

**Conservative Party of Canada**

***POLICY DECLARATION***



**March 19, 2005**



Agriculture policy must be developed only in consultation with the agricultural producers. Our farmers today are business operators, and to dictate policy which might have an adverse effect on this business community would have negative consequences and go against Conservative Party principles. Balancing financial responsibility with support programs that actually work is a major priority of this party.

i) *Food.* Food is one of the basic necessities of life, and a Conservative Government places high priority on assuring that Canada's food supply is safe, secure, and sustainable. We seek to be among the world's best when it comes to the safety of our food supply.

ii) *Export and Diversification.* To ensure that Canada has a secure supply of food, a Conservative Government will encourage self-sufficiency in national food production, including increased diversification in the types of foods and agricultural products produced. We will seek to enhance export opportunities for all agricultural products with special emphasis on markets for processed and finished commodities. Through diversifying, the value added process and manufacturing will create new jobs within the respective communities and Canada.

iii) *Sustainability.* If we are to ensure that Canada's food supply is assured in the long term, agricultural production must be both economically and environmentally sustainable. We believe that responsible land use and receiving a fair return for growing food go hand in hand. To mitigate against unforeseen adversity, we will put in the hands of the individual producer innovative economic tools they need to be flexible, to respond to changing market conditions and to manage the risks of weather and disease.

iv) *Rural Economy.* As the agricultural base of the rural economy has declined, so too has infrastructure in small communities. To preserve the social fabric of rural Canada, a Conservative Government will encourage diversity and responsible development in small towns and villages by encouraging innovation in the development of small businesses that keep these communities alive.

## **97. Canadian Wheat Board**

A Conservative Government will give farmers the freedom to make their own marketing and transportation decisions and to direct, structure, and to voluntarily participate in producer organisations.

## **98. Supply Management**

The Conservative Party believes it is in the best interest of Canada and Canadian agriculture that the industries under the protection of supply



# STAND UP FOR CANADA

 *Conservative*

**Conservative Party of Canada  
Federal Election Platform**

**2006**

## Investing in research and development

Increased promotion of basic and applied research, especially in science and technology, is an essential component of Canada's future economic well-being. It is unacceptable that Canada's expenditure on research and development, at 1.9 percent of GDP, is below all other G-8 countries and well below the OECD average of 2.3 percent.

### The plan

A Conservative government will:

- Invest an additional \$500 million over the next five years supporting university-based research through the national granting councils, including the indirect costs of research.
- Recognize the success of the Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) tax credit in spurring private investment in research and development, and work with stakeholders in all fields of research and various industry sectors to explore expanding this tax credit.

## Promoting Canada's regions

We must encourage economic development in all regions of the country and create job opportunities for all Canadians, regardless of where they live. Regional development policies are an important part of any comprehensive strategy to assist the regions of Canada to meet the opportunities of the new global economy, and a Conservative government will make them more effective.

### The plan

A Conservative government will:

- Support regional development agencies, like ACOA, WED, FEDNOR and CED-Q, and maintain their current funding levels.
- Ensure that regional development agencies are depoliticized and fully accountable to Parliament and Canadians.
- Develop, together with northerners, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, a northern vision to guide economic, social, and environmental progress in the region.

## Supporting Canada's traditional industries

It sometimes seems the Liberal view of Canada is the view from the CN Tower or the Peace Tower. Disputes over softwood lumber, agriculture, and fishing rights just never seem to get resolved. It is time for a government that focuses on the needs of communities that depend on farming, lumber, mining, and fishing – sectors vital to ensuring Canadian prosperity. A Conservative government will stand up for workers in traditional industries.

## • Agriculture

The family farm has long been a backbone of our country. For generations, our farmers have fed Canadians and become a breadbasket to the world. But farmers need our support. We must stand up for Canadian agricultural interests in world trade negotiations, and government needs to be responsive when it comes to farm income support and disaster relief.

## The plan

A Conservative government will:

- Replace CAIS with separate farm income stabilization and disaster relief programs. The new income stabilization program must become a simpler, more responsive program that properly addresses the cost of production, market revenue, and inventory evaluation. The federal government should be ready to pitch in when disaster strikes, funding disaster relief separately above and beyond its income stabilization program.
- Commit to adding an additional \$500 million annually to farm support programs.
- Speed up delivery of the \$755 million in emergency aid the government promised grain and oilseed farmers in November.
- Ensure that agricultural industries that choose to operate under domestic supply management remain viable. Canada needs efficient production planning, market-based returns to producers, and predictable imports to operate domestic supply management systems.
- Give western grain farmers the freedom to make their own marketing and transportation decisions. Western grain farmers should be able to participate voluntarily in the Canadian Wheat Board.
- Defend Canada's agricultural sectors when negotiating international trade agreements. A Conservative government will seek better market access for Canadian agricultural and agri-food products in foreign markets. We will support the phased reduction of all trade-distorting barriers and the rapid elimination of all agriculture export subsidies. We will pursue strong, rules-based trade liberalization in conjunction with all other countries that are members of the World Trade Organization.
- Implement a Green Cover Crop Program to protect prairie farmers. Severe flooding in both Saskatchewan and Manitoba has adversely affected the opportunity for farmers to harvest their normal crop. A Green Cover Crop Program will create a compensation fund for farmers facing the devastating consequences of crop damage caused by severe flooding.

## • Forestry

### The plan

A Conservative government will:

- Demand that the U.S. government play by the rules on softwood lumber. The U.S. must abide by the NAFTA ruling on softwood lumber, repeal the Byrd Amendment, and return the more than \$5 billion in illegal softwood lumber tariffs to Canadian producers.
- Provide real help for Canadian workers and businesses coping with illegal American trade actions. The government of Canada will guarantee repayment of illegally imposed softwood lumber tariffs through Export Development Canada. This will ensure that Canadian forest companies can continue to operate without penalty. We will continue to help pay the legal bills of Canadian businesses that are fighting American softwood lumber tariffs. We will support displaced forestry workers.
- Commit to investing \$1 billion over five years to support Canada's softwood industry, including fighting the spread of the pine beetle in western Canadian forests and helping communities struggling from U.S. softwood duties.

## • Mining

### The plan

A Conservative government will:

- Retain tax incentives such as the super flow-through share program. These measures are critical to Canada's vibrant and effective financial market for mining.
- Streamline regulatory processes related to the mining industry. We will implement the recommendations of the External Advisory Committee on Smart Regulation related to mining, such as a "single window" approach to federal regulatory bodies in the North for the oil and gas and mining sectors.