


YOUR FEDERAL CANDIDATES REPLY ON :

GARTH TURNER
Progressive Conservative



PIERRE KLEIN
Liberal



FERN WOLF
New Democrat



ABORTION

1. What kind of abortion policy would your party's government enact? How do you stand on abortion?

This is a sensitive, complex and compelling issue. On one side are the rights of women who bear children. On the other are the distinctive rights of the unborn.

Clearly the Supreme Court was right in striking down a law which was not being upheld, and the struggle is now to work out replacement legislation. I'll give you the government's position, then my own.

The Progressive Conservative government hopes the next Parliament will bring a social consensus on the issue, and that the outcome of a court case now in progress on the rights of the unborn will be incorporated. The government says it wants to resolve the abortion question in a "humane and realistic" way - and that MDS will be allowed a free vote on the issue, unfettered by party policy.

My personal position is pro-life. I do not think abortion should be used as a form of birth control. I think we need a new law. And I think the current situation should not be allowed to last. Had I been a Member of Parliament during the last session, I'd have voted for the option which almost passed - and that was the most restrictive, allowing abortions in life-threatening situations.

My personal feelings are strongly opposed to abortion, except in cases where the mother's life is in danger. In an ideal world, this would be the basis of an abortion law. But we live in a world in which many women are compelled to choose abortion because of economic or social pressures, and this is tragic.

Experience has shown us that we cannot eradicate abortion by outlawing it. This approach only drives it into back alleys. Instead, we must seek to eradicate the underlying forces that contribute to abortion. We need better education about contraception, for example, so that the choice is made prior to conception. We need better access to daycare. We need more "security of the person," as the constitution puts it, for women, including security from sexual assault and from violence in the family. We need better choices.

When New Democrats took the abortion issue to the convention floor to have delegates decide what our party policy would be, our members were divided and only by a small margin did pro-choice advocates take the day. I was not among the victors. I am opposed to abortion on demand for both religious and moral reasons. It is imperative that we take responsibility for the decisions we make especially when we know full well the possible consequences of our actions. We must however provide support for women during their pregnancy and after so that the choice to carry full term is a real alternative.

I believe that pro-choice legislation over time would condition society to the idea of abortion and would ultimately lead to it becoming a common form of birth control.

FREE TRADE

2. Who gains, who loses in the free trade agreement?

Here is a deal which will do a lot for Canada, and for Halton-Peel riding. Over 14,000 people here work in the manufacturing sector - by far the largest category of workers. And it is manufacturing which will benefit the most - with better access to US markets and lower input costs.

Free trade is the tool which will allow us to extend this economic boom cycle. It builds on the Auto Pact, and will create many more jobs for parts manufacturers. It will result in lower consumer prices, and a wider range of products, and it will allow us to take advantage of a cheaper dollar.

Free trade is the ticket we need to creating more wealth so our social programs can be enhanced and so that we can tackle those big, expensive jobs like cleansing and protecting the environment.

The deal may not be perfect, and some jobs will be lost as many more are created, but I know this will be good for Canada, and great for our community. We've struck a trade deal which protects our culture and our social programs. It lets us do anything we want to protect the environment. It expands investment in energy, it exempts agricultural marketing boards, and it clearly does not require us to sell anything which isn't for sale - like water.

The winners are the United States and its branch plants. The losers are everyone else, everyone who cares about Canada.

And let's get right to the heart of it: This deal is not about buying used cars or selling more widgets. It's about our future and our sovereignty. It's about whether we'll be allowed to make any of our own decisions ever again about what kind of country we want.

Mulroney has lied from start to finish about this deal. It's a complete sellout to the US. Water is part of it. They have a right to buy it, we have no choice but to sell it. Oil is part of it. They have a right to buy it, we have no choice but to sell it - even if our own homes are cold and dark. Either we put a stop to the deal, or the deal will put a stop to us.

It is imperative that we defeat the Mulroney Reagan Trade Deal. I do not dispute that a number of large corporations will prosper as a result of this deal. If the corporations thought differently they wouldn't have pressured Brian Mulroney to negotiate the deal for them.

I'm sure you'll agree with me that when the company's profits increase, it is no less difficult for us to bargain for better wages and benefits. It is also business that will gain as a result of reduced tariffs but who is going to make up for the billions of dollars of revenue our government loses as a result of those reduced tariffs. We are already over taxed. This deal is an unacceptable risk of our sovereignty, of our natural resources, and of our social programs. As standards are harmonized and dictated from south of the 49th we will see a gradual Americanization of Canada. New Democrats have been united in their opposition to this bad deal from day one. We need your vote to defeat it.

DEFENCE

3. Should Canada spend the money necessary to develop a military capable of defending its borders?

The basic question is a simple one: Do we defend Canada, or do we continue letting the Americans do it for us?

For me, the answer is just as simple: Of course Canadians should defend Canada, if they feel it's worth defending. I do. I love my country, its uniqueness, its potential, and its sovereignty.

Of course, if we are to be sovereign in a defence sense, then money will have to be spent. Our challenge is to make sure it's spent in a way which is effective and efficient. All three political parties have platforms on defence spending, and the Progressive Conservative budget is the least - about \$400 million less than the Liberals and \$1.9 billion less than the NDP. Being sovereign also means being a proud, strong partner in NORAD and NATO.

And all three parties would buy a new fleet of submarines. The only difference is that Tories would go for nuclear powered ones which can sail in all three oceans on our borders. The older type diesel electric subs have to surface regularly so diesel engines can run and recharge batteries. That's what we have now, and that's why we can't defend the North.

I don't think this is good enough.

Canadians recognize that defence is a necessary priority in today's world. At the same time, we're justly proud of our participation in peace-keeping and diplomacy. Like many Canadians, I feel happiest when we combine these two.

That's one reason the Mulroney government's move to spend \$12 billion or more on nuclear submarines is such a costly error. If we need more vessels, we need them for the Coast Guard, to protect our sovereignty, and for search and rescue purposes - not for nuclear sabre-rattling.

In my view, we need to take a fresh look at our defence policies, especially now that East-West tensions appear to be lessening and arms control has achieved some success. We need a clear commitment to continually maintain and upgrade our armed forces within the guidance of a coherent foreign policy. Spending billions on an unnecessary weapons system is not the way.

New Democrats are committed to the defence of Canada. Presently our troops are drastically underfunded and supplied with inferior equipment. Our surface fleet of 20 aging destroyers requires the addition of patrol frigates, together with new helicopters as well as minesweepers. Similarly, the Oberon class diesel-electric submarines need to be replaced with other conventional submarines.

We must upgrade our capacity to monitor and survey our massive coastlines and sea lanes. We would not proceed with the dangerous and extravagant purchase of nuclear powered submarines which would end up costing close to \$16 billion. This enormous expenditure would preclude spending on other more essential military equipment, and pose as a danger to our environment.

LEADERSHIP

4. Does your leader have a clear vision of Canada's role in the world economically and politically?

There is no question in my mind that of Canada's three major federal political leaders, Brian Mulroney is far more attuned to Canada's economic and political future. We'll be faced with many changes in the coming years, and I think the Prime Minister can manage those changes better than John Turner or Ed Broadbent could.

It's pretty hard to argue with the economic record of the past four years.

Unemployment has dropped. So have interest rates, and inflation. The dollar has risen in value from 69 US cents to over 83. There's virtually full employment across all of Halton-Peel riding. We've had a real estate boom and record investment in small business. Nationally, economic growth here has topped all western nations. And now we've hammered out a trade deal giving us concessions from US laws that no other country has.

Politically, Mulroney brought Quebec into the Constitution. He has eight of ten premiers backing him on the Free Trade agreement. He leads a government which for the first time in decades, represents all regions of the country. Western Canada and Quebec at the same time. It strikes me that's quite an achievement.

Yes, he does. Clear enough to know, for example, that handing over control of our economy to Washington is not the way to prosper - nor to maintain our political independence. Clear enough to recognize that Canada's only long-term economic security lies in greatly expanded international trade - not in pinning all our hopes on the goodwill of our American neighbors.

And clear enough, especially, to know that going into a free trade deal without a binding means of settling arguments is suicidal. Mulroney claims there is such a mechanism, but this is just another one of his lies. In fact, there's only a panel that can rule on whether any hostile US trade actions are "fair." It can't change anything, it can only say "that's not fair."

Clear-sighted Canadians know a sell-out when they see one.

Ed Broadbent has the intelligence, integrity, credibility and vision to enhance Canada's role in the world both politically and economically. Our environment is the most pressing global issue facing us today. Ed Broadbent would lead Canada in developing and strengthening treaties that would ensure a sustainable global ecology. World leaders must work together to protect our shared ecosystems which fall outside of national jurisdiction, such as oceans, the earth's atmosphere, outer space and Antarctica. Protecting these "global commons" will require a leader and a government committed to that goal. New Democrats have always fought hardest for a clean and safe environment. We would take a leading role in the world to ensure a future for our children.

ENVIRONMENT

5. What does your party feel are its priorities concerning the environment?

Just before this election campaign started, I sent an environmental guide to every home in the riding, trying to help people work towards a healthier environment.

There's no question that over the coming years, taking care of where we live - the air and water and earth - will be of supreme importance. Certainly, we have not done enough in the past. And it will take a strong commitment from new politicians to save our world. Close to home, we have a garbage crisis from one end of this riding to another. Clearly we need leadership action on wide-scale and mandatory recycling, and the federal government could be that leader.

As individuals, however, we can also accomplish much - and I hope my guide will help achieve some reduction in the size of our waste stream. It won't solve all problems, but I hope it will raise awareness. If you'd like a free copy, then call my Georgetown office (873-4672), or my home (416-293-2993).

The government recently passed the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, bringing in tough new standards for toxics. That's a step in the right direction. So is the major clean-up for the Great Lakes announced last week in Burlington. Let's keep it going.

Action on acid rain is the top priority. Here are the reductions achieved by the Tories in their last four years: Nothing. Zero per cent. Not a drop. Here are the reductions achieved by the previous Liberal governments: a full 28 per cent.

The Mulroney government wants to study the problem for another five years with no action. Liberals want immediate reductions now. The United States has been freely trading its sulphur dioxide for our dead lakes and withering forests, and Mulroney will let them continue indefinitely. We say it's time to stop.

It is going to take a strong political commitment and financial resources to confront the environmental challenge.

A New Democratic government is committed to:

- a vigorous pursuit of a treaty on acid rain with the United States;
- bringing in a safe drinking water act;
- establishing an environmental clean up fund to deal with toxic waste disposal;
- sharing the cost of construction of new sewage treatment facilities;
- bringing in an environmental bill of rights with clout;
- establishing a federal environmental contingency fund;
- the adoption of Canadian norms on air, water and soil pollution;
- requiring mandatory testing of new chemical products and biotechnologies before they go on the market;
- cleaning up the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway;
- reducing Canadian use of freon and other ozone destroying chemicals.

Ed Broadbent and the New Democrats would make environmental protection an immediate priority, not a future goal. We have always led the fight for a clean and healthy environment and we'll continue to work both at home and abroad.

TAXES

6. What kind of tax policy can we expect from your party's government?

Canadians pay a lot of tax, so remember this: With a Conservative government in place, you will pay less than under a Liberal or NDP one, just based on spending promises made in this campaign so far.

This is one reason I like the idea of free trade - of an expanded economy, increased investment and the creation of more wealth. I think this is going to let us avoid more tax increases.

The government introduced the first stage of tax reform earlier this year, which reduced the personal rates of all taxpayers. Unfortunately, a massive tax hike by Ontario's Liberal Government wiped away much of the benefit of that reduction.

Stage two will likely see the elimination of both the federal manufacturers' sales tax (now a hidden tax) and provincial sales taxes. In its place will be a national sales tax, but that will result in no grab.

Finance Minister Mike Wilson has said clearly the new tax will collect the same as the old taxes did - which means it will be "revenue neutral." The reason for the change, then? It will be fairer, because the current system actually taxes domestic goods more than imported ones. And that's crazy.

First, no more tax grab on the middle class. Under Mulroney we've been slapped with the biggest tax increases in Canadian history.

Second, real tax reform that gives everyone a fair deal and makes everyone deal fairly. Under Mulroney, families making more than \$100,000 will pay less tax in 1988 than in 1984, and 60,000 profitable corporations won't pay a cent. Meanwhile, a working family with two children and an income of \$32,000 will see their tax bill INCREASED by \$1,200. This is what Mulroney called "reform."

Third, and most important - you'll see a tax policy made in Canada to serve Canadian interests, not US business interests. Mulroney's trade deal will force him to take everything - even tax policy - to the US for approval. We'll set our own policy.

Since 1984 the Conservative government has hit motorists with five separate hikes in gasoline. Ed Broadbent will cut taxes on unleaded gas by 2 cents a litre, saving the average one-car household up to \$100 a year.

Brian Mulroney has raised taxes for average families by more than \$1,000 a year while actually lowering taxes for the richest one per cent by about \$3,500. New Democrats would raise the refundable child tax credit to a maximum of \$670 from \$559 a year. We would boost family allowance (baby bonus) payments to \$44.28 a month from \$32.38, and tie both the child tax credit and family allowance payment to the inflation rate.

We would make tax forms and returns simpler. Thirty-two per cent of Canadians pay someone to prepare their return. Tory tax reform allows 60,000 profitable corporations to pay no income tax. New Democrats would introduce a corporate minimum tax on profitable corporations.

Ed Broadbent and the New Democrats will work for a better balance between corporate and personal taxes and between different income groups.

WHY YOU?

7. What does this riding need that you can deliver?

Our newly-created federal riding needs somebody to represent it who will care about everybody. Politics is a lot more than partisan positions on various issues. Politics is about people - about helping them as individuals, families, communities and, after that, as a nation.

To me that means we should have an MP who will not hide in Ottawa, but will work hard here at home - living here, being part of the community.

We also need a Member of Parliament who has the business and life experience to deal with both intense personal problems and national affairs. For the past 10 years I have been a journalist, columnist, broadcaster and author who has helped people and also affected Canada's policies. When mortgage rates were 22 per cent I helped bring a moratorium on mortgage foreclosures. I have testified before the Commons Finance committee on tax reform, and I brought the issue of bank service charges to Ottawa.

Now I'd like to bring that experience and commitment to the new riding in which we live. This is my only campaign promise: I will listen to you. I will work hard for you, and I'll be someone within the system you can trust.

My record as a school trustee shows what kind of service the riding can expect - not just words, but action.

For instance, when I became concerned about the way Bill 76 was going to affect my constituents' representation on the board of education, I didn't just complain about it. I learned how to work with responsible authorities to bring about a change. To be honest, I've always been fascinated by the mechanism of government. Learning how to get things done, how to help people slice through red tape - it's the excitement and the challenge of political service.

Halton-Peel has given me a lot of opportunity and many rewards. I've founded a business here and worked hard to make it successful. I'll bring that same commitment and energy to serving the people of Halton-Peel.

Many sincere Conservatives and Liberals have failed to deliver on election promises because their party did not share their vision. The New Democratic Party shares my vision for a clean environment, affordable housing, fair taxation, and child care. These goals and many others are as much a priority to my party and Ed Broadbent as they are to me. It is for this reason that I can say with confidence that we will deliver legislation that will provide fairness for families. This riding needs a leader and a political party that are united in their commitment to fairness and honesty in government. Fern Wolf and the New Democratic Party have that commitment.

My goals are clear and I have the determination to carry them through. I strive to make my actions consistent with my knowledge of right and wrong. I will provide strong leadership and dedicated service to this riding.