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## **The Daily: Platforms, Positions and Statements of the Major Federal Parties on Subjects of Interest to EAITC**

### **Le Quotidien : Plates-formes, positions et déclarations des partis fédéraux principaux sur les sujets d'intérêt à l'AECEC**

#### External Affairs/Affaires extérieures

##### **Party Platforms/Plate-formes des partis Defence/Défense**

The BQ would cancel the EH 101 program outright. The party platform also calls for an immediate reduction of 25% in the \$12 billion federal military budget. Money saved would go to convert military industries into "green" industries.

The purchase of 43 helicopters would be scrapped by a Liberal government. Instead, the Liberals would refurbish the existing helicopters. DND would also face more cuts, over and above the reductions in the 1993 budget. On overall defence policy, the Liberals stress the conversion of traditional defence operations to more peaceful uses.

The National Party says it would cut \$2-billion from the defence budget by shifting Canada's defence orientation to a peacekeeping role. It favours cancellation of the helicopter purchase but would buy 15 cheaper search and rescue helicopters instead. More emphasis should be placed on maintaining Canada's territorial sovereignty in the North.

The NDP would cancel the helicopter program. It would cut the \$12 billion defence budget by 3% annually, and would reallocate this money to more efficient job creation programs. The NDP would encourage the defence industries to convert to civilian industries. It would cancel \$200 million in subsidies to the defence industry. It would close several military bases and cut the number of senior officials in the armed forces.

The PCs have said they will save \$650 million by trimming seven of the 50 EH-101 helicopters originally ordered. A further review of defence policy would be launched after the election.

No cuts are detailed in the Reform party's policy book. Preston Manning says the federal government should spell out a precise role for the military in the post Cold War era.

Source: The Globe and Mail

#### International Trade/Commerce extérieur

##### **NAFTA/ALENA**

Liberal leader Jean Chrétien said Friday that a Financial Post report that his party has privately told the U.S. and Mexico that a Liberal would not press for renegotiation of NAFTA is "absolutely false." An unnamed senior Liberal source said that completion of the GATT round, which would include codes for subsidies and anti-dumping would be enough. If NAFTA is not passed by Jan. 1, a Liberal government would ask the U.S. and Mexico to set up some new trilateral trade committees.

##### **Immigration**

Preston Manning said Friday immigration should be trimmed to between 100,000 and 150,000 people a year from the current 200,000 to 250,000 and should be tied to economic and labour force requirements.

... In a speech in Toronto on Friday Public Security minister Doug Lewis said that high immigration levels were both economically and socially good for Canada. He warned that an explosion in world migration "promises to test us profoundly in many ways -- ways that will demand much more than dismissive simplistic solutions."

##### **Polls/Sondages**

A COMPAS poll, commissioned by the Financial Post finds national support as follows: BQ 12%, Lib 38%, NDP 8%, PC 26%, Ref 14%, others 2%. Selon un sondage SOM réalisé pour le compte de La Presse et du réseau TVA, 44% des répondants au Québec choisissent le BQ, le PC 27%, le PLC 24%, le NPD 1% et 4% pour d'autres partis.