

Consensus Leadership For a New Century

We, the leaders of the Canadian Alliance, the Bloc Québécois and the Progressive Conservative Party, have met and agree that Canadians have delivered a clear message in the election held on November 27, 2000: Canadians do not want a Member of Parliament from the Liberal Party to be Prime Minister. _____ million Canadians said this, over _____ % of those who voted. We will respect this decision and we will not under any circumstances support through vote in the House of Commons a government led by the leader of the Liberal Party.

Canadians also made it clear by their votes that they desired _____ Members of Parliament from the Canadian Alliance, the Bloc Québécois and the Progressive Conservative Party to govern. This is a majority of the Members of Parliament. In order to govern effectively, we will be required to govern by consensus.

We have discussed the important questions which will face a new consensus government, including:

1. leadership;
2. disposition of ministerial offices;
3. speech from the Throne;
4. support in the event of a motion of non-confidence.

We have also discussed these important questions with the members of our respective caucuses and have the support of the Members of Parliament from our parliamentary parties for the agreement set forth in this letter.

Leadership

We agree that we will support Stockwell Day as Prime Minister of Canada.

Cabinet Ministers

As leaders of our parliamentary parties, we agree that _____ % of the members of cabinet will be chosen from the Canadian Alliance caucus and _____ % of the members of cabinet will be chosen from the Progressive Conservative caucus. Canadian Alliance cabinet members will be chosen exclusively by the leader of the Canadian Alliance. The ministers from the Progressive Conservative caucus will be chosen by the leader of the Canadian Alliance in consultation with the leader of the Progressive Conservative Party.

Throne Speech

We have also reviewed the document attached to this letter regarding the speech from the Throne. This document sets forth the focus for the speech from the Throne proposed by the leader of the Canadian Alliance. We will support a speech from the Throne which focuses on the legislative agenda set forth in this document.

Confidence Vote

Finally, in the event of a motion of non-confidence, we will extend the support of the members of our parliamentary parties to a government lead by Stockwell Day.

Signed this 28th day of November, 2000.

Stockwell Day
Leader of the
Canadian Alliance

Gilles Ducespe
Leader of the
Bloc Québécois

Joe Clark
Leader of the Progressive
Conservative Party

Focus for the Speech from the Throne

I. Democratic Reform

We will bring greater democracy to the institutions of Parliament by:

allowing free votes in the House of Commons, on everything except budget votes and non-confidence motions

allowing Canadians to bring forward citizen-initiated referendums to put their priorities on the national agenda through a Canada-wide vote

allowing constituents to recall MPs who fail to serve and represent the people of their riding

appointing only Senators who have been directly elected in their home province/territory as a first step towards having an effective Senate elected on an equal basis

allowing full Parliamentary review of important government appointments like presidents of crown corporations, Supreme Court justices, and the Governor of the Bank of Canada

setting fixed election dates every four years, to remove from Prime Minister the discretionary power to call an early snap election or hold onto office late

II. Respect for Provincial Jurisdiction

We will treat all Canadians equally, giving everyone the respect and dignity they deserve under the law. We will respect the legitimate jurisdictions of Canada's provinces, including Quebec, so that they will have the tools they need to create a lasting prosperity and strong communities that Canadians desire.

III. Cutting Government Waste

To pay for better health care, debt reduction, and tax relief, we will reallocate government spending away from wasteful areas and towards the priorities of Canadians.

We will re-direct savings from wasteful spending towards:

meaningful tax cuts of \$2,426 per year for an average family of four

full restoration of health transfers to the 1995 level of \$18.7 billion, and stable, guaranteed health funding in the future

a legislated, politician-proof debt reduction plan that starts with \$6 billion a year, then increases as we can afford it

Ending corporate welfare

Canada's businesses, big and small, create jobs and drive our economic prosperity. But when government gets directly involved by handing out subsidies or special favours, political interests rather than economic common sense usually prevails.

Many of these subsidies are shielded from public scrutiny by confidentiality rules that make it impossible to know if loans have been repaid, if the interest rate was competitive, or if taxpayers received value for their money.

We will end "corporate welfare" subsidies because it's simply not the place of government to pick and choose which businesses will have an advantage over others. We will work aggressively with our trading partners to reduce all corporate export subsidies and to promote competition on a transparent, free-market basis.

Let's get government out of the business of business

Too many crown corporations are still competing directly with private businesses in Canada, while government continues to own large stakes in private companies. We will get government out of the business of competing with the private sector or investing in private corporations.

IV. Lower Taxes

Meaningful Tax Relief for all Individuals and Families

Our fair tax plan will:

- increase the Basic Personal Exemption

- treat all families equally

- place more money Canadian's pockets through meaningful tax relief by moving towards a single 17% rate for everyone

- give all families more choice through fair tax treatment

- increase exemptions and introduce a child tax deduction so that a family of four will pay zero tax on the first \$26,000 of income

- lower payroll taxes, to create more jobs

- lower taxes on investment gains

- increase the RRSP contribution ceiling to \$16,500

- lower taxes on high tech businesses to 21% and on small businesses to 10%

- help all families with the cost of raising children

Relief from high gas prices

Canadian Alliance could court Bloc Québécois

Day won't rule out postelection coalition with separatist party to boost conservatism

Saturday, July 29, 2000

CAMPBELL CLARK

Parliamentary Bureau

North Hatley, Que. -- Canadian Alliance Leader **Stockwell Day** refused yesterday to rule out forming a postelection coalition with the separatist Bloc Québécois as some party officials said they are working on links with Bloc politicians and supporters.

Rahim Jaffer, the bilingual Edmonton MP who serves as the Alliance spokesman on Quebec, said Alliance officials have spoken with some Bloc MPs about the possibility of a postelection coalition, looking for common ground.

"There have been informal discussions," he said yesterday in North Hatley, Que., where Mr. Day went fishing with the mayor. "A few of them were very responsive to what our agenda was, so we're excited about that."

Mr. Jaffer said that not everyone in the Canadian Alliance would support such a plan, but he believes that if it was clear that both groups would work to change the federation, and that there were "no hidden agendas," most would accept it.

"If the terms were clear . . . I think most of our membership would be open to that."

Mr. Day did not rule out such a coalition, but also carefully avoided expressing support for it.

"The Canadian Alliance position is to be open to anybody who is interested in a truly conservative form of government," he said when asked about a possible coalition with the Bloc.

He said the Alliance is not planning for a coalition right now. "At this time, we're not looking at a coalition," he said, adding, "We're not at that stage of consideration."

Many in the Alliance have been increasingly optimistic about their electoral chances since Mr. Day became leader, but admit their support is still weak in many parts of Eastern Canada, especially Quebec. A new poll shows Alliance support rising in the province -- but still at a modest 8 per cent.

Some believe the party could reduce the Liberals to less than a majority, but perhaps not enough to form a government themselves. They have therefore considered the possibility of a coalition with the Bloc, or some smaller group of its MPs. In Quebec, Mr. Day's camp has consistently sought the support of "soft-nationalists," believing that his stand for more provincial autonomy could win over nationalist Quebecers who feel the Bloc is powerless.

One of Mr. Day's key Quebec organizers, Eric Duhaime, is a former Bloc staffer, and the Alliance is working to attract former Blocquistes, "soft" sovereigntists and nationalists.

Mr. Day suggested the Liberals will try to use that to attack him.

"I think what you will see, as we come up to a federal election, is the federal Liberals using all kinds of terminology to try and deflect from the fact that more and more people are joining the Alliance," he said. "I'm not big on labels."

Mr. Day, in fact, was trying to attract a Liberal yesterday. Stephan Doré, North Hatley's mayor and long a local Liberal organizer, took Mr. Day fishing yesterday on Lac Massawippi, but waffled over a possible move to the Alliance.

He made appreciative comments about Mr. Day -- which also seemed to be barbs aimed at Prime Minister Jean Chrétien.

"When you see a politician who is a little younger, you know that the future is ahead of us, and probably their discourse will resemble more what we who are a little younger expect from federal-provincial politics," he said, adding that some people go into politics when they are "close to retirement age."

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