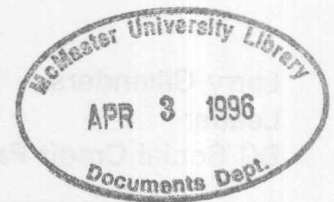


B R I T I S H C O L U M B I A

# Social Credit

T H E N E W T E A M

## POLICY & ISSUES



NON-CIRCULATING

British Columbia Social Credit Party  
November 1995

## INTRODUCTION

This document summarizes in point form the draft policy papers which have been developed to date by sub-committees of the Policy 100 Committee of the BC Social Credit Party for discussion among Party members and the general public.

The recommendations and suggestions contained in these drafts do not presently represent official Social Credit Party policy. They are being circulated for public review and discussion preparatory to the formulation of a policy platform for presentation to the Party's Annual General Convention for debate, revision and approval.

The Board of Directors wish to acknowledge and commend the efforts of the hundreds of Social Credit members, representatives of the general public and business community organizations participating in this important task. We look forward to receiving additional policy proposals as they are developed.

Larry Gillanders  
Leader  
BC Social Credit Party

Russ Burntack  
Chair  
Policy 100 Committee

Jane Sorko  
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For more information about the policy suggestions contained in this Discussion Paper, or to inquire about participation in the development of policy papers, please contact:

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Attention: Policy 100 Committee

## GOVERNING PRINCIPLES

### SOCIAL CREDIT BELIEVES THAT THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT MUST BE MODERNIZED TO REFLECT PUBLIC DEMANDS FOR:

- 1.1 Equal opportunity for all - special privileges for none
- 1.2 More direct public input on policies and programs. Government required to establish specific targets - and to report results regularly and understandably to the public
- 1.3 Management by results with more accountability throughout government for the outputs and impacts of government on the public - not merely the internal satisfaction of special interest groups
- 1.4 A contract model of representation - ensuring the voters get what they voted for
- 1.5 Non-partisan representation outside of those promises, based on a sincere and thoughtful dialogue between MLAs and a better informed and more involved electorate
- 1.6 Serious and timely consequences for elected politicians who break faith with their promises
- 1.7 The meaningful ability of the public to put its own priority items on the government action agenda when politicians have either feared or neglected to do so
- 1.8 The promotion of personal responsibility and positive lifestyle choices is critical to effective social policy in our province. We do not accept the philosophy of unearned reward at the expense of the taxpayers, but we fully respect and celebrate the generosity of British Columbians toward those who are in genuine need
- 1.9 No one has a right to expect others to provide handouts - but government should, on behalf of the public, offer a hand up to those who accept basic social responsibilities, and do as much for themselves as is reasonable in the circumstances
- 1.10 As a pioneer of medicare in Canada, Social Credit remains committed to universally affordable, high quality medical care for all British Columbians
- 1.11 The protection of regional interests and values which are threatened to be overwhelmed by the sheer weight of urban representation due to population imbalance
- 1.12 Economic justice and financial accountability between generations by establishing affordable and sustainable levels of government spending and regulation, and by limited

borrowing to genuine recoverable investments in the future

- 1.13 Comparability as far as possible between government and private sector financial and program reporting
- 1.14 A consistent and rational preference for competitive private sector delivery of services wherever feasible
- 1.15 An electoral system which accurately reflects and does not distort voter preferences among the various parties while retaining an important component of local representation
- 1.16 An electoral system which gives as much weight to voters' negative evaluations of various political parties as it does to their positive preferences - thus preventing socialism by electoral accident



# CHANGING THE SYSTEM

## THE PEOPLE'S VOICE

- 2.1 Social Credit will consider a new electoral system: one half of the members to be elected from single member constituencies by single transferrable ballot; one half to be elected by proportional representation based on party vote.
- 2.2 Social Credit will pass meaningful recall and initiative legislation - with realistic qualification requirements
- 2.3 Social Credit will refer all major new draft legislation to citizens' juries to get grassroots feedback before finalizing legislative proposals, gaining the benefits of direct democracy - at lower cost than continual referendums
- 2.4 Social Credit will ensure regional input in all major resource and land use issues - including regional electronic town meetings
- 2.5 Social Credit will introduce a charter of regional rights to ensure that land use and resource issues will be decided on the basis of fact and local and provincial needs, rather than party politics
- 2.6 Social Credit will ensure that comprehensive native land claim settlements will be negotiated openly and that the results will be fair, affordable and final
- 2.7 Social Credit will offer native self government equivalent to municipal status to any native band of adequate size to sustain it
- 2.8 Social Credit will consider proposals from any local government for additional powers, subject to approval by regional district referendum
- 2.9 Social Credit will submit any legislation not part of its election pledges to a non-partisan free vote in the legislature, ensuring all MLAs are free of party ties to vote their consciences, informed by consultation with their local constituents
- 2.10 Social Credit will establish fixed election dates and MLA term limits
- 2.11 Social Credit will ensure that spending estimate debates for all ministries are widely televised throughout the Province
- 2.12 Social Credit will make all Crown corporations and agencies subject to the same annual televised legislative estimates process as all ministries of government

## ELIMINATING PATRONAGE

- 3.1 Social Credit will choose deputy ministers and heads of Crown corporations and other provincial agencies or boards on the basis of performance contracts, subject to approval by legislative committee
- 3.2 No one will be nominated to these positions on the basis of political patronage. Past political activity will not disqualify someone who is otherwise the best applicant for the job **in the opinion of a majority of opposition members** sitting on the committee, or if the most recent political activity on behalf of Social Credit occurred more than six years previously
- 3.3 Appointees will, however, be expected to share the government's essential philosophic direction with respect to the policy and program direction of the ministry, corporation or board in question
- 3.4 In board appointments, Social Credit will strive for a mix of specific knowledge and background in the subject matter of the work of the board and - to ensure independent thought, fully representative of the public interest - demonstrated competence in a field other than party politics
- 3.5 Social Credit will look favourably on the use of retired business, government and professional advisors to serve for a dollar a year plus reasonable expenses to lend the benefit of their expertise to government
- 3.6 Social Credit will support a government internship program (in addition to - and not supplanting) the legislative internship program - aimed at training young people active in the various political parties in legislation, policy development, public service, communications and administration

# ECONOMIC AGENDA

## GOVERNING PRINCIPLES

- 4.1 Over the past 300 years, freedom and free enterprise have created the highest standards of living and quality of life in human history. We see the creativity of individuals, not the intervention of government, as the fundamental source of human progress
- 4.2 We recognize that the market and free enterprise are the most efficient, effective and equitable means of allocating resources and wealth to create and enhance economic growth, stability and rationality, and that governments must refrain from intruding into those sectors and strata of the economy where the market is most adept
- 4.3 Governments have a crucial role, nonetheless, in regulating and promoting social and economic responsibility, through forming a secure legal framework for personal property rights, and ensuring the preconditions for an effectively functioning market economy
- 4.4 Specific and enforceable contracts and property rights, as well as adequate quality control, fair entry, disclosure and anti-fraud provisions are an essential framework for a prosperous and open free market economy
- 4.5 Optimal economic development is our target. We recognize that the optimal level of government involvement may vary significantly depending on the circumstances of the specific sector, but we generally prefer less, rather than more government intrusion, so far as is reasonable and feasible
- 4.6 An optimum economy is one in which every person, family and community has the right, the incentive and access to the appropriate means to fully develop their natural talents, to contribute to the economic health of the community and to receive a fair and competitive return for their efforts
- 4.7 Government must provide both the legal framework and such essential infrastructure in both physical and human capital as is optimum to secure sustainable and balanced economic growth, recognizing regional and community as well as individual differences in values and priorities
- 4.8 Equally important, government must know its limits - follow them consistently - communicate them clearly - and thereby ensure that those who wish to profitably invest their capital or choose how to best deploy their labour are free to do so in reasonable expectation of the rules and costs which will be imposed on them by government over a viable time frame



## **PUBLIC FINANCES**

- 5.1 Social Credit will move government to results-based management. All government programs will have realistic measurable standards for evaluation, established in consultation with public client groups, present and past employees - to ensure high performance and program relevance, as well as comparable reporting to the public
- 5.2 Social Credit will ensure that any service which can be adequately performed by the private sector is privatized. Social Credit will ensure that all services or goods supplied to the BC government are based on free-market competition - with no unreasonable restrictions on bidding
- 5.3 Social Credit will ensure fair budgeting of all government spending, both operating and capital. Comprehensive budgets will contain and fairly present the total financial overview of provincial operations, including Crown corporations and agencies, on a full accrual accounting basis - to be comparable to private company reporting practices
- 5.4 Social Credit will phase out borrowing to finance the operations of governments and Crown corporations and agencies
- 5.5 Social Credit will institute a program review of all ministries, Crown corporations and agencies to eliminate undue overhead or overstaffing
- 5.6 Social Credit will ensure that the proceeds of the disposal of Crown assets are directed to pay down debt in addition to, and not in substitution for, other measures to this end
- 5.7 Social Credit will establish a debt to GDP ceiling for capital borrowing, to be exceeded only with agreement by free vote, following televised committee hearings
- 5.8 Social credit will require that the operating budget of the Province be balanced under the terms of the Provincial Constitution Act
- 5.9 Social Credit will abolish severance pay for defeated MLAs and ensure the fairness and comparability of MLA and Cabinet pay and pension benefits through an independent business based commission

## **TAX REFORM**

- 6.1 Social Credit will institute comprehensive tax reform based on the following principles:
  - i Simplicity
  - ii Fairness
  - iii General competitiveness with respect to other jurisdictions, particularly in Canada and the United States
  - iv General incentive to upgrade training, technology and applied research and development
  - v Enhanced productivity through employee profit sharing plans
  - vi General encouragement of British Columbians to invest in British Columbia business opportunities



- 6.2 Social Credit will withdraw from all forms of subsidy to business other than in tax reform criterion 6.1 iv above and during the development stage of the replacement strategy for regionalization of government
- 6.3 Social Credit will establish a voluntary on-line intellectual property registry to assist BC inventors, writers and creative artists to protect and develop their projects
- 6.4 Social Credit will consider transition to a flat tax on all income over a yearly personal exemption
- 6.5 Social Credit will consider harmonizing the PST with the GST or federal replacement thereof
- 6.6 Social Credit will consider the provincialization of tax collection
- 6.7 Social Credit will replace the minimum wage with a refundable earned income tax credit to encourage entry level youth employment and reduce distortion in the labour market
- 6.8 Social Credit will phase out the Corporate Capital Tax, which discourages investment by taxing assets rather than income or profit
- 6.9 Social Credit will negotiate a withdrawal from the Canada Pension Plan and phase in a BC plan - covering all under 60 - which would permit self-administration and tax free withdrawal for first home acquisition
- 6.10 Social Credit will reduce any taxation rates shown to be above optimum revenue collection levels to optimum levels

## **LABOUR RELATIONS**

- 7.1 Social Credit will restore the employees right to a secret ballot on union certification applications
- 7.2 Social Credit will outlaw strikes and lockouts of essential services in the fields of health care, education and transportation
- 7.3 Social Credit will outlaw secondary boycotts
- 7.4 Social Credit will consider the application of the New Zealand Employment Contracts model to the province, providing for voluntary union membership, and the alternative of personal employment contract negotiation by employees who choose not to be represented by a union

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- 8.1 Social Credit will establish a framework of stability for investment by simplifying approval requirements and offering resource companies either secure tenure or investment recognition guarantees in areas such as enhanced silviculture
- 8.2 Social Credit will seek full jurisdiction over fisheries from Ottawa and develop the resource to a sustained renewable stock, with competitive returns for participants, and no net subsidy by taxpayers
- 8.3 Social Credit will use "electronic highways" to sell BC goods and services
- 8.4 Social Credit will ensure the finality of native land claim settlements, including the clarification of specific and enforceable rights to all private property and resources in the province
- 8.5 Social Credit will work closely with the Union of BC Municipalities to rationalize services and financing authority, and to remove barriers to job-creating investment

## **TOURISM**

- 9.1 Social Credit will reactivate the Super Host Program to maximize return visits to BC
- 9.2 Social Credit will ensure that other Canadians are effectively encouraged to explore our Province's tremendous tourist potential
- 9.3 Social Credit will take advantage of key market opportunities such as currency differentials in more actively marketing the Province abroad
- 9.4 Social Credit will facilitate and promote international co-venturing partnerships in tourism, recreation and film industry development to maximize environmentally friendly values based on our spectacular natural heritage
- 9.5 Social Credit will build tourist promotion partnerships with regions and communities to assist them in targeting and profiling themselves in the best potential markets, both in Canada and abroad
- 9.6 Social Credit will seek joint international tourist promotion opportunities with the Pacific Northwest
- 9.7 Social Credit will promote strategic language learning (e.g. Chinese, Japanese, Spanish) to expand business horizons and take advantage of natural market opportunities

## AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES

- 10.1 Social Credit will ensure proper representation of agricultural concerns in forestry and land use regulations
- 10.2 Social Credit will continue to promote specialization in niche marketing, and use of the highest available levels of current know-how in the agricultural sector
- 10.3 Social Credit will continue to support the profiling of BC agricultural products to consumers
- 10.4 Social Credit will continue to support the protection of agricultural land from incompatible development
- 10.5 Social Credit will support initiatives to develop markets and consumer awareness of certified organic food products
- 10.6 Social Credit will support initiatives aimed at preserving and extending genetic diversity in agriculture, fisheries and forestry
- 10.7 Social Credit will review the status of the aquaculture industry, its potential, problems and relationship to the commercial and sports fisheries. Our objective: to maximize the sustainable fishery on a non-subsidized basis



# SOCIAL AGENDA

## EDUCATION

- 11.1 Social Credit believes strongly that education is key in allowing British Columbians to realize their full potential. We are dedicated to the most modern and cost effective education in the world, as a critical component of our economic development strategy. We recognize that this involves substantial changes to curricula, standards and institutions
- 11.2 Social Credit will establish a priorities forum, bringing together public and private educational institutions and employers to exchange information and ideas, and to improve the effectiveness of budgeting, career preparation and vocational counselling
- 11.3 This new partnership with business and labour will address the critical needs of society and assist in developing curricular and performance standards
- 11.4 The new educational partnership will also promote co-op education, apprenticeship, small business mentoring, internship and other work-experience opportunities
- 11.5 Advance placement credits and international baccalaureate programs will continue
- 11.6 Intensive and enhanced high school programs will be made available to qualified students throughout the Province
- 11.7 A grade 13 option will be made available to students who require more focused preparation for their futures
- 11.8 Social Credit will establish competition (internal markets) wherever feasible in the provincial public sector, including a full range of educational choice, within the financial means of all deserving students
- 11.9 Options will include parent-managed charter schools. Individual, school-based management will be established as the norm where parents vote for this option in school plebiscites
- 11.10 Parental options will include the level of discipline, school uniforms etc..
- 11.11 Finding reasonable means of alleviating the disproportionate costs to some taxpayers of instructing students not fluent in English will be a priority
- 11.12 New educational options will not automatically be bound by any existing collective agreement
- 11.13 Uniform educational testing standards will be established for all facilities in core programs at least, reflecting real world needs (assisted by employer input). Comparative results by institution and instructor will be clearly reported
- 11.14 Social Credit will establish the principle of merit pay for outstanding teaching, separate and apart from seniority, in public schools

- 11.15 Social Credit will review the financial formula to ensure that adequate dollars are going into classroom instruction and not being wasted on excessive administration, non-competitive construction costs or overdesign of facilities
- 11.16 Social Credit will push for optimum utilization of school facilities including a four-term or semester system where warranted, and more active community use of school facilities off-hours
- 11.17 Social Credit will review the need for and cost effectiveness of school lunch programs
- 11.18 Social Credit will ensure that the curriculum is on the electronic highway and encourage and facilitate economies of scale in both hardware and software purchases in schools
- 11.19 Social Credit will ensure that curricula adequately prepare students for active and informed citizenship, including media literacy and effective critical thinking skills
- 11.20 Social Credit will review the demarcations between universities and other post secondary institutions to ensure both the rationalization of service delivery and the filling of gaps where indicated, with new kinds of post-secondary learning formats and institutions, including on-line "uninet" instruction
- 11.21 Social Credit will build on its outstanding record in erasing geographical and social barriers to higher education and advanced skills training, through enhanced distance education opportunities
- 11.22 Wherever feasible, students will be exposed to both classroom and "virtual university" education
- 11.23 The Ministry of Education will actively collect and share new information on educational breakthroughs - such as learning style approaches sensitive to individual student differences, and early assessment techniques for students both as to their potentials and the best strategies for developing them fully

## **HEALTH CARE**

- 12.1 We recognize that cost pressures resulting from population increase, new technologies, open-ended use and higher patent protection for pharmaceuticals create a dramatic need for efficiency measures to keep our system both affordable and up-to-date
- 12.2 Social Credit will eliminate the systematic abuse of our health care system which has been permitted under the NDP through proper identification and accounting procedures
- 12.3 Social Credit will abolish the NDP Community Health Council Initiative which will merely increase bureaucracy and aggravate regional disparities
- 12.4 Social Credit will seek savings through volume discounts on routine medical lab tests

- 12.5 Social Credit will seek to identify inappropriate incentives in fee-for-service schedules, and adopt an approach proportionately more reflective of wellness and preventive strategies, and proportionately less rewarding of acute medical interventions
- 12.6 Social Credit will ensure, in co-operation with medical authorities, stronger focus on eliminating discrepancies from normal patterns of physician practice where no clear health benefits can be established
- 12.7 Social Credit will ensure thorough and neutral evaluation in dealing with all forms of alternative health care and require reporting of long term results
- 12.8 Social Credit will respect the right of terminal and chronically suffering patients to give informed consent to experimental treatments on the basis of limited liability to the qualified treatment giver
- 12.9 Social Credit will support a single board to oversee the five university teaching hospitals for the purposes of accreditation to achieve economies of scale and rationalization of services
- 12.10 Social Credit supports home care alternatives to institutionalization, where financially feasible and reasonable
- 12.11 Social Credit will encourage private care facilities operating to good standards and private health research facilities and initiatives
- 12.12 Social Credit recognizes geriatric care, services, research and products as a natural area of concentration by British Columbia universities and others
- 12.13 Social Credit will establish additional incentives to reduce regional disparities in the availability of both general practitioners and medical specialists
- 12.14 Social Credit will work to ensure economic incentives which effectively address shortages in various nursing specialty services

#### **SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

- 13.1 Social Credit will lower the youngest child's age for employability of single parents from 12 years to 4 years
- 13.2 Social Credit will seek federal agreement for pre-financing of three years' social costs of the immigrants and refugees Ottawa selects, based on a rolling average of the three previous years' costs; and a provision for deportation of persons who remain on social assistance for more than three years in Canada, or full deferral of their social program costs by relatives or sponsors
- 13.3 Social Credit will ensure the publication of the names and addresses of all persons convicted of defrauding Welfare, ICBC or other public agencies



- 13.4 Social Credit will adjust welfare rates to encourage marriage and the support of children by two spouses living together
- 13.5 Social Credit will work actively with all other jurisdictions to eliminate social program fraud and welfare abuse

#### **LAW AND ORDER**

- 14.1 Social Credit recognizes that restitution to the victims of crime must receive a much higher priority than it has in the past
- 14.2 Social Credit recognizes that effective rehabilitation of young offenders is as important to society as is much tougher potential sentencing for young people who commit increasingly serious crimes
- 14.3 Social Credit will institute a major crackdown on gangs in British Columbia, which are increasingly preying on our immigrant communities, small businesses and young people
- 14.4 Social Credit will support a thorough national review of substance abuse legislation and policies
- 14.5 Social Credit will continue to support community-based diversion programs for native offenders, while insisting that all persons have the same legal rights and responsibilities toward one another in the context of the criminal law. We recognize that native people often have received different treatment than other British Columbians in the administration of the law and we deplore all such instances of unequal treatment
- 14.6 Social Credit will press Ottawa for much more effective screening of criminals seeking to abuse Canada's lax immigration and refugee systems
- 14.7 Social Credit will encourage the active use of crime prevention criteria in urban planning and building design
- 14.8 Social Credit will ensure major public crime prevention education through communities, schools, post secondary facilities, places of worship, volunteer organizations and televised legislative hearings
- 14.9 Social Credit will establish provincial and local crime prevention councils, and will continue to support community policing, neighbourhood watch, block parent and beat patrol initiatives
- 14.10 Social Credit will support a counterattack against media and entertainment industry exploitation and glamorization of violence
- 14.11 Social Credit will initiate an awards program for the most successful and creative community and school based crime prevention initiatives
- 14.12 Social Credit will directly involve young people in the development of anti-gang and anti-crime initiatives

- 14.13 Social Credit crime prevention programs will be cost effective, based on real experience, and targeted on the basis of the most serious crime problems in each community and major segment of the population (e.g. women, seniors, small business, immigrants, natives etc.)
- 14.14 Social Credit supports a more active charging policy in relation to domestic disputes, including removal of the offending party from the home where continued violence appears probable
- 14.15 Social Credit will urge Ottawa to limit the right of early release for serious offences to 10% reduction of sentence for good behaviour
- 14.16 Social Credit supports the permanent detention of pedophiles and other dangerous offenders until reliable treatments have been developed
- 14.17 Social Credit will ensure the recovery of offenders' incarceration costs wherever possible
- 14.18 Social Credit recognizes community youth recreation programs and programs such as the environmental youth corps as an integral part of crime prevention
- 14.19 Social Credit will suspend or revoke driving privileges where deemed effective as a deterrent to juvenile delinquency and failure to pay significant amounts in accumulated driving related fines and charges
- 14.20 Social Credit will continue to advance efforts to make child and spousal support orders more fair and more effectively enforced

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