




# The Development of Canada's Social Welfare State



- In 2004, the Canadian Broadcast Corporation (CBC) polled Canadians to find out who should have the title of “**Greatest Canadian**”



| Rank | Image   | Name                  | Notability   |
|------|---|-----------------------|--|
| 10   |     | Wayne Gretzky         | Hockey player, holder of numerous NHL records  |
| 9    |    | Alexander Graham Bell | Scientist, inventor,<br>founder of the Bell Telephone Company  |
| 8    |    | Sir John A. Macdonald | First Prime Minister of Canada   |
| 7    |   | Don Cherry            | Hockey coach and commentator   |
| 6    |  | Lester B. Pearson     | Fourteenth Prime Minister of Canada,<br>United Nations General Assembly President,<br>Nobel Peace Prize Laureate |

5



David Suzuki

Environmentalist

4



Sir Frederick Banting

Medical scientist, co-discoverer of insulin,  
winner of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine

3



Pierre Trudeau

Fifteenth Prime Minister of Canada

2



Terry Fox

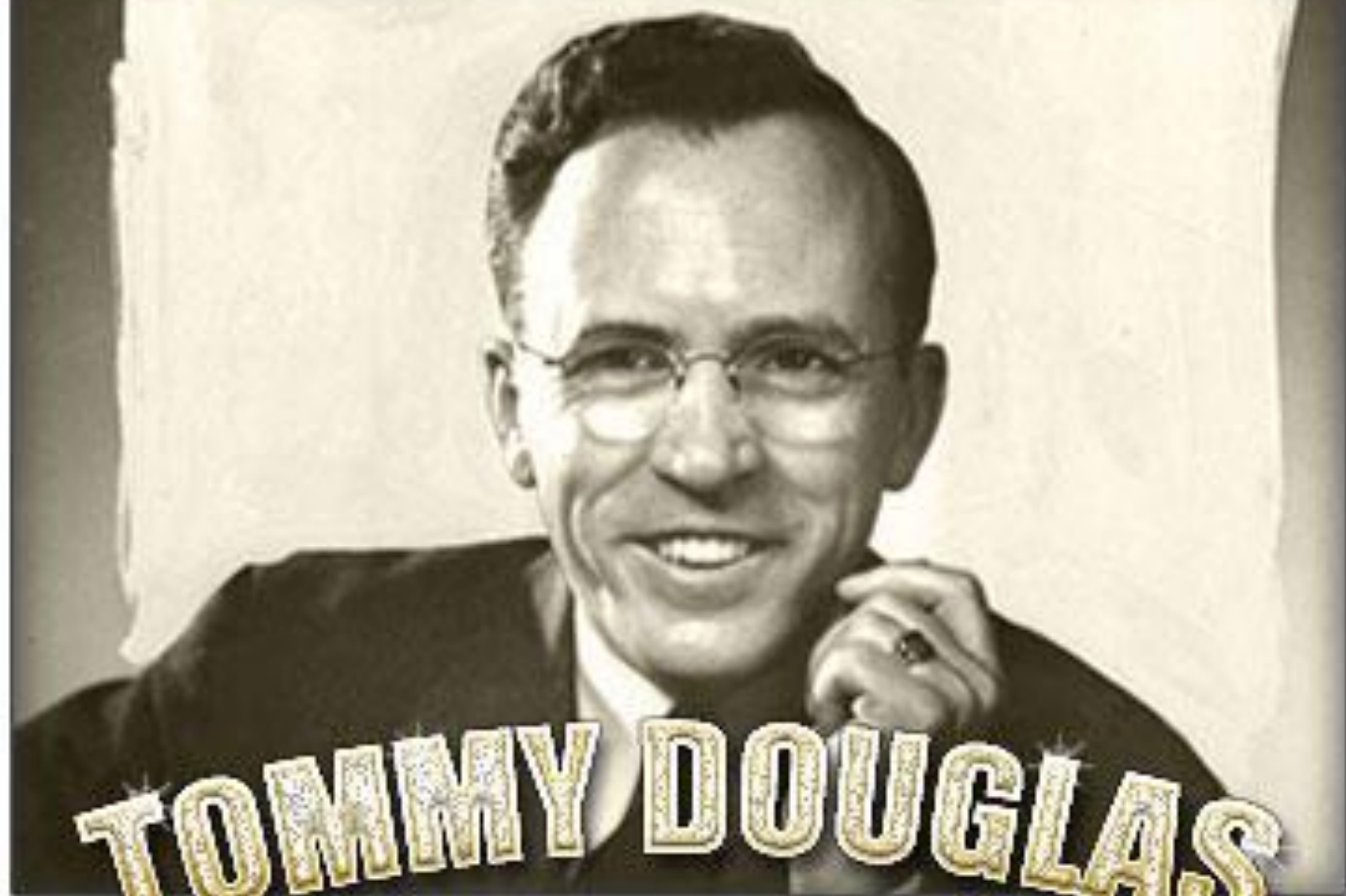
Athlete, activist, humanitarian



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# TOMMY DOUGLAS

*The Greatest of Them All*

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- **Tommy Douglas**, the **Father of Medicare**, was a man who was defined by his altruism and his belief that the role of the government is to help create a better society and a better Canada.
  - That is our topic today...

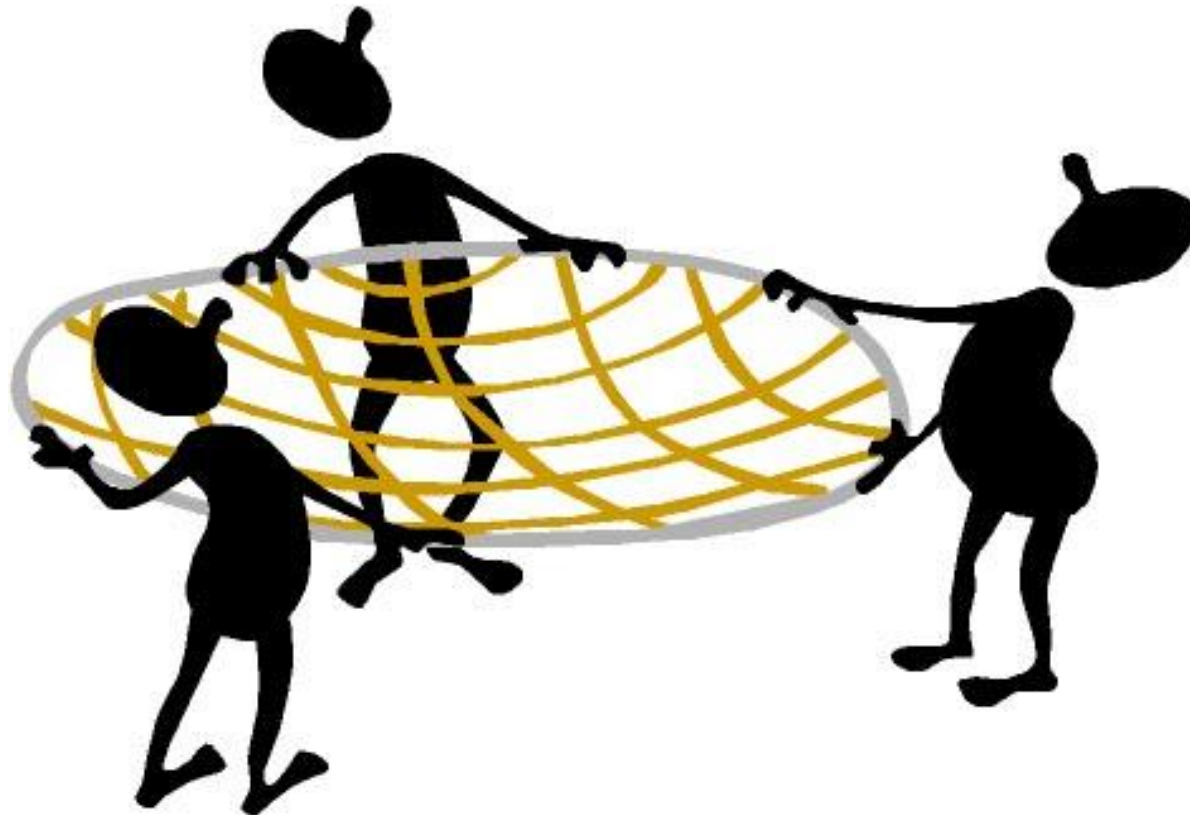
- The term “**welfare state**” was first coined in Britain during WWII.



- The welfare state aims to give citizens equal access to services, minimum income, and **protection from economic hardships** arising from old age, sickness, or unemployment.



- Many in Canada simply refer to it as the **social safety net**.



- Up until the 1930s there were no unemployment insurance or social welfare programs in Canada.



- The poor had to **rely** on private charity, family, and government soup kitchens.



- The **Great Depression** of the 1930s brought the need for social safety nets to the forefront.



- PM Mackenzie King responded by creating the “pogey”





- 'Pogey' is similar to our modern-day welfare system. It was a program developed by the gov't which provided vouchers which could be exchanged for food & essential items.

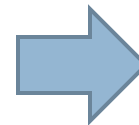
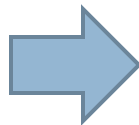
Pogey

- Pogeey was **deliberately kept lower** than the lowest paying jobs so as to discourage people from wanting to be on it.

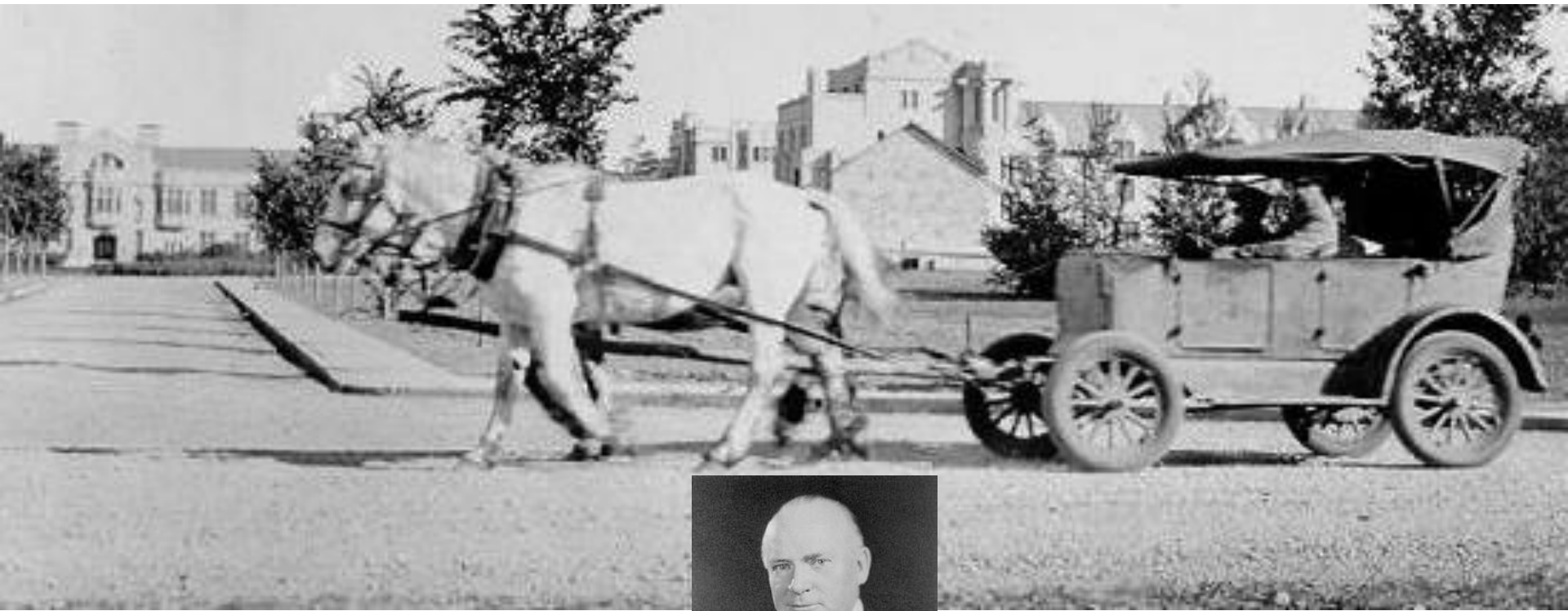


- The result was only that people ended up starving and suffering from disease because “pogey” was not sufficient.

- The Depression was hard on Canadian Prime Ministers. No easy solutions at hand.
- PM Mackenzie King was in power at the start. He lost the election to R.B. Bennett in 1930. Bennett was no better, and in 1935 Mackenzie King was re-elected.



# Bennett Buggy



PM R.B. Bennett





- The roots of Canada's social welfare system were planted when a new provincial political party, the "**Co-operative Commonwealth Federation**" (CCF) emerged from the Prairies during the darkest days of the Great Depression.



- The year was **1932** and the **Canadian west** was one of the hardest hit areas in the worldwide economic crisis.







- The **CCF** became Canada's first socialist party.



- As its name suggested, its founders wanted a political party that promoted universal cooperation for the common good.



- Members believed capitalism led to inequality and greed and they **wanted to make governments responsible for social and economic planning** to even out the playing field.





"My friends, watch out for the little fellow  
with an idea."

**- TOMMY DOUGLAS**

- In 1935, five CCF MPs were elected to Parliament in Saskatchewan, **including Tommy Douglas**, who later became the first CCF Premier, elected in Saskatchewan in 1944.



- As Premier of Saskatchewan, **Tommy Douglas** fought to bring in a system of universal public **medicare**.

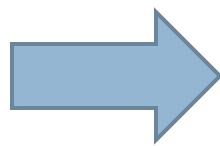


- “Health services should not have a price tag attached. People should be able to get the services they require irrespective of their individual capacity to pay.”





- The **CCF** became the **New Democratic Party** in **1961**. Although the Party never held power nationally, its policies were adopted and implemented by federal governments over the years.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9YtTZSY7NPO>



Tommy Douglas - Greatest Canadian

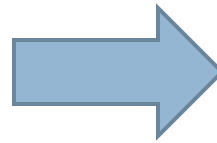


Denise Richards Abs  
AD by flexbeltabbelt

- Inspired by the CCF, by the 1940s the Canadian Gov't (federal) had **begun to accept social welfare/security** as a key responsibility.



- In Canada, the welfare state was launched under **Mackenzie King in the 1940s** and reached its highest point under **Trudeau in the 1970s**.



- Since then, successive gov'ts have pulled back somewhat.


- The **Unemployment Insurance Act** was passed in 1940, and family allowances or “**baby bonuses**” were introduced in 1945.



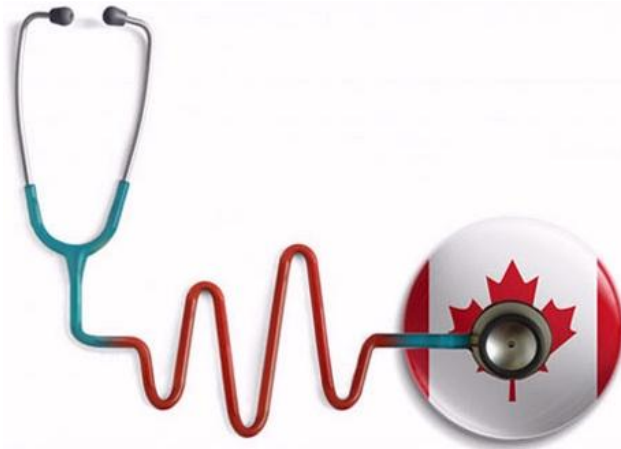


- In the 1960s, Canada's social safety net was broadened under PM Lester Pearson's leadership.



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- Pearson's gov't passed:
  - **Canada Pension Plan (1965)** – A mandatory investment fund, the CPP pools money deducted from wages to provide a minimum standard of living for Canada's elderly.

- **Medical Care Act (1966)** – Following a trail first blazed by Tommy Douglas in Saskatchewan.



- The legislation provides for **universal public coverage** of hospital and doctors' services to all Canadians.

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- **Outline the development of the Canadian welfare state.**