

A Message From Gordon Campbell

I'm pleased to share with you the BC Liberal Policy Resource Guide.

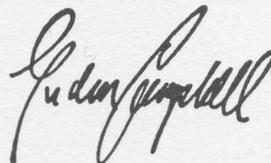
This document is about a positive, workable and comprehensive four-year plan. It's about what we intend to do and, specifically, how we intend to do it.

At the heart of this plan is a pledge to the hard-working families of this province. It's time British Columbians were put back in the centre of the public agenda.

This plan is about guaranteeing that our health care system is there for people when they need it and where they need it. It's about guaranteeing that our education system has the resources to equip our children with world-class skills.

It's about making our government smaller and smarter. It's about making government more human and more understandable. It's about cutting taxes, creating jobs and growing BC's economy.

Most importantly, it's about making government more accountable. And that's my pledge to you.



Profile:
BC Liberal Leader
Gordon Campbell

Gordon Campbell entered public life because he believes you have to lead by example, and he was determined not to be part of the first generation of British Columbians who left a province to their children in worse shape than the one they inherited from their parents.

Gordon attended public schools in Vancouver, then went to Dartmouth College in New Hampshire on a scholarship, working his way through university in the dining hall and as the student associate to the Secretary of the College.

In 1970, Gordon married his wife, Nancy, and together they joined the Canadian University Services Overseas (CUSO) and taught high school in Nigeria.

Gordon and Nancy have two sons, Geoffrey, 19, and Nicholas, 16.



With his wife Nancy and sons Geoff and Nick.

Gordon gained first-hand knowledge of how governments operate and how they can be improved while working behind the scenes at Vancouver City Hall, first on an Urban Affairs Fellowship, then as Executive Assistant to Mayor Art Phillips. For five years, Gordon worked for Marathon Realty, becoming General Manager of Development. In 1981, he formed his own company, Citycore Development Corporation, which built two Vancouver hotels.

In seven years as mayor of Vancouver, Gordon proved it was possible to be financially prudent and socially progressive. *Macleans* magazine columnist and author Peter Newman

described Gordon as "a mayor who heads the most progressive and most openly accountable civic administration in the country."

When the Expo lands and other major projects came on stream, Gordon required developers to contribute land for parks and waterfront walkways and more than a quarter of a billion dollars worth of public amenities, all at no cost to taxpayers. Under Gordon's leadership the city maintained its Triple A credit rating.



With his mother, Peg Campbell

Gordon's term of office was marked by strong public leadership that was financially accountable. In his last year as Mayor, Vancouver's tax increases were below the rate of inflation. He added to the Police Force, encouraged investment and initiated innovative housing programs that received national recognition. He strongly advocated controlled growth policies which reinforced the quality of life in the community.

In 1992, he was elected president of the Union of BC Municipalities, the organization representing 179 BC communities. Gordon was a driving force behind the UBCM's "Local Government Bill of Rights," which later became the basis for the BC Liberals' Community Charter.

To know Gordon Campbell is to know that he brings people together. Working with mayors and community leaders, he established the Fraser Basin Coalition to create a comprehensive plan to clean up the world's most important salmon river, the Fraser.

When Gordon announced he was seeking the leadership of the BC Liberals, the party had 3,500 members and was deeply in debt. Today, the party is out of debt and has grown to more than 100,000 members. He has built a team of strong candidates and caucus ready to govern British Columbia.

MORE INFORMATION

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Authorized by David George, financial agent for the BC Liberal Party, tel. 664-7587.



BC Liberal Value Statement

Therefore be it resolved that the following represents the Value Statement of the BC Liberal Party:

The British Columbia Liberal Party supports the rights, freedoms and dignity of individual British Columbians and encourages their responsible participation in forms of social organization which articulate a common interest.

The British Columbia Liberal Party is committed to achieving a fair-minded and prosperous society by means of a sustainable, competitive and compassionate free enterprise system, in which individual initiative is balanced by protection of the freedoms and dignity of all citizens, and which is qualified to sustain vital services to those in need.

The British Columbia Liberal Party believes that government must be responsive to the needs of the people of the province, and must seek their responsible participation in the economic and social development of British Columbia.

The BC Liberal Taxpayers' Pledge

- 1** I will vote to cut provincial income taxes by 15 percent.
- 2** I will vote to pay for that tax cut by getting rid of subsidies to business and other programs we just can't afford.
- 3** I will not vote for any budgets that cut spending for education and health care.
- 4** I will vote to create jobs by cutting red tape and removing barriers to investment.
- 5** I will vote to make education an essential service.
- 6** I will vote to make deficits illegal.
- 7** I will vote to make government keep its books the way government makes you keep yours.
- 8** I will vote to wipe out pensions for MLAs.
- 9** I will vote for workable recall legislation so that you can kick me out if I don't do what I say.

This is my pledge to you.

THE COURAGE TO CHANGE



*"British Columbians
deserve a government
that's accountable,
responsible and
affordable...
and we pledge to
make it happen."*

 **Gordon Campbell**
and the BC Liberals

Dear British Columbian:

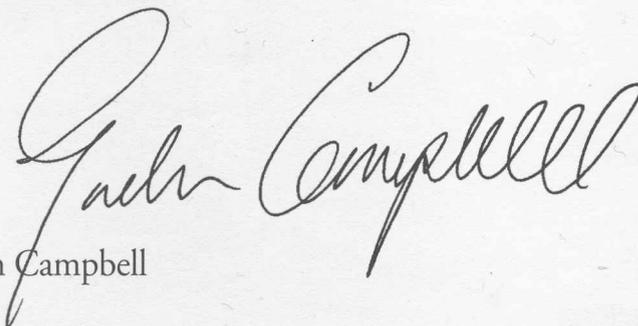
Government has lost touch with the people who pay for it. Every day in this province hundreds of thousands of people go to work, obey the law and pay their taxes. They are the forgotten middle class that make our province work.

People don't ask for much. They want a good job so they can support their families. They want their kids to get to school safely and to learn something useful once they get there. They want a health care system that will be there when they need it. And, at the end of the day, they would like a little more money in their pocket than they have today.

This booklet will lay out for you the BC Liberal approach for meeting those goals.

The first section of this booklet—*Realities*—lays out the key issues we feel government must address. *Government that lives within its means* describes our approach to getting our financial house in order and keeping it that way. *Better jobs and expanded opportunities* provides an overview of the policies we feel are needed to spur economic growth. *Safer and healthier communities* outlines some of our key social priorities.

Our goal is not just smaller government but better government. The bottom line is not just balancing the books but making life better for BC families. If you like our ideas, please help us make them a reality.



Gordon Campbell

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*“Our goal is more
than smaller
government,
it is better
government.”*

Realities

EVERY YEAR IT GETS HARDER TO GET BY

In the 1990's everyone has been working harder just to make ends meet. For many BC families, the possibility of a better future is fading, replaced by a deep and profound worry about what lies ahead.

- The average real disposable income for British Columbians declined during the 1990's.
- The number of dual income families increased, from 42% in 1970 to 62% in 1990, while people struggled to keep up.
- The NDP's tax, borrow and spend policies have cut job growth in half over the last two years.

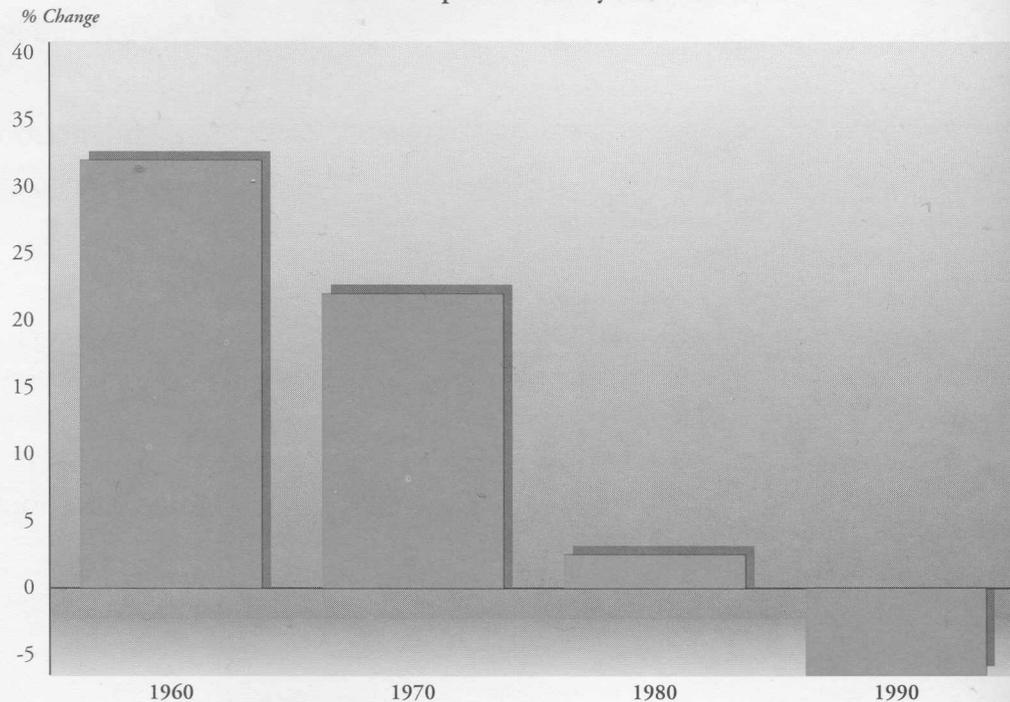
TAXES ARE A BIG PART OF THE PROBLEM

While households scrimp, save and cut back

on essentials, the one expense they cannot control or escape is government taxes. The major reason British Columbians are working harder and falling behind is the constant and rapid rise in taxes.

- Glen Clark promised a tax break for the middle class before the last election. But when he became Finance Minister, Glen Clark increased 29 separate taxes in less than 2 years.
- British Columbians now spend more on taxes than they spend on shelter, food and clothing combined.
- In its first four years, Glen Clark and the NDP will have raised the tax burden by an average of \$2,900 per household.
- Under the NDP, taxes have grown 5 times faster than personal incomes.

I. Real Disposable Family Income



Realities

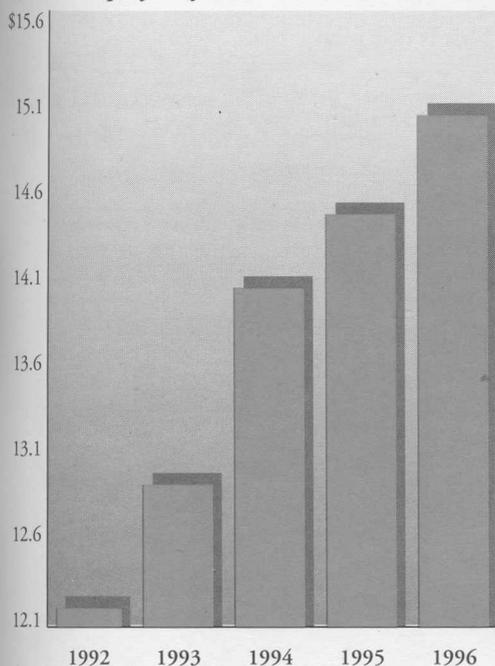
GOVERNMENT IS LIVING BEYOND ITS MEANS

Even as British Columbians cut back and try to save in their personal lives, their sacrifices are overwhelmed by an NDP government that is borrowing and spending extravagantly.

- Each and every British Columbian now owes \$7,230 in provincial debt, up from \$5,761 four years ago.
- The NDP has added almost 12,000 employees to the government payroll.
- Glen Clark and the NDP have created 46 new government agencies.

II. Taxes and Fees Per BC Family

\$ Thousands per family



TAXPAYERS ARE PAYING MORE AND GETTING LESS

While everyone is paying higher taxes, the return to taxpayers on the things that matter most is declining.

Health care is at risk:

- \$30 million dollars was spent to keep 800 health care workers out of patient care while 28,000 people wait for surgery.
- British Columbians wait an average of 7.5 weeks for cardiac surgery – the longest wait in Canada.
- The existence of a half million more Care Cards than there are people in BC creates a dangerous opportunity for fraud.

The quality of education is declining:

- BC's high school graduation rate has dropped below 70% for the first time in 14 years.
- Almost 2 million student days of education have been lost due to strikes since 1992.
- There are 2,032 portable classrooms in use throughout the province, up 96% since the NDP took office.

Fear of crime is increasing:

- The number of people charged with violent crimes has doubled in the last ten years.
- BC now has the highest rate of violent crime in Canada.
- Almost 1,500 criminals wanted in other parts of Canada live free from prosecution in BC.



“Government must stop making life harder for BC families.”

Realities

THE NDP IS SCARING AWAY BUSINESSES AND JOBS

The NDP's policies are creating jobs—in Washington State, Alberta and Chile. The NDP continues to raise taxes, introduce new taxes and expand regulations.

- The NDP's anti-investment policies have already driven more than 1,700 jobs into Washington State, scared more than 120 business projects out of the province and taken more than \$600 million out of our economy in taxes.
- WCB premiums have increased by almost 40 percent under the NDP while the number of claims have dropped.
- Red tape is choking small business. The construction industry alone struggles

with over 100 laws governing its activities, costing consumers over \$900 million per year.

THERE IS HOPE IF WE HAVE THE COURAGE TO CHANGE

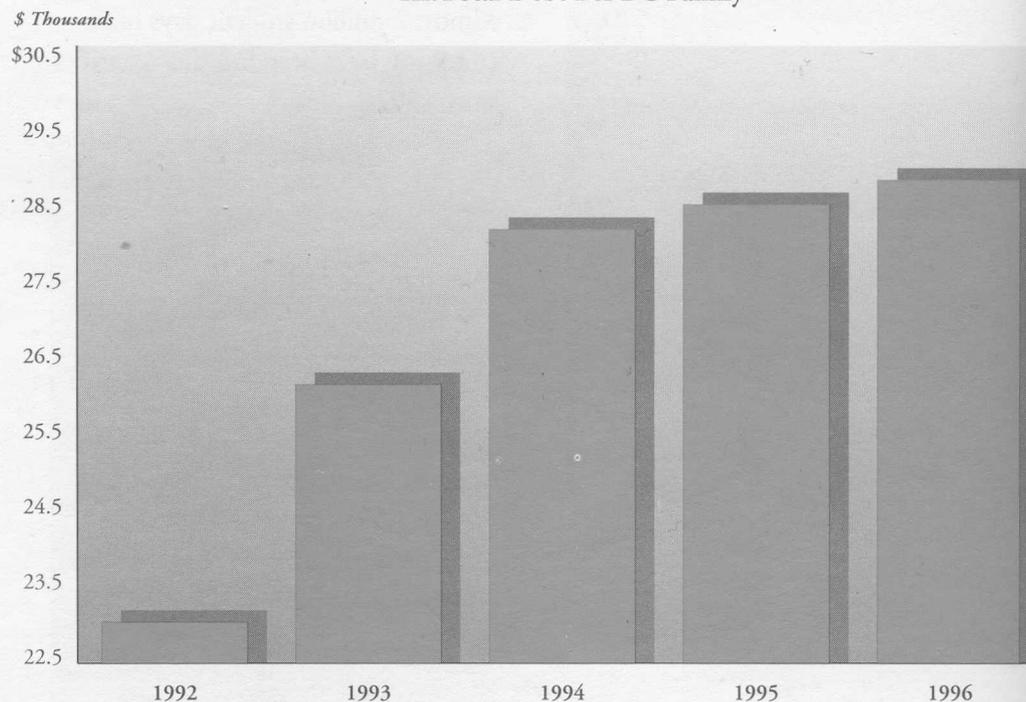
Government has lost touch with the people who pay the bills. Taxpayers have done their share. It's time for government to make the same sacrifices families have been making.

But people don't just want smaller government, they want better government. BC families want to know that their taxes are being put to good use to ensure our streets are safer, our kids learn more and our health care system is there when we need it.

Those are our goals.

This is our plan.

III. Total Debt Per BC Family



Government that lives within its means

The fastest way for British Columbians to have more money at the end of the day is for government to take less. We have to cut costs and reduce our debt to get our finances back on track. Only then can we reduce the tax burden, stimulate our economy and improve our quality of life.

GIVING THE MIDDLE CLASS A BREAK

Taxpayers deserve to keep more of what they earn. Gordon Campbell and the BC Liberals will reduce the size of government to give taxpayers a break.

- Roll back government's share of the economy by 15%.
- Let you keep more of what you earn by reducing personal income tax.
- Give homeowners a break by phasing out the school tax from property.

GETTING OUR HOUSE IN ORDER

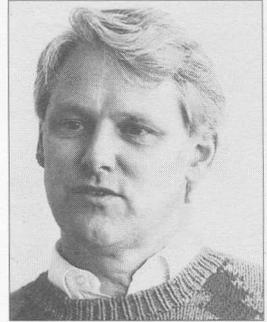
When small businesses and families are over-extended, they tighten their belts and work harder. So should government.

Smaller government:

Government has a role to play in making life better for British Columbians, but government has become too big, too cumbersome and too expensive.

Gordon Campbell and the BC Liberals will:

- Cut government programs and agencies that duplicate services provided by other levels of government.
- Sell those crown corporations and government agencies that are commercially viable and no longer serve a public purpose, and use the proceeds to pay down public debt.
- Protect key services like health care and education by eliminating non-essential programs like subsidies to business.



"People deserve to keep more of what they earn."

Government that lives within its means

Cutting waste and patronage:

Government waste must be cut. The real deficit can be cut by hundreds of millions of dollars a year just by cutting the NDP's special deals for friends.

Gordon Campbell and the BC Liberals will:

- Eliminate the NDP's fair wage policy that will cost BC taxpayers over \$200 million.
- End the special Island Highway deal, that will cost taxpayers over \$70 million.
- End the Health Labour Accord that will cost taxpayers at least \$125 million dollars.
- Fire political supporters hired by Glen Clark and the NDP and prevent future abuses by passing a *Merit Employment Act*.

KEEPING OUR HOUSE IN ORDER

The sacrifices made to get our financial house in order must not be sabotaged by future increases in government spending.

Truth in budgeting:

Government should keep its books the way it makes taxpayers keep their books. The NDP has shown how the existing reporting system can be manipulated and abused to mislead the public.

Gordon Campbell and the BC Liberals will:

- Legislate a truthful and easily understood financial reporting system so that governments cannot hide the real deficit from taxpayers.

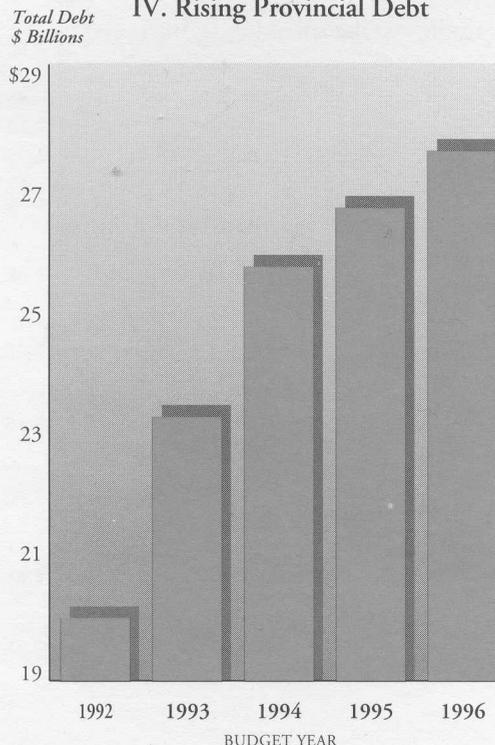
Making deficits illegal:

Every individual, household and business in BC must balance its budget. The provincial government should live by the same laws as everyone else.

Gordon Campbell and the BC Liberals will:

- Introduce balanced budget legislation at the first sitting of the legislature.
- Balance the budget by the end of our second year in office.

IV. Rising Provincial Debt



Better jobs and expanded opportunities

Thousands of jobs in forestry, mining and small business have disappeared as a result of the NDP's tax, borrow and spend policies. Companies are putting their expansion plans on hold. Small businesses are shrinking their workforces just to pay their increased taxes. Yet government bureaucracies, revenues and debts continue to grow. Gordon Campbell is committed to changing that.

REMOVING BARRIERS TO JOB CREATION

If jobs are to be created in a thriving economy, government must get out of the way.

Gordon Campbell and the BC Liberals will:

- Give homeowners and small businesses a break by phasing out the school tax on property over time.
- Spur job creation by eliminating Glen Clark's tax on investment in non-financial sectors.
- Reduce red tape by wiping out 1/3 of the paper burden on small business.
- Restore secret ballots in union certifications and establish a balanced labour code.

EDUCATION – AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE

Many jobs in the future will be knowledge-based jobs. Dollars spent on education today will ensure our children will have the skills they need for the jobs of tomorrow.

Gordon Campbell and the BC Liberals will:

- Make education an essential service.
- Reduce the number of school boards.
- Provide students and parents with choices by encouraging alternative school programs to accommodate students' diverse needs.
- Measure the success of the education system by results.
- Ensure that students transferring between post secondary institutions in BC are able to get full credit for courses completed elsewhere in BC.
- Protect post-secondary education from federal transfer cuts by absorbing the impact elsewhere in government.



“Our children deserve the same opportunities we had.”



Better jobs and expanded opportunities

MAKING WELFARE WORK

Welfare isn't working any more. Over 100,000 people have been added to the welfare rolls in BC since the NDP were elected. Gordon Campbell and the BC Liberals have a plan to do a better job of protecting the vulnerable, helping people get back to work and wiping out welfare fraud.

Putting children first:

The Gove inquiry placed a harsh spotlight on the damage created in our child protection services by the NDP's ideology-based agenda.

Gordon Campbell and the BC Liberals will:

- Establish a Children and Youth Ministry to create a single, coordinated child welfare service.
- Strengthen local delivery of child welfare services.
- Treat child prostitutes as victims and get tough on the pimps and customers who abuse them.

A hand up, not a hand out:

It is time to stop paying people who are able to work to stay at home. All employable welfare recipients will have to sign a Job Preparation Contract to receive welfare benefits.

Gordon Campbell and the BC Liberals will:

- Require all welfare recipients who are able to work to take training and work experience to receive their benefits.

- Require all welfare recipients who have not completed high school to enter a grade 12 equivalency program to receive their benefits.
- Welfare recipients who come from other provinces with a lower welfare rate than BC will receive the lower rate for a period of 12 months.

Welfare fraud is a crime:

When people abuse the welfare system, they steal from taxpayers and from those who are truly in need.

Gordon Campbell and the BC Liberals will:

- Establish a **zero-tolerance** policy for welfare fraud. Anyone who commits welfare fraud will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.
- Eliminate fraud schemes that claim lost and stolen cheques by electronically transferring welfare benefits to recipients' bank accounts.
- Immediately stop welfare payments to any person found committing welfare fraud.
- Require teenagers to live at home unless they are in a dangerous situation.

Better jobs and expanded opportunities

NEW JOBS FROM BIGGER MARKETS

The most effective way to sell more BC products is to expand into new markets near and far.

Gordon Campbell and the BC Liberals will:

- Work to eliminate inter-provincial trade barriers.
- Work to expand international airlinks, bringing increased investment and expanded tourism to BC.
- Promote tourism as a key element of our international marketing.

ON-LINE TO THE FUTURE

Knowledge industries are founded on people. To succeed in the next century, BC needs people who are fluent in information technologies.

Gordon Campbell and the BC Liberals will:

- Enhance technology and communications infrastructure.
- Privatize BC Systems Corporation to protect taxpayers and to spur development of BC's system industry.
- Ensure all high school graduates are computer literate.

PROTECTING RESOURCE-BASED JOBS

Resource industries have provided the foundation of our past economic success and will continue to do so in the future.

Gordon Campbell and the BC Liberals will:

- Provide certainty through a stable regulatory environment and the equitable resolution of land claims.

- Reduce government-driven costs which affect the viability of BC agriculture.
- Pass a law to protect a land base for the Working Forest.
- Support the expansion of value-added businesses.
- Encourage environmental improvements based on objective, scientific standards to promote sustainable resource practices.

FAIRNESS FOR ALL IN TREATY SETTLEMENTS

Treaty settlements are essential for all British Columbians. For aboriginal peoples, settlements represent an opportunity to take control of their communities and to provide for their future. For all British Columbians, treaties will establish the certainty necessary to create a more prosperous province.

Gordon Campbell and the BC Liberals believe the following principles should apply to land claims:

- When negotiations are complete there must be one law for all – one law for taxation, the environment and one conservation law.
- Treaty negotiations must be open.
- Treaty settlements must recognize existing property rights including leases and licenses.
- Treaties must create certainty.



"It's time to stop paying people to stay at home if they are able to work or learn."

Healthier and safer communities

The bottom line in government is more than just balancing the books, government's real bottom line is whether it has made life better or worse for BC families. Gordon Campbell and the BC Liberals want to do more than cut the size of government, they want innovative government that works better. This is how we will do that.

HEALTH CARE YOU CAN COUNT ON

Protecting universal health care is the fundamental goal of BC Liberals. We will put patients first and reverse the damage created by the NDP's ideological experiments and union pay-offs.

Gordon Campbell and the BC Liberals will:

- Protect health care from reductions in federal transfers by finding savings elsewhere in government.
- Stop the NDP's regionalization experiment which has increased bureaucracy at the expense of patient care.
- Stop reductions in hospital services through the Closer to Home program until community health services are in place.
- Reduce the time it takes to build hospitals by tying construction dollars to operating dollars.

A CLEAN AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

We must protect our environment while maintaining an economy where people can earn a living, provide for their families and provide for their futures. It is not a matter of choosing—we must do both. And we can.

Gordon Campbell and the BC Liberals will:

- Protect a firm 12% of the province's lands.
- Introduce a Living Rivers policy that recognizes the importance of BC's river system to our environmental, economic and social sustainability.
- Expand the province's network of marine parks.
- Manage air quality on a regional air shed basis.
- Stop the Kemano Completion Project and any other major water diversions that might threaten the long-term health of our fishery, tourism and recreation facilities.



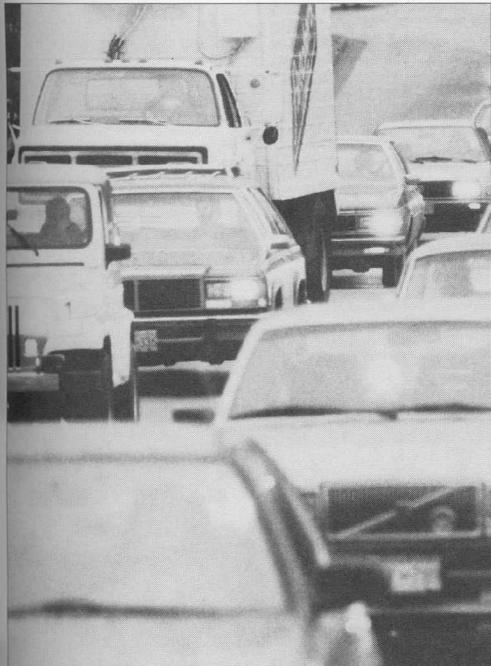
Healthier and safer communities

FREEDOM FROM FEAR

We all fear for our safety and the safety of our children. We need tough measures to stop crimes on our streets.

Gordon Campbell and the BC Liberals will:

- Pursue maximum sentences for violent and sexual offenders.
- Seek longer sentences for dangerous offenders and offenders using guns.
- Demand the federal government amend the *Young Offenders Act* so that all violent offenders will be tried in adult court.
- Ensure that repeat offenders are denied any chance of interim or temporary release by Corrections Branch staff.
- Get tough on the causes of crime by returning to communities 75 per cent of traffic fines for crime prevention, youth programs and community policing.

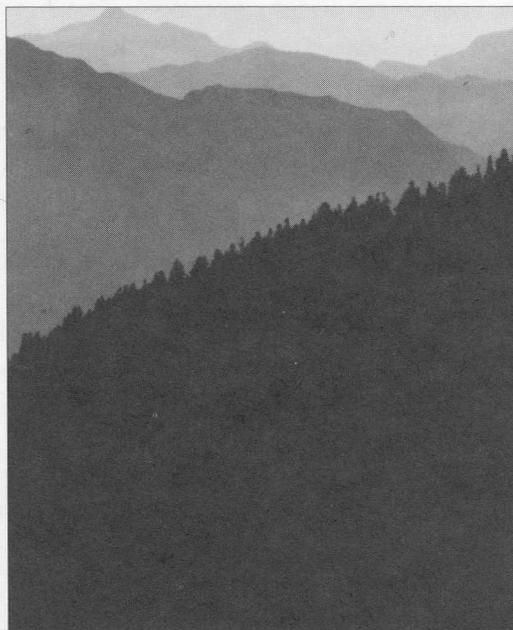


BETTER COMMUNITIES TO LIVE IN – LOCAL DECISION-MAKING

The best way to change government is to open it up and bring its many functions closer to the people it serves. BC Liberals believe that the closer decision-making is to the people, the more likely it is that good ideas will be put to work.

Gordon Campbell and the BC Liberals will:

- Establish regional transportation authorities, giving communities control over their own local transportation requirements.
- Return the NDP forest stumpage surcharge fees to the regions from which they are collected, to be re-invested in the forests.
- Legislate the BC Liberal Community Charter to give more decisions to local communities.



“In government, the bottom line is safer streets, a good education and secure health care.”

Negotiations
Resources
Environment and Youth
The Economic Plan
Statements
Legislation

Earning your respect... Our pledge to taxpayers

Restoring confidence in government is crucial to making government work for the middle class once again. Every BC Liberal candidate will make a personal commitment to the voters in their constituencies to lead by example and make government more accountable.

GOVERNMENT MUST LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Government cannot ask you to make sacrifices without first making sacrifices of its own.

Gordon Campbell and the BC Liberals will:

- Cut the number of MLAs from 75 to less than 60.
- Eliminate gold-plated pensions for MLAs.
- Cut the number of government ministries and cabinet members from 18 to 12.
- Require politicians and senior public servants who overspend to take a cut in their own pay.

MAKING GOVERNMENT MORE ACCOUNTABLE

It is not enough to change the party in power. To get real change, the system itself must be changed.

Gordon Campbell and the BC Liberals will:

- Introduce effective and workable recall and initiative legislation.
- Provide free votes in the legislature on all issues except budget and throne speeches.
- Establish a fixed parliamentary calendar with a fixed budget day.
- Set fixed elections every four years and a ban on government advertising prior to the election.
- Restore freedom of speech by repealing the NDPs election gag rule.
- Require full disclosure of all election donations including donated labour.

NEED TO LEARN MORE?

We hope the **Courage to Change** has given you a clear overview of where the BC Liberal Party would take this province and how we plan to get there. If you have further questions about a particular issue, please fill in the comment section below or check the appropriate box for a more detailed description of our policy in the areas listed.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Treaty Negotiations | <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning Up Government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Code of Accountability | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Charter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MLA Pensions | <input type="checkbox"/> Safer Streets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Services |

I'd like to know more about...

.....

.....

.....

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY/PROV _____ POSTAL CODE _____

FACSIMILE _____ OFFICE PHONE _____ HOME PHONE _____

MAKING CHANGE HAPPEN.

JOIN THE BC LIBERALS

If you are interested in any or all of the following, please mark the adjacent boxes: Regular Youth 14-25

I hereby apply for membership in the British Columbia Liberal Party and warrant that I am not a member of any other provincial party.

SIGNATURE

There is no fee for this membership but your donations will help build a strong BC Liberal Party and help win the next election. Please indicate your contribution in one of the adjacent boxes.

- \$10.00 \$25.00 \$50.00 Other

For more information, please contact the BC Liberals at:
 #204 - 10451 Shellbridge Way, Richmond BC V6X 2W8
 Phone 606-6000 or Toll Free 1-800-567-2257





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The BC Liberal Party

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