

An agenda for reform

Proposals for minority parliament

May, 1985

An agreement for a reform minority parliament

On May 2, 1985, the people of Ontario created an opportunity for change after 42 years of Conservative government. We are determined to accept responsibility for bringing about that change.

During the election campaign, both the Liberal and New Democratic Parties advanced significant public policy and legislative reform proposals. These proposals contained many elements in common, which are outlined in the attached documents.

In the interests of making minority government work, we are committed to a program of public policy reforms which will improve the quality of life for everyone in this province. We are also committed to legislative reforms designed to improve public access to and information about the legislative process in Ontario.

It will take time to achieve these objectives. We have agreed on the need for a period of stability during which this program can proceed.

Should the Lieutenant Governor invite the Leader of the Liberal Party to form a Government, this agreement will be for two years from the day that the Leader of the Liberal Party assumes the office of Premier.

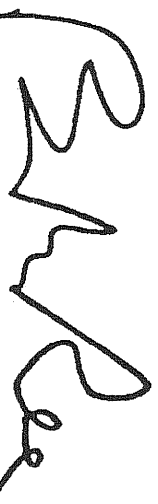
It is understood that the traditions, practices and precedents of the Ontario Legislature are that individual bills are not considered matters of confidence unless so designated by the Government.

We undertake the following:

1. The Leader of the Liberal Party will not request a dissolution of the Legislature during the term of this agreement, except following defeat on a specifically-framed motion of non-confidence.
2. The New Democratic Party will neither move nor vote non-confidence during the term of this agreement.
3. While individual bills, including budget bills, will not be treated or designated as matters of confidence, the overall budgetary policy of the Government, including the votes on supply, will be treated as a matter of confidence.



David Peterson  
Leader  
Ontario Liberal Party



Bob Rae  
Leader  
Ontario New Democratic Party

DOCUMENT 1

Legislative reform

Legislation on freedom of information and protection of privacy.

Reform of the House by strengthening and broadening the role of committees and individual members and increasing public involvement in the legislative process. Select Committees will be established to investigate the commercialization of health and social services in Ontario and to study and report on bilateral environmental issues affecting Ontario.

Changes to broaden the powers of the Public Accounts Committee and the Provincial Auditor to cover current and proposed expenditures and to reiterate the authority of the Committee to direct investigations of all aspects of public spending.

Establishment of a Standing Committee on Energy to oversee Ontario Hydro and other energy matters.

Establishment of a Select Committee on procedures for appointments in the public sector to recommend changes in the system of recruitment and selection of public appointees.

Election financing reform to cover spending limits and rebates, at both the central and local campaign level.

Redefinition and broadening of the rights of public service workers to participation in political activity.

Electronic Hansard (television in the Legislature).

DOCUMENT 2

Proposals for action in first session from common campaign proposals, to be implemented within a framework of fiscal responsibility.

Begin implementation of separate school funding.

- Release present draft legislation immediately.
- Introduce legislation upon a Liberal government meeting the legislature and refer to Committee for public hearings.

Introduce programs to create employment and training opportunities for young people.

Ban extra billing by medical doctors.

Proclaim the sections of the Environmental Protection Act dealing with spills.

Reform Ontario's tenant protection laws, including:

- Establishment of a rent registry.
- Establishment of a four per cent rent review guideline.
- Inclusion of the provisions of Bill 198 as a permanent part of the Residential Tenancies Act.
- Extension of rent review to cover post-1976 buildings.
- An end to the \$750 a month exemption from rent review.
- Introduction of a rent review procedure to deal with costs-no-longer-borne by landlords.
- Introduction of enabling legislation to permit demolition control by municipalities.

Introduce legislation for equal pay for work of equal value in both the public and the private sector.

Include a first contract law in Ontario labour legislation.

Introduce reforms to the Occupational Health and Safety Act including toxic substances designation and regulations to give workers the right to know about workplace hazards.

Continue the pre-budget freeze on the ad valorem gasoline tax and establish an inquiry into gas price differentials between Northern and Southern Ontario.

Wind up the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment and obtain release of all working papers and reports.

Provide full coverage of medically necessary travel under OHIP for residents of Northern Ontario.

Program for action from common campaign proposals, to be implemented within a framework of fiscal responsibility.

Affirmative action and employment equity for women, minorities and the handicapped and expansion of the role and budget of Human Rights Commission to deal with workplace and housing discrimination.

Establishment of an Ontario housing program to fund immediately 10,000 co-op and non-profit housing units, in addition to those provided for under federal funding arrangements.

New enforceable mechanisms for the control of pollution to enable Ontario to deal effectively with acid rain and to establish the principle that the polluter pays.

Reform of services for the elderly to provide alternatives to institutional care and a reform of the present nursing home licensing and inspection system.

Reform of job security legislation, including notice and justification of layoffs and plant shutdowns and improved severance legislation.

Farm financing reform, including low interest loans for farmers.

Workers' compensation reform.

Private pension reform based on the recommendations of the Ontario Select Committee on Pensions.

Reform of day care policy and funding to recognize child care as a basic public service and not a form of welfare.

An independent audit of Ontario's forest resources, and additional programs to provide for on-going regeneration of Ontario's forests.