

## **Western and Northern Canada are at a crossroads.**

The Maverick Party believes we have reached a significant crossroads in history. In one direction western Provinces and Territories continue to submit to the intrusion of a domineering Federal Government that disregards the values of Western and Northern Canadians. In the other direction we have strong provincial autonomy standing up for Western interests and success.

**“The Western Solution”** is our mission to stop the federal government from overreaching into provincial matters and end the systemic problems facing the west and north. We have far too long been treated as a colony by the eastern provinces.

But first let us be very clear on what the Maverick Party is and what we stand for. Is it even possible for a small start-up party to make a difference in the lives of 12 million Western Canadians? Learning from history, we would say yes! The West needs options.

In the 1980s, Canadians and especially Western Canadians were economically decimated by the irresponsible policies of the governing Liberal Party. As a result, the Progressive Conservative Party won a landslide majority victory to dominate the House with 211 seats out of 282. Brian Mulroney **was** going to save the west.

Three years later Mulroney’s promise to the west was tarnished as he knew full well that without eastern votes his legacy was subject to failure. In October 1987, the Reform Party was created as an answer to being ignored by an eastern focused federal government.

The Reform party did not win a single seat in their first election in 1988. This election was fought mostly on protecting Eastern businesses by means of a free-trade agreement with the USA. Mulroney lost 34 seats and dropped significantly in the popular vote. **Many western voters were looking for a change.**

In a 1989 by-election Beaver River Alberta responded by electing Reform member Deborah Grey to Ottawa.

In 1993 the rest of Western Canada followed Beaver River and elected 52 Reform MPs to Ottawa. In 1997 ten more seats were added and Reform became the official opposition to a Liberal government barely clinging to a majority position.

Western Canada is currently trying to survive an oppressive Liberal government under Justin Trudeau. We have a charismatic new Conservative

leader in Pierre Poilievre who is counting on Western Canadian support to win government even though he knows he must win eastern votes to form government.

**History is ready to repeat itself** and the Maverick Party is ready to take its role in that re-creation. Unlike the Reform Party, Maverick has no intention of forgetting its roots in western Canada. We will never run candidates east of Manitoba. We will never let ego and hubris make us betray western interests.

**Maverick is a Western Only federal party.** We will not cater to the east (like every national party) to form the government. Like the Bloc Quebecois, which will never be in power, but acts solely in the interest of Quebec, Maverick will act solely in the interest of western and northern Canadians.

As the voice for the West, Maverick will demand a fair deal with Ottawa. Western provinces deserve the rights and authorities that are mandated by the Constitution of Canada.

**Under the Constitution, each province has the right to manage its resources, instruct its children, tend to its sick, and manage health care.**

They can create laws and control their enforcement. Provinces have the right to collect their taxes, care for seniors with a provincial pension program, manage immigration into the province, and protect personal property. Provinces are responsible for their own environmental safeguards, the production and distribution of natural resources, the creation of jobs and the protection of citizens. In meeting these responsibilities, provinces should be free from unwanted and unwarranted federal interference or oversight.

On the **Provincial Front** of Maverick's Western Solution, the Maverick Party encourages Provinces to take back **ALL** the rights they were given in the Constitution of Canada. We believe western Provinces must take immediate action against the federal government's legislative and regulatory changes which intrude on provincial jurisdiction. The provinces need to take control of their own destiny without relying on transfer payments from the Federal Government.

On the **Federal Front**, we need a VOICE that speaks only for Western Canadians. The western provinces/territories need an ally in Ottawa who will solely work in the interests of the west and will not capitulate to eastern pressure. Maverick Party will ensure that provincial rights are protected at the federal level as enshrined in the Constitution. The West's prosperity should not be dependent on who is in power in Ottawa.

**The Maverick Party aspires to support the needs and priorities of western Canadians. History has shown that current system of Confederation is flawed and does not ensure fairness for the west.**

For decades, the western provinces have been a principal provider of economic wealth to Canada, yet the bulk of power and decision-making is in the east. Today, as throughout history, eastern-based policies are set to destroy western Canada's economic stability due to a misguided belief that destroying western Canada's natural resource industry is good for the planet.

Every Canadian should be able to prosper through further education, gainful employment, be spared unnecessary and onerous taxation and expect competent and timely health care.

As western and northern Canadians we not only have the right to vote, but also to be fairly represented. We have the right to be protected from the unlawful actions of others including those of the government.

We have the right to lawfully protest government actions, providing that those protests do not violate the rights of others. We have the right to own property and to not be denied that property except by due process of law.

The Maverick Party stands behind each of these rights.

The Maverick Party will advocate and negotiate for projects that benefit western provinces and territories. Maverick has spoken loudly about developing an energy/trade corridor from BC to a Hudson Bay deep-water port as an alternative path to Atlantic tidewater. This corridor would include a highway, rail lines, pipelines and a communications network to benefit residents of the north.

Not only is the Federal government willfully interfering in all these areas, but they do it with our own money collected from taxes and call it a gift. Western provinces send billions of dollars **annually** to the federal government which in turn, only returns a small portion. Our billions are used to pay for federal programs, to buy acquiescence from Eastern Canada (especially Quebec) and to fund overseas causes not beneficial to Canadians.

Western Provinces and Territories must make the collection of taxes a priority, then remit to Ottawa only that which Ottawa can justifiably demand. We must stop begging for our own money to service areas of provincial jurisdiction, such as health care or education.

On national issues, Maverick MPs will sit on committees and engage in debate in parliament. Maverick MPs will ensure a fair deal for the West and will not be subject to eastern pressure, through partisan politics. These are basic expectations that have been repeatedly outlined by documents such as the Alberta Agenda (Firewall) letter written in 2001 by Stephen Harper, Tom Flanagan, Ted Morton, Rainer Knopff and others and addressed to former Alberta Premier, Ralph Klein. They were echoed in the findings of the UCP Fair Deal panel meetings held in early 2020 and as well as in the Buffalo Declaration. The Saskatchewan Government's document "Drawing the Line: Defending Saskatchewan's Economic Autonomy" considers policy options considering the current federal government intrusions into Saskatchewan's exclusive areas of jurisdiction under the Constitution.

Conservatives across Western Canada have called for their provincial governments to step up and take direct action against federal overreach.

## ***Provincial Front***

Provinces and territories have the right to take back their constitutional rights from the federal government. Alberta's proposed Sovereignty Act is a great first start. The Saskatchewan First Act is winning support in Saskatchewan. Maverick Party would like to see British Columbia and Manitoba introduce similar Acts to protect their citizens from federal government overreach into provincial matters. Maverick Party will support and encourage the provinces and territories at the federal level while they are exercising or demanding their constitutional rights.

At the minimum, provinces should strive to exercise control over tax collection, pensions, policing, health care, education, property rights and the production and sale of their natural resources.

Maverick supports the Western Provinces and Territories receiving full compensation after opting out of Federal cost-shared programs.

Below are some items that the provinces right now can demand from Ottawa as they are rights that exist in the constitution to the provinces.

***Provincial Pension Plans*** - Western Canadians are currently overpaying \$4-5B annually into CPP. Having provincial control of our pension funds will create much better pension programs, making a difference for our seniors. Quebec seniors already receive more pension benefits than any other senior in the country because their province has a provincial pension plan.

**Provincial Tax Collection** - There is no reason to have Ottawa collect our revenue. Quebec has shown success doing this within its own province. In this way, we will eliminate the reliance on Federal transfer payments which come with strings and conditions. By collecting taxes at the provincial level, we can fund our programs and transfer to the federal government only what is legitimately due to it.

**Provincial police** – The creation of provincial police services will ensure that the western provinces can protect their citizens and ensure criminality is dealt with promptly. Westerners need police officers who answer directly to the province which employs them, not to a distant federal authority. Alberta had a provincial police force from 1917 to 1932. Saskatchewan Provincial Police from 1917 to 1928. British Columbia had a BCPP from 1858 until 1950, and Manitoba from 1871 until 1932. By returning all policing to provincial authority, we can better utilize specialty units and additional resources as they are needed. Ontario and Quebec have their own Provincial Police forces and western provinces and territories deserve the same. We are not distracted by RCMP supporters who hold up federal subsidies as a reason to keep an antiquated system in place. All federal subsidies come from excess taxes and need to end.

**Health Care**- Western Canadians deserve better than the long waiting times, closed or overcrowded emergency departments, closed hospital wards and shrinking access to ambulances and long-term care in our provincial health care systems. Provinces could better plan if they raised the funds provincially instead of relying on the federal government's health transfer with all the numerous conditions attached. Quebec has been asking for years to replace the Health Transfer system. The provinces need an in-house solution that does not rely on "conditional" transfers of our own money.

**Immigration** – Quebec quietly enjoys having full control over its immigration. The western provinces need to start implementing the same controls over immigration. We have highly specialized needs that require we bring in immigrants with specific qualifications.

**Natural Resources** – Natural Resources are a provincial jurisdiction. In 1982 the provinces were finally given constitutional rights to manage their own natural resources, forestry resources, and electrical energy. This includes the power to levy mining taxes and royalties. Whether mining, forestry, or oil & gas, the federal government has been using the "climate change" narrative to restrict the provinces' ability to get these resources to market. The western provinces can work together to get their resources to market, standing up to the federal government's interference in these provincial jurisdictions.

**Shared Provincial Corridor** – With provinces collaborating together they can share the cost of a northern corridor, getting their natural resources, produce and utilities to market. This corridor would include a highway, rail lines, pipelines, and communication connectivity to citizens. These can all feed into deep-water ports on Hudson Bay (Churchill and Nelson) and along the BC coast (Kitimat, Prince Rupert, and Stewart). The Maverick Party will be the voice in Ottawa to ensure that provincial matters take priority over changing federal ideologies.

**Elimination of Western Interprovincial Trade Barriers** - Western Canadian provinces and territories have far more in common with each other than they do with Eastern provinces. Due to similarities in industries, population growth, freedom-oriented demographics and provincial interests, Western imperatives cannot be inhibited by sectarian infighting. While Eastern provinces bicker amongst themselves and fight old battles, Western provinces will serve as an example of how a confederation should function.

## **Federal Front**

Mavericks' role would be to ensure that provincial rights are protected in Ottawa. Maverick MPs will vote on items that benefit the western provinces and territories. Maverick will not be beholden to Eastern interests.

Political power in Canada is hugely biased and tilted to benefit the east. Given the greater population in the east, this does not serve western economic concerns or the desire for self-determination.

Canada is a massive country with several very distinct regional entities. There is no "one size fits all" solution to Canadian problems. It is a proven principle that the closer to the problem solution providers are, the better the solution. Ottawa cannot fix issues in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, or Winnipeg. We need to rethink how decisions are made and look at how these different regions can better solve their unique problems with their own resources.

**Equalization** – This program was set up to ensure that each province could afford a reasonable and comparable level of basic public services across the entire country. However, it is not working as intended. Maverick believes that this funding model must be either scrapped entirely or significantly reworked. At present for example, Quebec receives billions of dollars annually to pay for superior services than the rest of Canada receives. Not all provincial revenue is being added to the formula for example, Hydro Electricity. This inequality must end. All Provinces should be equal partners in consultation, discussion, or renegotiation of the formula.

***Indigenous Relations*** – The Maverick Party recognizes the Numbered Treaties signed between the First Nations and the Reigning Monarch from 1871 – 1921. The Maverick Party also recognizes the British Columbia Treaty Commission. Unfortunately, these treaties have generally failed to be beneficial to First Nations and need to be replaced with a structure that enables and empowers our First Nation people.

First Nations have always been a significant part of western culture. Maverick Party wants to collaborate with our Indigenous partners to modernize the Indian Act. By collaborating directly with leaders and elders, we will advocate for self-governance and self-determination of all First Nations people on and off the reserve.

We need to empower our First Nations to create real change. Many of our Indigenous nations have solutions but we need to listen, learn and act. Together we can build a future based on trust, cooperation, governance, accountability and recognition.

***Electoral Reform*** – Canada is made up of several distinct regions (The Atlantic Provinces, Quebec, Ontario the Prairies, BC, and the Territories). Yet only two (Ontario & Quebec) decide who is forms government.

Our current system does not recognize regional issues or authority. Maverick will advocate for electoral reform that is based on equality of representation for all regions up to and including supporting change in how the Canadian Senate is selected and functions.

For that to happen we need to have separate political voices at the table who are not whipped into submission by their party leaders. MPs should speak up for their constituent's concerns but not at the expense of western issues as is too often the case today.

***Secession*** – In the western provinces there is a growing separatist movement and separation parties are being created in the provinces. Should a Province's residents democratically vote that they wish to secede from Canada, Maverick will be that province's ally in Ottawa to help with navigating the Clarity Act and negotiations with the rest of Canada.

***Constitutional Reform*** – Westerners and the western provinces are not equal members constitutionally within Canada. Canadians in every province should have the same equal representation by population as other Canadians in the House of Commons. The Canadian Constitution provides more seats for several of the eastern provinces than their population warrants.

Likewise, an equal, elected, and effective Senate is vital to provide a counterbalance to the excessive power of central Canada in the House of Commons. Currently each of the four western provinces has only ¼ of the seats in the Senate compared to the seats held by Ontario and Quebec, and fewer seats than even the Maritime provinces. Maverick is the only federal party which will continue to demand that the Canadian Constitution be amended to ensure that all provinces are equal partners within our federation.

After months of consultation with legal professionals and constitutional experts, the Maverick Party has published the Constitutional Changes. We will be asking the federal government for these changes as part of our “Equality for the West and North” approach. Find it on our website under “Constitutional Change” at [www.maverickparty.ca/constitutional-change](http://www.maverickparty.ca/constitutional-change).

## ***The Western Solution, A Summary***

Maverick Party and the western provinces and territories must permanently change the systemic inequalities western & northern Canadians face.

The western provinces need to reassume and exercise the rights that provinces were given in the Constitution of Canada. The provinces should receive compensation when they exercise the right to opt-out of federal government transfer programs.

The territories must receive the same constitutional rights that the provinces received. They can then make decisions and be accountable to their residents. They must no longer be under federal control.

The western provinces and territories must work together to have shared provincial corridors and remove interprovincial trade barriers in the west.

Maverick Party will stand by the western provinces when they take back control of the rights granted to them in the constitution. Maverick will demand that provinces are compensated when opting out of transfer programs.

Maverick Party will stand up for the territories as they demand the same rights under the Constitution as the provinces were given. Their residents deserve to be treated the same as their provincial counterparts.

Maverick Party will stand by our First Nations in the western provinces and territories as they work towards self-governance and self-determination of all First Nations on and off the reserve.



Maverick Party will stand up for the equality of the western provinces and territories in Ottawa. Western Canadians have been demanding a voice at the table in Ottawa for generations. Maverick Party will be that voice that will be voting solely in the best interests of the western provinces and territories.

Maverick Party, the western provinces and territories can return the West and the North to be the land of opportunity our ancestors worked hard to build. It can be a place where demanding work is both rewarded and encouraged. We want to build a place where anything is possible if you put your mind to it; a place that does not care where you are from, what you look like, who you love or who you worship. We seek a place that is built on equality, respect, trust, accountability and cooperation; a place that we can proudly call home.