

# Major issues in farming

Four candidates in North Simcoe and South Simcoe have replied to the Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture request for a statement from each candidate regarding the problems of finance, marketing, and taxation, major issues in the farming community. A copy of the federation's election platform was sent to each candidate.

The candidates who did take the time to reply were North Simcoe NDP candidate Tim Tynan, South Simcoe NDP candidate Frank Berry, South Simcoe PC Ron Stewart and Simcoe South Liberal Bruce Owen. SCFA secretary-manager Robert Cowan says that while the lack of response by the other candidates is disappointing, the federation is pleased that farm issues have been raised and discussed during this campaign.

"Agriculture is in an extremely difficult financial position at this time and we wait with some concern the policies of the government elected on Sept. 4 regarding agriculture," he said.

**FRANK BERRY**  
SIMCOE SOUTH  
NDP

Farming is an important segment of our society employing hundreds of thousands of people and supplying farm needs from machinery and fertilizer to seed manufacturing and transportation systems.

It is regrettable that in many cases bankers make more from farming than farmers. So much of our food dollar is taken up by processors who face very little risk by crop fluctuations. They in fact gain during poor crop situations.

The New Democratic Party believes that the farmers should have access to reasonable interest rates of 2 percent above inflation so as to insure they are not bled to death by usury rates of interest. The New Democratic Party would not hesitate to change the Bank Act to guarantee such loans would be available.

Farmers should have a crop insurance scheme to provide that the burden of crop failure can be eased.

The New Democratic

Party would abolish the farm fuel tax system and provide that farm writeoffs for employed farmers be done on a graduated scale in relation to the off farm income based on 1984 dollars and indexed for future inflation.

An application for foreclosure against a farmer would have to be submitted to a special tribunal with the power to deny or modify the application.

More marketing systems should be encouraged to ensure that farmers have an orderly cash flow. Farmers should have a secured first in line position with debts from bankrupt processors along with employees before banks and other creditors.

The sale of the farm is the farmer's pension. The New Democratic Party agrees that capitol gains should not apply.

**TIM TYNAN**  
SIMCOE NORTH  
NDP

I am enclosing an NDP Fact Sheet entitled "New Opportunities for Canadian Farmers". I send it to you in response to your letter of August 9, 1984, in which you ask my stand as NDP candidate in Simcoe North - on issues pertaining to agriculture and farmers.

Undoubtedly you are familiar with NDP policy on these matters, but I have marked the Fact Sheet according to the three categories of concern to you: Taxation, Finance, and Marketing.

NDP policy is my policy. As for specific proposals such as Agri-Bonds, it would be irresponsible of me to declare myself "on-

side" when I am not familiar enough with the issue.

New Democrats are committed to the principle of parity pricing for agricultural products consumed by Canadians. That means a return from the market which would be sufficient to cover all costs of production, including fair wages and a reasonable return to the farmer.

New Democrat MP Lorne Nystrom has introduced Bill C-232 in Parliament to secure the parity pricing principle for domestic grains and red meats.

Parity pricing for grains would be determined by the Canadian Wheat Board on the basis of a cost of production formula.

Fair prices for beef and pork producers would be secured through creation of voluntary marketing agencies to provide for orderly marketing and establishment of prices in relation to costs of production.

Saskatchewan and Manitoba would be invited to merge their

existing beef plans and share operating costs on a 50-50 basis.

There would be a referendum of all producers in five years

to determine the future of the plan, and to seek further powers to establish the parity pricing principle for beef and pork.

New Democrats oppose the move to world oil price levels advocated by Brian Mulroney and John Turner. We support

elimination of all federal taxes on farm fuel which would reduce the price for farmers by 35 cents per gallon. More than half the cost

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