

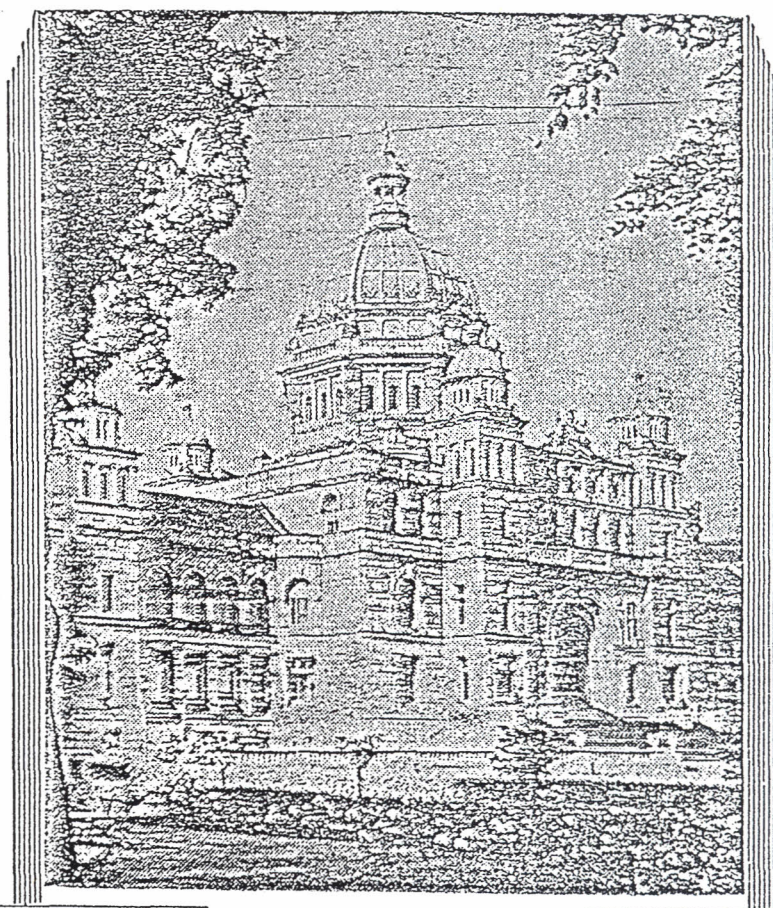
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1953

CCF Program for British Columbia



B.C. LEGISLATIVE BUILDINGS

PRICE 5c

CCF Program for British Columbia

CCF organization and policy are shaped to afford full, democratic and practical realization of the objective of building a new democratic order by the creative effort of the people themselves.

The election of a CCF Government will express the demand of the people that the province be administered by a government of vision and courage and dedicated to the principle of the greatest good to the greatest number.

The following principles outline the highlights of CCF provincial policy. The electors' support and endorsement of them will be the first step towards their establishment.

Preamble to CCF Program

THE CCF in B.C. is a provincial section of a national movement with a national purpose already declared and now reaffirmed hereunder:

We hope to replace the present capitalist system with its inherent injustice and inhumanity by a social order from which the domination and exploitation of one class by another will be eliminated; in which economic planning will supersede unregulated private enterprise and competition; and in which genuine democratic self-government based on economic equality will be possible.

Within the province of B.C. the CCF will seek political power to apply the principles of socialist planning to provincial affairs. A CCF government with a mandate from the people will, within the constitutional limitations of the province, proceed with the orderly and planned utilization of the resources of the province to ensure to all the people a life as abundant as these resources make possible. That these resources may be made available for social needs, an integrated program of social ownership and social control will be planned. Each step in such program will be taken to improve standards of food, clothing, shelter, education, health services, cultural and recreational advantages, and with the view to ultimate inclusion in a dominion-wide socialist economy.

Experience has demonstrated that private enterprise cannot be entrusted with the right to dictate how people shall live. Economic policies which produce depressions and which now are impotent to plan a positive peace policy

cannot be expected to liberate the productive energies of the people for the building of a democracy free from poverty, insecurity and human exploitation. The foundation of such a democracy must be laid now.

Dominion-Provincial Relations

CANADA needs a new definition of dominion and provincial jurisdictions to achieve national advancement of the economic and social welfare of all the people of Canada.

The CCF is the only political party in Canada which is completely organized nationally, in the sense that it has always logically co-ordinated its national and provincial programs. The fulfilment of our socialist purpose is predicated on national planning with allowance for the province to retain jurisdiction in all matters which are provincial in scope.

A CCF government in B.C. will press for:

- 1 The establishment of a permanent dominion-provincial secretariat and dominion-provincial conferences which will meet at least yearly or at shorter intervals when necessary. Such conferences should be representative not merely of governments but also of political parties and farmer and labor organizations.

- 2 Dominion jurisdiction in social security and health measures with administration and concurrent jurisdiction vested in the province to permit provincial standards above the national minimum.

- 3 Dominion jurisdiction over labor legislation to establish dominion mini-

minimum standards with concurrent provincial power to raise provincial standards above such minimum.

4 Dominion - provincial machinery shall be established in order to enable the dominion and the provinces to co-operate in the development of natural resources and to plan for hydro-electric, irrigation and other industrial projects.

5 A Bill of Rights shall be incorporated in the constitution and a provincial Bill of Rights shall be enacted.

The CCF will work for the enactment of a Canadian constitution. The constitution must contain machinery for amendment which would call for a majority vote in the House of Commons, consent by a majority of the provinces and a referendum in matters which affect the fundamental democratic rights and the social welfare of the Canadian people.

Social Ownership

A WELL-BALANCED and planned economy for the province ultimately must be based on social ownership of the means of wealth production and distribution. Complete socialization is not possible within the present constitutional limitations of provincial jurisdiction. A CCF government in B.C. will undertake the extension of public ownership to those natural resources, public utilities and industries deemed essential for the maintenance of employment, the protection of living standards and the provision of social services.

The speed with which resources, industries and utilities will be transferred from private hands will be determined by circumstances, but the over-riding consideration will be the removal of economic power from private hands as rapidly as possible.

In accordance with the mandate of the electorate to implement this program the necessary legislation will be introduced whereby under existing constitutional powers of expropriation public ownership may be established in each industry or utility within the scope of the program. All industries and utilities having ownership transferred to the

province will be subject to the overall economic plan drafted in the interest of the community as a whole.

Powers of administration will be vested in public corporations or co-operatives or municipal authorities. Management of the public corporations will be directed by boards representative of the government, the workers in the industry and community interests affected by the industry concerned. In each case the workers will be given a real and effective voice in managerial decisions. Such boards will appoint competent personnel.

The guiding principle in bringing in the transference of industries and utilities to public ownership will be that the welfare of the community must take supremacy over the claims of private wealth. A CCF government will not play the role of rescuing bankrupt private concerns and thereby piling up a dead-weight burden of unremunerative debt.

Following transfer of ownership to the public authority and upon a fair appraisal of the legitimate claims of former owners, just compensation will be awarded. Any bonded indebtedness so incurred shall be retired as may be determined by the earnings and requirements of the public corporations.

Initial Measures

1 **P**ROVINCIAL ownership and development of the sources and distributive systems of electrical energy to achieve the overall planning necessary to provide a low mass consumption rate and widen uses of electricity for industrial and residential purposes in both urban and rural districts. Provincial planning for the production and distribution of cheap power and the expansion of rural electrification will be such that where feasible and efficient, municipal participation in distribution will be encouraged and assisted.

2 Public ownership of transportation and communication utilities within provincial jurisdiction.

3 Public ownership under provincial auspices of the brewing and distilling industry.

4 Participation in development, processing and distribution of petroleum and petroleum products under provincial public ownership.

5 Authorization granting to the B.C. power Commission full right to wholesale and retail natural gas within the province and to enter into the appropriate agreements with the municipalities in respect of retail distribution.

Primary Industries

A. Forestry

THE FORESTS of British Columbia which comprise the most important single resource and upon which is based the province's most important industry, have been seriously depleted by careless and unscrupulous logging methods in the past. To restore them will require a comprehensive program of reforestation and conservation which is possible only under a system of public ownership and management. Moreover, ownership of forest lands and cutting rights on mature timber confer a power of control over the provincial economy which a CCF government could not afford to leave in private hands.

It shall be the policy of the CCF to return forest lands and cutting rights to public ownership as rapidly as possible. In carrying out this purpose the public interests will be given precedence over the claims of private ownership. Claims for compensation for corporate owned forest lands and cutting rights must be evaluated in the light of the damage done to our natural resources and the resultant high profits to the operators.

The present Forest Management Licence system which is tending to place control of our forest wealth in the hands of a few large corporations will be reviewed with the objective of placing control, management and operation under provincial authority.

The present Forest Service will be expanded into a public authority which will plan and control conservation, rehabilitation and industrial development of our forest resources through public

working circles in which the small logging operator will find his place.

Utilization of our forest wealth will be planned with the following objectives in view:

1 To maintain the highest possible level of year-round employment and income in the industry.

2 To integrate the industry for the proper utilization of raw materials in order to provide at reasonable cost materials for domestic construction, particularly housing and raw materials for other industries using wood products.

3 To expand export markets for timber by aggressive government action.

4 To conserve timber resources and restock forest lands now denuded.

5 To increase direct and indirect revenue to the public treasury to aid in a balanced program of industrial expansion and improved services.

B. Fisheries

JURISDICTION over fisheries is mainly vested in federal authority. Remoteness of control and an apparent lack of interest in British Columbia fishery problems on the part of the federal government has brought this entire industry to a position where immediate action must be taken in the realm of conservation and propagation. A CCF provincial government will immediately urge upon federal authorities the need for a positive policy as regards this industry. In the event of failure to arrive at a satisfactory settlement, the CCF would endeavour to initiate the following program:

1 Approach the federal government with a view to having jurisdiction over all fishery matters not involved in the International Salmon Commission jurisdiction transferred to the provincial government.

2 Endeavour to have direct British Columbia representation on all Pacific international fisheries commissions.

3 Initiate policies to maintain and extend the salmon fisheries by scientific and practical methods.

4 Seek the co-operation of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada in the establishment of courses through which interested persons may be taught scientific and practical husbandry.

5 Establish and assist fishing and processing co-operatives and transfer existing licences to such co-operatives.

6 Establish marketing policies to eliminate all unnecessary handling charges between producer and consumer.

7 Assure fair returns to fishermen and give them the protection of the Workmen's Compensation Act.

C. Mining

VIGOROUS measures are necessary to maintain production levels in the B.C. Mining industry in face of a changing domestic and world demand. If the mining industry is to play the part it can play in the economic life of the province and in rehabilitating returned men and workers discharged from war industries, there must be new methods of development and fabrication and new uses. A CCF provincial government will undertake the following program:

1 Extend scientific and economic research into the mineral resources in order to develop new mines and facilitate the establishment of industries based on new uses for B.C. metals.

2 Provide aid for scientific and economic prospecting and development.

3 Complete geological and topographical surveys of the province.

4 Plan for the acquisition and development of mineral resources under public auspices, including new coal fields.

5 Restore to public ownership mineral resources now alienated and held for speculative purposes.

6 Encourage and if necessary initiate the development of steel and light alloy industries.

7 Provide the people an equitable share of the exploited mineral wealth through the practical application of suitable forms of taxation.

Housing and Regional Planning

THE PROVISION of houses at prices and rents which people can afford to pay is one of B.C.'s most pressing needs. A provincial housing program will not only provide homes for those who have not adequate shelter today but will also increase employment.

In order that a public housing plan may serve all the needs of individuals and the community it must be correlated with regional and town planning. The established advantages of town planning in such matters as zoning, arterial highways, utilities, etc., must now be properly related to the planned development of the region of which the town forms a part. Regional planning designates suitable areas for industrial development and those suitable for residential purposes with transit, electrical, educational, medical and recreational facilities. It provides for agricultural and forest areas, parks and recreational centres. It enables conservation measures applied to such problems as soil erosion, flood control, soil fertility, reforestation and water power. The provision of homes of modern design in spacious and pleasant environment is an integral part of regional planning. A CCF government will:

1 Extend the scope of regional and town planning authorities in co-operation with the municipalities and encourage the establishment of local, metropolitan and regional planning and housing authorities all over the province.

2 Urge the extension of the dominion housing plan in order that a more adequate sum of money be designated for subsidized low-rental housing projects and that interest rates be lowered.

3 Give priority to subsidized low-rental housing projects and float a provincial bond issue in order to satisfy B.C.'s housing needs.

4 Utilize forestry products and production facilities under public control to reduce the initial cost of home construction and the cost of prefabrication of component parts.

5 Undertake such measures of con-

struction as may be necessary to secure more modern and durable construction, that the period of amortization may be extended and monthly payments or rentals reduced.

6 Encourage and aid co-operative building societies.

Labor Policy

THE POLICY of the CCF is to have the fullest consultation and co-operation with organized labor, with the objective of ensuring the workers the best possible working conditions, and living standards.

A. I.C.A. Act

A CCF government will immediately amend the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act and will overhaul its administration in conformity with Labor's requests, which include:

1 The democratic right of a person to join a union of his own choice.

2 The right of all workers to legal collective bargaining.

3 Revising and simplifying certification and conciliation procedure. In the case of applications for new certification, an application signed by 25% of employees within a unit shall be sufficient to require a representation vote.

4 Provision that 51% union membership shall guarantee a union shop.

5 Restoring to the unions the right to conduct their own strike votes, according to the union constitution.

B. Workmen's Compensation Act.

A CCF government will give coverage to all workers for all industrial accidents and all occupational diseases; will raise the compensation rate immediately to 75%, and the maximum income compensable to \$5,000; will adjust past compensation pensions to conform to the prevailing amount paid in comparable cases; such increased adjustment costs to be paid from Consolidated Revenue.

A CCF government will establish by law:

1 The 40 hour week.

2 Two weeks annual holiday with pay.

3 All statutory holidays with pay.

4 An upward revision of minimum wage orders.

Agriculture

THE AIM of the CCF agriculture program is to establish a system of close consultation and co-operation with the B.C. Federation of Agriculture, Farmers' Institute and other farm commodity groups, to protect the farmer against insecurity, fluctuations in income and low returns; and to provide an ample supply of good quality food for society at reasonable prices.

1 To ensure an equitable and stable income to the producer requires not only control of costs, but also control of prices received for farm products.

A CCF government will confer with organized producers of particular farm products with a view to establishing co-operative producers' agencies authorized as sole wholesalers of such products under the B.C. Products Marketing Act.

These agencies will be empowered to regulate prices and supplies at a level designed to encourage optimum production and to insure distribution at reasonable prices.

To prevent food surpluses from upsetting orderly marketing, a CCF provincial government will, in co-operation with the federal government, give leadership to farmer organizations for organized production and for the planned disposal of periodic food surpluses.

2 The provision of an ample supply of quality food requires the utilization of science in agriculture.

(a) At present scientific research in agriculture is carried on by three services, the Dominion and provincial departments of agriculture and the University of British Columbia. The CCF will endeavour to bring about a better co-ordination of the work of these three services.

(b) To demonstrate scientific advances, the present system of "illustra-

tion" farms will be extended and regular field days will be organized by district agriculturists.

(c) A CCF government will encourage and financially assist the extension of, and will supplement local training facilities in practical agriculture.

3 To supply this food at reasonable prices entails economic agricultural production.

(a) The CCF will give assistance to the development of co-operatives and farm organizations, encouragement and aid in the co-operative purchasing, handling and distribution of fertilizers, feeds, seeds, spray material, machinery and other farm requirements, and the encouragement of co-operative farming and farm implement co-ops. A CCF government will appoint a Minister of Co-operatives.

4 The CCF will extend present government services such as land clearing and drainage.

5 The CCF will assist qualified farmers to become established on the land, along the lines incorporated in the Veterans Land Act.

6 The CCF will provide protection for the farmer against foreclosure due to crop failure or other conditions over which he has no control.

7 In co-operation with the federal government, a CCF government will pursue a more vigorous program of flood control, irrigation, soil conservation, prevention of erosion, etc. To that end the CCF will endeavour to have P.F.R.A. extended to cover the whole of B.C. on a permanent basis.

8 A CCF government will assist in the training of veterinarians and assist them to become established in farming areas. A CCF government will investigate the possibilities of establishing a veterinary college either at U.B.C. or elsewhere in co-operation with other western provinces.

Education

THE CCF believes firmly in public education as an essential requirement

of a democratic society. The keynote of this policy is to assure to every child and adult an opportunity for the fullest possible development of mind and personality through the study of a core of common subjects and of special courses to satisfy individual interests and aptitudes.

To this end we are pledged to maintain and improve the modern system of non-sectarian schools throughout the province. Their purpose will be to develop those skills, attitude, and values that are required for effective living in the world today and to emphasize the responsibility of every citizen, young and old, to share in the solving of social problems through study and co-operative effort.

If public education is to fulfill its proper function in a time of rapid change, provision for continuous research into curricula and methods of teaching must be made.

These general objectives for our educational system must be achieved through an equitable division of costs between the Provincial Government and local boards. The CCF believes that the following principles of school financing should be adopted:

(a) Recognizing the manifest injustices of the present method of financing education by taxation on land, a CCF government will assume increased responsibility in the cost of education through direct grants to the school boards from consolidated revenue, and by continuing to assume at least one-half of the capital cost of construction and equipment.

(b) In order to guarantee a high basic standard of education to every school child in British Columbia, grants to school districts should be based on the number of teachers employed, their experience and training, on the average number of pupils in daily attendance, and on the cost of transportation.

(c) Grants should be reviewed every year in order to ensure that they should bear a realistic relationship to current school costs and current educational needs.

(d) Supplementary grants per pupil should be made to those school districts whose location, scattered population, or other special circumstances create a special cost problem.

(e) For the purpose of equalizing education grants, the assessment policies of all school districts should be standardized through the operation of an Assessment Equalization Commission, with provision for appeal.

(f) In any school district, the local school board should have the right to undertake a program of expenditure in excess of the basic standards.

(g) The revision of the system of educational grants will be carried out in consultation and co-operation with the Union of B.C. Municipalities, the B.C. Trustees Association, the B.C. Teachers Federation, the B.C. Federation of Agriculture, and the Parent-Teacher Federation.

The CCF believes that the Federal Government should assume a share of the increasing burden of educational costs, and will urge federal subsidies for general education in the province.

The CCF accepts the following specific objectives:

1 To make available to all students, regardless of where they reside, or what the relative wealth of their communities be, a basic standard of education commensurate with the wealth of the province.

2 To set up a permanent advisory committee for the study of current educational problems composed of representatives from interested groups such as teachers, parents, farmers, workers, and employers.

3 To provide public health services for all children both in the schools and at other convenient places in the community, such services not to be charged against funds available for education.

4 To provide for pre-school training as a recognized part of our provincial educational system.

5 To support all branches of adult education through night school classes,

correspondence courses, university extension lectures, radio programs, library services, etc.

6 To extend financial grants to Pro-Rec and approved community organizations for the promotion of supervised recreation and cultural activities.

7 To grant leave of absence, with protection of seniority and pension rights, on application of any teacher elected to public office.

8 Teachers shall have the right to stand for office on any elective municipal body except the school boards which employ them.

9 To encourage writers and publishers of Canadian textbooks without sacrificing scholarship or quality and to consider the early use of UNESCO publications in our schools.

10 To make available facilities for the education of native Indian children in our regular public school system.

11 To respect the autonomy and responsibility of the local school boards.

12 To urge the Dominion government to provide federal grants for general education in the provinces.

13 To assure more general provision for University bursaries through agreement between the Dominion and provincial governments.

14 A CCF government will take immediate steps to establish:

(a) A dental college at U.B.C.

(b) Subsidies and bursaries to assist deserving students.

(c) A revolving fund to provide non-interest bearing loans to ensure that no deserving student shall be deprived of the opportunity to complete advanced education or training.

Social Welfare and Health

SOCIAL security is based on the principle that every citizen is entitled to a modern standard of food, clothing, shelter, health, education and other necessities, regardless of whether he is able to make productive contribution

to society or not. The social welfare schemes of the past, which have taken the form of state charity and have been linked up to the means test and other indignities, must be abandoned. We maintain that any plan of social security, if it is to fulfill its purpose, must be established on the following principles:

1 It must cover all citizens, regardless of whether they are able to contribute or not.

2 The benefits must be high enough to provide for modern standards of living.

3 Social welfare must be financed out of general revenue.

The CCF believes that it is the responsibility of the Dominion government to establish a complete social security and socialized health system, based on the principles previously stated. Pending the assumption of this responsibility by the Dominion, a CCF government in B.C. will maintain, augment and initiate provincial social services.

The hospital insurance plan must be transformed into a genuine service for the people. This necessitates the recognition that hospital insurance, like any form of health insurance, cannot be self-supporting, but that it must be assisted by provincial revenue. Efficiency and economy must be introduced into hospital administration. The building of sufficient hospitals must be given priority in the provincial construction program and new institutions for the chronic and convalescent patients and the aged must be built to make more hospital accommodation available.

1 The CCF will reduce hospital insurance premiums to the former rate of \$21 single and \$33 for a family.

2 The Hospital Insurance Act will be amended to provide for free coverage of low income groups, the abolition of co-insurance, the supplying of adequate care for chronic cases and increased benefits for remote areas of the province.

3 A CCF government will gradually extend the hospital insurance plan into

a socialized health plan.

4 As long as the Dominion government refuses to assume responsibility for the unemployed who have exhausted or have not qualified for insurance benefits, provision will be made for them and their families, either by a provincial housing or public works project or by adequate allowances.

5 Pensions will be established for the unemployables, together with suitable retraining and rehabilitation schemes for the handicapped.

6 Special housing projects will be built and rents will be subsidized for aged and handicapped persons.

7 Our provincial hospitals, penal institutions and homes for the aged must be modernized, both in construction, administration and policy. Drug addicts and alcoholics must receive treatment in special institutions. A CCF government will immediately set up a commission to inquire into our penal methods and to recommend improvements.

No plan of social security can or will endure unless we progress from the system of private enterprise to that of public ownership, which alone can ensure the full employment and abundant production on which all social welfare is based.

Provincial-Municipal Relations

THE solution of municipal problems must be sought in a clear-cut decision as to municipal responsibilities and improved co-ordination of provincial and municipal activities. A CCF government will:

1 Sponsor an annual provincial-municipal conference, prior to the Legislative session, to discuss legislative changes and the general needs of municipalities.

2 Establish a municipal research department at the University of British Columbia. This department would work in co-operation with the Union of B.C. Municipalities.

3 Pay a service charge to municipalities on Crown property in lieu of taxation.

4 Enact a Provincial Planning Act,

drafted in consultation with the municipalities, to provide assistance to municipal governments and co-ordinate the planning of municipalities with regional areas.

5 Encourage the formation of metropolitan areas and co-ordination of metropolitan services.

6 After consultation with the municipalities, enact a Provincial Planning Act, enabling assistance to municipal governments in co-ordinating municipal and regional plans.

Roads

THE CCF will:

1 Undertake early completion of the PGE between Squamish and North Vancouver and further engineering study to decide the most practical highway route to connect Squamish, Britannia and Pemberton with Vancouver.

2 Use every effort to have the federal government construct inter-provincial highways.

3 Establish a road planning commission with representation of both the Public Works Department and independent bodies.

4 Establish road maintenance on the basis of natural geographic divisions rather than on a constituency basis.

5 Promote highway development policy for completion of links in the existing system of trans-provincial highways, needs of settled areas and the tourist industry.

6 Encourage co-operation between the Public Work Department and municipalities in road construction.

Finance

THE fiscal policy of a CCF government in the province must be determined in the light of the following facts:

The Dominion has the exclusive right to exercise those monetary controls which determine the amount of money and credit in circulation and which influence economic levels.

The province, which is in control of natural resources, civil and property

rights, can influence the expansion of wage and farm income. It can also provide opportunities for the investment of accumulated savings in the utilization of resources for social use.

The objectives of the CCF financial policy will be the maintenance and expansion of production and employment, and the maintenance and expansion of social services and education.

The maintenance and expansion of social services depends on government revenue derived from taxation and returns on public investment. Increased revenue in turn depends on rising production and employment levels. Public investment in the development and utilization of resources constitutes the only means available to the province to promote expansion of economic activity and to realize the social and economic aims of the CCF.

Investment will be undertaken to implement the CCF program of social ownership outlined in a preceding section. This involves the acquisition of existing plant and equipment, and alienated natural resources. Public corporations will be established with power to acquire such property, and to issue securities, guaranteed by the province, in compensation to the present owners.

The public corporations will undertake further public investments in new enterprises for which the capital will be secured through bond issues, as a contingent liability of the province. Each public corporation will be placed on a self-sustaining financial basis. Operating surplus over a period of years will be applied to the servicing and retiring of bonded indebtedness, to furthering provincial development, and contributing to the cost of social service and other provincial requirements. This transfers to the province the ownership of wealth-producing assets, and with it the power to plan, to an important extent, the distribution of income and the expansion of wealth production and employment.

Taxation policies will be designed to achieve redistribution of income on a more equitable basis through provision of necessary social services. Higher liv-

ing standards will create wider markets and stimulate the demand for increased productive capacity.

In particular a CCF government will:

1 Make provision for the provincial government to institute a provincial system of insurance to reduce the cost of insurance and provide additional revenue.

2 Provide for a province-wide automobile accident insurance plan at supply coverage at cost.

3 Introduce the necessary amendments to enable a steeply graduated natural resources tax on mineral and timber wealth.

4 Remove the Sales Tax from all meals, children's clothing, drugs and supplies for use in hospitals and provin-

cial institutions.

5 Establish a provincial assessment commission to which all local assessors would be responsible, with power to establish uniform assessment principles and to deal with inequitable situations.

6 Establish public corporations for the administration under authority of the legislature of the natural resources and/or enterprises placed under public ownership.

7 Negotiate with the Federal Government for an increased share of the revenue derived from personal and corporation taxes in the province under the tax rental agreement, and for the right under the escape clause in the existing agreement to impose a graduated tax for social services and to levy succession duties.

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