

Alberta Social Credit Party Policies

1. Agriculture

1.1 Family Farm: The Alberta Social Credit Government will restore the family farm concept.

1.2 Agricultural Value Assessment: The Alberta Social Credit Government will scrap the market value land assessment and move back to an assessment based upon agricultural value of land. There would be no assessment based on buildings.

1.3 Fuel Rebate: The Alberta Social Credit Government would immediately allow farmers to apply for a full tax rebate on fuel, diesel, propane and lubricating products. Farmers would only be required to purchase a one time license for farm trucks over $\frac{3}{4}$ ton that are used exclusively for farming. Farmers would no longer be required to obtain water licenses.

1.4 Capital Depreciation: The Alberta Social Credit Government would allow farm families up to 100% depreciation of all capital purchases in the first year of operation.

1.5 Market Driven System: The Alberta Social Credit Party supports a move to a market driven system, thus lobbying the federal government to allow farmers more choice in how they market their product. The Alberta Social Credit Party supports an enhanced marketing program for Alberta agriculture products, nationally and internationally.

1.6 Environmental Research: The Alberta Social Credit Party supports active ongoing research into environmental protection for agriculture such as "holistic resource management".

1.7 Organic Farming: The Alberta Social Credit Government would encourage and promote an environment for the development of organic farming and gardening.

1.8 Water Management: The Alberta Social Credit government will provide for the development of water as a natural resource system. This will include irrigation, infrastructure, aquaculture research and development, water management systems, and water treatment and conservation.

1.9 Beef Packing House Capacity: The Alberta Social Credit Party takes a strong position of support for the agricultural community. The Party will aid in every way possible to help the beef producers to establish a co-operative for the purpose of getting farmers to work together, and to build slaughter houses that will meet the needs of its members.

1.10 Protection of Property Rights: Alberta Social Credit MLAs would oppose/repeal any legislation that would reduce property owners' rights in determining the use and disposition of their property. The Alberta Social Credit Party maintains that the current Expropriation Act gives governments the facility to acquire land required for public purpose while establishing a strict regime for dealing with the landowner and negotiating financial compensation.

2. Alberta Treasury Branches (ATB Financial)

2.1 Preservation & Growth of ATB: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute a program of growth in the Treasury Branches of Alberta: providing a strong Alberta based alternative to out-of- province financial institutions. The past record of national financial institutions indicates that the financial aims and objectives of Albertans is not a primary factor in lending or interest rate decisions. Thus, a financial plan tailored to the needs of Albertans is in order. The Alberta Social Credit Party will defend the Treasury Branches of Alberta against any efforts to dispose of this valued entity. The Alberta Social Credit Government would return the Treasury Branches of Alberta to its original purpose of providing competitive financial services for Alberta's families, farmers and small businesses.

2.2 Regional Service: The Alberta Social Credit Party supports increases in regional financial institutions, such as Credit Unions, in order to provide competitive and service-oriented financial options for all Albertans.

2.3 Low Interest Loans & Home-run Businesses: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute an interest rate policy with low interest loans being supplied by the Alberta Treasury Branches to Albertans. This would include, upon approval of a tendered proposal, loans for women or men who would like to establish home-run businesses while supporting their families.

2.4 Dividends: The Alberta Social Credit Government would direct the ATB to distribute a portion of its profits as dividends to its customers.

2.5 Education: The Alberta Social Credit Government would use the ATB as a vehicle to educate their customers about the history of banking and how banks create money.

2.6 Prime-Rate Mortgages: The Alberta Social Credit Government will direct the ATB to provide prime-rate mortgages with acceptable administration fees to Alberta homeowners.

2.7 Interest Free Municipal Loans: The Alberta Social Credit Government will direct the ATB to provide interest free loans to municipalities so that municipal interest bearing debt to banks and other financial institutions can be paid off.

3. Justice

3.1 Funding of Courts and Police Enforcement: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute a program whereby spending on police and courts will be increased to make apprehension and conviction more certain. The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute a program of community policing, which would put more police officers on the street instead of behind desks

3.2 Addiction Rehabilitation: The Alberta Social Credit Government would increase spending on drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs both inside and outside correctional centres.

3.3 Correctional Sentences: The Alberta Social Credit Government would establish minimum and significantly longer sentences for felons convicted of crimes related to drugs or violence. Inmates would be required to serve all or the majority of their sentence in a correctional centre. Privileges and early release would be dependent on completion of minimum educational, vocational, and personal development courses and achievement of minimum standards.

3.4 Sentencing/Parole Inquiry: The Alberta Social Credit Government would provide government funding for a public inquiry into the sentencing and parole systems.

3.5 Drugs and Smoking in Correctional Centres: The Alberta Social Credit Government will take strong measures to sharply curtail the consumption of both licit and illicit drugs inside Alberta's correctional centers, and will enforce prohibitions on smoking of all materials within Alberta's jails.

3.6 Firearm Rights: An Alberta Social Credit government will pass legislation to ensure that Alberta residents have the right to responsible ownership, enjoyment, and use of firearms. The Alberta Social Credit Party opposes any law which will infringe upon the cultural and historical rights to use firearms for the purposes of gun collection, recreation, agriculture, hunting, and trapping. Firearms are property and under Clause 92.13 of The Constitution Acts, 1867 to 1982, falls within the "Exclusive Powers of Provincial Legislatures." Therefore, the Alberta Social Credit Party would challenge all federally sponsored firearms control legislation as being unconstitutional and will, if necessary, use the "notwithstanding clause" to refuse to enforce any federal law which infringes on the constitutional rights of Alberta residents.

3.7 Victim Compensation: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute victim's rights to compensation from convicted persons.

3.8 Non-Criminal Arbitration: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute legally enforceable arbitration between all parties in a legal dispute to settle non-criminal actions.

3.9 Elected Judges: The Alberta Social Credit Government will require that all provincial judges be elected by their peers to fixed, four year, re-electable terms.

4. Trade and Economy

4.1 Domestic/International Trade: The Alberta Social Credit Party supports the removal of inter-provincial trade barriers.

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports a more proactive approach for government to assist in the establishment of increased international trade for all Alberta businesses.

4.2 Economic Development and Diversification: The Alberta Social Credit Party supports four basic principles of economic growth and diversification:

1. A strong competitive marketplace
2. Demanding, financially secure consumers
3. Supporting industries and strategic business alliances
4. State of the art training, equipment & intensified research

A Social Credit government would encourage the development of rural communities.

4.3 Community Vision Plans: A Social Credit government would encourage and assist all communities and work together with the school systems and local governments to develop programs for building communities.

4.4 Public Works Ownership: A Social Credit government would develop a Public Works Department that retains ownership of and maintains all schools and hospitals it builds, but gives the control of each building to a community or cooperative organization or board. (For example: The Calgary Board of Education would no longer have to be responsible for old buildings in communities where there is a student population that is too low. Smaller communities would not have to worry about being unable to maintain their school buildings.)

4.4.1 Decentralization: Social Credit would encourage decentralization of government services to enhance community services and employment.

4.4.2 Municipal Government Act: Social Credit will amend the municipal government act to ensure that urban and rural governments have a comprehensive mechanism to assist in growth management. The goal is to ensure that communities thrive together to ensure a prosperous environment for all.

4.5 First Time Homeowners: A Social Credit government would implement programs to aid first time homebuyers and needy Albertans.

4.6 Re-regulation Of Utilities: The Alberta Social Credit government will institute legislation to re-regulate utilities, the power and gas industries, in order to provide abundant availability of energy supplies at competitive prices for Albertans and for export.

4.7 Co-operative Development Office: The Alberta Social Credit government will re-establish the Co-operative Development Office as it existed and flourished during the years that Social Credit was in office for the purposes of helping the citizens of Alberta establish Co-operative ventures.

4.8 Tourism: The Alberta Social Credit Party supports tourism as a major growth area for the province's economy. We propose that control over the National Parks in Alberta be shared with Albertans to protect our provincial interests in these parks.

4.9 Affordable Housing: A Social Credit Government would seek to eliminate homelessness in Alberta and provide affordable housing for all. A comprehensive approach to resolve this issue must include:

4.9.1 Working with all orders of government to ensure a variety of housing to accommodate the diverse needs of Albertans.

4.9.2 Encouraging the federal government to reinstate the Multi-Unit Rental Building (MURB) program.

4.9.3 Changing legislation to ensure municipalities are empowered to decide whether an apartment should be converted to condominiums based on the overall needs of the community.

4.10 Dividends: The Alberta Social Credit Government will issue dividends to each citizen of Alberta over the age of consent and based upon certain residency requirements. The size of the dividend will be determined once a capital account has been created and the province's assets can be determined.

4.11 Price Rebate: The Alberta Social Credit Government will issue a price rebate to consumers at the point of retail based upon the quantification of aggregate production and consumption statistics within the province of Alberta. The size of the rebate will be determined by these statistics based upon the ratio of consumption to production.

4.12 Buy Back Alberta Company: The Alberta Social Credit Government would establish a holding company with the mandate of increasing Albertans' ownership of Alberta's natural resource and other key industries. The company would invest in existing and new ventures to ensure Albertans have controlling interest in these ventures.

5. Education

5.1 Empowerment Of Parents: The Alberta Social Credit Party believes that the single most important factor in educational achievement is a supportive home life. Therefore, the Alberta Social Credit Government would work to empower parents in the educational process.

5.2 Voucher System Choices: The Alberta Social Credit Government would allow parental choice by instituting a voucher system of financing education where the funds follow the student to any accredited public, separate, private, religious, or home school.

5.3 Annual Achievement Testing: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute annual testing of all students on provincially established evaluations in all subjects studied. A passing grade would be a simple 50% with results being given in actual percentages and not simple pass / fail terms.

5.4 Consensus Consultations: The Alberta Social Credit Government would take immediate action to bring together representatives of parents, school boards, teachers and government to develop respect, understanding and a spirit of teamwork in order to address the issues facing Alberta's Education sector.

5.5 Professional Governing Body: The Alberta Social Credit Government would establish a professional governing body for teachers that are separate and distinct from the Alberta Teachers' Association.

5.6 Additions to Educational Curricula:

5.6.1 History Courses: The Alberta Social Credit Government would include Canadian and Alberta History courses in all junior and high schools in Alberta.

5.6.2 Abstinence Based Sex Education: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute "Chastity-based" sex education courses to be offered in Alberta schools as an alternative to the "Contraceptive-based" courses now available. Parents would have the choice of options for their children.

5.6.3 Policy on Teaching of Origins: The Social Credit Government would advocate the mandatory inclusion of the teaching of the Origins Theory of Intelligent Design or Creation as a viable model alternative to the theory of evolution. True scientific evaluation of both theories and their probabilities should be applied, letting the chips fall where they may.

5.6.4: Social Credit Theory: The Alberta Social Credit Government will educate secondary school students about Canada's debt-based monetary system and alternative systems.

5.6.5: Driver Training In Curriculum: The Alberta Social Credit Government would implement a high school driver education and training program as part of the school curriculum.

5.7 Post Secondary Admissions & Tuition: The Alberta Social Credit Party supports post-secondary education in Alberta. We would ensure that Alberta citizens be given priority for admission over out-of-province students. The Alberta Social Credit Government would provide "fixed term tuitions" to freeze the tuition rates for post-secondary education students for the duration of their program.

5.8 Interest Tax Credit: ASCP will provide students who attend Alberta Universities with a tax credit towards the interest paid on student loans if they choose to remain in the province.

5.9 Support for Public System: The Alberta Social Credit Government will make a renewed commitment to the publicly- funded school system.

5.9.1 The Social Credit Government will ensure that through proper planning, sufficient financial resources will be made available to maintain necessary infrastructure and educational programming, including the increased use of teacher's aids to assist "at risk/special needs" children.

5.10 Long-Term Post-Secondary Education Plan: The Social Credit Government will consult with business and the public sector to determine their requirements for professional and skilled workers over the next ten years. Then the Government will meet representatives of Alberta's post-secondary institutions and develop a plan to provide the necessary facilities and instructors to educate these workers.

5.11 Wrap-Around Schools: The Alberta Social Credit Government will take a "wholistic" approach to education which recognizes there are many needs of children and youth which the current educational and social structure fails to meet. Better and more efficient service can be provided by Alberta's social services to children and their families by operating many of these social agencies from schools which have surplus space. These "community learning centres" will provide better service to student needs while saving taxpayers money and minimizing school closures by locating multiple social services within many of Alberta's schools.

6. Government

6.1 Representative Democracy: The Alberta Social Credit Party supports representative democracy.

6.2 Free Votes: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute free votes in the Legislature for MLA's. MLA's would vote according to their conscience or as indicated by the constituents through the constituency organization. Should a government bill be defeated, it would not mean a vote of non-confidence for the government but simply a defeat of that particular piece of legislation. The Alberta Social Credit Party supports free votes within the Social Credit caucus. The party position would be determined by a simple majority of the MLA's casting a vote.

6.3 Recall of MLA: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute the right of recall of all elected officials by their constituents.

6.4 Fixed Election Dates: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute fixed election dates for all elected officials in Alberta. MLA's would be elected for a four (4) year term. The right of the Legislature to call a vote of non-confidence in the government would still be in force.

6.5 Fixed Dates for Sessions: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute a program whereby Throne Speeches, Budget Announcements and Legislative dates would be on a set date each year.

6.6 Cabinet Size: The Alberta Social Credit Government would reduce the size of the Provincial Cabinet.

6.7 Open Employment Applications: The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute an open application process to fill all government positions and all hiring would be based upon qualifications and merit rather than patronage.

6.8 Inter-Provincial Conference on Co-operation: The ASC Government would endorse a conference attended by all provinces and territories to discuss equalizing benefits, responsibilities and representation for a "New Terms of Reference" of co-operation and association in Canada.

6.9 Establishing Provincial Senate: The Social Credit government create and develop a tri-cameral systems consisting of; a Lieutenant Governor, a Provincial Legislature, and the creation of a Provincial Senate. The Provincial Senate having equivalent powers to that of the Federal Senate.

6.10 Election of Commissions and Boards: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute elections for all provincial boards and commissions every four years in conjunction with provincial legislative elections.

6.11 Conflict Of Interest: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute strict conflict of interest guidelines facilitated through the Provincial Ethics Commissioner's office.

6.12 Constitutional Reform: The Alberta Social Credit Party supports popular ratification of all Constitutional Amendments by a simple majority vote in at least 2/3 of all the provinces (including the Territories) and representing at least 50% of the country's population in a national referendum.

6.13 Provincial Equality in Constitutional Matters: The Alberta Social Credit Party rejects the concept of unilateral negotiations between the Government of Canada and Quebec in constitutional matters. All provinces must be equal and active participants in all constitutional negotiations.

6.14 Charter of Rights and Equality: Social Credit opposes an interpretation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms that entrenches any recognizable group with distinct or unique status" thus granting special privileges and exceptional rights not available to other Canadians. Equality before the law is essential to a just democracy and cannot be compromised.

6.15 Re-establishment of Provincial Powers: The Alberta Social Credit Party will assert Alberta's constitutional powers by collecting its own revenues for taxation, creating an Alberta Pension Plan, taking provincial responsibility for health care policy, and re-establishing a provincial police force.

6.16 Alberta Constitution: The Social Credit Party supports the creation of an Alberta Constitution that would include individual property rights and protection from unconstitutional intrusion from the Federal Government.

6.17 Freedom Of Information: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute the most comprehensive Freedom of Information Act in Canada which would open government dealings to all people.

6.18 Mandatory Tendering:

The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute a procurement policy whereby all major purchases by the government would be through an open tender process.

6.19 M.L.A Remuneration

6.19.1 Compensation Committee: The Alberta Social Credit Government will establish a committee of members from the general electorate who will determine the timing and amount of increases to the remuneration of MLAs, Cabinet Ministers, the Speaker and the Premier.

6.19.2 Reverse Huge Pay Increases: Alberta Social Credit MLAs will sponsor legislation that will cut back recent exorbitant remuneration increases received by the MLAs, Cabinet Ministers, the Speaker and the Premier to the increase in the cost of living.

6.19.3 Electorate Approval of Pay Increases: The Alberta Social Credit Government will pass legislation requiring that pay increases to the MLAs, Cabinet Ministers, the Speaker and the Premier be announced prior to an election. If the increases are greater than the increase in the cost of living, a plebiscite for the increases must be placed on the election ballot. The plebiscite results shall be binding.

6.20 Municipal Government: The Alberta Social Credit Party supports continued dialogue and co-operation between the province and municipalities. The Alberta Social Credit Party supports the assignment of government functions to that level of government most appropriate to the situation; therefore, an Alberta Social Credit Government would empower municipal governments with full local authority. The Social Credit Party would not interfere with Edmonton and Calgary to maintain control over their respective utility companies.

6.21 Free Enterprise Levels: The Alberta Social Credit Party endorses the concept of Free Enterprise and thereby recognizes the value and need of all forms of enterprise, including Private, Public (or Crown), Publicly traded and Cooperative Enterprise (or Team Enterprise).

6.22 Referenda: The Social Credit Government would strip the power from the few and put it where it belongs, with the many. A system will be established where the most important issues of the day will be decided by the electors in an annual binding referendum. All resolutions or issues that suggest or require a referendum from Albertans must undergo the same process as all other referendum questions, including the gathering of signatures.

6.23 Senate Reform: The Alberta Social Credit Party endorses the concept of a "Triple E" Senate with effective parliamentary powers that is elected by the people of each province with equal representation from each province.

6.24 Vote of Non-Confidence: The Alberta Social Credit Government would allow for the defeat of a government through a proclaimed vote of non-confidence in the Legislature and not through the mere defeat of a bill.

6.25 Proportional Representation: The Alberta Social Credit Government endorses an electoral system where the percentage of the popular vote determines the percentage of seats held in the legislature.

6.26 Term Limit: The Social Credit Government would establish an electoral restriction where the Premier can serve a maximum of (2) two terms.

6.27 Disallow Non-Albertan Lobbyists: The Alberta Social Credit Government will not allow non-Albertan governments, corporations, or organizations to become provincial government lobbyists.

7. Environment

7.1 Zoning Laws: The Alberta Social Credit Party supports the concept of "environmentally sensitive zoning".

7.2 Environment Assessment and Investigations: The Social Credit government will take a strong stand in favour of:

- a) Policing the cleanup and protection of the environment,
 - b) Doing honest investigation of water contamination and the subsequent related health of Albertans,
 - c) Balancing environmental development and the needs of Albertans.
- Provincial tax on alternative and non-polluting automotive fuels would be significantly reduced.

7.3 Alternative Energy Sources: The Alberta Social Credit Government would encourage alternate forms and sources of energy.

7.3.1 Alberta Social Credit Government rejects the use of nuclear power in Alberta until environmental and safety concerns are addressed.

7.4 Alternative To Kyoto Accords: The Social Credit Party opposes ratification of the Kyoto Accord as presently written.

7.5 Preservations Of Water Resources: The Alberta Social Credit Government would preserve the water resources of Alberta by such measures as:

- a) The protection of natural watersheds.
- b) The education of Albertans as to water conservation.
- c) The endorsement of the use of alternative water resources, apart from potable water, for use in industry wherever possible.
- d) The stoppage of water wells being drilled on oil/gas leases.
- e) The reclamation of all drilled holes in the earth's surface back to the natural state.
- f) The prohibition of bulk exports of water to foreign powers.

7.6 Environmental Conservation Authority: The Alberta Social Credit Government will enact the Environmental Conservation Authority to study and advise the government on environmental issues and operate free of political interference.

8. Social Policy

8.1 Equal Rights and Responsibilities: The Alberta Social Credit Party supports the concept that all Canadians have equal rights, privileges and responsibilities.

8.2 Discrimination Standards: The Alberta Social Credit Party condemns discrimination based upon religion, ethnic origin, age, gender, language, politics or social standing as contrary to the constitution, principles and bylaws of the Alberta Social Credit Party.

8.3 Freedom Of The Individual: The Alberta Social Credit Party supports the right of each individual to pursue their goals and objectives in a free society secure in the knowledge of their equality under the law.

8.4 Development Of The Arts: The Social Credit Government will study all options available for the development and implementation of an ongoing program for the funding and development of the Arts in Alberta.

8.5 The Family:

8.5.1 Domestic Abuse: The Alberta Social Credit Party opposes all acts of family violence. We are committed to protecting all family members against these reprehensible acts. We further commit to educational programs to help the abused and the abuser and to provide access for all Albertans to therapy where required.

8.5.2 Parental Authority and Discipline: The Alberta Social Credit Party believes that parental authority and responsibility need to be recognized and protected, along with the right of parents to choose appropriate forms of correction for the safety and upbringing of their children.

8.5.3 Traditional Definition Of The Family: The Alberta Social Credit Government would adopt the definition of family as stated in Bill C-225: ".that a marriage is valid only when it is a marriage between one unmarried man and one unmarried woman."

8.5.4 Daycare/Childcare support: The Alberta Social Credit Government would directly administer payment to each household using a pre-existing program (e.g. Alberta Health Care) a monthly allowance that the parents can use towards any childcare support of their choice.

8.5.5 Primacy Of The Family: The Social Credit Party recognizes the family structure as a pillar in society and is committed to supporting this institution wherever financially possible.

8.6 Homecare Support: An Alberta Social Credit Government would develop a program to support seniors and disabled persons to remain in their own homes. The Alberta Social Credit government will implement immediate tax incentives or rebates for stay-at-home care givers. Should a Federal government program offer benefits exclusively to care givers using daycare, the Alberta Social Credit government will provide equitable tax benefits to stay-at-home caregivers.

8.7 Immigration: The federal government must better determine the wishes of all Canadians regarding immigration. The Alberta Social Credit Party supports an immigration policy based upon equality for all acceptable immigration applicants regardless of race, color, creed, religious background, education, or financial capabilities.

8.8 Official Languages: The Alberta Social Credit Party supports the principle of English as the language of commerce, society and education in Alberta. We support the concept of second language education with a variety of languages available.

8.9 Social Responsibility: The Alberta Social Credit Party supports the concept of social responsibility within the framework of a free enterprise economic system. We support compassionate service, voluntarism, individual responsibility and care for those not able to care for themselves.

8.10 Welfare: The Alberta Social Credit Party supports the right of individuals to be helped by society when they are incapable of helping themselves. However, the priority of the welfare system should be to assist individuals in realizing their full potential and re-establishing their self-esteem through active self-management.

8.11 Social Credit Economics: The Alberta Social Credit Party will educate their members and the public about the monetary reform theories of C.H. Douglas.

8.12: Social Credit Movements: The Alberta Social Credit Party will work with Social Credit movements to ensure that the theory of Social Credit is a united, worldwide movement.

8.13: Rent Limits: The Social Credit Government would implement annual rent increase limits on the amount of damage deposit and rent that can be charged, based on Alberta's annual rate of inflation.

9. Finance

9.1 Disclosure of Provincial Finances: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute complete disclosure of all provincial finances including the Heritage Trust Fund, government crown corporations and all government investments. These disclosures would be made in the Legislature with a complete accounting available to all.

9.2 Balanced Budget: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute mandatory yearly balances (projected and actual) and budget provisions for the provincial government.

9.3 Budget Surpluses: The Alberta Social Credit Government would deposit a fixed percentage of budget surpluses into the Heritage Savings Trust Fund.

9.4 Government Spending:

9.4.1 Zero Based Budgeting: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute a zero based budgeting program in all government departments. The basis of this budgeting system would call for a justification of all funds spent each year, not simply a standard percentage increase as presently exists.

9.4.2 Merit System: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute a merit system within government departments rewarding individuals for initiative and efficiency.

9.4.3 Growth Limitations: Be it resolved that a Social Credit Government would halt the never-ending increase in the size and scope of government.

9.5 Tax Reform:

9.5.1 Elimination of Nuisance Taxes: The Alberta Social Credit Government would eliminate many of the "nuisance" taxes and user fees, such as hotel tax.

9.5.2 Dedicated Taxes to Source: The Alberta Social Credit Government would ensure that dedicated taxes go to their sources. Gasoline taxes, for example, would go to road maintenance and other transportation services and not into general revenue.

9.6 Accounting for Assets: The Alberta Social Credit Government would reform their accounting whereby all government purchases of capital (land, buildings and equipment) would be accounted for as an asset and depreciated yearly as an expense instead of expensing the entire cost in the year of purchase.

9.7 No Water Tax: The Alberta Social party opposes any tax on water.

9.8 Political Tax Contribution Limits: The Alberta Social Credit Government would restrict political contributions. Only contributions from individuals would be allowed.

9.9 Progressive Individual Taxes: The Alberta Social Credit Government will create a more equitable tax collection based on ability to pay by restoring to Alberta the progressive system of income taxes as exists in all other Canadian jurisdictions.

9.10 Comprehensive Efficiency Review: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute independent, annual efficiency reviews in all government departments to maximize efficiency and minimize government waste.

9.11 Corporate Taxes: The Alberta Social Credit Government will balance corporate taxes to a level commensurate with the income generated from individual taxes.

9.12 No Education Tax for Low Income Property Owners: The Alberta Social Credit Government would eliminate education taxes for low-income property owners. Eligibility would be determined by a means test similar to one used for the Alberta Seniors' Benefit. Albertans.

9.13 Provincial Capital Account: The Alberta Social Credit Government will develop a capital account for the province of Alberta in order to facilitate policies 4.10 and 4.11. The purpose of this account will be to determine the assets of the province, including the capitalized value of the population. The government will also quantify aggregate production and consumption statistics within the province of Alberta.

10. Health Care

10.1 First Do No Harm: The Hippocratic Oath of "first do no harm" would be implemented as a cornerstone of ASCP Health Care Policy. The practice of this oath by graduate medical classes would be encouraged.

10.2 Coverage of Preventive Health Choices: To reduce the future long-term costs of illness, the preventative and wellness component of health would be emphasized. Therefore, an Alberta Social Credit Government would provide Albertans with a choice for alternative medicine covered by health care.

10.3 Health Food Supplements: The Alberta Social Credit Government will provide that funding of prescription drugs for illnesses is extended for health food supplements and alternative therapies where a recognized health care provider properly accredits that alternative therapy.

10.4 Abortion:

10.4.1 Defunding: The Alberta Social Credit Government would eliminate the funding and use of abortion as a birth control method.

10.4.2 Alternatives: The Alberta Social Credit Government will promote positive alternatives to the practice of abortion that are within provincial jurisdiction. Support for the Divinely given sanctity of innocent human life at all stages will be given priority in all proposed legislation and practices.

10.4.3. Counselling: A Social Credit Government would develop and implement a counselling program that would strive to convince women with unwanted pregnancies to carry the child to full term.

10.5 Public Hospitals: The Alberta Social Credit Party opposes the privatization of Alberta hospitals.

10.6 Coverage of Emergency Ambulance Service: The Alberta Social Credit Government will include Emergency Ambulance Services in Alberta Healthcare.

10.7 Dental Care For School Children: The Alberta Social Credit Government will include basic dental care for children to the end of high school or until the voluntary early termination of their education program.

10.8 Triple A Health Care: The Alberta Social Credit Government would implement the "Triple A" Health Care System, accessible, accountable and affordable:

10.8.1 Accessible: Health services would be delivered on the basis of patients' needs.

10.8.2 Accountable: Health care services must be accountable to the communities where they are delivered.

FACILITIES: Hospitals/health care centers should be publicly owned (or nonprofit) and community operated by elected boards.

SERVICES: We support the policy that all patients must sign a statement when health care services have been received. Statements would be issued to Albertans itemizing cost of services charged to health care.

Alberta Health would be required to move to full disclosure of administrative costs for the health system. Reports would be made public on an annual basis.

10.8.3 Affordable: Health care can be more affordable. The Alberta Social Credit Government would reduce unnecessary bureaucracy (regional health authorities) and move to patient-based budgeting. Historically, hospitals were funded based on what they did and not on what they demanded.

The Alberta Social Credit Government would move toward a health savings plan to encourage responsible health care.

10.9 Health Care Premiums: The Alberta Social Credit Government would continue to support the elimination of health care premiums for all Albertans.

10.10 Long-Term Health Care Plan: A Social Credit Government will develop a plan to reduce waiting times and increase service levels comparable to the best health care systems in the world. This plan will include a determination of the hospital and other medical facilities needed to provide this service over the next ten years and provide for the building of additional public facilities to meet this demand. Likewise, the number of doctors and other medical personnel to provide this service over the next ten years will be determined and the necessary number of seats in the medical faculties and internship programs will be provided to meet this demand.

10.11 Rural Medical Placement Program: The Alberta Social Credit Government would implement a program where the provincial government pays the cost of a year of post secondary education leading towards doctors and other medical designated personnel at an Alberta University in return for a year of employment at a medical facility of the government's choosing after graduation. (For example: in return for covering the costs of eight years of medical school, the graduate signs a contract to work where directed for eight years. The government then chooses a rural hospital where there are staff shortages.)

10.12 Help to Quit Smoking: The Alberta Social Credit Government will direct Alberta Health Services to develop a program that will assist smokers to quit.

11. Labour

11.1 Co-operative Partnership: The Alberta Social Credit Party supports a comprehensive program of co-operative partnership between business, labour and government to compete effectively in a global marketplace.

11.2 Workplace Health and Safety: The Alberta Social Credit Party would pursue an aggressive program of co-operative workplace health and safety inspections.

11.3 Voluntary Union Membership: The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute legislation, which would allow individual workers the right to voluntarily determine their membership in labour organizations.

11.4 WCB Regulation: The Alberta Social Credit Government will review WCB's restrictive regulations and modernize policies to ensure that injured workers are properly compensated in a timely manner. Greater flexibility in workers' health care choices to enhance workers' health is essential for recovery in order to facilitate a quicker return to work.

11.5 Minimum Wage: The Social Credit Government would increase the minimum wage.

11.6 Mandatory part-time Benefits: The Social Credit Government will legislate employers to provide part-time benefits to part-time employees.

11.7 Alberta Workers First: The Alberta Social Credit Government will not allow foreign workers to work on oil sands projects as long as qualified Albertans are available to do the jobs.

12. Transportation

12.1 Upgrading Of Road Network: The Alberta Social Credit Government would upgrade provincial transportation systems to provide a network joining all regions of Alberta and thereby providing enhanced domestic, international, agricultural and business export opportunities.

12.2 Provincial Insurance: The Alberta Social Credit government would establish an auto insurance enterprise that is owned by the people of Alberta for the purpose of competing in the insurance industry.

13. Heritage Fund

13.1 Albertan Owned: The Alberta Social Credit Party believes, and the Alberta Social Credit Government will continue to hold the belief, that the Heritage Fund belongs to the people of Alberta and not the government.

13.2 Separate Crown Corporation: The Alberta Social Credit Government would set up the Heritage fund as a separate crown corporation thereby limiting the involvement of the current government.

13.3 Set Annual Deposit Percentage: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute a policy of depositing a set percentage of government natural resource income each year into the Heritage Fund.

13.4 Yearly Dividends: The Alberta Social Credit Government would pay a yearly, tax-free dividend from the earnings of the Heritage Fund to every Albertan who votes at each provincial election. This dividend would be based upon a formula set out in the budget of the Heritage Fund and be issued on a set date.

13.5 Model - Alaska Permanent Fund: The Alberta Social Credit Government would model other aspects of the Heritage Trust Fund managing principles after the Alaska Permanent Fund. This would include raising oil and gas royalties to a level commensurate with the rates charged in Alaska, Norway, and other jurisdictions.

13.6 Residency Voting Period: The Alberta Social Credit Government will increase the six-month residency time required to vote for new Albertans before they can vote and qualify to receive yearly dividends.

13.7 Referendum and Dividends: The Alberta Social Credit Government will provide Albertans the choice at each provincial election to decline their dividend and instead direct these funds to a government-spending category of their choice.

13.8 High School Completion and Dividends: As an incentive to complete high school, the Alberta Social Credit Government will enable 18 year-old Albertans who graduate from high school to commence receiving yearly dividends upon graduation instead of requiring them to wait until they vote at the next provincial election.

14. Seniors

14.1 Nursing Homes: The Alberta Social Credit Government would create a home care board to make random inspections on both private and public nursing homes. This would include the quality of food served, cleanliness, adequate staffing, and proper treatment of our seniors.

14.2 Long Term Care: The Alberta Social Credit Government will build and staff more facilities for long term care so that this service will be available for all seniors who need it.

15. Resource Management

15.1 Oil Sands Development

15.1.1 Rate of Development: The Alberta Social Credit Government would limit the number of permits issued for oil sands development so as to moderate the growth of Alberta's economy and leave a fair share of these resources for future generations.

15.1.2 Bitumen Upgrade: The Alberta Social Credit Government would require bitumen to be processed in Alberta to ensure that the resulting benefits would be retained for Albertans. Production of bitumen would be capped until all current production is upgraded in Alberta; no new bitumen production facilities would be approved until upgrading capacity is in place to handle the new production.

15.1.3 Better Royalty Rates: The Alberta Social Credit Government would replace the 1% royalty on oil sands development for any new ventures with a rate in-line with those for conventional oil production.

15.1.4 Environmental Control: The Alberta Social Credit Government would restore government control over environmental regulations instead of relying on industry to "police itself".

15.1.5 Alberta Bitumen Upgrading Company: The Alberta Social Credit Government will establish the Alberta Bitumen Upgrading Company to build and operate bitumen upgrading plants throughout Alberta. Share equity in the company will be held by Alberta citizens, bitumen producers and the Alberta Government.

15.2 Protect Ground Water and Farm Land: The Alberta Social Credit Government would allow extraction of coal-bed methane only where developers can guarantee that ground water and farm land will not be harmed.

15.3 Alberta Oil & Gas Corporation: The Alberta Social Credit Government would establish a crown corporation, the Alberta Oil & Gas Corporation, so that Albertans could attain better control and a greater share of the profits of the oil and gas industry, as well as assist Alberta companies to become established and grow into majors without being taken over by foreign interests. The mandate of this corporation would include:

- taking an equity interest in all new oilsands projects,
- joint-venturing with Canadian-owned junior oil and gas companies.

16. Parks, Recreation & Tourism

16.1 Wildlife & Fish Conservation: The Alberta Social Credit Government will establish processes and environments that will result in increased numbers of wildlife and fish for the enjoyment of Albertans and visitors.

16.2 Walking Trails: The Alberta Social Credit Government will support and help finance recreation trails along the highways between towns and cities in Alberta.