

**Statement of the Policies
of the
BC Heritage Party**

Revised September 22, 2010

Table of Contents

Topic 1.....	Democratic reforms.....	3
Topic II.....	Fiscal Policies.....	5
Topic III.....	Education.....	6
Topic IV.....	Employment and Job creation.....	7
Topic V.....	Energy/Environment.....	9
Topic VI.....	Transportation.....	11
Topic VII.....	Health Care.....	12
Topic VIII.....	Aboriginal Affairs.....	13
Topic IX.....	National Unity.....	14
Topic X.....	Agriculture.....	16
Topic XI.....	Privatization.....	17
Topic XII	Family.....	17
Topic XIII.....	Law and Orde.....	18
Topic XIV	Fisheries.....	18

Topic I: Democratic Reforms

The most important aspect of our platform is our position on democracy, which holds that the citizens of the Province of British Columbia should be able to control their government rather than having their government controlling them. The government must be accountable to the voters, not to special interest groups who finance their campaigns.

We will put the voters in charge and make the government accountable to you, (the voters) with our 6 point plan for representative democracy. These six points are:

1.0 Preferential Balloting

We believe that each MLA should be elected by a majority vote. A BC Heritage Party Government will change the electoral system to “preferential balloting for the election of MLA’s”. so that no MLA is ever again elected without receiving the support of at least 50% of his or her constituents who vote.

2.0 Free Votes in the Legislature

Every candidate for MLA who represents a political party runs on that party’s platform and is expected to vote in favour of the measures promised in that platform when bills are presented to the legislature. However, we believe that the primary function of an MLA in a representative democracy is to represent his or her constituents and that every MLA has a duty to put the interests and wishes of his or her constituents ahead of the wishes of his or her Party.

When an MLA can clearly demonstrate that his or her constituents are opposed to a measure that formed part of the platform his party was elected on or when a new issue arises on which there was no position taken by his or her party, that MLA will be free to vote the wishes of his or her constituents ahead of the wishes of his or her party.

If a government bill is defeated as a result of that free vote, a BC Heritage Party Government will not recognize the British Parliamentary tradition by resigning and asking the Lieutenant Governor to call an election.

A BC Heritage Party Government will honour the parliamentary tradition that dictates that the Government must call for an election if its budget fails to obtain the majority support of the Legislature.

3.0 Recall Legislation

We believe that an MLA should have the same constraints as any other employee of any government or private enterprise whose employer has the right to fire that employee for failing to follow the wishes of his or her employer. The employers of every MLA are his or her constituents, not the government or the political party that MLA is affiliated with.

A BC Heritage Party Government will ensure that the voters in a constituency, with good reason, are entitled to petition the government to hold a recall vote in any constituency, with the signatures of 15% of the voters. If the MLA is defeated by a simple majority in the recall vote, the position will be declared vacant and a by-election will be held. Recall elections will be limited to one per term per MLA and will not be allowed until an MLA has served at least 18 months after his or her most recent election. The MLA who was recalled will be allowed to run in the by-election.

4.0 Referenda on Important Issues

We believe that there are moral issues and other major issues such as determining the tax structure for the province that are too important and have effects that are too far reaching to be left up to a handful of elected officials to decide. A BC Heritage Party Government, if an issue is a moral issue or if it is important enough, will ask the voters to make the decision in a binding referendum. Since this process can involve a considerable expense for the taxpayer, this provision will not be widely used by the MLA's or by the Government to evade their responsibility to govern on behalf of the voters, but it will be used when necessary.

5.0 Citizens Initiatives

Under A BC Heritage Party Government, if the voters decide that an issue is important enough to be decided by a referendum, they will be allowed to petition the government to hold one. If the signatures of 15% of the voters are collected, including the signatures of at least 15% of the voters in each of four regions (Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland, the Southern Interior and the North), the government will be forced to hold a binding referendum on the issue. For the referendum to pass, it must obtain a majority vote in all four of these regions.

6.0 Fixed election Dates

We believe that fixed election dates are an important part of the package of representative democracy, since they prevent the government from manipulating the election date for the governing party's own advantage. This system is working well in British Columbia and will be continued.

Campaign Financing

While the 6 point plan for representative democracy, listed above, will make the government accountable to the voters on a daily basis, it is also necessary to ensure that the government is NOT accountable to special interest groups and that no special interest group can purchase the loyalty of any political party with large donations to those political parties.

A BC Heritage Party Government will pass legislation limiting the amount of donations by any corporation, union, individual or any other organization or entity to no more than \$10,000 per year. A \$5,000 annual limit will apply to the constituency organizations of political parties and to individual candidates.

British Columbia Constitution

We believe that all of the above provisions along with a number of other features of our system of democracy and our rights as citizens are so important that we cannot allow any future government to have an opportunity to ignore them. Accordingly, we believe that the people of British Columbia should be allowed to adopt a constitution that will protect their rights and freedoms from any future government.

A BC Heritage Party Government will appoint a commission to develop, approve and implement a common sense BC Constitution, by the people and for the people. The commission will be required to consult with the citizens of British Columbia before recommending the wording of the constitution to the Government. The Government will then hold a binding referendum, asking the citizens of British Columbia to approve their new constitution.

Uniform Election Dates

In order to minimize expenses, A BC Heritage Party Government will hold elections for all provincially elected offices and posts on the same date as the general election every four years. This schedule will not change if a government has to stand for election at another time due to a non-confidence vote. The scheduled election date will also be used for voting on initiatives and referenda unless urgent action is required.

Election of Federal Senators

A BC Heritage Party Government will support the election of Federal Senators. We believe in an equal Senate to address the uneven distribution of Canada's population and provide a balance to safeguard provincial interests.

A BC Heritage Party Government will hold elections to fill the seats in the Senate that are reserved for British Columbia.

Topic II: Fiscal Policies

1.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will:

- a) Undertake a complete review of all provincial taxation to be completed within one year of taking office.
- b) We will conduct a parallel review of provincial government expenditures to be completed at the same time to determine where costs can be cut so that taxes can be reduced.
- c) As soon as possible after these two reviews are completed, we will submit two proposals for a provincial tax structure to the voters and allow them to choose one of the two options in a binding referendum. The two options will be
 - 1) A single rate income tax, or
 - 2) A single rate consumption tax (a tax on spending instead of income)

No matter which tax system the voters choose, the government of this province will endeavour to have the lowest provincial personal taxation rates in Canada.

If the voters choose a single rate income tax, the current "Graduated Income Tax" will be replaced by a "Single Rate of Personal Income Tax" with a generous basic exemption to ensure that no low income individual pays more under the new system than they would have under the old system.

If the voters choose the consumption tax, the current maze of taxes, including the HST, the carbon tax and a host of other taxers will be eliminated and replaced with one single, visible tax on consumption. Certain basic necessities will be exempted so that low income earners will not be penalized for purchasing the essentials for survival.

No matter which tax system the voters choose, the government will continue to collect royalties on publicly owned assets such as timber, petroleum and minerals.

2.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will promote job creation by removing unnecessary regulations on small and large businesses.

3.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will promote freer trade in goods and services between the provinces and territories in Canada. We will also encourage Municipalities, Universities, Colleges, Technical Institutions, Schools and Hospitals to adopt the same policy.

4.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will enact balanced budget legislation, which includes overrides for declared provincial emergencies or other defined and rare circumstances such as an international recession.

5.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will use any budgetary surpluses to pay down the huge provincial debt which places a burden on the shoulders of our children and grandchildren. This will reduce the interest payment on the debt, which is the largest single provincial budgetary commitment and free up those funds for additional debt reduction or programmed spending.

6.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will remove all “carbon taxes” and stop the futile effort to combat global warming by reducing the levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. We will concentrate instead on fighting real pollution and encouraging the development of alternate, clean sources of energy in order to reduce our dependence on non-renewable resources.

7.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will ensure that adequate compensation, based on market values at the time, will be paid to British Columbians for all our natural resources that are harvested anywhere in British Columbia, either above or below ground and in and below the territorial waters of British Columbia.

8.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will establish “Zero Based Budgeting” for provincial expenditures in order to ensure that the Provincial Government Departments are basing their budget estimations on actual requirements instead of setting them as an increase over the previous year’s expenditures, and to discourage government departments from spending money unnecessarily near the end of the fiscal year in order to ensure that their budget allotment is maintained or increased for the following year.

9.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will eliminate the BC Property Transfer Tax.

10.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will hold a referendum to obtain permission from the taxpayers before introducing any new taxes or appreciably increasing any existing taxes

11.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will establish and adhere to generally accepted accounting principles for government as outlined by the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants as amended from time to time.

12.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will amortize capital expenditures in accordance with the principles of Resolution 11.

Topic III: Education

1.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will give parents the freedom to choose to send one or more of their children to any public or independent school(s) as described below:

- a) Public Schools: Those schools financed through government revenues.
- b) Traditional Schools: Those public schools that emphasize traditional teaching methods.
- c) Charter Schools: Those public schools which receive full funding from government revenues but have no school district boundaries in BC.
- d) Independent Schools: These are private schools supported in part by student fees. These include schools which have a religious emphasis and schools that encourage additional effort being placed on art, music or sports.

The cost of educating these children will be borne by the taxpayers, using a funding formula which will provide equal “per student” financing for students attending the same grade as in public schools for traditional, charter schools and independent schools from K-12 levels.

The system will operate throughout British Columbia on the basis of choice by parents in each school district. It will provide a specific grant for each student in a school that meets the minimum academic requirement established by the Provincial Ministry of Education.

2.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will ensure that volunteers and non-licensed paid employees are allowed to perform non-academic services for independent schools. Remuneration for these services will be entirely at the discretion of the governing body of the independent schools.

3.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will carry out negotiation of salaries and working conditions of public school teachers on a province wide basis.

Topic IV: Employment and Job Creation

1.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will encourage and support our residents who wish to complete their education up to and including grade twelve.

2.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will, within the ability of taxpayers to fund the cost, increase our expenditures on education at technical institutes, colleges and universities by providing loans for students who apply and meet the minimum requirements. These loans will be forgivable for post-secondary students who graduate from BC institutions and continue to live in BC, work and pay taxes. Forgiveness of the loans will be pro-rated over a ten year period. If any graduate ceases to be a resident of British Columbia at any time within the ten years following graduation, the unforgiven pro-rated portion of the student loan will become due and payable.

3.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will amend the present Fair wage policy so that in future it will include both unionized and non-unionized entities in the bidding process for public construction, including construction of schools. This policy will be reviewed with a goal to ensure fair competitive bidding on public construction projects.

4.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will use tax incentives, including royalty holidays to encourage the establishment of new businesses and industries in British Columbia.

5.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will establish an “Essential Services Dispute Mechanism” as a fair and impartial way of resolving issues between the Provincial Government and its employees.

6.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will open up the offshore to drilling and encourage Oil & Gas Companies to explore, develop and produce crude oil, natural gas and coal bed methane gas from off the Northwest Coast and on land across British Columbia in an environmentally safe way. A portion of the royalties received will be put towards the development of sustainable renewable resources for the people of B.C.

A BC Heritage Party Government will incorporate appropriate environmental regulations in the development of our natural resources in order to ensure that the environment is adequately protected throughout all phases of exploration, development and extraction of the resources.

A BC Heritage Party Government will negotiate a deal with the Federal Government, similar to the deal they now have with Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, to give British Columbia control over and the royalties from offshore resources.

7.0

The BC Heritage Party believes that urbanization of the Lower Mainland has already gone too far; has created virtually insoluble traffic problems and dangerous levels of pollution, and that further expansion of this process should be discouraged.

A BC Heritage Party Government will encourage the location of industry and the development of public infrastructure facilities and services, including necessary road, rail, and air links, in the North and Interior by making Crown land readily available for such use, thereby creating opportunities for employment in rural areas suffering economically as a result of mining, forestry, government, and other cutbacks.

8.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will add an export duty to raw logs, which would be used to re-train the people currently in the logging industry. The aim would be to promote manufacturing of wood products in B.C. instead of exporting jobs with the raw logs.

The revenue would also be used as loans and grants to entrepreneurs to help them to start up finished wood product operations and also to give the employees an opportunity to buy into their company with payroll deductions.

Where it can be amply demonstrated that there would be no economic benefit to BC, an exemption to the export duty will be granted.

Topic V: Energy/Environment/Natural Resources

1.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will expand hydroelectric power, especially environmentally friendly run-of-river projects, open up the mining industry and rejuvenate the forest industry by reducing bureaucratic red tape and moving to a market based system that is open to all operators including small businesses.

2.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will encourage the use of methanol in gasoline sold in this province when that methanol is obtained from manufacturing plants located in British Columbia.

3.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will encourage the construction of plants in BC that are designed to convert wood fibre and other products to clean petroleum..

4.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will encourage the Forest Industry to harvest pine beetle infested trees and reseed the harvested area as soon as possible. This will salvage the trees that would otherwise go to waste and will create jobs in the Forest Industry. Timber that can not be used for lumber or pulp will be turned into liquid bio-fuel.

5.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will actively promote the creation of energy via alternate methods, including wind power, tidal power, solar power and hydrogen power, including the production of hydrogen and bio-fuel from bio-waste such as effluents, junk fish, dead trees and agricultural waste materials.

6.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will actively encourage the building of a bridge from the Mainland to Vancouver Island that incorporates tidal power generators into the structure and generates enough tidal power to pay the capital construction cost and maintenance cost of the bridge over a reasonable time.

7.0

The BC Heritage Party recognizes that we are undergoing change in our climate. However, we are convinced that this climate change is caused by natural factors which are beyond the control of humans and that they are part of a natural cycle that has been occurring throughout history and will continue to do so.

A BC Heritage Party Government will not waste taxpayers' money on the futile effort to control this natural phenomenon by reducing or taxing the production of carbon dioxide. Instead, we will concentrate our efforts on fighting real pollution and on developing alternate sources of energy in order to reduce our dependence on the limited supply of non-renewable fossil fuels.

A BC Heritage Party Government will promote the long term generation of electricity by using;

- 1 – existing hydro electric generating facilities
- 2 – in-stream turbines
- 3 – wind generators where practical
- 4 – bio-generation methods to make use of our wastes and effluents
- 5 – off shore wave generation (using the likes of Pelamis machines)
- 6 – direct hydrogen generation (using standing, contained effluents)
- 7 – solar energy
- 8 – thermal energy
- 9 - nuclear energy
- 10 - Geothermal power generation and heat exchange technology

In addition, any new technology that is developed will be investigated and assessed.

In the interim, A BC Heritage Party Government will:

- 1- expand and improve mass transit facilities where economically feasible
- 2- facilitate commercial traffic flow and possibly reward its use during off-peak hours.
- 3- provide tax credits for research in clean burning fuels for commercial transportation
- 4- encourage the use of electric / hydrogen powered vehicles.
- 5- Encourage hydrogen containment and generation technology development in BC
- 6 - embark on a major education program aimed at conserving energy.

8.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will amend the Mineral Tenure Act to prohibit unauthorized access to private property for mineral exploration.

9.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will reduce the regulation and red tape that prevents more resource based industries from opening in British Columbia.

Topic VI: Transportation

1.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will implement a transportation policy for British Columbia to achieve the following long-term objectives for rural and urban travel:

- a) The design or redesign of suburban road systems and the construction of more rapid light rail lines to enable travelers to get to their destinations faster and with a minimum number of transfers.
- b) Encourage car-pooling, vanpooling and the use of all other high occupancy vehicles.
- c) Encourage the use of bicycles and pedestrian travel.
- d) Encourage the extension of light rapid transit systems.
- e) Encourage the production and use of more fuel efficient vehicles, including hybrid vehicles as well as vehicles that rely on alternate sources of fuel such as electricity, hydrogen or bio-diesel.

2.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will ensure that revenues earmarked for specific transportation goals will be applied only for these purposes.

3.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will ensure that any public transit service operated by a regional government will not exclude the development or management of private ownership of new transit services.

4.0

A BC Heritage Party Government, when funds are available and after negotiating a cost-sharing agreement with the Federal Government, will “twin” the Trans Canada Highway from Kamloops to the Alberta border.

5.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will consider bypass routes around urban centres in the Interior of BC on a priority basis. These bypass routes will only be built with the approval of the residents of the communities affected.

6.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will not implement tolls on existing highways and will only consider tolls on new highways or bridges when alternate toll free routes are available.

Topic VII: Health Care

The Health Care System in British Columbia is not working effectively for the majority of British Columbians. There is currently a long waiting list for most medical procedures in British Columbia. In addition, many rural residents now have to travel long distances, sometimes in extreme winter conditions, to access health care,

Therefore, A BC Heritage Party Government will take the following steps to improve Health Care Delivery in British Columbia:

- 1) Hospitals cost in British Columbia will be covered by payments from the Provincial Government on a “Performance” basis. This will cause hospital administrations to become conscious of costs and revenues and help them to seek the most cost-effective way of dealing with their patients. In many cases, it will encourage them to offer more, rather than fewer services. This will help reduce waiting lists for surgeries and make more hospital beds available.
- 2) When private health care providers can provide a service more cost effectively and/or in a more timely manner, the Government of British Columbia will send patients to those private health care providers and will cover the cost of their services through the BC Health Care system. This is currently being done with most doctors, who operate private, “for profit” clinics in British Columbia.
- 3) Copies of all invoices paid by the Provincial Government, including all payments to Government owned facilities as well as all payments to private health care providers will be made available to the patient or surviving relative. This will enable the residents of British Columbia to see what their health care is costing the taxpayers and will make medical practitioners aware that their invoices are being seen by the customer.
- 4) We will create an Office of the Provincial Surgeon General to oversee our complete health care system and ensure fairness in payments to hospitals and clinics as well as to arbitrate patient complaints. This office will also decide which procedures will be performed at public expense and which ones should be covered by the patient’s private insurance.
- 5) We will address the shortage of doctors and nurses by fast tracking the accreditation of foreign trained professionals and by increasing the number of training spaces in our educational institutions.
- 6) We will open more long term care facilities in British Columbia in order to get long term care patients out of our hospitals and into a more comfortable environment, and free up those more expensive hospital beds for acute care patients.
- 7) We will open more community care facilities in rural British Columbia, in order to take pressure off of our hospitals in those communities.
- 8) We will increase the availability of home care support and reinstate housekeeping and other services so that more senior citizens can live in dignity in their own homes and so that that the demand for expensive hospital care will be further reduced.
- 9) We will encourage the establishment of walk-in clinics, including clinics offering 24 hour service. We will then encourage emergency room personnel to refer non emergency patients to those walk-in clinics, where they can be treated more cost effectively.

- 10) We will re-open hospitals that have been closed by the BC Liberals in smaller communities in rural British Columbia, where numbers and/or distance from existing hospitals warrant, so that patients will no longer have to travel great distances, sometimes in extreme weather, to access primary health care. This will also relieve some of the pressure on our regional hospitals. Where numbers warrant, palliative care will be provided at these small, rural hospitals so that people can die with their family around them.
- 11) We will put more emphasis on preventative medicine and promote fitness and diet in order to promote healthy living and reduce the demand on our health care facilities. This will include health and fitness programs in our schools, including making physical education mandatory from K to 12.
- 12) We will establish a Health Care Task Force that will consult with the health care professionals and residents of British Columbia and will also study health care services in other countries to determine what works and what could provide benefit to the residents of British Columbia.

Topic VIII: Aboriginal Affairs

1.0

The BC Heritage Party believes that the outstanding native land claims must be settled in order to facilitate the orderly growth and development of the province. The settlement must involve the First Nations Community who are directly affected, the Federal Government who are responsible for Aboriginal Canadians under the Constitution and the Provincial Government who holds the title to the land on behalf of all British Columbians. We believe that the settlement must be fair to all parties and must be final

2.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will put in place a procedure for the resolution of outstanding Aboriginal issues to avoid the fragmented, debilitating, wasteful and socially inefficient process of litigation.

3.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will insist that all outstanding native land claims be settled with the payment of cash by the Federal Government. If any crown land is included in the resolution of a land claim, the Federal Government must compensate the provincial government for the value of the land, including all the natural resources it contains.

4.0

The BC Heritage Party Government will advocate giving individual aboriginal residents of British Columbia title to the lands they occupy on reserves.

5.0

The BC Heritage Party believes that all aboriginal residents of British Columbia should be subject to all the laws of British Columbia. Self government should be in the form of municipal style government, accountable to the provincial government.

Topic IX: National Unity

1.0

The BC Heritage Party believes that the values most Canadians share in all the provinces and territories, which are part of our great Canadian heritage are greater than the values on which we are divided.

2.0

The BC Heritage Party supports the Premier's 1997 declaration in Calgary, stating, "Canada's gift of diversity includes aboriginal peoples and cultures, the vitality of the English and French languages and a multicultural citizenry, drawn from all parts of the world"

3.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will respect the statement in the Premier's declaration, "Canada is a federal system where federal, provincial and territorial governments work in partnership while respecting each other's jurisdiction." Canadians want their governments to work together for the protection and wellbeing of all our citizens.

4.0

A BC Heritage Party Government believes that all Canadians should have the freedom to travel freely, and to move to any location in the Country, to work, to vacation or to retire wherever they want to in this great land. We also believe that they should be fully entitled to all the benefits offered by the Government of any province where they choose to live and that they should have a reasonable expectation that those benefits will be similar, no matter which province they choose to live in.

However, they should not expect to receive benefits in a province that is the recipient of equalization payments than they can not expect to receive in any other province, especially one that is a net contributor to equalization payments.

A BC Heritage Party Government will fight for the standardization of benefits throughout the Country so that this type of disparity is eliminated.

5.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will strive to ensure that the five basic principles of the *Canada Health Act* are applied throughout Canada, even though the administration of health services comes under provincial jurisdiction. Residents of any province or territory who require medical assistance or services while visiting elsewhere in Canada will have as full and equal access to all health care facilities and services as residents of the province or territory in which the need for such services is required.

A BC Heritage Party Government will also insist on the reform of the Canada Health Act to ensure that it no longer prevents the delivery of quality health care in a timely manner by the Government of British Columbia to the residents of British Columbia.

If the Canada Health Act is found to be contributing to a reduction in the level of health care in British Columbia and if the Federal Government cannot be persuaded to change the Canada Health Act to rectify the problem, a BC Heritage Party Government will consider opting out of the Canada Health Act.

6.0

A BC Heritage Party Government, in seeking to promote national unity, will propose the following federal policy priorities:

- a) The Federal government should work with the provinces to reinforce Canadian economic union through the Inter-provincial Trade Agreement.
- b) The Inter-provincial Trade Commission should be given authority by the Federal Government to initiate and carry out policies derived from the Inter-provincial Trade Agreement.
- c) The Federal Government should take a leadership role in eliminating inter-provincial trade barriers in commerce, labour and capital mobility through non-constitutional means.

7.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will seek to establish provincial control over

- Natural Resources (Oil, Natural Gas, Coal, etc), including control over and revenue from offshore resources both in the sea and under the sea.
- Forestry
- Health Care
- Education, including Post Secondary Education.
- A Provincial Pension Plan to replace the CPP
- Taxation
- Immigration to British Columbia from outside of Canada.
- A Provincial Police Force to replace the RCMP, with authority similar to the OPP and the QPP

8.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will support

- A Federal “Triple E” Senate to give B.C. residents a greater share in the decision making in the Federal Government.

9.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will co-operate with the Federal Government to amend the Federal Constitution to include Property Rights, as well as to guarantee that no person shall be deprived of their just rights without due process of law and full, just and timely compensation.

10.0

A BC Heritage Government will eliminate the BC Human Rights Tribunal, which is currently being used unfairly by special interests to harass our citizens and coerce them into silence on important issues. The complainants have free, unfettered access to the Tribunal while the defendants have no such assistance and must incur a huge expense to defend themselves. The decisions handed down by this Tribunal are final and not subject to review in a court of law.

The Human Rights Tribunal is not necessary, since aggrieved groups and individuals have sufficient recourse through the court system. It will be disbanded.

Topic X: AGRICULTURE

1.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will ensure that Agriculture in British Columbia remains competitive with other jurisdictions by freeing the industry as much as possible from government red tape and control.

2.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will encourage the growth of secondary industry in the Agricultural sector by offering incentives to farmers to build facilities for the processing of farm produce such as slaughterhouses to process B.C. beef, and establishing processing facilities to turn agricultural by-products into bio-fuel.

3.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will work with the agriculture industry to promote their products both inside and outside British Columbia, and to promote the development of new agricultural products in B.C.

4.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will guarantee an annual provincial agriculture budget for the Agri-Food sector, at par with the Canadian average returns as a percentage of Agricultural Gross Domestic Product.

5.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will fully participate in all federal Agricultural and Environmental initiatives and will review and administer all Canadian Agricultural Risk Management Programs.

6.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will provide a sustainable crop insurance system in BC based on full production guarantees and insurable values that reflect the unique diversity of British Columbia's Agra-food Sector.

7.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will establish a modern system of conservation to replace the Agriculture Land Commission. Agriculture land-use decision-making will be returned to local/regional government control. Decisions by local agencies will be subject to appeal to a Provincial Body that is accountable to the Legislature.

8.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will establish an Agriculture Regional Development Authority to provide low interest long term Provincial Infrastructure Loans to fund water supply and water purification projects through local governments, regional districts, first nations governments and certified irrigation water districts.

Topic XI: PRIVATIZATION

1.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will not privatize or otherwise outsource personal information collection and storage to organizations outside the province.

2.0

Crown corporations and assets, such as BC Hydro, will not be disposed of without the permission of the voting public via referendum.

3.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will undertake a thorough review of the role of ICBC and implement any recommendations to improve ICBC including allowing competition.

4.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will encourage private companies to locate in British Columbia and employ the residents of British Columbia by providing the infrastructure that they need and tax rates that are competitive with other jurisdictions.

Topic XII: FAMILY

1.0

The BC Heritage Party believes that the family unit is essential to the well-being of individuals and society, because that is where children learn values and develop a sense of responsibility. Therefore government legislation and programs should support and respect the role of the British Columbian family and the rich heritage of this province where the family unit has traditionally been valued and supported by government..

2.0

The BC Heritage Party believes in the right and duty of parents to raise their own children responsibly according to their own conscience and beliefs. We believe no person, government or agency has the right to interfere in the exercise of that duty except through due process of law and only where it can be reasonably demonstrated that the children are suffering neglect or abuse at the hands of their parents or others who are entrusted with their care.

3.0

The BC Heritage Party believes that the institution of marriage should be restricted to the union of one man and one woman and should be viewed primarily as the vehicle for producing and raising the children which are the future generations of British Columbians. The citizens of British Columbia, and not the courts should determine the definition of marriage. Only the citizens, through a referendum resulting from a citizens' initiative, should be allowed to change that definition.

Topic XIII: LAW AND ORDER

1.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will reform the provincial legal system to ensure the protection of the public, restore punishment as a deterrent to crime and dispense justice in a timely manner.

2.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will enact legislation to provide compensation to victims of crime.

3.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will create and publish, on the government website, a record of the cases handled, and sentences handed down, for each individual judge. It will also create a recall process whereby judges who are “soft on crime” or otherwise fail to dispense justice fairly can be relieved of their duties by the voters.

4.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will create a commission, consisting of judges and ordinary citizens, charged with reviewing sentencing guidelines and proposing any changes to the Parliament of Canada for adoption.

5.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will consider impaired driving an endangerment of the public and any offence may warrant forfeiture of the vehicle and prison time for anyone that is convicted of this offence.

6.0

A BC Heritage Party Government will recommend to the federal government that any person who is not a citizen of Canada and who is convicted of a crime in British Columbia be deported to their country of origin immediately after their release from prison. They should be escorted directly from the prison to the airport and placed on the first available flight to their country of origin.

Topic XIV: FISHERIES

- 1) The Federal Government must be required to carry out its fisheries commitment to British Columbia as set out in B.C.’s Terms of Union with Canada. The Federal Government in the Terms of Union committed to “assume and defray the charges” for the “Protection and Encouragement of Fisheries.” A BC Heritage Party Government will insist that the Federal Government carry out its part of the bargain.

2. A BC Heritage Party Government will enact legislation that recognizes and protects the public right to fish so that all Canadians will have an equal right to fish and equal access to the fishery regardless of their race, heritage or ethnic background.
4. A BC Heritage Party Government will ensure that treaties and treaty negotiations are consistent with, and respectful of, the public right to fish and will ensure that aboriginals have equal access with all other Canadians to the fisheries resource.
5. A BC Heritage Party Government will seek compensation from the federal government for fishermen where federal fisheries policies have undermined the livelihood of BC fishermen.
6. A BC Heritage Party Government will be an advocate for BC fisheries.
7. A BC Heritage Party Government will appoint a BC Minister of Fisheries.
8. A BC Heritage Party Government will ensure that aquaculture operates in a manner that does not harm or threaten wild fish stocks. A timetable will be established by which all fish farms will be required to move to closed containment.