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1979

# **SOCIAL CREDIT WORKS. FOR YOU.**

**Achievements and commitments  
of your Social Credit government**



**British Columbia  
Social Credit  
Party**

# **SOCIAL CREDIT WORKS TO ENSURE A BETTER LIFE AND SECURE FUTURE FOR EVERY BRITISH COLUMBIAN**

Since taking office, your Social Credit government has restored the health of our economy, while providing a wide range of programs for people. Here's a summary of achievements to date, and commitments for the future . . .



# HEALTH AND HOSPITAL CARE

## Achievements

- introduced long-term care program, reducing the cost of intermediate and personal care for thousands of people in B.C., and allowing many infirm persons to remain in their homes.
- resumed new hospital construction, including a major new children's hospital in Vancouver.
- extended Pharmacare, to provide all British Columbians with some relief from the high cost of prescription drugs.
- introduced the heroin treatment plan, a positive approach to a problem which has reached a crisis level in B.C.

## Commitments

- announced firm plans for B.C.'s first Denticare plan.
- special tax relief for those purchasing vitamins and dietary supplements, diabetic and ostomy supplies.
- continued expansion and modernization of B.C. hospitals.
- additional \$75 million to assist hospitals with their 1979-80 operating costs.



# EDUCATION

## Achievements

- introduced the core curriculum and eliminated experimentation in the classroom to provide a solid grounding in educational basics in B.C. schools.
- increased aid to colleges and provincial institutes, including vocational and training schools, to widen range of job-related skills among B.C.'s young people.
- introduced the open learning university, to make university programs available to working people in many parts of B.C.
- provided aid to independent schools serving 18,000 B.C. students.

- held increase in educational costs to a reasonable level by cutting the frills and concentrating on essentials.

## Commitments

- a new program for gifted children.
- a special program for children with learning difficulties.
- will double the value of grade twelve scholarships.
- expansion of programs to improve job-training.



## THE B.C. ECONOMY

### Achievements

- reduced taxes for small businessmen to encourage growth.
- boosted mining activity by removing unfair royalties system.
- increased tourism by dynamic promotional effort.
- created 15% of new jobs in Canada during 1978, while having only 11% of the population. 16,000 were created in the forest industry alone since Social Credit took power.
- achieved a real annual growth rate in 1978 of 4.3%, compared with 2.6% for rest of Canada.
- time lost due to labour disputes last year among the lowest ever recorded in B.C.
- Essential Services legislation introduced to protect access to health care and education and guarantee community safety.

### Commitments

- through controlled government spending and positive working relationship with industry, to ensure continued economic growth.
- through special government programs, to create 8,000 new jobs in B.C. this year.



# HOUSING

## Achievements

- provided direct aid to first home buyers under Home Purchase Assistance and Family First Home Grant programs.
- gave B.C. property owners increased tax relief through Home-owner Grant.
- provided special grants for senior citizens who own their own homes, and who rent accommodation.
- provided funds for construction of low rental housing for senior citizens.
- provided housing benefits for handicapped persons under the GAIN program.
- gave new protection to mobile home owners through creation of the Mobile Home Registry.

## Commitments

- increase Home-owner Grant by \$100 to \$380 annually (\$580 for senior citizens).
- expand and simplify Home Purchase Assistance and Family First Home Grant programs.
- release Crown land for housing construction, to help reduce increase in land prices and provide more housing for sale to individuals.



## SERVICES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

### Achievements

- introduced long-term care program, a special aid to seniors.
- granted increased income assistance under the GAIN program.
- provided additional property tax relief through Home-owner Grant.
- introduced SAFER program, to help senior citizens meet the cost of rental accommodation.

### Commitment

- increase Home-owner Grant to \$580 annually for senior citizens.
- special tax relief for those purchasing vitamins and dietary supplements, diabetic and ostomy supplies.



# HELP FOR THE HANDICAPPED

## Achievements

- provided increased income assistance for handicapped persons under the GAIN program.
- introduced housing benefits for the handicapped, also under GAIN.
- allowed handicapped home owners the option of deferring property tax payments.
- provided extra funds for the Handicapped Workshop Guild . . . and for the LIFE program for the mentally retarded.

## Commitment

- will greatly expand services for handicapped children.





# TAX RELIEF

## Achievements

- reduced provincial sales tax from 7% to 5% during 1978 . . . then provided a further reduction to 4% this year.
- provided increased property tax relief through Home-owner Grant.
- helped farmers by eliminating sales tax on many items of farm equipment.
- provided tax relief for small businessmen through one-year elimination of sales tax on production machinery . . . and by increasing exemption limit under the capital tax.
- removed sales tax on vitamins and dietary supplements, diabetic and ostomy supplies.

- eliminated succession duties and the gift tax.

## Commitments

- additional property tax relief through a \$100 increase in Home-owner Grant.
- reduce provincial share of personal income tax by 2% effective July 1, 1979.
- increase renters' tax credit by \$50 annually.
- lower farm property taxes by a 50% reduction in assessments on all farm and agricultural reserve land in B.C.
- increase dividend tax credit by 5% for B.C. residents receiving dividends from B.C. public corporations.



# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

## Achievements

- boosted mining activity by removing unfair royalties system and encouraging exploration...leading to development of new mines and new jobs for British Columbians.
- provincial government resources revenues up 75% in just three years.
- introduced a new Forest Act, the first major revision of B.C. forestry legislation ever, to ensure more efficient management of forest reserves and more accountability to the province by private forest companies.
- established the B.C. Resources Investment Corporation, turning over to this corporation all shares in resource

industries previously held by the province; then offered free shares in B.C. Resources to every eligible British Columbian...to allow people of this province to share directly in growth of our resource industries.

## Commitments

- continued development of B.C.'s natural resources in a manner which ensures sound economic growth...while at the same time providing strong safeguards for the B.C. environment.
- a strong voice in debate with Ottawa over resource rights, in particular oil and gas rights in northeastern B.C., which this government maintains must be developed by British Columbians.



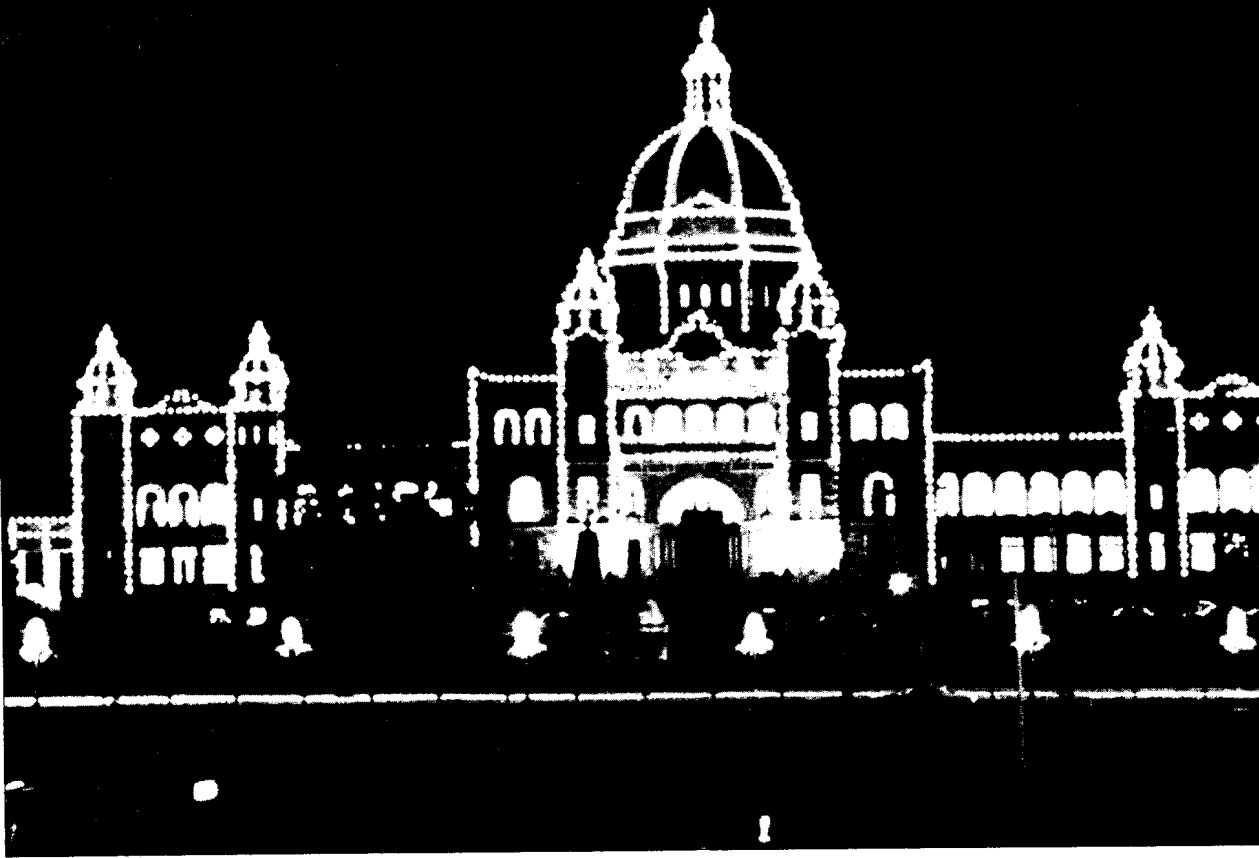
# AUTO INSURANCE

## Achievements

- cut the waste in I.C.B.C., streamlined the operation and provided public auto insurance at rates that are among the lowest in Canada.
- introduced Safe Driver Discounts, to reward those with accident-free records and discourage unsafe driving habits.

## Commitment

- end the discrimination in auto insurance, particularly that aimed at younger drivers . . . by basing auto insurance rates strictly on the driver's record, with no penalty because of age, sex, marital status or geographic location.



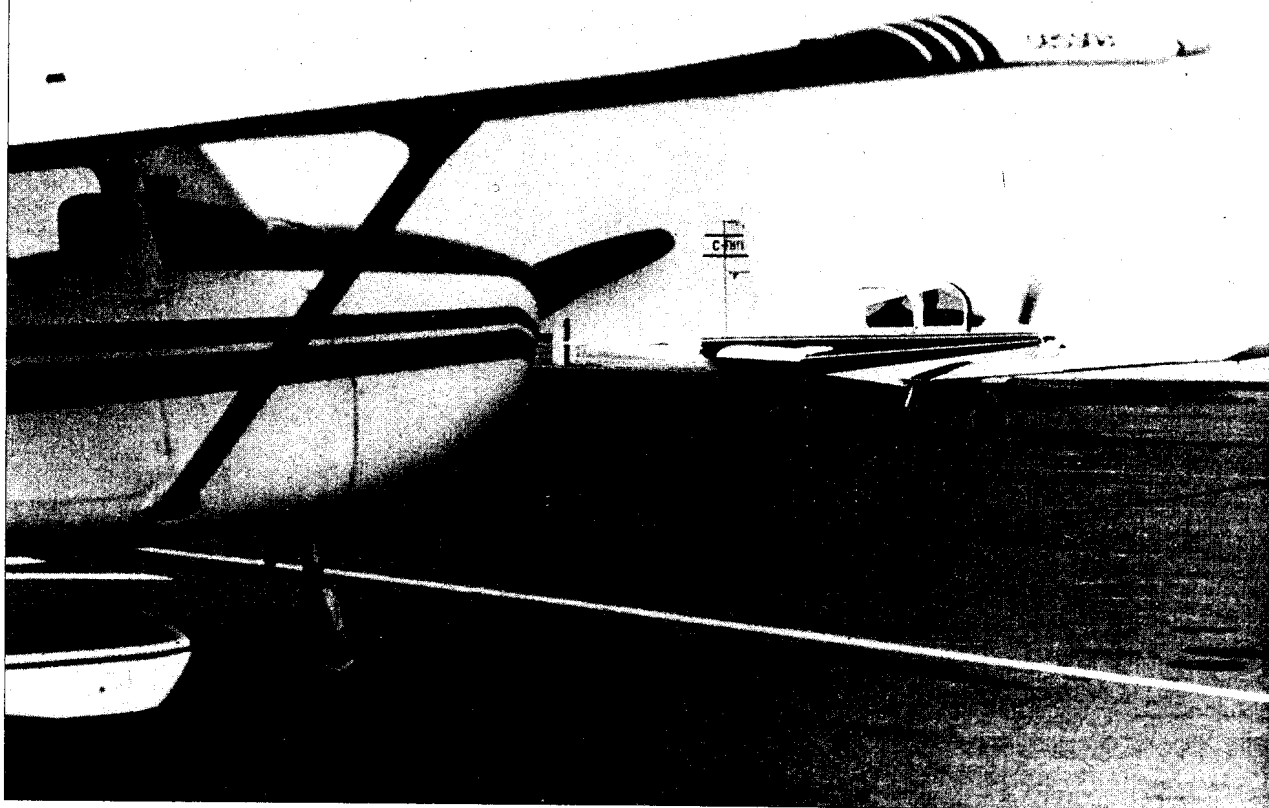
# GOVERNMENT SPENDING

## Achievements

- cut rate of growth in government spending to 8.4% annually (as compared with 27% average growth under NDP).
- established Auditor General's office, to provide independent scrutiny of spending by every government department.
- set up special committee to investigate financial performance of provincial Crown corporations.
- began quarterly financial reports, to make each government department more accountable to the public on a continuing basis.

## Commitment

- to keep government spending in B.C. under control, while through sound management ensuring the continued expansion of the programs our people need.



# TRANSPORTATION

## Achievements

- resumed building and upgrading of highways throughout B.C.
- provided bigger subsidy for B.C. Ferries, a vital part of our overall public transportation network.
- began improvement of airport facilities in smaller B.C. communities.
- introduced Urban Transit Act, to allow government to deal more effectively with varying public transit needs of communities throughout B.C.

## Commitment

- the continued improvement and expansion of all government-administered transportation systems and facilities . . . recognizing that in a province as vast and rugged as ours, a modern travel network is a basic necessity for people in all corners of B.C.

# **SOCIAL CREDIT REPRESENTS MORE RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITY FOR THE INDIVIDUAL... AND LESS GOVERNMENT CONTROL**

The programs outlined in this brochure are the natural product of Social Credit policies and beliefs. Basically, those beliefs can be summed up as concern for the rights of the individual as opposed to the power of big government. Social Credit believes in individual initiative and individual ownership — which breeds respect, self-confidence and safety in local communities.

The NDP holds the opposite view, and in this election the differences between our two parties are clearly drawn —

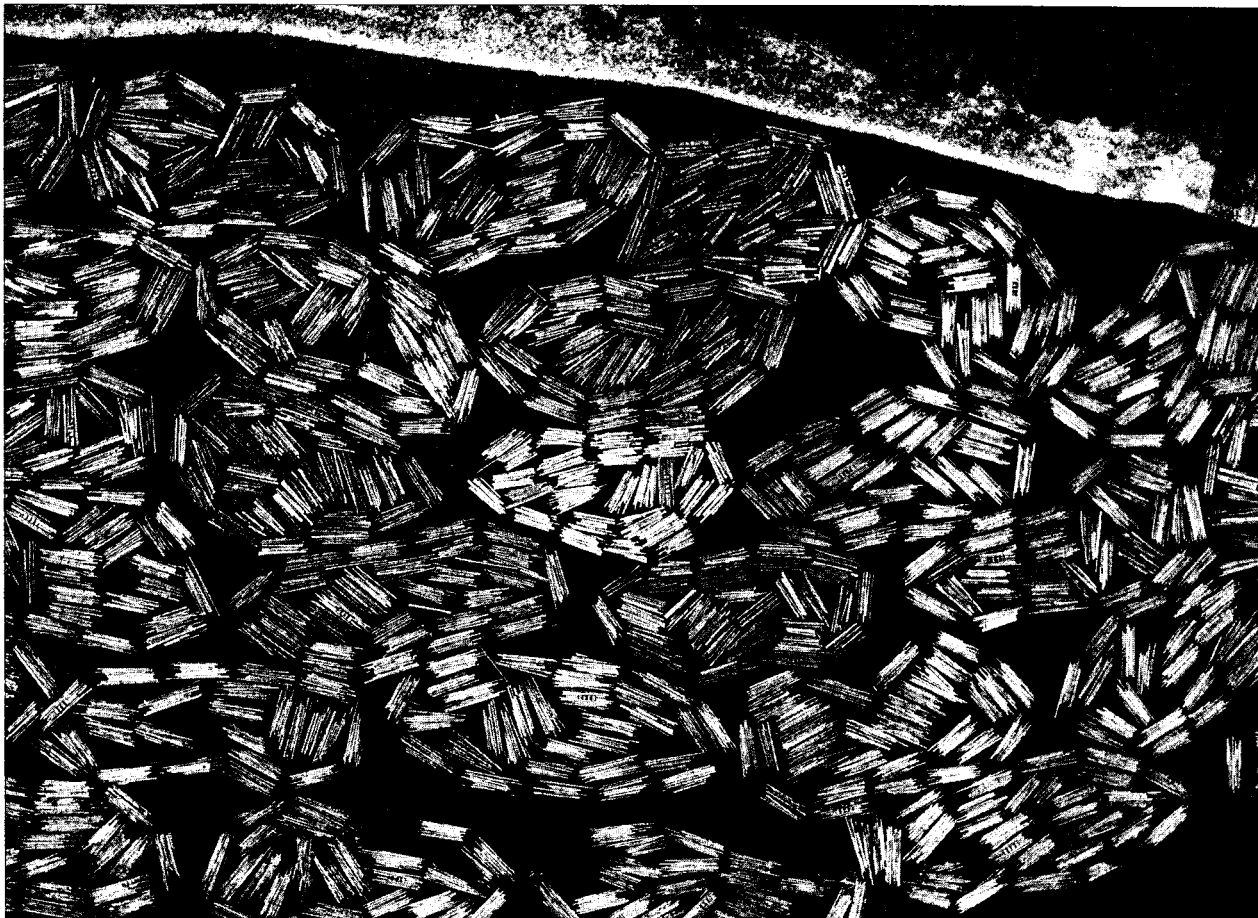


**Social Credit wants you to own your own home and the land under it.**

We believe in individual home ownership... and we back up that belief by offering special grants to help people buy a home, and to help reduce property taxes. We're also making more Crown land available for the construction of private homes... unlike the NDP when they had the opportunity to act in this area.

**The NDP wants you to be a tenant of the state.**

Rather than release Crown land for the construction of homes that can be bought and owned by individuals, the NDP would retain that land. Their idea is to build government housing which individual families would lease . . . a plan they began to introduce when they formed the government.



## **Social Credit wants you to own a share of B.C. resources.**

That's why this government offered five free shares in the B.C. Resources Investment Corporation to every eligible British Columbian. Those shares represent direct ownership by the individual of B.C. resource industries . . . in total opposition to NDP beliefs.

## **The NDP favors government control.**

Shares held by the B.C. Resources Investment Corporation were formerly held by the province . . . and the NDP would have kept it that way. They believe government — not the individual citizen — should own, manage and develop the resources of this province. They claim to do this on behalf of you, the individual . . . but what direct benefits would you actually receive?





## **Social Credit wants to retain oil and gas rights for British Columbians.**

Oil and gas rights in northeastern B.C. can be a great source of future revenue, energy security, and employment for our province... and Social Credit wants this resource developed by British Columbians. What's more, we want our citizens to share directly in that development — that's why oil and gas rights are an important part of the holdings of the B.C. Resources Investment Corporation: a part of the shares now being offered to every eligible British Columbian.

## **The NDP wants to hand them over to Ottawa.**

The provincial NDP, in accord with its national body, supports federal control of Canada's energy resources. They say they would allow Ottawa to take over B.C.'s oil and gas rights, and to develop this resource in accordance with national aims. That would mean less revenue — and fewer jobs — for B.C. While Social Credit believes in cooperating with Ottawa on the energy question, we still want the primary benefits for B.C.'s oil and gas development to remain in B.C.

## **Social Credit believes individual initiative is best for B.C.**

It was the effort and imagination of individuals that built this province . . . and Social Credit believes that individual initiative is still the key to B.C.'s future growth and development. We think government's job is to provide the services people need . . . and to create the environment business and industry needs to expand. We **don't** think government should stifle individual opportunity or compete with private companies that can do the job better.

## **Social Credit believes in less government, more rights for the individual.**

As a matter of principle, Social Credit believes in keeping government growth to a minimum . . . and in granting the individual more rights and opportunity. This Social Credit government set up the Ministry of Deregulation . . . to eliminate needless regulations and "cut the red tape" wherever possible. Social Credit also introduced the Ombudsman Act . . . to give the ordinary citizen a personal representative in airing complaints against government. With Social Credit, the individual always comes first!

## **The NDP believes more government is the answer.**

The NDP feels government should be directly involved in all areas of life . . . and that includes running our industries. As government, they took over a number of private companies. Some of those companies were losing money . . . and when they kept losing money, their losses became a drain on the tax-payer. The Social Credit way for government to profit from industries is **not** to meddle in their operation . . . but to encourage the growth of tax revenues and employment opportunities generated by well-managed private companies.

## **The NDP believes in more government control.**

Whatever the problem, the NDP sees more government involvement as the answer. Under the NDP, government spending increased by an average of 27% each year (Social Credit cut that rate to 8.4% annually). Whatever its aims, the result of more government spending leads to bigger government, more government bureaucracy and more control in every area of life . . . and fewer rights for the individual.

**PROTECT YOUR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS BY SUPPORTING  
YOUR SOCIAL CREDIT CANDIDATE**

# YOU COMPARE.

## 3 YEARS OF NDP

**FORESTRY** — B.C.'s No. 1 industry.

- capital investment totalled \$1.8 billion.

**MINING** — B.C.'s 2nd largest industry.

- restrictive legislation.
- exploration declined drastically.
- claims staked dropped to less than 12,000 by 1975.

**TOURISM** — B.C.'s 3rd industry.

- number of visitors declined each year.
- tourist revenues \$2.5 billion.

### **OIL AND GAS**

- only 15 drilling rigs operating.
- provincial government revenues totalled only \$18 million yearly.

### **GOVERNMENT SPENDING**

- out of control.
- increasing at rate of 27% each year.

## 3 YEARS OF SOCIAL CREDIT

**FORESTRY** — B.C.'s No. 1 industry.

- capital investment totalled \$3.2 billion — up 76%.
- 20% increase in forestry jobs.

**MINING** — B.C.'s 2nd largest industry.

- revised legislation.
- exploration on the increase.
- claims staked increased to over 33,000.

**TOURISM** — B.C.'s 3rd industry.

- number of visitors increased.
- tourist revenues \$4.5 billion — up 64%.

### **OIL AND GAS**

- now, 90 drilling rigs operating.
- provincial government revenues increased to over \$200 million yearly.

### **GOVERNMENT SPENDING**

- under control.
- annual growth rate of spending down to 8.4% — less than rate of inflation.

**VOTE SOCIAL CREDIT – THURSDAY, MAY 10**  
**STAY WITH GOOD GOVERNMENT!**



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