

A new corporate capital tax has been introduced in B. C., similar to the capital tax in Ontario and Quebec. Exemptions protect small business but will raise \$17 million for the province in 1975.

The provincial personal income tax rate has not been increased under the NDP and is one of the lowest in Canada.

FARM ASSISTANCE

In order to fulfill the commitment to save agricultural land, the NDP has moved to aid agricultural development through financial, technical and marketing programs.

The FARM INCOME ASSURANCE plans, as of July 1975, cover seven commodity groups and potentially involve 90% of B. C.'s farmers. The farmer is guaranteed, through a contributory insurance scheme, the value of his/her labour and the costs of production.

The NDP government has established lending and loan guarantee powers of \$50 million to aid development in the farm products industry. Funds have been directed towards food processing, co-op marketing ventures, and livestock feed processing.

The NDP's Agricultural Credit Act established lending and loan guarantee powers of \$5 million for farmers' credit assistance. Additional credit guarantees are available for loans or subsidies to farmers hit by drought, flood or frost.

EDUCATION

The NDP government has removed the Social Credit freeze upon the construction of new facilities. The government now has a construction program based upon School Boards' assessment of needs.

The NDP government has removed the Social Credit ceiling on teacher's salaries and has returned to a policy based upon responsible collective bargaining between teachers and school boards. Provision has been made for voluntary regional bargaining.

The NDP government initiated a major, and a successful, campaign to reduce class size in order to improve learning conditions.

Innovation and expansion introduced in the areas of adult education, student financial aid, Indian education, and university assistance and administration.

Increased autonomy has been established for school boards in financing, construction, curriculum and management.

Increased emphasis has been placed upon the development and expansion of community colleges: 14 are now operating in all regions of the province.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The NDP government has placed more emphasis upon technical planning in resource management, reducing ecological conflict, and reducing potential environment damage. Key to this process of rational development is the ENVIRONMENT AND LAND USE SECRETARIAT.

Ecological reserves have been established throughout the province to preserve areas of unique or particular environmental value.

Tougher guidelines for logging plans, based upon the "folio" system which involves consultation with all government branches affected by the plans.

The NDP government has increased the enforcement of pollution standards for industry. The province's forest industry has committed \$100 million for pollution control as a result.

A major program is being implemented to clean-up reservoirs created by hydro-electric dams.

Hydro plans are now designed to provide maximum power with minimum environmental damage. Nuclear power is not contemplated for B. C. because of the associated risks.

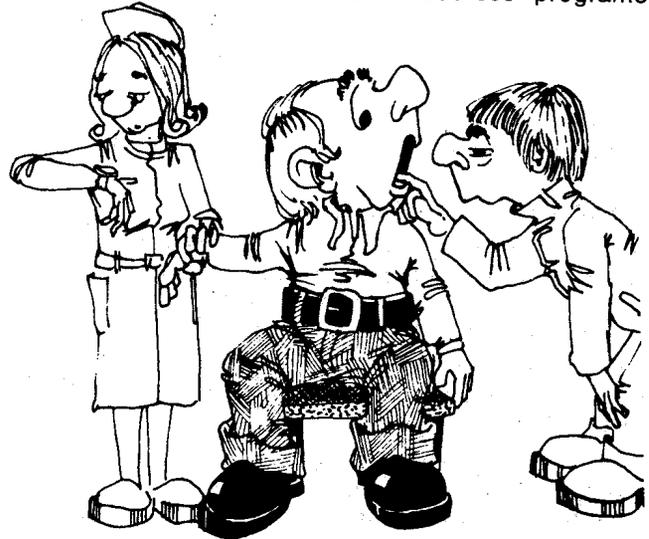
Greater emphasis has been placed upon rational highway development and urban growth, in order to minimize "urban sprawl" and "strip development."

COMMUNITY RESOURCE BOARDS AND HEALTH CENTRES.

Community Resource Boards have been established in several B. C. cities to initiate and manage social service programs not administered directly through the Department of Human Resources.

The Boards are de-centralized and democratic, with members elected directly from within the local communities.

In five B. C. communities, health centres have been incorporated into the Boards to provide comprehensive health care as well as Human Resources' programs.



HEALTH CARE

The NDP government has removed the hospital construction freeze imposed by Social Credit. The hospital construction program is developed in co-operation with local hospital boards, which assess the health care needs of their communities.

The B. C. MEDICAL CENTRE has been established as a major health care facility for the Lower Mainland, as well as for province-wide research and special treatment facilities.

The NDP government has instituted a provincial ambulance service with a flat fee of \$5 per trip.

The B. C. CANCER CONTROL AGENCY established to develop and direct programs aimed at detection, prevention, and cure of cancer.

The B. C. MEDICAL PLAN was made a universal plan for the province, incorporating the existing private plans. The merger has resulted in complete portability of medical insurance.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

The anti-labour laws of the Social Credit years, such as the Mediation Commission, have been replaced by a modern, solution-oriented Labour Code which accepts free and responsible collective bargaining as the basis of industrial relations.

The Minimum Wage has been increased to \$2.50 per hour, and will be raised in two stages to \$3.00 per hour by mid 1976.

The Labour Code has been extended to cover all workers, including professionals, farm and domestic workers.

The NDP government has implemented major improvements in such areas as Worker's Compensation, health and safety standards, and apprenticeship training.

The labour Education Centre has been established for education, research, and training in the fields of collective bargaining, trade union history and union affairs.

LEGISLATURE MODERNIZED

The NDP government has instituted a full HANSARD in order to provide a complete record of Legislative Debates. This did not exist under Social Credit.

A question period has been introduced to allow Opposition Members to question Cabinet Ministers during sittings of the Legislature. Once again, this was not allowed during Social Credit years.

PUBLIC DISCLOSURES ACT introduced to provide full public disclosure of assets and financial holdings of elected provincial and municipal officials.

MINCOME AND PHARMACARE

The NDP government introduced Mincome, which provides all B. C. residents who are over 60 years or handicapped, with a guaranteed monthly income. As of October, 1975, Mincome is \$249.82 per month, with cost of living adjustments every three months. It will be increased to \$265 per month on January 1, 1976. Currently 129,000 persons receive Mincome.

Pharmacare programs now service 542,000 citizens who are over 65 years, who have no taxable income, or who receive social assistance. Free prescription drugs, with no premium charges are provided through streamlined and convenient procedures.

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

The NDP government has created B. C.'s first Department of Housing to work in all areas of B. C. housing activity. The budget for housing in 1975-76 is \$90 million.

Major programs in land development, seniors' housing, co-operatives and public rental units are operating.

By the end of 1974, the Department had been involved in the completion of 2,052 units of social housing, and another 15,622 units were under construction or in the planning stages.

In 1974 over \$12 million was spent on seniors' housing, in 1972, under Social Credit, only \$4 million. In 1974, over \$22 million was allotted to rental units, in 1972, under Social Credit, only \$2 million.

DUNHILL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION was purchased by the Crown and is utilized in the development and construction programs.

HUMAN AND INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

The NDP government introduced a strengthened Human Rights Code which forbids any discrimination because of race, sex, colour, marital status, religion, ancestry, or place of origin.

The HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION has established under the Labour Department with staff to promote the principles of the code and settle complaints.

The NDP government now allows an individual citizen the right to sue the Crown without permission of the government. This right was denied by Social Credit.

A LEGAL SERVICES COMMISSION has been established by the Attorney General to ensure that legal services are available to all B. C. citizens.

INSURANCE CORPORATION OF B. C.

I. C. B. C., a Crown Corporation, provides low cost auto insurance to all B. C. motorists. The rates, with the exception of Saskatchewan, are the LOWEST IN CANADA. I. C. B. C. also sells general insurance to individuals and businesses.

No fault coverage, drive-in claim centres, and mailed renewal forms are features which add to the efficiency and convenience of I. C. B. C. Overhead costs are one-half of what they were under private industry.

Territorial equalization grants were introduced in 1975 as a first step towards the equalization of rates throughout the province.

I. C. B. C. premiums are kept in B. C., not sent to London, New York, or Toronto

Premiums reflect a driver's record of traffic violations, with poor drivers paying for their mistakes.

PROPERTY TAX ASSISTANCE

The Homeowner's Grant has been increased from \$185 to \$200, and for those over 65 years, from \$235 to \$250.

The NDP government has introduced the school tax removal program. In 1975, \$80 or 40% of school taxes after the Homeowner's Grant, is rebated to the taxpayer.

Homeowners over 65 years may now defer their property taxes until their property is sold, if they wish to do so.

The Homeowner's Grant has been extended to mobile home owners.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

The NDP government has greatly increased financial support to B. C. municipalities, provided generous grants for recreational facilities, sewage works, population growth, and increased per capita grants.

First agreement to share natural gas export revenues with municipalities—a minimum of \$20 million for 1975; \$40 million in 1976.

An independent Assessment Authority has been established to provide assessment services for the entire province, equalizing the costs of assessment.

The responsibility for court administration has been entirely absorbed by the provincial government, cutting municipal expense.

NATIVE RIGHTS

The NDP government made the first-ever agreement with B. C. Indians in regard to the cut-off lands issue. This provides for an independent inquiry to examine claims and make recommendations.

Both status and non-status Indians have been involved in government supported development projects such as the Pacific Coast Native Fishermen's Co-operative, and the Burns Lake Native Development Corporation.

The provincial Home Acquisition Grant has been extended to Indians living on reserves.

Greatly increased emphasis upon education services for B. C. Indians. There is now a special program at UBC for Indian Teachers, an Indian School District (Nass River), and increased financial aid to Indian students—\$11,000 in 1972; \$750,000 in 1974.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The NDP government has increased the financial return to the province from forest resources through timber sales, royalties, and fees.

Stability in forest industry has been increased through the regulation of chip prices.

Mineral royalties have been introduced to provide a fair return on ore removed. Royalties are geared to reflect the market value of the ore.

Coal royalties are now \$1.50 or \$.75 per ton, depending on the type of coal, and will continue to be increased. Social Credit charged \$.25 per ton.

PARKS AND RECREATION

The NDP government has expanded provincial park acreage from 7.1 million acres in 1972 to 9.4 million acres in 1975.

Mining and logging are no longer allowed in B. C.'s provincial parks.

\$40 million has been distributed through the COMMUNITY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FUND for the construction of non-profit arenas, community centres, ski hills, swimming pools, and other recreational projects throughout the province.

PROTECTION FOR TENANTS

The NDP government has limited annual rent increases to 10.6% and has established the Rent Review Commission to enforce this rent ceiling.

Major revisions to the Landlord and Tenant Act provide greater protection to tenants in regard to notices of eviction, security deposits, and maintenance of premises.

Tenants can now vote on all municipal money by-laws: the vote rests with residents rather than property.

A tax credit program for tenants has been established and is matched to income, with \$100 maximum credit. For those over 65 years, the \$80 renter grant will be retained in 1975.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RIGHTS

The NDP government has granted provincial employees the right to free collective bargaining for wages, working conditions, and job security. This right was denied by Social Credit.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The NDP government greatly increased the existing bus services in Greater Vancouver and Greater Victoria—more buses, more routes, and special commuter services.

Several new bus systems are being developed in a number of regional centres such as Kamloops and Prince Rupert.

The \$27 million formerly directed towards the Third Crossing (Burrard Inlet) is now set aside for Public Transportation.

SAVINGS AND TRUST CORPORATION OF B. C.

The NDP government established this Crown Corporation to provide the citizens of B. C. an alternative to the banking system.

The Corporation was planned in co-operation with the credit union movement, which will be offered 10% of the shares, the remaining 90% to be held by the Crown.

Full financial services will be provided with the aim of increasing competition, keeping B. C. money at work in B. C., and increasing credit opportunities for low and middle income citizens, farmers, fishermen and small business.

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