

# Commitments:

We suffer no lack of challenges in Canada today. We do suffer, in my opinion, a serious lack of commitment on the part of government to meet these challenges. I would like to talk with you now about four I feel to be most urgent.

**JOBS:** Right now, more than half a million Canadians are without jobs, one of the highest unemployment rates in the industrialized world. In Quebec, one in eleven is jobless; in Newfoundland, one in nine; among young Canadians, one in five; among our native people, three in five. Well over two million people are directly affected.

Canada can do better. My government would make the creation of jobs its first priority.

My government would immediately reduce personal income taxes, to stimulate consumer demand, to create jobs. We would eliminate the 11% Federal sales tax on building materials to encourage construction, because construction means jobs. We would encourage the further processing of our raw materials here, because that means jobs.

My government would expand the retraining opportunities available through the Department of Manpower, and make that agency much more aggressive in searching out job vacancies.

My government would insist on greater long range planning of special job-creating activities—such as summer youth employment—so that the communities to be served could be involved from the outset, and so that jobs could be found for those whose need is most pressing.

Further, my government would act to strengthen our job-creating potential for the future. We would increase direct government investment in research and technology, and expedite the process by which Canadian innovations can be marketed around the world.

**PRICES:** What cost you five dollars four years ago right now costs you six. The poor people of Canada, the elderly and those on fixed incomes, have suffered most from this kind of inflation, but clearly it affects the earnings and savings of all Canadians. And, because it makes Canada's exports less competitive, inflation affects a good many jobs as well. The government I lead would tackle this problem directly.

First of all, my government would calculate its tax revenues in terms of constant rather than inflated dollars, so as to eliminate the Treasury Board's vested interest in inflation.

We would strengthen the role of the Auditor General, so that unproductive government spending, which contributes not a little to the inflationary cycle, might be revealed and reduced.

We would support the cost-of-living escalator formula for those receiving old age and guaranteed income security benefits.

And, should the need ever arise, my government would be prepared to use temporary wage and price controls to combat inflation.

**ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE:** Fifty-eight percent of Canada's manufacturing industry is foreign controlled, and there have been almost as many foreign takeovers since Mr. Trudeau took over as in the previous ten years.

Mr. Trudeau's recent legislation does not begin to meet the problem: it fails to correct a situation in which it is easier for foreign than for domestic corporations to effect takeovers; further, it fails to increase a Canadian presence in existing subsidiaries, and fails to provide for full financial disclosure by those subsidiaries.

My government would enact the changes necessary to make this legislation truly effective. Beyond that, we would revise the Bank Act to make certain that venture capital was available for the expansion of existing Canadian firms, or the creation of new ones.

My government, in concert with the provinces, would develop new programs to ensure the rapid growth of our entrepreneurial and managerial talent pools.

And we would, again together with the provinces, establish and define key sectors of the economy which are to be considered reserved for Canadian ownership.

**THE ENVIRONMENT:** Half of Canada's urban centres with populations of a thousand or more lack any sewage treatment, and a further third have only the most rudimentary equipment. The Trudeau government's Ministry of the Environment is not really a ministry at all, since many of its regulations are enforced by a variety of other government agencies.

We can, and absolutely must do much more to protect Canada.

My government would first of all create an Environmental Council to monitor, and disseminate information upon the quality of our environment, and recommend measures to parliament.

My government would encourage the development of large-scale anti-pollution industries in Canada.

It would, together with the provinces, act to stiffen the penalties for all forms of environmental neglect, whether to our air, soil, or water, international waters included.

It would use a variety of financial incentives to assist industry to invest in pollution control equipment.

It would create a co-ordinated Department of the Environment.

I would say again that we face no lack of tasks, no want of challenges anywhere in this land...in our cities and towns, on our small farms, and across the open reaches of our north.

We can meet none of them if we cannot create jobs, if we cannot protect the savings of those who work, cannot assume greater control over our own economy, cannot live in harmony with nature.

I am confident that we can do these things, and a great many more, if we are wisely and honestly led.

My government will strive to provide that kind of leadership. You have my word.

*R.L. Stanfield*

## A P.C. government can do better.