

*From the Alberta Social Credit Website. Retrieved on August 6<sup>th</sup> 2012.*

## SOCIAL CREDIT PLATFORM

### **It's about our money!**

Social Credit is more than a political party. It defines an economic system that enables a society to provide for the needs of its members. Enough money is provided to produce and consume the goods and services they need for a good standard of living. The Alberta Treasury Branch will be mandated to supply this money and will become the economic engine of Alberta. Individuals, businesses and governments will keep the billions of dollars that are now being paid to banks and foreign shareholders as interest and dividends.

Help to elect Social Credit MLAs who will work to:  
(Click on title to read details.)

1. [\*\*Make the Alberta Treasury Branch the economic engine of Alberta\*\*](#)
2. [\*\*Stop the leakage of \\$36 trillion of our wealth to foreigners\*\*](#)
3. [\*\*Help Albertans own their homes, farms and businesses\*\*](#)
4. [\*\*Regain control of our resource wealth\*\*](#)
5. [\*\*Give Albertans the health care they want and the education they need\*\*](#)
6. [\*\*Regain control of our utilities, property and environment\*\*](#)

If we Albertans take control of our credits such as the oil sands, the resulting wealth will provide for our social needs. That's Social Credit!

## SOCIAL CREDIT PLATFORM

### **Part 1 – Make the Alberta Treasury Branch the economic engine of Alberta**

Money does not have any value on its own. It is a means of helping people trade goods and services. It only has value when it is traded for goods or services. In modern economies, enough money must be available to facilitate the transactions needed to provide the people in a community the goods and services they need for a good standard of living.

The amount of money needed to achieve this goal must be determined and supplied by a central source that has the good of the whole community as its mandate. This money should be provided to the members of the community with a small surcharge for this service. No additional funds (profit) should be expected for this service, for it does not provide any of the goods and essential services that the community needs.

The Bank of Canada was established to be this central source in Canada. Unfortunately, the creation and distribution of money has slipped to the private banks. Individuals and the federal, provincial and municipal governments are paying billions of dollars in interest to these banks for a service that deserves only a small surcharge. These banks are making huge profits, even during our recession, which are distributed to their shareholders, many of whom are not even Canadian.

The Bank of Canada should recover its control of the money supply. It should allow the private banks to function as distribution utilities with regulated service charges and profit margins.

Unfortunately, vested interests in the eastern-controlled banks make achieving this goal highly unlikely. But we Albertans can lead the way! We can return the Alberta Treasury Branch (ATB) to the mandate given by the Social Credit government of 1935 – 1971: Provide the capital needed by Albertans to establish a thriving economy. It can function as the “Bank of Alberta”, giving us economic independence!

We should make the ATB the economic engine of Alberta’s economy. By statute, the Bank of Canada (B of C) is required to give no-interest loans to the provinces. We will demand this service even though none of the provinces are receiving this advantage over the private banks. If we are not able to convince the federal government and the B of C to take this step then the ATB will take loans from the B of C at the prime rate, as do the private banks. This will still give Albertans a huge competitive advantage for they will only be paying prime and a small operations surcharge as opposed to the private banks’ prime plus many percentage points. These “prime plus rates” always provide for large shareholder dividends and huge executive salaries and bonuses.

View a video on this subject at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pnsZD-y5giw>

## **Part 2 – Stop the leakage of \$36 trillion of our wealth to foreigners**

Alberta can use its natural resources as collateral to create the credit needed by Albertans. Just consider one segment of these resources. There are an estimated 1.5 trillion barrels of oil in our oil sands. At the current base price of \$ 100/barrel, the oil sands are worth \$150 trillion. This is 586 times Alberta’s 2010 GDP of \$256 billion. This means that the income from the oil sands could provide all the money needed to run Alberta’s economy at the current level for 586 years!

Unfortunately, under the current regime, we will not be keeping enough of this wealth. This is due to not achieving full value for the end product.

Production of oil from the oil sands is a two-step process. First, sand is removed to produce a gooey substance called bitumen. Then the bitumen is upgraded to produce an equivalent to conventional crude oil which is called synthetic crude oil (SCO). This second step requires the building and operating of technically sophisticated upgrader plants requiring a lot of capital and labour.

Because Canadian capital isn't being generating to build these plants, raw bitumen is being shipped to the USA where it is being upgraded to SCO. Since bitumen sells, on average, for 60% of the price of crude oil, we lose \$40 on every barrel of bitumen we export that could have been sold for \$100/barrel. Currently, 40% of the bitumen production is exported. If this trend continued through the life of our oil sands, we would lose \$24 trillion in added value to our customers to the south.

Because Canadian capital isn't being generating to build these plants, more and more of the rights to develop and profit from the oil sands are being given to foreign investors. Currently, 55% of the Canadian oil and gas industry is owned by foreigners and is increasing without control. If the current ownership percentage and profit margin of the oil sands companies were projected through the life of the resource, we would ship \$12 trillion to foreigners.

In total, we could lose \$26 trillion that could have benefited us, our children, grandchildren and grand descendants. Now this is the case at \$100/barrel. The oil price reached \$147/barrel and will undoubtedly reach this level again; analysts are predicting that it will go over \$200. So our loss could be doubled.

Is this loss of our wealth inevitable? No!

If Albertans take control of their credits (oil sands, etc.), they will no longer be in debt to the bankers. The resulting wealth will provide for our social needs: health care, education, seniors' support, communication, transportation, energy, shelter, food. That's social credit!

View a video on this subject at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tepXm7bUMZ0>

### **Part 3 – Help Albertans own their homes, farms and businesses**

A couple buying their first home will have to take a mortgage of \$300,000 or more. At an interest rate of 5% over a 30 year term, they will pay \$276,383 in interest to a bank or mortgage company. This is a shame!

The ATB should be directed to provide Albertans with mortgages at cost. Currently, the Bank of Canada's prime rate is 1%. At this rate the interest over 30 years would be \$47,268. If a fee of \$100 per year is charged to administer this mortgage then the total cost would be \$50,268, which is \$226,115 less than the cost of the bank mortgage.

The Alberta government should strive to eliminate homelessness in Alberta and provide affordable housing for all by encouraging the Federal Government to reinstate the Multi Unit Residential Building program, commonly known as MURB.

The Alberta government should help organize and support cooperative housing projects. The ATB should provide low-cost loans to help finance these projects.

Education tax for low-income property owners should be eliminated and annual rent increases should be limited to Alberta's annual rate of inflation.

It wasn't that long ago that a family could earn a good living by farming a quarter-section of land. Now because of the high cost of farming machinery (e.g. a new combine costs over \$300,000) several sections of land need to be farmed to justify the equipment expense. The formation of farm equipment co-operatives should be supported which would allow farmers to share the cost and use of farm equipment. Low-cost loans from the ATB could be used to purchase the equipment.

The establishment of co-operatives should be supported to enable producers and consumers to gain control over the multimillion dollar process of bringing goods and services to the consumer. Immediate emphasis should be on forming food processing cooperatives owned by Alberta farmers and ranchers and energy cooperatives owned by natural gas and electricity consumers.

View a video on this subject at <http://youtu.be/xSh59FOWW5A>

#### **Part 4 – Regain control of our resource wealth**

Upgrading bitumen in Alberta could add over \$20 billion a year to our economy. Building the required upgrading plants would provide thousands of jobs and billions to our economy.

Bitumen exports must be capped at the current volume. The Alberta Bitumen Upgrading Company should be established (ABUC; invest A BUC; save trillions). This company would be modelled along the lines of the Alberta Gas Trunk Line Company established by the Social Credit government in 1954. Bitumen producing companies that don't have the expertise, capital or desire to be in the upgrading business would be invited to invest in this company. Albertans would be given first choice to buy shares. The Alberta government would also be a shareholder. Additional funding would be loaned by the ATB.

In order to distribute engineering, construction and operation jobs across Alberta, at least one bitumen upgrading plant would be built near each of Ft. McMurray, Grande Prairie, Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary and Lethbridge.

Energy Minister Ron Liepert is giving away over \$1 billion per year in royalties and drilling incentives, hoping that the oil and gas industry will increase drilling and create more jobs. Most of this money will go to the multinational oil and gas companies with no guarantee that it will be used to increase their investment in Alberta. Any increase in petroleum land sales and drilling is more likely due to higher oil prices than lower royalties.

The Alberta government shouldn't have retreated on the royalty rates. Instead, the royalty rates should have been kept at the level established in 2007 and \$1 billion a year

of the royalties collected should be placed into a drilling investment fund. This capital would be invested in drilling programs of junior oil and gas companies owned and operated by Albertans. A provincial crown corporation, the Alberta Oil & Gas Corporation, would be established to manage these investments.

View a video on this subject at <http://youtu.be/YZGb3rkLmF8>

### **Part 5 - Give Albertans the health care they want and the education they need**

Albertans should be consulted to determine the level of health care they require. A plan should be developed for providing this level of service, including the personnel, facilities and projected costs. An important part of this plan would be the training of many more doctors, nurses and other medical personnel. Grants would be given to medical students who commit to work in Alberta's high-need areas after graduation. Albertans should be asked how they wish to pay for this service: resource royalties, income taxes, a health-care tax or some other option. A consensus of the majority of Albertans should be obtained through a plebiscite and then acted upon.

A high-quality primary and secondary education standard must be defined and funding must be provided to meet this standard no matter where the student lives within Alberta. The definition of this standard should include teacher proficiency, building suitability, availability of laboratory and computer equipment and sports facilities, travel time to the school and other features specific to local needs. Because of sparse population in rural areas, the per pupil funding formula used in urban areas is unable to provide an equitable standard of education. Funding per pupil may have to be greater for the rural student than the urban student.

We must assure that parents' retain the right to teach their morals and family values. This right must be protected no matter where the children are being taught, be it in public school, separate school, charter/private school or home.

ality education standard must be defined and funding must be provided to meet this standard no matter where the student lives within Alberta. The definition of this standard should include teacher proficiency, building suitability, availability of laboratory and computer equipment and sports facilities, travel time to the school and other features specific to local needs. The developers of our oil sands are asking for special federal dispensation to bring in foreign skilled workers, yet there are thousands of our young men and women who could fill these vacancies if only they could get the necessary training. We have a shortage of doctors; general practitioners are turning away new patients and waiting periods to see specialists are months instead of days. Yet we are turning away hundreds of medical student candidates every year.

The Alberta government should consult with business and the public sector to determine their requirements for professional and skilled workers over the next ten years. Representatives of our post-secondary institutions should be consulted and a plan

should be developed to provide the necessary facilities and instructors to educate these workers.

Funds for the education and health care desired by Albertans must always be provided. If cuts are needed to balance the provincial budget they should be done from elsewhere.

View a video on this subject at <http://youtu.be/5q-l2j1rXnc>

### **Part 6 - Regain control of our utilities, property and environment**

The government should bring back the regulation of the electric power and gas industries in order to provide abundant availability of energy supplies at competitive prices.

Instead of spending \$14 billion to build power lines from coal-fired power stations at Lake Wabamun to south of Calgary, we should use these funds to provide homes with solar electric systems. On average, a house can be equipped with a solar electric system for \$20,000. For \$14 billion, 700,000 homes could be made nearly self-sufficient for their electricity needs.

We must stop the erosion of our property rights by getting rid of Bill 19 – Land Assembly Project Area Act, Bill 24 – Carbon Capture and Storage Act, Bill 36 -Alberta Land Stewardship Act and Bill 50 – Electric Statutes Amendment Act.

Albertans are becoming increasingly concerned about the preservation of our environment. MLAs should be elected who will provide leadership in preserving the quality of our air, water and landscapes. We should ensure that our water resources are conserved for future generations by preventing water from becoming a commodity that can be owned by private enterprises and by preventing the export of water.

We should restore control over environmental regulations, instead of relying on industry to “police itself”. Use of our valuable natural gas to create the heat needed to recover bitumen should be limited and the use of the coke by-product from bitumen processing should be encouraged as a replacement. The use of fresh water should be limited. Carbon dioxide created during the recovery and processing of bitumen should have to be captured and stored or used in some other productive process, possibly as a substitute for the steam used for the recovery of the bitumen.

We should only allow the extraction of coal-bed methane where developers can guarantee that ground water and farm land will not be harmed.

We should reject the use of nuclear power in Alberta until environmental and safety concerns are addressed. We should take heed of the Chernobyl and Japan nuclear disasters and be wary of those with vested interests in the nuclear industry who claim that this would never happen in an Alberta nuclear power plant.

We invite all Albertans who are fed-up with being slaves to the banks and multi-national companies to “step up to the plate” and do something about it. Let’s tell them “we’re on to your scam and won’t take it anymore”.

What can you do? Join the political party that strives for economic democracy, the Alberta Social Credit Party. Work to build constituency associations, recruit MLA candidates and generate funds for the provincial election campaign. Be wary of parties that solicit funds from the large multinational corporations as do the PC, Liberal and Wildrose Alliance parties. Rather chose a party that depends on the support of individuals and home-grown businesses.

Let’s come together and fight for control of our economy. IT’S ABOUT OUR MONEY!

For more information, contact Len Skowronski by email at [leader@socialcredit.com](mailto:leader@socialcredit.com) or phone 1-403-288-9695 or 1-888-SOCRED1.

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