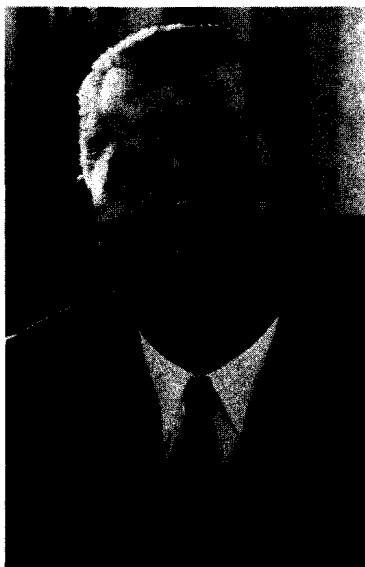


# **A personal report from the Premier**

**17 years of achievement  
by the Government that  
puts people before politics**



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July 2, 1969

My fellow citizens:

The aim of this personal report is a simple, straightforward one: to present clearly and concisely the facts of British Columbia's dynamic progress towards a better life during the years since 1952. Not extravagant promises, not "me too" claims, but basic facts proved by the record.

The past 17 years have been exciting, rewarding years for the people of British Columbia. For me and for the members of my Government they have been doubly rewarding, because they have given us the opportunity to serve every one of you and to put into effect policies which will ensure the continued growth of this great Province for the benefit of all future generations.

We have never claimed perfection; we make no such claim now. But we do believe that a fair and objective look at the record demonstrates that this has been, is and will continue to be a good government, dedicated to the best interests of every citizen.

Please take the time to read this brief report. As I said, it contains no extravagant promises, no second guessing—only basic facts. I believe they are vitally important to you, the shareholders of this Province who have entrusted to us the direction of your public affairs.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "W.A.C. Bennett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

W. A. C. Bennett  
Premier of British Columbia

# Building our Province for the benefit of every British Columbia Citizen

Remember what British Columbia was like at the beginning of 1952?

The hospital insurance scheme was in chaos and no one had the protection and benefits they have now.

There were no safe, modern highways to open up the interior and northern areas and bind the province together.

The Pacific Great Eastern Railway was a "white elephant" with rails that didn't even come into the Vancouver industrial area.

There was no great ferry fleet as there is today. Getting to and from Vancouver Island was more of a struggle than a pleasure.

Tourism, with its vast potential for creating new jobs throughout the Province, was virtually untapped — a far cry from the \$350 million a year business it is today.

Even in 1952, an electric power crisis loomed, and nothing was being done to provide the massive, low-cost new supplies so urgently needed to raise everyone's standard of living—supplies that were provided only because of the Social Credit Government's bold policy for simultaneous development of the Peace and Columbia rivers.

Only 10 per cent of the Provincial budget was spent on education . . . now it's more than 32 per cent.

British Columbia's mining industry was a mere shadow of what it is today. The rapidly-growing oil and gas industry, which annually returns millions of dollars to the public treasury, was non-existent.

Vancouver's skyline reflected little interest in new office buildings. Think back, and compare it to today's soaring towers of steel and concrete that have changed the city more dramatically in the last 10 years than in all its previous history.

In 1952 there was no Provincial Government assistance to help you buy a new home . . . no Homeowner Grant to help you pay your local property taxes . . . and the economy was saddled with the burden of a huge



Provincial debt compared to today's pay-as-you-go, debt-free budget.

There was no Bank of British Columbia . . . no Human Rights Commission . . . no comprehensive Consumer Protection Act . . . no program to restore our most precious historic landmarks . . . no effort to preserve and expand provincial parks for the enjoyment of our people, now and for all time to come . . . no parity development bonds to help the people of British Columbia invest in their own province . . . no cultural and sports and physical fitness funds in perpetuity . . . no low-cost medicare program for every man, woman and child regardless of age or income . . .

Looking at the record, your Social Credit Government's achievement over those 17 years has never been equalled in this Province or indeed, by any other government in Canada.

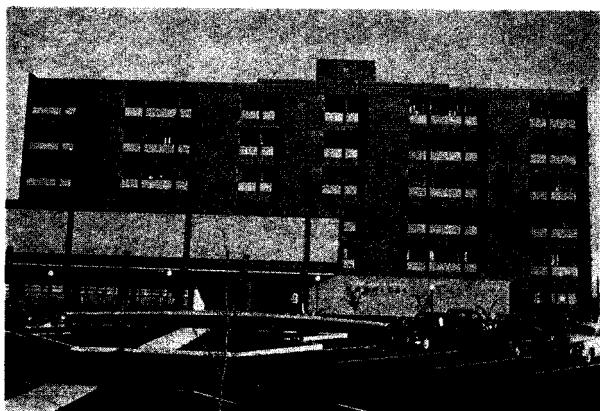
The beneficiaries of this great work are **you and your family!**

# Hospitals

*17 years ago hospital construction was virtually at a standstill and BCHIS was in chaos...*

Today in British Columbia there are 12,400 hospital beds and the number is growing rapidly every year: **660 new beds in 1968 alone!**

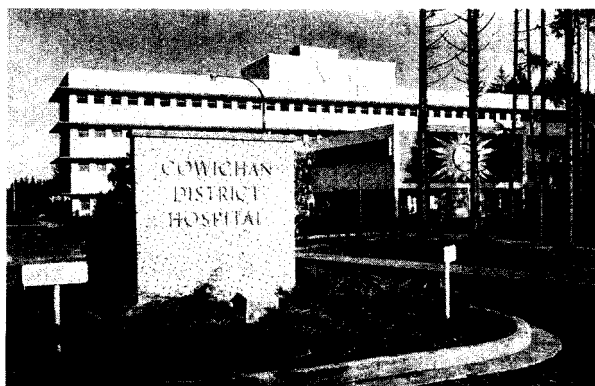
Since 1952, while British Columbia's population has risen by 78 per cent, your Government's contribution for hospitals has increased by 786 per cent—**ten times the population growth rate!**



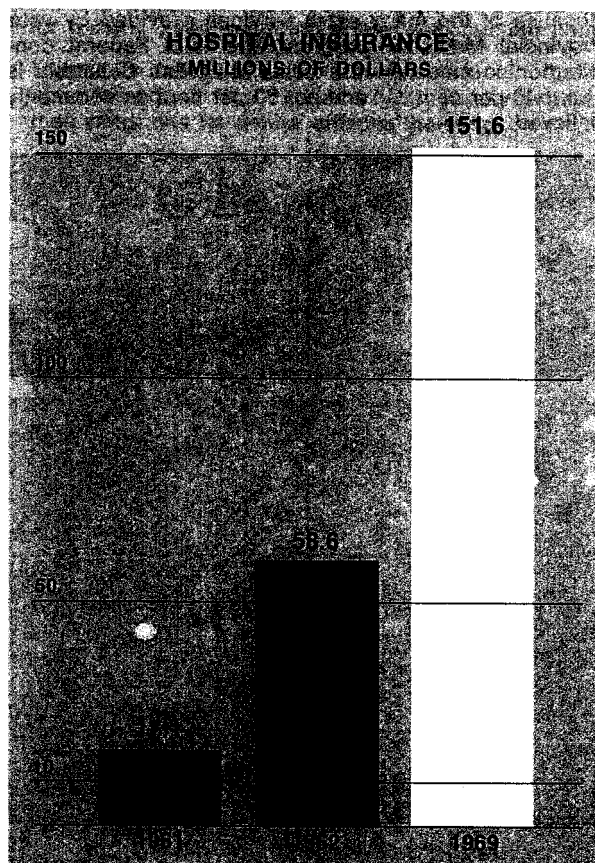
Peace Arch District Hospital



Cranbrook and District Hospital



Cowichan District Hospital



## Medicare

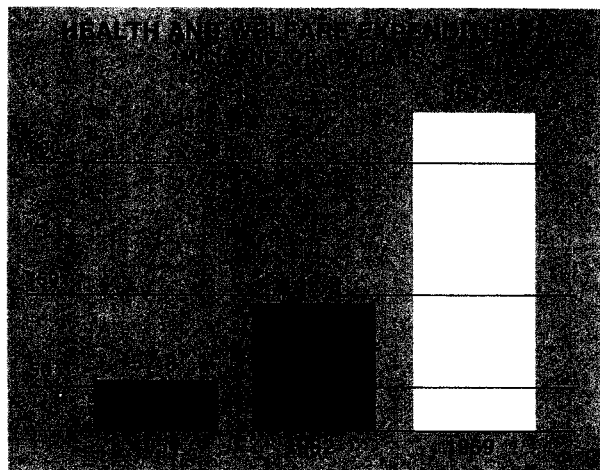
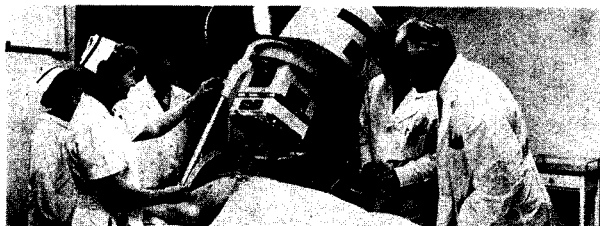
*17 years ago you had to pay your own doctor's bills without a penny's worth of government help...*

Today, British Columbia has the finest pre-paid medicare program of any province in Canada . . . and had it **before** the Federal Government began to pay a share of Medicare in 1968.

The program is available to every citizen of British Columbia.

No one need go without the finest medical attention. Your Provincial Government helps low-income families by paying from 50 to 90 per cent of their premiums.

Because of the many **extra** services provided by your Provincial Medicare program, the total Federal contribution to medical care costs in British Columbia is about 40 per cent . . . and not 50 per cent as commonly believed.



## Welfare

*17 years ago, the pioneers who gave so much to this Province were being left behind...*

Today, they enjoy the **highest pensions and most generous welfare plan in Canada.**

Since 1952, social assistance allowances have risen from a maximum of \$86.50 to a **minimum** of \$191.00 a month for a couple with two children.

Medical and dental care, as well as medicines are provided for all unemployables and their dependents receiving social assistance.

Welfare payments have been increased substantially for foster homes, boarding homes and nursing homes.

Thanks to extensive Government aid, local organizations throughout the Province have greatly expanded their programs for **senior citizens' housing.**



Senior Citizens' Housing, Kamloops

# Education

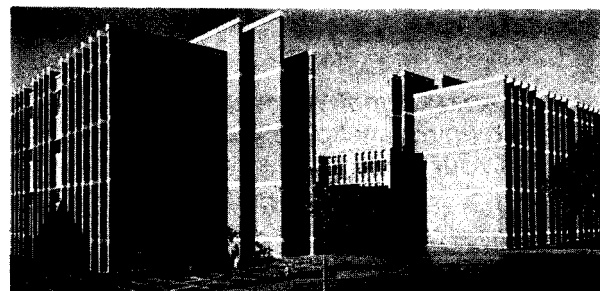
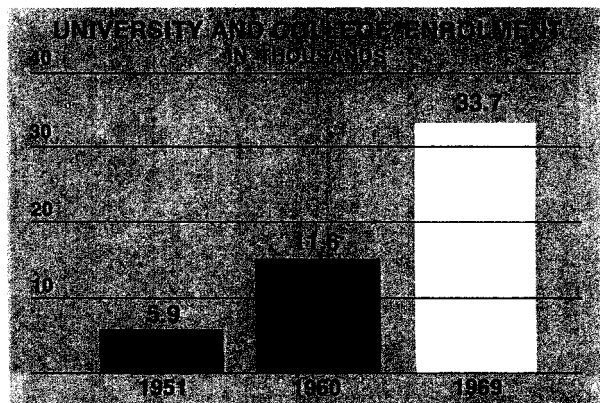
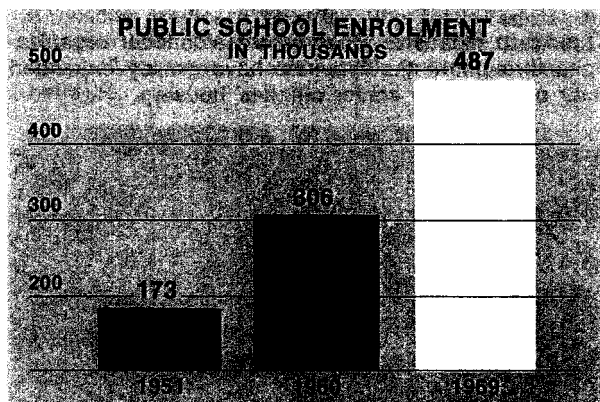
*17 years ago less than half of British Columbia's students reached Grade 12...*

Today in British Columbia, more students enrol in secondary and post-secondary education than in any other province in Canada . . . and **79 per cent of them reach Grade 12.**

British Columbia has the best-qualified and highest paid teachers in Canada.

More schools and gymnasiums per capita are being built here than in any other province.

It all adds up to **the best educational system in the country.**



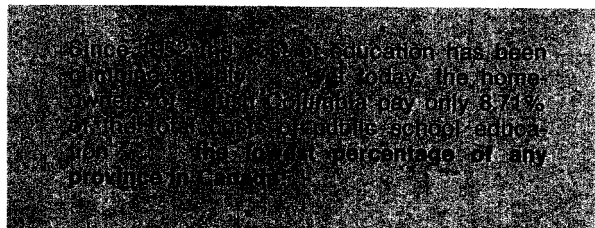
The last 17 years has seen the greatest expansion of university facilities in British Columbia's history.



The rapidly growing need for trained people is being met by the British Columbia Institute of Technology, Provincial Vocational Schools, Adult Education and retraining programs.



British Columbia is the only province in Canada where university students with good marks have a portion of their tuition fees paid by the Provincial Government.



## Homes

*17 years ago if you wanted  
to own a new home you were  
on your own...*

Today, British Columbia is the only Province in Canada where the Provincial Government will help you build a new home with a

**\$1000 HOME ACQUISITION GRANT**  
or a fully-insured

**\$5000 SECOND MORTGAGE LOAN**  
at lower interest than the current Federal N.H.A. first mortgage rate.



## Homeowner Grant

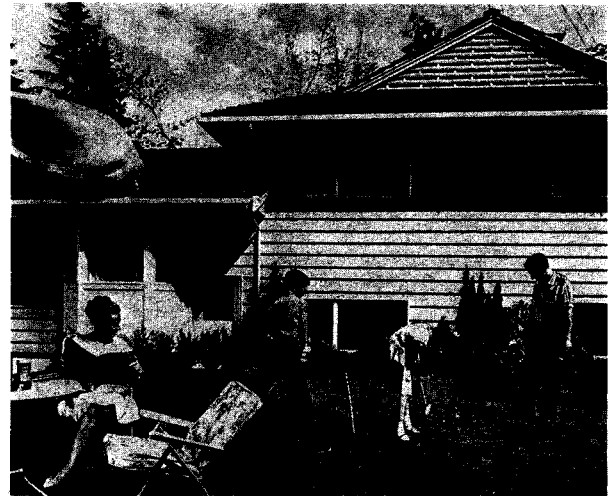
*17 years ago you had to pay every  
penny of your own property taxes...*

To relieve the pressure of rising property taxes on the homeowners of British Columbia and to encourage the buying and building of new homes, the Provincial Government was the first in Canadian history to help its citizens pay their local taxes with a special Homeowner Grant.

The first grant was \$28. This year it was increased to a record **\$150**.

Here's how the grant has grown:

Years	Maximum Amount of Grant
1957/59	\$ 28
1960/62	\$ 50
1963	\$ 70
1964	\$ 85
1965	\$100
1966	\$110
1967	\$120
1968	\$130
1969	\$150



## Special Dividends

\$130,000,000 now invested in these special funds to provide "dividends" for British Columbians of all ages:

**\*\$25,000,000 FIRST CITIZENS' FUND** to help British Columbia's native Indians.

**\*\$10,000,000 PHYSICAL FITNESS AND AMATEUR SPORTS FUND** to encourage physical health.

**\*\$10,000,000 BRITISH COLUMBIA CULTURAL FUND** to support arts and culture.

**\$25,000,000 PROVINCIAL MAJOR DISASTER FUND.**

**\*\$5,000,000 AGRICULTURAL AID TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND WORLD DISASTERS FUND**

**\$25,000,000 BRITISH COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT BUILDING FUND**

*\*Perpetual Funds*

The four perpetual funds will provide long-term capital for investment in British Columbia's schools and hospitals.



## No debt

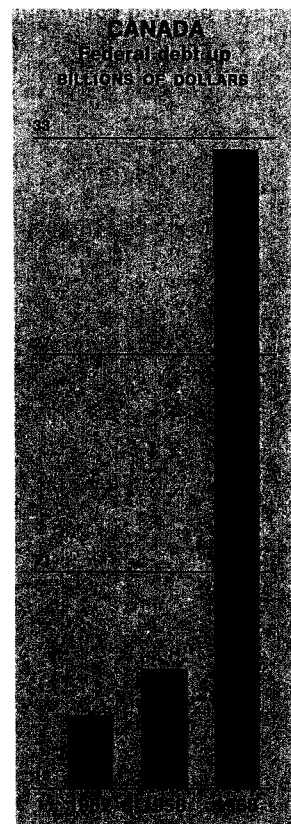
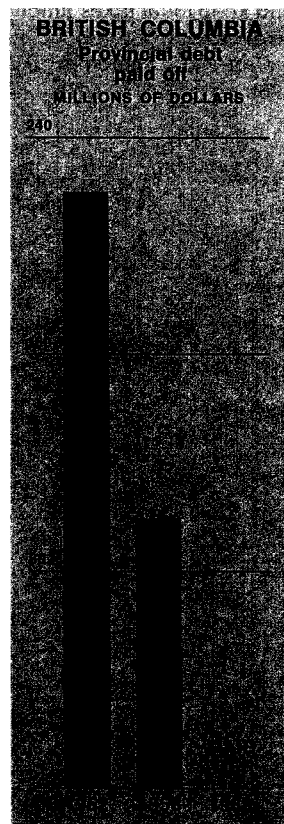
*17 years ago British Columbia had a net debt of \$222 million and only \$189 million worth of assets...*

Today, British Columbia has

- no public debt
- no interest costs
- assets worth \$1.15 billion

With the costly fetters of public debt removed, the **entire** Provincial income is being used for services that benefit everyone in the Province.

Contrast this with the Federal income: the first 14 cents of **every tax dollar** is paid to service an enormous national debt of \$32.9 billion!





## Local Governments

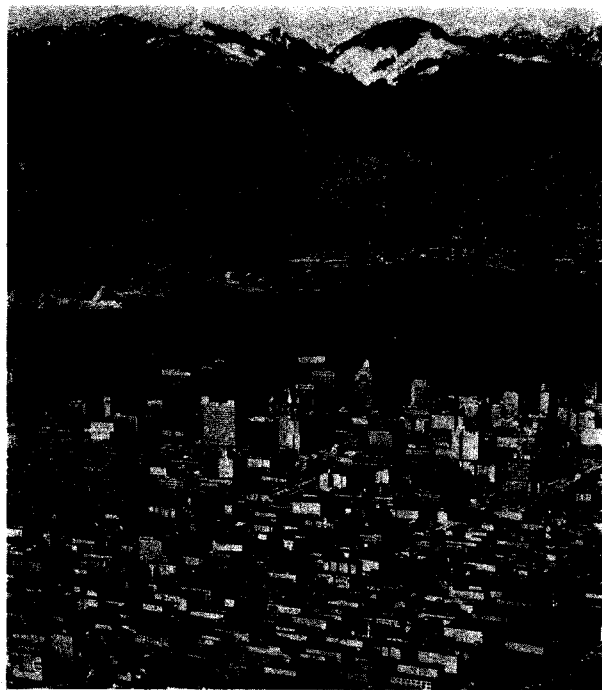
*17 years ago our cities and towns were stagnating without enough industry and development to grow on...*

What a different story it is today!

The growth of business and industry has created new jobs and tax revenues in cities and towns from one end of British Columbia to the other.

Vast new highway, railroad, hydro-electric power and pipeline projects have brought prosperity to communities of every size.

And to help the municipalities pay for the needs of their rapidly-growing populations and keep local taxes among **the lowest in Canada**, your Government increased its financial assistance from a total of \$65.7 million in 1952 to a **record \$573.9 million** in 1969.



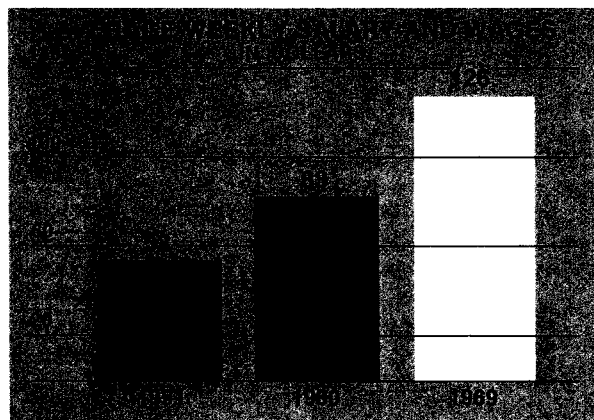
## Jobs

*17 years ago the future looked bleak for young people trying to find work...*

Since then the dramatic growth and diversification of industry in British Columbia has created **over 360,000 more jobs** and today the work force is increasing **twice as fast as the national average**.

The economic indicators of 1969 are well on the way to breaking all records and industrial expansion is continuing throughout the Province.

By 1980, British Columbia will have a population of 3 million people . . . retail trade will increase from \$2.73 billion to \$4.87 billion . . . and there will be **400,000 more jobs than now!**



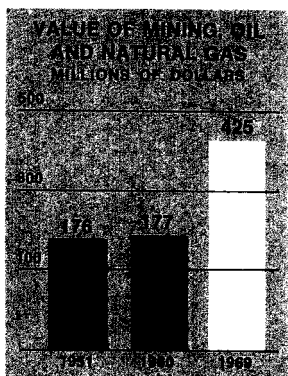
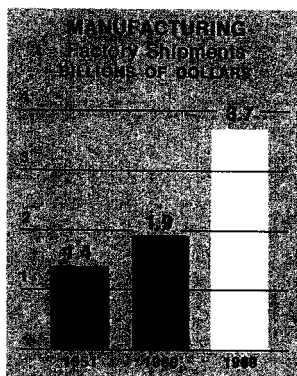
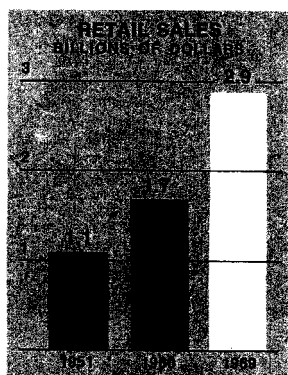
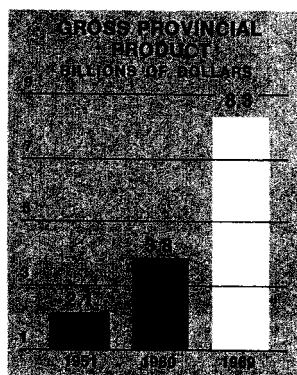
# Industrial Expansion

*more jobs  
more money  
more benefits  
more opportunities . . .*

the results of the greatest era of industrial growth in the history of the province

In the past seventeen years there has been more development of British Columbia's vast natural **and** human resources than in all the other years put together.

These four charts tell the story:



Growth of such dimensions has meant billions in investment money . . . expanding cities and completely new towns . . . new homes for a growing population . . . and thousands of additional jobs at wage rates that are among the highest in Canada.

Today, the people of British Columbia have **more money to spend than ever before and enjoy the highest standard of living in history.**

TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME IN 1951 WAS  
\$1,568,000,000

TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME IN 1968 WAS  
\$5,300,000,000

# Taxes

Since 1961 taxes have been raised by the Federal Government and all Provincial governments **except British Columbia**.

In the past 8 years while taxes everywhere else went up **your Provincial taxes went down**.

Here's how your taxes compare with the other provinces:

## COMPARATIVE PROVINCIAL RATES, APRIL 1969

Province	Motor Fuels (Cents per Gallon)		Income Taxes (% of Federal)		Retail Sales Tax %	Amuse- ments %	Annual Hospital Insurance Premiums	Private Passenger Vehicle Licence Fee	Poll Taxes (Provincial and Municipal Non-property Taxes)
	Gasoline	Diesel	Personal	Corporation					
British Columbia .....	13	15	28	10	5 <sup>1</sup>	Nil	Nil	\$22.50	Nil
Alberta .....	15	17	33	11	Nil	Nil	4-mill prop- erty tax	22.00	Nil
Saskatchewan .....	17	20	33	11	5	City levy	\$24 single \$48 family	20.00	Nil
Manitoba .....	17	20	33	11	5	10	\$43.20 single \$86.40 family	24.75	Nil
Ontario .....	18	24	33	12	5 <sup>2</sup>	10	\$60 single \$122 family	35.00	\$10 maximum municipal
Quebec .....	19	25	33	12	8	10	Nil	35.00	\$2 maximum municipal
New Brunswick .....	20	23	33	10	6	11	Nil	30.00	Nil
Nova Scotia .....	21	27	33	10	7	10	Nil	35.00	\$40 maximum municipal and \$10 maximum school
Prince Edward Island .....	21	21	33	10	7	10	Nil	35.00	\$10 maximum municipal and \$40 maximum school
Newfoundland .....	25	30	33	13	7	Nil	Nil	22.50	\$5 maximum school

# Forest Industry

*17 years ago there were only  
9 small pulp and paper mills  
in British Columbia...*

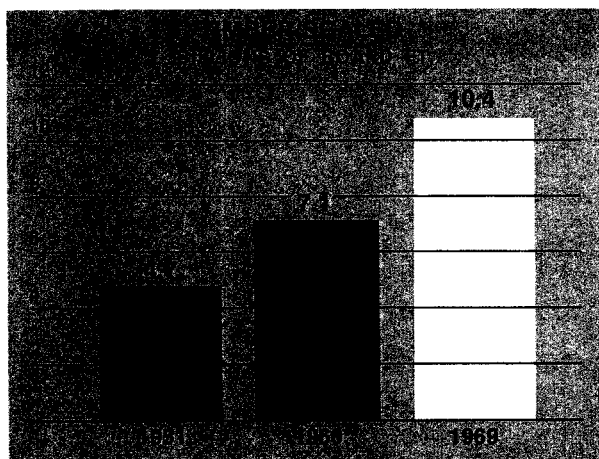
Today there are 21 major producing units with a capacity of 6 million tons a year compared with an output of only 1.5 million tons in 1952—an increase of 400 percent!

Between 1965 and 1968 alone, seven new pulp and paper mills have come into operation. They represent a total capital investment of \$413 million and involve the participation of six other countries.

17 years ago only a few trees were being planted to replace the many being cut down. Today—to preserve this great resource for the benefit of the generations to come—the Government's sustained yield program sees to it that at least one tree replaces every tree cut down and that the annual cut does not exceed the annual growth.

British Columbia's forest industry earns the Province well over a billion dollars a year. It directly employs more than 80,000 people and indirectly provides a livelihood for tens of thousands more.

It produces 71 per cent of the nation's lumber, 81 per cent of its plywood, 100 per cent of its red cedar roofing, 24 per cent of its pulp and 15 per cent of its paper—all this with less than 10 per cent of Canada's population.



To meet world demand for British Columbia's forest products, more than \$1.7 billion will be invested in new plants and equipment by 1975. This will result in thousands of new jobs and millions of dollars in additional Provincial income.

# Tourism

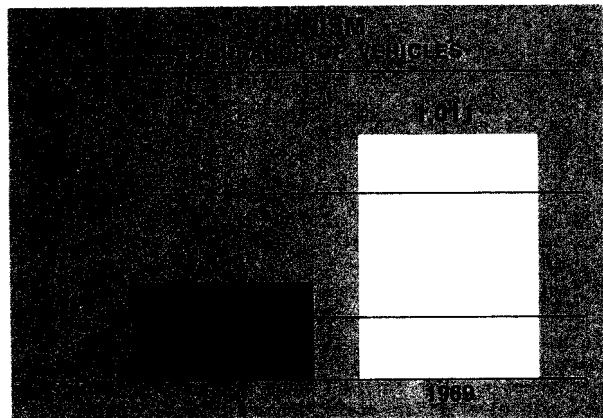
*17 years ago bad roads, limited accommodation and not enough parks kept people away from British Columbia...*

Today, tourism is the fourth largest industry in British Columbia and one of the fastest-growing.

**This year it will earn over \$350 million.**

The number of tourists who will visit British Columbia this year will be almost **three times the size of British Columbia's population!**

Your Department of Travel Industry is promoting the many attractions of your Province through a large advertising and public relations program and the "Beautiful British Columbia" magazine.



17 years ago there were only 62 Provincial Parks in British Columbia. Today there are over 260.

## Oil and Gas

*17 years ago the oil and gas industry in British Columbia was non-existent...*

Today, it is a \$75.3 million industry and one of the three top contributors of net Provincial revenue.

Last year the people of British Columbia gained **\$36.6 million from crown leases, rentals and royalties.**

Vast reserves of oil and gas have been allocated to serve the needs of British Columbia's great future growth.

The known gas reserves exceed 7 trillion cubic feet and are growing every year. The discovery rate of new oil and gas wells in British Columbia is the **highest** on the continent.

In 1968 alone, the industry spent \$27.5 million on exploration and drilling. Compare this with 17 years ago when almost nothing was spent!



## Mining

*17 years ago less than \$2 million was spent on mineral exploration in British Columbia...*

This year alone mining companies will spend more than \$35 million to explore more than 60,000 mining claims throughout the Province.

The development of new mines in British Columbia is overshadowing the wildest dreams of 17 years ago. Names like Bethlehem, Endako, Granisle, Cassiar and Craigmont are household words; they are just a few of the many mines contributing to the dynamic growth of British Columbia.

In 1952 the value of mineral production in this Province was \$171.4 million. This year it will be more than \$350 million and by 1979 — just ten years from now — will be worth over a billion dollars. The result: new jobs . . . new industries . . . new towns . . . and more Provincial revenues for the benefit of every citizen.



# Farming

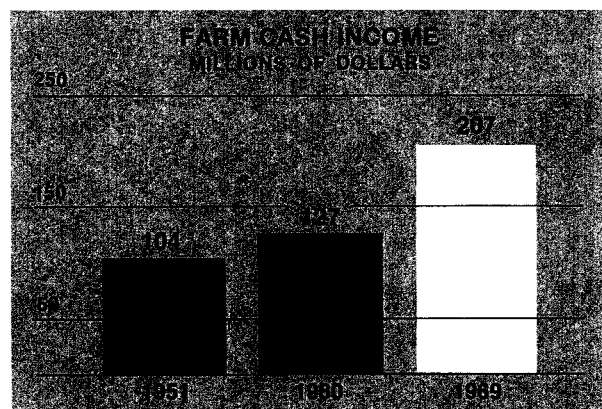
*17 years ago, British Columbia's agriculture industry earned half the dollars it earns today...*

The agriculture industry today is the fifth largest in the Province.

In terms of investment, it is a billion-dollar industry and last year earned over \$207 million.

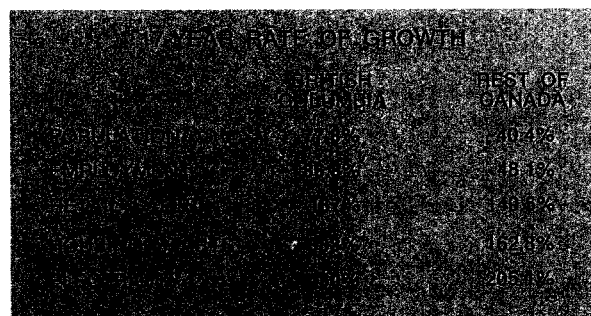
Since 1952, the Provincial Government has

- helped farmers clear more agricultural land by far than the acreage taken over for urban development...
- helped improve the quality of dairy herds...
- ensured the highest standards of hygiene and quality control.



# Growth

British Columbia  
growing faster  
than the rest of Canada



## Gross Provincial Product/Gross National Product

Billions of dollars

	1951	1960	1969	GROWTH 1951/69
British Columbia	2.1	3.8	8.3	282%
Canada	21.5	36.3	72.8	239%





# Highways

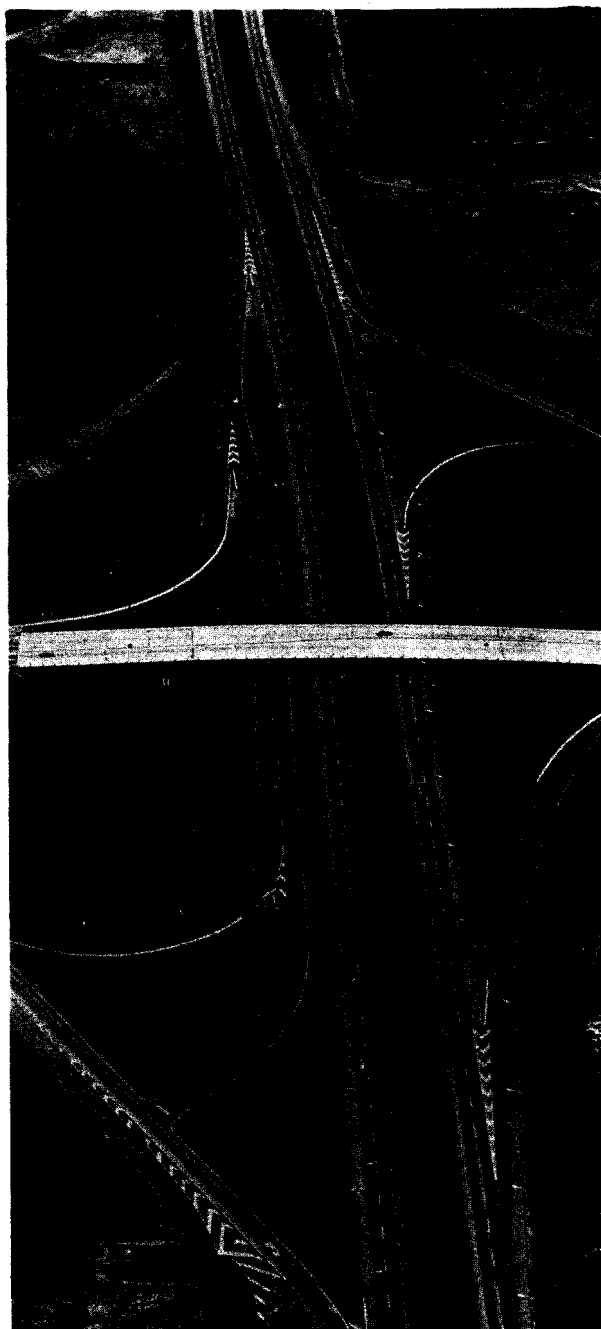
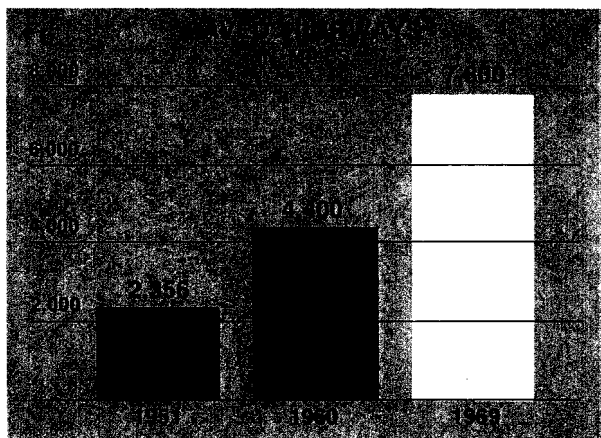
*17 years ago British Columbia's roads were a disgrace . . . our cities and towns isolated and deprived of the chance to grow and prosper through fast, safe highway communication...*

Today, British Columbia has **the finest toll-free highway system in the world.**

Since 1952, the Department of Highways has built and rebuilt 514 bridges and more than 7,800 miles of highways throughout British Columbia.

This great achievement was financed out of the gasoline tax which is **the lowest** in Canada despite the highest road-building costs per mile.

**By the end of this year, British Columbia will have 5 major west-east and 5 major north-south highways.**





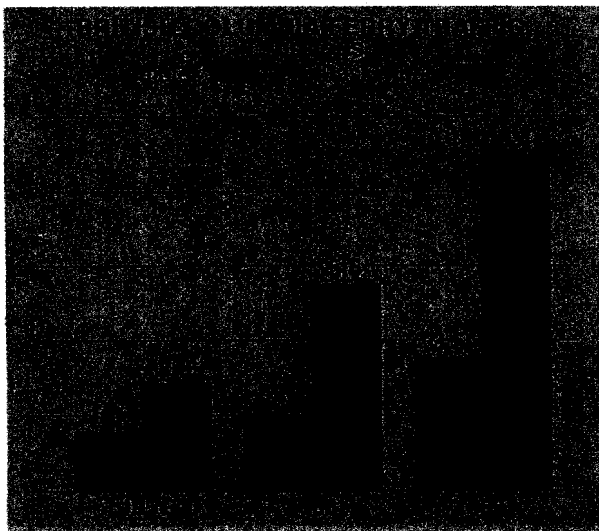
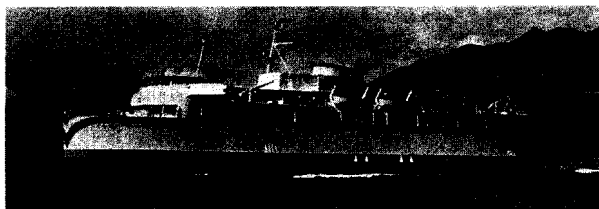
## Ferries

*17 years ago Vancouver Island's growth was shackled for want of a better, faster, more reliable ferry service...*

A government that gets things done never hesitates when the public calls for action. To put an end to Vancouver Island's isolation the Government built the largest and most modern ferry fleet of its kind in the world.

The fleet linked Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands and the mainland together to the economic benefit of all . . . **and at no cost to the general taxpayer.**

In 1960 the ferries carried 1.1 million passengers. In 1969 the fleet of 22 ships will carry **four times as many!**



# Power

*17 years ago time was running out on the urgent need to solve British Columbia's growing shortage of electric power...*

Today, British Columbia is the most electrified province in Canada.

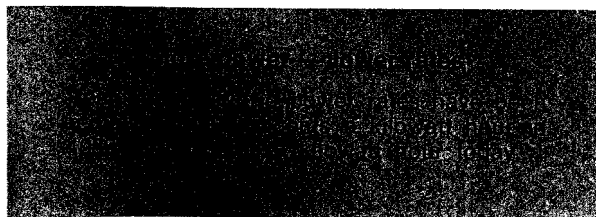
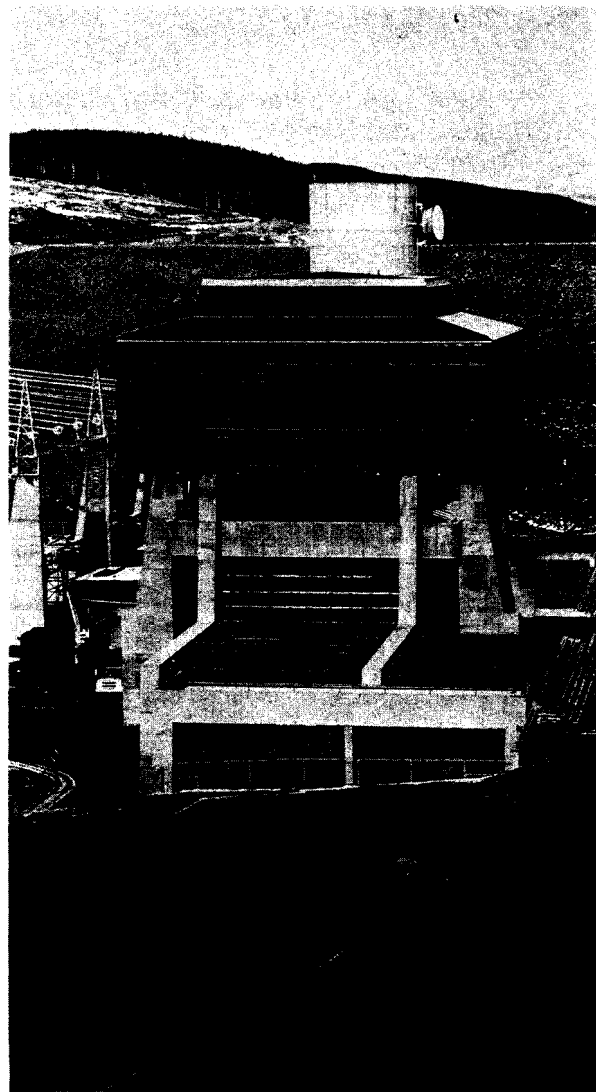
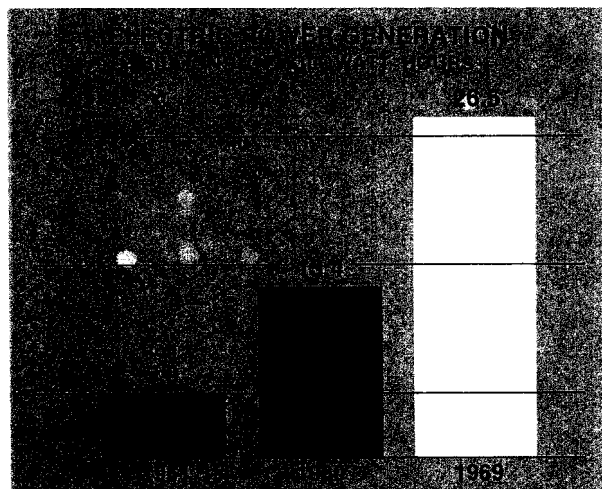
Instead of talking about the urgent need for electric power, the Provincial Government began building two of North America's largest hydro-electric projects—on the Peace and Columbia rivers.

And not a minute too soon!

Since 1952, the demand for electric power in British Columbia has increased 500 per cent. It has doubled since 1962 and will double again by 1978 to meet the needs of new and expanding industries, the development of vast new reserves of natural wealth, and the building of thousands of new homes.

The Peace started producing power in September, 1968—well ahead of schedule. The Duncan and Keenleyside Dams in the Columbia River Basin are also finished ahead of schedule and the Mica Dam will be in operation by 1973.

**The cost of these three massive projects has been met without one dollar of Provincial tax revenues.**



# The PGE

*17 years ago the Pacific Great Eastern Railway was a public joke...*

Today, the PGE is a tremendous source of public pride. It is one of the major driving forces behind British Columbia's booming economy.

Since 1952, its trackage has trebled, carloadings have increased 600 per cent and revenues 700 per cent.

Last year the PGE hauled 4,130,534 tons of freight . . . **the highest tonnage in its history.** Today, the PGE is showing a profit after paying all operating costs, all interest and all depreciation.

Wheat and forest products, minerals and the by-products of petroleum begin their journey to the markets of the world on the expanding PGE. The railway has played a big part in the expansion of industry and jobs in the Lower Mainland and is the most important single factor in the development of British Columbia's northern interior regions. The result has been dramatic growth for communities all along the line.





## It pays to live and work in British Columbia

Since 1952:  
population up 78%

WAGES UP 100%

British Columbia's population is growing at twice the rate of the rest of Canada. From 1,065,470 in 1952 to 1,907,100 in 1960.

During the same period the average weekly salary of British Columbian wage-earners climbed from \$53 a week to \$104 a week—the highest in Canada.

The record  
speaks for itself.  
Under this administration,  
British Columbia  
really is moving ahead!