

Full Evaluation and Ranking Document of Three Main Candidates for the Kootenay-Columbia Federal Riding

Evaluation and Ranking Document Completed by
The Foundation for Democratic Advancement
(October, 2008)

Purpose: Determine a ranking and grades for the four main candidates for the Kootenay-Columbia Federal Riding, in terms of the better representative of Kootenay-Columbia region and Canada as a whole.

This determination is an outside perspective to give the residents of the Kootenay-Columbia region an informed different perspective of the candidates running in the Kootenay-Columbia Federal riding.

The views in this Evaluation/Ranking are the views of the FDA. Also, the Determination is an example of a way to assist in the selection of political candidates--through evaluation and ranking.

The 2008 Three Main Candidates for the Kootenay-Columbia Canadian Federal Riding:

Jim Abbott (Conservative)

Betty Aitchison (Liberal)

Leon Pendleton (NDP)

* Ralph Moore for the Green Party of Canada was removed from this evaluation by his own admission that he is not a viable candidate: “I don’t see myself as the best person to represent Kootenay Columbia. My learning disabilities that protected me from indoctrination would interfere with the demanding role of a futurist MP. I see my role as a catalyst to wake up the dozing masses.... I suggest we all vote for Leon Pendleton as he has already demonstrated his philosophy by his lifestyle.” Aaron Orlando, *The Revelstoke Times Review*, September 2008.

The FDA and its members are in no way affiliated with any of the candidates in this study.

The study represents an independent assessment of the three main Kootenay-Columbia candidates based on objectivity, transparency, and non-partisanship.

Methodology for Evaluation and Ranking of Kootenay-Columbia candidates:

Evaluate the candidates as representatives of the Kootenay-Columbia region—backgrounds and visions.

Evaluate the policies of the respective political parties.

Key policy areas to be evaluated:

Economy: (sound, fiscal management of public revenue and expenditure, and fair distribution of government expenditure to all sectors of Canada.)

Environment: (more responsible, sustainable management of the Canadian environment)

Foreign policy (sound, responsible use of Canadian resources and citizens overseas)

Weighting:

Because the candidates are mere extensions of the parties, and party policies are significant in terms of what the candidate offers for the region and Canada as a whole, policies are given two-thirds weight over the background of the candidates.

Overall: Establish the basic priority of the Kootenay-Columbia as a whole, and use the basic priority to evaluate and rank the candidates in terms of their backgrounds and visions.

The basic priority of the Kootenay-Columbia as a whole in terms of the federal representative:

Leadership—identifies issues and act on them, vision, strength to carry through, independent yet team player, and strong communication with public.

Methodology for Ranking:

Rank each candidate for the basic priority, and then rank overall based on a combination of the results for each candidate section.

The policy sections to be evaluated correspond to the basic priorities for policy:

1. sound, fiscal management of public revenue and expenditure, and fair distribution of government expenditure to all sectors of Canada
2. more responsible, sustainable management of the Canadian environment
3. sound, responsible use of Canadian resources and citizens overseas

Evaluate the policies of the political parties in each policy section based on a comparison of the political parties' policies in light of the basic priorities and comparative soundness.

Chief Evaluators:

Stephen Garvey, President and CEO of the FDA

Simon Brown, retired Charter Accountant, and FDA associate

Evaluator:

James Clark, Mountaineer, local East Kootenay resident

Information sources:

Media articles and analysis of candidates.

Political parties policy statements, including policy promises.

Relevant questions answered by representatives of the political parties—question and answer of Betty Aitchison on September 27; telephone interview of Leon Pendleton on October 1, 2008; various question and answer with David F. Rooney, Constituency Assistant to Mr. Abbott from September 29 to October 3. FDA attendance at the all candidates forum in Cranbrook on October 4, and meeting of the candidates.

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Background of Candidates

Jim Abbott:

Personal: has lived in Wasa, BC since 1973.

Before becoming a politician, Mr. Abbott was involved in sales and marketing through his own business. Also, he did volunteer work with youth and in other areas, but not consistently through volunteer organizations.

Political experience: incumbent for 15 years; competed in six elections

Betty Aitchison:

Personal: resident of Kimberley since 1953

Volunteer: Red Cross, mental health support services, infant development, and emergency services mobile support team with PEP, federal parole board (for about four years), and others.

Political experience: member of the Liberal Party and active in the Liberal Kootenay-Columbia riding association since the 1970s; ran in 1984 BC election for the BC Liberal party.

Leon Pendleton:

Personal: lived in the East Kootenays since 1974; worked in logging camps, sawmills, and as a carpenter and Advanced Life Support Paramedic (17 years), and currently owns and operates an organic farm and apiary and lives off the grid, producing his own electricity, developing his own water system and food supply.

Helped to establish the Dumont Creek Burial Society, Slocan Valley, and created and operated successful business, World Ecology Enviro Store, Ltd; Home Energy and Environmental Alternative Technologies, in Grande Prairie, Alberta
Involved in three unions, including the union of paramedics.

Volunteer:

Former member of Development Appeal Board in Grande Prairie, Alberta

Political experience: affiliated with the NDP since the early 80s; ran in the 2001 and 2004 Alberta provincial elections for the NDP; helped with the 2005 federal NDP campaign in Alberta; at the age of 15 was the president of the young democrats in California.

Background Evaluation:

Basis for evaluation: Leadership--identifies issues and act on them, vision, strength to carry through, independent yet team player, and strong communication with public.

Score	Abbott	Aitchison	Pendleton
Garvey	8/10	4/10	7/10
Brown	8/10	4/10	7/10
Clark	8/10	6/10	7/10
Total	24/30	14/30	21/30

Rational: Abbott has very strong political experience; Pendleton has a diverse background which through his own initiatives shows conviction and leadership; Pendleton and Aitchison have never been political representatives; Aitchison's background limited to strong volunteer experience and longtime involvement in the Liberal Party.

Vision for the Kootenay-Columbia region and Canada:

Jim Abbott:

Against gun registry—position of Conservative party as well.
Improve affordable housing in the Kootenay-Columbia region.
Represent future community projects at the Federal level.
Protect environmental heritage.
Improve rural security.
Pro-development

Betty Aitchison:

“I know our sleepy little communities are changing as our larger centres are. I see more people with very different backgrounds coming into our midst. The power of communication has and will make it possible for this to happen. There are places still where cell phones are unable to work but on the whole those places are taken up with the computer and a desire to communicate from a remote area. Our Colleges have helped in making our peoples more interested in learning, more literate, and of course radio and TV have brought the outside world into the Kootenays, South East.

The infrastructure of our towns and cities are improving. There is a changeover taking place in some of our Mayor and Councils coming with new ideas and approaches. I see our Kootenay-Columbia as being very healthy and progressive in the next 4 years. Cranbrook having a potential International Air Port will present growth beyond that 4 years as well. I believe in our area, and have always promoted it.

With good leadership I see people taking over more responsibility for their own health, being more environmentally astute and helping to provide less waste. Our cross-country trails have been a great boon for us all. Our communities are showing more and more that they care about the health of the citizens and are providing bike trails, walking trails good swimming pools golf courses etc. which can do nothing but get us all healthier. We are about to have more affordable housing, this is a long time coming but it is and that will bring pride to those who have not been able to have a place of their own. Our leaders in the communities work vary hard, the regional boards has been a progressive step.”

September 2, 2008, FDA interview

FDA Summary: continued growth of the Kootenay-Columbia region--

Leon Pendleton:

Create business and community

Advocate of new direction for Canada—“the direction the country needs to go in”

Against Canada’s current involvement in Afghanistan—should only be there to remove “terrorists” and nothing more.

Government regulation of market to protect Canadian industries like the forestry industry.

Move to more alternative energies like solar and wind.

Longer-term vision of governments like 10 to 15 to 20 years. Reform political system to help bring this about by selecting candidates based on what, actually, they offer the public rather than sound bites, and educating the newer generations about geological ages and influence of humanity on the planet etc., shift away from human centered systems and redistribute wealth

Explore the geothermal power potential of the Kootenays and other alternative energy sources like wind and solar power.

Vision Evaluation:

Basis for evaluation: Leadership--identifies issues and act on them, vision, strength to carry through, independent yet team player, and strong communication with public.

Score	Abbott	Aitchison	Pendleton
Garvey	5/10	3/10	8/10
Brown	7/10	4/10	8/10
Clark	7/10	4/10	8/10
Total	19/30	11/30	24/30

Rational: Pendleton has a very strong vision for the Kootenay-Columbia region; Abbott’s vision limited to party policy and pro-development; Aitchison’s vision limited to assisting local representatives/leaders.

Policies

Economic:

Conservative Party

FDA Basic Summary: government stays out of the way of the people; let the people decide how to spend their money.

From the 2008 Federal Budget:

- **Reducing debt.**
Since taking office, the Government has reduced the federal debt by more than \$37 billion, including \$10.2 billion this fiscal year. The Government's aggressive debt reduction has resulted in ongoing interest savings of \$2 billion per year. Under the Tax Back Guarantee, the benefits of debt reduction are passed on to Canadians in the form of lower personal income taxes.
- **Strengthening Canada's tax advantage.**
Since taking office, the Government has delivered almost \$200 billion in tax relief over this and the next five years. Budget 2008 extends accelerated capital cost allowance treatment for the manufacturing and processing sector by three years on a declining basis—this will provide these businesses with an additional \$1 billion in tax relief.
- **Investing in the country's manufacturing heartland.**
In February 2008, Parliament passed the Government's \$1-billion Community Development Trust to support communities and workers. Budget 2008 builds on this investment by providing \$250 million for an Automotive Innovation Fund to help Canada's automotive sector adapt to the challenges of the future.
- **Investing in the priorities of Canadians.**
Budget 2008 is providing \$400 million to hire 2,500 new front-line police officers over the next five years. Budget 2008 also supports the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and will improve the safety systems for food, consumer and health products.

Canadians pay too much tax. Under the Liberals, working families and seniors were squeezed while the Liberal government rewarded Liberal insiders and mismanaged our tax dollars.

Under the strong leadership of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Conservatives are cutting taxes to build a better Canada.

GST cut from 7% to 6%, and now to 5% - that's a tax cut for all Canadians.

Reduced the lowest personal income tax rate to 15% from 15.5% as of January 1, 2007.

Created the new Working Income Tax Benefit to help 1.2 million people over the "welfare wall".

Created the new \$1,000 Canada Employment Credit to lower taxes for working Canadians.

Created the new \$2,000 Child Tax Credit amount for every child under 18, a \$1.5 billion tax savings for families.

Increased the amount all Canadians can earn without paying federal income tax to \$9,600 in 2007 and 2008 and to \$10,100 in 2009.

Enacted the Tax Fairness Plan to provide \$1 billion in tax relief for Canadian seniors and pensioners.

Delivered new tax credits for public transit, kid's sports, textbooks, tools, and apprentices.

Eliminated income tax on student scholarships, fellowships and bursaries.

Cut taxes on small businesses.

Ensured fairness for single-earners by ending the marriage penalty.

Eliminated the job-killing corporate capital tax.

Enacted the "Tax Back Guarantee"- a plan to use interest savings from national debt repayments to reduce personal income taxes, each and every year.

Against Carbon tax

Liberal Party

FDA Basic Summary: government help facilitate the economy; shift taxes to negative aspects of society—polluters etc.,

The Liberal green shift plan described in the previous chapter will strengthen our economy by spurring investment and creating a new generation of green-collar jobs in energy, construction, design, and consumer products.

And by cutting the lowest income tax rate by 10 percent and middle-class taxes by four to five percent, we'll make sure that every Canadian keeps more of their paycheck.

The Liberal green shift will also boost the competitiveness of Canada's economy through business tax relief that will stimulate investment and green innovations.

The general corporate income tax rate will be cut by an additional one percent. To assist small businesses, the engine of the Canadian economy, we will also cut the small business corporate tax rate by an additional one percent. Over \$1.7 billion will be set aside for accelerated capital cost allowance rates to encourage investments in green technologies and equipment and the Science, Research & Experimental Development Tax credit will be made partially refundable to ensure that all companies have an incentive to invest in the kind of R&D that Canada will need to compete in the green economy of the 21st century.

But that's just the beginning of our plan to build a more prosperous Canada. A Liberal government will create jobs now and put Canada's economy on a solid footing for our children. We will make targeted investments in Canada's infrastructure, and boost our investments in post-secondary education and research

and development.

All of these investments will be made within the framework of fiscal discipline that has become our hallmark as Liberals.

1. a Strong Climate for Growth: balanced budgets

Canada is comparatively well-equipped to face the challenge of an aging population. And this is because we will pass the next generation a burden of debt much lighter than the one we inherited. Thanks to Canadians' hard work and the leadership of the former Liberal government, our country's finances were put on the right path to decrease our debt burden relative to the size of our wealth.

Not long ago, Canada's public debt was one of the highest in the developed world. Now, it's one of the lowest. We are also the only country to put our national pension plan on a sound footing – thanks to the previous Liberal government and the hard work and sacrifice of all Canadians.

A new Liberal government will continue this sound management, the core of which is fiscal discipline. We are committed to balanced budgets, which is why all the commitments in this platform are within a prudent fiscal framework that includes a contingency reserve of \$3 billion a year to be applied to the debt if it's not used – a prudent measure irresponsibly abandoned by the Conservative government. Fiscal discipline is now part of the Liberal DNA. We were the party that turned a huge deficit into eight years of surpluses, and we will continue to put fiscal responsibility first.

There is also a need to consider the larger picture. And this picture includes a large infrastructure deficit that, if our generation fails to act, will be passed onto our children.

2. Jobs Today: Tackling the infrastructure deficit in our Cities and Communities

Together with Canadians, Liberals defeated the fiscal deficit. Canada is now facing another challenge, one that could be just as debilitating to our country's potential: the infrastructure deficit. The "infrastructure deficit" means that amount of spending needed simply to bring our existing infrastructure up to acceptable modern standards, without even adding anything new. This infrastructure deficit, estimated at over \$100 billion, threatens our economic growth and our quality of life.

Liberals understand that infrastructure is not only the backbone of the Canadian economy; it is the foundation for the cities and communities in which we live. It is our tap water, the roads and bridges that connect us, the buildings that form the faces of our communities. Climate change will add to the challenge, as extreme weather places further stress on our infrastructure.

To tackle the infrastructure deficit, all governments must work together in partnership – and there must be leadership from the federal government. Stéphane Dion is committed to providing long-term, predictable resources through a three-point infrastructure revitalization plan.

First, a Liberal government will implement a 10-year, \$70-billion plan to invest directly in our country's infrastructure. As part of this commitment, we will honour all existing framework agreements that the Conservative government has signed with the provinces. We believe that when the Government of Canada puts its name on an agreement, future governments should respect that commitment

– a principle that has been violated by the Harper Conservatives who ignored signed commitments on the Atlantic Accords, the Kelowna Accord and the agreements with the provinces on early learning and child care. All specific funding commitments will also be honoured.

Rather than the unfocused and incoherent approach to infrastructure that we have seen from the Conservatives, a Liberal government will be upfront and transparent about the priorities we will pursue in our discussions with the provinces and municipalities under the framework agreements. To that end, over the next 10 years, a Liberal government will allocate:

- at least \$10 billion for Strategic Infrastructure, particularly green infrastructure such as clean water and sewage treatment, and clean energy grids;
- at least \$8 billion for a National Transit Strategy that will enable our cities to expand their systems and green their transit fleets;
- at least \$3 billion for a dedicated Small Communities Fund, to ensure that all Canadians are able to see strengthened, more resilient infrastructure;
- at least \$4.5 billion for our country's Gateways, Corridors and Borders to ensure that Canada's infrastructure facilitates, rather than hinders, our trade and tourism industries while keeping Canada safe and secure; and
- at least \$3 billion for Sports and Recreational Facilities because an active society is a healthier society and Canada must renew and expand its arenas and other leisure facilities.

In addition to these clear priorities, our 10-year plan includes the transfer of almost \$25 billion to the municipalities through the gas tax transfer. We will index the transfer to nominal GDP growth so that municipalities have the funding certainty they need to keep up with economic growth.

Second, a new Liberal government will invest the entire amount of any future unanticipated surplus that exceeds our \$3-billion contingency reserve into Canada's infrastructure. This would have represented \$7 billion in 2007-08, and nearly \$75 billion if this approach had been taken over the last ten years. The top priority will be investment in sustainable infrastructure: public transit, water systems, green energy, waste management and remediating contaminated sites.

Third, a Liberal government will develop an Infrastructure Bank as an additional tool to finance infrastructure investment. This bank will provide low-cost financing for all levels of government that choose to borrow from it and will help finance long-term green infrastructure projects such as regional energy grids and high speed rail links in Canada's busiest commuter corridors. Canadians across the country would have the opportunity to participate in the Bank's projects through the purchase of tax-free Green Bonds similar to Canada Savings Bonds.

Our commitment to addressing Canada's infrastructure deficit is strong. Our plan will be good for Canadians now – as it will create jobs and stimulate businesses at a time of economic slowdown – but it is also a commitment for the long term. For example, a Liberal government will be a willing partner for megaprojects like an East-West grid, commit to an Atlantic Energy Corridor and a carbon capture and sequestration pipeline between Alberta and Saskatchewan. The economic opportunities from infrastructure investments such as these are enormous and a Liberal government will seize them.

3. Jobs Today: The advanced manufacturing Prosperity fund

Liberals know that some of our most important industries are facing unprecedented challenges. Unlike the Harper Conservatives, who have turned their backs on Canadian manufacturing, we will be there to help with strategic investments to create new jobs and growth.

We will create a \$1-billion Advanced Manufacturing Prosperity (AMP) Fund to help this key sector, which lost 130,000 jobs in 2007 under the Harper Conservatives. The AMP Fund will help make Canada a leader in green technologies. It will support major investments in manufacturing and R&D facilities, which will serve as an anchor for clusters of economic activity. We will make investments according to following three strategic criteria:

1. The federal investment must leverage significant private investment, and in so doing create jobs.

Infrastructure

The Liberal infrastructure commitment is worth \$70 billion over ten years, with additional funding from future unanticipated surpluses and the resources of the infrastructure bank. The table below outlines four and ten year totals for infrastructure spending.

Over the next four years, we will not spend any less than the current commitments of the federal government. With our commitment regarding unanticipated surpluses, we will likely invest more.

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	4 Year Total	10 Year Total
	2009/10 to 2012/13	2009/10 to 2018/19
Pacific Gateway and Corridors	0.6	0.6
Gateways and Borders	1.4	4.7
Strategic Infrastructure	2.4	10.3
National Transit	1.9	8.2
Small Communities	0.6	2.8
Recreational	0.7	3.1
\$25 m per province per year	1.3	3.3
Phase-out of existing programs	1.3	1.3
Infrastructure Bank Financing cost	0.3	1.6
GST rebate	3.4	9.6
Gas Tax Transfer to municipalities	8.6	24.6
ToTaL	22.4	70.0

2. The investment must be in anchor facilities that attract significant secondary industries: suppliers, services, and other support businesses.

3. The investment must help position Canada as a leader in the manufacture of greener technologies and products.

Contrary to Conservatives, Liberals believe in partnering with the provinces to make targeted investments to help spur innovation and create jobs. As other countries like the United States are investing strategically to attract new private investment in order to bring the best jobs and the best facilities to their country, the Conservatives have done nothing. Every day we follow the Harper Conservative

approach means lost opportunities for Canada and lost jobs for Canadians.

4. Strong rural and northern Canada

No economic plan for Canada would be complete without specific policies for rural and Northern Canada. The Liberal green shift plan and incentives for renewable power will encourage new investments in renewable energy throughout rural Canada, from bio-fuels to wind to solar power. In addition to all other income tax reductions in the Liberal plan, rural Canadians will receive an additional \$150 per tax filer every year.

But our plan does much more. We will focus much of our infrastructure effort on rural Canada. That doesn't just mean roads and bridges – it's also about communications.

That's why a Liberal government will:

- complete the job of making broadband Internet service available to rural communities; and
- keep rural post offices open, recommitting to the Liberal moratorium on closing rural post offices.

Canada cannot be truly prosperous if some regions are left behind as others flourish. For the past generation, Canada's regional development agencies – the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions (CEDQ), Western Economic Diversification Canada (WED) and the Federal Economic Development Initiative for Ontario (FedNor) – have worked to foster economic development in small rural and urban communities across Canada. Stephen Harper's Conservatives have never understood the valuable work undertaken by Canada's regional development agencies, viewing them as little more than regional welfare agencies. Therefore it is no surprise that they have downgraded the representation of the agencies in their Conservative cabinet and in some cases cut their funding. A Liberal government would reverse this trend and restore funding, including the \$6.4 million cut from the Northern Ontario Development Program, which promotes economic growth, diversification, job creation and sustainable communities in Northern Ontario.

A high quality of life in rural Canada means having access to high quality services.

That's why a Liberal government will:

- help rural communities attract more doctors by forgiving \$10,000 of student debt for doctors in exchange for each year of practice in a rural or under-serviced area for a minimum of 5 years; and
- support volunteer firefighters by providing a refundable tax credit of \$2,000 for volunteer firefighters and emergency service workers.

For Northern Canadians, the high cost of living is a barrier to prosperity. A Liberal government will immediately boost the maximum Northern Residents Deduction by almost \$1,000 and index it going forward.

In order to keep our rural and Northern communities strong and vibrant, we must address the challenges facing the industries that are their economic foundations: forestry, fishing and farming.

The forestry sector is experiencing some major challenges. That's why we will convene a National Forestry Summit with industry, unions, communities, Aboriginal Canadians and other governments to develop a National Forestry Strategy.

A new and serious threat to Canadian forestry is the mountain pine beetle – an example of how climate change will impact Canada’s economy. The pine beetle has ravaged forests in British Columbia and has crossed into Alberta, threatening jobs and raising the fire risk in rural communities. Liberals will be there to help affected Canadians, with \$250 million in new funding to fight the spread of the pine beetle. We will also help protect and support Canada’s fishing industries. We will invest to preserve our fishing stocks and fairly allocate viable fisheries, increasing funding for science, surveillance, conservation and protection. We will also invest to reduce fishing efforts and allow those who want to end their fishing career to do so with dignity by offering to retire core commercial harvesting licenses in areas severely affected by declining stocks. We will also partner with the provinces to fund an early retirement program for displaced crewmembers and plant workers. We will promote cod and salmon stock recovery by reinvesting in habitat conservation and working to establish the world’s first international protected area to protect the vital cod nursery from foreign over-fishing on the Tail of the Grand Banks. We will help fishers improve their assets, by improving access to capital for improvements to fishing vessels and equipment through the establishment of the Green Fisheries and Transport Fund. The Fund will provide over \$250 million in rebates and incentives for investments in technologies that reduce fuel consumption, such as anti-idling power devices for the trucking industry and onshore power facilities for the fisheries industry.

We will convene a National Fisheries Summit, bringing together all the key stakeholders and orders of government to address the economic and sustainability challenges facing the industry. And we will be mindful of the importance of the fisheries industry across the whole country by investing \$100 million (including \$25 million in Canada’s North) in the improvement of small craft harbours, the home base of Canada’s commercial fishing industry.

To build a strong future for our agriculture sector, we will introduce a new Regional Flexibility Fund. The agricultural sector faces challenges that are not the same across Canada. A Liberal government will work in partnership with farmers and farm organizations to fund the development of regional specific solutions such as the Ontario Risk Management Program. Adaptation to climate change will also present a challenge for farmers and the Regional Flexibility Fund could help regions develop improvements to crop insurance and environment programs.

We will restore a strong, democratic Wheat Board, reversing the damage done by the Conservatives and ensuring that farmers are the ones who direct reforms to the board, through a fair and transparent process. We will defend supply management in negotiations at the World Trade Organization.

We will strengthen business risk management programs, using input from farm organizations to make sure those programs meet the needs of all producers in all regions. We will streamline AgriStability to ensure a simpler application process and easier accessibility. And we will reaffirm the federal government’s commitment to provide compensation for losses from unforeseen natural disasters. We will also support the promotion of local farmers’ markets, and the branding of Canadian foods. The more that Canadians buy local farm products, the less distance our food has to travel – this is good for farmers and the environment.

To ensure accuracy and fairness in the calculation of freight rates, a Liberal government will quickly launch a full railway costing review. In addition, a Liberal government will acknowledge the commercial, community and environmental value of short-line railway operations, which need to be encouraged as an infrastructure priority. A Liberal government will implement a moratorium on further branch-line abandonment proceedings to allow the new government to assess the appropriateness of the current branch-line configuration.

Risks to farming operations caused by worsening climate change are increasing, including threats to crop production and diminishing fresh water supplies. A new Liberal government will, as part of our \$400-million Water Fund described in more detail later in this platform, strongly support the on-farm and community-based fresh water development programs of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA).

Finally, we will give farmers the tools they need to become more energy efficient and less reliant on fossil fuels. Farms that invest in green technologies such as anaerobic digesters or biomass production will benefit from an accelerated capital cost allowance. A Liberal government will also create a \$250-million Green Farms Fund to provide rebates that will reduce the up-front cost of these technologies and invest in research. This is on top of the Emissions Reduction Credit, part of the Liberal green shift plan, which will provide \$400 million over four years for refundable tax credits to industries such as farming that are achieving real, verified reductions in their emissions.

5. Jobs Tomorrow: investment in research & development

A Liberal government will increase support for the indirect costs of university-based research to \$500 million a year, which at full implementation will represent a more than 50 percent increase over current levels.

For researchers and graduate students, a Liberal government will increase the budgets of the three granting councils by 34 percent over four years. Support for the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) will both increase to \$1.275 billion a year from the current levels of \$960 million. Funding for the Social Sciences and Humanities Council (SSHRC) will be increased to \$450 million a year from the current level of \$320 million.

We will also create an Interdisciplinary Sustainability Fund of \$100 million. This Fund will be available to scientists, researchers and graduate students for projects that reach beyond the barriers of their discipline. Interdisciplinary research is the way of the future. It is how we will address complex scientific challenges – like adaptation to the climate change crisis – that affect our economy and our society.

A Liberal government will also extend the tax credit for research and development through the Scientific Research and Experimental Development Tax (SR&ED) Program, so that 25 percent of SR&ED tax credits received will be refundable.

This means that all innovative companies in Canada will be rewarded, not just those that are already making a profit and paying taxes in the short term.

Building upon our initial proposal to retain income trusts as a high-yield investment option so that Canadians have a diversity of investment vehicles, while ensuring tax neutrality between corporations and income trusts, a Liberal government

will repeal the punitive 31.5 percent tax on income trusts and replace it with a 10 percent tax that is refundable for Canadian residents.

6. Jobs Tomorrow: Providing access to Post-Secondary education

The opportunity for every Canadian to attend college or university, or to complete a skilled trade apprenticeship, is central to the future economic success of Canada. To succeed in the global economy, replace retiring baby-boomers in existing jobs and fill new jobs created by an innovative, dynamic and sustainable economy, we need to make quality, affordable post-secondary education available to more Canadians.

The only new assistance full-time students have received under the Conservative government is a tax credit for textbooks worth less than \$10 per month. As well, a student must earn almost \$20,000 a year to benefit fully from existing education tax credits. That's little help to most students, who earn an average of just \$5,000.

A Liberal government will help make post-secondary education accessible to every Canadian by boosting and simplifying existing support for students, and offering more tax credits and student loans to apprentices.

Simplifying Tax Support for Students

Currently, our tax system does not work effectively and efficiently for students. Students are not able to qualify for most available tax credits because they typically do not earn sufficient income. For those who benefit from the credits, the refund arrives in a lump sum at the end of the school year rather than during the school year when students need the money most.

To ensure that students benefit from support when they need it, the existing tuition and education tax credits for full-time post-secondary students will be replaced with an Education Grant payable to each student every three months – at the same time as the GST rebate is paid to most students.

When combined with the GST rebate received by most students, this new grant will be worth \$1,000 per full-time undergraduate, postgraduate or college student per year. In addition to this, our plan offers an additional a tax credit worth \$250 for students who work and are therefore able to benefit from the green shift's refundable employment credit even if they do not earn sufficient income to pay federal income taxes.

An Improved Approach to Student Aid

A Liberal government will create a 20-year education endowment fund worth \$25 billion. By creating a fund such as this, the federal government will be able to turn a relatively small investment – which would allow for the borrowing of the initial funds needed to start the endowment – into a significant, long-term investment in students. Over the next four years and in cooperation with the provinces, this fund will allow the government at full implementation to provide 200,000 needs-based bursaries of up to \$3,500 per year and 100,000 access bursaries of up to \$4,000 per year. Needs-based bursaries will be used to ensure that the barrier of cost will be lowered for students who need financial support to pursue their post-secondary education. Access grants will be used to provide financial assistance to help individuals who are members of groups that are traditionally under-represented in post-secondary education.

Quebec has a long and unique history of a generous and progressive approach to student support. In recognition and support of this approach, a Liberal government

will work with the provincial government to meet the shared goal of increasing access and affordability for post-secondary education while providing Quebec with the option of receiving compensation over a similar 20-year period to invest in its own post-secondary student funding priorities instead of joining any new arrangement.

Reforming Student Loans

At present, many middle-income families see their children denied student loans based on existing rules about parental income and assumed levels of parental support. These rules do not match the reality of many of today's middle-income families, who cannot afford to finance their child's education. A Liberal government will make all students eligible for guaranteed student loans of \$5,000, regardless of parental income.

In addition to this commitment to a guaranteed student loan for all students, we will also work with our provincial partners to put an end to high interest rates for students by providing all students with a new lower lending rate of only a half a percent above the prime rate – the rate that banks give to their best and most credit-worthy customers. We will also work with the provinces to design new student loan programs that will increase access for under-represented groups such as Aboriginal Canadians. Finally, we will extend the payment grace period for students immediately after graduation from 6 months to 2 years and make this grace period interest-free. We will also extend the time period that individuals have to repay their student loans.

Extending Support to Apprentices and Summer Students

Canada faces a shortage of skilled trades-people as existing workers retire. To support apprentices, a Liberal government will make available to all full-time apprentices the existing \$400-a-month education tax credit. Apprentices will also be eligible for the guaranteed \$5,000 student loan.

In addition to these measures, a Liberal government will restore the \$44 million in funding to the Student Summer Jobs Program cut by the Conservatives.

7. Supporting Canadian Culture

Canada's diverse arts and cultural community plays a vital role in our national identity. Cultural activity fosters vibrant, liveable cities and communities, and supports innovation, helps us understand our past and imagine our future, and stimulates our economy.

Government needs to do a better job of supporting and promoting Canadian books, music and other forms of creativity. Unfortunately, we have a Conservative government that fails to see the value of arts and culture in fostering the richness of our country.

The Harper Conservatives gutted the Public Diplomacy Program, which allows our diplomats overseas to use Canadian artists and cultural products to gain access to and influence decision makers. They cut funding to community museums, and have provided no support for Canadian television, our growing film industry or cultural organizations. Until the Liberal caucus exposed them, the Conservatives were trying to give their Minister the power to censor filmmakers with a few lines buried in a 500-page tax bill. They then slashed at least \$44.5 million from critical cultural support programs. A Liberal government will reverse these recent cuts and reinvest the funding cut from the Public Diplomacy Program in 2006.

Liberals believe that Canadian filmmakers should be given more tools to help

them succeed. That is why we will increase the Canadian Film and Video Production Tax Credit to 30 percent. Not only will this help our filmmakers produce more great films, but it will also help create more high-quality jobs in an industry that already employs over 125,000 people. This represents a commitment of over \$160 million to our filmmakers.

A Liberal government will support our cultural industries, increasing Canada's competitiveness and quality of life, inviting leading cultural figures to showcase Canada to the world, celebrating and encouraging our wonderful diversity.

That support begins at the institutional level. Over the next four years, we will double funding to the Canada Council for the Arts, bringing its annual budget to over \$360 million. This will enable the Canada Council to make significant investments in Canada's artists, creators, and arts institutions. With this investment, we are giving Canadian artists the tools they need to create exciting, vibrant products for all Canadians.

In addition to restoring the cuts made by the Conservatives, we will further increase funding for international arts promotion programming by \$15 million over three years to help bring Canada to the world.

We will increase support for Canada's museums, investing \$16 million in the Museum Assistance Program, to help safeguard our precious cultural heritage.

We will support Canadian content, directing the CRTC to continue its requirement of Canadian production and content as a condition of broadcast licensing.

Canada has had considerable success in developing a home-grown new or interactive media sector that produces leading edge educational and entertainment projects enjoyed by audiences here at home and around the world. To build on this success and create new, high-skilled jobs in this rapidly growing industry, a new Liberal government

will develop and launch a Canadian Digital Media Strategy. The Strategy will focus the government's efforts to ensure that Canadian creators are able to take a leading role in an industry expected to be worth \$65 billion globally by 2010.

Support for Canada's arts and culture must also extend to support for artists themselves. That is why a Liberal government will provide income averaging for artists drawing on the inspiration of Quebec's income-averaging provisions.

This will ensure that the tax system will better reflect the peaks and valleys of the artistic work cycle. This is an important tool for helping this country's writers, artists and musicians continue to excel.

Canadians Demand Fiscal Responsibility

As we confront the economic challenges of today and work to build a richer, fairer, greener Canada, the Liberal Party offers a government that is a partner Canadians can trust.

In 1993 Canadians entrusted Liberals with the challenge of fixing years of Conservative deficits and economic mismanagement. Jean Chretien and Paul Martin asked Canadians to slay a deficit that threatened to end Government's ability to act for current and future generations. Canadians rose to the challenge.

An unprecedented eight consecutive years of surpluses and sound management of Canadians' finances allowed Canadians to again believe in what we can do together:

- Liberals were privileged to deliver the largest personal and corporate tax cuts in Canada's history.
- Liberals committed to the largest ever investment in the health of Canadians.
- Liberals paid down more than \$75 billion on our national debt
- Liberals committed to re-building where we live with the New Deal for Cities and Communities.
- Liberals began to invest in fairness for our first peoples, hope for our children and better education to build and thrive in the economy of tomorrow.

Under Jean Chretien and Paul Martin, Liberals refused to risk returning to deficit. Stéphane Dion was a leader within the Liberal Governments that restored fiscal discipline to our country, and a Dion Government will continue this proud tradition.

The measures outlined in this platform will move Canada towards a richer, fairer, greener future. They are fiscally sound.

Liberals will continue to put fiscal responsibility first:

- Our budgets will be balanced;
- We will restore the annual \$3 billion Contingency Reserve to protect against the unforeseen;
- If this annual reserve is not required, it will go towards reducing our debt;
- Unanticipated surpluses in excess of the Reserve will be invested in our country's infrastructure; and
- We will accelerate the delivery of our commitments as Canada's fiscal capacity improves.

The Liberal four-year Plan – revenue

The Conservative Government has not released the most recent projections of Government revenues despite the fact that this information is usually ready by the middle of September.

This platform builds upon the most recent official estimates of the Government as found in Budget 2008. Lower GDP growth for the current and next year will impact revenues.

This will be offset to some extent by lower interest rates on Canada's debt and the fact that commodity prices have been higher than projected. The Government should release the most current estimates immediately.

Budget 2008 projected total revenue for the period 2009/10 to 2012/13 of \$1,073 billion.

Since the Budget the Federal Government has announced new un-budgeted revenues from the sale of wireless spectrum and exploration rights in the Beaufort Sea which will add \$2.2 billion over four years.

The Green Shift Plan is revenue neutral to the federal government. Every penny raised through taxes on pollution will be returned to Canadians in the form of significant tax cuts and benefits for households and businesses. In fact, as shown below, the Green Shift actually reduces net revenue by \$90 million over four years.

This platform also includes tax changes that will add an additional \$1.29 billion over four years in net new tax revenue. Combined with the Green Shift this means \$1.2 billion in net new revenue is projected. This is equal to the revenue raised by immediately eliminating tax subsidies for oil sands development that

are no longer required.

This platform does not increase the GST.

This platform does not eliminate the Universal Child Care Benefit of \$1,200.

As shown in Table 1, this platform projects total 4 year revenues of \$1,076 billion.

Table 1 - Projected revenue 4-year Total (\$ Millions)

budget 2008 Projected revenue 1,072,600

Post-budget revenue 2,240

Green Shift net Tax & benefit Changes -90

Platform Tax Changes 1,290

Canadian Film and Video Production Tax Credit -165

Income Averaging for Artists -50

Rural Emergency Workers Credit -95

Extend Education Credits to Apprentices -600

End Oil Sands Tax Subsidies 1,200

Income Trusts 1,000

Total Platform revenue \$1,076,040

The Liberal four-year Plan - expenditures

Budget 2008 identifies \$487.1 billion over four years in planned transfers to other governments, people and infrastructure commitments. A Liberal Government will honour these commitments and increase Federal support for provincial partners, Canadians and infrastructure.

A further \$438.1 billion in direct program spending is projected.

Operating costs thus total \$925.3 billion.

In addition, four-year debt servicing is projected to total \$133.1 billion.

The current fiscal frame thus anticipates total expenditure over the four years covered by this platform of \$1,058.4 billion.

As noted in Table 1, this platform project revenues of \$1,076 billion.

The projected operating balance is thus \$17.64 billion over four years as shown in Table 2.

This platform contains new programs totaling \$16.335 billion over four years as shown in Table 3.

It is not meaningful to project precise year by year profiles for every commitment in this platform since, in many cases, actual annual outlays and the start of new programs will depend on discussions still to be held with other governments.

For planning purposes this platform reserves more than \$5 billion over four years for such programs.

In addition, major infrastructure spending cannot be accurately predicted until specific projects are identified. This platform reserves \$10 billion over four years for projects to be identified in partnership with municipal and provincial partners. A Liberal government commits to accelerate the delivery of commitments as resources permit and further commits to conclude all necessary implementation negotiations within the first three years of our mandate.

Total Spending Plan Tax Changes The Green

a richer Canada 32,525 4,600 -1,290 29,215

Personal Income Tax Reductions 16,325 - -905 17,230

Corporate Tax Reductions 7,360 - -1,200 8,560

Manufacturing & Transportation 875 -
Primary Industries 1,390 -
 Agriculture 840 840 - -
 Forestry 250 250 - -
 Fisheries 300 300 - -
Arts and Technology 530 315 215 -
Support for Students 1,150 550 600 -
Investing in research 1,945 670 - 1,275
Integrating New Canadians 800 800 - -
a fairer Canada 20,250 9,700 - 10,550
Supporting Low-Income Seniors & Disabled 2,520 2,270 - 250
Family Support and Children's Tax Benefits 9,900 1,500 - 8,400
Tax relief for Low and Middle Income Workers 1,900 - - 1,900
Social Housing 620 620 - -
Health Care 1,320 1,320 - -
Child Care 1,500 1,500 - -
Aboriginal Canadians 2,100 2,100 - -
Safe Communities 230 230 - -
Advocacy 160 160 - -
a Greener Canada 1,735 1,435 - 300
Clean Energy 370 370 - -
Green Mortgages and Home retrofits 575 275 - 300
Clean Water, Oceans and Natural Environment 690 690 - -
Protecting Our Health 100 100 - -
reSTorinG oUr VoiCe in The worLd 600 600 - -
Green Shift PoLLUTion TaxeS -39,975 0 0 -39,975
ToTaLS 15,135 16,335 -1,290 90

Using 2008/2009 as “base year”

Under a new Liberal Government, every program funded in 2008/2009 will continue unless specifically cancelled. This means current programs such as Affordable Housing initiatives, the current “Dion Plan” for Official Languages and existing Regional Development Programs that “expire” after 2008/2009 will continue. It also means that future cuts to programs announced by the Conservatives to such areas as the Arts will NOT occur.

restoring the Contingency reserve and expenditure discipline

A Liberal Government will restore the annual \$3 billion Contingency Reserve. Liberals know how to manage program spending. Between 2002/03 and 2005/2006 Liberal budgets held program spending growth – including transfers for infrastructure -- to an average of 6.7 percent/year.

This was fully 1.3 percent lower than the 8 percent/year growth of the Conservatives between 2005/06 and 2008/09.

A new Liberal government will undertake a thorough expenditure review to identify savings across all non-transfer spending plans. This will start modestly

and rise to \$5 billion in year four. (Approximately 1.8 percent of total planned government spending) These savings, as and when they are secured, will be available to reinvest in the priorities of Canadians.

We will achieve a cumulative total of at least \$12 billion of “reinvestment savings” over four years by limiting currently planned total direct program spending to an average annual increase of 3.4 percent/year. As shown in Table 2, the current expenditure plan anticipates annual growth of 4.5percent.

As shown in Table 4, the Liberal Plan has a four year \$13.3 billion operating balance which creates a cushion to ensure Canadians can address the current economic challenges ignored by the Conservative Government. This cushion also provides resources to allow a new Liberal Government to negotiate in good faith with provincial partners.

Table 4: PLatform oVerView - 4 year ToTaLS (\$ Million)

Revenue From Table 1 1,076,040

Current Expenditure Plan from Table 2 1,058,400

Platform Initiatives form Table 3 16,335

Reallocation -12,000

Operating Balance 13,305

Contingency Reserve 12,000

baLanCe 1,305

NDP

FDA Basic Summary: focus on standard of life; government help facilitate economy make everyday life more affordable.

secure Canadian manufacturing—by building on traditional strengths and investing in the green-collar jobs of the new energy economy.

Promoted a plan to phase in universal prescription drug coverage to protect you and your family from soaring costs.

Tabled the Canada Post-Secondary Education Act as the heart of a plan to reduce crippling student debt and lower tuition fees for post-secondary education and training.

Came within one vote of passing into law the Early Learning & Child Care Act—which finally would have established a permanent national program of affordable licensed child care for working families.

Targeted consumer gouging through bills establishing a gas price ombudsperson and an airline passenger bill of rights; and through campaigns to end unfair ATM fees, cap credit card interest rates, and ban abusive cell phone charges.

Tabled legislation to reinstate the federal minimum wage that was abolished in 1996, setting it at the \$10/hour needed to pull a full-time worker out of poverty line.

Led a national campaign demanding fair repayment of \$1-billion withheld from CPP/OAS pensioners between 2001 and 2006 due to an accounting error.

Forced a groundbreaking series of parliamentary hearings to lay groundwork for a comprehensive national anti-poverty strategy.

Tabled bills to fix the Employment Insurance system so more unemployed Canadians can qualify for the benefits they need and deserve.

Earlier, when Jack Layton rewrote the 2005 Liberal budget, he redirected \$4.6-billion out of corporate giveaways in better priorities—including \$1.6-billion to build affordable housing and \$1-billion to reduce education and training costs.

Supported the November 2007 motion to tackle the manufacturing crisis by reviewing unfair trade rules, investing in manufacturing upgrades and improving worker transition programs.

Successfully pressured Harper to stop playing political games with a **\$1-billion emergency fund for one-sector towns**—bringing the Community Development Trust to Parliament for a vote to get the assistance flowing.

Promoted a **Green-Collar Jobs Strategy** that would lead to tens of thousands more Canadians finding quality jobs manufacturing products such as renewable energy systems and high-efficiency building materials.

Since 2003, with labour and environment groups, developed and promoted a **Green Car Strategy** to re-position Canada’s auto industry as a leader in producing the fuel-efficient cars that the world is increasingly demanding.

Consistently promoted an **active federal role** to secure manufacturing as the bedrock of Canada’s economy and the lifeblood of thriving communities from coast to coast to coast.

Economy Evaluation:

Basis for evaluation: sound, fiscal management of public revenue and expenditure, and fair distribution of government expenditure to all sectors of Canada

Score	Conservatives	Liberals	NDP
Garvey	5/10	7/10	6/10
Brown	7/10	6/10	4/10
Clark	5/10	7/10	6/10
Total	17/30	20/30	16/30

Rational: Conservatives wavering over threat to the Canadian economy; Conservatives commitment to stay with their direction may be best in a recession; Liberals have very good idea of shifting tax to sources of pollution; Liberals and NDP in favour of facilitating economy in difficult times; Liberals tax shift may not be beneficial.

Environment

Conservative Party:

FDA Summary Evaluation: commitment to environmental preservation through various initiatives, but not on the level of the Liberal Party.

Canadians want action on the environment; action that reduces green house gases while preserving our standard of living and way of life. Unfortunately, previous Liberal governments failed to act while Canada's air quality got worse and greenhouse gas emissions skyrocketed. Conservatives are turning the corner with a practical, achievable plan to clean up Canada's air, land and water and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Conservatives are taking real action on the environment to build a stronger, safer, better Canada.

Introduced a balanced, achievable plan to reduce Canada's greenhouse gas emissions 20% by 2020 and cut air pollution in half by 2015. In this plan:

For the first time ever, industry will be forced by law to meet tough emission reduction targets; and

National caps for industrial emissions of four air pollutants commonly associated with smog and acid rain will be introduced.

Created \$2 billion ecoENERGY Initiative to promote smarter energy use, greater use of clean energy sources, and cleaner use of traditional energy sources. This program includes initiatives like:

- Consumer oriented incentives like the ecoAUTO rebate for fuel efficient vehicles; and

Grants to individuals and businesses to help them invest in energy and pollution-saving upgrades.

Created \$1.5 billion trust for clean air and climate change in partnership with the provinces and territories. This includes strategic investments like:

- The development of an East-West electrical transmission interconnect between Manitoba and Ontario;
- Support for research and innovation for the reduction and sequestration of greenhouse gases; and

Support for the development of a "hydrogen highway", a network of hydrogen fuelling stations for fuel celled buses and vehicles, in British Columbia

Created \$300 million Chemicals Management Plan to regulate chemicals harmful to human health and the environment

Dedicated \$2 billion over seven years for the production of renewable fuels

A \$225 million investment to acquire and preserve ecologically sensitive lands

Liberal Party:

FDA Basic Summary: comprehensive approach to environmental issues by focusing the Canadian economy on environmental progress/improvement.

- respect our commitments and international obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions to at least 20 percent below 1990 levels by 2020, and increasing this goal to at least 25 percent if other countries make comparable efforts;
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1990 emission levels by 2035
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 60 to 80 percent below 1990 emission levels by 2050.

These targets are tough but achievable. They are also consistent with those of other leading jurisdictions. Most important, they are what scientific experts tell us is required to avert the dangers of climate change and protect human health. Inspired by that goal, a Liberal government will enact a plan to ensure that Canada reaches these targets, making Canada a world leader in global environmental citizenship.

Cutting Industrial Emissions of Greenhouse Gases

Over half of Canada's total GHG emissions come from large industrial emitters. The Conservative government's approach is so weak and so full of loopholes that it will have very little effect, according to the experts who have studied it. A Liberal government will act immediately to put a price on carbon that rises to \$40 per tonne of carbon emission within four years. That price will start low enough not to cause economic hardship, but will progressively increase over time, to send industry the clear message that the old ways of polluting production no longer make sense. The price will begin with our very first budget, allowing Canadian companies to start right away on the path to increasing energy efficiency and lowering emissions.

While the economy begins to adjust to a low carbon future, a Liberal government will take the time to properly design mandatory, absolute emissions caps for the largest polluting sectors--oil and gas production, utilities, and energy-intensive industries -- to ensure these companies reduce the emissions that harm our health and environment.

We will create a real carbon trading system to reward companies that reduce emissions more quickly to sell their emission credits to those who will take a little longer to reduce. This "cap-and-trade" system will harness the power of the

market to fight climate change, setting an absolute limit on industrial emissions and auctioning emission permits, while letting the market decide how best to make the reductions in a cost-effective way.

We will ensure this cap-and-trade system will be able to interact with international trading systems, and will be integrated with our other measures so that companies who are covered by the cap-and-trade system are not “double taxed” or treated unfairly.

This plan will offer business the predictability and clarity they need to make sound investment decisions and plan for the future, and will offer the environmental certainty that emissions are reduced.

The Emissions Reduction Credit

One of the advantages of a cap-and-trade system is the financial incentives offered to sectors of the economy that are not energy related, such as farming and forestry. But a cap-and-trade system cannot be implemented overnight. In the interim, before a cap-and-trade system is in place, we will set aside \$400 million over four years to provide refundable tax credits for industries such as farming and forestry that are achieving real, verified reductions in their emissions. A Liberal government will make it pay to adopt practices such as low-till or no-till farming, or greener forestry management.

A Strategy for Clean Energy

Today, less than five percent of Canada’s power today comes from renewable energy. We need to do dramatically better. A Liberal government will ensure that Canada embraces green energy solutions, helping us make the shift from polluting energy to cleaner sources, in order to remain competitive in the carbon-constrained global economy of the future.

A Liberal government will ensure that Canada has access to the technologies it needs to become a clean energy superpower. We will provide a Renewable Power Production Incentive that will more than double the non-emitting energy sources available to Canadians with a goal of having 12,000 Megawatts – that’s 10 percent of Canada’s total electricity output – come from low-impact renewable sources by 2015 and 15 percent by 2020. These incentives will generate more than \$25 billion in clean energy investment and tens of thousands of new, well-paid jobs for Canadians.

A portion of this incentive will be directed to support renewable energy in Northern and remote communities, which currently rely on diesel generators.

With projects that could meet about 10 percent of all electricity demand in remote communities, we will eliminate the need for hundreds of millions of litres of imported diesel fuel.

We will also use the purchasing power of federal operations to help accelerate the market by establishing minimum targets across the federal government for the purchase of energy from green sources.

In recent years, companies exploring in the oil sands have been receiving a special tax break on their investments, which was designed to take into account the risks linked to a new and untested technology to develop the oil sands. This can no longer be justified in an era where the technology is well-established, with oil worth over \$100 a barrel and billions in oil profits. A Liberal government will

immediately end the special tax treatment for oil sands development. However, oil companies that invest in technologies that reduce their greenhouse gas emissions will benefit from our new accelerated capital cost allowance that rewards such green investments.

Helping Canadians Go Green

We Liberals know that Canadians want to help fight the climate change crisis and reduce their energy bills. They need their governments to encourage action, not discourage it. Canadians can help reduce emissions, while saving money, by making our homes, buildings and vehicles more energy efficient.

Greener Homes and Buildings

Home heating and cooling costs a lot of money and takes a lot of energy. Canada was a leader in energy-efficient housing, but this leadership has waned. We are being surpassed by our global competitors who are actively looking ahead to the emerging market for zero-energy housing – housing built to conserve energy and use renewable energy sources so that the home consumes no electricity from the power grid on an annual net basis.

A Liberal government will provide powerful incentives for green home renovations that will trigger a boom in home improvement to capture the 20 to 40 percent energy savings that are easily available for most homes. Our objective is to retrofit 50 percent of all Canada's homes and buildings by 2020, and 100 percent by 2030. To help Canadians shield their families from higher energy prices, we will:

- double the federal financial incentives to help Canadians make energy saving home retrofits, providing up to \$10,000 in direct financial support for any household that invests in energy-saving measures like insulation, weather proofing and efficient heating systems; and
- introduce interest-free Green Mortgage loans of up to \$10,000 per household to help Canadians pay for the up-front costs of major energy-saving home retrofits such as geothermal or solar heating that can provide even deeper energy savings.

Low-income households spend a comparatively large portion of their income on energy bills. The Conservatives cut programs for low-income Canadians, leaving them to face rising energy costs without the help they need to cut those costs permanently.

A Liberal government will introduce a \$140-million Low-income Homes Retrofit Partnership Fund to help upgrade low-income housing across Canada, including federally administered co-operative housing, and reduce energy costs for those least able to pay.

A Liberal government will also ensure Canadians have the most energy-efficient products to choose from by increasing the energy-efficiency standards for appliances, such as furnaces, air conditioners, washers and dryers. We will strengthen the Energy Efficiency Act and change the way it is applied, so that Canada's energy-efficiency standards meet or exceed the toughest levels in North America and Europe.

Instead of the minor housekeeping measures that the Conservatives have proposed, we will set tough energy performance requirements for all energy-using equipment, based on the highest level of efficiency that is supported by broadly

available technology. These would be updated every 3 years to drive continual improvement and would eliminate from new sales those inefficient products which waste energy and contribute to climate changing pollution. This will allow Canadians to benefit from the very quick payback that increased energy efficiency can bring – reducing energy costs for everyone from homeowners, to commercial and institutional landlords and tenants, to industries.

At the same time, we will upgrade the energy-efficiency guidelines in the National Model Codes for Houses and Buildings. We will work with provinces to ensure the new guidelines are adopted across the country and phase in energy labelling for buildings, so all new builds are green builds.

A Liberal government will provide incentives for green thermal solutions (innovative heating and cooling technology in commercial and residential buildings) by providing Accelerated Capital Cost Allowances so building owners can write off the costs of the needed equipment more quickly.

Greener Transportation

Almost a quarter of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions come from transportation. A Liberal government will take aggressive measures to reduce these emissions and keep good jobs in Canada by ensuring Canadians are making the green cars of the future.

To help industries to reduce their emission, we will establish the Green Fisheries and Transport Fund, which will assist public transit authorities become more energy efficient and provide over \$250 million in rebates and incentives for investments in technologies that reduce fuel consumption like anti-idling power devices for the trucking industry and on-shore power facilities for the fisheries industry.

As consumers begin to demand more fuel-efficient vehicles in the face of rising fuel costs, it will be important for Canadian companies to be at the forefront of their production. To encourage this transition, a new Liberal government will enforce a new post-2010 fuel-efficiency standard and work with U.S. leaders to create a strong North American standard for our integrated automotive industries. We will also use the AMP Fund to make sure manufacturers choose Canada for green automobile production.

To assist average Canadians to lower the emissions created by driving, we will introduce a national low-carbon fuel standard that will, by 2020, reduce the carbon intensity of all vehicle fuels by at least 10 percent by requiring next generation bio fuels and other low-carbon fuel additives. We will also dramatically improve car scrappage programs, working in conjunction with provinces, so older cars that pollute more come off the road sooner.

Finally, we will ensure the government fleet of thousands of vehicles is made up of green, fuel-efficient models.

Information for Action

GHG emissions per person in Canada are among the highest in the world – even higher than in the United States. Canadians know that we need to change this and want to do their part. A Liberal government will help Canadians seize the personal and economic opportunity to contribute to a better world as individuals. The first step is to understand our individual impact on the environment—our “ecological footprint.”

We will create a Canada-specific comprehensive footprint calculator so Canadians can identify which activities are most contributing to environmental damage, and will provide useful information so individuals can make environmentally sound choices in their lives.

Many Canadians are buying Carbon Offsets – credits from projects that reduce GHG emissions elsewhere – but want to be sure that these offsets represent real reductions.

A Liberal government will develop a Canadian Gold Standard for carbon offsets, so that Canadians can have confidence in the credits they buy to become carbon neutral, while they gradually change their lifestyles to lower their emissions.

Adaptation

A Liberal government will coordinate a National Adaptation Strategy so that all orders of government can better understand and prepare for the effects of climate change that are already inevitable. Our new Interdisciplinary Sustainability Fund will provide funding for research into these effects and our substantial infrastructure spending will, of course, consider adaptation needs.

2. Clean air

The Liberal climate change plan will not only help address climate change, it will also help clean the air we breathe because being more energy efficient and using more renewable energy sources mean we will spew less smog and pollution into our air. Millions of Canadians live in areas where smog, haze and acid rain pose serious health concerns. The link between air pollution and respiratory diseases is well known. We are seeing alarming increases in childhood asthma, and recent research even shows a link between polluted air and cardiovascular disease. Every year, thousands of Canadians die, and tens of thousands of Canadians end up in hospital and miss work and school due to air pollution.

Clean air has long been a priority for the Liberal Party. But more needs to be done and we intend to do it, together with provinces and local communities.

In addition to our green shift initiatives, a Liberal government will pass tough National Ambient Air Quality Standards to reduce the pollutants that cause smog, haze, acid rain and other problems. These new standards will help to protect Canadians from the sources of air pollution in their regions, using health-based levels of safety for the air they breathe.

We will also help industry to upgrade their technology by making air pollution control equipment eligible for rapid tax write-offs, and implement a comprehensive Mercury Reduction Strategy, which will help to reduce the presence of this potent neurotoxin in our environment.

3. Safeguarding our water

Canadians expect that when we turn on the tap, the water that comes out will be clean and safe to drink.

We want to be able to play on our beaches and swim in our lakes, without fear of exposure to toxic substances or raw sewage.

We want to maintain our rich agricultural and industrial productivity – which rely heavily on water – and, of course, we want to ensure the aquatic animal and plant life in our ecosystems remains healthy and plentiful.

Despite some important improvements over the past decade, many of our waterways

are still degraded because of contaminants and inadequate treatment of sewage. New threats are emerging as toxic substances in products or pharmaceuticals accumulate in our water systems, and as climate change lowers water levels and puts ecosystems under threat. And the water needs of rapidly increasing energy production – particularly in the oil sands -- are huge.

That's why we need bold action to protect our water, and that's what a Liberal government will provide. We will implement a National Water Strategy using regulations, monitoring, enforcement and new investment, to clean up our waterways – and keep them clean.

Our substantial infrastructure commitments will help our cities and communities to invest in much needed water-treatment infrastructure to manage water demand and preserve a clean water supply.

In addition, a Liberal government will invest \$400 million in a Canada Water Fund. This new initiative will:

- increase monitoring and reporting of the quantity and quality of Canadian water;
- clean up our waterways, including “hot spots” in the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence and Lake Winnipeg;
- research the impact of emerging pollutants in water on human and aquatic ecosystem health;
- fight invasive species, such as the sea lamprey or zebra mussel;
- map Canada's underground aquifers that supply our drinking water, so we know where our groundwater comes from and how it is affected by human activities; and
- support the on-farm and community-based fresh water development programs of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration.

Priorities will be informed and coordinated by a National Water Council, with membership from all orders of government, First Nations, industry, research institutes and community stakeholders.

A Liberal government will also protect Canada's water supply by standing up for Canadian control over our waters and bringing in backstop legislation to ban the bulk export of water, and taking a strong stand against risky U.S. diversions of water systems that affect Canada. We will ban the dumping of raw sewage into our waterways and fully exercise federal regulatory authority to stop over-contamination of waterways, especially in areas of serious stress like the Athabaska River.

Finally, a new Liberal government will introduce a Water Efficiency Act which, for the first time ever, will set standards for products used in Canada and will create consumer labelling standard for water-efficient products.

4. Protecting our health from Toxic Substances

Hazardous substances are commonly used as chemical additives in consumer products we use every day. Canadians are exposed to a mixture of chemicals that can cause a wide range of health effects, and yet we still don't know enough about these effects. But we do know that a parent putting a baby down on its crib shouldn't have to be afraid that something in the mattress will harm their child's health.

A Liberal government will introduce a Toxic Substances Reduction Strategy to ensure that only safe food and products are sold in Canada.

As part of this Strategy, we will encourage producers to stop using harmful substance and look for healthier alternatives. To begin, we will impose a general safety requirement on any consumer product put on the market to ensure that consumer products pose no danger to human health or safety, either through direct exposure or exposure via the environment.

We will also establish a “Hot List” of carcinogenic substances and developmental toxins that should be prohibited in consumer products and establish strict timelines for phasing them out of products. We will ensure, through legislation, that safer substitutes

must replace toxic substances in products as alternatives become available.

Companies will be required to share all their research studies on the effects of their products – and not just the positive ones. And, we will increase the enforcement capacity of Health Canada and ensure products are subjected to a serious testing program that also randomly checks the actual products on the store shelves.

Furthermore, a new Liberal government will ensure that government officials have a duty to act when the government is made aware of a risk from a consumer product. The current approach proposed by the Conservative government doesn’t require government to do anything if a risk is identified. This is a signal to industry that Canada is a potential dumping ground for problematic products.

A Liberal government will ensure the Consumer’s Right to Know: companies will have to clearly label the harmful substances in their products. And we will expand the Government of Canada’s Ecologo certification labelling program to help consumers identify products and services that are less harmful to the environment and human health.

Finally, a Liberal government will play a more active role to protect Canadians and to help expand our knowledge of the effects of toxic chemicals on human health, particularly the most vulnerable. We will expand the Canadian Health Measures Survey, created by the former Liberal government, which measures human levels of environmental chemicals, and we will establish a Network for Children’s Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research – so critical gaps in our knowledge about the impact of chemicals on our bodies, and especially on our most vulnerable population, our kids, are filled as quickly as possible to help us better regulate substances of concern.

Food Safety

Canadians have been alarmed by the recent tragic events caused by unsafe food making it to our store shelves. The flurry of recalls followed a government decision to have food inspectors spend less time on the plant floor. Furthermore, the Conservatives developed plans to further reduce the role of inspectors. The Liberal

Party believes that it is important to learn the lessons of the Walkerton tragedy and put a real focus on ensuring that the food that we all eat is as safe as it can be.

To ensure that lunch meats and other foods are safe for all of us, a Liberal government will invest an additional \$50 million to build a more robust food safety net.

We want to get inspectors back on floors of the plant, focusing on keeping the food we eat safe rather than paperwork. Through the recruitment of more inspectors, ensuring inspectors have access to the best technology and expanding inspection efforts of both home grown and imported foods, Canadians will

be able to have greater faith in the food we all eat. More inspection means more safety for all Canadians.

5. Protecting our natural heritage

Canada is one of the last countries on Earth that still has vast wilderness areas. It is also one of the largest maritime nations in the world. We are stewards of the world's longest coastline, as well as unique ecosystems like the northern tundra and the Boreal forest – one of the last great intact forests on earth. Canada is home to iconic species like whales, polar bears, grizzly bears and caribou. Our wild forests and peat lands are also globally significant reservoirs of carbon, important to secure in the global fight against climate change.

Liberals are committed to safeguarding this tremendous natural heritage, which contributes to Canadians' quality of life, our collective pride, our national identity and our economic prosperity.

But the great ecosystems that Canadians cherish and that support our economy and our rural communities are becoming more vulnerable than ever before.

Preserving Canada's Wilderness and Biodiversity

To protect Canada's ecosystems in the face of climate change, pollution and over-use, a Liberal government will develop a National Ecosystem Stewardship Strategy for Canada, which will be science-based, and will respond to the increasing pressures on our natural surroundings. Our goal will be to protect a minimum of 50 percent of Canada's intact wilderness areas by creating interconnected networks of protected areas, and ensuring that resource development on other parts of the landscape is carried out in accordance with the highest environmental standards.

A Liberal government will make Canada an international role model for ecological conservation by establishing a network of National Parks and protected areas.

This network will include new national parks to protect a representative sample of each of Canada's 39 distinct natural landscapes, beginning in the North. We will also establish much-needed national wildlife areas, migratory bird sanctuaries, and marine conservation areas.

As we implement this strategy, we will affirm ecological integrity as an essential priority in their management, working in partnership with provincial and territorial governments in a partnership. We will ensure that these networks of protected areas are planned within larger landscapes, with the involvement of interested communities, to take into account their ecological, social and economic value.

To safeguard the Canadian Boreal Forest as one of the largest intact forest and wetland ecosystems remaining on earth, we will work with the provinces and territories to implement a conservation framework that preserves at least half of the Boreal in protected areas, and allows only carefully managed development on the rest.

Ensuring the Health of our Oceans

A Liberal government will also take bold steps to restore the health of our oceans and support our marine ecosystems and coastal communities. A Liberal government introduced the Oceans Act in 1997 to improve oceans management and the Oceans Action Plan in 2005 to accelerate oceans protection. We created the first marine protected areas in the country. We now need to see this through, by ensuring Canadian seascapes are zoned and managed in an integrated way with

the same rigour as Canadian landscapes.

A Liberal government will create a network of at least 30 marine protected areas nationwide by 2012. We will ensure that this network is accompanied by a new, zoning approach to ocean management that engages interested people and communities in decisions about how to reduce risks to ocean health.

We will work to improve the health of critical fish stock health, by pursuing cod stock and salmon stock recovery initiatives to improve the abundance and diversity of our fish, working in partnership with communities, industry, and provincial and territorial governments. We will apply a number of tools, such as reinvesting in habitat conservation and creating new protected areas including the world's first international protected area to protect the vital cod nursery from foreign over-fishing on the Tail of the Grand Banks. We will invest in research and controls to ensure Canadian fisheries are managed in a sustainable manner, to protect ocean health, fishing communities, and capitalize on world export markets for sustainable fisheries products.

Finally, a new Liberal government will clean up and prevent oceans pollution by increasing maritime enforcement capacity so that existing industrial pollutants and dumping regulations are respected and penalties applied, and creating a world-leading oil spill response capacity, particularly in Arctic waters where melting sea ice will open northern waters to increasing impacts.

Preserving Canada's Species

The government is failing to properly protect species at risk of extinction. Habitat protection is instrumental to species survival, yet the Conservative government has refused to even identify endangered species' habitat, despite a clear requirement in the Species at Risk Act to do so, forcing community groups to take them to court to enforce federal law.

A new Liberal government will ensure the timely mapping and protection of habitat for species listed under the Species at Risk Act, and will create a special "fast track" for protecting endangered or threatened species that rely on seasonal ice.

6. empowering Canadians

A Liberal government will enthusiastically implement the new Federal Sustainable Development Act, a Liberal private member's bill that requires the federal government to set clear environmental goals and measurable targets and to report annually to Canadians on the state of our environment.

We will elevate the role of Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development – Parliament's watch dog - to monitor progress and report directly to Parliament and Canadians.

And we will introduce a Canadian Environmental Bill of Rights to ensure transparency, accountability, and public participation in environmental decision-making. By empowering citizens with better information and tools to hold governments to account, we will better ensure that Canadians' right to a clean environment is respected.

NDP:

FDA Basic Summary: It's time for leadership to clean up the air we breathe, the water we drink and the land that sustains us; take on big polluters, meet real targets and invest in sustainable solutions.

Passed **Layton's Kyoto-Plus Bill (C-377)** making Canada's House of Commons the world's first legislature to adopt science-based targets to cut carbon emissions—committing to an 80% reduction from 1990 levels by 2050, with interim targets every five years.

Forced the Conservatives to strike an all-party committee to re-write their weak “clean air” legislation—and the resulting **Clean Air and Climate Change Act**, based on the NDP's polluter-pay plan, was hailed by environmentalists as a breakthrough.

Targeted toxic contaminants—passing NDP legislation to control phthalates used in toys, tabling a motion banning cosmetic-use pesticides, and committing to ban asbestos. Tabled a **Clean Water Act** proposing national standards ensuring safe drinking water for all Canadians, urban and rural, on First Nations reserves and off.

Stood up for our **waterways and oceans**—proposing a sustainable marine policy; exposing loopholes that let mining companies use healthy lakes as tailing ponds; moving to ban bottom trawling; and opposing Conservative legislation that seeks to further privatize fish resources.

Earlier, when Layton **rewrote the 2005 Liberal budget**, he cancelled \$4.6-billion in pointless corporate tax cuts to invest in better priorities—including \$900-million for green public transit and a home energy retrofit program.

Environment Evaluation:

Basis for evaluation: more responsible, sustainable management of the Canadian environment

Score:	Conservatives	Liberals	NDP
Garvey	6/10	8/10	4/10
Brown	6/10	8/10	4/10
Clark	6/10	8/10	6/10
Total	18/30	24/30	14/30

Rational: Liberals more diverse, well-developed environmental policy than other parties; NDP weak environmental policy platform.

Foreign Affairs

Conservative Party:

FDA Basic Summary: continue right wing foreign policy of involvement in Afghanistan, democracy promotion abroad (“Nation building”), arctic sovereignty etc.,

Foreign Affairs not considered a “key issue” by the Conservative Party.

2007 Speech from the Throne:

Nowhere is Canada making a difference more clearly than in Afghanistan. Canada has joined the United Nations-sanctioned mission in Afghanistan because it is noble and necessary. Canadians understand that development and security go hand in hand. Without security, there can be no humanitarian aid, no reconstruction and no democratic development. Progress will be slow, but our efforts are bearing fruit. There is no better measure of this progress than the four million Afghan boys and two million girls who can dream of a better future because they now go to school.

The Canadian Forces mission has been approved by Parliament until February 2009, and our Government has made clear to Canadians and our allies that any future military deployments must also be supported by a majority of parliamentarians. In the coming session, members will be asked to vote on the future of the Canadian mission in Afghanistan. This decision should honour the dedication and sacrifice of Canada’s development workers, diplomats and men and women in uniform. It should ensure that progress in Afghanistan is not lost and that our international commitments and reputation are upheld.

Our Government does not believe that Canada should simply abandon the people of Afghanistan after February 2009. Canada should build on its accomplishments and shift to accelerate the training of the Afghan army and police so that the Afghan government can defend its own sovereignty. This will not be completed by February 2009, but our Government believes this objective should be achievable by 2011, the end of the period covered by the Afghanistan Compact. Our Government has appointed an independent panel to advise Canadians on how best to proceed given these considerations.

In our own neighbourhood, the Americas, Canada is back playing an active role. The Canadian model of constitutional democracy and economic openness combined with social safety nets, equitable wealth creation and sharing across regions has much to offer those countries struggling to build a better future.

Canada’s efforts in Haiti are a compelling example of how we can work with our neighbours to ensure security and development. Canadians understand that our country has a responsibility to help countries struggling to make a better life for their people—particularly in promoting democratic governance in fragile states. In Haiti and elsewhere, our Government will bring greater focus and effectiveness to Canada’s international

assistance to ensure that Canadians' money is well spent.

The best hope for fostering development and our common security in the hemisphere and beyond is through bolstering international trade. Through renewed focus on trade and investment arrangements, Canada has already secured a deal with the European Free Trade Association, the first new agreement in more than half a decade. Our Government will keep advancing Canada's trade interests in the Americas and around the world to open up new markets for Canada's innovators.

Pull Canadian troops out of Afghanistan by 2011

Liberal Party:

FDA Basic Summary: comprehensive foreign policy with emphasis on improving worldview of Canada.

Restoring our Voice in the World

Canada's accomplishments are the sign of a truly great nation. We have forged a country whose prosperity, diversity and enterprising spirit are admired the world over. As this platform demonstrates, Stéphane Dion's Liberals also firmly believe that making the world a better place starts at home. Meeting the challenges of climate change in Canada will make our economy stronger and restore our credibility as a trusted partner in global efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Achieving excellence in green technologies and sustainable development here in Canada will open up new markets and opportunities for our exporters. Helping our workers develop their skills and knowledge will ensure Canadians retain their competitive edge in this global economy. The Liberal record of sound management of our nation's finances will ensure Canada minimizes the negative impacts of a slowdown of the U.S. economy.

Under the Conservative government, Canada has lost its independent, principled voice in the world. Under the Conservatives, Canada has retreated on the world stage. Canada has more influence in organizations like the United Nations and NATO when we speak to our deepest values: democracy, pluralism, religious tolerance, human rights, and the protection of civilians.

From time to time, acting on principle means taking stands that can run contrary to the policies and wishes of other governments. That is why recent Liberal governments rejected Canadian participation in the Iraq War and the Ballistic Missile Defence project. Those were the right decisions for Canada. They were expressions of Canadian values and national interests, and they were rooted in a firm commitment to multilateralism and the international rule of law. That is also why Liberal governments worked so hard for the Land Mines Treaty and the International Criminal Court.

Canada's capacity to shape the international agenda is clearly linked to the level of our engagement in world affairs. We can influence NATO's direction because we have always been one of its most committed members. The International Criminal Court was created because Canada and like-minded countries pursued this idea determinedly.

In short, our influence cannot come from rhetoric alone – it is also established

by the resources we chose to commit to issues.

1. Climate Change and Global Security

Protecting our climate will be integral to the foreign policy of a Liberal government. The Conservative government's approach to climate change was initially to deny its existence. It then decided to sabotage, block or reduce any international efforts for greater action on climate change. In the space of 31 months, the Conservative government has moved Canada from hero to zero, from leader to laggard. Their irresponsible position was an insult to Canada's legacy of moral leadership in the world, and actually counterproductive in the efforts to get developing countries like China and India to take on greater efforts to fight climate change. A Liberal government will return Canada to its leadership role on the environment and restore Canada's credibility as an engaged and committed partner in multilateral efforts to fight climate change.

According to UN estimates, all but one of its emergency appeals for humanitarian aid in 2007 were climate change related. We can increasingly see that the fallout of climate change – competition for natural resources and arable land, water shortages, increased flooding and prolonged drought – drive large-scale population migrations and often lead to violent conflict. While this is a global phenomenon, the problem is often felt most acutely in some of the world's most volatile regions such as the Middle East and Africa.

This has led many countries to view climate change not just as an environmental challenge but as a threat to global security. The cost of addressing the issue quickly is dwarfed by the cost, both economic and humanitarian, of failing to deal with it. That is why in addition to our domestic efforts and our commitment to lead multilateral efforts, we will also do more to assist developing countries deal with climate change as part of our approach to Official Development Assistance.

The climate change crisis has made the challenge of fresh water management in developing countries even more daunting. Under a Liberal government, Canada will bring its expertise in the management and mapping of water resources to developing countries. Today, more than 1 billion people still don't have access to safe drinking water and another 2.6 billion lack basic sanitation. According to some estimates, by the year 2025, 3.5 billion people will live in places where water is becoming scarce.

2. diplomacy: Projecting Canadian Values abroad

The execution of a successful foreign policy begins with building a stronger Foreign Service. We will put an end to the incessant cuts and attacks on Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs seen under the Conservative government. We will ensure that our professional diplomatic service has the resources and means to stand up for Canadians around the globe. This commitment will start with a reversal of the current government's short-sighted decision to close consulates in Milan, St. Petersburg, Fukuoka and Osaka.

We will place protection of the rights of Canadians abroad at the centre of our foreign policy. Under the Conservatives, consular rights that Canadians are entitled to have not been extended in all cases. A Liberal government will not pick and choose which Canadian deserves to be treated with justice and fairness. All Canadians deserve that respect regardless of which country it is that seeks to deny a Canadian citizen their rights.

We will return to Canada's long-standing position of opposing the death penalty on the global stage. We will not subscribe to the flawed logic of the current government which believes that the death penalty is acceptable if the execution is carried out by a democracy. We all know far too well that terrible miscarriages of

justice are possible in even the most democratic of countries. We will refuse to be timid in standing up for this basic belief. We will vigorously reassert Canada's long-standing position of seeking clemency for Canadians sentenced to death – in any country, anywhere in the world.

As important as it is for the government to protect Canadians abroad, Canada's foreign policy must be more ambitious. We must seek to make use of Canada's sterling reputation to lead the world on critical initiatives as we have so often done in the past. Canadians are justifiably proud of the leadership Canada exercised in obtaining a global ban on landmines – inventing a new approach to negotiating arms treaties. This process – known as the “Ottawa Process” – was recently used by other countries around the world to negotiate a ban on cluster bombs as Canada watched from the sidelines. While Canada did quietly sign on to the Cluster Munitions Convention in May, the government at no point showed any leadership during the 13 months of treaty negotiations.

A Liberal government will reverse this shameful performance by quickly ratifying and complying with the new treaty and making it a priority in our relations with other nations to encourage ratification and full compliance.

An active foreign policy must also take a long-term view, using Canada's influence to help build better institutions abroad. We will establish Canadian Centres for Democracy, offering training and capacity building initiatives in support of democracy and good governance. The first of these centres will be based in the Middle East. Respected countries such as ours need to help nurture the fragile institutions of democracy and good governance starting to take hold in the region.

3. development: Sharing Canadian hope and Vision with the world

In 2000, Canada signed on to a world pledge to, among other targets, halve extreme poverty, halt the spread of HIV/AIDS and provide universal primary education – all by 2015. As the UN Secretary General has put it, we can achieve the Millennium Development Goals only if we break with business as usual. We agree. Unfortunately, under the Conservatives, Canada's overseas development assistance has actually fallen as a percentage of our gross national product. This must change. Following a thorough review of the focus and relationship of the Canadian International Development Agency with other government departments and all of its partners in the public and private sector, a Liberal government will increase Canada's foreign aid spending. We will boost the International Assistance Envelope by \$500 million.

A Liberal government will also follow through on legislation proposed by the Liberals and passed in the outgoing Parliament that would give Canada's official development assistance a clear legislative mandate to focus our aid on poverty reduction, as well as improve transparency and accountability.

A Liberal government will lead the world in the battle against Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) which affect 2 billion people around the world. We will propose a new international initiative to eradicate a number of these diseases by, among other, bringing NTDs in the ambit of the Global Fund against Tuberculosis, Malaria and HIV/AIDS, currently the biggest and most effective international instrument to pool resources in the fight against these major scourges.

In the fight against NTDs, a Liberal government will lead by example and challenge other donors. Canada will assume the estimated \$15-million shortfall in the Lymphatic Filariasis elimination program in Haiti, helping to eradicate a terrible disease.

Africa

Canadians have a special relationship with Africa, one that we must continue to

nurture. Unfortunately, the Conservatives have short-sightedly decided to turn their back on the continent.

Conditions in Africa today are the most hopeful in recent memory. Africa, which in 2030 will be as populous as India and China today, can make faster progress and take its rightful place in a globalized world. Canada can decide today to be a real partner in Africa's economic transformation or it can miss that opportunity. But Africa's challenges are also an opportunity for our country to fulfil Lester B. Pearson's legacy. A Liberal government will focus its conflict prevention efforts in this part of the world. It will also assist the United Nations in better coordinating the resources it is marshalling in support of peace operations in Africa. In Sudan, the United Nations faces an historic test. January 2008 marked the deployment of the joint UN-African Union peacekeeping mission to Darfur. If fully deployed, it will be the biggest peacekeeping mission in history. Canada has a duty to ensure this mission succeeds and a Liberal government will ensure Canada does its part. As a first step, a Liberal government would contribute resources to the mission so it can contract the tactical and heavy lift helicopters it needs.

Corporate Social Responsibility

Three and half billion people live in developing countries rich in oil, gas and minerals. Canadian companies are very active in helping developing countries manage these important resources. In fact, in many parts of the world, our mining and exploration companies are the "face of Canada."

In recent years, the activities of some of Canada's mining and prospecting companies in developing countries have come under greater scrutiny. We understand that our efforts to build a richer, fairer and greener future should not stop at our borders. Socially and environmentally responsible Canadian mining and prospecting activities abroad are crucial to both our country's reputation, to the industry's bottom-line interests and, most importantly, to ensuring sustainable development.

A Liberal government will establish and promote a Canadian Corporate Social Responsibility Framework for all Canadian extractive-sector companies operating in developing countries. The Framework, based on the common work of mining companies and non-governmental organizations, will help promote responsible Canadian corporate behaviour abroad and strengthen our country's commitment to sustainable development. This initiative will make Canada a world leader in social corporate responsibility and set a new standard for other countries involved in extractive activities in developing countries to follow.

4. Stronger relationships

The United States is our closest ally. A Liberal government will work to strengthen that key relationship. At the same time, we will protect Canada's interests and values in the North American relationship. For example, a Liberal government will keep Canada out of the U.S. missile defence shield.

As globalization shrinks the distances between Canada and the rest of the world, our relationship with Asia is increasingly important. A Liberal government will rebuild the economic and diplomatic relationship between Canada and China, a relationship frayed by Conservative grandstanding and showmanship. We will give this relationship increased priority, negotiating Official Destination Status for Canada so that Chinese tourists can visit Canada more easily.

We will also strengthen our ties to the broader Asian market, investing in infrastructure such as the Pacific Gateway, and in additional measures and initiatives to increase our presence in Asia, and particularly in India. A Liberal government will establish a Canada-South Asia Trade Foundation with an initial endowment of \$40 million. This foundation will be similar to the Asia Pacific Foundation,

and will focus exclusively on developing trade and foreign policy strategies to strengthen our ties with South Asia.

Afghanistan

The Liberal Party remains committed to helping the people of Afghanistan as they work to build a stable, secure and democratic country. We are proud of the efforts of the men and women in uniform and the civilians who have taken up this challenge. The Liberal caucus took the lead in drafting and passing the motion in Parliament on the mission in Afghanistan. Our changes to the motion forced the Conservative government to accept our views that: the mission needs to change so there is a greater emphasis on training, security and reconstruction; the military mission in Kandahar needed to have a firm end date of 2011; and the government must go beyond an exclusively military focus in its approach to Afghanistan by increasing efforts with respect to development and international diplomacy. The Liberal amendments also imposed a greater commitment to transparency and accountability on the government. Too often, the Conservatives have not been forthcoming with Canadians about developments in Afghanistan, particularly with respect to such crucial issues as the treatment of detainees transferred by Canadians to Afghan authorities. This lack of transparency and accountability has harmed both our international credibility and domestic support for our efforts in Afghanistan. Under a Liberal government, this approach will change and we will be guided by the both the letter and the spirit of the resolution that was passed in the House.

We will also ensure that our international partners understand the nature and extent of the commitment that Canada has made. We will not say one thing to a domestic audience and another to our allies. Although we understand that Canada must maintain a long-term commitment to the people of Afghanistan, we will be unequivocal that we cannot continue to be asked to shoulder the bulk of the responsibility in Kandahar indefinitely. We will ensure that it is understood that Canada's commitment to maintain a military presence in Kandahar will end by July 2011.

5. Trade

At its core, Canada is a trading nation. Our businesses and workers develop firstclass goods and services that they are able to export around the world. Those same businesses and workers benefit from competitively priced and innovative technologies that we import from abroad. The Liberal Party, recognizing the economic prosperity and international goodwill such exchange creates, is committed to free trade.

The United States will always be Canada's largest trading partner, and our vital relationship must be strengthened. Nevertheless, as demonstrated by the significant impact the fall in the U.S. dollar has had on our economy, Canada must diversify its trade and investment activities. Emerging markets like China and India continue to grow, which means Canada needs to aggressively increase our export markets and investment ties with those regions of the world.

The Liberal Party is committed to multilateral negotiation through the WTO – nevertheless recent challenges at the Doha round highlight the need to also pursue bilateral trade agreements that reduce not only tariff, but non-tariff barriers. A Liberal government will be guided by the firm conviction that the environment, human rights and corporate social responsibility are all critical considerations in the negotiation of free trade agreements.

6. defence

Canada's ongoing commitment to the military mission in Afghanistan has depleted

our ability to deploy the Canadian Forces elsewhere in the world. When combined with the commitments that will be necessary in order to provide the needed security requirements when Canada welcomes the world to the Vancouver Winter Olympics in 2010, we are severely limited in our ability to offer assistance to other international efforts as they arise. By putting a firm end date on the military deployment in Kandahar, we will regain flexibility with respect to our military to respond to emergency situations both domestically and internationally.

A Liberal government will remain committed to the money allocated in the fiscal framework to the Canadian Forces (CF) over the coming four years – much of which was originally committed in the Liberal Budget of 2005. But the job of supporting Canada's armed forces doesn't end when our troops return home. Military life, overseas deployments, and dangerous missions take a heavy toll. Our soldiers need adequate support services when they return from overseas or leave the service. A Liberal government will support the current members of the CF and our veterans by establishing a dedicated \$60-million fund to help them cope with post-traumatic stress disorder and other ailments. As previously mentioned, a Liberal government will also establish a health ombudsman both within the CF and within Veterans Affairs Canada.

The federal government must also ensure that our forces get the most value for money on military contracts. We will abandon the sole-sourcing approach to defence contracts taken by the Conservatives, ensuring that Canadian industry can compete for contracts while guaranteeing the best equipment at the best price. We will also finally act on the purchase of much needed replacements for the fixed-wing search-and-rescue (SAR) planes to replace the current ageing fleet. The previous Liberal government set aside money to make this purchase in 2005 but the Conservatives have failed to act. These SAR planes are needed both for the safety of Canadians but also to promote our sovereignty in Canada's North. That is why we will ensure that some of the new fleet of SAR planes are based in the North.

7. arctic Sovereignty

A Liberal government will secure our claim to the Arctic. We will promote the sovereignty and interests of the Arctic not only through military or marine infrastructure, but also through environmental protection, surveillance, search and rescue, and by encouraging the sustainable use of the Arctic's natural resources by our Arctic peoples. We will create comprehensive policies and agreements – with circumpolar governments and indigenous peoples of the North – on security, transit routes and environmental protection in the Arctic.

Again, this is an area where Canada's traditional multilateral approach is so crucial and one the Conservatives have decided to ignore by refusing to send senior representatives at meetings of the Arctic Council, an intergovernmental forum of all eight Arctic countries. A Liberal government will reverse this trend and return to the practice of sending senior ministerial representation to the meetings.

We will also re-establish the position of the Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs which the Conservatives have abolished.

A Liberal government will also commit the necessary resources to complete the mapping of the seabed in Canada's arctic by 2013 to strengthen our Northern sovereignty.

A Liberal government will work with Northern communities and territorial governments to find ways to mitigate the effects of climate change and to support innovation and research on cold-climate technologies. This includes a commitment to be a significant financial partner with the Yukon government in funding

the proposed Yukon Cold Climate Innovation Cluster in Whitehorse and to look for similar opportunities to nurture research and development in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

NDP:

FDA Basic Summary: emphasis on international humanitarian issues

No mention of Afghanistan in actual NDP policy.

In favor of responsible pull out of Afghanistan according to Mr. Pendleton.

keep Canada's commitments to the world's poorest and most vulnerable people
Introduced a motion to make aid more effective by making poverty-reduction and human rights promotion its main goals, improving accountability for results, and strengthening NGO partnerships.

Pressured Harper to respond to humanitarian emergencies—including helping 20-million victims of the South Asian floods, and acting to avert humanitarian catastrophe in Sri Lanka and Darfur.

Consistently pressed Conservative and Liberal governments to ensure Canada does its part to achieve the Millennium Development Goals—including committing to devote 0.7% of national income to international aid.

Exposed Conservative rhetoric on aid in Afghanistan—where for each dollar Canada spends on humanitarian aid, ten dollars goes into counter-insurgent combat operations. Earlier, When Jack Layton rewrote the 2005 Liberal budget, he stopped \$4.6-billion in corporate tax giveaways and invested in better priorities—including an urgently-needed \$500-million boost for international aid.

Promises as of September 24, 2008:

Foreign Affairs Evaluation:

Basis for evaluation: sound, responsible use of Canadian resources and military personnel overseas

Score:	Conservatives	Liberals	NDP
Garvey	5/10	5/10	6/10
Brown	6/10	6/10	6/10
Clark	5/10	5/10	5/10

Total: 16/30 16/30 17/30

Rational: Similar foreign policies, except more humanitarian emphasis by the NDP; concern that the parties are committed to pushing western democracy on other countries through Nation Building/interference; poor representation at Canadian consulates by Conservatives; Conservatives and past Liberal governments have failed to meet the 0.7% of national income to international aid.

Overall Totals

Score:	Abbott	Aitchison	Pendleton
Candidates	43/60	25/60	45/90
Policies	51/90	60/90	47/90

Policies have 3 times more weight than candidate information

Candidates	43/60	25/60	45/90
Policies	102/180	120/180	94/180
Totals:	145/240	145/240	139/240

Ranking:

1. Aitchison (Liberal) (60.4%)
1. Abbott (Conservative) (60.4%)
2. Pendleton (NDP) (57.9%)

Aitchison was ranked higher than Abbott, because the Liberal policies scores were greater than the Conservatives (66.6% to 57.9%)

Analysis:

Despite Aitchison's low scoring in the background and vision sections, she made up for it in the policy sections due to the strength of the Liberal economic and environmental policies compared to other parties, and 2/3's weighting of the policy section compared to the candidate section. (73.3% Liberals to 58.3% Conservatives and 50% NDP.)

In contrast, Pendleton's high scoring in the background and vision section was reduced from the NDP's lower scoring for policies compared to the other parties.

All three candidates received an overall grade of 66.6% (C+) or less for the policy section.

All three candidates received an overall grade of 60.4% (C) or less for both the policy and candidate sections.

All three candidates are within 2.5% of each other. However, Aitchison in the policy section has a 10% margin over Abbott, and 14.4% margin over Pendleton.

Conclusion:

All three candidates are very close in overall result, with a 2.5% difference separating them.

Therefore, other specific factors likely need to be considered when choosing between them.

If the public is interested in strong leadership and vision, then they should choose Mr. Pendleton, who scored 80% for vision and 75% overall as a candidate. (Mr. Abbott scored 63.3% for vision and 71.6% overall as a candidate, and Mrs. Aitchison scored 36.6% for vision and 41.6% overall as a candidate.)

If the public is interested in political experience, then they should choose Mr. Abbott who scored 80% for background including political experience.

If the public is interested in the economy and environment, then they should choose Mrs. Aitchison and the liberals who scored 73.3% compared to 58.3% for the Conservatives and 50% for the NDP.

Appendix A:

Federal Election 2008: Introducing the Kootenay-Columbia candidates

By Aaron Orlando - Arrow Lakes News

Published: September 16, 2008 7:00 AM

Updated: September 16, 2008 11:22 AM

Federal Election 2008: Introducing the Kootenay-Columbia candidates

By Aaron Orlando

Kicking off our coverage of the 2008 federal election, the Revelstoke Times Review contacted federal candidates from each of the four major political parties.

We asked them a series of identical questions designed to introduce our readers to each of the candidates, learn about their platforms and find out what they think the pressing issues are for the riding of Kootenay Columbia.

In alphabetical order, they are: Jim Abbott (Conservative), Betty Aitchison (Liberal), Ralph Moore (Green) and Leon Pendleton (NDP).

What follows are their replies, in their own words, to our questions.

1. Tell us about yourself and your experience and how it makes you the right person to represent the people of Kootenay-Columbia?

Jim Abbott (Conservative): I have spent most of my adult life working and raising a family in Kootenay Columbia. In that time I have gotten to know people of many different backgrounds across the riding. That probably describes the experiences of almost anybody who lives here but it took the disastrous National Energy Policy of the 1980s to propel me towards political life. I lost a business and had to start over. That forced me to look at the effects that political decisions made in Ottawa were having on me, my family and our neighbours. Our political leaders then were not listening to the people they were supposed to represent. That offended me as it did many, many other Kootenay Columbia constituents. And I realized that change — real change was needed. As a result I entered politics in 1993 and have served as the Member of Parliament for this riding ever since. What matters most to me is meeting the many different people of our riding and hearing what they have to say about their lives, their successes and frustrations and trying to find solutions that work for them. Getting things done is what politics should be about. I and my staff are dedicated to getting things done.

My office has had a lot of success when it comes to achieving real results although we experience frustrations, too, I understand government processes and know to use them to the advantage of Kootenay Columbia constituents.

Betty Aitchison (Liberal): I've been involved in many volunteer boards and societies, locally, regionally, and provincially. I've served on the Federal Parole Board for the Pacific Region, representing our region's interests within the criminal justice system. I've also worked extensively for programs to improve the lives of developmentally delayed citizens in our region. I'm an active member of the Infant Development Society, and I'm the Emergency Services Director for Kimberley and the past Director of the Mobile Support Team (South-East). I'm also a member of the Kimberley Community Development Society, in which capacity I've come to understand the particular

challenges that we face in making the communities in eastern British Columbia stronger and safer.

My husband Hugh and I have been blessed with a son, Laurie, and a daughter, Vicki, as well as three beautiful granddaughters.

I believe that the Conservative government has taken us from being a caring society to a militaristic one unconcerned with individual citizens. The cancellation of the national childcare agreements shows how much has been sacrificed.

Our riding is developing very quickly, and the needs of a changing region such as ours have to be represented with more vigour. The Liberal Party is a party where individual Members of Parliament speak and are heard in Ottawa, while the Conservatives have muzzled their MPs and ignored regional interests. Kootenay-Columbia is attracting new people to our region, who bring with them a new vision and a new set of needs. I am eager to represent those needs in Ottawa.

Ralph Moore (Green): I was born in Kimberley, 1945, nearest hospital to my first home at Mud Creek. When I was three my parents moved to Edgewater where my father ran the bush operations for Edgewater Sawmills. There were no such people as environmentalists in those days, but I saw first hand how the bush crews protected the small trees. They were the future.

When I was nine my Dad took me on my first five-day hike into Fish Lake and Top of the World, a tradition that carried on until he was unable. An early introduction to ecosystems.

About 1956 our family camped on Mt. Abbot for weeks while my Dad built a snow observatory in anticipation of highway construction over Rogers Pass.

As an adult I worked as a drift miner, later in mills and then logger, my present occupation. Early twenties were spent in New Zealand and Australia. By age thirty I knew our civilization was in trouble and have been trying to influence its direction since. My passions are hiking and gardening.

I don't see myself as the best person to represent Kootenay Columbia. My learning disabilities that protected me from indoctrination would interfere with the demanding role of a futurist MP. I see my role as a catalyst to wake up the dozing masses.

Leon Pendleton (NDP): First of all, thank you for providing this opportunity for the candidates to get their ideas out to the people of Revelstoke. I am the right person to lead the Kootenay Columbia riding because, having lived in the riding for most of the last 40 years, I have both the passion to promote our region in Ottawa, and the pragmatism to cooperate with both the opposition and the NDP caucus to get things done in the best interests of our riding.

Personally, I am very active in environmentally sustainable farming and renewable energy. I currently operate an organic farm in Edgewood and have been an active campaigner for sound agricultural practices for many years. I helped create the Kootenay Coop in Nelson. I have also successfully operated two environmental businesses, World Ecology Store and Environmental Alternative Technologies. I am a keen advocate for solar, wind and other alternative energies. If we focus on these strategic areas, we can reduce our carbon footprint while simultaneously diversifying, strengthening our economy and creating thousands of 'green collar' jobs.

2. Why is your party and its platform right for the riding of Kootenay-Columbia? Can you be specific?

Jim Abbott (Conservative): The Conservative Party of Canada was born out of the frustrations of working Canadians who were tired of the self-serving attitudes and actions of many of our political leaders. At its heart are the goals and aspirations of the reform movement in the early '90s, which was a populist movement that sought to renew political life in Canada by bringing the concerns and goals of ordinary men and women to Ottawa.

Most of the people of this riding believe self reliance is important; that achieving results that matter to ordinary folks is important; that government should be something that helps us when we need it; and that government should not be intrusive.

We believe that individual citizens and their communities are the best judges of what they need – not bureaucrats in a far distant city. Like our constituents we say what we believe and we believe what we say.

The people of this riding want common-sense solutions to the problems that afflict them, whether it is the high price of fuel or environmental degradation. We have seen too many billion-dollar boondoggles from the gun registry to the proposed Carbon Tax.

Betty Aitchison (Liberal): The Liberal Party of Canada has a 21st century vision for Canada, which will encourage economic growth, restore fiscal responsibility, and create new jobs.

Our plan for the economy and the environment, the Green Shift, will cut taxes on the things we want more of — like income — and shift those taxes to things we want less of — like pollution. That means that people here in Kootenay-Columbia will have more money to spend, while the economy adjusts to face unavoidable challenges, like high fuel prices.

A Liberal government will also offer tax incentives to encourage our energy producers to become more efficient, and financial support for families in eastern B.C. to make their homes more energy-efficient, to better cope with the rising price of fuel.

The Liberal Party is the party of Canada's rural communities. Liberals have pushed hard to restore the rural mail services cancelled under the Conservative government. Liberals have fought for affordable phone and internet access for rural Canadians, while Conservatives have cut funding to the Community Access Program and are pushing deregulation, which will see prices rise in rural areas. Kootenay-Columbia deserves a government that listens to them and represents their interests in Ottawa — a Liberal government will do just that.

Ralph Moore (Green): [Editor's note: Ralph Moore's answers to questions 2-5 were grouped together. He asked us to make appropriate edits to the passage. Some answers, therefore, may not appear to be related to the question.] There are two things people must understand to be able to interpret candidates' answers to this inquiry. First is basic human psychology. The human brain has three main parts. The Cerebral Cortex is the thinking part, the Mid Brain is the emotional part, and the Brain Stem is the instinctual part. We are a combination of all three parts with each part able to take command as situations dictate. In an emergency the Stem directs our response. When we are afraid, angry, lustful, passionate, the Mid Brain predominates. Cool analytical thought is the Cerebral Cortex. Advertisers, politicians and cult leaders want our Mid Brain in control, the better to manipulate us. I want your Cerebral Cortex in command because for possibly the first time in our lives we must make an important decision based on facts and logic, not gut

feelings. We better understand this simple explanation because those in power certainly do.

Leon Pendleton (NDP): I would make the best MP for this region because I am focused on accessible healthcare, sustainable environmental practices and strengthening the natural resource sector.

As an advanced life-support paramedic for the past 17 years, I would use my personal experience in the healthcare system work to improve access and quality of care. I strongly support public health and preventative care, and I advocate the federal NDP movement to stop the Conservative Party's push for privatization of our healthcare. Environmental issues are opportunities for innovation. I run an organic farm in Edgewood and have successfully operated two green energy companies. The NDP promotes "green collar" jobs that focus on technology and provide economic stimulation. Canada can return to the forefront in environmental innovation in solar and wind energy. Finally, I strongly support the NDP's national campaign to work with the forestry industry. The Conservative government has not followed through on the NAFTA Tribunal rulings in our favour. Instead of the world's strongest forestry sector, we have seen the closure of over 200 mills contributing to over 111,000 job losses. I will work with the NDP to draw attention back to this issue and work towards solutions with business and labour.

3. Let's talk promises. If elected, what will you and your party bring to the riding Kootenay-Columbia?

Jim Abbott (Conservative): I bring 15 years of experience in the House of Commons, a willingness to listen and find solutions to local problems and the know-how to get things done.

Our constituency is rural. We will lower the federal tax on diesel fuel, for example. We don't have public transportation to get to advanced health care, our groceries come from great distances, so fuel costs matter. We continue our determination to ending the long gun registry and will find a way to overcome the NDP/Liberal opposition. We believe in local solutions to environmental concerns, that jobs and the economy must be part of the solutions.

We introduced a \$33 billion Building Canada Fund to help communities with sewer and water challenges. We are looking at affordable housing and infrastructure. I am committed to seeing the Trans-Canada Highway become a safer and more efficient transportation corridor and will continue my work on that file.

Betty Aitchison (Liberal): -Resume funding for municipal infrastructure programs cancelled or stalled by the Conservatives, who have delivered absolutely no project funding for the past two years. Our region knows exactly what Canada's \$123 billion infrastructure deficit feels like — just ask anyone in Revelstoke who's had to spend upwards of \$1000 to have their septic tank serviced recently!

-Provide \$10,000 grants and offer \$10,000 "green mortgage" loans to any household that invests in energy- and cost-saving measures such as fuel-efficient heating systems, insulation, and weatherproofing.

-Cut income taxes, by shifting taxes to pollution.

-Offer tax incentives for businesses that adopt energy and cost-saving measures, to protect their competitiveness and our region's natural resources.

-Take immediate steps to make fuel more affordable, by restoring the federal Office of Petroleum Price Information and by beefing up the enforcement side of the Competition Act to tackle anti-competitive behaviour that makes energy more expensive.

Ralph Moore (Green): The second is Sustainability. What does it mean?

Sustainability means we cannot use any resource faster than Nature can produce it.

Sustainability means we cannot release waste products faster than Nature can assimilate or neutralize.

Sustainability means our activities cannot result in the extinction of other species.

To a logical thinker these rules apply to our Bodies, our Community, our Nation and the World. So how is it that we are so comfortable with a Monetary System, an Economy, and a Population that require perpetual growth in a finite space? Obviously impossible!

At this point if you are feeling afraid or angry you have lost the ability to think.

Leon Pendleton (NDP): I can put forward promises for wage increases, improved child care and environmental focus.

The NDP has a strong environmental record. In the Liberals 2005 budget, the NDP mandated a \$900 million dollar re-direction for greener public transit and home energy retrofitting. The NDP also passed the Kyoto bill C-377 for an 80 per cent reduction of emissions by 2050. We will continue to ensure that Canada meets Kyoto commitments.

We will also tackle wage issues and assist working families meaningfully. We have already tabled legislation to increase the federal minimum wage to \$10/hour. The NDP came within one vote of passing the Early Learning and Child Act to create a national childcare program. We will continue to promote changes to the child care system. Any parent knows that \$100 a month towards childcare is a drop in the bucket. The system needs to change to benefit hardworking parents and their children.

4. What are some of the national initiatives you and your party are championing and how they will also benefit us locally?

Jim Abbott (Conservative): Besides its record of excellent economic management in a time of global uncertainty, the Conservative Party intends to maintain the \$1,200 universal child care benefit, which is of great assistance to the many families with your children in our riding. We will continue to grow our \$2 billion ecoENERGY strategy, which not only promotes green energy projects but contains many initiatives that benefit consumers and small business. We also plan on reducing the tax on diesel and aircraft fuels which should help reduce the cost of travel and transportation to consumers and businesses across Kootenay Columbia. We intend to kill the long gun registry as soon as we can.

And finally, we intend to continue pursuing a prudent course in all areas of government.

Betty Aitchison (Liberal): -The Green Shift is our plan to cut income taxes and to build the greenest, most robust economy in the world. Stephen Harper has promised a half-cent cut per year in the diesel excise tax per year, which has already been wiped out by gas price increases in the last week. A Liberal government will invest in a green economy. We will make energy-efficient technology available to Canadians, which will lower fuel bills and end our addiction to fossil fuels for the future.

-Restoring fiscal responsibility and economic performance. Last week, Statistics Canada reported that our labour productivity has fallen for nine straight months, the worst drop since 1990. The Conservatives have taken Canada from record surpluses to the brink of a deficit.

Ralph Moore (Green): Speaking of horses, it is inevitable that we will reach sustainability. We can do it by rational, egalitarian process or it will be done by the horsemen of the Apocalypse. Our choice. There have been hundreds of civilizations that have reached this crossroad. Inevitably they have chosen wrong. We are the first civilization to have the benefit of history to see the consequences of ecological collapse. We are seeing the warning signs all around us, dying forests, melting ice caps, prolonged droughts, rising seas, powerful storms, energy and food shortages, and conflicts. What do we need, Armageddon?

So now for the good news. We already have the knowledge and technology to accomplish the conversion to sustainability. What we are lacking is political will and time.

Leon Pendleton (NDP): The NDP is making the health of our land, air and water a top campaign priority. We have re-directed budget dollars toward cleaner energy initiatives and better transportation solutions. We see “green collar” opportunities for emerging Canadian companies to bring our green technology to the world.

Water issues are key to me and my party. The NDP have tabled the Clean Water Act that mandates national standards for drinking water. They have also stood up for our waterways and oceans, ensuring that healthy bodies of water are not used for tailings ponds, and have fought Conservative Party efforts to further privatize fish resources. We have an abundance of water in B.C., but it needs to be managed effectively and for the benefit of all Canadians.

5. The local and provincial forest industry is at a low point. If elected, what changes, programs, initiatives and policies would you implement at the federal level to help the forest industry in the short and long term?

Jim Abbott (Conservative): Our government has made real strides towards helping mitigate the many effects of the current forestry slump. For instance, we instituted a \$129 million Community Trust program to assist communities, extensive worker re-training programs through Employment Insurance and comprehensive Mountain Pine Beetle research and mitigation programs taking place in this riding right now.

There is also the Forest Industry Long-term Competitiveness Initiative through which the government is investing \$127.5 million over two years to ensure that Canada’s forest industry remains competitive in the global marketplace.

This will help the forest industry in the following areas: forest innovation and investment; expanding market opportunities; development of a national forest pest strategy; and a Forest Sector Council to identify and address sectoral skills and adjustment issues, managed by Human Resources and Social Development Canada.

Betty Aitchison (Liberal): Deliver \$400 million over four years in refundable tax credits, for forestry companies that reduce their non-energy-related greenhouse gas emissions.

Implement a \$1.7 billion capital cost allowance rate for forestry companies on investments in green technologies — in other words, a tax deduction for businesses that replace their depreciating capital equipment with new energy and cost-saving technologies.

Take steps to make fuel more affordable, by restoring the federal Office of Petroleum Price Information and by strengthening the Competition Act's provisions against the anti-competitive behaviour that makes fuel more expensive for forestry companies that rely on it in their operations.

Fight for the interests of Canadian lumber companies internationally. The Conservative government sold out B.C.'s foresters on softwood lumber, forfeiting \$1 billion in illegal U.S. import tariffs, agreeing to a cap on U.S. market share for Canadian companies, and undermining the authority of the NAFTA tribunals that have consistently ruled in Canada's favour.

Ralph Moore (Green): The Forest Industry is hemorrhaging. As markets collapse it's hard to promise solutions. But with rue we can visit the "deal" Harper made with Bush one day before the United States Supreme Court ruled in our favour on Softwood Lumber. That victory would have returned and ended all the illegally collected duties and eliminated quotas. Instead we still have duties and quotas and they kept enough of our money to pay their legal bills and top up their war chest. Talk about snatching defeat out of the jaws of victory. So withdrawing from NAFTA, an agreement that eliminates any pretence of sovereignty, that only benefits the transnationals, and isn't free trade except in our energy, would be a good first step in starting anew with trade talks. And this time we hold the club.

Leon Pendleton (NDP): The crisis in the forestry industry is primarily due to unfair American trade practices. Both Liberal and Conservative governments have accepted US disregard for NAFTA rulings. The United States is engaged in unfair and protectionist lumber tariffs, and it is hitting British Columbian families hard.

The NDP will not sit back and allow this to continue. Not only will they hold the US to NAFTA rulings, but we would support innovative and sustainable forestry practices, work with unions and the forest industry in areas hardest hit to create solutions and investment, and support programs to diversify our wood-products.

We will also work with science based research to mitigate the impact of the Mountain Pine Beetle. We must find uses for diseased logs, limit the devastation and establish the most effective replanting strategy. The forest industry is British Columbia's lifeblood, and its issues will be returned to the forefront in Ottawa.

6. Nakusp and area has been particularly hard hit by the forestry crisis. How will your party's policies help now and in the future?

Jim Abbott (Conservative): The Forest Industry Long-term Competitiveness Initiative through which the government is investing \$127.5 million over two years to ensure that Canada's forest industry remains competitive in the global marketplace supporting our forest industry in the global marketplace where it faces such challenges as increased costs, the appreciation of the Canadian dollar and constraints to the fibre supply.

Besides what we are doing for forestry, we committed \$1.6 million to improve the Nakusp water system and an additional \$650,000 its wastewater treatment system. This project contributed greatly to the protection of public health and the environment.

Our government also committed \$200,000 towards construction of the \$2 million Halcyon House assisted living facility for seniors in Nakusp.

The village will benefit, too, from future Building Canada grants, local ecoENERGY projects and the permanent five-cent gas-tax rebate for infrastructure use.

Betty Aitchison (Liberal): -Provide over \$2 billion in tax credits and capital cost allowances to help forestry companies adjust to new global circumstances like high-energy prices.

- Help directly the families that have been hard hit by the forestry crisis:

- Implement a new universal child tax benefit of \$350 per child per year.

- Introduce a \$1,850 refundable employment credit for low-income Canadians.
- Give every rural Canadian, whether they pay taxes or not, a \$150 annual Green Rural Credit.
- The Harper Conservatives broke their promises on softwood lumber, by selling out Canadian foresters to American interests. The future wellbeing of British Columbia's foresters was forfeited by the Conservatives, who gave up \$1 billion in illegal U.S. import tariffs collected on Canadian softwood and agreed to future U.S. import tariffs of up to 15 percent, and a cap on Canadian exports' share of U.S. markets. A Liberal government will stand up to U.S. interests and for B.C.'s foresters.

Ralph Moore (Green): Back to the Forest Industry. I didn't work last winter, prices were too low. I could afford that as I practice what I preach. But many families have mortgages and hungry mouths. I don't see any short term solutions to duties, quotas and collapsing markets. Lead the Way should be our motto from this election forward. We absolutely must replace the dinosaurs with people of vision. I am too old to be the innovator. But I do know we oldsters must make it possible for the young to take a new path. For that we need non-conventional thinkers, and those of the Cerebral Cortex crowd must also band together and vote for one favoured candidate. I suggest we all vote for Leon Pendleton as he has already demonstrated his philosophy by his lifestyle. He can give us hope.

Leon Pendleton (NDP): As I mentioned above, the health of the forest industry is a top priority for the national campaign and it is a top concern for me in this riding. We must hold the United States accountable their NAFTA commitments, diversify our market both in timber products and with new international customers and create long term sustainability for our timber resources.

The NDP has held national town-hall style meetings to talk to workers, industry leaders and community members. Some of the best ideas on how to fix forestry issues will come from people who face them on a daily basis. The Harper Conservative government chose to cancel all public softwood lumber deal hearings as they could not face the people on this issue. I am listening to the people in Nakusp for their ideas on how we can align NDP national strategies with their needs during this crisis

Appendix B

Incumbency

Jim Abbott:

Some past federal funding which was paid out:

\$300 million to improve trans-canada highway

\$4.5 million to expand the Cranbrook airport

\$3.6 million to help 3,500 EK residents to improve their job skills

\$708,682 to help unemployed individuals in the Creston area

\$3.7 million in ecoEnergy funding near Revelstoke

\$1.6 million to improve the Nakusp water system, and \$650,000 to improve Nakusp's wastewater treatment system

\$576,000 from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. to support the construction of the 3.5 million, 27-unit Tom Uphill Manor for seniors and the disabled in Fernie

\$541,303 to help Fernie protect from flooding

\$400,000 to support the Golden Mountain View Assisted Living building

\$200,000 to fight the Mountain Pine Beetle

\$200,000 to support the 10-unit Halcyon House Assisted Living Facility for seniors

\$80,000 to provide a backup electrical system for Golden's wastewater treatment facility

\$60,000 to help the Friends of Forte Steele Society develop more local heritage attractions

\$25,000 million contribution to acquisition of the Darkwoods Forest between Creston and Nelson

\$120,000 to support high speed internet in rural areas of the Kootenays

Information not included in evaluation, because FDA was not able to confirm what federal funding Mr. Abbott had a significant role in. However, Mr. Abbott received high scoring in the background section for his extensive political experience.

Appendix C

Party Promises as of September, 2008

Conservatives:

Two-cent-a-litre cut in taxes on diesel and aviation fuel over four years. \$600 million a year once fully implemented.

Reinstate veterans' benefits for Second World War veterans who have lived in Canada for more than 10 years; \$9 million a year.

A near-complete withdrawal of Canadian troops from Afghanistan in 2011.

Allow 49 per cent foreign ownership of airlines and foreign ownership of uranium mines.

Maternity, parental leave benefits for entrepreneurs who pay into EI. \$150 million annually, financed by EI premiums.

Tax credit for first-time homebuyers to claim up to \$5,000 in closing costs for a rebate of up to \$750. \$200 million a year, fully implemented.

Ban kid-friendly flavours and additives from tobacco products and require cigarillos to be sold in packages of at least 20. No cost provided.

Increase the Senior Age Credit by \$1,000, saving those in the lowest tax-paying income bracket about \$150 a year. \$400 million a year.

\$85 million in tax breaks for families where one spouse forgoes full-time work to care for a disabled family member.

Introduce maximum life sentences for offenders as young as 14 convicted of first- or second-degree murder; maximum 14-year sentences for youths who commit violent crimes.

Teens over 14 who commit serious crimes would no longer have their identities protected.

End conditional sentencing, also known as house arrest, for 30 serious crimes, including robbery, theft, and arson.

\$113 million over five years to crack down on environmental crime, including maximum penalties of \$6 million for companies and \$1 million for individuals.

Liberal:

Green Shift" carbon tax on fossil fuels, offset by income and business tax cuts. Income tax cuts of up to 10 per cent. Cut the small business tax rate to 10 per cent from 11 per cent. Lower the corporate tax rate to 14 per cent by 2013. Overall, \$90 million in lost revenue for the treasury over four years.

\$70 billion over 10 years for municipal infrastructure.

\$1.2 billion over four years to help farmers adjust to green technologies.

Restore the \$3-billion contingency fund abandoned by the Conservatives.

Create \$1-billion Advanced Manufacturing Prosperity Fund to help manufacturers retain and create jobs.

Add \$350 to existing \$1,200-a-year child-care allowance. Create a new supplement for the poorest families with children, worth \$1,225 a year per family.
National daycare program with 165,000 spaces. \$1.25 billion a year, fully implemented.
End military mission in Afghanistan in 2011.
Restore the Court Challenges Program and double budget to \$6 million a year.
\$50 million to upgrade Canada's food safety system.
\$10,000 per household in refundable tax benefits for energy-saving home retrofits. \$600 million.
More robust energy efficiency standards for building codes and home appliances.
\$250 million over four years to curb the spread of the mountain pine beetle.
\$250 million to modernize and "green" fishing vessels and protect fish stocks in Canadian and international waters.
\$100 million to improve Canada's small-craft harbours.
\$420 million over four years to help increase the number of doctors, nurses and medical technicians across Canada.
\$900 million over four years to create a new plan for catastrophic drug coverage.
\$500 million more a year for university-based research and a \$100-million research fund for scientists, researchers and grad students.
A poverty plan to reduce the number of people living below the poverty line by at least 30 per cent and the number of children by at least 50 per cent.
Reverse the immigration measures brought in by the Conservatives and spend \$800 million to help new Canadians and reduce the immigration backlog.
Bring back the Kelowna Accord and work with aboriginal peoples, provinces and territories to improve native health, education and housing. \$2 billion.
Increase the Guaranteed Income Supplement for seniors by \$600 a year for low-income seniors.
200,000 student bursaries of up to \$3,500 per year over four years, and guaranteed eligibility for \$5,000 student loans, regardless of parental income.
Simplify the tax system for post-secondary students, providing most students about \$1000 a year.
Restore cuts made by the Conservatives to arts and culture funding and double the budget of the Canada Council for the Arts.

NDP:

A moratorium on expansion of Alberta's tarsands and requiring oil companies to reclaim land strip mined for petroleum production. No cost provided.
\$8.2 billion over four years to create, protect and foster growth of "green-collar" jobs and manufacturing.
A "cap-and-trade" system to create incentives for big business to reduce their emissions. No cost provided.
Slash greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent by 2050. No cost provided.
A price-monitoring agency to investigate price spikes and consult with provinces about regulations. No cost provided.
Cap credit-card interest rates at five per cent over prime.

Outlaw automated banking machine fees, saving consumers at least \$104 per year.
\$120 million a year in additional funding for women's groups.
\$1 billion over five years to expand medical and nursing schools, increasing the number of student spaces by 50 per cent.
\$125 million a year to forgive student loans for medical-school grads who spend 10 years as family physicians.
\$100 million for skills training and job creation.
Comprehensive review of Canadian banking regulations. No cost provided.
A national daycare program, enshrined in law, with 150,000 spaces in the first year. \$1.4 billion a year at first, growing to estimated \$2.2 billion.
Home-care program for seniors. \$250 million in the first year growing to \$1 billion a year by Year 4.
Income averaging for artists and a \$20,000 annual tax break on income generated by copyright and residual revenue. No cost provided.
Scrap Canada-U.S. softwood lumber agreement within six months of forming government.

Appendix D

FDA questions and candidates' answers (including correspondence):

Jim Abbott:

September 29, 2008

Mr. Garvey:

Thank you for your questions. However, during the course of an election campaign Mr. Abbott, who has been the MP for this riding since 1993, answers many questions from members of the public -- in person, through the news media and at public fora -- that are both direct and clear.

I direct you to Mr. Abbott's householder that was recently sent to every household in the riding. I am certain that you will find the answers you are seeking in that publication.

You should also note for your records that Mr. Abbott has never been a member of the Liberal Party of Canada.

David F. Rooney
Constituency Assistant to
Hon. Jim Abbott, PC, MP for Kootenay-Columbia
office: 250-837-7555

From: Foundation for Democratic Advancement [mailto:fda1@telus.net]
Sent: Fri 26/09/2008 23:22
To: Abbott, Jim - M.P.
Subject: questions

Dear Jim Abbott:

The Foundation for Democratic Advancement (FDA), an East Kootenay non-partisan, not-for-profit organization is doing an evaluation of the candidates running in the Kootenay-Columbia riding. The purpose of the evaluation is to inform and educate the public about the Kootenay-Columbia candidates, and thereby allow the public to make a better choice.

I have a few questions. Please feel free to say as much as you want. We are looking for clear, detailed answers.

How long have you been a member of the Liberal Party of Canada?

What is your vision for the Kootenay-Columbia region in the next 4 years?

If elected, how would you realize your vision for the Kootenay-Columbia region?

What is your vision for Canada in the next four years?

In your opinion, what did you accomplish for the Kootenay-Columbia riding in your last term of office?

Thank you. The other Kootenay-Columbia candidates will be asked similar questions. Please respond by Friday, October 3rd.

Sincerely yours,
Stephen Garvey

Foundation for Democratic Advancement

A Canadian national non-partisan, not-for-profit organization.

The FDA has no ties to any political party or organization, or corporate/private interests.

250-427-1135

Betty Aitchison:

September 27, 2008

I thank you for your interest. I hadn't forgotten your request to answer the questions you sent, I guess I should say I am running as fast as I can.

My name is Betty Aitchison, I have been a member since the 1970's. I have been active in the Riding Association for that long as well. I have had the honour of knowing many of the people who have been in leadership roles in the party in British Columbia and Ottawa. When in high school I was lucky to have a retired priest who taught me in what we call Middle School now. He was a student of philosophy, a political person, and he handed down his interest to some of his students. After his teaching us about each of the parties and as much of the system as he could, he asked us individually what we thought about it all and did we understand. When he asked me, I said I did and that I was definitely a Liberal, how could I not be. Many people don't agree with me but many do. So that is politics .

Do I have a vision for the Kootenay-Columbia region in the next 4 years? I do, I know our sleepy little communities are changing as our larger centres are. I see more people with very different backgrounds coming into our midst. The power of communication has and will make it possible for this to happen. There are places still where cell phones are unable to work but on the whole those places are taken up with the computer and a desire to communicate from a remote area.

Our Colleges have helped in making our peoples more interested in learning, more literate, and of course radio and TV have brought the outside world into the Kootenays, South East.

The infrastructure of our towns and cities are improving. There is a changeover taking place in some of our Mayor and Councils coming with new ideas and approaches. I see our Kootenay-Columbia as being very healthy and progressive in the next 4 years. Cranbrook having a potential International Air Port will present growth beyond that 4 years as well. I believe in our area, and have always promoted it.

With good leadership I see people taking over more responsibility for their own health, being more environmentally astute and helping to provide less waste. Our cross country trails have been a great boon for us all. Our communities are showing more and more that they care about the health of the citizens and are providing bike trails, walking trails good swimming pools golf courses etc. which can do nothing but get us all healthier. We are about to have more affordable housing, this is a long time coming but it is and that will bring pride to those who have not been able to have a place of their own. Our leaders in the communities work very hard, the regional boards has been a progressive step.

In some of our communities we have the arts, the Symphony series, good movies, etc. If there is one thing that is difficult it is the transportation, albeit there has been a great effort to accommodate people there isn't enough I see that being an ongoing issue.

I take it you are asking about the Green Shift. I think if you were to take a good look at the proposal in it's entirety you would agree it is a great plan for Canada. It is not increase taxes at the pump. There is already a Federal excise tax on gasoline and we will not increase it. The green shift is great for BC families. The biggest carbon taxes under green shift apply to coal, which we don't even use in BC. In fact, most of our power comes from clean hydro electricity which won't be taxed at all. Those on low income will benefit a whole lot. It will shift taxes to the things we want less of like: pollution, greenhouse gases and waste. The Green shift has been praised by economists and environmentalists as a first step in the right direction. for more information I ask you to go to WWW.the.greenshift.ca Join us for a Richer, Fairer, Greener Canada.

If elected I would do whatever that would be expected of me to best represent us all at the Federal level. I would expect that I would be invited to participate in helping where possible by the communities in the Kootenay-Columbia.

----- Original Message -----

From: [Foundation for Democratic Advancement](#)

To: bandh@telus.net

Sent: Friday, September 26, 2008 9:18 PM

Subject: Re: Questions

[Dear Betty Aitchison:](#)

[Would it be possible to have your answers to the questions below before Friday October 3rd.](#)

Thank you,

Stephen Garvey

FDA

250-427-1135

----- Original Message -----

From: [Foundation for Democratic Advancement](#)

To: bandh@telus.net

Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2008 1:37 PM

Subject: Questions

Dear Betty Aitchison:

The Foundation for Democratic Advancement (FDA), an East Kootenay non-partisan, not-for-profit organization is doing an evaluation of the candidates running in the Kootenay-Columbia riding. The purpose of the evaluation is to inform and educate the public about the Kootenay-Columbia candidates, and thereby allow the public to make a better choice.

I have a few questions. Please feel free to say as much as you want. We are looking for clear, detailed answers.

How long have you been a member of the Liberal Party of Canada?

What is your vision for the Kootenay-Columbia region in the next 4 years?

If elected, how would you realize your vision for the Kootenay-Columbia region?

What is your vision for Canada in the next four years?

What is your response to Prime Minister Harper's assertion that the Liberal plan does not make economic sense, and that the numbers don't add up?

Thank you. The other Kootenay-Columbia candidates will be asked similar questions.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen Garvey

Foundation for Democratic Advancement

A Canadian national non-partisan, not-for-profit organization.

The FDA has no ties to any political party or organization, or corporate/private interests.

250-427-1135

Leon Pendleton

FDA telephone interview on September 3, 2008.