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Ujjal Dosanjh. Premier.

“The priorities of
today’s families
must come first.”

Provincial Election 2001

TODAY'S NEW DEMOCRATS

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A personal message from Premier Ujjal Dosanjh

Dear British Columbian,

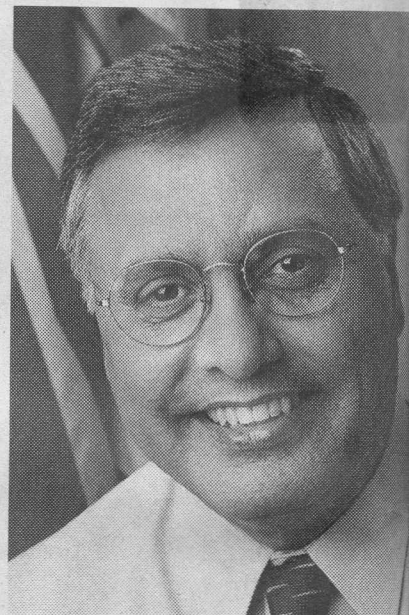
From the time I was sworn in as Premier, a little over a year ago, I have acknowledged that we have made mistakes. But we also have many successes.

British Columbia is the best place in the world to live. That's not just my opinion — that's the finding of a private sector survey released in March, 2001. The survey of more than 200 international cities ranked Vancouver and Zurich, Switzerland as having the highest quality of life in the world. Well ahead of Seattle. Far ahead of Edmonton, Calgary, or Toronto.

Our beautiful natural environment — coupled with the choices we have made in education, health care, social policy and environmental protection — make our province the best place in the world to live.

A key issue in this election is how we can best protect our quality of life. I am committed to providing quality health care and education, and to safeguarding our environment. I am committed to fair taxes, where the powerful and the privileged, as well as working women and men, pay their fair share. Others think a "dramatic tax cut" is the first priority, the most important thing there is.

If you believe, as I do, that there is more to life than that — that some things must come before tax cuts — then I ask for your support on election day. My program for the next four years will protect our world-leading quality of life. It puts first things first. It will protect our environment, health care, education and critical public services for today's families.



— Ujjal Dosanjh

Table of contents

What comes first?	4
Standing up for today's families	7
Publicly-funded health care for all – regardless of how much money you have	11
Providing educational opportunities that are open to all and second to none	15
A future of social and economic opportunity for all, in the best place in the world to live	18
Protecting British Columbia's air, water, wildlife and forests	23
A society that is just for everyone – not a society just for the rich	26
Making British Columbia's communities healthy and safe	30
A future of hope and opportunity for today's families	31

What comes first?

Shouldn't we address the needs of today's families
BEFORE making big tax promises that mainly
benefit those who already have the most?

The answer is up to you.

Your choice on election day is a decision about what's most important for you and your family.

THERE ARE PROFOUND DIFFERENCES between Premier Ujjal Dosanjh and Gordon Campbell – differences that will directly affect all our lives after we vote.

Premier Dosanjh's vision is based on respect for all British Columbians. No matter how hard the push from the powerful and privileged, Premier Dosanjh won't turn away from working men and women, the young, the elderly, or the disadvantaged.

Premier Dosanjh stands for modern, progressive action for people:

Whether the issue is caring for the sick, education for our daughters and sons, or protecting our environment, you can count on Premier Dosanjh to put the interests of today's families first. His record – in both public and private life – underlines his firm commitment to social justice, equality and opportunity for all.

The platform of Ujjal Dosanjh and the New Democrats includes:

- Quality public health care for everyone. He won't let us slide towards a two-tier American-style system that reserves the best care for the most affluent.
- Affordable advanced education, apprenticeships, trades and technology opportunities for young people, and training and re-training opportunities for older workers.
- Strong action to protect our environment, our wildlife and wilderness areas, and to sustain our working forests for generations to come.

- A balanced approach to the economy and provincial finances – government must not favour the powerful and the privileged to the detriment of others.
- Down-to-earth, practical programs for safe, healthy communities.

British Columbia needs a balanced approach – not a government that gives its first priority to the fortunate few.

Mr. Campbell's first priority is what he calls "a dramatic tax cut." He puts that first, regardless of the risk to health care, education and environmental protection. He is surrounded by powerful and privileged supporters and seldom looks past them. He doesn't see how his policies would affect ordinary people.

Mr. Campbell's one-sided agenda is consistently cheered by the elite. But today's families are realizing he is still not on their side.

Before you vote, ask yourself and ask Mr. Campbell:

WHAT COMES FIRST? Shouldn't we address the needs of today's families BEFORE making big tax promises that mainly benefit those who already have the most?

How Gordon Campbell's tax promises would affect working women and men and our families

A free lunch tax deal?

Mr. Campbell says we can have it all: lower taxes, more health care, more education, more protection for children, more everything. Is there a free lunch after all? Or does it sound too good to be true? He says dramatic tax cuts will pay for themselves, but only his most partisan supporters believe it. It isn't true.

These tax cuts carry a price, and that price is never paid by the powerful or the privileged.

Tax cuts haven't worked in other places, and they won't work in BC.

The US Treasury Department calculates that Ronald Reagan's tax cuts in the early 1980s reduced American government revenue by \$164 billion a year... and economic growth slowed down.

A study commissioned by the BC Institute of Chartered Accountants last year says that for every dollar in tax cuts, government would only recover 10 to 20 cents.

Where will the missing 80 or 90 cents on the dollar come from?

What else would Mr. Campbell cut?

Lower revenues from tax cuts will force cuts in health care and education.

Most people have noticed that even a big tax cut doesn't make much of a difference on their pay cheque.

BC's taxes are the second lowest in Canada. The provincial government has cut taxes by \$800 million, and the federal government has made large cuts, but the impact for individuals has been small.

Mr. Campbell's "dramatic tax cut" won't make much difference for average income earners — a few dollars a pay cheque — but it will drive down government revenues. And that could lead to big cuts in services to you and your family. It could mean lower quality care for the sick and the elderly, and less access to education for our children.

Big tax cuts would widen the gap between the rich and the rest of us.

Finally, who benefits? Who are the people Mr. Campbell represents?

Mr. Campbell says he wants to cut basic taxes for everyone. But just follow the money and see where it leads. With his kind of tax cuts the rich get richer, the poor get poorer. Those who already have the most would get most of the benefit — and the rest of us would see even more pressure on public health care and education.

For today's families, Mr. Campbell's free lunch tax promise doesn't add up.

! Standing up for today's families

PREMIER UJJAL DOSANJH understands the pressures you face as you try to balance work and family life, and to plan for your family's future. That's why the Premier's first commitment is to address the needs of today's families.

Our program is based on respect for all British Columbians. We won't turn our back on working men and women, on young people, the elderly, or the disadvantaged. The needs of today's families must come before tax breaks for the privileged.

Public health care

We will improve and strengthen our public health care system. Quality publicly-funded care must be available to all, regardless of income. Those who are most seriously ill must be treated first, not forced to stand in line behind those who have more money. We are firmly opposed to a two-tier American-style health care system in British Columbia. Details of our health care program are outlined in this document.

Advanced education

In a changing world, opportunity starts with education. We will continue to improve access to advanced education, apprenticeships and training. Details of our education program are outlined in this document.

Child care

We will expand child care services to help working families make ends meet and provide a good early learning environment for children:

- A new program, effective Jan. 1, 2001, provides affordable before and after school child care for \$7 a day.
- Our four-year child care plan will make licensed child care available throughout British Columbia at a maximum of \$14 a day – a saving to families of up to \$6,000 per child for infants and toddlers.

Mr. Campbell has chosen to stand with the elite. He is promising "a dramatic tax cut" – with the powerful and the privileged getting the biggest break.

Mr. Campbell's plan would take billions out of the provincial budget.

A cut of that magnitude can't be done without cutting services to people. It means the sick will have less access to care, young people will have less access to the education they need to succeed, and the disadvantaged will never have an opportunity to move forward.

Fighting child poverty

We will work with the federal government to combat child poverty. We will improve early childhood programs, and double the school meal program so all children will have the opportunity to grow, develop and learn.

No deregulation of BC Hydro

We will not privatize or deregulate BC Hydro. We will not expose British Columbians to the soaring electricity prices that deregulation caused in Alberta and California. We disagree with Mr. Campbell's position that deregulation is inevitable.

Pay equity

We will prohibit pay discrimination between men and women for work of equal value. Through an amendment to the Human Rights Code, the right of workers to equal pay for work of equal value will be guaranteed by law.

Family leave

We will guarantee workers can take unpaid leave to care for family members. We will raise the number of family responsibility days. We will introduce leave for elder care, and increase the number of days for bereavement leave.

Regular increase in the minimum wage

We will increase the minimum wage on a regular basis to help low income families make ends meet.

Reasonable electricity rates

Despite skyrocketing rates in other jurisdictions, BC Hydro electricity rates will remain frozen. The current rates are the third lowest in North America.

Electricity rebates

Profits from electricity exports are being shared through \$200 dividends to residential customers of BC Hydro and West Kootenay Power.

Natural gas price relief

West Coast natural gas prices have soared, driven by deregulation of utilities in California. We are helping families and seniors cope with the added costs through a home heating fuel rebate of \$50 to low-income individuals and \$100 to low-income families. Up to \$20 million will help universities, schools, and hospitals with additional heating costs. New energy conservation measures are being implemented.

Lower car insurance premiums

An effective safety campaign has cut accidents and claims. This has made it possible to freeze all ICBC car insurance premiums, and to lower premiums for safe drivers. Our rates are now among the lowest in Canada.

Meeting the needs of today's families

- Depending on the tax bracket, BC has the second or third lowest provincial taxes in Canada.
- BC child care is ranked the best in Canada in an on-site study conducted by university researchers across the country. (*Vancouver Sun*, Sept. 26, 2000)
- The ICBC rate freeze and reductions have given British Columbians car insurance rates among the lowest in Canada.
- As a result of the BC Hydro freeze, electricity rates are the third lowest in North America. After considering inflation, electricity rates are lower today than in 1993.
- BC has the second lowest provincial debt per person.
- Provincial income taxes have been cut by \$800 million.
- Provincial income taxes have been eliminated for 200,000 low-income British Columbians.
- Over the last ten years, BC has actively reduced the child poverty rate while in provinces like Ontario the number of children in poverty has nearly doubled. Except for PEI, we have the lowest child poverty rate in Canada.
- BC is one of only two provinces with a comprehensive program to help the homeless by funding and supporting the construction of new social housing. To date, 6,500 units have been completed. Our most recent steps to address the serious problem of homelessness include plans to create 275 housing units in the Woodward's Building in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver.

Publicly-funded health care for all — regardless of how much money you have

WHEN ONE OF YOUR loved ones suffers a serious illness or injury, the whole family suffers. A threat to the health of a child, parent or spouse is one of the most difficult pressures a family can face.

That's why Premier Ujjal Dosanjh and his government have made strong, public health care for all British Columbians their first priority. Our goal is equal access for everyone to good public health care, not special treatment for the few. We believe Mr. Campbell is wrong to put tax breaks for the powerful and privileged ahead of health care.

Strengthening our public health care system

We are determined to strengthen our public health care system so today's families can have peace of mind, knowing it will be there for them when they need it. That's why Premier Dosanjh has directed that a significant part of British Columbia's budget surplus be allocated to the health care needs of families.

The B.C. Health Action Plan is practical, do-able and accountable. It is providing:

- More nurses.
- More doctors.
- More hospital beds.
- New hospital equipment.
- Better care and less waiting for patients.

When crisis strikes, families shouldn't have to worry about whether good care is available or whether they can afford it. Good care must be there for everyone, through our public health care system.

Our first priority is Canadian-style health care for today's families — not a Campbell-style tax cut for the powerful and the privileged.

The Ujjal Dosanjh Health Action Plan is restoring health care

Our first priority is Canadian-style health care for today's families — not a Campbell-style tax cut for the powerful and privileged. Premier Ujjal Dosanjh will strengthen our public health care system:

- Work with nurses, doctors, and other health care providers to solve issues of recruitment, retention and training.
- Improve emergency and acute care services for the seriously ill — more resources for emergency departments, intensive care units, trauma units, cancer treatment and transplant operations.
- Purchase new equipment to meet critical health needs.
- Introduce new palliative care programs to ease the last days of people who are terminally ill.
- Expand home care services to help the elderly and people with disabilities live in dignity in their own homes.
- Strengthen community mental health programs and services.
- Amalgamate the community and facility health care sectors under the *Health Authorities Act*, supporting a continuum of care as patients move between institutions and community care.
- Make a multi-year budget commitment to local health authorities, and introduce new reporting and accountability measures to support long-term planning and patient needs.
- Respect a woman's right to choose by protecting access to abortion services and the newly-available "morning after" pill.

Mr. Campbell's plan will open the door to costly, two-tier care

Mr. Campbell should stop pretending. He knows he can't balance the budget and give away billions in tax cuts without cutting health care. It can't be done. And when the public health care system is cut, the privatizers move in. Once we start sliding down that slope, there will be no turning back.

Ujjal Dosanjh and the New Democrats say there is no place for two-tier, American-style health care in British Columbia. It's wrong for working families and wrong for BC.

Guaranteeing affordable public health care for all British Columbians

- BC is the only province to increase, not cut, public health care every year in the last nine years.
- BC residents are healthiest of all Canadians.
— *Maclean's* magazine survey, October, 1999
- BC has the lowest rate of cancer deaths in Canada.
— *1999 Report on Health of Canadians*
- The lowest death rates from circulatory diseases.
— *1999 Report on Health of Canadians*
- The lowest percentage of smokers.
— *1999 Report on Health of Canadians*
- British Columbia has the best screening mammography program in Canada.
— *Your Health Magazine*, Fall 1999
- In the last four years, new cancer centres have been opened in Surrey and Kelowna; the Vancouver Cancer Centre has been expanded; and a new Vancouver Island Cancer Centre has just been opened.
- BC is the world leader in fighting smoking.
— *USA Today*, December 31, 1999
- BC's infant mortality rate is now the lowest in history: 3.7 per 1,000 live births, down more than half from 8.1 per 1,000 ten years ago.
— BC Vital Statistics Agency, October, 2000
- BC is well served by 7,800 medical doctors who are paid \$58.99 for a consultation, compared with \$53.15 in Ontario and \$41.05 in Alberta.

Providing educational opportunities that are open to all and second to none

E DUCATION IS THE TOOL that will enable our children to take full advantage of a future of economic innovation and opportunity. Premier Ujjal Dosanjh will ensure that all children, from all families, have the chance to get the best education possible.

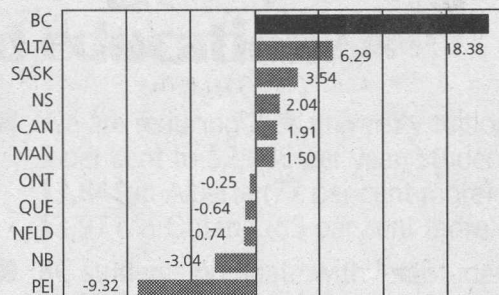
Our goal is a quality education system that is accessible and affordable to all and second to none.

We will build on the success of our education system:

- More affordable advanced education. We have reduced tuition fees by 5 per cent this year and will make further reductions over the next four years.
- Additional grants and financial assistance to students, further improving the best and most comprehensive student grant and loan program in Canada.
- Upgraded equipment and facilities for our universities, already ranked among the best in Canada.
- Five thousand more new spaces for students.
- Expanded youth employment programs.
- Twice as many opportunities for apprenticeship, trades and technology training — 50,000 spaces by 2004.
- Cooperation with teachers and school board employees as allies in the effort to improve education, not the confrontation and attack on free collective bargaining promised by Mr. Campbell.
- Continued reductions in the number of portable classrooms.
- New funding for new textbooks, learning resources and technology in our schools.

We will not allow a good education to become so expensive that only the well-off can afford to send their children to college or university.

**BC leads Canada in full-time student enrollment growth
% Change from 1992 to 1999**



Statistics Canada, Education Division, March 2000

Mr. Campbell's approach would create tuition shock for ordinary families

With a Campbell government, be ready for tuition shock. When fees are relentlessly increased, as they have been in most other provinces and particularly in Alberta and Ontario, it slams the door in the face of young people from ordinary families.

Post-secondary education just doesn't register on Mr. Campbell's radar. He didn't mention it in his 1996 election platform. He didn't mention it in his "New Era" platform. In two consecutive platforms, advanced education, apprenticeship and technology training did not rate a mention from Mr. Campbell.

And instead of working with teachers and education workers, Mr. Campbell is promoting confrontation by promising to severely restrict their right to free collective bargaining. We will not allow a good education to become so expensive that only the well-off can afford to send their children to college or university.

Quick FACTS!

Putting kids first with a good start in school

The Dosanjh government puts a priority on making sure our children can get a good education. We are putting BC's daughters and sons first by providing:

- More individual attention for youngsters learning to read and write. Since 1998, 1,200 new teachers have been hired to keep class sizes at 22 students in Grades 1 to 3 and 20 in Kindergarten, and to provide specialist services.
- More classrooms – more than 55,000 new spaces for students since 1991.
- A new school is built every 19 days.
- 80 construction projects (new schools, additions, renovations) are now underway. This

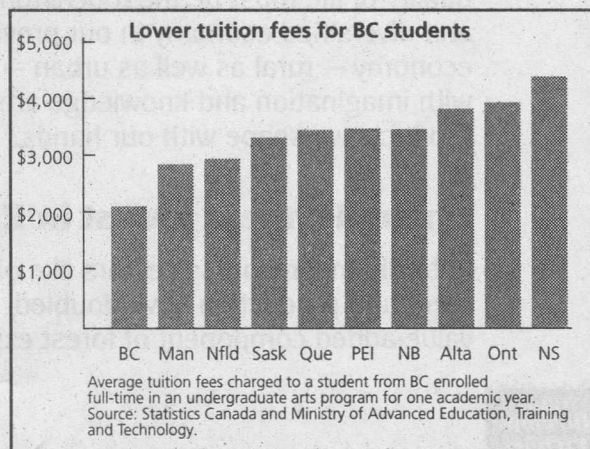
year, 500 portables will be replaced with permanent classrooms.

- 26 languages – including Chinese, Japanese, German, Punjabi and Arabic – are now offered as options at more than 150 heritage language schools, so children can learn the first language of their family.
- Our heritage language program supports First Nations communities in maintaining their languages.
- The safety of our children is paramount. Since 1997, the Safe Schools Initiative and the BC Safe School Centre have provided violence prevention programs. Since 1998, a bullying prevention program has been offered to all elementary schools.

New opportunities for young people to get ahead with an advanced education

- We've opened three new universities — Royal Roads, Northern BC, and BC Technical — the only new public universities opened in Canada in 20 years.
- Five community colleges have been designated as University Colleges, allowing students to earn advanced degrees closer to home.
- More than 155,000 full time student spaces will be available in 2001/02 – over 45,000 new spaces since 1991.
- Since 1998, 2,500 specialized high-tech spaces have been created.
- Financial assistance and grants to BC students are the best and most comprehensive in Canada.
- BC has had the greatest growth in full-time student enrollment in Canada, up 18.4 per cent since 1991. This increase is nearly ten times the national average and three times greater than second-place Alberta.

- We are reducing BC's university tuition by 5 per cent to \$2,166 per year. Students pay \$3,841 in Alberta (77 per cent more) and \$3,971 in Ontario (83 per cent more).
- BC students graduate with less student debt — \$7,000 less than the national average — giving them a better start in their life and career.



A future of social and economic opportunity for all, in the best place in the world to live

An unmatched quality of life

OUR BEAUTIFUL NATURAL ENVIRONMENT – coupled with the results of deliberate choices we've made in education, health care, social policy and public amenities – make our province the best place in the world to live.

A recent private-sector survey compared more than 200 international cities. It ranked Vancouver and Zurich as having the highest overall quality of life in the world. We finished ahead of every jurisdiction on the globe based on the fundamental strengths that draw people and investment to British Columbia.

A narrow focus on tax cuts, as promoted by Mr. Campbell, would threaten this achievement. It is the wrong priority at this time.

BC's families will lose if we try to compete on the basis of lower taxes, lower environmental standards, lower costs and lower wages. Where we can compete – and win – is on our quality of life.

With a balanced budget, taxes among the lowest in Canada, a spectacularly beautiful environment and a growing economy, British Columbia is a great place to live, work and invest.

A growing economy

Education, innovation and preserving our world-leading quality of life must be the touchstones for a growing and diversified economy in our province. In the new economy – rural as well as urban – the ideas we build with imagination and knowledge are as critical as the products we shape with our hands.

Unemployment lowest in 20 years

In traditional resource sectors like oil and gas, investment and production have doubled. In forestry, the value-added component of forest exports has doubled.

Unemployment has been cut to the lowest rate in 20 years. BC workers earn the second highest average hourly wage in Canada — \$1.44 an hour more than Alberta.

“Action!” — An impressive boom in film, high-tech and tourism

The high-tech, tourism and film sectors of our economy are booming. High-tech revenues have doubled, and exports of high-tech products have tripled. After Los Angeles and New York, BC is now the top film and TV production centre in North America. Direct employment in tourism has increased 39 per cent.

Investments to support the new economy in every part of BC

The Dosanjh government has encouraged the growth of the new economy with initiatives like the Provincial Learning Network, making BC the first jurisdiction in Canada to connect all rural and urban communities — all public schools, 22 post-secondary institutions and 20 community skill centres — to the Internet.

The BC Industrial Incentive Fund has supported a new aerospace manufacturing facility, an aerospace joint venture with a Daimler-Benz Aerospace subsidiary and Canadian Airlines, and a state-of-the-art aircraft service centre.

Balancing the budget and keeping taxes low

Premier Ujjal Dosanjh has put the province's financial house in order. He has made open and balanced books the law in British Columbia. The new *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act* ensures that expenditures, assumptions and capital projects are all in the open. The *Balanced Budget Act* ensures the books will stay balanced.

The Auditor-General has confirmed that the 1999-2000 budget was balanced. We're on target to balance the 2000-2001 budget. And the new budget for 2001-2002, introduced in March, is also balanced.

While Ottawa cut dramatically, the BC government maintained and even increased expenditures on critical services to people like health care and education. BC is the only province that did not cut health and education expenditures during the last decade. This was done while maintaining taxes among lowest in Canada.

A modern approach to our economy

Premier Dosanjh and the New Democrats are determined to protect British Columbia's quality of life, support education and encourage innovation. We will work to strengthen traditional sectors and encourage diversification of our economy to open more opportunities to working men and women and their families.

Advanced education and apprenticeships

- We will make education more accessible and affordable for young people by reducing tuition fees and by continuing to create new post-secondary spaces.
- We will double apprenticeships, trades and technology training to 50,000 spaces in four years.

Strengthening resource communities

- We will strengthen local economies by giving communities more control over resources and a larger share of the wealth created by those resources.
- We will encourage increased manufacturing in resource communities by reducing the export of raw logs, and by linking tenure to value-added performance.
- We will promote value-added refining of base metals.

Protecting our environment

- We will maintain strong protection for vital ecosystems, and ensure forest practices are sustainable.
- We will introduce additional Green Economy initiatives, and promote BC's dynamic environmental technology sector.

The new economy

- We will further diversify and broaden our economic base by supporting the continued expansion of the knowledge economy.

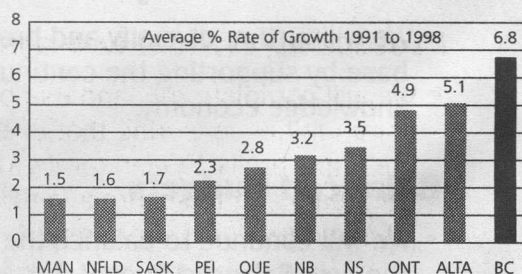
Balanced budgets

- We will continue to balance the books as required by the new *Balanced Budget Act*.

An economy that works for today's families

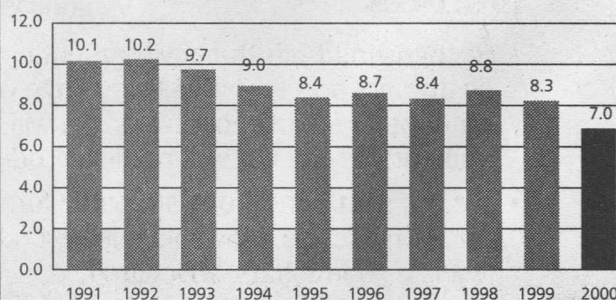
- British Columbia has had the greatest job growth in Canada, up 22.9 per cent from 1991 to 2000. Unemployment is at its lowest level in 20 years.
- BC has Canada's largest growth in small business, up 6.8 per cent a year.
- At \$17.48 an hour, BC workers earn the second highest average wage in Canada – \$1.44 an hour more than in Alberta and just 3 cents less than Ontario. Our minimum wage is the highest in the country.
- In the last ten years, BC has provided leadership in sustainable forest management; we have planted 2.5 billion trees.
- BC is the only province where the number of family farms has increased in the 1990s. Farm cash receipts have grown by 45 per cent to almost \$2 billion.
- With fair and balanced labour laws, the number of work days lost due to strikes and lockouts has been cut in half.
- Through the new value-added skills centre and other programs, training and upgrading have been provided to more than 25,000 forest workers.
- Depending on the tax bracket, BC has the second or third lowest provincial taxes in Canada.
- Personal income taxes have been cut by \$800 million since 1995.
- Provincial income taxes have been eliminated for 200,000 low-income British Columbians.
- BC has the second lowest provincial debt per person.
- BC's small business tax rate has been cut to 4.5 per cent, lower than Alberta and Ontario. And 90 per cent of BC businesses pay no corporate capital tax.
- Targeted tax credits have encouraged record growth in film and TV production, and supported research and development in the high-tech sector.
- Exports of high-tech products have tripled since 1990.
- Car insurance rates for British Columbians are among the lowest in Canada as a result of the ICBC rate freeze and reductions for safe drivers.
- Our electricity rates are third lowest in North America. As a result of the BC Hydro rate freeze, after inflation, your rate is lower now than in 1993.

Since 1991, BC has achieved the greatest annual growth in small business in Canada.



Statistics Canada Business Register & Labour Force Survey, 1998 latest year data available

Since 1991, BC's unemployment rate has been reduced to its lowest level in more than 20 years



Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, July 2000

Protecting British Columbia's air, water, wildlife and forests

TEN YEARS AGO, our forests were a battlefield. British Columbia was the staging ground for a war in the woods. Today, our province is Canada's acknowledged leader on environmental issues. Representatives from business, labour, environmental groups and Aboriginal communities were brought together to find consensus. They identified precious, irreplaceable ecosystems. Now they are protected forever.

Making BC a world leader in protecting wilderness and eco-systems

As a result of this work, British Columbia is the first jurisdiction in North America and the second in the world to meet the United Nations' goal of protecting 12 per cent of our land base in parks and wilderness areas. A new Ujjal Dosanjh government will build on our leading environmental record.

Protecting critical eco-systems

- We will complete the land use planning process in all communities, ensuring that every community has the opportunity to plan for its future, to protect critical areas, and to secure a land base that supports jobs and the local economy.
- A comprehensive Urban Greenspace Strategy will promote the creation of parks and trails.

Guaranteeing sustainable forest practices

- Recognizing both the environmental demands of our customers and the need to manage our forests on a renewable, sustainable basis, we will fully implement and enforce the Forest Practices Code.
- We are committed to sustainable forestry. We will not increase the allowable cut beyond sustainable levels as some have advocated.
- We will promote eco-certification for BC forest products.

Premier Dosanjh is acting on critical environmental issues: protecting wilderness, wildlife and eco-systems; keeping our forests sustainable; and fighting pollution of our air, land and water.

Fighting air pollution and smog

- We will help clean up the air in metropolitan areas. These measures will include extending SkyTrain to Richmond and introducing more light rail transit to both reduce smog and make it easier for people to get to work.
- We will introduce additional energy conservation measures and alternative fuel programs to respond to air pollution, global warming and increasing energy costs.

Keeping our waters clean

- A new *Drinking Water Protection Act* will provide tougher protection of BC's groundwater and watersheds to ensure our drinking water will be pure and safe.
- We will impose tougher penalties and fines on polluters.

Ensuring you can know what you're eating

- We will ensure you have the right to know whether you are eating genetically modified food by requiring clear labelling of foods sold in British Columbia.

Continued leadership on environmental issues

- We will enforce a three year moratorium on grizzly bear hunting, while an independent review is conducted, with compensation to guides and outfitters.
- We will support full debate on environmental issues by preventing well-heeled polluters from using spurious lawsuits (SLAPPs) to intimidate their critics.
- We will establish an independent Environment and Sustainability Commissioner to monitor and report to the Legislature on BC's ecological health.
- We will actively promote Green Economy and green jobs initiatives to increase and widen BC's leadership in innovative environmental technologies.

Quick FACTS!

British Columbia is Canada's acknowledged leader in protecting the environment

- BC is first on the continent to reach the United Nations' goal of protecting 12 per cent of our land base in parks and wilderness areas.
- We have nearly doubled protected wildlife habitat, and placed a moratorium on hunting grizzly bears. The Khutzeymateen Provincial Park is Canada's only grizzly bear sanctuary.
- The new 958,000 hectare Tatshenshini-Alsek Provincial Park in Northwest BC, with adjacent parks in Alaska and Yukon, is the world's largest international World Heritage Site.
- The Kitlope Heritage Conservancy protects the largest intact coastal temperate rain-forest in the world.
- The Urban Salmon Habitat Program enables community groups and local governments to protect, restore and enhance local streams.
- The Fish Protection Act safeguards sensitive fish-bearing streams.
- New forest practices are improving public confidence in forest stewardship, promoting long term jobs and respect for the environment, and opening new markets with international customers who are demanding high environmental standards.
- We have restored 150 watersheds damaged by poor logging practices in the past.
- We have removed 10,000 km of old logging roads that were causing erosion and hillside damage.
- Chlorine discharge from pulp mills has been cut by more than 80 per cent.
- The Green Economy Initiative is encouraging innovative environmental technologies, especially in sewage treatment and improved water quality.
- The BC Eco-tourism Strategy funds new tourism opportunity studies, supports gateway communities, and develops best practices guides so eco-tourism doesn't harm the environment.
- We have built 2,500 km of recreational trails in BC's forests.
- We have initiated pilot projects on tax shifting to encourage activities that benefit the environment.

A society that is just for everyone — not a society just for the rich

PREMIER UJJAL DOSANJH's vision for the future is built on respect for all British Columbians. We must not turn a blind eye to students, nor leave the elderly and the disadvantaged to fend for themselves while giving more to those who already enjoy the most privileges.

Should ordinary people pay the price of more breaks for the few?

It is unjust to ask the majority of working men and women to accept less — reduced access to education and lower quality health care — in order to give more tax breaks to those who already have the most.

Government must work for everyone. Premier Dosanjh and the New Democrats will advance social justice, equality and opportunity for all. There will be no special favours for those with power and privilege. Our program for the next four years will continue to advance the rights of British Columbians.

A good start for all children

- We will work with the federal government to combat child poverty. We will increase early childhood programs, and double the school meal program so all children will have an equal opportunity to grow, develop and learn.
- Social programs for aboriginal children will be enhanced.
- We will expand child care services to help families make ends meet and provide a good early learning environment for children.
 - A new program, effective Jan. 1, 2001, provides affordable before and after school child care for \$7 a day.
 - Our four-year child care plan will make licensed child care available throughout British Columbia at a saving to working families of up to \$6,000 per child for infants and toddlers.

An end to discrimination

- We will ensure that all of today's families – including married couples, common law, and same sex partners – have equal rights.
- We support the right of gay, lesbian and transgendered people to be treated equally.
- We support multiculturalism and will strengthen English as a Second Language (ESL) programs. We will reduce or eliminate tuition for adult ESL programs.

Social justice

- Through the First Nations Summit and the BC Treaty Process, we will build on the success of the Nisga'a Treaty to achieve treaties with other aboriginal peoples. The injustice must end.
- We will increase disability pensions so people with disabilities can live in dignity.

Respect for the rights of women

- We will expand pay equity – equal pay for work of equal value – by enshrining this right in the BC Human Rights Code. Pay equity is already in place for the provincial government. It will be extended to municipalities and the private sector. Wage discrimination based on gender must be ended.
- We will ensure abortion services are provided in an atmosphere of respect, security and privacy. Women must continue to have the right to make their own decisions about reproductive choice and their bodies.
- To help young parents continue their education, we have tripled the number of school-based child care spaces. We will continue to improve child care programs to support today's families.

A balanced approach to labour-management relations

- A balanced approach to labour-management relations has cut in half the time lost due to strikes and lockouts. We will ensure BC's successful Labour Code remains balanced, and doesn't give unfair advantage to either side. We will continue to improve the Code and strengthen free collective bargaining by helping new bargaining units and newly-certified employers reach a first contract.
- BC has the highest minimum wage in Canada. The Dosanjh government will continue to monitor and increase it so young workers and the working poor don't fall behind. We will increase the minimum wage to \$8.00 an hour on Nov. 1, 2001.

Quick FACTS!

Campbell's focus is the wants of wealthy people, not the needs of working people

- Mr. Campbell's number one priority – his tax cut plan – will give more benefit to the powerful and privileged than it will to the rest of us.
- Cutting billions from government revenues to pay for tax cuts will lead to deep cuts in health care and education, the largest components of the budget.
- Mr. Campbell has no plan to help young people from ordinary families get a good start. Advanced education, apprenticeship, and trades and technology training were not even mentioned in his last platform, nor are they mentioned in his current "New Era" platform.
- Mr. Campbell has no realistic plan for public health care. His dramatic tax cuts for the elite would starve public health care and thereby open the door to a two-tier American-style health care system in British Columbia.
- Mr. Campbell has consistently opposed increasing the minimum wage to help the working poor keep up.
- Mr. Campbell's determination to hold divisive referendums, and his personal court fight against the historic Nisga'a Treaty, will hinder, delay and possibly prevent just settlements with First Nations. His approach will cause economic uncertainty, lost jobs, and conflict and confrontation throughout British Columbia.

Making British Columbia's communities healthy and safe

VIOLENCE, bullying, street racing. It only takes one or two incidents to change the character of an entire neighbourhood – to make you feel less secure in your own home. And to increase the worries about our children when they go to school.

That's why Ujjal Dosanjh and the New Democrats are implementing a no-nonsense program to make our communities healthy and safe.

- We will make sure that police have the equipment and tools they need to fight violent crime.
- We will strengthen community policing with increased funding to hire more police officers and make communities safer.
- Through a new *Victims of Crime Act*, we have given new rights to victims, including the right to be heard in court and to have extensive information about their cases.
- We are protecting children through mandatory criminal record checks of those who work with young people.
- We will establish a registry of dangerous sex offenders to help law enforcement agencies and increase public safety.
- We will initiate a classification system for violent videos and games to regulate sales and rentals to children and help "turn off the violence" in our communities, our schools and the media.
- Safety in our schools is especially critical. Children can't learn if they don't feel safe. *The Safe Schools Initiative* and the BC Safe School Centre have been established to provide violence prevention programs. In addition, a bullying prevention program is being offered to all elementary schools.

A future of hope and opportunity for today's families

Great people...

Today's families can look ahead in this 21st century with hope, optimism and confidence in our future. British Columbia has four million talented citizens with the character, skills and entrepreneurship needed to succeed in our changing world. We have roots that stretch around the world – we understand the languages, cultures and economies of our trading partners.

In a great land...

Our land mass is larger than Washington, Oregon and California combined. Two-thirds of our province is covered in forests. We have abundant hydro power and natural gas reserves.

We have stunningly beautiful coastlines and magnificently varied eco-systems. We live in the most diverse, richly endowed province in Canada.

Our location – as a major gateway between the Atlantic and Pacific worlds and within a few hours of any city in North America – is superb.

With vital public health and education available to all British Columbians.

Despite massive funding cuts by Ottawa, we have continued to improve health care services and increase access to the education needed to succeed in a changing economy. While other provinces cut back, BC laid the foundation for families to seize opportunities and build a better life.

We have everything we need to tackle the future with confidence.

With Ottawa now beginning to restore the funding that was cut, we are poised to reap the benefits of our investments.

British Columbia has the people, the services, and the resources to carry us forward through the new millennium. We do not minimize the challenges. There are long term problems, as well as the daily political skirmishes. But British Columbians can take pride in what we have achieved together, and focus on the future with confidence.

With stunningly beautiful mountains, coastlines and forests, abundant energy, and magnificently varied eco-systems, we live in the most diverse, richly endowed province in Canada. We can focus on the future with confidence.



For more information, or to help in the campaign, please contact us at:

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This platform, and additional information about election issues, is available for viewing and download from our website at: www.bc.ndp.ca

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