979; now 61 throughout the province
- five new urban parks in addition to Capital City Park in Edmonton and Fish Creek Park in Calgary, planned for Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Lloydminster, Medicine Hat and Red Deer; a commitment of \$130 million from the Heritage Savings Trust Fund for these parks
- continued expansion of facilities in Kananaskis Country — Alberta's first mountain recreation area — 4 more major campgrounds, 81 miles of new hiking trails, 30 day-use areas, a special facility for the handicapped
- continued commitment to the preservation of wilderness areas
- through the 75th Anniversary, many communities built new recreation facilities and improved community parks

### Post-secondary education

- More opportunities have been provided for students in all areas of the province to attend post-secondary institutions.
- 23,000 students helped in 1982 with loans, grants and remissions, doubling in number since 1979
  - tuition fees at Alberta universities among the lowest in Canada
  - a commitment of almost \$800 million for post-secondary education in 1982, including capital expansion, to ensure Alberta's high standards are maintained
  - Educational Opportunity Equalization Grants helping mostly rural students pay their expenses during post-secondary education
  - thousands of students receiving awards in 1982 from the Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund, set up with \$100 million endowment to give recognition and encouragement to Albertans from all walks of life
  - the Heritage Savings Trust Fund providing libraries in our universities and colleges with \$9 million in books and materials
  - Local volunteers are working with educational institutions to provide opportunities for adult education in rural areas. Centres have been opened in Brooks, Drayton Valley, Drumheller, the Crowsnest Pass and Pincher Creek, the MacKenzie North, Peace River and Yellowhead regions.
  - \$200 million budget for regional expansion of post-secondary opportunities

### Strengthening the energy sector

- industry and others forecasting a significant upsurge in oil and gas activities in the months ahead
- reducing royalties through the Alberta Oil and Gas Activity Plan spurring exploration — and hence industry activity
- expanded markets of natural gas into the United States the key — cooperation with the industry to develop new initiatives
- elimination of the natural gas export tax and provision of much better prices for our existing products through the Energy Agreement of last year
- The Energy Agreement resulted in significant benefits to Albertans over the proposed National Energy Program.
- Well Servicing Development and Drilling Incentive Plan spurring activity for the servicing and drilling segments of the industry
- employment in the energy sector in Alberta increased steadily since July

### Responsive government

The Progressive Conservative team believes that the government must play a supportive role in our province — by cutting red tape and regulation, by responding to a citizen's concerns and by encouraging innovators and risk-takers in a healthy economic climate.

- Increased decentralization provides better access to government programs. For example, Agriculture Development Corporation offices are now open in many communities.
- Free access for Albertans to all departments from anywhere in the Province is provided through the Regional Information Telephone Enquiry (R.I.T.E.) system.
- Ours is the best record of limiting the size of government in relation to the total economy, for any province in Canada. This is despite high quality services to a rapidly-growing number of Albertans.
- 55,000 business licences are no longer required.

### Major new initiatives to help farm operators

- the new interest shielding program, announced September 7, to bring down interest rates for thousands of farmers to 14½% for the next two years; will cover loans of up to \$150,000
- In April, the Farm Fuel Allowance nearly tripled to 32¢/gallon, which represents about 20% of farm fuel costs.

### Best health care in Canada

- major commitment to medical research through the Heritage Fund, with emphasis on cancer and heart disease research
- funds for operating our health care system doubled since 1979
- since 1974, hospitals built, expanded or renovated in 22 communities; projects in the planning or construction stage in a total of 60 communities
- major new health facilities supported by the Heritage Fund including the Walter C. MacKenzie Sciences Centre, the Alberta Children's Provincial General Hospital, and the Southern Alberta Cancer Centre
- two new schools of nursing set up in Fort McMurray and Grande Prairie
- a total commitment of almost \$600 million in total for health care facilities and research from the Heritage Fund



**YOUR PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE TEAM**