



*Alberta Social Credit Party*

# 1998

## Principles & Policies

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*"A New Generation of Leadership"*



**The Alberta Social Credit Party supports the following:**

## **Principles**

- 1.) The individual is the most important factor in organized society, and as a divinely created being, with both spiritual and physical potentials and needs, has certain inalienable rights which must be respected and preserved.
- 2.) The major function of democratic government in organized society is to secure for the people the results the people want from the management of their public affairs as far as such results are physically possible and morally right.
- 3.) Security with freedom. Material security alone is not enough. Each individual must be secure in the knowledge that he or she is worthy, respected, equal and free, and that the freedom to choose his or her destiny is an inalienable right.
- 4.) Whatever is physically possible and desirable, and morally right, should be made financially possible.

## **Purposes**

- 1.) To promote the principles of Social Credit.
- 2.) To promote the aims and objectives of the Party, as related to these principles.
- 3.) To promote the election of enough candidates of the Alberta Social Credit Party to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta to form the government and thus make possible the implementation of Social Credit principles.

## **Aims and Objectives**

- 1.) To study and extend the knowledge of the principles of the Alberta Social Credit Party and their application in Alberta.
- 2.) To establish responsible and effective democratic government in Alberta.
- 3.) To oppose and expose any attempts to weaken the democratic sovereignty and the democratic institutions of the people by the means of increased centralization of power.
- 4.) To oppose any attempt to spread or implant the seeds of racial discrimination, class hatred or religious intolerance among the citizens of Alberta.
- 5.) To obtain the economic security which the vast resources of Alberta can provide for its citizens.
- 6.) To make poverty and privation totally unnecessary.
- 7.) To secure freedom from oppressive debt and taxation.
- 8.) To influence the provincial economy through the Alberta Treasury Branch and other provincial financial institutions through such measures as low interest loans.
- 9.) To provide the people of Alberta with an effective organization for obtaining information on matters essential to their welfare and for taking action to assert their democratic will.
- 10.) To foster, advance and promote the attainment of a humanitarian society within the framework of a realistic and responsible free economy.

# **Policies**

## **Agriculture**

The Alberta Social Credit Party believes in the family farm.

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports a move to a freer, market driven system.

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports the elimination of all indirect taxes and tariffs on farm inputs.

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports an end to freight rate discrimination.

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports an enhanced marketing program for Alberta agricultural products, nationally and internationally.

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports active ongoing research into environmental protection for agriculture such as "holistic resource management".

The Alberta Social Credit Party opposes international agriculture subsidies as damaging and restrictive.

## **Alternatives to the welfare state**

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports a feasibility study to be done on an acceptable Annual Income for all Alberta citizens.

## **Auditor General**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute open access to the Provincial Auditor General of all financial dealings encompassing government spending, Crown Corporations, government investments or any other government financial involvement's. The findings of which would be made available to the public.

## **Balanced Budget**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute a mandatory yearly balanced (projected and actual) budget provision for the Province.



The Alberta Social Credit Party would not borrow any funds for current government financial obligations.

## **Cabinet Size**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute a reduction in the present size of the Provincial Cabinet to twelve (12) members and the Premier.

## **Child Care**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute comprehensive standards for commercial Day Care operations.

The Alberta Social Credit Party opposes government run Day Care facilities.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would eliminate tax benefits to those who utilize daycare over those who do not.

## **Commissions / Boards**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute elections for all provincial boards and commissions every four years in conjunction with the provincial legislative elections.

## **Conflict of Interest**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute strict conflict of interest guidelines facilitated through the Provincial Ethics Commissioner's office.

## **Constitutional Reform**

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports popular ratification of all Constitutional Amendments by a simple majority vote in at least 2/3 of the provinces (including the Territories) representing at least 50% of the country's population in a national referendum.

The Alberta Social Credit Party rejects the concept of unilateral negotiations between the Government of Canada and Quebec in constitutional matters. All provinces must be equal and active participants in any and all constitutional negotiations.

## **Courts**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute legally enforceable arbitration between all party's in a legal dispute to settle non-criminal actions.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute a program whereby all provincial court judges would be elected every four years in conjunction with the provincial elections.

## **Crime**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute a program whereby spending on police and courts will be increased by 33% to make apprehension and conviction more certain.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute a program where all sentences given in provincial court will be subject to a "truth in sentencing" provision. This provision will eliminate the possibility of parole, all time will be served. While a sentence cannot be shortened, provisions would be made to provide for sentence extensions for unacceptable behaviour.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute a program whereby juvenile records would be released at the first adult felony conviction in order that long time offenders can be quickly identified.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute a program whereby convicted criminals on probation would be tested on a regular basis for drug use.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute a program where spending on drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs would be increased.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute a program whereby juvenile offenders would be sentenced to "boot camps" featuring physical labour and education.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute a program of community policing, which will put more police officers on the street instead of behind desks.

## **Debt Reduction**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute 5 % of the yearly provincial income being allocated for accumulated debt reduction until the provincial debt has been eliminated. These funds would be in addition to any normal yearly debt servicing costs.

Following the elimination of the provincial debt the Alberta Social Credit Party would continue depositing these yearly amounts in a provincial "Rainy Day" fund for future requirements. This fund would be separate from the Heritage Savings Trust Fund.

## **Discrimination**

The Alberta Social Credit Party condemns discrimination based upon colour, creed, age, language, religion, sect or any other reason as contrary to the spirit of democracy where all people are equal.

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports the right of each individual to pursue their goals and objectives in a free society secure in the knowledge of their equality under the law.

## **Domestic Trade**

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports the removal of interprovincial trade barriers.

## **Economic Development and Diversification**

The Social Credit Party of Alberta supports four basic principles of economic growth and diversification:

- 1.) A Strong Competitive Marketplace.
- 2.) Demanding, Financially Secure Consumers.
- 3.) Supporting Industries and Strategic Business Alliances.
- 4.) State of the Art Training, Equipment & Intensified Research.

## **Education** " Where there is no vision, the children perish"

In this era of Globalization and the "Information Age" we as Albertans must energize the most productive asset of all, the individual human mind. In the years to come a majority of all new jobs will require a level of reading, computing and thinking skills which have traditionally been required only of the professions. We believe that the single most important factor in educational achievement is a supportive home life. As such the Alberta Social Credit Party will work to empower parents in the educational process.



The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute annual testing of all students on provincially established evaluations on all subjects studied by the individual student. A passing grade would be a simple 50 % with results being given in actual percentages and not simple pass / fail terms.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute a voucher system of financing education applicable to all accredited public, separate, private, religious or home schools.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute "Chastity-based" sex education courses be offered in Alberta schools as an alternative to the "Contraceptive-based" courses now available. Parents should have the choice of one sex education course option or the other for their children.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would take immediate action to bring together representatives of Parents, School Boards, Teachers and Government to develop a working partnership, respect, understanding and a spirit of teamwork to address the issues facing Alberta's Education sector and to broaden the understanding of the Education position of the Alberta Social Credit Party.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute mandatory Canadian History courses in all middle and high schools in Alberta.

## **Energy**

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports a free market approach to energy providing abundant availability of energy supplies at competitive prices for Albertans and export.

## **Environment**

We as Albertans have been exceedingly blessed by an abundance of resources and spectacular natural surroundings. The balance of economic development of our province which provides security and abundance for our citizens should be carefully considered against the environmental consequences of all major projects in the province. Sustainable economic development will ensure a prosperous tomorrow while not forsaking our legacy to our children.

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports the concept of "environmentally sensitive zoning".

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports the concept of a provincial environmental ombudsmen.

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports a free enterprise direction in environmental issues. Alberta citizens have and will continue to demonstrate a sensitivity to environmental issues which far surpasses government implemented programs.

## **Equality**

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports the concept that all Canadians have all rights, privileges and responsibilities equally.

## **Families**

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports the family as the cornerstone of our society. As such we commit to protect and enhance this treasured institution.

The Alberta Social Credit Party opposes all acts of family violence particularly against children. We commit to establish a child's defense agency protecting all children against this reprehensible act. We further commit to educational activities to help the abused and the abuser and provide plentiful access for all Albertans to therapy where required.

The Alberta Social Credit Party believes that parental authority and responsibility needs to be recognized and protected.

## **Federalism**

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports a renewed level of respect and cooperation between Ottawa and the Provinces.

## **Finance / Financial Responsibility**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute Crown Corporations giving complete information to the legislature and be accountable to the tax payer.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute complete financial disclosure of all provincial finances including the Heritage Trust Fund, government Crown Corporations and all government investments. These disclosures would be made in the Legislature with a complete accounting available to all Alberta citizens.

## **Firearms Control**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would challenge all Federally sponsored firearms control legislation as being unconstitutional. Firearms are property and therefore, under the Constitution of Canada, fall within the jurisdiction of the provincial government.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would never install firearms control legislation as it opposes individual freedom and therefore contradicts Principle Three of the party's principles.

## **Fixed Election Dates**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute fixed election dates for all elected officials in Alberta. M.L.A.'s would be elected for a four (4) year term. The right of the Legislature to call a vote of non confidence in the government would still be in force.

## **Free Votes in Caucus and Legislature**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute free votes for each M.L.A. in the Legislature. Let him or her vote according to the dictates of his or her conscience or as has been specifically indicated by the constituents through the constituency organization. Should a government bill be defeated it would not mean a vote of nonconfidence for the government but simply a defeat of that particular piece of legislation.

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports free votes within the Social Credit caucus. The party position will be determined by a simple majority of the M.L.A.'s casting a vote.

## **Freedom of Information**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute the most comprehensive freedom of Information act in Canada, which would open government for all people.

## **Government Spending**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute a "Zero Based " budgeting program in all government departments. The basis of this budgeting system calls for a justification of all funds spent each year, not simply a standard percentage increase as presently exists.



The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute a merit system within government departments rewarding individuals for initiative and efficiency.

## **Grants**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would phase out all provincial grants to special interest groups.

## **Health Care**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would provide health care funding by providing for patient treatment. All health care funding would "follow the patient" to their health care provider and facility of choice.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would allow all Hospitals and other health care facilities to compete.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute preventative health care and the incorporation of a "wellness" program in all educational institutions.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute a complete independent efficiency review of all sectors of the health care system.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would eliminate all grants and subsidies to Hospitals and other Health Care facilities in the province.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would, in conjunction with Public Health, add HIV as a reportable disease.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would in the event of an HIV positive test result ensure the testing and tracing of all contacts.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would ensure that HIV testing be routinely performed on hospital patients prior to surgery if that patient has not been tested within the past year.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would eliminate the funding and use of abortion as a birth control method.

## **Heritage Fund**

The Alberta Social Credit Party believes that the Heritage Fund belongs to the people of Alberta and not the government.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would set up the fund as a separate crown corporation thereby limiting the involvement of the government of the day.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would limit withdrawals from the Heritage Fund for government purposes by holding a binding referendum on all such withdrawals.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute a policy of depositing 50% of government natural resource income each year into the Heritage Fund.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute a policy of providing from the earnings of the Heritage Fund a tax free dividend to each person who has been a citizen of Alberta for one year. This dividend will be based upon a formula set out in the provincial constitution and will be issued on a set date each year.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would model other aspects of the Heritage Trust Fund managing principles after the Alaska Permanent Fund.

## **Immigration**

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports the acceptance of refugees escaping violence, intolerance or economic depravation. However there must be a mechanism in place to safeguard against illegal entry with a deportation mechanism available to deport those immigrants who do not act in a responsible, acceptable manner. The government must better determine the wishes of all Canadians regarding immigration.

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports an immigration policy based upon equality for all acceptable immigration applicants regardless of race, colour, creed, religious background, education or financial capabilities.

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports the principle of sponsors of immigrants being personally financially responsible for the sponsored immigrant.

## **Interest Rates**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute a made in Alberta interest rate policy through low interest loans supplied through the Alberta Treasury Branches to credit worthy Albertans.

## **International Trade**

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports a more proactive approach for government to assist in the establishment of increased international trade for all Alberta business.

## **Labour**

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports a comprehensive program of cooperative partnership between Business, Labour and Government to compete effectively in a global marketplace.

The Alberta Social Credit Party will pursue an aggressive program of cooperative workplace health and safety inspections.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute legislation which would allow each individual worker the right to voluntarily determine their membership in labour organizations.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute legislation allowing for competition to the Workers' Compensation Board.

## **Legal System/ Justice**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute greater independence to the Minister of Justice.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute the rights of victims of crime to compensation from convicted persons.

## **Legislative Dates**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute a program whereby Throne Speeches, Budget Announcements and Legislative dates will be on a set date each year.

## **Mandatory Tendering**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute a procurement policy whereby all major purchases by the Government will be through an open tender process.



## **M.L.A. Accountability**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute a program of M.L.A. accountability to their constituents. Each M.L.A. will be required to file a monthly report to the Auditor General. In order to facilitate consistency and control costs, the Auditor General will publish a yearly report on each M.L.A.'s activities.

Each M.L.A. report will include:

- How they voted
- Their attendance record
- Their involvement in committees, cabinet, etc.
- A complete accounting of all funds received from the Government

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute a program of complete public financial disclosure on all M.L.A. expenses. In addition any and all expenses over \$5.00 must be accompanied by a receipt.

## **M.L.A. Salaries**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute a reduction in the salaries of Cabinet Ministers and the Premier.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute a program of removing any and all tax fee allowances to M.L.A.'s.

## **Multiculturalism**

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports the concept of all citizens being first and foremost Canadians with our combined ethnic backgrounds forming a unique and distinct culture that we know as Canada. The concept of individual ethnic group maintenance rests solely on those who wish to support their heritage.

## **Municipal Government**

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports greater dialogue and cooperation between the Province and Municipalities.

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports the assignment of government functions to that level of government most appropriate to the situation.

## **Native Affairs**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute a Provincial Commission on Aboriginal Issues challenged with settlement of all provincial jurisdiction land claim and mineral rights disputes by Aboriginal Peoples by the year 2002.

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports the concept of Aboriginal peoples being an equal and important segment of our contemporary society, entrusted with all individual rights, privileges and responsibilities of all Albertans. Equal under the law while first and foremost being citizens of Canada and Alberta and respecting the governments therein.

## **Official Languages**

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports the principle of English as the language of commerce, society and education in Alberta. We support the concept of second language education with a variety of languages available.

## **Patronage**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute a program whereby all Government Positions will be filled by an open application process and all hiring will be based upon qualifications and merit.

## **Pension Plan**

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports an investigation of the merits of a Provincial Pension Plan funded by Albertans for Alberta.

## **Post Secondary Education**

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports the institutions of higher learning in Alberta. The future belongs to that society which offers the brightest, best educated, most adaptable people possible. The Alberta Social Credit Party will also ensure that Alberta citizens will be given priority for admission over out of province students.

## **Privatization and Crown Corporations**

The Alberta Social Credit Party heartily endorses the concept of free and profit oriented enterprise. As such it is inconsistent with the role of government to own and operate competitive business activities. The history of government involvement in private enterprise has been one of significant financial and competitive losses.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute privatization of crown corporations. We would advocate the establishment of a privatization committee with the sole responsibility of divesting of Provincial crown corporations. The proceeds from the sale of these crown corporations would be directly applied to the provincial debt.

## **Property Rights**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would entrench individual property rights within a Provincial Constitution.

## **Provincial Constitution**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute a Provincial Constitution in which all people would be equal. All future Federal Constitutional negotiations would be binding upon the Provincial Government to not deviate from the equality of all people as instituted by the Provincial Constitution.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would determine the inclusions in the provincial constitution through a process of a constituent assembly of elected participants, the results of which would be brought to the people of Alberta in a binding referendum for their approval.

## **Quebec**

The Alberta Social Credit Party opposes the entrenchment by law, of Quebec and/or any other recognizable group that it is a "Distinct or Unique Society" and as such has special privileges and exceptional rights not available to other Canadians. Equality of all citizens is the very essence of democracy and cannot be compromised.

## **Recall**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute the right of recall of all elected officials by their constituents.

## **Referenda**

The government may call a referendum on any matter which it feels is of significant public concern after having approval of a simple majority in the legislature.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute legislation allowing the citizens of Alberta to call for a referendum / initiative on a matter of significant public concern upon the presentation of a petition signed by at least 10% of the total voting population of Alberta.

Should a referendum be called upon a pending piece of legislation the legislation in question will be decided by the outcome of the referendum and will be binding upon the government.

## **Representative Democracy**

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports the concept that an elected member of the legislature is first and foremost responsible to his or her constituents.

## **Senate Reform**

The Alberta Social Credit Party heartily endorses the concept of a reformed Senate that is elected by the people of each province with equal representation from each province and that would have complete, effective parliamentary powers. Through this "Triple-E" Senate reform the equality of all Canadians will be enhanced by ensuring that the concept of representation by population is balanced by the need for equal regional representation.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute a Provincial Triple E Senate in which Provincial Senators would be elected by the people, in equal electoral regions and have real, effective powers.

## **Senior Citizens**

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports the concept of a Senior Citizens appreciation day with an annual "Premiers Picnic" highlighting the days activities.

## **Small Business**

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports small business as the economic engine which drives the Alberta economy and provides the majority of job creation within the province.



## **Social Issues & Social responsibility**

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports the concept of social responsibility within the framework of a free enterprise economic system. We support compassionate service, voluntarism, individual responsibility and care for those not able to care for themselves.

## **Subsidies & Tax Concessions**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would phase out all government subsidies and tax concessions.

## **Tax Increases**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute a program whereby taxes could not be increased without a binding referendum of the people.

## **Tax Reform**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute a flat, fixed percentage rate Provincial Income Tax. The Income Tax rate would be 8% (eight) with basic personal exemptions of \$12,000.00 and deductions for recognized charitable donations.

The Alberta Social Credit Party opposes the past application of unfair and industry specific taxation such as the National Energy Program from the federal government. All industries should be treated equally and fairly under the taxation system.

## **Taxation**

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports the direct assessment and collection of taxes by each level of government as they require. Thus allowing taxes to be open, visible and easily identified.

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports the concept of disentanglement and the elimination of duplication of government authorities and services.

## **The Banking System**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute a program of rapid growth in the Treasury Branches of Alberta providing a strong Alberta based alternative to out of province financial institutions. The past record of national financial institutions indicates that the financial aims and objectives of Albertans is not a primary factor in lending or interest rate decisions. Thus, a made in Alberta finance plan is in order.

The Alberta Social Credit Party will defend the Treasury Branches of Alberta against any efforts to dispose of this valued entity.

The Alberta Social Credit Party would return the Treasury Branches of Alberta to their originally intended purpose of providing competitive financial services for Alberta's families, farmers and small businesses.

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports increased regional financial institutions providing competitive and service oriented financial options for Albertans.

## **Tourism**

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports tourism as a major growth area for the provinces economy. As such the Alberta Social Credit Party proposes cooperative control over the National Parks in Alberta be shared with the Government of Alberta in order to have Albertans decide the fate of our natural heritage rather than the federal government.

## **Transportation**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute upgrading provincial transportation systems to provide a network joining all regions of Alberta and providing for enhanced domestic and international agricultural and business export opportunities in the future.

## **Vote of Non Confidence**

The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute a policy of allowing for the defeat of a government through a proclaimed vote of non confidence in the Legislature and not through the mere defeat of a bill.

## **Welfare**

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports the right of the individual to be helped by society in such times and cases as he or she is incapable of helping themselves. However, the priority of the welfare system should be to assist the individual in realizing their full potential and reestablish their self esteem through active self management and work experience.

## **Women's Issues**

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports the equality of men and women.

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports the concept that there are not any specific gender issues but rather people issues that should be solved by equal individuals for the common good.

The Alberta Social Credit Party opposes discrimination on the basis of gender.