



**Statement of the Philosophy and Policies**

**of the**

**BC Conservative Party**

**October 25, 2008**

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**Topic I: The Philosophy of the BC Conservative Party**

A British Columbia Conservative Party philosophy means believing in the freedom of every individual and family to achieve his or her God – given potential.

This requires from each of us ethical behaviour, acting logically, and caring about the people and the world around us while we face many problems as residents of British Columbia, of Canada and of the world.

We should apply these principles consistently with respect to liberty and equality under the law.

We believe that traditional values and lore should be upheld until it can be amply demonstrated that a change is advantageous to society.

We believe there is a greater need to acknowledge concerns of working parents in balancing their different roles.

We believe in the right of individuals, families, businesses and other organizations to own real and personal property.

We value the rights and the responsibilities of the individual and the family above those of governments at all levels. This includes freedom from unnecessary laws and regulations.

We believe that businesses are the chief creators of jobs in Canada.

We believe there should be a greater emphasis on environmental issues at all levels of government, and greater concern for conservation of all natural resources.

Governments are responsible for a social safety net for all who need it, and for an educational system that promotes an understanding of the past and prepares us for an increasingly competitive future.

We favour a tax system that is fair to all income groups and is fair between successive generations.

We believe the values we share across Canada in all the provinces and territories are greater than the values on which we are divided.

These shared values are worth preserving in one Canada stretching contiguously from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean.

We believe that the founders of Canada showed wisdom in dividing specific powers between the Federal and Provincial governments when crafting the British North America Act and that this division of powers should be respected by all governments in Canada.

We believe all citizens should be equal before the law.

We believe in freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of conscience, freedom of religion, the freedom for all people to express thoughts without fear of intimidation or suppression and the right to own private property.

We believe special interest groups should not be given special privileges.

We believe the government must commit to the reduction of taxes.

We believe in fixed election dates for majority governments.

We believe the members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA's) should be free to debate and vote according to the wishes of their constituents.

We believe the electorate of British Columbia should have the right to petition for Referendum, Initiative and Recall.

We believe in retaining our hospitals, schools and courthouses. We also believe that the social infrastructure of British Columbia's heartland should be maintained for future generations.

## **Topic II: Fiscal Policies**

### **1.0**

A BC Conservative Government will ensure that:

- a) The government of this province will endeavour to have the lowest provincial personal taxation rates in Canada.
- b) The system of tax credits and exemptions will be used to meet specific social goals.
- c) There will be a system of indexing personal income brackets to meet inflation.

### **2.0**

A BC Conservative Government will ensure that:

- a) Tax credits will focus on strengthening the social fabric.
- b) Tax credit will focus on fostering enterprise within the province.

### **3.0**

A BC Conservative Government will introduce:

- a) A process of reducing taxes on capital gains with the goal of encouraging capital investment within the province.
- b) A process to encourage capital investment through reducing capital gains taxes for any investment originating from within the province.
- c) Measures to eliminate the capital gains tax on charitable gifts of listed securities.

**4.0**

A BC Conservative Government will promote job creation by removing unnecessary regulations regarding taxation for which the paperwork is especially onerous for small businesses.

**5.0**

A BC Conservative Government will promote freer trade in goods and services between the provinces and territories in Canada. We will also encourage Municipalities, Universities, Colleges, Technical Institutions, Schools and Hospitals to adopt the same policy.

**6.0**

A BC Conservative Government will remove all discrimination against single income families when collecting provincial taxes.

**7.0**

A BC Conservative Government will enact balanced budget legislation, which includes overrides for declared provincial emergencies or other defined and rare circumstances.

**8.0**

A BC Conservative Government will pay down the huge provincial debt which places a burden on the shoulders of our children and grandchildren, thus reducing the interest payment on the debt, which is the largest single provincial budgetary commitment. A BC Conservative Government will introduce a debt repayment plan with the main part of the budget surpluses being allocated to debt repayment.

**9.0**

A BC Conservative Government will strengthen enforcement and penalties for fraud involving the misuse of tax dollars.

**10.0**

A BC Conservative Government will enact a Taxpayer's Bill of Rights to ensure that taxpayers are treated fairly, and will create an independent Office of Taxpayer Protection, which would act as an ombudsman for Canada Revenue Agency complaints.

**11.0**

A BC Conservative Government will ensure that gasoline taxes are used to maintain highways and secondary roads in B.C. Gasoline taxes will be capped at the current rate.

**12.0**

A BC Conservative Government will ensure that adequate compensation or royalty, based on market values at the time, should be paid to British Columbians for all their natural resources extracted above and below ground and in and below the territorial waters over which Canada exercises sovereignty.

**13.0**

A BC Conservative Government will establish “Zero Based Budgeting” for provincial expenditures in order to ensure that the Provincial Government Departments are basing their budget estimations on actual requirements instead of setting them as an increase over the previous year’s expenditures, and to discourage government departments from spending money unnecessarily near the end of the fiscal year in order to ensure that their budget allotment is maintained or increased for the following year.

**14.0**

A BC Conservative Government will eliminate the BC Property Transfer Tax.

**15.0**

The Carbon Tax that became effective on July 1, 2008 will be repealed.

**16.0**

The Office of the Auditor General will be appropriately funded to research and assist in the elimination of government waste or duplication of services provided by other levels of government.

**17.0**

A BC Conservative Government will implement a sound fiscal plan to control spending and use the excess revenues for meaningful and substantial tax cuts and debt reduction.

**18.0**

Our Tax Relief Plan includes the following:

- Streamline personal income tax rates and double the basic personal exemption.
- Reduce the general corporate income tax to 9%.
- The Provincial Sales Tax, currently at 7%, will be reduced to 6% shortly after a BC Government is elected and will eventually be eliminated entirely once other revenue streams are developed to replace it and/or Government expenditures are reduced enough so that the revenue is no longer required.

**Topic III: Education**

**1.0**

A BC Conservative Government will give parents the freedom to choose to send one or more of their children to any public or independent school(s) as described below:

- a) Public Schools: Those schools financed through government revenues. This is the largest category of schools in BC.

- b) Traditional Schools: Those public schools that emphasize traditional pedagogy.
- c) Charter Schools: Those public schools which receive full funding from government revenues but have no school district boundaries in BC.
- d) Independent Schools: These are private schools supported in part by student fees. These include schools which have a religious emphasis.

## **2.0**

A BC Conservative Government will introduce: a funding formula which will provide equal “per student” financing for students attending the same grade as in public schools for traditional, charter schools and independent schools from K-12 levels.

The system will operate throughout British Columbia on the basis of choice by parents in each school district. It will provide a specific grant for each student in a school that meets the minimum academic requirement established by the Provincial Ministry of Education.

## **3.0**

A BC Conservative Government will ensure that volunteers and non-licensed paid employees are allowed to perform non-academic services for independent schools. Remuneration for these services will be entirely at the discretion of the governing body of the independent schools.

## **4.0**

A BC Conservative Government will carry out negotiation of salaries and working conditions of public school teachers on a province wide basis.

## **5.0**

A BC Conservative Government will make bursaries and scholarships tax free.

## **6.0**

A BC Conservative Government will eliminate undemocratic agreements such as the “Corren Agreement” from the public school system and ensure that all citizens shall have the opportunity for equal influence over the development of curriculum in the public school system.

### **Topic IV: Employment and Job Creation**

## **1.0**

A BC Conservative Government will encourage and recommend support for our residents to complete their education up to and including grade twelve.

**2.0**

A BC Conservative Government will give higher priority to developing constructive proposals to increase the attendance of students to at least the completion of grade twelve.

**3.0**

A BC Conservative Government will explore whether the share of the BC Government expenditures on post secondary education is appropriate as between technical education and academic education, at technical institutes and colleges on one hand and universities on the other hand.

**4.0**

A BC Conservative government will increase expenditures on education at technical institutes, colleges and universities by:

- a) Providing more grants directly to these institutions in BC, and
- b) A BC Conservative Government would offer tax incentives and/or loan forgiveness for newly BC-educated professionals deemed to be in a skill shortage industry. The purpose of this program is to address our talent shortage and keep skilled professionals in our Province. As well, this will attract newly educated professionals to settle in our province in a highly competitive world economy.

**5.0**

A BC Conservative Government will amend the present Fair wage policy so that in future it will include both unionized and non-unionized entities in the bidding process for public construction, including construction of schools. This policy will be reviewed with a goal to ensure fair competitive bidding on public construction projects.

**6.0**

A BC Conservative Government will establish an “Essential Services Dispute Mechanism” as a fair and impartial way of resolving issues between the Provincial Government and its employees.

**7.0**

A BC Conservative Government will open up the offshore to drilling and encourage Oil & Gas Companies to explore, develop and produce oil & gas from off the Northwest Coast and on land across British Columbia in an environmentally safe way.

A BC Conservative Government will negotiate a deal with the Federal Government, similar to the deal they now have with Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, to give British Columbia control over and the royalties from offshore resources.

**8.0**

A BC Conservative Government will incorporate appropriate environmental regulations in the development of our natural resources.



**9.0**

A BC Conservative Government will encourage the location of industry and the development of public infrastructure facilities and service, and needed road, rail, and air links, by making Crown land readily available for such use, thereby creating opportunities for employment in rural areas suffering economically as a result of mining, forestry, government, and other cutbacks.

**10.0**

A BC Conservative Government will embark on a comprehensive review of all legislation and policy to eliminate red tape and assist with the expansion of existing businesses and the creation of new business.

**11.0**

A BC Conservative Government will investigate the indexing of the minimum wage to the cost of living for British Columbia.

**12.0**

A BC Conservative Government will actively promote the establishment of new coal mines, precious metals mines, and increase exploration and development in the coastal petroleum industry to create jobs.

**Topic V: Energy/Environment**

**1.0**

A BC Conservative Government will consider expanding hydroelectric power.

**2.0**

A BC Conservative Government will encourage the construction of plants in BC that are designed to convert wood fibre and bio-waste products to clean petroleum.

**3.0**

A BC Conservative Government will actively promote the creation of energy via alternate methods.

**Topic VI: Transportation**

**1.0**

A BC Conservative Government will ensure that revenues earmarked for specific transportation goals will be applied only for these purposes.

**2.0**

A BC Conservative Government will be responsible for setting and reviewing the mandate(s) of the Crown Corporations charged with transportation issues.

**3.0**

A BC Conservative Government will ensure that any public transit service operated by a regional government will not exclude the development or management of private ownership of new transit services.

**4.0**

Because Crown transportation companies, Translink and BC Ferry Corporation have significant impact on the public welfare by providing essential services, unresolved labour disputes in these companies will be settled by mandatory arbitration.

**5.0**

A BC Conservative Government will replace the Air Care program with a new system of roadside vehicle emission testing in the Lower Mainland.

**7.0**

A BC Conservative Government, when funds are available and after negotiating a cost-sharing agreement with the Federal Government, will “twin” the Trans Canada Highway from Kamloops to the Alberta border.

**8.0**

A BC Conservative Government will not implement tolls on existing highways. A BC Conservative Government will not place a toll on the Port Mann Bridge nor the Patullo Bridge.”

**9.0**

A BC Conservative Government will re-establish the Interurban light rail transit line, in order to connect the Fraser Valley with Metro Vancouver’s transportation system.

**10.0**

A BC Conservative Government will introduce a light rail commuter system for southern Vancouver Island.

**Topic VII: Health Care**

A BC Conservative Government will take the following steps to improve Health Care Delivery in British Columbia:

- Hospitals cost in British Columbia will be covered by payments from the Provincial Government on a “Fee for Service” basis. This will cause hospital administrations to become conscious of costs and revenues and help them to seek the most cost-effective way of dealing with their patients. In many cases, it will encourage them to offer more, rather than fewer services. This will help reduce waiting lists for surgeries and make more hospital beds available.
- When outside contractors can provide a service more cost effectively and in a more timely manner, the Government of British Columbia will send patients to those outside contractors under the BC MSP.
- All invoices paid by the Provincial Government, including all payments to Government owned facilities as well as all payments to outside contractors will have to be reviewed by the patient or surviving relative. This will enable the residents of British Columbia to see what their health care is costing the taxpayers and will make medical practitioners aware that their invoices are being seen by the customer.
- We will address the shortage of doctors and nurses by fast tracking the accreditation of foreign trained professionals and by increasing the number of training spaces in our educational institutions.
- We will open more long term care facilities in British Columbia in order to get long term care patients out of our hospitals and into a more comfortable environment, and free up those hospital beds for acute care patients.
- We will open more community care facilities in rural British Columbia, in order to take pressure off of our hospitals in those communities.
- We will increase the availability of home care support and reinstate housekeeping and other services so that more senior citizens can live in dignity in their own homes and so that the demand for expensive hospital care will be reduced.
- We will encourage the establishment of walk-in clinics, including clinics offering 24 hour service. We will then encourage emergency room personnel to refer non emergency patients to those walk-in clinics, where they can be treated more cost effectively.
- We will re-open hospitals that have been closed by the BC Liberals in smaller communities in rural British Columbia, where numbers and/or distance from existing hospitals warrant, so that patients will no longer have to travel great distances, sometimes in extreme weather, to access primary health care. This will also relieve some of the pressure on our regional hospitals. Where numbers warrant, palliative care will be provided at these small, rural hospitals so that people can die with their family around them.
- We will put more emphasis on preventative medicine and promote fitness and diet in order to promote healthy living and reduce the demand on our health care facilities. This will include health and fitness programs in our schools, including making physical education mandatory from K to 12.
- We will investigate dropping BC Medical Services Plan premiums.

**Topic VIII: Aboriginal Affairs**

**1.0**

The BC Conservative Party believes that the resolution of outstanding issues is fundamental for the development of this province.

**2.0**

A BC Conservative government will put in place a procedures for the resolution of outstanding Aboriginal issues to avoid the fragmented, debilitating, wasteful and socially inefficient process of litigation.

**3.0**

A BC Conservative Government will insist that all outstanding native land claims be settled with the payment of cash by the Federal Government. If any crown land is included in the resolution of a land claim, the Federal Government must compensate the provincial government for the value of the land, including all the natural resources it contains.

**4.0**

The BC Conservative Party believes that all aboriginal residents of British Columbia should be subject to all the laws of British Columbia. Self government should be in the form of municipal style government, accountable to the provincial government.

**5.0**

The BC Conservative Government will advocate giving all aboriginal residents of British Columbia title to the lands they occupy on reserves.

**Topic IX: Democratic Reforms**

**1.0**

We believe that each MLA should be elected by a majority vote. A BC Conservative Government will consider changing the electoral system to the preferential ballot. A provincial referendum will be held prior to implementing this electoral reform proposal.

**2.0**

A BC Conservative Government will support the election of Federal Senators. We believe in an equal Senate to address the uneven distribution of Canada's population and provide a balance to safeguard regional interests. A BC Conservative Government will hold elections to fill the seats in the Senate that are reserved for British Columbia.

**3.0**

A BC Conservative Government will honour the parliamentary tradition that dictates that the Government must call for an election should its budget not obtain the majority support of the Legislature.

**4.0**

A BC Conservative Government will ensure that the voters in a constituency, with good reason, are entitled to petition the government to hold a recall vote in any constituency, with the signatures of 15% of the voters. If the MLA is defeated by a simple majority in the recall vote, the position will be declared vacant and a by-election will be held. Recall elections will be limited to one per term per MLA.

**5.0**

Under a BC Conservative Government, if the voters decide that an issue is important enough to be decided by a referendum, they will be allowed to petition the government to hold one. If the signatures of 15% of the voters are collected, the government will be forced to hold a binding referendum on the issue

**6.0**

A BC Conservative Government will hold a Spring and Fall sitting of the Legislature each year.

**7.0**

In order to minimize expenses, a BC Conservative Government will hold elections for all provincially elected offices and posts on the same date as the general election every four years. This schedule will not change if a government has to stand for election at other times due to a non-confidence vote. The scheduled election date will also be used for voting on initiatives and referenda unless urgent action is required.

**8.0**

Bill 42 (gag law) will be amended to permit third party advertising prior to an election.

**9.0**

A BC Conservative Government will enact legislation to limit contributions to any one provincial political party by any one individual, corporation, association or other group or union to a maximum of \$5,000 per year.

***Topic X: National Unity***

**1.0**

A BC Conservative Government, in seeking to promote national unity, will propose the following federal policy priorities:

- a) The Federal government should work with the provinces to reinforce Canadian economic union through the Inter-provincial Trade Agreement.

- b) The Inter-provincial Trade Commission should be given authority by the Federal Government to initiate and carry out policies derived from the Inter-provincial Trade Agreement.
- c) The Federal Government should take a leadership role in eliminating inter-provincial trade barriers in commerce, labour and capital mobility through non-constitutional means.

## **2.0**

A BC Conservative Government will support provincial control over

- Natural Resources (Oil, Natural Gas, Coal, etc), including control over and revenue from offshore resources both in the sea and under the sea.
- Forestry
- Health Care
- Education, including Post Secondary Education.
- A Provincial Pension Plan to replace the CPP
- Taxation and the share of same remitted to Canada

## **3.0**

A BC Conservative Government will support

- A Federal “Triple E” Senate to give B.C. residents a greater share in the decision making in the Federal Government.

## **4.0**

A BC Conservative Government will co-operate with the Federal Government to amend the Federal Constitution to include Property Rights, as well as guarantee that no person shall be deprived of their just rights without due process of law and full, just and timely compensation.

# **Topic XI: AGRICULTURE**

## **1.0**

A BC Conservative Government will work with the agriculture industry to promote their products both inside and outside British Columbia, and to promote the development of new agricultural products in B.C.

## **2.0**

A BC Conservative government will guarantee an annual provincial agriculture budget for the Agri-Food sector.

## **3.0**

A BC Conservative government will fully participate in all federal Agricultural initiatives.

## **4.0**

A BC Conservative government will provide a sustainable crop insurance system in BC.

**5.0**

A BC Conservative Government will undertake to minimize government red tape in the organic industry in the province.

**Topic XII: GOVERNMENT SERVICES**

**1.0**

A BC Conservative Government will not privatize or otherwise outsource personal information collection and storage to organizations outside the province.

**2.0**

BC Hydro will not be disposed of without the permission of the voting public via referendum.

**3.0**

A BC Conservative government will undertake a thorough review of the role of ICBC and implement any recommendations to improve ICBC including allowing competition.

**Topic XIII: FAMILY**

**1.0**

The BC Conservative Party believes that the family unit is essential to the well-being of individuals and society, because that is where children learn values and develop a sense of responsibility. Therefore government legislation and programs should support and respect the role of the British Columbian family.

**2.0**

The BC Conservative Party believes in the right and duty of parents to raise their own children responsibly according to their own conscience and beliefs. We believe no person, government or agency has the right to interfere in the exercise of that duty except through due process of law.

**3.0**

The BC Conservative Party believes that the Legislature, through a free vote, and not the courts should determine the definition of marriage. A BC Conservative Government would support the freedom of religious organizations to determine their own practices with respect to marriage.

**4.0**

A BC Conservative Government will increase the number of Alcohol and Drug treatment facilities in the province including family treatment facilities.

**5.0**

A BC Conservative Government will support the family unit with the objective of reducing the need for children in care.

**6.0**

A BC Conservative Government will call together a panel on Daycare reform in British Columbia. The panel will look at the flaws in the current daycare system in order to develop a system that offers a wider range of daycare options as well as to develop daycare policy which inhibits price gouging.

**7.0**

A BC Conservative Government will investigate creating a new holiday on the third Monday of each February called Family Day.

**Topic XIV: LAW AND ORDER**

**1.0**

A BC Conservative Government will overhaul the provincial legal system to ensure the protection of the public, restore punishment as a deterrent to crime and dispense justice in a timely manner.

**2.0**

A BC Conservative Government will regulate the sale of materials used in the production of Crystal Methamphetamine.

**3.0**

A BC Conservative Government will enact legislation to ensure that any individual caught street racing three times will lose his or her driver's license for life.

Any street racer involved in a fatal accident will lose his or her driver's license for life, even if convicted of his or her first offence.

**4.0**

A BC Conservative Government will enact proceeds from crime legislation, in order to provide compensation to victims of crime.

**5.0**

A BC Conservative Government will review sentencing guidelines and propose any changes to parliament for adoption.

**6.0**

A BC Conservative government will recommend to the federal government that any non-Canadian citizen convicted of a crime in British Columbia will be deported to their country of origin by the cheapest method.



**10.0**

A BC Conservative Government will reform the BC Human Rights Tribunal:

- So that any complainant will be responsible for the legal fees associated with his or her human rights complaint.
- To make complainants responsible for paying the defendant's legal fees should the complainant lose their Human Rights Tribunal case.
- To disallow individuals and organizations from making Human Rights Tribunal complaints when Human Rights Tribunals in other Canadian jurisdictions are already investigating the same issue.
- To disallow cases dealing with freedom of speech under Section 2 of the Charter.
- To allow appeals, to a court of law, for any decision made by the Tribunal.
- So that the Tribunal cannot render penalties outside the boundaries of Canadian Laws.

We realize that it is neither fair nor equitable that complainants currently receive free legal representation no matter how frivolous the complaint, while defendants must pay their own legal fees.

**11.0**

A BC Conservative Government will investigate the feasibility of the re-establishment of the British Columbia Provincial Police.

***Topic XV: NATURAL RESOURCES***

**1.0**

A BC Conservative Government will amend the Mineral Tenure Act to prohibit unauthorized access to private property for mineral exploration.

***Topic XVI: FISHERIES***

**1.0**

The Federal Government will be required to carry out its fisheries commitment to British Columbia as set out in B.C.'s Terms of Union with Canada. The Federal Government in the Terms of Union committed to "assume and defray the charges" for the "Protection and Encouragement of Fisheries." The Federal Government must carry out its part of the bargain.

**2.0**

The Province of British Columbia should enact legislation that recognizes and protects the public right to fish so that all Canadians would have an equal right to fish and access to the fishery regardless of their race, heritage or ethnic background.

**3.0**

The Province of British Columbia should recognize the fishery as a common property resource.

**4.0**

The Province of British Columbia should ensure that treaties and treaty negotiations are consistent with, and respectful of, the public right to fish and should ensure that aboriginals have equal access with all other Canadians to the fisheries resource.

**5.0**

The Province of British Columbia should seek compensation from the federal government for fishermen where federal fisheries policies have undermined the livelihood of BC fishermen.

**6.0**

The Province of British Columbia should be an advocate for BC fisheries.

**7.0**

The Province of British Columbia should have a BC Minister of Fisheries.

**8.0**

The Province of British Columbia should ensure that aquaculture operates in a manner that does not harm or threaten wild fish stocks. A timetable should be established by which all fish farms move to closed containment.

***Topic XII: FORESTRY***

**1.0**

Encourage the construction of waste wood fibre plants that will utilize beetle killed trees for the generation of power and or the production of methanol and bio-diesel.

**2.0**

Encourage the establishment of secondary manufacturing in the Forestry Sector, such as furniture manufacturing and factory built homes for export, by ensuring that businesses have access to the raw materials required.

**3.0**

Promote small, niche market forest companies by providing guaranteed access to small timber lots and recovered timber adjacent to large leases.

**4.0**

Provide retraining assistance for people who want to leave the Forestry Sector and find jobs in other sectors.

**5.0**

Establish a Forest Commission to review the Forest Tenure system, Timber pricing and Forest Policy.

**6.0**

Protect communities from wildfire through an adequately funded Community Wildfire Protection Program.

**7.0**

Work with the federal government and the forest industry to develop a softwood lumber agreement that does not unfairly penalize our industry.

**Topic XVIII: MINING**

A BC Conservative Government will manage BC's mineral resource for the benefit of all its citizens by

1. Ensuring that continued access to BC's Mineral Resource is maintained and facilitated.
2. Ensuring effective consultation with all stakeholders before implementing policy or regulatory changes that impact the industry.
3. Working with the federal government to enable the new Major Projects Management Office to provide harmonized federal and provincial environmental reviews of all project proposals in timely fashion.
4. Adopting effective strategies for timely Aboriginal Consultation and Accommodation.
5. Working with industry to ensure an adequately trained work force.
6. Working with industry to seek practical solutions to the challenges of climate change while retaining BC's competitive advantage in energy costs.
7. Proactively supporting the development and maintenance of necessary provincial infrastructure (such as the proposed Highway 37 power line in northern BC and maintaining the power line to Kemess.)
8. Increasing support for BC Geological Survey and Geo-science BC.

**Topic XIX: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

**1.0**

A BC Conservative Government will investigate the implementation of a 'Communities that Care' (CTC) program for the province. CTC aims to strengthen family dynamics, reduce negative youth behaviours, and increase healthy community living

**2.0**

A BC Conservative Government will consider creating a British Columbia Development Corporation (BCDC) which will develop housing at cost for low income British Columbia residents. The BCDC will also work with British Columbian developers to provide more low cost housing alternatives.

**3.0**

A BC Conservative Government will partner with the federal government, municipalities, and private enterprise to create additional low cost housing developments.

**Topic XX: LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**1.0**

A BC Conservative government will encourage amalgamations and/or incorporations for local government where appropriate.

**2.0**

Provincial legislation will be amended to require any elected councillor or Mayor charged for a criminal act to take a leave of absence until such time that their trial has taken place or the charges removed/stayed.

**3.0**

A BC Conservative government will amend current legislation and will require municipalities to hold referendums for borrowing for capital projects. The “alternative approval process”, also known as “counter petition”, will be prohibited.

**4.0**

Regional Districts will be responsible for emergency services in their jurisdiction and emergency call centres will operate within their borders. (To avoid further life threatening incidents when ambulances missed call because the call centre was hundreds of kilometers away in another region!)

**5.0**

If economically feasible, operators of landfills and other sites where natural gas (methane) is generated will no longer be permitted to “flare off and waste” this valuable resource. It will have to be processed and utilized as a source of electricity and/or heat.