

This document is sourced from

McCarter, W. Kenneth (1976), *Party Platforms and Manifestos in BC Provincial Elections 1903-1975*, under the supervision of Professor A.C. Cairns, University of British Columbia.

Copyright ©1976 W. Kenneth McCarter

SOCIAL CREDIT MILESTONES

JUNE 12, 1952

Elected Minority Government

AUGUST 1, 1952

Accepted Office

JUNE 9, 1953

Elected Majority Government



HIGHLIGHTS FOR 1955 and 1956

SEPTEMBER 12, 1955

Victorious in Lillooet By-Election

JANUARY 9, 1956

Victorious in Vancouver Centre By-Election

BRITISH COLUMBIA FORGES AHEAD WITH SOCIAL CREDIT

Four years of stable Social Credit Government has seen British Columbia taking giant strides forward industrially, economically and physically. The progress and development is far greater than at any other time in the history of the Province. These highlights of Social Credit progress are some of the reasons:

- Road and rail transportation has been pushed forward.
- Industrial growth has been promoted.
- Payrolls have been increased.
- Jobs have been made more secure.
- New employment has been provided.
- The standard of living has been raised to highest world levels.
- Hospitalization for all has been provided.
- Pensions have been raised to the highest in Canada.
- The public debt has been reduced.
- Taxes have been lowered.
- The entire Province is being properly developed for the benefit of all its citizens.

All this means that British Columbia is today the fastest-growing, best-administered Province in Canada — the result of sound, far-seeing democratic policies of your Social Credit Government.

Victoria, B. C.
August 1, 1956

Dear Fellow British Columbians:

Four years have passed since I accepted office as Premier of British Columbia and every year has seen the fulfillment of assurances I made the citizens of our Province at that time.

I have no desire to make boasts about the progress of British Columbia because ours is a Province blessed by Nature and populated by a people of initiative, industry and honourable ambitions. I point out with great pride, however, that British Columbia has shown more progress and enjoyed greater prosperity under the administration of a Social Credit Government than ever before in our history.

I sincerely hope this message, and the facts disclosed in the following pages of this book will be read by every citizen of our Province. The tremendous development that has taken place in the last four years—a development that has attracted the attention of the whole world—does not just happen through chance. This is guided and controlled progress. This is the application of the policies and tenets of the Social Credit Movement. We have said it would be good for British Columbia. Now we are proving it.

The people of British Columbia wanted action. We are giving them action!

Very sincerely,



W. A. C. Bennett,
Premier of British Columbia.



Social Credit Leads the Way

IT NOT ONLY REDUCES TAXES— IT HELPS YOU PAY THEM

This is how the Social Credit Movement plans for the benefit of all the people of British Columbia:

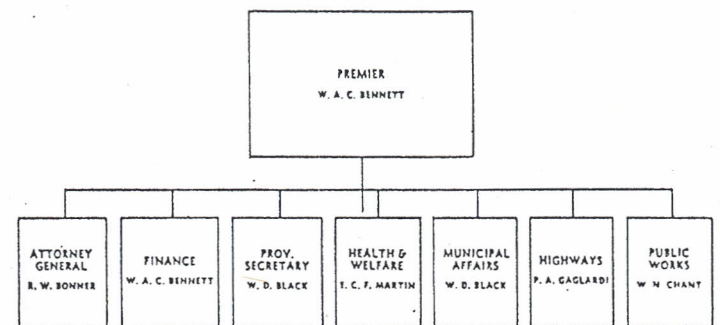
Your Social Credit Government will encourage British Columbians to own their own homes and will reduce their taxes by the introduction of revolutionary new legislation.

At the next session of the Legislature, a law will be introduced to authorize payment BY YOUR GOVERNMENT of approximately \$25.00 to \$30.00 of the individual home-owner's municipal taxes. This applies to farm owners and home owners in organized and unorganized territories.

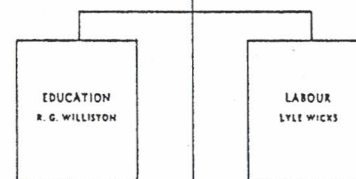
This will be of tremendous assistance to all, but especially those citizens who have found it difficult to cope with a universal trend toward increased taxes. The Provincial Government contribution will be made from the revenue from natural resources which in themselves belong to all the people.

Nowhere has such a direct step been taken to encourage home ownership and reduce taxes. This is Social Credit thinking.

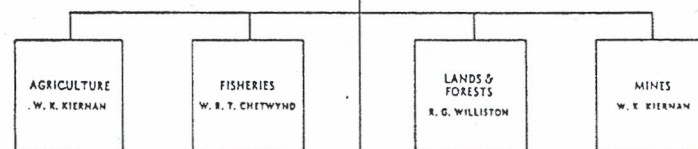
This Is Your Government



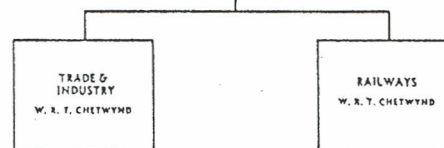
These departments are responsible for the general well-being of the people and the unified development of the Province.



Preparations for, and participation in the work of Society are major interests of Education and Labour.



The administration, management and harvesting of primary resources are centered in these departments.



The processing of raw materials, and distribution and marketing of the products, command the chief attention of these departments.

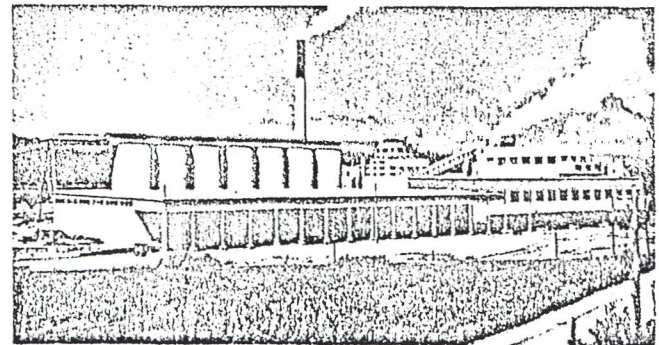
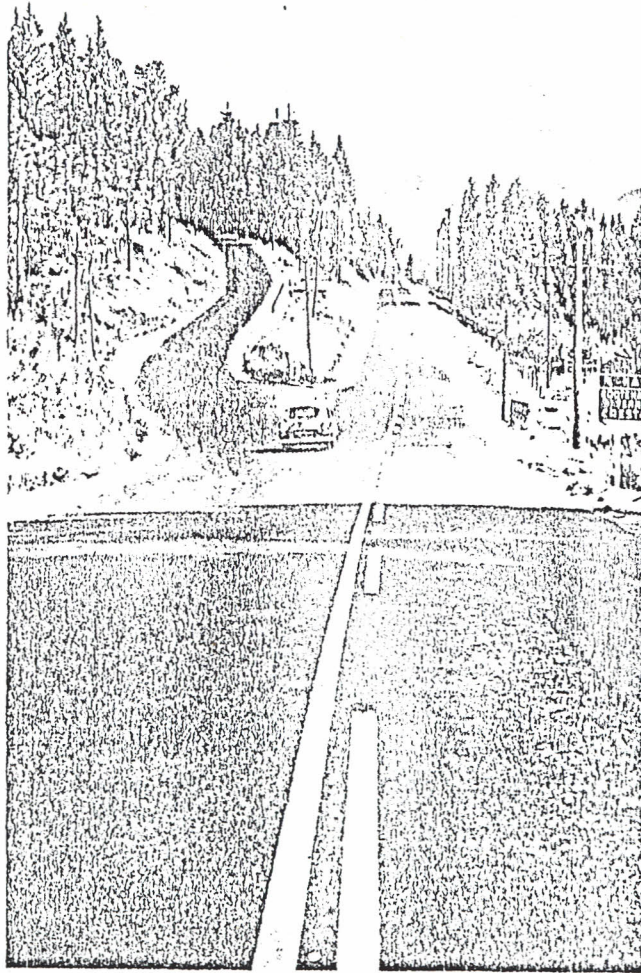
EXPANSION WITH SOCIAL CREDIT

Fastest Growing Province in Canada

The Social Credit Government has brought a new era in the economic, industrial and physical development of British Columbia. Steel rails have been laid for the development of a new economic empire; highways have been extended and improved; bridges are being built to link this Province with a modern transportation network that assures our prosperity, our economic and our financial welfare.

Social Credit has insured our health, given us all more employment at a higher standard of wages than ever before in the history of this naturally-endowed Province.

Social Credit's progressive Government policies have encouraged large investment by private capital; have brought about a tremendous upsurge in the proper development of our natural resources, and in the establishment and expansion of secondary industries.



Industry Expands Throughout Province

EXPANSION WITH SOCIAL CREDIT

Social Credit has guided this development for the benefit of all the people of British Columbia. There are now more than 1,300,000 of them in this Province. Our population has grown, retail sales are up, the net value of our manufacturers has more than doubled in less than 10 years. We are prosperous and our future is bright.

It is no idle boast to say that British Columbia is the fastest growing area in Canada. It has reached that position after four years of Social Credit administration.

The reasons for British Columbia's envied economic status, the reasons for the prosperity of the people of this Province, will be found in the Social Credit action and Social Credit planning as outlined in the ensuing pages of this book.

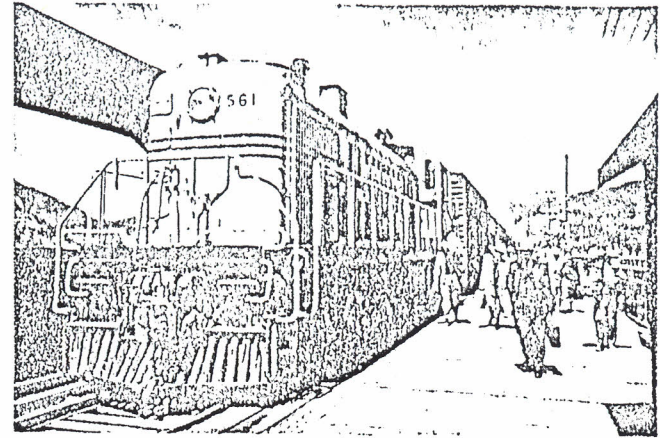
Your Government takes into account the long-range problems arising from the rapid industrial upsurge, as well as problems of Government which are met from day to day.

One of the most urgent problems confronting British Columbia when the Social Credit Government came into office was the lack of a modern transportation system—transportation so vital to the progressive development of our huge Province.

Within a four-year span your Government has taken resolute steps to give British Columbia the most modern transportation by rail and road in existence in Canada today.

Roads and bridges have been built and improved over hundreds of miles of British Columbia's terrain—a huge construction project undertaken by your Social Credit Government at a minimum of cost.

Social Credit Builds Prosperity



The P.G.E. Rolls After 40 Years of Waiting

Possibly the most important of these transportation links is your railway, which now joins the metropolitan area of Vancouver with the storehouse of natural wealth to the North.

The Pacific Great Eastern Railway construction job is the greatest railway construction project in North America in the last twenty years. It is one of the most important projects undertaken by any British Columbia Government in the past thirty years. It will result in the people of British Columbia owning the most modern railway in North America—a railway which is already becoming one of the greatest single contributions to the economic advancement and prosperity of your Province.

This railway is essential to the development of our resources. In the long run, the objective of your Social Credit Government is not only to provide this essential rail link between the Coast and the rich Peace River area, but to push Northward to the Yukon and Alaskan boundaries and to open up by rail the mineral-rich areas now inadequately served by the Alaska Highway.

Social Credit Gets Things Done

Social Credit

Premier Bennett states that if elected the Social Credit government during the next four years will:



W. A. C. BENNETT

Pay \$25 each year of every homeowner's taxes.

Continue its record-breaking highway building program, including extension of the Island Highway to Port Hardy, completion of the Trans-Canada Highway from Field to Victoria, construction of the northern Trans-Provincial Highway from Prince Rupert to Alberta, and completion of the southern Trans-Provincial Highway.

Complete the northern extension of the PGE into the Peace River area.

Establish a new department of government that will bring the outdoor recreational resources of the province within reach of all.

Continue an effective and extensive program of assistance to farmers.

Take "resolute steps" to-

wards the establishment of a steel industry.

Bring the attention of the world to the unlimited potentialities of the province through a well-organized centennial celebration throughout B.C.

Continue to provide "the best schools and the best

educational system in Canada."

Maintain its successful policy of attracting industry and private investment in the province.

And maintain a constant and uncompromising stand for a free democratic way of life.

PEACE OR WAR — This is the most decisive issue facing our Province and country. It is the pivot of provincial no less than national politics. The fight for world disarmament and for a policy of Canadian neutrality is the fight to save British Columbia — and all Canada — from the appalling destruction of a hydrogen-bomb war.

The fight to end Canada's participation in United States plans for atomic war, and to end the fantastic waste of money on armaments is as vital to B.C.'s economic welfare as it is to world peace. It holds the key to solving the economic and social problems that now plague our province.

The Social Credit government is an accomplice of the

Tories in Ottawa in a conspiracy that surrenders our fate to United States war provocations. It is an accomplice in a conspiracy that impoverishes the people by squandering our wealth on war preparations. None of the other parties — Liberals, Tories or even the CCF — are prepared to make this an issue. Communists are needed in the Legislature because they can be relied upon to consistently expose this conspiracy, while fighting for new policies of peace and people's welfare.

After eight years of Social Credit rule, thousands in B.C. are unemployed. More layoffs are coming. Unemployment insurance benefits are running out. Many families face seizure of their belongings, evictions and destitution. Municipal taxes and school costs have soared. The tax load has become intolerably heavy, and is still increasing. Big Business favoritism is rampant. Rich natural resources have been surrendered to private monopolies. Graft and corruption has sent one Social Credit cabinet minister to the penitentiary.

Now, secret deals are being made to turn one-tenth of this province over to the foreign Wenner Gren trust, and to establish secret U.S. bases in B.C. Such bases, with which the U.S. hopes to fight a war outside its own borders, would become a prime military target making a "nuclear crematorium" of this province.

Meanwhile, the U.S. atomaniacs relentlessly accelerate their drive to war. Aggressive declarations, provocative international incidents, and bellicose propaganda originating in Washington have driven us to the brink of war.

But we do not have to be helpless victims of this disastrous policy. Neutrality — the disengagement of our country from all military pacts and from U.S. provocations — can contribute immeasurably to world peace.

Not only can neutrality save us from the catastrophe of war, but can make it possible to divert huge sums of government money — now wasted on war preparations — to people's welfare. Taxes could be cut. More money spent on education, health, social services, and pensions. Moreover, jobs could be created through peaceful construction, and Canada, freed from participation in the U.S. cold war policy of boycott, could find new markets.

The lavish promises of other parties are worthless be-

cause they do not face up to this central issue.

Bold new policies, based on peace, construction, and the people's welfare, instead of the suicidal perspective and waste of war, are what British Columbia needs — and what we Communists fight for.

We hold that Socialism (under which the principle means of producing and distributing wealth will be the common property of all) alone can successfully meet the challenge of automation and the electronic-nuclear age, and use the great new skills and tools of technology and science for the well-being of all Canadians.

As a first step toward this goal, we must unite to win policies that will use all our human and material resources to build for peace and a better life NOW. The B.C. Legislature must have Communists among its members to speak the truth, expose the monopolies, and voice the needs of our people. The Communist Party fights for:

1. PEACE POLICIES, JOBS:

Give expression to the foremost desire of British Columbians — the desire for peace. Insist that Ottawa take a resolute stand for a ban on nuclear and chemical war testing, for general and complete world disarmament, for removal of all U.S. bases on our soil. Work for sending of B.C. trade missions to foreign lands, including People's China and the socialist countries. Fight for diversion of money wasted on monopoly war contracts to provide an "emergency crash program" of 75,000 jobs, to expand public works and construction,

make employers responsible for "severance pay" in case of layoffs. Insist that employment be made a fundamental right of every citizen with equal provincial and federal responsibility to honor this right. Provide for a moratorium on evictions and seizures resulting from unemployment.

2. RELIEF FOR MUNICIPAL TAXPAYERS:

Communists will support demands of the Union of B.C. Municipalities for increased grants to lighten the burden of municipal taxes; to have the costs of elementary and secondary education, of social welfare, capital costs of hospital construction, and all costs of highways forming

part of arterial systems within municipalities, borne by the provincial and federal governments. Pay the municipalities a grant equal to the taxes that would normally come from provincially-owned properties within each municipality. Repeal the sales tax, and cancel all bridge tolls.

3. DEVELOP B.C. RESOURCES:

Communists will fight for development of a province-wide, provincially-owned power grid to provide electricity and natural gas to industry, farm and home at cost. Legislate to curb U.S. monopoly control of B.C. industries, and to put an end to secret agreements like Wenner-Gren. Cancel all giveaways and forest management licences. Encourage the devel-

opment of basic and secondary industries in B.C. Bring the B.C. Electric and B.C. Telephone under public ownership, as well as key industries closing down and creating acute employment hardships.

4. PEOPLE'S WELFARE FIRST:

Communists will fight to expand hospital facilities and to introduce a complete medical and social security program through introduction of an "Industrial Social Security Tax" levied against the earnings (above a basic minimum) of those corporations using up the province's rich forest, mineral, oil, gas, hydro and fishery resources. Communists will fight to extend education and raise the standard of education, guaranteeing free education up to and including university for all who qualify.

5. SAVE THE FAMILY FARM:

Communists will fight for guaranteed prices (that will cover cost of production and assure a reasonable return on labor and investment) on that portion of production necessary and sufficient to maintain the family type farm. To help secure new markets through provincial and federal action to halt U.S. dumping. To expand the home market, developing foreign trade. To provide long-term low-interest loans, a crop insurance scheme, increased grants for the Department of Agriculture, and more assistance for irrigation, drainage and river bank protection.

6. PROTECT LABOR'S RIGHTS:

Communists will fight for the repeal of Bills 43 and 123, replacing them with a Bill of Rights that will guarantee to all employees the right to organize, to bargain collectively, to strike and picket, and that will speed up mediation of disputes in order to avoid, wherever possible, unnecessary stoppages. To reduce the Hours of Work Act to a maximum of 40 hours. To increase minimum wages, bringing them in line with present-day standards and needs, equalizing the scale for men and women. Amend the Workmen's Compensation Act to provide complete coverage for all classes of employment and all occupational diseases and disabilities, and to increase compensation allowances and pensions, and provide for a fairer system of administration as well as an elected appeal tribunal independent of the Workmen's Compensation Board and the courts.

7. FULL RIGHTS FOR ALL:

Communists will fight to guarantee to all citizens of B.C. the fundamental rights of free speech, press, assembly, and organization, freedom of religious and political opinions, a guarantee that would provide severe penalties for the advocacy of war, racial hatred or discrimination. Full recognition of the rights and needs of our Native Indian people. Grant the vote to all citizens at the age of 18 in provincial and municipal elections.

8. HONEST, DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT:

Communists will fight for legislation to have all MLA's and cabinet ministers who en-

gage in speculation, profiteering, or any form of political corruption, held fully accountable by law for their criminal actions and to make all MLA's subject to recall at the demand of their constituents.

Vote for peace, Canadian independence, and jobs!

Vote against big business favoritism and the monopoly domination of government!

Vote for withdrawal of all U.S. bases from B.C.

Work and vote for elected representatives who will heed the people's needs!

Work and vote for those who stand for genuine, all-in, farmer-labor unity!

Let the voice of the Communist Party be heard in the B.C. legislature!