

A NEW ERA *for* BRITISH COLUMBIA

*A Vision for Hope & Prosperity
for the next decade and beyond.*

GORDON CAMPBELL AND THE



www.bcliberals.com



We can work *Wonders*

I am excited about our future. I was born here and I know what we can accomplish when we unite behind a common purpose. In BC there is a special spirit. It's the spirit that reaches beyond ourselves. It's the spirit of enterprise, community and imagination.

Imagine looking at our province 100 years ago and then look at it today. Think of the public legacy of our past – the roads, bridges, dams and power lines that brought us together. Think of all we have built: wonderful schools, universities and colleges to teach students of all ages; excellent hospitals to provide us all with care; and countless community services.

This election provides a chance to embark on a New Era of enormous scope to build on that proud legacy. Together we can reverse the NDP's decade of decline, incompetence, mismanagement and betrayal of trust. We can cut personal income taxes and unleash the power of a thriving free enterprise economy.

We can restore the sense of hope and prosperity that defined BC's past, to build a future in every community that is ripe with opportunity for our children and families.

We can create a public education system that's the envy of the world and develop a public health care system that meets the needs of all BC families, regardless of where they live. And we can bridge the "digital divide," to ensure all British Columbians can participate in the new world of technology and communicate through high-speed Internet access.

We can revive the spirit of democracy and reform our public services so they meet your needs. Working together, we can become leaders again in Canada and put our province's economy back on top.

This booklet outlines some of the goals we have set for ourselves. I invite you to read it, offer suggestions for improvement, and hold us to account should you honour us with the right to form your next provincial government.

We will act boldly and decisively to open up government, to rebuild our economy and to lead the way to a New Era full of promise and potential for you and your family.

Gordon Campbell
Leader, BC Liberal Party



A New Era of *Leadership*

We want British Columbians excited about their future again. We want to create a New Era in British Columbia. A New Era of vision, imagination, hope and prosperity.

If you are a parent, we want you to know that your children will have the education they need and the economic opportunity they deserve to build a successful future at home in your community.

The plan in this booklet lays out a vision for a brighter future that is realistic, affordable and measurable.

We will focus your tax dollars on the critical services that you want and deserve, while getting more value for each dollar spent.

We will act to build your trust and to re-establish BC's leadership role in Canada. We want our province to have the leading economy in the country, with the highest levels of private sector investment anywhere.

We want our schools, universities and colleges to be at the leading edge of educational achievement and excellence. We want our public health care system to guarantee all patients the care they need, where they live and when they need it.

A BC Liberal Government will be guided by the principles and values that are the pillars for prosperity.

Fiscal responsibility. Free enterprise. Equality of opportunity and responsibility. Compassion for those in need. An unflagging commitment to public health care, education and public safety.

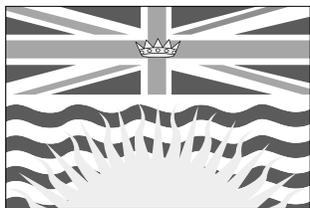
Commitment to Canada's Constitution and equality under the law. Open and accountable decision-making. Belief in a professional, non-partisan public service.

Those are the pillars for a New Era of hope and prosperity for all people who live here, in the best province, in the best country in the world.

Our Vision:

1. A top-notch education system for students of all ages.
2. High-quality public health care services that meet all patients' needs where they live and when they need it.
3. A thriving private sector economy that creates high-paying job opportunities.
4. Safer streets and schools in every community.
5. Better services for children, families & First Nations.
6. The fastest growing technology industry in Canada.
7. A leading edge forest industry that is globally recognized for its productivity and environmental stewardship.
8. Greater equity and equality for British Columbia in Canada.
9. The most open, accountable and democratic government in Canada.
10. Responsible, accountable management of your public resources and tax dollars.

A New Era for BC begins



within 90 days

Within 90 days of being sworn into office, a BC Liberal Government will act to initiate the following commitments:

- Introduce a dramatic cut in personal income taxes.
- Pass *real* Balanced Budget legislation, to make balanced budgets mandatory by our third full budget and to hold all ministers individually accountable.
- Pass *real* Truth in Budgeting legislation that ensures all provincial finances are fully, accurately and honestly reported under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.
- Restore education as an essential service under the Labour Code to ensure that no child's right to an education is denied during school strikes and lockouts.
- Pass Merit Employment legislation, to restore a professional, non-partisan public service, appointed strictly on merit and not on patronage.
- Establish a "Waste Buster" Website for taxpayers to help identify, report and stamp out government waste.
- Restore workers' democratic right to a secret ballot vote on certification under the Labour Code and ensure the same rules apply for certification as de-certification.
- Restore all workers' right to negotiate contracts by outlawing sectoral bargaining.
- Restore open tendering on government contracts to allow fair competition for businesses and provide better value to taxpayers.
- Appoint an independent task force to review the options, models, costs and effectiveness of private sector pay equity legislation, and make recommendations to the Legislature.
- Eliminate the HCL union-only "hiring hall" requirement on highway construction projects and government-sponsored silviculture contracts.
- Eliminate government subsidies to businesses that give some companies an unfair advantage over their competitors.
- Pass a Community Charter to outlaw provincial government "offloading" of costs onto municipal governments, and to give local governments greater autonomy and better planning tools to reduce pressure on property taxes.
- Appoint an independent public inquiry into the fast ferry fiasco and the mismanagement of BC Ferries.
- Ensure that Crown corporations are subject to local zoning and land-use by-laws.
- Scrap photo radar in British Columbia.
- Establish a fixed provincial election date under the BC Constitution Act, to ensure provincial elections must be held on a fixed date every fourth year, or immediately if any government loses a confidence vote in the Legislature.
- Establish a fixed date for the tabling of the provincial budget, and a set legislative calendar.
- Establish a new Premier's Council on Technology to help bridge the "digital divide" and recommend strategies to enable all British Columbians to participate in and benefit from increased jobs and opportunities in the new economy.
- Repeal the NDP's "fixed wage" legislation that has added huge costs to taxpayers on public construction projects.
- Restore workers' right to their pensions by repealing the law that allows some pension plans to suspend pension benefits for early retirees who choose to continue working in their previous field of employment.



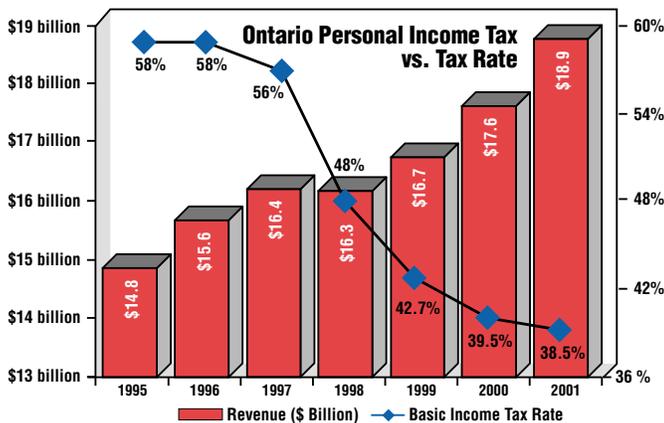
A New Era of *Higher Paycheques*

We want to cut your taxes and put more money back in your pocket, because when you work hard, you should be able to get ahead. You should keep more of every dollar you earn – and government should take less. That's the best way to stimulate investment, job creation and a thriving economy that can sustain the revenue growth needed to pay for crucial public services like health care and education. Money is always far more powerful in your hands than it is when government spends it.

We *can* have the most attractive personal income tax rates in Canada, and we *will*. Within our first term in government, BC Liberals will cut the base personal income tax rate to the lowest level in Canada for the bottom two income brackets, covering the first \$60,000 of income. Lower tax rates will mean higher incomes for all taxpayers. And that will mean more jobs, more taxpayers and ultimately more revenue to improve the public services you want and need.

Tax cuts *work*

Provinces like Ontario have proven that lower personal income tax rates lead to *higher* revenue – not less. Ontario cut its income tax rate by 20 points since 1996, and personal income tax revenue has gone up by over \$3.3 billion a year.



(Sources: Canadian Tax Foundation, Ontario Public Accounts, Third Quarter Update)

In Canada, **nine provinces cut personal income tax rates since 1995**, including BC. In every case, audited financial statements show that income tax revenues are now 9% to 36% higher than they were before rates were cut, because the economy is more competitive.

This same principle has been demonstrated throughout the world. When income tax rates are cut, tax revenues go up over time as the economy grows.

A BC Liberal Government will:

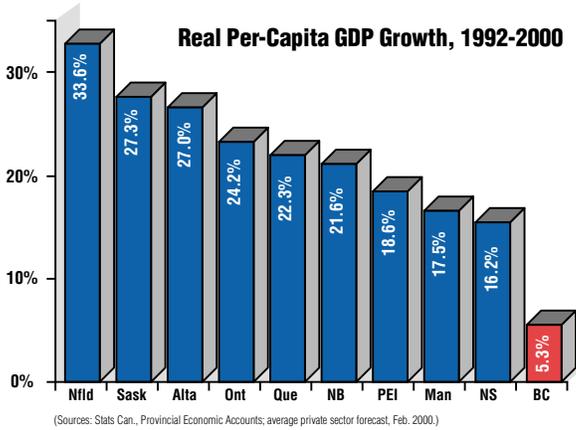
- Introduce a dramatic cut in personal income taxes, within 90 days.
- Cut the base personal income tax rate to the lowest rate of any province in Canada for the bottom two tax brackets, on the first \$60,000 of income, within our first term.
- Honour this commitment without cutting funding for health or education.

A Decade of Decline

The NDP has taken BC's economy from first to worst in Canada.



Glen Clark
Former Premier

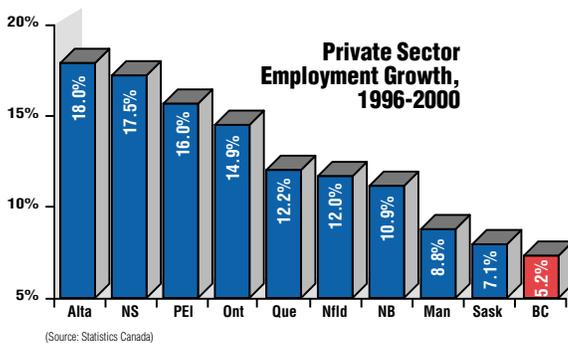
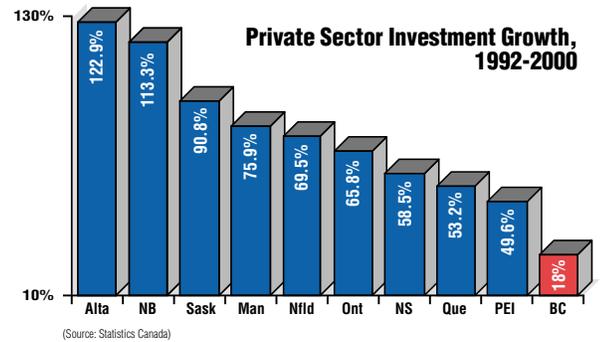


Last in Economic Growth

This chart shows just how badly our economy has performed compared to every other province in Canada. Since 1992, BC's per capita economic growth has fallen to dead last. Other provinces' economies have grown five times more than ours. In 1998, BC was the only province in Canada where the level of real per capita GDP was actually lower than in 1990.

Last in Investment Growth

The NDP's assault on free enterprise has crippled private sector investment in BC. While other provinces have seen investment in their economies soar, investment in BC has dropped to the bottom. BC also had the largest increase in business bankruptcies from 1992 to 1998.

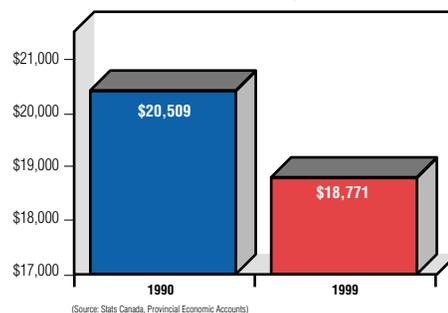


Last in Employment Growth

British Columbia has the highest unemployment rate west of Quebec for one simple reason: job growth in the private sector has been virtually non-existent under the NDP. As the chart on the left shows, BC ranks last in job creation in Canada since 1996. In fact, from 1994 to 1999, we experienced a net loss of 469 small and medium-sized businesses that moved from BC to other provinces.

Average annual take-home pay
dropped by \$1,738
over the last decade in BC

Average Real Per Capita After-Tax Income in BC (1999 Constant \$)



A Decade of Incompetence



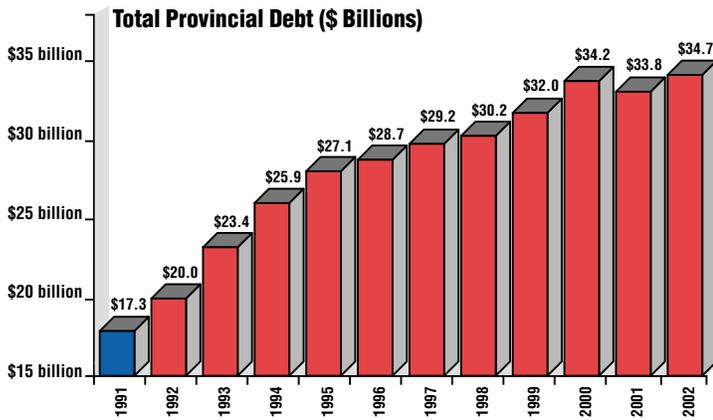
Ujjal Dosanjh
Premier

“No one believes that we are committed to sound financial management of our province.”

– Ujjal Dosanjh, May 27, 2000

- ◆ Eight consecutive deficits
- ◆ Over \$2 billion in tax hikes
- ◆ Two “fudge-it” budgets
- ◆ Countless missed budget forecasts
- ◆ BC had two credit rating downgrades
- ◆ Skyrocketing spending and debt
- ◆ \$ billions in unauthorized spending
- ◆ The worst fiscal record in Canada

The NDP Doubled the Debt



(Sources: 2000 Financial & Economic Review; BC Budget 2001)

The NDP have doubled the total debt accumulated by all previous BC governments combined. Since 1991, the debt has grown from \$17 billion to almost \$35 billion.

That works out to about \$8,428 for every woman, man and child in BC. It's all borrowed money that will have to be repaid by tomorrow's taxpayers – by our children and grandchildren.

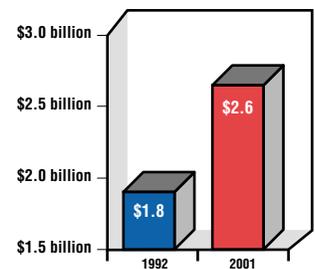
While other provinces have reduced their debt as a percentage of economic growth, our taxpayer-supported debt has gone from 12.5% to 19.7% of GDP.

Debt costs have soared

Despite the lowest interest rates in 30 years, interest costs have soared by almost 45% under the NDP. BC taxpayers now spend more than \$2.6 billion a year in interest on dead-weight debt.

Higher borrowing costs mean more money to the banks, and less money available for crucial services, like health and education. Annual debt costs now consume almost double the entire budget for Children & Family Services – or half the entire education budget.

Annual Interest on Debt (\$ Billions)

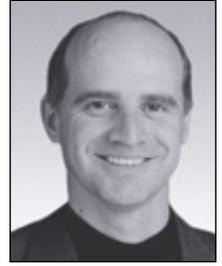


(Sources: Debt Management Progress Report 1994-95; BC Budget 2001)



Joyce Murray
New Westminster

A New Era of *Accountability*



Gary Farrell-Collins
Vancouver - Fairview

Mr. Dosanjh said it:

“As a person who has been in Cabinet... I can’t escape the collective responsibility.”

As everyone now knows, the NDP’s 1996 election budget was a fraud. Now they are at it again. The NDP’s new budget has been exposed as yet another “fudge-it budget,” incorporating over \$1 billion in “revenues” that rely on changes in accounting methods and politically inflated Hydro and ICBC “contributions” to government coffers.

It’s time to hold the NDP accountable for their abysmal record in government. Mr. Dosanjh and his colleagues supported every one of Glen Clark’s policies. They voted for eight straight NDP deficits and turned a blind eye to scandal after scandal. Now Mr. Dosanjh has tabled his own “fudge-it budget.”

Mr. Dosanjh sat on Treasury Board during both the fast ferry fiasco and the 1996 “fudge-it budget.” He was responsible for the Carrier Lumber appeal, which he filed as Attorney General without even reading the court judgement. That disgraceful fiasco alone will cost taxpayers millions in settlement costs, to say nothing of the damage it has done to BC’s reputation.

It’s time for a New Era of Accountability. Our plan will deliver real transparent, accountable government.

A BC Liberal Government will:

- Conduct a comprehensive audit of the Province’s finances within 90 days and make the results public.
- Pass *real* Balanced Budget legislation, to make balanced budgets mandatory by our third full budget and to hold all ministers individually accountable.
- Pass *real* Truth in Budgeting legislation that ensures all provincial finances are fully, accurately and honestly reported under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.
- Honestly balance the budget, without cutting funding for health care or education.
- Restore a professional, non-partisan public service, based on merit – not patronage.
- Increase funding for the Auditor General’s Office, to help identify and prevent waste, and to increase value-for-money.
- Eliminate the use of Special Warrants, to prevent government from spending your money without prior legislative approval.
- Establish a “Waste Buster” Website for taxpayers to help identify, report and stamp out government waste.
- Establish service plans that include measurable performance standards and targets for all programs that are annually audited and published, for all taxpayers to see.
- Require Crown corporations to be directly accountable to a committee of the Legislature for their financial management and budget plans.
- Establish a fixed date for tabling the annual provincial budget.



Sindi Hawkins
Kelowna – Mission

A New Era of *Hope*



Ted Nebbeling
West Vancouver – Garibaldi

New *hope* for:

- Private property rights
- Homeowners and buyers
- Regional transportation
- Affordable housing
- Lower energy bills
- Lower auto insurance costs
- Local governments

As we move forward to a New Era of hope and prosperity, it's important for government to safeguard the values that underpin our free enterprise economy. You shouldn't have to worry about government trampling on your property rights, as we saw in the Carrier Lumber fiasco and when the NDP confiscated non-profit societies' assets, without compensation.

You shouldn't have to pay higher than necessary electricity or auto insurance rates, because government wants to play politics with BC Hydro or ICBC. You should be confident that government will protect your interests.

You should be confident that your public ferry system will not be held hostage to strikes or lockouts. And your local government should be given the tools and resources it needs to better plan and manage local services, while remaining accountable to local property taxpayers.

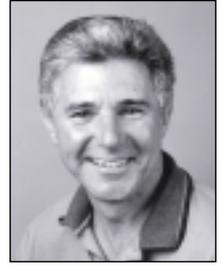
A BC Liberal Government will:

- Protect private property rights to prevent government from expropriating assets without fair compensation.
- Modernize the Residential Tenancy Act to properly protect renters and landlords in plain language everyone can understand.
- Give property buyers more information about prospective properties by ensuring that notices of known archaeological sites must be registered in the Land Title Office.
- Restore an independent BC Utilities Commission, to re-regulate BC Hydro's electricity rates.
- Pass a Community Charter that will increase autonomy for local governments.
- Establish regional transportation authorities that are accountable to local taxpayers and give local communities more control over their transportation needs and planning.
- Require taxpayer approval by regional referendums prior to authorization of any new type of TransLink tax or levy.
- Outlaw "offloading" of provincial government costs onto the backs of local property taxpayers.
- Not sell or privatize BC Rail.
- Protect BC Hydro and all of its core assets, including dams, reservoirs and power lines under public ownership.
- Designate BC Ferry routes as an essential service, to ensure that water transportation routes are not shut down by labour disputes.
- Introduce greater competition in auto insurance, to create increased choice and reduce motor vehicle premiums.
- Implement a flexible, innovative program to increase the supply of affordable housing.
- Focus resources on improving Northern and rural transportation.



Susan Brice
Saamich South

A New Era of *Prosperity*



Graham Bruce
Cowichan – Ladysmith

New *hope* for:

- Small business
- Tourism
- Agriculture
- Mining
- Fishing
- Oil & Gas
- Retail
- Transportation
- Construction

With all that our province has going for it, people should be flocking to invest, work and live here. But the opposite has happened under the NDP.

High taxes, over-regulation and hostile business policies have driven workers and employers out of our province. Since 1997, more than 43,000 British Columbians have left for Alberta alone. Between 1994 and 1999, we had a net loss of 469 BC companies that moved out of British Columbia.

We can turn that around in short order with the right attitude, policies and taxation environment. Our commitment to cut personal income taxes is a critical first step. But there's much more that can and must be done.

Our plan is aimed at kick-starting the economy in every sector, to create a New Era of prosperity in British Columbia. We want British Columbians to stay at home and to come back to BC, to build a bright future for themselves, their families and their communities.

A BC Liberal Government will:

- Eliminate all government subsidies to business that give some firms an unfair advantage over their competitors in BC.
- Cut the "red tape" and regulatory burden by 1/3 within three years.
- Restore open tendering on government contracts, to reduce costs and give everyone an equal right to compete for taxpayer-funded work.
- Make the Workers' Compensation Board more responsive to workers' and employers' needs.
- Increase access to Crown lands and resources, to create jobs in tourism, mining, forestry, farming, ranching, and oil & gas.
- Phase out taxes on investment and productivity to stimulate economic growth and job creation, in keeping with our commitment to balance the budget and protect health care and education funding.
- Stimulate tourism with a plan to improve operators' ability to successfully compete for visitors from around the world.
- Aggressively support and champion British Columbia's bid to host the 2010 Winter Olympics.
- Push for provincial control over the management and revenues of BC's offshore fisheries, to improve fisheries management and protect fishery jobs.
- Eliminate the backlog and delays in Crown land applications, which have cost over \$1 billion and 20,000 lost jobs.
- Encourage mineral exploration which has dropped by 80% under the NDP.
- Consider the Northern Development Commissioner's forthcoming report on offshore oil & gas.
- Increase funding for the British Columbia Arts Council to promote and support BC arts, music, artists and culture.
- Make the Agricultural Land Commission more regionally responsive to community needs.



Richard Stewart
Coquitlam - Maillardville

A New Era of *Employment*



Brenda Locke
Surrey - Green Timbers

To compete and prosper in the new economy, workers and employers alike need more flexibility and a modern work environment that encourages innovation and rewards creative thinking and increased productivity.

Our plan to cut your income taxes will help, by allowing you to keep more of your hard-earned money, so that you know, if you work hard, you will get ahead. But that's only part of what must be done to create a thriving, free enterprise economy that will stimulate investment and job creation. We also have to restore workers' rights and modernize employment standards to ensure all workers are treated fairly and equitably.

Our New Era is about liberating our economy and minimizing undue government intervention in people's lives. It's about giving employees and employers the tools they need to foster better working relationships and safe, healthy, dynamic workplaces. It's about giving working women and men the safeguards and incentives they need to participate fully and equally in the competitive global economy in which we all work and live.

New jobs
Increased flexibility
Higher paycheques

A BC Liberal Government will:

- Restore workers' democratic right to a secret ballot vote on any proposed union certification.
- Give all workers a fair and equal chance to compete for work on taxpayer-funded projects through the restoration of open tendering on public sector contracts.
- Restore all workers' right to negotiate their contracts by outlawing sectoral bargaining.
- Give workers and employers greater flexibility in Employment Standards to negotiate mutually beneficial relationships that help them compete and prosper.
- Appoint an independent task force to review the options, models, costs and effectiveness of private sector pay equity legislation, and to make recommendations to the Legislature.
- Make the Workers' Compensation Board more responsive to the needs of workers and employers alike.
- Eliminate the NDP's "fixed wage" policy that has increased costs to taxpayers for public sector construction projects.
- Restore balance to the Labour Code by ensuring the same rules apply for certification and de-certification.
- Cut BC's base personal income tax rate to the lowest rate in Canada on the bottom two income tax brackets, covering the first \$60,000 of income, within our first term.
- Introduce a dramatic personal income tax cut for all taxpayers, within our first 90 days.
- Focus on reducing BC's youth unemployment, which is the worst of any province west of Quebec.
- Work with employers, post-secondary institutes and the Industry Training and Apprenticeship Commission to increase training and apprenticeships in trades and technical sectors.



George Abbott
Shuswap

A New Era of *Sustainable Forestry*



Shirley Bond
Prince George -
Mount Robson

NDP promises and *harsh realities*

- In 1996, the NDP promised to create 21,000 direct forest jobs by 2001. The following year, they vowed to create 39,800 direct and indirect jobs under the Jobs & Timber Accord. The NDP broke those promises.
- Between 1996 and 1999, 8,500 forest workers lost their jobs.
- Since 1997, 17 major sawmills and secondary manufacturing mills and one pulp mill have been permanently shut down.
- As the NDP's own former Forest Minister has admitted, the Forest Practices Code has added over \$1 billion in costs to the industry – for no public benefit.

“Under the NDP, our forest industry has gone from the lowest cost producer of fibre in North America to the highest cost producer.

We need to fix that, to make our forest industry strong again and ensure a bright future for forest workers.”

Gordon Campbell

A BC Liberal Government will:

- Establish a working forest land base, to provide greater stability for working families and to enhance long-term forestry management and planning.
- Streamline the Forest Practices Code to establish a workable, results-based Code, with tough penalties for non-compliance.
- Apply 1% of all direct forest revenues, not including “super stumpage,” to global marketing of BC’s forest practices and products.
- Create a market-based stumpage system that reflects global market realities and local harvesting costs.
- Either fix or scrap Forest Renewal BC, starting by removing the political appointees on the Board.
- Invest in research to promote forest stewardship.
- Cut the forestry regulatory burden by one-third within three years, without compromising environmental standards.
- Protect private property rights in treaty negotiations.
- Work to expedite interim measures agreements with First Nations, to provide greater certainty during treaty talks.
- Increase the Allowable Annual Cut over time through scientific forest management, proper planning, and incentives to promote enhanced silviculture.
- Eliminate “waterbedding.”
- Scrap the “HCL” silviculture hiring hall policy that discriminates against silviculture workers.



Murray Coell
Saanich North & The Islands

A New Era of *Environmental Stewardship*

Throughout the world, BC is known for its spectacular scenery and incredible natural environment. We want to build on that legacy through the proper management of your Crown land and resources.

For too long, the NDP have only focused on the creation of parks, and largely ignored the other aspects of environmental stewardship that are critical to your health and well-being.

It's time for a New Era of environmental management, based on sound science, cleaner air, cleaner water and sustainable practices. It's time to unite British Columbians to find solutions to our common environmental goals and challenges.

BC Liberals have been *first* to act to *protect* your environment

- ✓ **First** to commit to protecting Burns Bog, which the NDP tried to turn into a theme park.
- ✓ **First** to demand the protection of the Upper Pitt watershed from a proposed gravel pit (the NDP resisted this protection for months).
- ✓ **First** to call for a full environmental assessment of the Skytrain project, which the NDP never did.
- ✓ **First** to propose the protection of drinking water through ground water legislation.
- ✓ **First** to call for the cancellation of the Kemano Completion Project.
- ✓ **First** to call for the phase-out of Burrard Thermal, which the NDP has expanded, despite its harmful effects on air quality.
- ✓ **First** to fight the Sumas 2 power project.

A BC Liberal Government will:

- Adopt a scientifically-based, principled approach to environmental management that ensures sustainability, accountability and responsibility.
- Pass *real* comprehensive ground water legislation to improve the quality of British Columbians' drinking water.
- Oppose the Sumas 2 power project and phase out Burrard Thermal.
- Ensure mining or logging is not permitted in parks.
- Acquire and preserve Burns Bog.
- Create a BC Trust for Public Lands to encourage and facilitate the expansion of public lands through private land donations.
- Pass a Living Rivers Act to protect and improve BC's river systems with scientifically-based standards for watershed management, enhancements to fish habitat, and a 10-year program to correct past damage.
- Work to develop an internationally accepted standard for "eco-labelling" of BC forest products.
- Maintain the longstanding ban on bulk water exports.
- Replace the NDP's blanket moratorium on grizzly bear hunting with a proper peer review by scientists and biologists, and local moratoriums where grizzly populations are endangered.
- Ensure Cabinet decisions on any new parks are made in public.
- Promote clean and renewable alternative energy sources, like wind, thermal, solar, tidal, biomass and fuel cell technologies.



A New Era of *Connectivity*

“We must bridge the ‘digital divide’ to give all citizens the skills, tools and Internet access they need to fully participate in the global technology revolution.”

Gordon Campbell

We live in exciting times. The world is now just a mouse click away, and within a few short years, it will literally rest in the palm of our hands, through the advances of technology.

But as many citizens already know, there is a growing “digital divide” between those who have access to new technologies, and those who do not.

Many families have been shut out of the new economy, simply because they do not have high-speed access to the Internet, or because they can’t afford a computer. The lack of computer literacy is also a huge barrier.

With real leadership, we can bridge the “digital divide”. We can ensure that all British Columbians, aboriginal and non-aboriginal alike, have the skills, tools and means to fully benefit from, and participate in, the new economy.

British Columbians are already proving that they can compete with the best technology companies in the world – and win.

We have leading edge firms in information technology, multi-media software, video games, biotechnology, wireless communications, aerospace, and electronic equipment manufacturing, among others.

But we can be better yet. With all of our competitive advantages, we can train, attract and retain the brightest minds in the world.

Our quality of life is fabulous. There’s no place more beautiful on the planet. We have a great education infrastructure and an exceptionally talented workforce. All we lack is a government with the vision and will to create a business climate that will attract investment and retain knowledge workers.

A BC Liberal Government will:

- Work to extend high-speed, broadband Internet access to every community in BC through wireless technology, cable, phone lines and fibre optics.
- Use public assets, like roads, railways and power lines to leverage rapid growth in communications infrastructure and broadband capabilities.
- Create a new Premier’s Council on Technology, comprised of business leaders, educators and researchers from all major technology sectors.
The Council will be Chaired by the Premier; it will have a full-time president and it will meet in public on a quarterly basis.
- Instruct the new Premier’s Council on Technology to recommend solutions to bridge the “digital divide” within 90 days.
- Provide incentives to make computers and Internet access more affordable for all families.
- Put more computers in schools and more resources into enhancing computer literacy.



A New Era for *Knowledge Workers*

Our *vision*

We want to make British Columbia a global magnet for high tech investment, growth and job creation – recognized as the best place on earth to live, learn, work and prosper.

Our aim is to develop the most computer literate, highly skilled workforce in Canada, with a broadband communications infrastructure and a competitive business environment that is second to none.

We want to build an exciting new, modern economy that extends the benefits and opportunities in technology to every family and community in British Columbia.

New *earning power*
New *technologies*
New *discoveries*

My *commitment*



“The Premier’s Office will be responsible for the development, funding and execution of BC’s technology strategy.”

As Premier, I will lead annual ‘Leading Edge’ marketing missions to key international customer and capital markets, to promote BC technology and capital investment.”

Gordon Campbell

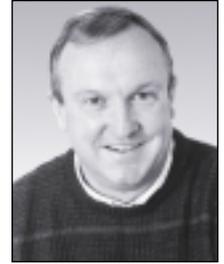
A BC Liberal Government will:

- Introduce a dramatic cut in personal income taxes, to attract and retain high tech workers.
- Work with the federal government to ensure that our tax treatment of stock options and capital gains is globally competitive.
- Lead annual international ‘Leading Edge’ marketing missions to promote BC technology and investment.
- Restore BC as a world leader in E-government, to give all citizens and businesses better on-line access to core services, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Use on-line procurement technology to save costs and maximize taxpayers’ value-for-money on all major government purchases.
- Cut the cost of paper flow by digitizing all government data, forms and information possible.
- Double the annual number of graduates in computer science, and electrical and computer engineering, within five years.
- Increase investment in technology research and post-secondary skills training.



Patty Sahota
Burnaby – Edmonds

A New Era for *Students*



Gordon Hogg
Surrey – White Rock

The New Era demands new skills and lifelong learning from students of all ages. Education is the cornerstone of our society – and it has never been more critical than it is today. It’s time we formally recognized that fact and restored education as an essential service, to ensure that students are never again denied access to the education that your tax dollars pay for, simply because of a labour dispute.

Every day that a child is shut out of a classroom is a learning day that is lost to that child forever. When you add up all the students in BC who have been turned away from their schools because of strikes and lockouts, more than four million student days have been lost since 1991.

But that’s not the half of it. At a time when parents are forced to raise money for bare essentials, like textbooks, millions of dollars have been wasted on fast ferries, Skytrain overruns and other failed NDP megaprojects. And it’s always our children who pay the biggest price for that mismanagement and those misplaced priorities.

We will invest in education and make each education dollar go further. And we will grow the economy, to increase the funding available for students of all ages, and provide the best education in Canada.



A BC Liberal Government will:

- Restore education as an essential service under the Labour Code, to ensure that no child’s right to an education is denied during school strikes and lockouts.
- Give local school boards more autonomy and control over the delivery of education services, subject to provincial curriculum and testing standards.
- Eliminate the PST on basic school supplies purchased by Parent Advisory Councils, which volunteer their time and effort to raise money for public schools.
- Maintain and increase education funding levels by increasing revenues through economic growth.
- Give school boards multi-year funding envelopes, to improve long-term education planning and budgeting.
- Guarantee that parents of students attending schools are entitled to volunteer their services, provided it does not result in the displacement of existing staff services.
- Establish specific goals and outcomes to measure the success of educators in public schooling.
- Work with educators and employers to expand job training and skills development opportunities.
- Put more computers in schools and increase resources to improve computer literacy for students of all ages.
- Devote more of each education dollar to improving the quality of education, and less to bureaucracy.
- Maintain current funding arrangements for independent schools.
- Ensure that music, arts and physical education curriculums are fully funded in BC’s public schools.
- Support more flexibility and choice in public schooling.
- Provide teachers with more technology training.
- Improve school accreditations.



Richard Lee
Burnaby North

A New Era for *Advanced Education*



Barry Penner
Chilliwack - Kent

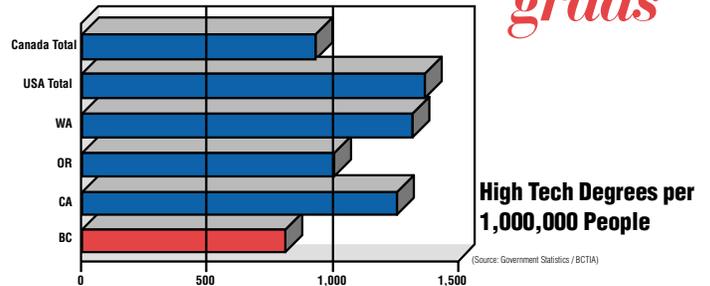
We must do *better*

- British Columbia remains approximately 20% below the national average in degree completion success.
- There were 2,600 applicants for nursing degrees in BC in 1998/99 but only 949 people could be accepted due to a lack of funding for spaces.
- BC graduates one doctor for every 32,225 British Columbians – the worst medical grad-to-population ratio of any province that has a medical school.
- In 1997/98, BC had the lowest number of students graduating with bachelor degrees in science and engineering compared with Ontario, Quebec, Alberta, Washington State and Oregon.

“Education is our top priority, because it’s the key to any healthy, prosperous society.”

Gordon Campbell

We need more *high tech* grads



A BC Liberal Government will:

- Double the annual number of graduates in computer science, and electrical and computer engineering, within five years.
- Establish a “Leading Edge Endowment Fund,” based on a cost-sharing partnership with the private sector, to establish 20 permanent BC Leadership Chairs across the province in the fields of medical, social, environmental and technological research.
- Work with employers, post-secondary institutes and the Industry Training and Apprenticeship Commission to increase training and apprenticeships in trades and technical sectors.
- Support the current 5% tuition cut and tuition freeze and fully fund it in the current fiscal year to offset costs to post-secondary institutes.
- Consult with educators, students and administrators on the hidden costs to students and institutes of previous tuition freezes that were not properly funded by government and that have reduced student access and reduced course offerings.
- Strengthen our network of colleges, institutes and on-line learning throughout the province.
- Increase research funding for colleges, universities and institutes.
- Expand training and post-secondary programs to graduate more Care Aides, Licenced Practical Nurses and Registered Nurses.
- Provide forgivable student loans to BC students attending accredited nursing and medical schools provided they practice for five years in underserved communities in BC.
- Increase the number of medical school graduates over the next five years.
- Train more social workers to meet the critical skills shortage that has developed under the NDP.

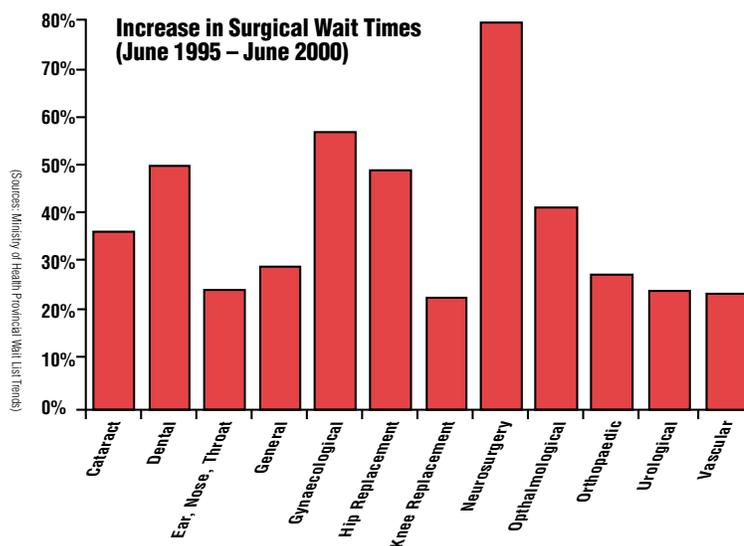
NDP Cuts to Health Care Have Created a Crisis

Patient Care has Suffered

Over the last ten years the NDP have made dramatic changes in our health care system that have created huge problems for patients and growing pressures on health care providers. Patients have suffered.

The NDP cut over 3,000 much needed hospital beds out of the system. So it's no wonder we now have hospital bed shortages and longer waiting lists. Similarly, the NDP's cuts to the number of training positions in BC's nursing and medical technology schools have created a serious shortage of nurses and medical technologists. And the NDP failed to fund the additional spaces needed to provide even half the doctors we must train annually in BC.

While wasting billions of dollars on fast ferries and failed megaprojects, the NDP underfunded necessary equipment budgets by about \$50 million a year in the last five years. As a result, hospitals lack the technology and equipment they need to provide proper patient care. The lack of any long term strategic plan has left our health care services in a mess. We must reverse the damage and solve our common health care challenges, before any more damage is done.



Wait Lists have Grown

Patients who need surgery are angry and frustrated that the treatment they pay for isn't there for them when they need it.

The chart on the left shows how surgical waiting times have grown under the NDP. General surgery waits are up by 26.9% since 1995. Neurosurgery wait times have grown by 78.9%.

It's the same story for virtually every other type of surgery. There are now over 81,000 patients in BC waiting for surgery. In addition, others in desperate need of treatment are also waiting for care. In January 2000 there were 700 cancer patients who waited up to three months for radiation therapy. That's just not good enough. All British Columbians deserve better from our public health services.



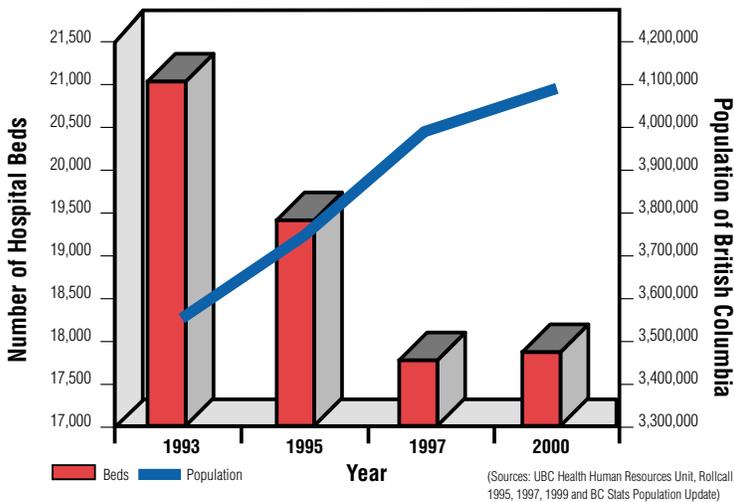
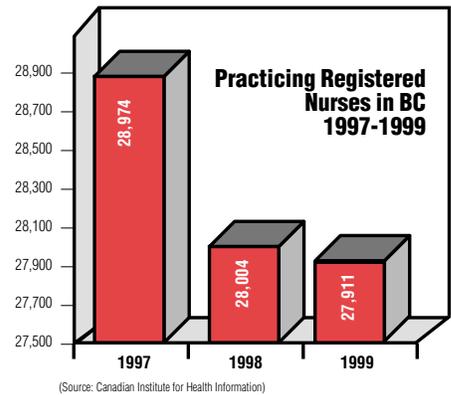
Health Care is in Trouble

We Don't Have Enough Nurses or Doctors

A major reason why public health care is in trouble in BC is because the NDP haven't trained or hired enough nurses or doctors.

In fact, over the last few years, the number of practicing registered nurses declined all the way down to 1995 levels. From 1993 to 2000, the number of nursing school graduates also plummeted by 27 percent. It's been the same story for licensed practical nurses (LPNs). BC lost 1,523 LPNs over the period 1993 to 1999.

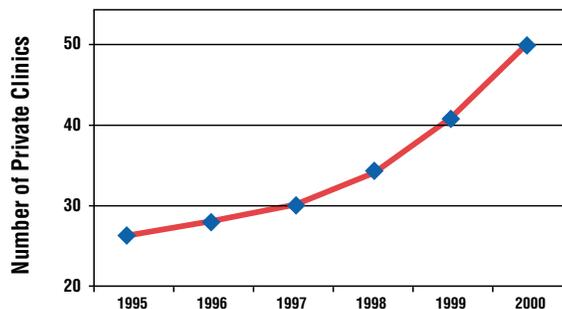
Moreover, while BC's population has grown by 50% over the last two decades, the number of medical students graduating from UBC has remained the same. That has resulted in BC having the lowest number of medical students in relation to population of any province that has a medical school. Further, over 300 doctors leave BC or retire each year, making the physician shortage even worse every year.



We Don't Have Enough Hospital Beds

From 1993 to 2000, the number of hospital beds in BC fell by 3,334 beds, a 16% decline. Over the same period, however, our province's population grew by half a million people. The result is that there are more patients every year, with fewer hospital beds today than in 1993.

Private Clinics Have Doubled Under The NDP





Ida Chong
Oak Bay – Gordon Head

A New Era for *Patient Care*



Dr. Gulzar Cheema
Surrey – Panorama Ridge

“It’s time to put patient care first. To do that, we must renew public health care, through better management, adequate funding, proper staffing, and sound strategic planning.”

Gordon Campbell

We must *improve emergency care*

Emergency rooms are overflowing in BC. We’ve all seen the pictures. Patients get shuffled from one hospital to the next – if they are lucky enough to even have a functioning hospital in their community. Patients are also routinely flown to Alberta, because we are unable to care for our own.

Public health services are failing patients, even in matters of life and death. We need clear, provincial standards for accessible, reliable health services, and better acute care services, especially in emergency rooms.

We must *improve community care*

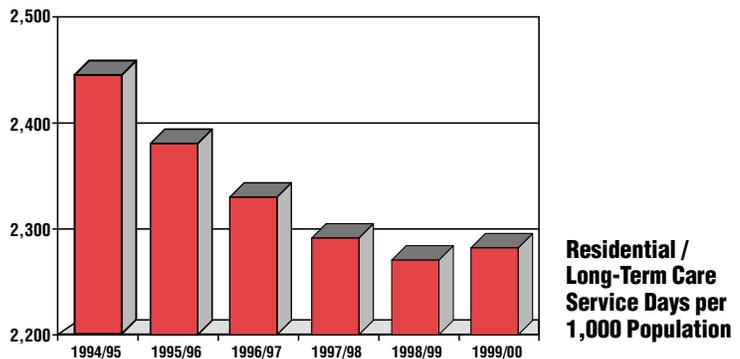
We know there’s an urgent need for 4,200 additional community care beds right now, and 9,000 beds within 15 years. Meeting this challenge won’t be easy, but it must be a priority.



The chart below shows how the number of days of residential and long-term care has gone down under the NDP, as a proportion of our population.

Hospitals have been forced to shut down beds because the NDP has ignored the advice of physicians, nurses and other health care professionals.

That problem has been compounded by the lack of community care beds, because patients needing that care are now often in badly needed acute care beds.



(Source: Ministry of Health, Deputy Minister’s Office, January 2001)



Colin Hansen
Vancouver - Quilchena

A New Era for *Health Care*



Val Roddick
Delta South

We must *renew public health care in BC*



Talented nurses, doctors, physiotherapists, pharmacists, health care workers and caregivers across the province work tirelessly on behalf of the people who live here.

They have, however, been working under increasing stress over the last decade. Professional burn-out and overwork has resulted in the loss of nurses, doctors and specialists which has, in turn, reduced patient care.

BC Liberals are dedicated to establishing a New Era of health care in BC, with a renewed public health care system.

We are going to put people's needs at the centre of health care again.

We are going to make BC a place where health care professionals and caregivers know they are valued.

We are going to be sure that people have the care they need, when they need it, where they live.

It will take time. It will take effort.

But we know that by working together with care providers, health professionals, patients and community leaders, we can undo the damage that's been done by the NDP's mismanagement over the last decade.



We must *solve the rural health care crisis*

The rural health care crisis is placing a terrible burden on patients in communities throughout British Columbia. The provincial government has an obligation to ensure that all British Columbians get the level and quality of care that they are entitled to under the Canada Health Act.

That means all citizens should have a comprehensive, publicly administered health care system that ensures high quality, timely health services are universally available and accessible to all throughout the province. Yet anyone living in rural BC knows that this has not been the case under the NDP, and things have grown worse, not better.

The physician and nursing supply shortage is but one of several challenges that must be overcome with a comprehensive long-term strategy to restore rural British Columbians' confidence in their public health care system. We also need more equipment, better facilities, and above all, real leadership from government to fix the problem.





John Nuraney
Burnaby – Willingdon

A New Era of *Health Planning*



Kevin Falcon
Surrey – Cloverdale

In 1991, the Seaton Royal Commission laid out a plan for health care in BC. The NDP put it on the shelf. As a result, BC has not had a comprehensive health plan and precious health care resources have not been used to their maximum advantage.

The first step to properly managing health care is to establish a sound, strategic plan that identifies our immediate, intermediate and long-term health care priorities, and that lays out a workable blueprint for meeting those needs with the resources necessary. There must be clear standards for the level and quality of health services expected. And there must be true accountability at every level for the results delivered.



A BC Liberal Government will:

Work with health care professionals, caregivers, administrators, community leaders, patient groups and the public to develop a comprehensive 10-Year Health Strategy for BC. As part of that plan, we will:

- Ensure that BC health care is universal, accessible, portable, comprehensive and publicly administered, consistent with the five principles of the Canada Health Act.
- Establish provincial health standards that ensure all citizens in every part of the province are entitled to equitable, reliable, high quality health services.
- Develop performance measures that are annually audited and publicly reported for each health standard, to ensure provincial and regional health authorities are accountable for fulfilling their duties to provide the prescribed levels of patient care.
- Develop a 10-year human resource plan, that properly provides for the training, recruitment and retention of physicians, nurses, specialists and other health care providers in every area of the province, and that addresses critical skills shortages and staffing levels in under-served areas.
- Develop a Hospital Facilities Plan, that identifies each health region's key capital requirements and funding priorities.
- Develop an Intermediate and Long-Term Care Facilities Plan, that addresses the needs of our aging population and frees up existing acute care beds.
- Develop a Medical Machinery and Equipment Plan that ensures existing medical diagnostic and care equipment is adequately staffed, fully utilized and properly maintained, and that provides for future investments in new equipment and technologies.
- Develop a comprehensive Technology Plan to assist health care professionals in delivering faster, more effective treatment to patients through new information technology and telemedicine.
- Establish a Rural and Remote Health Initiative to ensure all families get the care they need, where they live, when they need it.



Pat Bell
Prince George North

A New Era of *Health Quality*



Elayne Brenzinger
Surrey – Whalley

The NDP mismanaged health funding

Only two years ago, NDP Health Minister Penny Priddy claimed that “35% of a provincial budget should be enough to spend on health care.” Clearly it wasn’t.

Now, on the eve of an election, health spending accounts for 40% of the budget, and health care is no better. As Ujjal Dosanjh said last Fall, “It’s a lot of money. But it’s never enough. We could actually throw another \$1 billion at health care and it still wouldn’t meet our needs.” Fact is, we could deliver a great deal more health service for your health dollars if we properly manage your public health care system.

The NDP broke their Mental Health funding commitment

Two years after the NDP announced their \$125 million mental health program, Health Minister Priddy admitted that “While it was announced, it was never in a budget. There wasn’t budget approval.”

The NDP spent a decade denying the health crisis

In February 1999, the Health Minister said, “Is the [health care] system in crisis? Absolutely not.” Almost two years later, Ujjal Dosanjh pleaded ignorance with his own remarkable confession, “I didn’t know the enormity of the problem.”

BC Liberals are dedicated to bringing stability back to our health care system with long-term funding commitments that will build on this year’s \$9.3 billion health budget and increase as revenues grow along with our economy.

Today, 40% of every tax dollar British Columbians send to government goes to health care. These dollars are desperately needed, due to chronic NDP mismanagement and underfunding that left hospitals and regional health districts in the lurch, and left patients without the care they need and deserve.

The NDP underfunded hospital equipment by almost a quarter billion dollars over the last five years. As a result, equipment has become obsolete, under-maintained and under-utilized. The NDP also cut over 3,000 much needed hospital beds and underfunded medical training, mental health, home care and community care. We must reverse that damage through stable, sustainable health funding.

A BC Liberal Government will:

- Maintain this year’s overall \$9.3 billion budget for health. (see 2001/02 Budget Reports, pg. 139).
- Increase future health care funding as economic growth increases government revenues.
- Work with front-line health care professionals to act on their ideas for maximizing the value to patients of every health dollar spent.
- Provide health regions and hospitals with 3-year rolling funding commitments (updated annually), to enable them to plan and act with certainty.
- Fully fund and implement the \$125 million mental health initiative.
- Fund health regions at a level necessary to meet the needs of the people who live there, regardless of where a service is provided.
- Replace obsolete hospital equipment and ambulance equipment and ensure all equipment is fully utilized and properly maintained.
- Fulfill BC’s obligations under the Canada Health Act to properly fund and provide access to all medically necessary services.
- Focus funding on patient care, by reducing waste in the system and eliminating administrative duplication and costs from provincial government mismanagement.



John Wilson
Cariboo North

A New Era for *Health Professionals*



Patrick Wong
Vancouver - Kensington



improve the supply of skilled health care providers.

The NDP's cuts to medical and nurse training have created a serious skills shortage that must be addressed.

To deliver high quality, readily accessible health care services, we need to dramatically

First, we have to train more nurses, doctors, specialists and other health care providers.

Second, we have to help those who are already in the system to upgrade their skills and training, and improve their quality of life.

Third, we have to attract non-practicing nurses and doctors back into the health care system,



through fair compensation and better working conditions that reduce "burn-out."

Fourth, we have to attract and retain more foreign-trained doctors and nurses. Inexplicably, the NDP chose not to use the federal-provincial immigration program that Ujjal Dosanjh signed two years ago.



Finally, we must cut personal income taxes, to raise health care providers' after-tax income and keep them here.

A BC Liberal Government will:

- Expand training programs for care aides, licensed practical nurses and registered nurses, in collaboration with our universities, colleges and institutions.
- Provide assistance and opportunities to help nurses develop the specialized skills needed in intensive care units, emergency rooms and operating rooms.
- Increase training spaces and recruitment of foreign-trained nurses and physicians.
- Launch a massive recruitment drive to bring non-practicing RNs and LPNs back into our health care system.
- Develop a Rural and Remote Training Program that provides forgivable loans to BC students attending accredited nursing and medical schools who agree to practice in a rural or remote community in BC.
- Establish a "Leading Edge Endowment Fund," cost-shared with the private sector, to establish 20 permanent BC Leadership Chairs in the fields of medical, social, environmental and technological research.
- Increase locum support to relieve pressure and reduce workloads, to enhance health care professionals' quality of life.
- Increase the number of medical school graduates over the next five years.
- Introduce a Rural and Remote Training Support program that provides financial and travel assistance to health care providers who want to update or upgrade their skills and training.
- Increase the number of residency positions in BC's hospitals in the next five years.
- Give ambulance attendants better access to training and better life-support and communications equipment needed to capitalize on those skills.



Dave Chutter
Yale – Lillooet

A New Era of *Health Services*



Katherine Whittred
North Vancouver – Lonsdale

A BC Liberal Government will:

- Ensure that appointees to regional health boards are representative of their communities' needs and accountable for their performance in meeting provincial health standards.
- Pressure the federal government to restore all of the health care funding withdrawn through budget cuts.
- Work with non-profit societies to build and operate an additional 5,000 new intermediate and long term care beds by 2006.
- Provide expanded home care and palliative care services to assist chronically and terminally ill patients with supportive home environments, as an option to institutional care.
- Build a unified, universal, and cost-effective health services information network that will improve care and reduce long-term costs.
- Increase technology funding and digital infrastructure support to facilitate tele-health options that will expedite and improve treatments, and reduce travel requirements for Northern and rural residents.
- Develop a rural travel assistance program, to reduce rural patients' transportation and lodging costs to receive treatment that is not locally available.
- Ensure that patients living at home in palliative or long term care are entitled to the same pharmaceutical benefits as they would have if they were in a hospital.
- Give all citizens better access to their medical records and treatment histories, and enhanced information privacy rights.
- Support community services volunteers and repeal the NDP legislation that allowed government to expropriate community health facilities without compensation.
- Protect current funding and existing levels of access to abortion services throughout the province, as a matter of confidence in government.
- Intensify efforts to promote wellness and preventative care through better education, dietary habits and physical activity.
- Double the Physical Fitness and Amateur Sports Fund to \$44 million, to promote physical fitness and participation in amateur sport.
- Enhance preventative drug and alcohol efforts, such as addiction counselling for new mothers and the reduction of fetal alcohol syndrome.
- Work to minimize interjurisdictional overlaps that are adding confusion and costs to health care delivery.
- Work with doctors, pharmacists and others to find a cost-effective alternative to reference-based pricing.
- Provide better home support and home care services.





Linda Reid
Richmond East

A New Era for *Children & Families*



Bill Bennett
East Kootenay

We must do *better*

- Today there are almost 3,000 more children in care than in 1995, with less social workers.
- The Children's Commission concluded in 1998 that planning for children in care was "inadequate and unacceptable."
- The Children's Advocate has said that services to children and youth have not improved since 1995, because the Ministry was in a "severe state of crisis."
- There have been six Ministers responsible for Children in the last five years.

Government has an obligation to properly protect and provide for those most vulnerable in our society – especially children at risk and those in foster care. But all the experts agree that this has not happened. As the Children, Youth and Family Advocate recently put it, "**British Columbia has made little progress in ensuring that... young people's needs are met. For the most part, it has been all talk and no action.**"

Proper child protection is not a partisan issue. Yet the NDP have consistently refused to accept the BC Liberals' offer to help improve services.

Instead the NDP have ignored the experts' advice and wasted millions of dollars on endless bureaucratic restructuring and costly social engineering that has done nothing to improve services for children and families. Families with autistic children have even had to take the government to court.

We must do better. It's time we put real accountability into the system and devote the resources to the job needed to put the interests of kids first.

A BC Liberal Government will:

- Stop the endless bureaucratic restructuring that has drained resources from children and family services.
- Increase emphasis on early childhood intervention programs for families with special needs children.
- Target child care funding to help parents who need it most.
- Focus on early identification of at-risk children, and measures aimed at preventing crisis situations before they arise.
- Increase child care choices for parents by encouraging the expansion of safe, affordable child care spaces.
- Stop the expansion of gambling that has increased gambling addiction and put new strains on families.
- Pass a Domestic Violence Prevention Act that would allow police to remove violent offenders from the home, rather than forcing the victims to leave to find safe shelter.
- Work with foster parents to help them improve care and placements of foster children.
- Enhance training, resources and authority for front-line social workers to properly protect children at risk and improve services to families.
- Enhance preventative drug and alcohol efforts, such as addiction counselling for new mothers and the reduction of fetal alcohol syndrome.



Paul Nettleton
Prince George – Omineca

A New Era for *First Nations*



Gail Sparrow
Vancouver – Mount Pleasant

“It’s time for a New Era of reconciliation through treaties that reflect our common values.”

Gordon Campbell

BC Liberals are committed to negotiating workable, affordable treaty settlements that will provide certainty, finality and equality. Treaties are the best way to forge a new relationship with First Nations where aboriginal rights and title are clearly defined under the Constitution.

Treaties offer the promise of a New Era of hope, economic opportunity and greater self-determination for all aboriginal people. But, for too long, most British Columbians have felt shut out of the process.

We want to build on the work that has already been done, to fast-track settlements that reflect the principles you want and expect treaties to reflect. Treaties are for all British Columbians. They will give new definition to First Nations’ constitutionally protected rights and responsibilities and will be binding on us all, aboriginal and non-aboriginal alike. It’s important that all citizens participate in a genuine democratic debate and move forward to a New Era of reconciliation.

We can do far more to materially improve the quality of life, education and health care of aboriginal families. The New Era demands that we do what is right today to make a real difference in individuals’ lives, both on and off reserves, while the negotiators do their work at the bargaining table.

A BC Liberal Government will:

- Give all British Columbians a say on the principles that should guide BC’s approach to treaty negotiations, through a one-time, province-wide referendum, within our first year.
- Ask an all-party committee of the Legislature to consult with British Columbians, including First Nations, to draft the referendum questions.
- Increase efforts to protect and promote aboriginal languages.
- Fast-track treaty talks, to conclude fair treaty settlements.
- Offer to negotiate a delegated, municipal-style of self-government with any First Nation that wants to move beyond the failed Indian Act.
- Increase program funding, together with the federal government, to solve urban challenges and build capacity.
- Seek clear direction from the Supreme Court of Canada on constitutional questions about aboriginal self-government.
- Double the First Citizens’ Fund to \$72 million to support native friendship centres, student bursaries and economic development programs.
- Create a permanent First Citizens’ Forum that will provide aboriginal citizens living on and off reserves a direct means to communicate with government about their priorities and ideas to materially improve their quality of life today.
- Devote special attention and resources to addressing the challenges and needs of aboriginal women and youth, and to helping aboriginal families bridge the “digital divide.”
- Introduce a legislative framework for legally respecting aboriginal rights protected under the Constitution in the absence of treaties.

Where Has Your Money Gone?

It's bad enough that the NDP more than doubled the debt accumulated by all other BC governments combined over the previous 120 years. But where has your money gone? What have we got to show for all that borrowing, except a mountain of debt?

Everywhere we look, the quality of services has gone down. Health care waiting lists grow. Students don't have textbooks.

Parents are told there's not enough money for even the bare essentials for their kids. Children have suffered because front-line workers haven't had adequate resources to do their jobs.

That is the human toll of the NDP's waste and mismanagement. It is people who have paid the heaviest price, as your money has been squandered on everything but better public services. And it is future taxpayers who will bear the burden of the NDP's incompetence and reckless borrowing. Don't let anyone tell you that we can't improve crucial government services. We will stop the NDP's legacy of waste and act quickly to better and more effectively manage your tax dollars.

"We made announcements about things we weren't even going to do."

Corky Evans, NDP Health Minister
Times-Colonist
January 17, 2000



It's Your Money That's Been Wasted

- ◆ \$1 billion in business subsidies.
- ◆ \$310 million for the NDP's "fixed wage" policy.
- ◆ \$1.2 billion in FRBC spending, without a business plan.
- ◆ \$73 million for a Convention Centre study, again, without a business plan.
- ◆ \$125 million in foregone federal revenue from the Nanoose Bay lease fiasco.
- ◆ \$65 million on a photo radar program that has failed miserably.
- ◆ \$ millions on SkyTrain construction overruns.
- ◆ \$ millions in executive sweetheart deals and severance.
- ◆ \$11.4 million for Hydrogate losses.
- ◆ \$ millions for lost court cases and legal bills for Glen Clark and others.
- ◆ \$ millions on government propaganda and political advertising.
- ◆ \$25 million loan for a private company that planned to turn Burns Bog into a theme park.
- ◆ \$1 million in costs for ICBC's opinion polls in 1999 alone.
- ◆ \$340 million for the Skeena Cellulose bailout.
- ◆ \$ millions in future settlement costs for the NDP's Carrier Lumber fiasco.
- ◆ \$1.5 billion in excess costs for a rapid transit system in the Lower Mainland that will provide half the service for twice the amount that would have been needed for a Light Rail Transit system.





“Obviously the fast ferry issue was mismanaged right from the beginning and I was part of the Cabinet. I was on Treasury Board...”

Ujjal Dosanjh,
July 5, 2000

The \$463 million wasted on the “fast” ferries could have paid for all of this – and more.

- ◆ 200 teachers’ salaries for one year;
- ◆ 400 nurses’ salaries for one year;
- ◆ 200 RCMP officers’ salaries for one year;
- ◆ Elimination of the cardiac and hip surgery wait list;
- ◆ Construction of 7 new rural hospitals;
- ◆ 600 kidney and 40 liver transplants;
- ◆ 250 air ambulance trips from Prince George to Vancouver;
- ◆ 10 mobile mammography units;
- ◆ Operation of 900 long-term care beds for one year;
- ◆ Purchase of 6 MRI scanners;
- ◆ Purchase of 12 CT scanners;
- ◆ A year’s care for 200 foster children;
- ◆ Bought new textbooks for 10,000 high school students.

For the price of the “fast” ferries, we could have paid for all of the above priorities, and still had money left over. The Auditor General has concluded that, *“Cost overruns at BC Ferries should have been avoided. The lessons from the Coquihalla Highway experience were there; they just weren’t heeded.”* For that alone, every NDP MLA who voted for the fast ferries and failed to protect the taxpayers’ interests should be held accountable.

More importantly, future governments must learn from this fiasco, to ensure that nothing like it ever happens again. During the NDP leadership campaign, Ujjal Dosanjh said, *“Only through a proper process will our government avoid the mistakes and financial recklessness of megaprojects like fast ferries.”* He said, *“The public’s right to know is paramount.”* Yet as Premier, he has done everything in his power to frustrate the public’s right to know and prevent anyone from being held to account.

A BC Liberal Government will appoint an independent public inquiry into the fast ferry fiasco and the mismanagement of BC Ferries.



Roger Harris
Skeena

A New Era of *Public Service*



Christy Clark
Port Moody - Westwood

*"We became the employers
that we always wanted to
legislate against..."*

Corky Evans
NDP Leadership
January 15, 2000

BC Liberals will reform how government works from top to bottom, to create the most open, democratic and accountable government in Canada.

British Columbians know that our institutions need to be reformed, to ensure all MLAs are accountable first and foremost to the people who elected them. You deserve a chance to participate in that process of democratic renewal, and that's what our plan for a New Era of Public Service is all about.

Real reform

A BC Liberal Government will:

- Pass Merit Employment legislation, to restore a professional, non-partisan public service founded strictly on merit – not political patronage.
- Establish fixed election dates, to require elections to be held on a fixed date, every fourth year – and not at the Premier's political prerogative.
- Establish a fixed date for the tabling of the provincial budget, and a set legislative calendar.
- Establish workable recall legislation, to make it easier for citizens to hold MLAs accountable.
- Establish workable initiative legislation, to make it feasible for British Columbians to call for a referendum on issues of province-wide concern that fall within the provincial government's jurisdiction.
- Hold open Cabinet meetings at least once a month that are televised and broadcast live on the Internet.
- Ensure that major capital spending decisions and land-use decisions involving the Agricultural Land Reserve, new parks, land claims and tenure reform are decided by Cabinet in public, and not behind closed doors.
- Give all government MLAs a meaningful new role in policy development and service planning through a new system of Cabinet decision-making.
- Give all MLAs and citizens a better voice in government through active legislative committees.
- Repeal the NDP "gag law" that restricts third-party advertising during election campaigns.
- Amend the Election Act to eliminate loopholes on disclosures of financial contributions to parties and to include donations of labour.
- Introduce free votes in the Legislature, to allow all MLAs to vote freely on behalf of their constituents on all matters not specifically identified as a vote of confidence.
- Appoint a Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform to assess all possible models for electing the MLAs, including preferential ballots, proportional representation, and our current electoral system.
- Give the Citizens' Assembly a mandate to hold public hearings throughout BC, and if it recommends changes to the current electoral system, that option will be put to a province-wide referendum.
- Outlaw donations from charities to political parties.



Dennis MacKay
Bulkley Valley – Stikine

A New Era for *Public Safety*



Richard Neufeld
Peace River North

Facts:

- BC has the highest crime rate in Canada.
- BC's violent crime rate is 40% higher than the national average.
- BC has the highest property crime rate in Canada.
- In 1997, there were 1,100 auxiliary police officers in BC. By 2000, there were only 417 officers.
- RCMP vacancies increased by 40% in 1999, and a vacancy problem persists.



Geoff Plant
Richmond – Steveston

The challenges in crime prevention and law enforcement are endless. Government has a fundamental duty to protect its citizens and maintain law and order.

Public safety is a cornerstone to our quality of life.

We can do better on every front to enhance public safety, if we get our priorities straight in government.

The NDP have decimated BC's auxiliary police force. They have taken officers who should be enforcing traffic safety and stopping crime, and turned them

into photographers who sit in photo radar vans. That's a waste.

We must provide better public safety for your tax dollars.

From community policing, to the administration of justice, to our corrections system, the public demands stronger, more determined leadership, with one law for all British Columbians. We all share the same goal: safe streets and safe schools. Together, we can achieve that in every community.

A BC Liberal Government will:

- Ensure all laws are equally applied and enforced for all British Columbians.
- Return 75% of all traffic fine revenue to municipalities, to improve community policing and crime prevention.
- Ensure auxiliary police officers are properly trained and armed to protect their communities.
- Pressure the federal government to fulfill its contractual obligation to fully fill all RCMP vacancies.
- Scrap photo radar, to put police officers back on the street, enforcing traffic safety.
- Hold the line on court fees, to ensure that everyone has affordable access to our justice system.
- Fight child prostitution and youth crime with legislation aimed at providing greater protection to children at risk of exploitation and greater parental responsibility for children who commit property crimes.
- Fully protect private property rights and resource tenure rights.
- Vigorously defend the Crown's ownership of provincial land and resources.
- Continue to pressure the federal government to scrap mandatory gun registration and put those resources into fighting crime.
- Pass a Domestic Violence Prevention Act that will enhance protection and reduce domestic violence, especially for women and children.



Lynn Stephens
Langley

A New Era of *Equality*



Lorne Mayencourt
Vancouver – Burrard

For too long, British Columbians have not had a fair shake in Confederation, or often, even within our own province. That must change.

Our province does not get its fair share of federal transfer payments or federal government contracts. We are not equally represented in Parliament, or in federal institutions.

Similarly, rural British Columbians have not had their fair share of revenues. They have had their voices and interests ignored at every turn, and seen their communities suffer.

The NDP have also treated equality issues as so-called “wedge issues,” using women, aboriginals, seniors, gays and lesbians, multicultural groups and others as political pawns to try to gain partisan advantage.

That’s no way to build our future.

We must start treating all citizens fairly, equally and with respect, regardless of where they live or who they are.

A BC Liberal Government will be guided by the principle of equality. Equality for all British Columbians, and equality for every region and every province in a stronger Canada. A Canada that celebrates diversity and discriminates against no one.

Equality of opportunity, responsibility and rights is what our Constitution guarantees. And all British Columbians are entitled to no less.

Equality of *Opportunity* Equality of *Responsibility* Equality of *Rights*

A BC Liberal Government will:

- Stand up for the equality of all Canadians and all provinces under the Canadian Constitution.
- Fight for BC’s fair share of federal tax dollars through a more equitable distribution of federal government transfer payments and contracts.
- Work with other provinces to negotiate a more equitable federal equalization program that is consistent with the Constitution.
- Push to eliminate interprovincial trade barriers.
- Ensure that our rural communities have the health and education services they need.
- Insist on equal, non-discriminatory voting rights for all Canadians in respect of the governments that rule their lives.
- Work to ensure that all aboriginal governments have the same legal status in BC as they do in every other province.
- Give local governments more control over their affairs through a new Community Charter.
- Invite all Members of the BC Legislature and all BC Members of Parliament to hold annual joint conferences aimed at publicly identifying and overcoming issues of regional alienation within Canada and BC.
- Ensure that all BC laws respect the equality rights guaranteed to all British Columbians under the Constitution.
- Ensure all British Columbians have equal access to legal representation and justice.



Gordon Campbell
Vancouver – Point Grey

A New Era of *Common Purpose*

Over the last several years, Gordon Campbell has brought together the largest coalition in BC history. The BC Liberal Party has well over 100,000 members and is growing stronger every day.

Former candidates and MLAs from several other parties have joined Gordon Campbell's team, to help elect a BC Liberal Government.

Former BC Reform MLA, Richard Neufeld, has joined the BC Liberal Caucus. Former Reform BC Leader, Jack Weisgerber and former NDP Cabinet Minister, Jackie Pement are now on our side.

And that's just a few of the many thousands of former members of other parties who have united to help elect a BC Liberal Government.

If we stand together, united and strong, there is no limit to what our province can accomplish. We can unleash the power of free enterprise, and get rid of the NDP government.

It's time to put aside our small differences of the past and focus on our common goals for the future.

Fixing the economy. Job creation. Tax relief. Better public health care and education. Safer streets and schools, and better services for children and families.

Those are the priorities that are really important. And all of them transcend partisan politics.

In the end, what really matters is that you elect a government that is caring, competent and true to its word. A government that will properly manage your hard-earned tax dollars.

After all the scandals of the last decade, it won't be easy to restore public trust in government. But it's time for stability. Since 1995 alone, we've had four premiers and 109 Cabinet changes.

It's time to put the NDP Era behind us. It's time to move past all the scandals and fiascos that have shaken your faith in government.

If elected, a Gordon Campbell government will serve you and all British Columbians with honour, respect and integrity. We will keep our commitments and our MLAs will always remain accountable to you.

We ask for your support, to let a BC Liberal Government earn your respect and confidence over the next four years.

"I've worked with Gordon and his BC Liberal Caucus, and I can tell you, he has shown leadership in everything he's done. He has built a strong team that's effective, united and ready to govern."



"If I could turn back the clock I would change the role that I played in the last election. I'm not going to make the same mistake again. I'm going to do everything in my power to help Gordon Campbell's BC Liberals form the next government."

*Jack Weisgerber,
Former Leader of Reform BC*



George Abbott
(Shuswap)
Farmer / College Instructor



Val Anderson
(Vancouver – Langara)
Clergy

The BC Liberal



Tony Bhullar
(Surrey – Newton)
RCMP Lawyer



Harry Bloy
(Burquitlam)
Telecommunications
Business Owner



Shirley Bond
(Prince George –
Mount Robson)
School Trustee



Jeff Bray
(Victoria – Beacon Hill)
Provincial Government
Policy Analyst



Elayne Brenzinger
(Surrey – Whalley)
Executive Director
Charitable Organization



Susan Brice
(Saanich South)
Better Business Bureau
Executive Director



Graham Bruce
(Cowichan – Ladysmith)
Small Business Owner



Rich Coleman
(Fort Langley – Aldergrove)
Business



Michael de Jong
(Abbotsford-Mt. Lehman)
Lawyer



Kevin Falcon
(Surrey – Cloverdale)
Business Owner



Gary Farrell-Collins
(Vancouver – Fairview)
Pilot / Flight Instructor



Stan Hagen
(Comox Valley)
Construction Company Manager



Greg Halsey-Brandt
(Richmond Centre)
Mayor / Town Planner



Gordon Hogg
(Surrey – White Rock)
Former Mayor



Mike Hunter
(Nanaimo)
Business Consultant



Daniel Jarvis
(North Vancouver – Seymour)
Realtor



Ken Johnston
(Vancouver – Fraserview)
Business Person



Brian Kerr
(Malahat – Juan de Fuca)
Business Manager /
Chartered Accountant



Kevin Krueger
(Kamloops – North Thompson)
Insurance Manager



Daniel Lee
(Vancouver – Hastings)
Councillor



Gordon Campbell
(Vancouver – Point Grey)
Former Mayor / Educator / Business

We need your help

a BC



Ted Nebbeling
(West Vancouver – Garibaldi)
Former Mayor / Small Business



Paul Nettleton
(Prince George – Omineca)
Lawyer



Richard Neufeld
(Peace River North)
Small Business / Oil and Gas



Rob Nijjar
(Vancouver – Kingsway)
Public Relations Consultant



John Nuraney
(Burnaby – Willingdon)
Small Business Owner



Sheila Orr
(Victoria – Hillside)
Small Business Owner /
Councillor



Barry Penner
(Chilliwack – Kent)
Park Ranger / Lawyer



Geoff Plant
(Richmond – Steveston)
Lawyer



Judith Reid
(Nanaimo – Parkways)
Shellfish Farmer



Lynn Stephens
(Langley)
Small Business / Realtor



Ken Stewart
(Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows)
Farm Manager



Richard Stewart
(Coquitlam – Maillardville)
Government Relations
Consultant



Blair Suffredine
(Nelson – Creston)
Lawyer / Small Business Person



Ralph Sultan
(West Vancouver – Capilano)
Economist



Rick Thorpe
(Okanagan – Westside)
Small Business / CMA

Team



Bill Barisoff
(Penticton – Okanagan Valley)
Small Business / Agriculture



Pat Bell
(Prince George North)
Small Business Owner / Logger



Bill Belsey
(North Coast)
Metallurgical Technologist



Bill Bennett
(East Kootenay)
Lawyer



Gulzar Cheema
(Surrey – Panorama Ridge)
Physician



Ida Chong
(Oak Bay – Gordon Head)
CGA / Former Councillor



Tom Christensen
(Okanagan – Vernon)
Lawyer



Dave Chutter
(Yale – Lillooet)
Farmer



Christy Clark
(Port Moody – Westwood)
Public Service



Wait Cobb
(Cariboo South)
Small Business Owner /
Former Mayor



Murray Coell
(Saanich North & the Islands)
Former Mayor / Social Worker



Arnie Hamilton
(Esquimalt – Metchosin)
Small Business Owner /
Retired Police Sergeant



Colin Hansen
(Vancouver – Quilchena)
Small Business



Roger Harris
(Skeena)
Small Business Owner



Randy Hawes
(Maple Ridge – Mission)
Mayor



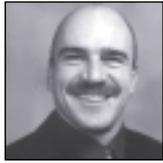
Sindi Hawkins
(Kelowna – Mission)
Former Nurse / Lawyer



Dave Hayer
(Surrey – Tynehead)
Assistant Publisher



Richard Lee
(Burnaby North)
Applied Mathematician



Blair Lekstrom
(Peace River South)
Mayor



John Les
(Chilliwack – Sumas)
Business Person /
Former Mayor



Brenda Locke
(Surrey – Green Timbers)
Small Business
Executive Director



Harold Long
(Powell River – Sunshine Coast)
Transportation Business Owner



Dennis MacKay
(Bulkley Valley – Stikine)
Commercial Private
Investigator



Karn Manhas
(Port Coquitlam –
Burke Mountain)
Small Business Manager



Reni Masi
(Delta North)
Teacher / Administrator



Lorne Mayecourt
(Vancouver – Burrard)
Small Business Owner



Wendy McMahon
(Columbia River – Revelstoke)
Education Administration



Joyce Murray
(New Westminster)
Reforestation Business Owner

to elect

Liberal Government!



Linda Reid
(Richmond East)
Teacher / Administrator



Claude Richmond
(Kamloops)
Independent Consultant



Val Roddick
(Delta South)
Small Business



Patty Sahota
(Burnaby – Edmonds)
Forestry Consultant



Rod Sanderson Visser
(North Island)
Small Business Owner / Operator



Sandy Santori
(West Kootenay – Boundary)
Mayor / Insurance Agent



Gail Sparrow
(Vancouver – Mount Pleasant)
Small Business Owner /
Former Band Chief



Gillian Trumper
(Alberni – Qualicum)
Mayor



John van Dongen
(Abbotsford – Clayburn)
Farmer/Business



John Weisbeck
(Kelowna – Lake Country)
Dentist



Katherine Whitted
(North Vancouver – Lonsdale)
Teacher



John Wilson
(Cariboo North)
Veterinarian/Rancher



Patrick Wong
(Vancouver – Kensington)
Chartered Accountant



A NEW ERA
for
BRITISH
COLUMBIA

GORDON CAMPBELL AND THE

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