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Social Credit Platform of 1968

[*A Statement of Social Credit Objectives, Principles and Policies* (Ottawa: Social Credit Association of Canada, 1968)]

THE OBJECTIVES

In the Field of Human Relations and Development

To encourage and assist each individual to achieve a full and abundant life through the exercise of personal initiative and the assumption of individual responsibility.

To mobilize and guide the collective knowledge, experience, and strength of organized society into channels which will ensure the maximum opportunity for individual self-development and achievement.

To establish and preserve a truly democratic form of society based on the rule of law in which each individual will be assured:

- 1) Social, economic, political, and religious freedom.
- 2) The impartial administration of justice.
- 3) An opportunity to attain through individual and collective effort a maximum measure of prosperity, security and cultural progress.

In the Field of Economics

To achieve the orderly development of Canada's material resources in the interests of all her people under a system of free and competitive enterprise in which the Government's function will be to encourage and assist individual effort and prevent the abuse of freedom.

To operate the national monetary system in a manner that will ensure:

- 1) That the nation's aggregate supply of money and credit will always be sufficient to finance the distribution of the entire national production for which there is consumer demand.
- 2) That the nation's money supply is distributed in such a manner that all citizens will have an opportunity to acquire sufficient to ensure at least a basic minimum standard of living.
- 3) That the national economy will be safeguarded from the evil effects of both inflation and deflation.

THE FOUR BASIC 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 they 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.

4. Whatever is physically possible and desirable and morally right can and should be made financially possible.

Social Credit is unalterably opposed to communism, facism, and all other forms of socialism which make the individual citizen subservient to the State. Social Credit recognizes the family as the basic unit of society and regards the sanctity of the home as fundamental to the preservation of Christian civilization.

AN OUTLINE OF POLICIES

FISCAL POLICY

The effective regulation of the nation's aggregate supply of money and credit to ensure a proper balance between consumer purchasing power and gross national production, including flexible measures to control both inflationary and deflationary trends and preserve the value of the Canadian dollar.

The development of procedures to ensure the widest possible distribution of purchasing power to provide the maximum opportunity for each individual to improve his standard of living.

An intelligent reform of the national tax structure to remove inequities and eliminate those forms of taxation which unduly retard development and penalize individual enterprise. The objective would be to establish an equitable tax structure through which:

1) The people of Canada could finance collectively those services which they require the state to provide and pay for on their behalf.

2) The Government of Canada could withdraw excessive credit when necessary to control inflation.

The progressive transfer to the Bank of Canada of the national debt and its orderly and ultimate liquidation.

The extension of the functions of the Bank of Canada to include:

- 1) Making available to the provinces and their municipalities, capital for public facilities necessary to provide essential services.

2) The provision, directly or indirectly, of capital necessary for economic and industrial projects considered vital to the economy and well-being of the nation but of such a nature that they cannot be expected to attract private capital through ordinary channels.

The promotion of programmes and the provision of inducements to encourage thrift and personal savings, and their investment in private and/or co-operative enterprise.

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

To develop, in co-operation with the provinces, a joint programme for raising public revenue for which all participating governments would assume responsibility and from which each government's direct sources of revenue would be augmented sufficiently to enable them to discharge their constitutional responsibilities in such fields as education, public health and welfare at a level compatible with the national good, and Canada's over-all economic status.

Except where joint projects are approved by mutual agreement, a Social Credit Government will replace cost sharing programmes by unconditional fiscal aid to restore to provincial governments the maximum measure of independence in all matters within their constitutional jurisdiction.

To strive for the mutual agreement between the Federal and Provincial Governments necessary to convert the B.N.A. Act into a wholly Canadian constitution domiciled in Canada and embodying an acceptable amending formulae [sic] that would make possible a clarification of the responsibilities of both levels of government with provision for the delegation of powers by mutual agreement and within clearly defined limits.

DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES

To encourage the orderly and continuous development of Canada's vast resources under a system of free competitive enterprise with proper regard for the preferred position to which Canadian citizens are justly entitled in such fields as management, employment, investment and in the national and regional benefits made possible by such development.

To pursue an aggressive programme of scientific research into the human, physical, and technological aspects of resources utilization and industrial development.

AGRICULTURE

The recognition of agriculture as an essential primary industry and the implementation of such measures as are necessary to preserve the incentive for production adequate to provide for the full needs of the Canadian people with sufficient surpluses to enable Canada to assist in banishing world hunger.

To make whatever provisions are necessary to relieve the hardships occasioned by the inevitable adjustments in the agricultural economy dictated by changing circumstances and the progress of our times.

To inaugurate a two-price system for wheat under which producers would be assured a fair minimum price for that portion of their production absorbed by the domestic market with the balance to be sold on the world market at prevailing competitive prices.

TRADE AND COMMERCE

International

To strive for mutually advantageous trade agreements with other nations based on absolute integrity and honesty of dealing.

To accept the currency of other nations within the limits of feasibility and to extend credit to other nations for the purchase of Canadian products on mutually acceptable terms.

To work actively and contribute generously in co-operation with other nations to make possible an orderly programme for the banishment of hunger and want without disrupting world markets and creating international friction.

Domestic

The elimination of unnecessary restrictions which impair domestic trade and commerce and which are incompatible with a free enterprise economy.

The prohibition of monopolies and cartels and the careful supervision of trade practices to prevent abuses of freedom and the unfair exploitation of the Canadian people.

LABOUR

The goal in labour-management relations must be to establish and maintain a recognition by both management and labour that they have a joint or co-equal responsibility for the level of national

production which determines the standard of living possible to the Canadian people. To that end, as far as labour matters lie within the jurisdiction of Parliament, a Social Credit Government would:

Promote and encourage harmonious and responsible labour-management relations.

Protect impartially the just rights of both employers and employees.

Protect the rights of employees to organize and prevent the domination of legitimate labour unions by management or foreign labour organizations.

Protect the rights of employees directly affected by a labour dispute to strike, conduct peaceful picketing and employ any other lawful means to attain their objectives.

Provide fact finding, mediation and arbitration facilities and special tribunals to aid in resolving labour disputes within federal jurisdiction and to co-operate with the provinces by putting such facilities at their disposal if and when requested by the parties concerned.

To protect the public interest in cases where labour disputes threaten to inflict loss and hardship on innocent sections of the Canadian people or the national economy by designating such disputes as disputes in which the findings of a special tribunal shall be final and binding.

To establish a Labour-Management Advisory Council to advise the Government in matters pertaining to labour-management relations.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

To give leadership in promoting and establishing non-military international organizations to stimulate international understanding and goodwill.

To maintain a national pool of technical and professional personnel whose services would be available to other nations to aid in the development of their material and human resources in the interests of international co-operation and goodwill.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

A realistic defence policy based on the following premises:

1) Canada is and intends to remain a non-aggressor nation.

2) Canada's geographical factors and small population make sustained effective defence against a major aggressor impossible without the aid of other nations.

Having regard to these facts, a Social Credit Government would:

1) Re-design Canada's defence strategy and military forces to eliminate useless expenditures on forms of defence obsolete in the light of modern circumstances.

2) Concentrate on establishing powerful well-equipped, highly mobile forces strategically deployed and capable of immediate airborne transport to any area of Canada.

JUSTICE AND THE REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS

To exercise every effort to ensure absolute justice and equality for all, irrespective of colour, race, creed, or social status and to uphold the rule of law without equivocation.

To ensure an efficient and respected judiciary by making all judicial appointments on the basis of qualifications alone.

To reform progressively the national penal system to ensure more efficient custodial care and the maximum opportunity for rehabilitation of those guilty of offences against society.

SOCIAL WELFARE

To assume responsibility for the provision of national minimum standards of social services for all Canadian citizens in such fields as education, health and social welfare.

To ensure such national standards without infringement on provincial autonomy and in full co-operation with the provinces to ensure flexibility in co-ordinating national services with the social welfare programme of each province.

To review and progressively raise such national minimum standards as the growth and development of the national economy makes possible.

CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION

To enhance the value and meaning of Canadian citizenship by making Canada a land of real opportunity for all who assume their responsibilities as citizens.

A programme of immigration which will provide a regulated flow of new immigrants to Canada comprised of individuals desirous and capable of accepting and being assimilated into the Canadian way of life.

To stimulate pride in Canadian citizenship by:

1) Raising Canada's prestige in the eyes of the world as a leader among progressive, peace loving nations.

2) Ensuring to Canadian citizens rightful priority in employment, investment, and development

opportunities and in the benefits accruing from the growth and progress of their nation.

To strive to raise the standard and prestige of public life to the end that public service will be accepted by men and women of the highest character and ideals as a welcome privilege and responsibility of citizenship.

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

To strive for a distinctive Canadian culture that will retain and further develop the cultural heritage Canada has required from citizens of different ethnic origin.

To raise national standards of culture through national and regional agencies including the radio and television and other mass media facilities.

To provide maximum opportunity for appreciation of, and participation in constructive cultural activities decentralized to local community level.

To facilitate the training of local leaders in recognized fields of community cultural activities.

RECREATION AND LEISURE

To promote and encourage the constructive use of leisure time and the development of worthwhile recreational pursuits.

To assist in providing at local level practical

recreational facilities and trained local leadership to promote maximum community interest and participation.

YOUTH

To provide practical leadership in assisting Canada's youth to recognize and exploit their potential talents and abilities for their own advancement and the good of mankind.

To co-operate with the provinces in promoting constructive youth programmes at local community level in such fields as vocational pursuits, sports, recreational activities and affording maximum participation and having as their objective the physical, mental, social, and spiritual development of youth and their preparation for the responsibilities of leadership and citizenship.

THE SPIRITUAL VERITIES

No nation can be truly great or permanently strong unless its people recognize and acknowledge the eternal Deity, Sovereignty, and Righteousness of God and His meritorious right to man's worship and allegiance. The voluntary acceptance of this individual and collective responsibility is basic to enduring progress and the dignity of man.