

The Green Party of Manitoba

POLICY BOOK

1998 - 2006

Compiled and Edited by
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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This Policy Book represents a first attempt at compiling in digital form all policies passed by the Green Party of Manitoba since its 1998 formation and the first general meeting, held in 2001, that policies were debated and adopted by the membership.

I have done my best to accurately reproduce all policies from the minutes of the various general meetings held by the party. Any errors or omissions, if any, are hopefully minor, and can be corrected with your help.

This Policy Book is organized in chronological order to give the reader a sense of the evolution of the Manitoba Greens' policy and policy capacity development over time. I hope you will find these policies both useful and inspirational for further policy and/or platform development.

All these policies hold one thing in common: the goal of achieving a sustainable and just society. This document cannot achieve these objectives without active and articulate candidates dedicated to the greatest good for the greatest number including both current and future generations in all of their political endeavours. It is incumbent on all of us with ecological knowledge to take the values, principles, and policies described herein and present them to the public in an effort to gain popular support for sustainability, allowing us, as a species, to achieve long-term sustainability and social justice on Earth.

I look forward to working with you in this important time.

Sincerely,

C. Andrew Basham
Winnipeg, MB
September 17, 2006

I. POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

“Policy may be initiated by (a) any member of the party (b) the policy committee. The policy committee would announce to the membership that we would be discussing a particular policy issue

A discussion paper may be prepared. We would encourage people to do this.

The discussion paper would be shared with the membership by:

- (a) Email forum, i.e. moderated group [mbgreens@yahoogleroups.ca]
- (b) Policy workshop, e.g. a policy potluck

The Policy Committee would take the initial information, include feedback from the email forum and/or the workshop, and write a resolution.

The resolution would be taken to Provincial Council to be passed as interim policy.

The resolution would be ratified at the Annual Policy Conference. The resolutions would be prioritized by the Policy Committee in the following order: interim policy, new policy, amendments to policy, and policy not recommended. Emergency resolutions would be admitted to [the] Policy Conference.”

PASSED May 2004.

II. POLICY LIST

2001 Policies

1. Controlled Substances
2. Restorative Justice (originally titled “Crime”)
3. Same-Sex Rights
4. Radioactive Waste Storage
5. Health
6. Gambling

2003 Policies

1. Thirty-two Hour Work Week
2. Provincial Parks and Sensitive Areas [*Amended to by the 2nd policy resolution of 2004*]
3. Ecological Sanitation [*Replaced in 2004*]

2004 Policies

1. Hemp
2. Provincial Parks and Manitoba’s East Shore Wilderness
3. Education Philosophy
4. Environmental Education
5. Living Wage
6. Democratic reform
7. Fixed Election Dates:
8. Family Day
9. Deposit Return System for Glass Food Containers
10. Ecological Sanitation
11. Family Planning

2005 Policies

1. Values
2. Ten Principles For Sustainable Societies¹
3. Ecological Principles
4. Policy Structure
5. The Electoral System of Manitoba
6. Factory farms
7. Fuel Efficient Transportation
8. Energy Efficiency
9. Drought-Adapted Agriculture
10. Lake Winnipeg Pollution
11. Water Soft Paths
12. Potable Water

13. Youth Suffrage
14. Aboriginal Education
15. Chemical Pesticides

2006 Policies

1. Canadian National Organic Standard
2. Organic Farm Research and Education
3. Pension Protection
4. Fossil-Fuel Independence
5. Manitoba Energy
6. Current/Future Hydroelectric Development in Manitoba
7. Aboriginal Rights and Hydroelectric Development
8. Hazardous Waste
9. Nanotechnology and Nanobiotechnology (Synthetic Biology)
10. Nanotechnology and Nanobiotechnology Assessment
11. Nanotechnology and Synthetic Biology Research Safety Protocols

III. POLICY STRUCTURE

From Policy Resolution 4-2005 "Policy Structure", the following was extracted:

“Currently [(2005)] the Green Party of Manitoba has passed 24 resolutions: six in 2001, four in 2002, three in 2003, and eleven in 2004. These resolutions would be categorized in the following way if we used anthropologist Edward T. Hall’s policy structure:

- a) Communication
- b) Organization
 - Democratic Reform (May/04)
 - Fixed Election Dates (May/04)
- c) Subsistence
 - Basic Income (Nov/02)
 - Hemp (May/04)
- d) Sexuality
 - Family Planning (May/04)
 - Same Sex Rights (Nov/01)
- e) Space
- f) Time
- g) Learning
 - Education Philosophy (May/04)
 - Environmental Education (May/04)
- h) Play
- i) Protection
 - Labour: Living Wage (May/04)
 - Standard Work Week (Nov/03)
 - New Statutory Holiday (May/04)
 - Labour in Agriculture (Nov/02)
 - Justice: Crime (Nov/01)
 - Addictions: Controlled Substance (Nov/01)
 - Gambling (Nov/01)
 - Health (Nov/01)
- J) Exploitation, via Technology
 - Conservation (Nov/02)
 - Deposit Return System (May/04)
 - Environmental Protection, re hog barns (Nov/02)
 - Ecological Sanitation (Nov/03, revised May/04)
 - Provincial Parks and Manitoba East Shore Wilderness (May/04)
 - Provincial Parks, Sensitive Areas (Nov/03)
 - Radioactive waste storage (Nov/01)

Respectfully submitted
Robert Johannson, April 2005”

[Note: This resolution was passed with a mandate to revisit after one year, yet it was not]

IV. GREEN PARTY OF MANITOBA POLICIES (FROM WEBSITE)

The following were pulled from the GPM website (<http://greenparty.mb.ca/politics1.html>) accessed September 8, 2006. They are in alphabetical order without dates of passage. All are repeated under the appropriate years they were passed. The 2005 Policies available at the URL above are not included here for the sake of brevity; they are included in Chapter IX.

Basic Income

The Manitoba Greens support a Basic Income program for Manitoba. If possible this should be done with the financial help and participation of the federal government, but is not dependent on its participation.

This program would replace all social assistance programs currently administered by the provincial government. Special consideration would be given to those people in need of extra income, for example, people with disabilities.

Conservation

Under the present system, economic growth is supported by unlimited consumption of both renewable and non-renewable resources. However, on a finite world there is no an infinite supply of natural resources. The Green Party recognises limits to growth. Limits to growth are likely to be imposed primarily by resource depletion and the ever-increasing costs of pollution. Furthermore, land is also in limited supply. An expanding world population demands expanding food supplies. Irresponsible land use planning, degradation of land through human activity and changes in land quality and availability due to climate change mean that land must be managed in such a way as to ensure sustainable human development and safeguard biodiversity.

Conservation of land and natural resource will be very important in order to protect the natural environment from pollution and degradation. The Green Party believes that technologies which promote reuse and recycling of materials and products should be given priority over the production of goods from newly generated resources. We believe our towns and cities should be structured in such a way as to maximize resource conservation.

Controlled Substances

Greens do not encourage the use of controlled substances. We believe it is ultimately the choice of individuals to use such substances.

Greens believe that marijuana should be legalized and treated as a controlled substance like tobacco and alcohol.

Taxes raised from the sale of these substances will, in part, fund education and rehabilitative/health services to prevent and treat substance abuse.

The federal government should decriminalize possession and use of hard drugs such as cocaine and heroin. Abuse of these drugs should be treated as a health issue. Distribution and sale of hard drugs should, however, remain a criminal offence.

The Greens will also consider the social and economic conditions underlying substance abuse in developing public policy.

Crime

Greens support a move away from retribution-based justice towards restorative justice both within provincial and federal jurisdictions. This includes increased rehabilitative options, community service sentencing (for non-violent crime) and reform of the penitentiary system. Victim impact statements and restitution options should be weighed in sentencing. A Green approach to crime would not simply address its symptoms, but focus on causes.

Environmental Protection

To protect our province's environment and smaller farms, the Manitoba Greens support:

- 1 restoring the right of citizens to sue hog barns for causing excessive odours;
- 2 requirement of licensing and strict regulation of large-scale intensive livestock operations, including hog barns;
- 3 application of strict pollution standards appropriate to Manitoba's climate and geography to intensive livestock operations, including hog barns;
- 4 legislation prohibiting non-Manitoban corporate farmers from owning farmland in the province;
- 5 minimum standards for the humane treatment of farm animals; and
- 6 ending government subsidies to transnational corporate slaughterhouses.

Gambling

Greens recognize that small-scale gambling with limited pots can be a source of entertainment.

We conclude, however, that large-scale and addictive gambling operations are unhealthy for individuals, families, and communities. Large gambling operations should not be used to raise government revenue.

Casinos: The Greens call for an immediate freeze on development of new casinos. Existing casinos will be phased out over a ten-year period.

VLTs: A Green government would ban video lottery terminals.

Economic Development: Several First Nation communities have put forward proposals for building casinos as a form of economic development. The Greens propose that 50% of the annual revenue from existing casinos be distributed to these communities as grants. The grants would be used to develop alternative economic projects that are sustainable.

Health

Greens believe that all Manitobans have a right to equal access to health care services. Greens advocate a health care program, which emphasizes both the prevention of illness and personal responsibility for well being.

Critical to health promotion in our society is ceasing to add pollutants to the environment. To ensure health dollars are used wisely, Greens advocate evidence-based initiatives.

Greens support full funding for abortion services. We promote less invasive family planning programs reducing the need to seek such medical interventions.

Manitoba Greens support a more inclusive health care program, which would take steps to permit the subsidization of alternative treatments and therapies.

Labour

The Manitoba Greens support extending minimum employment, labour, safety and workers' compensation protections to farm employees.

Radioactive Waste Storage

Greens oppose the importation and storage of high-level radioactive waste created outside of Manitoba and brought into the Province.

Same-Sex Rights

Greens support the extension of all legal rights enjoyed by heterosexual couples to same-sex couples, including the right to legally marry and adopt children.

Thirty-two Hour Work Week

The Manitoba Greens advocate that Manitoba change its standard hours of work from 40 to 32 hours a week.

V. POLICIES FROM 2001 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Policy 1 - Controlled Substances

Greens do not encourage the use of controlled substances. We believe it is ultimately the choice of individuals to use such substances.

Greens believe that marijuana should be legalized and treated as a controlled substance like tobacco and alcohol.

Taxes raised from the sale of these substances will, in part, fund education and rehabilitative/health services to prevent and treat substance abuse.

The federal government should decriminalize possession and use of hard drugs such as cocaine and heroin. Abuse of these drugs should be treated as a health issue. Distribution and sale of hard drugs should, however, remain a criminal offence.

The Greens will also consider the social and economic conditions underlying substance abuse in developing public policy.

Policy 2 – Restorative Justice (originally titled “Crime”)

Greens support a move away from retribution-based justice towards restorative justice both within provincial and federal jurisdictions. This includes increased rehabilitative options, community service sentencing (for non-violent crime) and reform of the penitentiary system. Victim impact statements and restitution options should be weighed in sentencing. A Green approach to crime would not simply address its symptoms, but focus on causes.

Policy 3 - Same-Sex Rights

Greens support the extension of all legal rights enjoyed by heterosexual couples to same-sex couples, including the right to legally marry and adopt children.

Policy 4 - Radioactive Waste Storage

Greens oppose the importation and storage of high-level radioactive waste created outside of Manitoba and brought into the Province.

Policy 5 - Health

Greens believe that all Manitobans have a right to equal access to health care services. Greens advocate a health care program, which emphasizes both the prevention of illness and personal responsibility for well being.

Critical to health promotion in our society is ceasing to add pollutants to the environment. To ensure health dollars are used wisely, Greens advocate evidence-based initiatives.

Greens support full funding for abortion services. We promote less invasive family planning programs reducing the need to seek such medical interventions.

Manitoba Greens support a more inclusive health care program, which would take steps

to permit the subsidization of alternative treatments and therapies.

Policy 6 - Gambling

Greens recognize that small-scale gambling with limited pots can be a source of entertainment.

We conclude, however, that large-scale and addictive gambling operations are unhealthy for individuals, families, and communities. Large gambling operations should not be used to raise government revenue.

Casinos: The Greens call for an immediate freeze on development of new casinos. Existing casinos will be phased out over a ten-year period.

VLTs: A Green government would ban video lottery terminals.

Economic Development: Several First Nation communities have put forward proposals for building casinos as a form of economic development. The Greens propose that 50% of the annual revenue from existing casinos be distributed to these communities as grants. The grants would be used to develop alternative economic projects that are sustainable.

VI. POLICIES FROM 2002 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1. Environmental Protection

To protect our province's environment and smaller farms, the Manitoba Greens support:

- a) restoring the right of citizens to sue hog barns for causing excessive odours;
- b) requirement of licensing and strict regulation of large-scale intensive livestock operations, including hog barns;
- c) application of strict pollution standards appropriate to Manitoba's climate and geography to intensive livestock operations, including hog barns;
- d) legislation prohibiting non-Manitoban corporate farmers from owning farmland in the province;
- e) minimum standards for the humane treatment of farm animals; and
- f) ending government subsidies to transnational corporate slaughterhouses.

2. Labour

The Manitoba Greens support extending minimum employment, labour, safety and workers' compensation protections to farm employees.

3. Basic Income

The Manitoba Greens support a Basic Income program for Manitoba. If possible this should be done with the financial help and participation of the federal government, but is not dependent on its participation.

This program would replace all social assistance programs currently administered by the provincial government. Special consideration would be given to those people in need of extra income, for example, people with disabilities.

4. Conservation

Under the present system, economic growth is supported by unlimited consumption of both renewable and non-renewable resources. However, on a finite world there is no an infinite supply of natural resources.

The Green Party recognises limits to growth. Limits to growth are likely to be imposed primarily by resource depletion and the ever-increasing costs of pollution. Furthermore, land is also in limited supply. An expanding world population demands expanding food supplies. Irresponsible land use planning, degradation of land through human activity and changes in land quality and availability due to climate change mean that land must be managed in such a way as to ensure sustainable human development and safeguard biodiversity.

Conservation of land and natural resource will be very important in order to protect the natural environment from pollution and degradation. The Green Party believes that technologies which promote reuse and recycling of materials and products should be

given priority over the production of goods from newly generated resources. We believe our towns and cities should be structured in such a way as to maximize resource conservation.

VII. POLICIES FROM 2003 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Policy 1 - Thirty-two Hour Work Week

The Manitoba Greens advocate that Manitoba change its standard hours of work from 40 to 32 hours a week.

Policy 2 – Provincial Parks and Sensitive Areas

Provincial Parks and sensitive areas including the Manigotagan River watershed and the East Shore Wilderness be kept pristine, protected, and free of industry.

- *[Note: this policy was amended/added to by the 2nd policy resolution of 2004]*

Policy 3 – Ecological Sanitation

Whereas:

1. The Green Party of Manitoba believes that central sewage can never be made sustainable; and
2. its [the centralized sewage system's] random mixing of unknown, often toxic, materials is inherently unsustainable, spending any resources – money, time, energy, materials – on the extension of central treatment, on either sewage pipes and hook-ups or on attempting higher levels of wastewater treatment is not only a waste of those resources but delays their being spent on a truly sustainable sanitation system; and
3. for many reasons – but particularly for cost-effectiveness and for public and ecosystem health – any on-site sanitation system is better than central collection and treatment;

Therefore, be it resolved by this 2003 annual convention of the Green Party of Manitoba that moving toward such a sanitation system requires adherence to the following three principles¹:

1. Sewer avoidance (i.e. stay off & get off sewers). Central sewage cannot be made sustainable.
2. Implement low-cost, on-site, excreta recycling technologies (e.g. giving primacy to dry, composting toilets) to eliminate water pollution by human excreta.
3. Water must be priced right. Cheap water is an invitation to continued misuse. The presently externalized, social and ecological, costs of water-based sanitation must be internalized. Pricing water at its true value will make ecological sanitation technologies increasingly attractive to governments and industries.

[Note: This policy was replaced in 2004 with Policy 10 – Ecological Sanitation]

¹ Reference Source: *Toward Sustainable Sanitation* (2001) edited by Robert Goodland*, Laura Orlando, & Jeff Anhang. Fargo, ND: The International Association of Impact Assessment (TIAIA).

*World Bank Ecologist, President of TIAIA

VIII. POLICIES FROM 2004 POLICY CONVENTION

1. Hemp

Hemp should be treated as any other agricultural product, without being subjected to special licenses or to special inspections.

2. Provincial Parks and Manitoba's East Shore Wilderness

Whereas:

- 1) the East Shore Wilderness (ESW) has not been widely industrially developed to date, nor paved; and
- 2) the ESW is a major "carbon sink", removing carbon from and producing oxygen into our air, a vital quality in the age of global climate change;

Therefore, be it resolved that:

- 1) Provincial parks should be kept pristine, protected, and free of industry; and
- 2) A comprehensive conservation plan should be developed for MB's East Shore Wilderness Area in full consultation with the area's First Nations communities, preserving First Nations' livelihood; this plan must include large contiguous tracts of land preserved free of industrial development.

3. Education Philosophy

Greens support and educational policy ensuring that:

- 1) children are equipped with the learning skills that will enable them to lead lives in which they can thrive, not just survive
- 2) education programmes provide a model of living, working, playing, and learning that accustoms everyone from childhood on to participate in a society that is sustainable, peaceful, and appropriately meets diverse needs
- 3) opportunities be available for lifelong learning
- 4) the full potential of all students is recognized and the motivations and strengths of both learners and teachers built upon.

4. Environmental Education

The Manitoba Greens would provide funding for environmental educators to every school in Manitoba. Duties for the position would include designing and implementing environmental education programmes.

5. Living Wage

Be it resolved that:

- 1) the minimum wage once again become a living wage; and
- 2) the living wage be tied to a basic economic indicator.

6. Democratic reform

- 1) Manitoba Greens support proportional representation and support holding a referendum to change the current electoral system.

7. Fixed Election Dates:

The length of the governing party's term be fixed at four years unless the government falls in a non-confidence vote.

8. Family Day

The Manitoba Greens would legislate the third Monday in February as a statutory holiday.

9. Deposit Return System for Glass Food Containers

The Manitoba Greens would mandate that a deposit-return system for all glass food and beverage containers be implemented in Manitoba

10. Ecological Sanitation

OVERVIEW: Sewering and wastewater systems are inherently capital-, and energy-intensive; they cause endless problems including public health and ecosystem deterioration and they produce no useful product. Ecological sanitation systems exist that cause none of sewerage and wastewater systems' problems but rather correct them, whose infrastructures cost far less, and in addition, produce a useful agricultural end product.

Whereas:

- 1) water is life, a gift of Nature and access to it is a natural and fundamental right;
- 2) water ought not, therefore, be treated as a commodity and traded for profit; and

- 3) all people have the right to freedom from thirst, and adequate access to clean safe water for all of their living needs; and
- 4) 1.1 billion people lack safe and adequate drinking water and 2.4 billion lack any; and
- 5) the UN Millennium Development Goals estimate that to remedy this situation by 2015 will cost US\$ 100 billion per year; and
- 6) over 50 years of international development has failed to provide this adequate; and
- 7) achieving these goals would require providing sanitation to over 400,000 people per day and this is four times the current rate; and
- 8) these costs assume that water-based sanitation systems are the technology of choice; and
- 9) sewerage and wastewater treatment sanitation systems are unsustainable and, by their very nature, are energy- and capital-intensive technologies whose end product is toxic, disease and pollution-producing, and has no redeeming qualities; and
- 10) Whereas, global water consumption is doubling every 20 years, more than twice the rate of human population growth; and
- 11) humans already use 54 % of all available freshwater (rivers, lakes, streams, and shallow aquifers). By 2025, human use could rise to more than 70 %; and
- 12) the richest 12 % of the world uses 85 % of its water; and
- 13) North Americans annually use 4900 L per capita; and
- 14) Canada, like all industrialized nations, has greatly overdrawn its credit at Nature's bank; and
- 15) even if the South is rushing to follow the flawed development model the North has provided; and
- 16) Canada, among other industrialized nations, must repay what is due to Nature's bank before it can credibly ask its partners and competitors in the South not to indebt themselves similarly; and
- 17) over one trillion litres of untreated sewage are dumped in to Canada's waterways every year, a volume that would cover the entire 7,800 kilometre length of the Trans-Canada Highway to a depth of 20 metres; and

- 18) the average Canadian household uses 500,000 L per year, most of which is used for washing cars or lost from dripping faucets; and
- 19) crumbling infrastructure results in huge losses from municipal water supplies (annually in Britain and in Boston, MA, 25 % and 40 % respectively of water entering the system is lost to leaks from broken pipes); and
- 20) the federal government has estimated that it would cost CA\$ 80 billion to upgrade Canada's water infrastructure; and
- 21) the latest research indicates that over the past 2000 years the Canadian prairies typically experienced three to four droughts per century, each of them of about 10 years duration; and
- 22) the 20th Century was relatively humid and the 'Dirty Thirties' drought of six years duration is now recognized as a short and relatively mild one; and
- 23) the 1930s drought occurred when there were not three to four million people with their 15 million livestock, industrial, irrigated, monoculture agriculture, almost no other large industry, and few people living in energy- and water-intensive cities on the prairies; and
- 24) prairie river systems, especially the South Saskatchewan, for their late June to August volume depend as their most important single source, on glacial melt-waters from the east slope of the Rocky Mountains; and
- 25) under global warming the contribution glacial melt-waters make to prairie river systems has already peaked and will provide progressively less water to the southern prairies; and
- 26) Winnipeg relies on a certain minimum volume of Red and Assiniboine river flow to dilute its sewage; and
- 27) as the climate continues to warm and human demand for water increases, water scarcity is becoming critical; and
- 28) bringing water to and away from the city accounts for 80%-90% of central sewage collection's costs and its treatment for 10%-20%; and
- 29) flush toilets account for 40% of the residential demand for water and represent not only the largest single category of domestic water use but also the only one with significant room for reduction; and
- 30) the average OECD nation sanitation use is 40 L/day; and
- 31) with ecological sanitation, this can be reduced to zero; and

- 32) if we stopped using water to transport our excreta, reservoirs could be half as large and therefore less costly; and
- 33) in the face of droughts and wasteful human uses, a transition from sewerage to ecological sanitation is urgent; and
- 34) there needs to be a re-orientation of municipal, provincial, and federal legislation, institutions, and funding away from sewerage and toward ecological sanitation technologies; and
- 35) all on-site sanitation systems, including even the septic and pit privies with all their known deficiencies, have the great advantage over central collection of low cost and of allowing for genuine upgrading as ecological sanitation technologies are implemented; and
- 36) sewerage's random mixing of unknown, often toxic, materials is inherently unsustainable; and
- 37) spending any resources, money, time, energy, materials, on the extension of central sewage and treatment or on attempting to attain higher levels of wastewater treatment is not only a waste of those resources but delays their being directed to a truly sustainable sanitation system; and
- 38) a sewer avoidance plan is an important first step in the transition to ecological sanitation; and
- 39) the essentials of a sewer-avoidance plan include:
 - i. Do not extend any sewer lines to presently non-sewered dwellings, institutions, or commercial facilities.
 - ii. Implement a rigorous program of internal industrial point-source separation.
 - iii. Ban the use of materials in consumer goods that are toxic to humans and the environment.
 - iv. Establish a moratorium on future sales/installation of garbage disposals.
 - v. Develop legislated land-use planning policies that actually protect the environment.
 - vi. Beginning at the periphery of sewerage communities whose central treatment facilities are already overloaded, install systems designed for on-site conversion of human excreta into humus;

Therefore be it resolved that:

Moving toward ecological sanitation requires:

- 1 Implementing the six essentials of a sewer avoidance plan, and

- 2 Implementing low-cost, on-site, excreta recycling technologies giving primacy to dry, composting toilets.

11. Family Planning

Manitoba Greens support full public funding for abortion services. A woman has the right to receive an abortion in the health care facility of her choice – from a small clinic to a large hospital – without financial or other penalty. A woman should not have to travel outside of her region for an abortion. That means every regional health authority should be legally required to offer abortion services within its geographical boundaries. We promote less invasive family planning programs including education reducing the need to seek such medical interventions. Conception planning should be fully publicly funded under Medicare and pharmacare. The provincial government should require all Manitoba pharmacies to sell contraception and abortion products such as the ‘morning-after pill’ and the ‘abortion pill’.

IX. Policies from 2005 Policy Convention

Policy 1/2005 - Values

Whereas, the Green Party of Manitoba (GPM) has had numerous discussions on expanding and clarifying our current Values/Principles; and

Whereas, these discussions have taken place at Policy Meetings, through e-mail and at a Policy Potluck; and

Whereas, Green parties around the world, including the Green Party of Canada, usually have 10 principles; and

Whereas, the GPM's current Values/Principles contain the 10 principles, but they are combined into 5 categories; and

Whereas, this makes it difficult to compare, or to discuss a particular section; and

Whereas, based on the Green Values of the Green Party of Canada, the Green Party of the United States, the International Forum on Globalization's *Alternatives to Economic Globalization*, the Manifesto for Earth, the Earth Charter, and discussions on the Green Party Living Platform, the following values/principles are proposed; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Green Party of Manitoba adopt the following Values/Principles; they are consistent with those of the Green Party of Canada, but are not identical:

A) *Ecological Wisdom*: Human beings are a part of nature not separate from it. Whatever we do to the web of life, we do to ourselves

B) *Integrity of the Earth's Ecosystem*: Integrity refers to wholeness, to completeness, to the ability to function fully. The standard is Nature's sun-energized ecosystems in their undamaged state. The evolutionary creativity and continued productivity of Earth and its regional ecosystems require the continuance of their key structures and ecological processes. Pollution of air, sediments and water, along with exploitive extraction of inorganic and organic constituents, weaken ecosystem integrity. (Note: The term Sustainability: is usually used to mean that the earth will be available for future generations. People use this term in many ways. It is often combined into sustainable development which seems to be impossible to define. Rather than sustainability a more exact principle, used above as outlined in A Manifesto for Earth.)

C) *Grassroots democracy*: People must be able to participate in the political, economic and environmental decisions that affect them.

D) *Social Justice*: Individual, families and communities have access to the resources of the society. All have the right to a natural and social environment supportive of human dignity, bodily health and spiritual wellbeing.

E) *Diversity*: We honour the diversity of life on our planet. An ecocentric worldview values Earth's diversity in all its forms, the non-human, as well as the human. Cultural, biological, social and economic diversity are central to healthy, functioning communities.

F) *Community-based Economics*: Rather than people being subservient to the economy, the economy should provide for human needs within the natural limits of the earth. Local self-reliance to the greatest practical extent is the best way to achieve this goal. The economy shall promote the equitable distribution of wealth within and among nations.

G) *Decentralization*: The people most affected by a problem must have the authority to solve it. Distant administrations cannot be responsive. Power must be returned to local communities. We support a restructuring of social, political and economic institutions to a democratic, less bureaucratic system. We support social simplification.

H) *Nonviolence*: The GPM seeks to promote a culture of tolerance, nonviolence and peace. We encourage and support mutual understanding, solidarity and cooperation among all peoples and within and among nations.

I) *Equity*: Equality and fairness need to replace domination and control. Full and equal participation by all Manitobans is needed in the decision-making processes of society.

J) *Responsibility*: Global sustainability and international justice can only be achieved when responsibility is shared at all levels of society. We are all called to take responsibility for ourselves, our families, our communities and our planet.

Policy – 2/2005: Ten Principles For Sustainable Societies¹

Whereas, the International Forum on Globalization (IFG) has provided one of the most critical and ongoing evaluations of the trend towards economic globalization; and

Whereas, as an alternative vision, the IFG has proposed practical, concrete ideas and possibilities; and

Whereas, the IFG has identified ten principles to guide decisions, restore community values and local control to the way the world does business; and

Whereas, the Ten Principles for Sustainable Societies², in brief, are: Democracy; Subsidiarity (local control, self-reliance & self-determination); Ecological Sustainability; Common Heritage; Diversity; Human Rights; Jobs, Livelihood, Employment; Food Security & Safety; Equity (equality & social justice); The Precautionary Principle (Look before you leap); and

Whereas, it is recognized that the IFG's Ten Principles for Sustainable Societies is a work in progress; and

Whereas, it is recognized that, as in any undertaking of this magnitude, the IFG's Ten Principles for Sustainable Societies undoubtedly has shortcomings, nevertheless; therefore be it

RESOLVED that this 2005 policy convention of the Green Party of Manitoba adopt the International Forum on Globalization's *Ten Principles for Sustainable Societies*² as one aid to its own efforts to achieve the same.

Respectfully submitted,
Vere Scott, April 2005

1. Alternatives to Globalization: A Better World Is Possible, John Cavanagh & Jerry Mander, eds, 2002, 2004 Berrett-Koehler Publishers, San Francisco. International Forum on Globalization, 1009 General Kennedy Avenue, #2, San Francisco, CA 94129 USA 415.561.7650; email: ifg@ifg.org, website: www.ifg.org.

2. Democracy; Subsidiarity (local control, self-reliance & self-determination); Ecological Sustainability; Common Heritage; Diversity; Human Rights; Jobs, Livelihood, Employment; Food Security & Safety; Equity (equality & social justice); the Precautionary Principle (Look before you leap).

Policy – 3/2005: Ecological Principles

Whereas, Green parties worldwide embrace certain common values; and

Whereas, one value, 'ecological wisdom' has proved more difficult than others to define; and

Whereas, there exist new and deepening understandings of the structures, processes and patterns of organization of living systems; and

Whereas, today's dominant metaphor of Nature as machine has led to deficient human interactions with her to arise from thinking best described as linear, and cause and effect; and

Whereas, a metaphor of Nature as complex living systems is a conceptual watershed best described by the growing awareness of her dynamic, non-linear systems; and

Whereas, core concepts in ecology describe the structures, processes and patterns of organization by which Nature sustains life; and

Whereas, six principles* describe living systems in terms of networks; nested systems; cycles; flows; development; and dynamic balance; and

Whereas, being aware of and understanding these six ecological principles is fundamental

to the thinking of any political party whose goal is to create sustainable societies; and

Whereas, planet Earth, over more than three billion years, has evolved living systems that we are only now recognizing as providing models to emulate in designing and redesigning sustainable interactions with her; and

Whereas, this concept of ecological design or biomimicry points the way to new models for sustainable communities; and

Whereas, a key challenge for humanity is to design industries, economies and social institutions that may be accommodated by Earth's highly evolved material and energy cycles; and

Whereas, this new understanding of Nature as model for designing human social and economic relationships embedded within their ecological context allows, as never before, practical expression of 'ecological wisdom'; therefore be it

RESOLVED that this 2005 policy convention of the Green Party of Manitoba adopt Fritjof Capra's six ecological principles as one foundation to guide crafting its policies.

Respectfully submitted,

Vere Scott

14 May 2005

* Fritjof Capra's SIX PRINCIPLES OF ECOLOGY (BELOW):

NETWORKS

We, like all life on Earth, are members of an ecological community interconnected and interdependent in a vast and intricate network of relationships—systems forming the web of life. In common with all life, we derive our essential properties and, in fact, our very existence from these systemic relationships.

NESTED SYSTEMS

Throughout nature exist multi-level structures of systems nesting within systems. Each system forms both an integrated whole of patterns and processes within its boundary and, simultaneously, forms part of a larger whole.

CYCLES

The interactions among members of an ecological community involve the exchange of energy and materials in continual cycles. These cycles in a community form part of a fabric of increasingly larger energy and materials cycles in a watershed, ecosystem and Earth's ecosphere.

FLOWS

1 Each organism is an open system; that is it has a need to feed on a continual flow of energy and materials to stay alive. The constant flow of solar energy sustains life and drives all ecological cycles.

DEVELOPMENT

Life unfolds at the individual level as manifested in its development and learning and it unfolds as evolution at the species level. This unfolding involves the interplay of creativity and mutual adaptation leading to the co-evolution of an organism with its ecosystem.

DYNAMIC BALANCE

1 All of nature's cycles involve feedback loops that result in an ecological community organizing and regulating itself by maintaining a state of dynamic balance that is characterized by continual fluctuations of energy and materials.

(Source: <http://www.ecoliteracy.org/pages/principlesofecology.html>)

Policy – 4/2005: Policy Structure

Whereas, currently the Green Party of Manitoba lists policy resolutions in alphabetical order; and

Whereas, the Government of Manitoba deals with policy issues in government departments that often change (e.g. the recently created Department of Water Stewardship); and

Whereas, to link policy to current government departments is to accept the logic and priorities built into this method of organization; and

Whereas, Green Party policy has to critique not only the content of these structures, but the structures themselves; therefore be it

RESOLVED that:

a) The Green Party of Manitoba use a biologically based policy structure and

b) For one year the policy structure be based on the anthropologist Edward T. Hall's functional description of society using a biological base, and that this structure be reassessed at the 2006 policy convention.

BACKGROUND:

STEP 1. Anthropologist Edward T. Hall developed the following functional description of societies using a biological analysis.

A) Interaction - To interact with the environment is to be alive, and to fail to do so is to be dead. One of the most highly elaborated forms of interaction is speech. Interaction lies at the hub of the universe of culture from which everything grows.

B) Association - The bodies of complex organisms are in reality societies of cells, most of which have highly specialized functions. The first associations along this line were between cells that banded together in colonies. What this deals with are the various ways in which societies and their components are organized or structured.

C) Subsistence - One of the first things anyone has to know about any living thing is its nutritional requirements; what does it eat and how does it go about getting food in its natural state? Subsistence is everything from individual food habits to the economy of the country.

D) Bisexuality - Behavior in animals is predominantly sex-linked. This applies both to the creation of sex roles, and the formation of families.

E) Territoriality - This term is used by ethologists to describe the taking possession, use, and defense of the territory on the part of living organisms. The balance of life in the use of space is one of the most delicate of nature. History is largely an account of efforts to wrest space from others and to defend space from outsiders.

F) Temporality - Life is full of cycles and rhythms, some of them related directly to nature - respiration, heartbeat, menstrual cycle, and so on. All living things have historical process.

G) Learning - Learning assumed a primary importance as an adaptive mechanism when an unknown, an ancestor of birds and mammals became warm-blooded at some time either late in the Permian or early Triassic periods, over 100,000,000 years ago.

H) Play - This is a not too well understood aspect of living processes. It appears to be intimately linked with learning.

I) Defense - The ethologist studying lower life forms has traditionally examined and described the defensive mechanisms of the organisms studied. Humanity has elaborated these into medicine, law enforcement, armies, etc.

J) Exploitation - In order to exploit the environment all organisms adapt their bodies to meet specialized environmental conditions. Today we have developed extensions for practically everything we do with the body.

STEP 2. Hall's names of categories have been changed to make them more recognizable:

- a) Communication (interaction)
- b) Organization (association)
- c) Subsistence
- d) Sexuality (bisexuality)
- e) Space (territoriality)
- f) Time, Life cycles (temporality)
- g) Learning
- h) Play
- i) Protection (defense)
- j) Exploitation, via Technology, extension of the body

STEP 3. Current Government Departments as of 2003 phone directory:

- a) Communication:
 - French Language Services
 - Federal-Provincial Relations
 - Intergovernmental Affairs
 - Aboriginal and Northern Affairs
 - Immigration, Multiculturalism
- b) Organization:
 - Constitutional Affairs
 - Government- Legislature, Cabinet
 - Civil Service
 - Cooperative Development
- c) Subsistence
 - Finance
 - Agriculture and Food
 - Communities Economic Development Fund
 - Family Services and Housing
- d) Sexuality
 - Status of Women
- e) Space
 - Transportation and Government Services
- f) Time
 - Seniors
- g) Learning
 - Education and Youth
 - Advanced Education and Training
- h) Play
 - Culture, Heritage and Tourism
 - Sport
- i) Protection
 - Health
 - Persons with Disabilities
 - Labour, Worker's Compensation

Justice
MPIC
Gaming Control Act, Liquor Control Act, Manitoba Lotteries Corporation
Crown Corporations Public Review and Accountability Act
Emergency Measures
j) Exploitation, via Technology
Industry, Trade and Mines
Manitoba Hydro Act
Energy, Science and Technology
Conservation

Policy – 5/2005: The Electoral System of Manitoba

Whereas, Manitoba's elections are conducted using a first-past-the-post (FPTP) single member plurality (SMP) system meaning that all contests are for one seat per electoral district and the candidate with the most ballots is declared to be elected; and

Whereas, SMP was designed and works best for elections with only 2 candidates and/or 2 parties; and

Whereas, there has been and will continue to be more than 2 candidates and 2 parties running in most elections; and

Whereas, the SMP system of election is no longer suitable for election(s) to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba because of this; and

Whereas, there has been significant public outcry over the issue of electoral reforms and changes due to the dis-proportionality of results in using SMP for elections in Manitoba and throughout Canada; and

Whereas, Manitoba should not continue to use an outdated and undemocratic system of election that is opposed by many people; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Green Party of Manitoba (GPM) adopt a policy of electoral reform consisting of (1) the formation of a Citizens' Assembly and (2) the promotion of the Single Transferable Vote as the Manitoba Greens' preferred system.

Part 1: Citizens' Assembly

Whereas, other Canadian provinces have undertaken electoral reform processes such as the formation of a Citizens' Assembly (CA) in British Columbia; and

Whereas, due to the magnitude of the changes and reforms that will be proposed, a CA is better equipped to deal with electoral reform issues than the average provincial

committee selected by the Manitoba Legislative Assembly; and

Whereas, the CA process must be started by the Manitoba Legislative Assembly (LA), but the LA should not control the Citizens' Assembly in any way; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Manitoba Greens adopt a policy calling for the formation of a Citizens' Assembly on electoral reform. The CA would deal with the issue of electoral reform in an objective and detailed manner involving (1) deciding whether single member plurality (SMP) is an adequate system for elections to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba; and (2) if SMP is declared to be unsuitable, explore alternative electoral systems that could be used in Manitoba; and (3) decide which electoral system(s) is/are to be brought to the electorate for a binding, province-wide referendum; and be it further

RESOLVED that this referendum set out the options: "none of the above", "back to the Citizens' Assembly for further review"; "no change"; "[electoral system 'a']"; "[electoral system 'b']"; or "[electoral system 'c']" where the letters "a, b, c" represent the top three electoral systems chosen by the CA; and be it further

RESOLVED that the ballot paper in the referendum be marked and counted using a preferential system that gives voters more options and a better understanding of the will of the voters; and be it further

RESOLVED that the public be educated about the Manitoba CA's electoral systems research through outreach programs such as lectures, workshops and general public consultation; and be it further

RESOLVED that the GPM request that the CA's deliberations be highly transparent and provide information to all members of society who wish to participate regardless of economic, social, or educational status, either perceived or real.

Part 2: Proportional representation and single transferable voting

Whereas, the current GPM consensus seems to favour proportional representation meaning that a party's seats in the Legislative Assembly are allocated in proportion to votes received by that party; and

Whereas, this view of party proportionality does not consider actual societal proportionality, which must include all members of our democratic society even those who may not be interested in, or able (culturally, economically, educationally) to form registered political parties; and

Whereas, GPM policies seem to be lacking in the area of proportional representation, or they favour Mixed Member Proportionality (MMP): which is geared towards simple *party proportionality*; and

Whereas, a perfectly representative Manitoba Legislature would reflect and respect the

views of all members of *society* (not simply parties) in proportion to their numbers; and

Whereas, MMP does not appear to fit well with the values of decentralization, respect for diversity, and participatory democracy as outlined in the Global Greens Charter (<http://www.global.greens.org.au/charter.htm>) for the reasons stated above; and

Whereas, MMP is a 2-ballot system: one to for a constituency representative and one for the party the voter would like to govern; and

Whereas, the first ballot is conducted on a first past the post (FPTP) single member plurality (SMP) system, in which the candidate with the highest number of votes is declared elected; and

Whereas, plurality of this type is known to result in vote splitting in contests with more than 2 candidates, which can---and often does---lead to a candidate being elected with a minority of votes; and

Whereas, being elected with a minority of votes is undemocratic, using the operative definition of democracy as being a majority rule; and

Whereas, the Single Transferable Vote (STV) was used in Winnipeg between 1920 and 1958 with the Alternative Vote (AV) used in rural ridings during that same time period; and

Whereas, STV and AV allow the voter to rank candidates preferentially, allowing him/her to express more accurately, in comparison with MMP, how s/he would like his/her vote to be counted; and

Whereas, understanding voters' democratic will by allowing them to leave more instructions on their ballot papers enables Elections Manitoba to return a Legislative Assembly more representative and descriptive of that will; and

Whereas, multi-member ridings allow the electorate to express instructions of both political ideology and regional concerns; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the GPM adopt a policy of multi-member Single Transferable Voting (STV) for Winnipeg and Brandon, with single-member Alternative Voting (AV) for rural constituencies; and be it further

RESOLVED that the method for counting ballots be similar to the one used in the Republic of Ireland that is listed below; and be it further

RESOLVED that the issue of *societal proportionality* comprises a part of any and all planks or policies of the GPM dealing with electoral reform or change.

Single Transferable Vote (STV) counting procedure as used in the Republic of Ireland²

1. The ballot papers are sorted and counted according to first preferences.
2. A quota is calculated using the Droop formula: divide the number of valid ballot papers by N and add 1 (where N is equal to the number of seats to be filled, plus 1). Candidates whose number of first preference ballot papers meet or exceed the quota are declared elected.
3. If no candidate is elected the candidate with the least number of first preference ballots is removed, and those ballot papers are transferred to remaining candidates according to the preference instructions the voter left on the ballot paper.
4. Whenever a candidate meets the quota, surplus ballot papers for that candidate must be transferred to remaining candidates in proportion to the support that those remaining candidates received within the total number of ballot papers for the just elected candidate. The formula is as follows: the surplus number is divided by the total number for the elected candidate; the resulting fraction is multiplied by the number of ballot papers indicating a preference for the unelected candidate.
5. Steps 3 and 4 are repeated until all seats except one are filled. At that point the candidate with the highest number of ballot papers among the remaining candidates is declared elected.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Basham

Policy – 6/2005: Factory farms

Whereas, factory farms pose a danger to the environment through the concentration of wastes that contaminate air, water and soil; and

Whereas, factory farms have a negative impact on communities through the concentration of ownership on individuals; and

Whereas, this concentration makes it difficult for small and family farmers to make a living; and

Whereas, this concentration leads to fewer farmers, family farm closures and loss of community businesses that depend on them; and

Whereas, factory farms affect their neighbours by producing unhealthy and highly

² Source: Nick Loenen (1997). *Citizenship and Democracy: A case for proportional representation*. Toronto: Dundurn, p. 185.

unpleasant air and water pollution; and

Whereas, factory farms use large quantities of water and often compete with local farmers for access to this limited resource; and

Whereas, factory farms' manure cesspools threaten water quality through pathogens and contaminants leaching and leaking into surface and ground water; and

1

Whereas, factory farm animal management practices such as crowded housing where there is no opportunity to enjoy a life compatible with their nature constitutes cruelty; and

Whereas, factory farming with its mega hog barns, giant feedlots, fish farms and battery chicken operations is harmful to family farms, workers, the environment, rural communities, animals and food quality; therefore be it

RESOLVED by this 2005 policy convention of the Green Party of Manitoba that moving toward a sustainable agriculture requires that as a first step to their being phased out, intensive farms be reduced in size and made to comply with strict and rigorously enforced regulations that protect human and ecosystem health and safeguard the comfort and well-being of the animals; and be it further

RESOLVED that proposals to open or enlarge a factory farm must be subject to the approval of both the community and the neighbourhood directly affected.

Respectfully submitted
Mary Jane Eason
April 29, 2005

Policy – 7/2005: Fuel Efficient Transportation

Whereas, in 2004 a blue-ribbon Anglo-American-Australian task force on climate change warned that “an ecological time-bomb is ticking away”; global warming is reaching a point of no return, after which its ill effects will be irreversible; “World leaders need to recognize that climate change is the single-most important long-term issue that the planet faces,” said co-chair Stephen Byers (United Church Observer, April 2005); and

Whereas, Canada is the fourth-largest greenhouse gas-producing nation in the industrialized world; and

Whereas, Canada's greenhouse gas (GHG) production is already 17% over that in 1990; and

Whereas, Canada has to reduce its GHG emissions 22% over the next seven years to meet Kyoto Protocol requirements; and

Whereas, transportation is the single largest source of GHG emissions in Canada, and

40% of these are from our personal cars; and

Whereas, GHG emissions create more and more health problems---for example, one in 13 Ottawa residents suffers from asthma and it is the No. 1 reason that children are admitted to hospital; and

Whereas, current technologies such as gas/electric cars, and hydrogen fuel-cells for buses are available; therefore be it

RESOLVED that:

- 1) All Provincial government vehicle purchases be fuel-efficient ones such as gas/electric hybrid cars, and
- 2) All individual car purchasers be provided with incentives, such as rebates, to buy fuel-efficient cars such as hybrids, and
- 3) Implement an eco-tax on less fuel-efficient vehicles to be applied to the subsidy of energy efficient mass transportation systems
- 4) The Province legislate that there be a gradual phase-in of buses using hydrogen fuel cells and or other alternative fuels.

Submitted,
Joan Johansson

Policy – 8/2005: Energy Efficiency

Whereas, reducing the need to invest money in new generating facilities is the most effective way to reduce future energy costs by avoiding the capital costs and the environmental impacts of new generating capacity, regardless of type; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Green Party of Manitoba support and work towards provincial legislation which will set and pursue clear goals and objectives for increasing the efficiency of energy use in Manitoba.

Respectfully submitted,
Catharine Johansson

Policy – 9/2005: Drought-Adapted Agriculture

OVERVIEW: The Canadian prairies have a history of drought cycles. Industrial, export-oriented agriculture arose during the relatively humid 20th century. Unfortunately, therefore, its inherent capital-, energy-, and water-intensive technologies are ill-suited to function when the inevitable extreme droughts return.

The past century's inordinate focus on industrial agriculture has caused much diversity (genetic, biological and cultural) to be lost. Industrial agriculture causes endless problems including devastated rural economies, and public and ecosystem health deterioration. Ecologically sound agriculture alternatives exist that cause none of industrial agriculture's problems but rather correct them, whose infrastructures cost far less, and in addition, have the potential to restore vibrant and sustainable rural economies. In the face of the inevitability of extreme prairie droughts and to secure the future both of Manitoba agriculture and of its associated regional economies, an urgent need exists for strategic, long-term planning that involves legislation and programs that take into account the latest scientific research and understandings of prairie droughts.

The Resolution:

Whereas, the latest research^{1, 2} indicates that over the past 2000 years the Canadian prairies typically experienced three to four droughts per century, each of them about 10 to 20 years duration; and

Whereas, catastrophic droughts are a natural, regular feature of the prairies and have the capacity to seriously disrupt society and the prairie economy; and

Whereas, the severe droughts of the 18th and 19th centuries may be the best models for predicting impacts of future droughts due to climate warming; and

Whereas, the 20th Century, that we have come to regard as normal, was relatively humid and the 'Dirty Thirties' drought of six years duration is now recognized as a short and very mild one; and

Whereas, the 1930s drought occurred when there were not today's 5.5 million people with their 20 million livestock, irrigated, industrial agriculture, almost no other large industry, and few people living in energy- and water-intensive cities producing greenhouse gases; and

Whereas, all these activities greatly amplify any drought's effects³ and our climate is the warmest it's been for several thousand years⁴; and

Whereas, prairie civilization is an oasis increasingly dependent on prairie rivers and their associated groundwaters; and

Whereas, present river flows are 40 to 80 % below normal, some lakes have lost 50 to 100% of their volume and many groundwaters have disappeared; and

Whereas, after winter snow has melted, prairie river systems depend for their late summer flow on glacial melt-waters from the Rocky Mountains' eastern slopes and these glaciers hold fifty per cent more water than the Great Lakes; and

Whereas, without glacial melt-water prairie rivers would dry up and groundwaters would not be recharged but with global warming, glacial melt-waters' contribution to prairie river systems has already peaked and will provide progressively less water to the southern prairies; and

Whereas, by 2030 or 2050 Rocky Mountain glaciers could be gone; and

Whereas, at a time when prairie populations are increasing, their water-intensive sewage systems and industries such as irrigated agriculture, factory pig farms, beef industry, and meat and processing factories are becoming more, not less dependent on this melting ice; and

Whereas, the Province of Manitoba's April 2003 Water Strategy mentions drought only in passing and fails to address the known virtual certainty of future droughts (up to 45% probability before 2030); and

Whereas, freshwater is composed of both surface and groundwater and these are intimately continuous parts of Earth's water cycle and circulating groundwater aquifers comprise up to 97 % of North America's freshwater; and

Whereas, only rainfall can renew freshwater and consequently, extensive withdrawal from aquifers and river systems depletes these finite water sources; and

Whereas, we have made ourselves more vulnerable to drought by mining natural drought buffers such as groundwater aquifers; and

Whereas, although agriculture is not Canada's largest user of water, it is its largest consumer by removing it from the landscape and tying it up in agricultural products and with evapotranspiration, rather than returning it to its surface and groundwater sources; and

Whereas, global warming may lead to an intensification of drought cycles and a prolonged drought would have a 9/11-like impact on the prairie economy; and

Whereas, one aspect of drought adaptation is the formation of infrastructure appropriate to severe drought; and

Whereas, two approaches to creating appropriate infrastructure seem advisable because droughts are naturally patchy: 1. network adaptation strategies will be more effective than site-by-site adaptation or management strategies (e.g. formation of a prairie wide crop insurance program may be the most effective way to disperse risk of severe drought impacts over a wide, but economically relevant, area, and 2. since ad hoc relief measures cannot be sustained for the duration of an average (i.e. decade-long) drought there should be reduced reliance on them; and

Whereas, adaptation measures must be carefully tuned to ecological conditions

expected during the prolonged droughts; and

Whereas, since most historical droughts lasted for over a decade, adaptation plans should be for multi-year events; and

Whereas, planning therefore needs to consider the effects of permanent loss of income on prairie farmers; and

Whereas, counteractive measures must consider the possibility that both the amount and quality of surface waters will decline during droughts and water storage technologies (e.g. dams, dugouts) may not, therefore, be viable management options; and

Whereas, despite the high probabilities of future droughts (up to 45% by 2030), assessments may actually underestimate drought risks on many areas of the southern Canadian prairies and the northern United States; and

Whereas, water is life, a gift of Nature and access to it is a natural and fundamental right⁵; and

Whereas, even in “water-rich” Canada, many jurisdictions are having trouble providing adequate, clean freshwater as their populations not only grow but exhibit higher expectations for water availability and safety; and

Whereas, the conventional (hard path) approach to water accepted the history of constantly growing demand and responded by extending pipelines, constructing more dams and drilling deeper; and

Whereas, the alternative to this hard engineering approach is to put greater emphasis in demand-side policies promoting water efficiency and conservation; and

Whereas, water efficiencies, full-cost pricing and public education will likely be insufficient to address future water problems; and

Whereas, there is a strong demand-side alternative water management approach called the water soft path^{6,7}, which is modelled on the highly successful soft path for energy; and

Whereas, water soft paths rely on a multitude of decentralized, relatively small-scale sources of supply coupled with management strategies aimed at ultra-efficient ways of meeting end-use demands; and

Whereas, industrial agriculture systems are characterized by energy-, capital-, and water-intensive technologies that result in toxic, diseased and polluted surface and groundwaters and are inherently non-sustainable; and

Whereas, as the climate continues to warm and human demand for water increases, water scarcity is becoming critical; and

Whereas, in the face of droughts and wasteful human uses, a transition from the current water-intensive agriculture to agro-ecosystems based on ecological principles is urgent; and

Whereas, there needs to be a re-orientation of municipal, provincial, and federal legislation, institutions, and funding away from water-intensive export agriculture and toward ecologically sound and localized technologies; and

Whereas, spending any resources—money, time, energy, materials—on the expansion of water-intensive agriculture is not only a waste of those resources but delays their being directed to a truly sustainable agriculture; and

Whereas, in the face of inevitable drought, a transition to a water conserving agriculture and rural economy is prudent; and

Whereas, after a century of industrial agriculture much genetic diversity has been lost and identifying, preserving and re-establishing drought-adapted crop and livestock varieties and their associated management systems is a first step in the transition to drought-adapted agriculture; and

Whereas, the Province's April 2003 Water Strategy demonstrates little awareness either of the reality or of the urgency of the need for drought preparation and adaptation; and

Whereas, even though farm-aid expenditures continue to increase it represents only a tiny fraction of what farmers have actually lost and it does not even consider the social impacts of people abandoning the prairies; and

Whereas, the probability of economically-significant droughts (losses >\$75 billion per year) occurring by 2030 is at least 22% in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, with the risk rising to approximately 40% in Alberta and North Dakota; therefore be it

RESOLVED by this 2004 policy convention that the Green Party of Manitoba support and work towards legislation that will require the Province to work co-operatively with other provinces, the Government of Canada and the U.S. government to set and pursue clear goals and measurable objectives to make the urgent transition from the present water-intensive industrial agriculture to a drought-adapted agriculture based on ecological principles.

Respectfully submitted,
Vere Scott

NOTES:

1. Sustainable agriculture in western Canada: planning for droughts using the past <http://www.uregina.ca/biology/faculty/leavitt/drought/drought1.htm>
2. Climate Change Effects on Regions of Canada, prepared for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (January 2002) http://www.fcm.ca/scep/support/PCP/pcp_pdfs/bruce.pdf
3. Schindler, David High and dry: flushing our water down the toilet AlbertaViews May/June 2003.
4. Water and the Future of Life on Earth, an edited proceedings from the workshop and think tank, May 22-24, 2002. Presented by Continuing Studies in Science, Simon Fraser University and the Liu Centre for the Study of Global issues, University of British Columbia. Edited by: Patricia Gallagher and Laurie Wood, Continuing Studies in Science, Simon Fraser University, Canada, 2003.
5. Navdanya / Research Foundation for Science, Technology & Ecology, A-60, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110 016, Tel.: 6561868, 6968077, 6853772 • Fax: 6562093, 6856795, E-mail: rfste@ndf.vsnl.net.in • Website: vshiva.net.
6. ANOTHER PATH NOT TAKEN: A METHODOLOGICAL EXPLORATION OF WATER SOFT PATHS FOR CANADA AND ELSEWHERE by David B. Brooks, Director of Research, Friends of the Earth Canada, FINAL REPORT, Submitted to Environment Canada According to the Terms of Contract: K1600-2-1014, 31 March 2003.
7. Beyond greater efficiency: the concept of water soft paths, David B. Brooks. Can. Water Resources J. 30 (1): 83-92 (2005).

Policy Appendix - WATER LIBERATION DECLARATION

WATER IS LIFE. IT'S A GIFT OF NATURE. THE ACCESS TO WATER IS A NATURAL AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT. IT IS NOT TO BE TREATED AS A COMMODITY AND TRADED FOR PROFIT. PEOPLE SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM FROM THIRST, AND SHALL HAVE ADEQUATE ACCESS TO SAFE WATER FOR ALL OF THEIR LIVING NEEDS.

EXPERIENCES ALL OVER THE WORLD REVEAL QUITE CONVINCINGLY THAT WATER WHICH IS "LIFE" IS BEING PRIVATIZED AND BROUGHT UNDER CORPORATE CONTROL. THIS WILL DEPRIVE THE PEOPLE OF WATER LIFELINE FOR SURVIVAL. ALL THE WATER RESOURCES SHOULD BE OWNED, CONTROLLED, MANAGED AND UTILIZED BY LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN THEIR NATURAL SETTING.

WE THE PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD WILL NOT ALLOW OUR WATERS TO BE MADE A COMMODITY FOR PROFIT.

WE WILL WORK TOGETHER TO LIBERATE WATER FROM CORPORATE / PRIVATE AGENCIES, CONTROL AND RETURN IT TO THE PEOPLE FOR COMMON GOOD.

WE DEMAND THE GOVERNMENTS ALL OVER THE WORLD SHOULD TAKE

IMMEDIATE ACTION TO DECLARE THAT THEY ACCEPT WATERS IN THEIR TERRITORIES A PUBLIC GOOD AND EXACT STRONG REGULATORY STRUCTURE TO PROTECT THEM

Policy 10/2005 - Lake Winnipeg Pollution

Whereas, Lake Winnipeg is the 10th largest freshwater lake in the world and its watershed covers one million square kilometres stretching west to the Rockies and south to the USA; and

Whereas, this watershed is subject to the gargantuan effluents of 5.5 million people and 20 million livestock; and

Whereas, included is the effluent from over 200 municipal and First Nations sewage systems, and from unknown tens of thousands of aging and unmonitored septic fields of limited capacity that makes its way into the lake; and

Whereas, one hog produces sewage equivalent of four humans; and

Whereas, the more than 7 million hogs in Manitoba alone produce the sewage equivalent of almost Canada's whole human population; and

Whereas, all this sewage stimulates Lake Winnipeg blue-green bacteria's unrivalled capacity for rapid growth that produces toxic 'blooms' whose blue-green scum blocks sunlight from the Lake's plants, further reducing the lake's oxygen; and

Whereas, the Province of Manitoba likes to keep the public's focus on pollution point sources and their production of what are euphemistically termed 'nutrients,' untold hundreds of thousands of every chemical produced over the past century finds its way to Lake Winnipeg and whose cumulative toxins endanger both public and the lake's health; and

Whereas, the Province of Manitoba diverts public attention from the so-called non-point source pollution that includes: sediments entering Lake Winnipeg from industrial clear-cut boreal forest along its east-side rivers; from forest fires; from the Winnipeg River's toxic plume of Pine Falls pulp and paper mill chemicals; from stubble-burning; from petroleum, two-stroke engines, leakage, refuelling spillage; thousands of landfills throughout the watershed leaching biomedical waste and hundreds of thousands of toxic chemicals—90 percent of which are so novel that their public health and ecosystem impacts alone and together is unknown; and

Whereas, summer ferries servicing roadless Lake Winnipeg communities leave a trail of pollution and heavy trucking over winter roads stains the lake ice black with a line of oil, hydraulic fluid, antifreeze and other contaminants; and

Whereas, every time a river in Lake Winnipeg's watershed floods the waters sweep everything on its floodplain—all the toxic chemicals, heavy metals, sewage cesspools, septic fields, livestock sewage, landfill leachates, all hazardous waste storage sites—downstream into the lake; and

Whereas, the Doer government's ludicrous boast that its goal is to turn back the clock on Lake Winnipeg's pollution to that of pre-1970s ignores over a century of massive and continuing drainage of the Red River valley's once vast marshes; and

Whereas, these wetlands—whose (kidneys/liver-like) function, is to purify surface waters and replenish groundwater aquifers and to sustain prairie life in times of drought—are virtually gone; and

Whereas, to return Lake Winnipeg's nitrogen and phosphorous to pre-1970s levels would require as a minimum the restoration of the many millions of square kilometres of wetlands and marshes that once dominated the lake's vast watershed; and

Whereas, as an example of how little remains, Oak Hammock marsh once covered over 6400 square kilometres; today it covers 2.5 square kilometres (less than 0.04 % of its original); and

Whereas, nothing that humans can devise could ever replace wetland ecosystems functions' many of which we remain largely ignorant; and

Whereas, the Province of Manitoba, behind the guise of water stewardship, effectively demonstrates callous disregard of Lake Winnipeg's plight; and

Whereas, the Province of Manitoba continues to obfuscate by appointing stewardship boards and funding research consortia that continue merely monitoring pollution symptom minutiae while taking no action to halt its very well known but politically sensitive causes; and

Whereas, it has become clear that water-based, sewage systems are not sustainable and no amount of infrastructure renewal, expansion, or technical fixes can make them so; and

Whereas, water soft paths offer promising alternatives to current policies; and

Whereas, water soft paths—such as ecological sanitation—rely on a multitude of decentralized, relatively small-scale supply sources coupled with management strategies aimed at ultra-efficient ways of meeting end-use demands; and

Whereas, by contrast, hard paths rely on building capital- and energy-intensive infrastructures with centralized management; and

Whereas, the Provincial government's April 2003 Water Strategy is a good illustration of business-as-usual, hard path thinking and conventional sewage production and treatment

represent the epitome of the water hard path.; and

Whereas, though different technologies may be used, the real differences between soft and hard paths reflect social and political choices about water governance; and

Whereas, above all else, water soft paths focus on resolving supply-demand problems from the demand side rather than the usual, and hard path, focus of searching for additional supplies; and

Whereas, the Province of Manitoba ought to be examining not the problems **IN** wastewater, but rather the problem **OF** wastewater; and

Whereas, a different way of thinking about sanitation is long overdue; and

Whereas, the desired goal is good public sanitation and it was the quest for it, not cleaner wastewater, that started us down the water-based dead-end path so long ago; and

Whereas, it is the path less travelled by that leads to sustainable sanitation—ecologically sound sanitation; and

Whereas the choice between the hard and soft paths is urgent; and

Whereas, the precautionary principle ² states “When an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause-and-effect relationships are not fully established scientifically”; and

Whereas, it has become increasingly clear that in our relations with Nature, we approach thresholds of complex natural systems and of whose existence we are ignorant (e.g. the Atlantic cod fishery collapse), it behoves us to pause and step back from the abyss; and

Whereas, no Canadian law ³ gives its citizens a right to clean, safe water; and

Whereas, the Province of Manitoba has not even implemented all relevant recommendations of the Walkerton Inquiry; therefore be it

RESOLVED by this 2005 policy convention that the Green Party of Manitoba support and work towards:

1. the Province of Manitoba creating, strengthening, and enforcing necessary laws and regulations that will protect surface and groundwaters from contamination by industrial chemicals and human and animal manures and ensure clean, safe water;
2. the Province of Manitoba dedicate more resources to enforcement and dismantling procedural obstacles so the public can enforce the law where the government lacks either the resources or the political will; and be it further
3. the Province of Manitoba adding new and innovative tools to our legal system’s tool

kit to address water contamination from non-point sources like agricultural and urban run-off and air-borne pollution; and

4. the Province of Manitoba mandating that urban and rural populations and housed livestock operations adopt ecological sanitation technologies that contain human and animal manures, sanitize them and return them to the soil to complete, once again, natural cyclical processes.

Respectfully submitted,
Vere Scott

Policy – 11/2005: Water Soft Paths

Whereas, freshwater shortage is a global problem second in importance only to global warming; and

Whereas, human activities are already withdrawing nearly one-half of all available freshwater on the planet; and

Whereas, in common with most other industrialized nations Canada's freshwater supply and delivery practices are becoming less, not more, sustainable; and

Whereas, Manitoba has a semi-arid climate and the 20th century, when water-intensive industrial agriculture developed, was a relatively humid one; and

Whereas, the latest research indicates that over the past 2000 years the Canadian prairies typically experienced three to four droughts per century, each of them of about 10 to 20 years duration; and

Whereas, the Canadian prairies are at risk for future extreme droughts (up to 45% by 2030); and

Whereas, lack of water quality control has caused death and illness, and boil water advisories and beach closings are commonplace; and

Whereas, the capital costs of infrastructure maintenance and renewal and of water supply and removal are growing; and

Whereas, efforts to implement water efficiency measures are few, not comprehensive, poorly monitored, and invariably rely on voluntary compliance; and

Whereas, water efficiencies alone, without fundamental re-thinking of water supply and demand policies, are insufficient; and

Whereas, there exist many physical analogies between water and energy; and

Whereas, today's freshwater policy problems resemble those with energy at the time of the 1970s oil crisis; and

Whereas, we are making the same mistakes with water as we've made with energy; and
Whereas, energy soft path methodology may be productively applied to water policy analysis; and

Whereas, soft paths rely on a multitude of decentralized, relatively small-scale sources of supply coupled with management strategies aimed at ultra-efficient ways of meeting end-use demands; and

Whereas, by contrast, hard paths rely on building capital- and energy-intensive infrastructures with centralized management; and

Whereas, the Provincial government's April 2003 Water Strategy is a good illustration of business-as-usual, hard path thinking; and

Whereas, though different technologies may be used, the real differences between soft and hard paths reflect social and political choices about water governance; and

Whereas, water soft paths offer promising alternatives to current policies; and

Whereas, above all else, water soft paths focus on resolving supply-demand problems from the demand side rather than the usual, and hard path, focus of searching for additional supplies; and

Whereas, water soft paths require first defining each service provided by freshwater; and

Whereas, to illustrate, the service desired is not better water-based sewage systems and cleaner wastewater but rather sanitation and good public and ecosystem health; and

Whereas, once the service has been defined, alternative, cost-effective means are sought to provide it; and

Whereas, soft path analysis ensures that the quality of water supplied is appropriate for the quality required by the end-use (e.g. grey water for flushing toilets); and

Whereas, the scale of operations is also matched to the end-use in a process that suggests not just different sources of water but different use and re-use methods; and

Whereas, although reducing demand is the best option for dealing with water problems, it is the least understood; and

Whereas, explicit attention is needed to develop truly soft path technologies and management strategies, to learn what induces people and firms to implement them and

how to integrate them into today's systems; and

Whereas, the final step in soft path analysis is back-casting rather than simple extrapolation to larger versions of today's expensive and non-sustainable water technologies and management; and

Whereas, soft path analysis defines a preferred and sustainable future and then works backwards to find feasible paths to link the present to the future; and

Whereas, in such back-casting, feasibility applies not only to technical and economic criteria, but also to social and political ones because the ultimate goal of soft path analysis is to offer practical policy advice, not merely idealized alternatives; and

Whereas, soft path technology development, together with back-casting analysis of policy options are keys to more democratic, more local, more equitable, socially just, less costly and more efficient water systems; and

Whereas, it will take further study and technical research to realize fully the promise of water soft path analysis the big problems are not technical and managerial but rather social and political choices; and

Whereas, these choices reflect not just the adoption of new ways of doing the same things, but explicit choices to do some things differently; and

Whereas, soft path analysis requires a different way of thinking—a paradigm shift—designed to open opportunities that reflect today's changed biological, physical, social and political realities; and

Whereas, water policy must involve systemic approaches to water management that examine critically how current water institutions continue to force and perpetuate centralized infrastructures; and

Whereas, water policies and management involve municipal, provincial, federal and international governments working cooperatively; and

Whereas, resource economist David Brooks has provided a model to examine these issues with his highly competent and thorough water soft path analysis for Canada^{2,3} therefore be it

RESOLVED by this 2005 policy convention that the Green Party of Manitoba support and work towards the Province of Manitoba creating, strengthening, and enforcing necessary laws and regulations that will protect surface and groundwaters from contamination by industrial chemicals and human and animal manures and ensure clean, safe water; and be it further

RESOLVED by this 2005 policy convention that the Green Party of Manitoba support and work towards the Province of Manitoba dedicate more resources to enforcement and

dismantling procedural obstacles so the public can enforce the law where the government lacks either the resources or the political will; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Green Party of Manitoba support and work towards the Province of Manitoba adding new and innovative tools to our legal system's tool kit to address water contamination from non-point sources like agricultural and urban run-off and air-borne pollution; and be it further

RESOLVED by this 2005 policy convention that the Green Party of Manitoba support and work towards the Province of Manitoba mandating that urban and rural populations and housed livestock operations adopt ecological sanitation technologies that contain human and animal manures, sanitize them and return them to the soil to complete, once again, natural cyclical processes.

Respectfully submitted,
Vere Scott

Notes:

1. Sustainable agriculture in western Canada: planning for droughts using the past <http://www.uregina.ca/biology/faculty/leavitt/drought/drought1.htm>
2. ANOTHER PATH NOT TAKEN: A METHODOLOGICAL EXPLORATION OF WATER SOFT PATHS FOR CANADA AND ELSEWHERE. David B. Brooks, Director of Research, Friends of the Earth Canada, FINAL REPORT, Submitted to Environment Canada According to the Terms of Contract: K1600-2-1014, 31 March 2003.
3. Beyond water efficiency: the concept of water soft paths. David B. Brooks. Can. Water Resources J. 30(1): 83-92 (2005).

Policy –12/2005: Potable Water

Whereas, drinking water is important to the health and well-being of all Manitobans; and

Whereas, drinking water in many communities is already damaged, increasing the risk of disease and infection therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Green Party of Manitoba advocates legislation which will:

- * Legislate watershed reserves for the protection of domestic water sources and, within those watersheds, ban logging, road building, pesticide use, grazing and industrial development
- * Ban the privatization of municipal water and wastewater services
- * Support federal government initiatives to ban bulk water exports
- * Ban the deposition of untreated human and livestock sewage into waterways
- * Require the phase-out of chlorination water treatment systems, replacing them with

ozonation, ultra-violet sterilization, sand filtration and other safer water purification systems

Respectfully submitted,
Catharine Johannson

Policy – 13/2005: Youth Suffrage

Be it RESOLVED that the Green Party of Manitoba support lowering the voting age to 16 for provincial elections.

Respectfully Submitted,
Catharine Johannson

Policy – 14/2005: Aboriginal Education

Whereas: The Manitoba Public Schools Act passed a resolution which includes:

- 1 A strong public school system is a fundamental element of democratic society;
- 2 Purpose of the public school system is to serve the best interests of students;
- 3 The public school system should contribute to the development of students' talents and abilities;
- 4 Public school system must take into account the diverse needs and interests of the people of Manitoba
- 5 Democratic local school divisions and districts play an important role in providing public education that is responsive to local needs and conditions
- 6 Parents have a right and a responsibility to be knowledgeable about and participate in the education of their children;

Whereas: The Manitoba Aboriginal students attending school is well below the national average

Whereas: Of those Aboriginal students who do attend school in Manitoba 65% do not complete high school.

Whereas: There is an urgent need to address and reshape the public school system to better accommodate Aboriginal students; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Green Party of Manitoba adopt a policy stating that Manitoba Education shall collaborate with the aboriginal community to prepare and implement a plan designed to improve the educational experiences of aboriginal students and their families.

Submitted by: Joan Johannson

Policy – 15/2005: Chemical Pesticides

Whereas, pesticides are known to be toxic at any dose; and

Whereas, Health Canada's *Pesticides Management and Regulatory Agency* (PMRA) acknowledges that registration of pesticides does not equal safety; and

Whereas, the PMRA does no testing of any products themselves; all test results are provided by pesticide manufacturers; and

Whereas, testing is done on only the "active" ingredient; not the entire formulation, not the so-called inerts or formulants, and sometimes (as is currently the case with the proposed re-registration of 2,4-D) not even the actual form that is used in the product); and

Whereas, only single acute exposure limits are considered in registration decisions; testing of combinations of chemicals is never considered; testing of repeated low-dosage exposures is not considered (see Toxin² and the Truth About Pesticides³); and

Whereas, immune system dysfunction, neurological, cognitive and behavioral effects, reproductive dysfunctions and chronic disease are not required information for registration in Canada; and

Whereas, most tests are done on animals, such as rats which have been shown to have detoxifying abilities not found in humans; and

Whereas, it would be unethical to test pesticides on humans because we know they are toxic; and

Whereas, the PMRA is unable to identify either the names or the number of pesticides that are no longer registered for use in Canada; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Green Party of Manitoba adopt a policy promoting alternatives to chemical pesticides in Manitoba; and be it further

RESOLVED that the GPM adopt policy to actively encourage all institutions, organizations, and residents in Manitoba to seek alternatives to chemical pesticides; and be it further

RESOLVED that the GPM condemn the use of chemical pesticides in Manitoba.

Submitted by: Andrew Basham and Glenda Whiteman

Notes:

1. <http://www.flora.org/healthyottawa/fs-5.htm>
2. <http://crowinc.org/PDFs/toxin.pdf>

3. <http://www.sierraclub.ca/national/programs/health-environment/pesticides/pesticide-truth.html>

X. POLICIES FROM 2006 POLICY CONVENTION

1. Canadian National Organic Standard

Whereas:

1. A National Organic Standard Code is being developed in Canada by organic organizations;
2. A National Standard would simplify the certification and marketing of organic food; and
3. Transnational interests are working to weaken the Canadian National Organic Standard; therefore

Be it resolved that: the GPM calls upon all governments to adopt the uniform, high quality, Canadian National Organic Standard.

2. Organic Farm Research and Education

Whereas:

1. There is limited information available to farmers interested in organic and natural farming systems;
2. there is limited research into organic and natural farming systems; and

Most agricultural research funding is invested by agribusiness chemical and seed breeding companies; therefore

Be it resolved that: the GPM calls upon all governments to increase research funding, farm extension services, and public education for organic and natural farming systems.

3. Pension Protection

Whereas:

1. Numerous companies have claimed possession of earnings from pension trust funds in the last decade;
2. The loss of earnings have created unfounded liabilities for those pension trust funds, placing benefits at risk;
3. Pension trust funds are not protected in cases of bankruptcy, such as Air Canada and Stelco; and

4. Justice James Farley of the Ontario Superior Court has warned that pension trust funds and pension benefits are at risk for workers and has asked for the laws to be reviewed; therefore

Be it resolved that:

1. The GPM joins judge Farley in calling for a public review of provincial and federal pension legislation; and
2. The GPM calls upon all governments to prohibit all companies from claiming possession of pension trust fund earnings, and generally to protect the pension benefits which workers have earned.

4. Fossil-Fuel Independence

Purpose:

To ensure the sustainability of Manitobans by reducing and eventually eliminating dependence on fossil fuels (oil, coal, and natural gas) for their energy needs; reduce demand for fossil fuels throughout society and its economy, thereby reducing their ecological impacts; and to provide the impetus for a comprehensive planning process related to peak oil and gas, and the potential short-, medium-, and long-term impacts of reduced supplies of these fossil fuels.

Scope:

The Province of Manitoba and all residents of Manitoba individually, with support to national, international, local, and global initiatives in this regard.

Whereas:

1. The Green Party of Manitoba (GPM) recognizes that fossil-fuels (oil, natural gas, and coal) are:
 - a. inherently finite in supply; and
 - b. polluting in their various uses.
2. Fossil-fuel use consists in
 - c. agriculture (machines, synthetic nitrogen fertilizers, pesticides);
 - d. transportation (personal automobiles, trucks, airplanes, boats, trains);
 - e. electricity generation (coal, gas, and oil fired generation);
 - f. plastics and other petrochemicals (e.g., disposable pens, computers, plastic bags; petroleum jelly, butane, propane, pesticides, lubricants, pharmaceuticals; etc.);

- g. heating (residential, commercial, public, manufacturing, etc.);
 - h. other uses not specified above.
3. The diverse range of uses of fossil-fuels has made them vital to modern, industrial societies;
 4. Given fossil-fuels' finite nature, their extremely slow replenishment, and humanity's rapid extraction and consumption rates of these fuels, these fuels are predicted to peak and then decline in terms of global and national production levels;
 5. Once these production peaks are passed, society can expect declining levels of production and consumption from any given source and globally, the whole network of sources;
 6. Declining consumption will have far-reaching effects for societies and their economies (Heinberg, 2003; Kunstler, 2005; Darley, 2004; Deffeyes, 2001; etc.);
 7. Many authorities on petroleum geology have successfully predicted past peak production levels and new analyses have demonstrated that global oil production peak may have already occurred (Deffeyes, 2006) or is likely to occur this decade (Darley, 2004; www.peakoil.net; etc.);
 8. Globalization was founded on cheap, and never-ending supplies of fossil-fuels (Matt R. Simmons, 2005);
 9. Localization is a strategy of localizing economic needs through local production and consumption, which was designed to positively counter globalization (www.postcarbon.org);
 10. There would be many ecological benefits to reducing fossil-fuel extraction and consumption; and
 11. Even if fossil-fuels were infinite in supply, the effects of their continued and inappropriate use will result in further anthropogenic climate change, reduced levels for future use, and ongoing, worsening accumulation of anthropogenic novel chemicals in ecosystems; therefore

Be it resolved that the Green Party of Manitoba (GPM):

1. Support and work towards the development and implementation of a comprehensive fossil-fuel independence commission and plan, which would have as their primary goal the reduction of fossil-fuel use in Manitoba; and
2. Give primacy to soft-path analysis in terms of fossil-fuel use reduction; and

3. Work towards the development and implementation of localization strategies for both urban and rural Manitobans, with a focus on local, including bioregionally-based, trade and socio-economic development to reduce fossil-fuel use; and
4. Ensure that large-scale energy projects are scrutinized by an independent, transparent citizens' assembly with the onus of proof placed on proponents to demonstrate sustainability beyond a reasonable doubt;
5. Implement a special program under the auspices of the fossil-fuel independence commission to help Manitobans transition their homes off natural gas using the purchasing and contracting powers of the government; and
6. Give special consideration to those of minor means by utilizing progressive taxation principles in all localization and fossil-fuel reduction strategies.

5. Manitoba Energy

Whereas:

1. Manitoba Hydro has become increasingly dependent on hydro mega-dams for electricity generation;
2. Manitoba, with the construction of the first wind farm in S.W. Manitoba, has only just commenced taking the soft path on energy, and further such developments are possible; and
3. Energy is derived from common resources and should remain public, to the benefit of all Manitobans but not to the detriment of any Manitobans nor to the detriment of Manitoba's ecosystems; therefore

Be it resolved that The Green Party of Manitoba advocate for:

4. A new mandate for Manitoba Hydro to seek: First to reduce energy consumption through various programs of incentives and disincentives, then secondly to explore and implement renewable forms of energy beyond hydroelectric power;
5. Manitoba Hydro to pursue energy production based on ecological principles;
6. Manitoba Hydro's name to be changed to "Manitoba Energy"; and
7. The newly mandated and renamed, Manitoba Energy, to be and remain owned by the people of Manitoba.

6. Current/Future Hydroelectric Development in Manitoba

Whereas:

1. Manitoba Hydro has caused extensive ecological damage to northern boreal ecosystems – including but not limited to muddying of clear waters, erosion of river banks, and fracturing of animal habitat through power line construction and through flooding;
2. A full ecological assessment of the hydroelectric dams built on the Nelson and Churchill River systems has never been conducted; and
3. The cumulative ecological and social impacts of all past AND future dams on the Nelson River have not been studied or assessed as a whole; therefore

Be it resolved that:

1. A Green government would not consider initiating the construction of any new hydroelectric dams in Manitoba until a full assessment on the potential for energy conservation has taken place, and actions taken accordingly, and until the soft path on energy (including wind and other newer technologies) have been explored and developed in accordance with ecological principles;
2. Plans for any dams currently being discussed but for which no work has been legally tendered or contracts signed should be abandoned until all the energy alternatives are considered;
3. The Green Party of Manitoba advocate for an independent, citizen-driven commission/task force to be set up to do a complete ecological assessment on both the total cumulative effects of past hydroelectric dams in Northern Manitoba and the potential future ecological impact that the construction of more dams and their future decommissioning would have on the entire watershed. Traditional ecological knowledge of the area's inhabitants would be solicited and integrated into the assessment;
4. The Green Party of Manitoba calls on Manitoba Hydro to clean up the debris left behind by Hydro activity, that Manitoba Hydro fund this fully, and that Manitoba Hydro work with the people of Northern Manitoba to carry out the clean up.

7. Aboriginal Rights and Hydroelectric Development

Whereas:

1. in the construction of the Churchill River Diversion and the series of dams that were built on the Nelson River in the 1970s and in the construction of the dam at

Grand Rapids built on the Saskatchewan River in the 1960s, Aboriginal rights were not given priority by the Manitoba government, by Manitoba Hydro or by the federal government;

2. The impacts of flooding from hydroelectric dams on traditional forms of Aboriginal peoples' subsistence economy, namely trapping, fishing, hunting, and gathering, has been negative; and
3. The federal and Manitoban governments recently attempted to fast-track independent band status for the Status Indian residents at South Indian Lake, effectively seeking to remove them from the Nisichiwayasihk Cree Nation referendum on Waskwatim thus further disenfranchising them from hydroelectric development matters; therefore

Be it resolved that:

1. The GPM calls upon all governments to recognize that the aboriginal communities of northern Manitoba, including but not limited to those signatory to Treaty # 5 have collective aboriginal rights to the waters of the North, and as such may have to be compensated if any further development on the waters is to take place; and

The GPM advocate for a commission to be set up to assess if any breaches of aboriginal rights by the Manitoba government and Manitoba Hydro have taken place, and to recommend a format for reopening negotiations on compensation

8. Hazardous Waste

Background:

Approximately 2000 metric tonnes of household hazardous waste enters our landfills annually. According to the latest estimates from waste audits approximately 21% of household hazardous wastes are diverted from landfills. We are unable to account for the amount of waste that enters our sewers. The collection and treatment of hazardous waste is an important step in managing the risk and controlling the damage to our ecosystems. The rate at which new chemicals are being produced has outpaced the ability of public institutions to fully test their risks and the risks of their breakdown products.

Whereas:

1. The residents of Manitoba are under serviced when we try to dispose of hazardous waste responsibly;
2. Hazardous waste is released into our environment as pollutants and results in uncalculable and unmanageable risks to the integrity of our ecosystems; and

3. Greens are committed to eliminating the creation of pollutants; therefore

Be it resolved that the GPM:

1. Integrate short-term efforts to collect and treat hazardous waste, with long term efforts to eliminate the generation and demand for products that produce hazardous waste;
2. Apply demand side management practices to products that generate hazardous waste; and
3. Raise public awareness of consumer products that result in hazardous waste and alternatives to these products.

9. Nanotechnology and Nanobiotechnology (Synthetic Biology)

Purpose:

Addressing the issues of nanotechnology and nanobiotechnology (synthetic biology) in our society.

Whereas:

1. Nanotechnology and Synthetic Biology create new forms of matter with unknown effects on living system;
2. these technologies are rapidly being adopted in modern society; and
3. No regulations exist for the development and dissemination of these materials; therefore

Be it resolved that the GPM support:

1. A moratorium in Manitoba on the commercialization and production of nanotechnological and nanobiotechnological (synthetic biology) products and materials pending a thorough, transparent assessment of same;
2. A recall of all current commercially available products in Manitoba containing nano-particles especially, but not limited to consumer products;
3. A moratorium in Manitoba on nanotechnological and nanobiotechnological research pending the adoption of generally agreed or otherwise stringently safe protocols on such research; and

4. Research to assess the possibility of nano-particle toxicity and wide publication of this research.

10. Nanotechnology and Nanobiotechnology Assessment

Be it resolved that: that the GPM support a comprehensive, transparent assessment of nanotechnology and nanobiotechnology (synthetic biology), apply the precautionary principle in order to determine the costs, benefits, and non-cost-benefit effects of the development of said technologies and to elucidate what forms thereof, if any, could be beneficially developed.

11. Nanotechnology and Synthetic Biology Research Safety Protocols

Be it resolved that: the GPM support the development of stringently safe protocols in Manitoba for research on nano-materials and processes.

[Note from Member: important to distinguish public vs. private monitoring in research facilities].

XI. Policy Summary (Alon Weinberg, 2005)

Principles and Values

The following are intended to be guides and foundations to all Green Party of Manitoba policies and platforms...

The Green Party of Manitoba believes in the following sets of principles:

1) A) **Ecological Wisdom**: Human beings are a part of nature not separate from it. Whatever we do to the web of life, we do to ourselves

B) **Integrity of the Earth's Ecosystem**: Integrity refers to wholeness, to completeness, to the ability to function fully. The standard is Nature's sun-energized ecosystems in their undamaged state. The evolutionary creativity and continued productivity of Earth and its regional ecosystems require the continuance of their key structures and ecological processes. Pollution of air, sediments and water, along with exploitive extraction of inorganic and organic constituents, weaken ecosystem integrity. (Note: The term Sustainability: is usually used to mean that the earth will be available for future generations. People use this term in many ways. It is often combined into sustainable development which seems to be impossible to define. Rather than sustainability a more exact principle, used above as outlined in A Manifesto for Earth.)

C) **Grassroots democracy**: People must be able to participate in the political, economic and environmental decisions that affect them.

D) **Social Justice**: Individual, families and communities have access to the resources of the society. All have the right to a natural and social environment supportive of human dignity, bodily health and spiritual wellbeing.

E) **Diversity**: We honour the diversity of life on our planet. An ecocentric worldview values Earth's diversity in all its forms, the non-human, as well as the human. Cultural, biological, social and economic diversity are central to healthy, functioning communities.

F) **Community-based Economics**: Rather than people being subservient to the economy, the economy should provide for human needs within the natural limits of the earth. Local self-reliance to the greatest practical extent is the best way to achieve this goal. The economy shall promote the equitable distribution of wealth within and among nations.

G) **Decentralization**: The people most affected by a problem must have the authority to solve it. Distant administrations cannot be responsive. Power must be returned to local communities. We support a restructuring of social, political and economic institutions to a democratic, less bureaucratic system. We support social simplification.

H) **Nonviolence**: The GPM seeks to promote a culture of tolerance, nonviolence and peace. We encourage and support mutual understanding, solidarity and cooperation among all peoples and within and among nations.

I) **Equity**: Equality and fairness need to replace domination and control. Full and equal participation by all Manitobans is needed in the decision-making processes of society.

J) **Responsibility**: Global sustainability and international justice can only be achieved when responsibility is shared at all levels of society. We are all called to take responsibility for ourselves, our families, our communities and our planet.

2) **Ten Principles for Sustainable Societies**

From the International Forum on Globalization (<http://www.ifg.org/analysis/reports/ToC-IFG.pdf>)

Democracy; Subsidiarity (local control, self-reliance & self-determination); Ecological Sustainability; Common Heritage; Diversity; Human Rights; Jobs, Livelihood, Employment; Food Security & Safety; Equity (equality & social justice); the Precautionary Principle (Look before you leap).

3) **Fritjof Capra's Six Ecological Principles** (<http://www.ecoliteracy.org/>)

CORE ECOLOGICAL CONCEPTS DESCRIBE PATTERNS & PROCESSES BY WHICH NATURE SUSTAINS LIFE.

NETWORKS

ALL MEMBERS OF AN ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITY ARE INTERCONNECTED IN A VAST, INTRICATE NETWORK OF RELATIONSHIPS - THE WEB OF LIFE. THE ORGANISMS DERIVE THEIR ESSENTIAL PROPERTIES - IN FACT, THEIR VERY EXISTENCE -FROM THESE RELATIONSHIPS.

NESTED SYSTEMS

THROUGHOUT NATURE WE FIND MULTI-LEVELLED STRUCTURES OF SYSTEMS NESTING WITHIN SYSTEMS. EACH OF THESE FORMS AN INTEGRATED WHOLE WITHIN A BOUNDARY WHILE AT THE SAME TIME BEING A PART OF A LARGER WHOLE.

CYCLES

THE INTERACTIONS AMONG THE MEMBERS OF AN ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITY INVOLVE THE EXCHANGE OF ENERGY AND RESOURCES IN CONTINUOUS, INTRICATELY INTERCONNECTED CYCLES. AN ECOSYSTEM'S CYCLES INTERSECT CONTIGUOUSLY WITH LARGER CYCLES IN THE BIOREGION AND IN THE PLANETARY BIOSPHERE.

FLOWS

ALL ORGANISMS ARE OPEN SYSTEMS, WHICH MEANS THAT THEY NEED TO FEED ON A CONTINUAL FLOW OF ENERGY AND RESOURCES TO STAY ALIVE. THE CONSTANT FLOW OF SOLAR ENERGY SUSTAINS LIFE AND DRIVES ALL ECOLOGICAL CYCLES.

DEVELOPMENT

LIFE'S UNFOLDING MANIFESTS ITSELF AS DEVELOPMENT & LEARNING AT THE INDIVIDUAL ORGANISM'S LEVEL AND AS EVOLUTION AT THE SPECIES LEVEL, AND INVOLVES THE INTERPLAY OF CREATIVITY & MUTUAL ADAPTATIONS WHEREBY ORGANISMS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT CO-EVOLVE.

DYNAMIC BALANCE

ALL ECOLOGICAL CYCLES ACT AS FEEDBACK LOOPS, SO THAT THE ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITY IS SELF-REGULATING AND SELF-ORGANIZING, MAINTAINING A STATE OF DYNAMIC BALANCE CHARACTERIZED BY CONTINUOUS RHYTHMS AND CYCLES.

While all three of the above sets of values and principles emerged from divergent sources, the Green Party of Manitoba intends to be accountable to all three when creating policies and speaking on issues of public concern. It is our goal to study each system in relation to the others so that we can create integrated policies.

Restructuring Categorization of Policies and Government Departments (A Work in Progress)

The Green Party of Manitoba will experiment in using a biologically based policy structure. For one year the policy structure be based on the anthropologist **Edward T. Hall's** functional description of society using a biological base, to be evaluated in another year's time.

Anthropologist Edward T. Hall developed the following functional description of societies using a biological analysis:

A) **Interaction** - To interact with the environment is to be alive, and to fail to do so is to be dead. One of the most highly elaborated forms of interaction is speech. Interaction lies at the hub of the universe of culture from which everything grows.

B) **Association** - The bodies of complex organisms are in reality societies of cells, most of which have highly specialized functions. The first associations along this line were between cells that banded together in colonies. What this deals with are the various ways in which societies and their components are organized or structured.

C) **Subsistence** - One of the first things anyone has to know about any living thing is its nutritional requirements; what does it eat and how does it go about getting food in its natural state? Subsistence is everything from individual food habits to the economy of the country.

D) **Sexuality** - Behavior in animals is predominantly sex-linked. This applies both to the creation of sex roles, and the formation of families.

E) **Territoriality** - This term is used by ethologists to describe the taking possession, use, and defense of the territory on the part of living organisms. The balance of life in the use of space is one of the most delicate of nature. History is largely an account of

efforts to wrest space from others and to defend space from outsiders.

F) **Temporality** - Life is full of cycles and rhythms, some of them related directly to nature - respiration, heartbeat, menstrual cycle, and so on. All living things have historical process.

G) **Learning** - Learning assumed a primary importance as an adaptive mechanism when an unknown, an ancestor of birds and mammals became warm-blooded at some time either late in the Permian or early Triassic periods, over 100,000,000 years ago.

H) **Play** - This is a not too well understood aspect of living processes. It appears to be intimately linked with learning.

I) **Defense** - The ethologist studying lower life forms has traditionally examined and described the defensive mechanisms of the organisms studied. Humanity has elaborated these into medicine, law enforcement, armies, etc.

J) **Exploitation** - In order to exploit the environment all organisms adapt their bodies to meet specialized environmental conditions. Today we have developed extensions for practically everything we do with the body.

The structure, with current Government of Manitoba departments placed within the structure, looks as follows:

a) **Communication**

French Language Services
Federal-Provincial Relations
Intergovernmental Affairs
Aboriginal and Northern Affairs
Immigration, Multiculturalism

b) **Organization**

Constitutional Affairs
Government- Legislature, Cabinet
Civil Service
Cooperative Development

c) **Subsistence**

Finance
Agriculture and Food
Communities Economic
Development Fund
Family Services and Housing

d) **Sexuality**

Status of Women

e) **Space**

Transportation and Government
Services

f) **Time**

Seniors

g) **Learning**

Education and Youth
Advanced Education and Training

h) **Play**

Culture, Heritage and Tourism
Sport

i) **Protection**

Health
Persons with Disabilities
Labour, Worker's Compensation
Justice
MPIC
Gaming Control Act, Liquor Control
Act, Manitoba
Lotteries Corporation
Crown Corporations Public Review
and Accountability Act
Emergency Measures

j) **Exploitation, via Technology**

Industry, Trade and Mines
Manitoba Hydro Act
Energy, Science and Technology
Conservation

ECOLOGY

Statement on Conservation

Under the present system, economic growth is supported by unlimited consumption of both renewable and non-renewable resources. However, on a finite world there is no an infinite supply of natural resources. The Green Party recognises limits to growth. Limits to growth are likely to be imposed primarily by resource depletion and the ever-increasing costs of pollution. Furthermore, land is also in limited supply. An expanding world population demands expanding food supplies. Irresponsible land use planning, degradation of land through human activity and changes in land quality and availability due to climate change mean that land must be managed in such a way as to ensure sustainable human development and safeguard biodiversity.

Conservation of land and natural resource is very important in order to protect the natural environment from pollution and degradation. The Green Party believes that technologies which promote reuse and recycling of materials and products should be given priority over the production of goods from newly generated resources. We believe our towns and cities should be structure in such a way as to maximize resource conservation.

Environmental Protection in Agriculture

To protect our province's environment and smaller farms, the Manitoba Greens support:

- restoring the right of citizens to sue hog barns for causing excessive odours;
- requirement of licensing and strict regulation of large-scale intensive livestock operations, including hog barns;
- application of strict pollution standards appropriate to Manitoba's climate and geography to intensive livestock operations, including hog barns;
- legislation prohibiting non-Manitoban corporate farmers from owning farmland in the province;
- minimum standards for the humane treatment of farm animals; and
- ending government subsidies to transnational corporate slaughterhouses.

Factory farms

Moving toward a sustainable agriculture requires that as a first step to their being phased out, intensive farms shall be reduced in size and made to comply with strict and rigorously enforced regulations that protect human and ecosystem health and safeguard the comfort and well-being of the animals;

Proposals to open or enlarge a factory farm must be subject to the approval of both the community and the neighbourhood directly affected.

Drought-Adapted Agriculture

The Green Party of Manitoba supports and will work towards provincial legislation that will require the province to work co-operatively with other provinces, the Government of Canada and the U.S. government to set and pursue clear goals and measurable objectives to make the urgent transition from the present water-intensive industrial agriculture to a drought-adapted agriculture based on ecological principles.

Hemp

Hemp should be treated as any other agricultural product, without being subjected to special licenses or to special inspections.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The Green Party of Manitoba will support and work towards provincial legislation which will set and pursue clear goals and objectives for increasing the efficiency of energy use in Manitoba.

Climate Change/Global Warming

- 1) All Provincial government vehicle purchases will be fuel-efficient ones such as gas/electric hybrid cars;
- 2) All individual car purchasers will be provided with incentives, such as rebates, to buy fuel-efficient cars such as hybrids.
- 3) An eco-tax will be implemented on less fuel-efficient vehicles, to be applied to the subsidy of energy efficient mass transportation systems
- 4) The Province will legislate that there be a gradual phase-in of buses using hydrogen fuel cells and or other alternative fuels.

Provincial Parks and Manitoba's East Shore Wilderness

-Provincial parks should be kept pristine, protected, and free of industry.
-A comprehensive conservation plan should be developed for MB's East Shore Wilderness Area in full consultation with the area's First Nations communities, preserving First Nations' livelihood; this plan must include large contiguous tracts of land preserved free of industrial development.

Lake Winnipeg Pollution

The Green Party of Manitoba supports and works towards the Province of Manitoba creating, strengthening, and enforcing necessary laws and regulations that will protect surface and groundwaters from contamination by industrial chemicals and human and animal manures and ensure clean, safe water;

The Green Party of Manitoba supports and works towards the Province of Manitoba dedicating more resources to enforce and dismantle procedural obstacles so the public can enforce the law where the government lacks either the resources or the political will;

The Green Party of Manitoba supports and works towards the Province of Manitoba adding new and innovative tools to our legal system's tool kit to address water contamination from non-point sources like agricultural and urban run-off and air-borne pollution;

The Green Party of Manitoba supports and works towards the Province of Manitoba mandating that urban and rural populations and housed livestock operations adopt ecological sanitation technologies that contain human and animal manures, sanitize them and return them to the soil to complete, once again, natural cyclical processes.

Water Soft Paths

The Green Party of Manitoba supports and works towards the Province of Manitoba undertaking a complete water soft path analysis that includes not merely options for efficiency and conservation but also scenario building and back-casting;

The Green Party of Manitoba supports and works towards provincial legislation that will require the province to work with municipal, federal and U.S. governments to set and pursue clear goals and measurable objectives to make the urgent transition from its present water hard path to a sustainable soft one.

Potable Water and The Public Good

The Green Party of Manitoba advocates legislation which will:

- * Legislate watershed reserves for the protection of domestic water sources and, within those watersheds, ban logging, road building, pesticide use, grazing and industrial development
- * Ban the privatization of municipal water and wastewater services
- * Support federal government initiatives to ban bulk water exports
- * Ban the deposition of untreated human and livestock sewage into waterways
- * Require the phase-out of chlorination water treatment systems, replacing them with ozonation, ultra-violet sterilization, sand filtration and other safer water purification systems

Ecological Sanitation

The Manitoba Greens would move towards ecological sanitation by implementing low-cost, onsite, excreta recycling technologies giving primacy to dry, composting toilets; and by implementing a sewer-avoidance plan which includes:

- not extending sewer lines to currently non-sewered buildings;
- implementing a rigorous program of internal industrial point-source separation
- banning the use of toxic materials in consumer goods
- establish a moratorium on future sales/installation of “garbarators”
- developing legislated land-use planning policies that protect the environment
- lowering the established values for the assimilative capacity of MB water bodies

Chemical Pesticides

- The Green Party of Manitoba promotes alternatives to chemical pesticides in Manitoba;
- The Green Party of Manitoba actively encourages all institutions, organizations, and residents in Manitoba to seek alternatives to chemical pesticides;
- The Green Party of Manitoba condemns the use of chemical pesticides in Manitoba.

Radioactive Waste

Greens strongly oppose the importation and storage of high-level radioactive waste created outside of Manitoba and brought into the province.

Deposit Return System for Glass Food Containers

The MB Greens would mandate that a deposit-return system for all glass food and beverage containers be implemented in Manitoba

Labour and Basic Economics

Labour in Agriculture

The Manitoba Greens support extending minimum employment, labour, safety and workers' compensation protections to farm employees.

Basic Income

The Manitoba Greens support a Basic Income program for Manitoba. If possible this should be done with the financial help and participation of the federal government, but is not dependent on its participation. This program would replace all social assistance programs currently administered by the provincial government. Special consideration would be given to those people in need of extra income, for example, people with disabilities.

Living Wage

- 1) The provincial minimum wage once again become a Living Wage
- 2) The minimum wage be made equivalent to the 1976 minimum wage over four years.
- 3) That the Living Wage be tied to a basic economic indicator.

Standard Work Week

The Manitoba Greens would legislate a standard work week of 32 hours with the same take home pay, increasing employment and reducing burnout. This policy work together with Living Wage and Basic Income

New Statutory Holiday

The MB Greens would legislate the third Monday in February as a statutory holiday.

EDUCATION

Education Philosophy

Greens support an educational policy which ensures that:

- children are equipped with the learning skills that will enable them to lead lives in which they can thrive, not just survive.
- education programs provide a model of living, working, playing and learning that accustoms everyone from childhood on to participate in a society that is sustainable, peaceful, and appropriately meets diverse needs.
- opportunities be available for lifelong learning
- the full potential in all students is recognized and the motivations and strengths of both learners and teachers built upon”

Aboriginal Education

The Green Party of Manitoba believes that Manitoba Education should collaborate with the aboriginal community to prepare and implement a plan designed to improve the educational experiences of aboriginal students and their families.

Environmental Education

The Manitoba Greens would provide funding for environmental educators available to every school in Manitoba. Duties for the position would include designing and implementing environmental education programs.

Universal Health Care Philosophy – Prevention and Access

Greens believe that all Manitobans have a right to equal access to health care services. Greens advocate a health care program, which emphasizes both the prevention of illness and personal responsibility for well being.

Critical to health promotion in our society is ceasing to add pollutants to the environment. To ensure health dollars are used wisely, Greens advocate evidence-based initiatives.

Greens support full public funding for abortion services. We promote less invasive family planning programs reducing the need to seek such medical interventions. A woman has the right to receive an abortion in the health care facility of her choice- from a small clinic to a large hospital- without financial or other penalty. A woman should not have to travel outside of her region for an abortion. That means every regional health authority should be legally required to offer abortion services within its geographical boundaries.

We promote less invasive family planning programs including education reducing the need to seek such medical interventions. Conception planning should be fully publicly funded under Medicare and Pharmacare. The provincial government should require all Manitoba pharmacies to sell contraception and abortion products such as the ‘morning-after pill’ and the ‘abortion pill’.

Manitoba Greens support a more inclusive health care program, which would take steps to permit the subsidization of alternative treatments and therapies.

Social / Justice Issues

Controlled Substances

Greens do not encourage the use of controlled substances. We believe it is ultimately the choice of individuals to use such substances.

Greens believe that marijuana should be legalized and treated as a controlled substance like tobacco and alcohol.

Taxes raised from the sale of these substances will, in part, fund education and rehabilitative/health services to prevent and treat substance abuse.

The federal government should decriminalize possession and use of hard drugs such as cocaine and heroin. Abuse of these drugs should be treated as a health issue. Distribution and sale of hard drugs should, however, remain a criminal offence.

The Greens will also consider the social and economic conditions underlying substance abuse in developing public policy.

Justice

Greens support a move away from retribution-based justice towards restorative justice both within provincial and federal jurisdictions. This includes increased rehabilitative options, community service sentencing (for non-violent crime) and reform of the penitentiary system. Victim impact statements and restitution options should be weighed in sentencing. A Green approach to crime would not simply address its symptoms, but focus on causes.

Gambling

Greens recognize that small-scale gambling with limited pots can be a source of entertainment. We conclude that large-scale and addictive gambling operations are unhealthy for individuals, families, and communities. Large gambling operations should not be used to raise government revenue.

Casinos: The Greens call for an immediate freeze on development of new casinos. Existing casinos will be phased out over a ten-year period.

VLTs: A Green government would ban video lottery terminals.

Economic Development: Several First Nation communities have put forward proposals for building casinos as a form of economic development. The Greens propose that 50% of the annual revenue from existing casinos be distributed to these communities as grants. The grants would be used to develop alternative economic projects that are sustainable.

Green Party of Manitoba – Policy on Electoral Reform

PART I - Citizens' Assembly

The Manitoba Greens call for the formation of a Citizens' Assembly (CA) on electoral reform. The CA would deal with the issue of electoral reform in an objective and detailed manner involving (1) deciding whether single member plurality (SMP) is an adequate system for elections to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba; and (2) if SMP is declared to be unsuitable, explore alternative electoral systems that could be used in Manitoba; and (3) decide which electoral system(s) is/are to be brought to the electorate for a binding, province-wide referendum.

This referendum will set out the options: “none of the above”, “back to the Citizens' Assembly for further review”; “no change”; “[electoral system ‘a’]”; “[electoral system ‘b’]”; or “[electoral system ‘c’]” where the letters “a, b, c” represent the top three electoral systems chosen by the CA.

The ballot paper in the referendum will be marked and counted using a preferential system that gives voters more options and a better understanding of the will of the voters.

The public shall be educated about the Manitoba CA's electoral systems research through outreach programs such as lectures, workshops and general public consultation.

The Green Party of Manitoba will request that the CA's deliberations be **highly transparent** and **provide information to all members of society who wish to participate** regardless of economic, social, or educational status, either perceived or real.

PART II - Proportional representation and single transferable voting

The Green Party of Manitoba will adopt a policy of multi-member Single Transferable Voting (STV) for Winnipeg and Brandon, with single-member Alternative Voting (AV) for rural constituencies;

The method for counting ballots be similar to the one used in the Republic of Ireland that is listed below;

The issue of ***societal proportionality*** will comprise a part of any and all planks or policies of the GPM dealing with electoral reform or change.

Single Transferable Vote (STV) counting procedure as used in the Republic of Ireland:

The ballot papers are sorted and counted according to first preferences.

A quota is calculated using the Droop formula: divide the number of valid ballot

papers by N and add 1 (where N is equal to the number of seats to be filled, plus 1). Candidates whose number of first preference ballot papers meet or exceed the quota are declared elected.

If no candidate is elected the candidate with the least number of first preference ballots is removed, and those ballot papers are transferred to remaining candidates according to the preference instructions the voter left on the ballot paper.

Whenever a candidate meets the quota, surplus ballot papers for that candidate must be transferred to remaining candidates in proportion to the support that those remaining candidates received within the total number of ballot papers for the just elected candidate. The formula is as follows: the surplus number is divided by the total number for the elected candidate; the resulting fraction is multiplied by the number of ballot papers indicating a preference for the unelected candidate.

Steps 3 and 4 are repeated until all seats except one are filled. At that point the candidate with the highest number of ballot papers among the remaining candidates is declared elected.

Part III - Fixed Election Dates

The length of the governing party's term should be fixed at four years, unless the government falls in a non-confidence vote.

Part IV - Youth Suffrage

The Green Party of Manitoba supports lowering the voting age to 16 for provincial elections.