

# BILL

No. 9 of 1937 (Third Session).

An Act to Ensure the Publication of Accurate News  
and Information.

(Assented to \_\_\_\_\_, 1937.)

**WHEREAS** it is expedient and in the public interest that the newspapers published in the Province should furnish to the people of the Province statements made by the authority of the Government of the Province as to the true and exact objects of the policy of the Government and as to the hindrances to or difficulties in achieving such objects, to the end that the people may be informed with respect thereto.

Now, Therefore, His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Alberta, enacts as follows:

**1.** This Act may be cited as "*The Accurate News and Information Act.*"

**2.** In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

- (a) "Chairman" means the Chairman of the Board constituted by section 3 of *The Alberta Social Credit Act*;
- (b) "Newspaper" means a paper containing public news, intelligence or occurrences or remarks or observations thereon, printed for sale and published periodically in parts or numbers at regular intervals not exceeding thirty-one days between the publication of any two of such papers, parts or numbers, and includes a paper printed in order to be made public weekly or oftener, or at intervals not exceeding thirty-one days containing only or principally advertisements, and a paper containing accounts of events occurring within thirty-one days before the date of publication.

**3.**—(1) Subject to the other provisions of this section, every person who is the proprietor, editor, publisher or manager of any newspaper published in the Province, shall when required so to do by the Chairman, publish in that newspaper any statement furnished by the Chairman relating to all or any of the matters following, namely,—

- (a) the objects of any policies of the Government of the Province;
- (b) the means being taken or intended to be taken by the Government for the purpose of attaining such objects; and

(c) the circumstances, matters and things which hinder or make difficult the achievement of any such objects.

(2) Every such statement shall have written upon it a certificate in the following words: "The foregoing statement is published by the direction of the Chairman of The Social Credit Board," which certificate shall be printed at the foot of the statement to which it relates.

(3) Every such statement shall be printed with the type ordinarily used in the printing of the newspaper.

(4) The length of any statement or of any number of statements required to be published in any issue of any newspaper shall not exceed in the case of a daily newspaper one page, and in the case of any other newspaper one-tenth of the total issue.

(5) Every requirement by the Chairman for the publication of any statement shall be in writing signed by the Chairman, and shall be deemed to have been duly made upon the receipt of the requirement together with the statements referred to therein at the office or usual place of business of any of the following persons, namely, the proprietor, editor, publisher or manager of the newspaper.

(6) Every statement so required to be published in a newspaper shall be published in the next regular issue thereof after the day upon which the requirement for the publication thereof referred to in subsection (6) is received at the office or usual place of business of any of the following persons, namely, the proprietor, editor, publisher or manager of the newspaper.

(7) No statement required to be published pursuant to this Act shall contain any notice or other matter the publication of which is required to be made pursuant to any other statute or which is ordinarily published as advertising.

4. Every person who is the proprietor, editor, publisher or manager of any newspaper, shall upon being required so to do by the Chairman in writing, within twenty-four hours after the delivery of such requirement at the office or usual place of business of any of the following persons, namely, the proprietor, editor, publisher or manager of the newspaper, make a return in writing setting out every source from which any information emanated, as to any statement contained in any issue of the newspaper published within sixty days of the making of the requirement and the names, addresses and occupations of all persons by whom such information was furnished to the newspaper, and the name and address of the writer of any editorial, article or news item contained in any such issue of the newspaper as aforesaid.

5. Every statement published in compliance with section 3 of this Act and every return made pursuant to section 4 shall be privileged for all the purposes of *The Libel and*

*Slander Act*, and no action shall be maintainable by any person in respect thereof or in respect of any subsequent publication thereof.

**6.** In case the proprietor, editor, publisher or manager of any newspaper has been guilty of any contravention of any of the provisions of this Act the Lieutenant Governor in Council, upon the recommendation of the Chairman, may by order prohibit,—

- (a) the publication of such newspaper either for a definite time or until further order;
- (b) the publication in any newspaper of anything written by any person specified in the order;
- (c) the publication of any information emanating from any person or source specified in the order.

**7.**—(1) Every person who contravenes any of the provisions of this Act or who makes any default in complying with any requirement made in pursuance of this Act shall be liable to a penalty of five hundred dollars.

(2) Every person who contravenes any of the provisions of any order in council made pursuant to section 6 of this Act shall in respect of every such contravention be liable to a penalty of one thousand dollars.

(3) Any penalty which any person is liable to pay pursuant to any provision of this Act shall be recoverable either by suit brought by the Chairman in any court of competent civil jurisdiction, or upon summary conviction upon the information or complaint of the Chairman or of some person authorized in writing by the Chairman to lay such information.

**8.** This Act shall come into force on the day upon which it is assented to.

FIFTH SESSION  
**EIGHTH LEGISLATURE**

1 GEORGE VI

1937

(THIRD SESSION)

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**BILL**

An Act to Ensure the Publication of  
Accurate News and Information.

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Received and read the

First time.....

Second time.....

Third time.....

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HON. MR. MAYNARD.

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EDMONTON:  
A. Shnitka, King's Printer  
1937