

*Real Leadership*



*Real Progress*

# FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

*A Proven Plan  
For A Golden Decade*

PREMIER CAMPBELL *and the*



*bcliberals.com*

# FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

## TOWARDS A BRIGHTER FUTURE

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We've come a long way together over the past four years in British Columbia. Our economy is firing on all cylinders and we are leading the nation in job creation. Thanks to the leadership and commitment of British Columbians across our province, we are now entering a period of exceptional promise.

The foundation for growth and opportunity is now in place. Our plan is working. We have a record surplus budget and are living within taxpayers'

means. Low and middle income British Columbians now have the lowest provincial income taxes in Canada. That's the power of a strong economy. We are investing far more than ever before in key public services, like health and education.

This election is your chance to help build on that strong foundation and ensure that B.C. never again slips backwards, or sells its future short. This is your chance to vote for a government that has the experience, vision, resolve and know-how to lead our province forward and keep our economy going strong. I ask for your support in re-electing a BC Liberal Government, to make B.C. the best it can be in the Golden Decade ahead.

I invite you to read this booklet, consider it carefully, and support your local BC Liberal candidate on May 17, 2005 – for real leadership and real progress – for British Columbia. Let's build on the momentum we've established and together let's give the next generation an even brighter future.

## FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

# GREAT GOALS FOR A GOLDEN DECADE

- One** Make B.C. the best educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent.*
- Two** Lead the way in North America in healthy living and physical fitness.*
- Three** Build the best system of support in Canada for persons with disabilities, special needs, children at risk, and seniors.*
- Four** Lead the world in sustainable environmental management, with the best air and water quality, and the best fisheries management – bar none.*
- Five** Create more jobs per capita than anywhere else in Canada.*



It's time to dream big dreams again and to set great goals that oblige us to reach higher for our children, our families and our communities. It's time to realize the true promise of our province and to move forward with confidence, for British Columbia. A golden decade of opportunity lies ahead.

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# OUR PLAN IS WORKING

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## FOR FAMILIES

- Leading the nation in job creation.
- Lowest unemployment in B.C. since 1981.
- Eliminated provincial income taxes for all people earning under \$15,500 per year.
- Lowest provincial income taxes in Canada for all lower and middle income levels.
- More funding to support women and children escaping violence.
- Universal hearing screening, sight testing and dental checks for every child in B.C. under age six.
- 32,000 more daycare spaces eligible for funding and 10,000 more children eligible for subsidies.
- Funding for 215 new police officers for safer communities.
- Record reduction of \$1.7 billion in provincial debt.



## FOR STUDENTS



- \$2.0 billion increase for education (2001 - 2007).
- Highest K-12 education funding in history.
- The single largest increase in B.C. public school funding in a decade.
- New funding for textbooks and funding to school library services for every child in B.C.
- \$1.5 billion plan to complete all required seismic (earthquake) upgrading of British Columbia's public schools over the next 15 years.
- 25,000 new post-secondary spaces in addition to the nearly 6,000 spaces added since 2001.
- The largest expansion of post-secondary spaces in 40 years.
- 20% increase in number of apprentices enrolled today over 2001.
- Over \$800 million for capital improvements in post-secondary institutions over the next three years.
- New student financial assistance programs introduced and tuition increases capped at rate of inflation.



## FOR PATIENTS



- \$3.8 billion increase for health care (2001 - 2007).
- Nearly doubled the number of doctors in training.
- Over 2,500 new nurse training spaces added since 2001 – a 62% increase.
- Reduced or eliminated Medical Services Plan premiums for 290,000 lower income British Columbians since 2001.
- Reduced prescription costs for 280,000 lower income British Columbians through Fair PharmaCare – 82% of all registered users now pay less or nothing at all.
- Lowest median wait times in Canada for access to diagnostic tests and specialists.
- 33% increase in knee replacements, 21% increase in hip replacements, 20% increase in cataract removals, and 40% increase in angioplasties.
- Virtually eliminated wait times for cancer services.
- Installed new cardiac defibrillators in every ambulance.
- More than doubled the budget to expand childhood immunization programs and influenza vaccinations.

## FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA



## OUR PLAN FOR EARLY LEARNING AND LITERACY

- Nearly triple the funding for combined early childhood development (ECD) and autism intervention programs since 2001.
- Use underutilized school space as centres to deliver early childhood development and daycare services.
- Increase support for Success By 6, in partnership with the United Way and Credit Union Central of B.C., to deliver better ECD services in our communities.
- Expand efforts to prevent Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.
- Expand access to speech pathology for special needs children in B.C.'s schools.
- Provide new prenatal and early learning resources to parents through AchieveBC.
- Expand the successful Roots of Empathy program to every school in B.C. to promote empathy in children, and to reduce aggressive behaviour and bullying.

### *Great Goals for a Golden Decade* *One: Make B.C. the best educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent*

- Eliminate textbook shortages in schools with \$150 million more this year for B.C.'s schools and \$10 million in one-time funding in 2004 for schools to buy over 285,000 textbooks.
- Require school boards to annually track and report on their plans to eliminate and prevent textbook shortages, starting this year.
- Lobby the federal government to match the Province's recent doubling in funding for 41 adult literacy cost-shared programs across B.C.
- Provide \$12 million over three years in new funding to strengthen B.C.'s libraries.
- Provide broadband Internet in every library, establish a 24-hour "virtual reference desk," and create a one-card system to give every British Columbian the right to access library books from every library in our province.
- Increase funding for ESL programs.
- Continue to match all private donations raised by the successful annual Raise-A-Reader campaign, as initiated and funded for the first time ever, last year.
- Work with the new Premier's Advisory Panel on Literacy to assess literacy challenges, identify urgent needs, and develop an action strategy to help meet B.C.'s literacy goals.
- Promote student achievement in literacy with \$5 million in Literacy Innovation Grants, aimed at helping students who are struggling with literacy skills or who may be socially or economically disadvantaged.
- Work with LiteracyNow, a new \$5 million community-based program, to improve literacy in concert with non-profit and volunteer-based organizations across the province.



# FOR BC STUDENTS THE BEST IN EDUCATION

## REAL PROGRESS IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

- High school completion rate has increased to 79% since 2001 – the highest ever.
- Aboriginal completion rates are up by 5% over 2001.
- B.C. students won more scholarships in 2003 than ever before.
- B.C. students are getting the best marks ever in reading, writing and numeracy.
- B.C. students outperformed their counterparts in almost every province and most countries around the world in the most recent International Student Assessment of reading, math and science tests.

## CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

As promised, we have acted to bridge the “digital divide” by connecting every community in B.C. to high-speed Internet access by 2006.

Only a year ago, families in 171 communities did not have access to broadband Internet. They were shut out of education opportunities in the new knowledge economy and functionally disconnected from new benefits in digital communication.

Now all of those communities will be connected to high-speed Internet access.

## OUR PLAN TO IMPROVE EDUCATION

- Increase funding for K-12 education by \$253 million over the next three years.
- Complete all required seismic (earthquake) upgrading in B.C.’s schools within 15 years.
- Institute “zero tolerance” of bullying in B.C.’s schools.
- Expand the Action Schools! BC program to Grades K-9 in every school by 2010 and develop a suitable model for Grades 10-12.
- Make physical fitness mandatory in the school curriculum for all students K-9.
- Expand the school Fruit and Vegetable Program to provide a free serving of B.C.-grown fruit or vegetables to all students in public schools across B.C., by 2010.
- Eliminate junk food in all public schools within the next four years.
- Establish a teacher employment registry, administered by the College of Teachers, to publicly report the names of teachers disciplined for misconduct involving emotional, physical or sexual abuse.
- Require annual public reports for all public schools on the statistics relating to class sizes, teacher hirings, terminations, disciplinary actions and professional development.
- Give government the ability to directly communicate with all teachers in B.C.
- Hold an annual Teachers’ Congress to invite teachers from across B.C. to directly communicate with the Premier and education ministers on their ideas for bringing out the best in education.
- Legislate a ban on inappropriate partisan political activities in our public schools.
- Give teachers new recognition and financial incentives to reward improvements in student achievement and promote professional development.
- Oppose the NDP’s plan to eliminate education as an essential service, which would allow strikes and lockouts to shut B.C. children out of class and deny them their right to an education during labour disputes.
- Oppose the NDP’s proposal to remove class size limits and protections under the law which would return to the old model where they were used as political bargaining chips in labour negotiations.





## FOR STUDENTS & PARENTS THE BEST IN EDUCATION

### *Excellence. Choice. Accountability. Achievement.*

- **Restored education as an essential service.**  
This law, passed in August 2001, ensures that no child's right to an education will ever again be jeopardized due to a labour dispute.
- **Created more flexibility and choice in public schooling.** Amendments to the School Act gave students and parents new choices in education and the right to attend any school in the province, provided space is available. School districts are now also required to create catchment areas that ensure students can attend their neighbourhood schools.
- **Introduced new accountability contracts.**  
This makes school boards publicly accountable for student achievement and gives School Planning Councils the power to develop an annual plan for each school, including setting goals and outcomes for student improvement.
- **Eliminated the PST on basic school supplies** purchased by Parent Advisory Councils who volunteer their time and effort to raise money for public schools.
- **Guaranteed the legal right of parents to volunteer in schools,** provided it does not result in the displacement of existing staff services.
- **Introduced new graduation requirements** that give students greater choice and flexibility, while also raising performance standards.
- **Introduced school satisfaction surveys** to give parents, students and staff a new tool to let government know how well they think their schools are doing.
- **Enshrined class size limits in legislation for Grades K-3** and set district-wide class size averages for Grades 4 through 12. This gives school boards better flexibility to utilize their class spaces in the best interests of students.
- **Gave school boards multi-year funding envelopes** to improve long-term education planning and budgeting.
- **Added almost 12,000 computers to B.C.'s schools,** with a million dollars in special funding.
- **Introduced AchieveBC** ([www.achievebc.ca](http://www.achievebc.ca)) to provide new learning resources and interactive tips and tools, to compare all schools' performance on student achievement, help plan a career, and learn about scholarships and financial aid for post-secondary education.
- **Introduced new school safety standards to help address bullying in schools.**

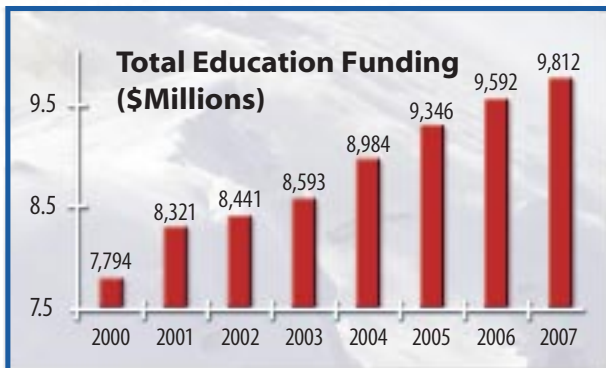




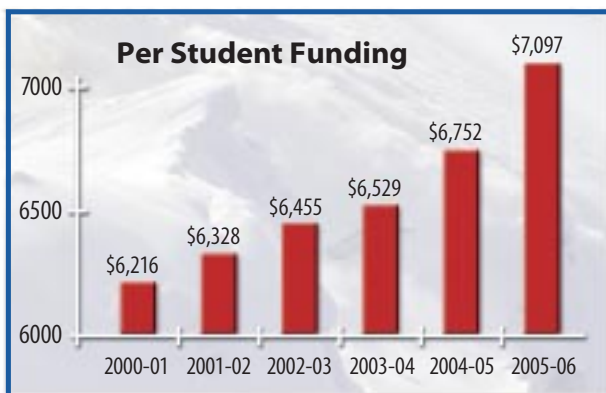


# FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION THE MOST FUNDING EVER

## Total education funding has increased by \$2 Billion



## K-12 funding has increased by \$881 per student



### Total Education Spending

	2000	2005
<b>Per year</b>	\$7.8 billion	\$9.3 billion
<b>Per day</b>	\$21.4 million	\$25.6 million
<b>Per hour</b>	\$0.9 million	\$1.1 million
<b>Per minute</b>	\$14,829	\$17,782
<b>Per second</b>	\$247.10	\$296.40

## \$2 BILLION MORE FOR EDUCATION

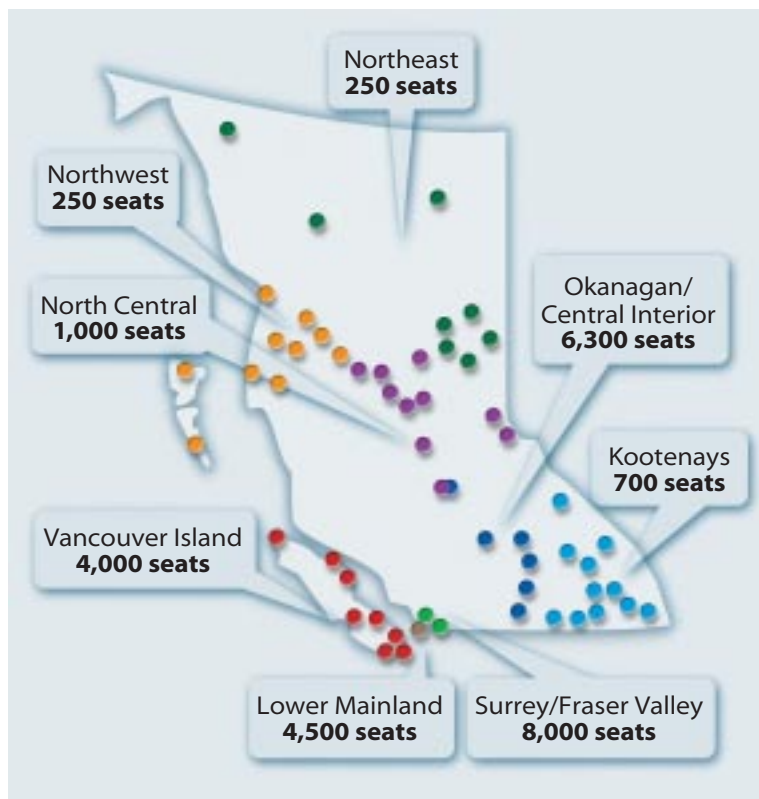
- Education funding for all levels will have increased from \$7.8 billion to \$9.8 billion by 2007.
- Average per student funding for K-12 has increased by \$881 since we were elected.
- There are over 30,000 fewer students in B.C.'s schools today than in 2000, due to our aging population.
- This year, operating funding for B.C.'s public schools will grow by \$150 million. That's the largest increase in a decade.
- This year's funding increase will provide more money than ever to help students with special needs, to eliminate textbook shortages, and to ensure every school provides library services, as well as art and music programs.
- K-12 education funding will increase by \$253 million over the next three years, to nearly \$5.2 billion.
- In addition to these funding increases, school districts have received over \$153 million in one-time grants.
- On top of all this, another \$68 million was provided in 2002 to help offset the 7.5% salary increase for teachers.
- School districts were also given \$10 million in one-time funding in 2004 to buy textbooks for students – enough to buy over 285,000 textbooks.
- By the end of 2007/08, we will have invested over \$2.2 billion in school capital and ongoing maintenance funding, having built or approved 34 new schools and 278 replacements, additions, renovations and seismic (earthquake) upgrades since 2001.
- In addition, we will spend \$1.5 billion on seismic upgrades for over 700 schools – a 15-year investment in student safety. So far, 95 projects worth over \$250 million have been approved.



## FOR LIFE-LONG LEARNING

### THE LARGEST EXPANSION IN 40 YEARS

- New UBC Okanagan and Okanagan College
- New Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops and campus in Williams Lake
- New future for the Open University and Open College in Kamloops
- New medical schools at UNBC in Prince George & UVic in Victoria
- New SFU campus in Surrey
- New Kwantlen University College Trades and Technology Centre in Cloverdale
- New Life Sciences Centre at UBC
- New NWCC campus in Prince Rupert
- New joint UNBC / CNC campus in Quesnel



### 25,000 NEW STUDENT SPACES

Last year, the Province announced plans to add 25,000 post-secondary student spaces by 2010. That's on top of the 5,856 seats that were created over the previous three years, for a total of 30,856 more student spaces.

New seats will be created faster than the rate of student population growth, so that anyone with a 75% average or better can gain access to advanced education in B.C.

#### A Golden Decade of Learning:

- 4,500 seats – University of British Columbia Okanagan
- 1,000 seats – Okanagan College
- 800 seats – Thompson Rivers University
- 600 seats – University of Northern British Columbia
- 400 seats – College of New Caledonia
- 250 seats – Northern Lights College
- 250 seats – Northwest Community College
- 450 seats – College of the Rockies
- 250 seats – Selkirk College
- 1,900 seats – University of Victoria
- 1,100 seats – Malaspina University-College
- 550 seats – Camosun College
- 250 seats – North Island College
- 200 seats – Royal Roads University
- 1,150 seats – Simon Fraser University, Burnaby
- 1,850 seats – Simon Fraser University, Surrey
- 1,800 seats – Kwantlen University College
- 1,500 seats – Douglas College
- 1,700 seats – University College of the Fraser Valley
- 2,200 seats – University of British Columbia
- 1,145 seats – British Columbia Institute of Technology
- 600 seats – Vancouver Community College
- 500 seats – Langara College
- 350 seats – Capilano College
- 150 seats – Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design



## FOR POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS

### REAL BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS

- ✓ New access, closer to home
- ✓ Lower costs for housing and travel
- ✓ Increased access to courses and classes
- ✓ Lower costs from faster completion
- ✓ New training in key job growth areas

### NEW FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- Providing \$450 million over the next three years for student financial assistance including loan reductions for students in need, debt relief, a loan forgiveness program and grants for students with disabilities.
- The new student aid program allows students to earn nearly three times more money than previously, without reducing their loan eligibility.
- The new loan reduction program forgives a portion of student loans upon successful completion of courses for eligible students.

### MORE FUNDING FOR ADVANCED EDUCATION

Funding for post-secondary institutions has increased every year under our government, and by 2007, the ministry's budget will be over \$200 million higher than it was in 2001.

Over \$1 billion has been invested since 2001 in research, innovation, infrastructure and access, including \$100 million in new funding for the Michael Smith Foundation in 2007. We've built the new Life Sciences Centre at UBC, and opened new medical schools at UNBC and UVic.

The new \$56.25 million Leading Edge Endowment Fund is attracting world-renowned researchers and promoting applied research. We've committed \$150 million to double the number of graduates in computer science and electrical and computer engineering. And we've committed \$800 million in new capital investment for B.C.'s universities and colleges.

## OUR PLAN TO IMPROVE ADVANCED EDUCATION

- Increase annual post-secondary funding by \$196 million over the next three years.
- Cap tuition increases at the rate of inflation to ensure B.C.'s tuition levels remain affordable.
- Expand the student loan reduction program by 2008, to offer more help to low income families.
- Increase the number of new doctors trained in Prince George, Victoria and UBC and create a new medical training campus at UBC Okanagan in Kelowna.
- Create additional special purpose universities.
- Maintain and improve The Knowledge Network as B.C.'s educational public broadcasting network.
- Create "one-window" access for students to apply for acceptance or financial assistance at any public post-secondary institution in B.C., through the AchieveBC website.
- Work with the federal government and professional organizations to speed up credentialing for new Canadians in trades and professions.
- Increase the number of apprentices, working with the new Industry Training Authority and employers.
- Establish British Columbia as the new home for the World Trade University, a United Nations-backed initiative aimed at promoting global trade skills and knowledge.
- Establish a One World Scholarship Fund to help B.C. students earn their degrees and diplomas in other non-G8 countries.





## FOR A VIBRANT BC THE BEST IN CULTURE

### THE BEST SUPPORT EVER FOR THE ARTS

- New \$25 million BC Arts Renaissance Fund.
- \$3 million increase for the BC Arts Council to support B.C. artists – an increase of over 25% to their annual budget.
- Doubling support for Community Arts Councils.
- \$20 million Spirit of BC Arts Fund to support artistic and cultural activities leading up to the 2010 Winter Olympics.
- \$12 million for new programs through ArtsNow to support B.C. music, literature, performing arts, visual arts, First Nations art and more.
- New graduation requirements include music, arts and physical education as areas of study in graduation portfolio.
- More funding this year to enhance art and music programs in B.C.'s public schools.

### CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE IN MUSIC, ART, THEATRE AND FILM

No government in B.C. history has done more to support and promote art in all its forms, at every age, across the province, than Premier Campbell's government. Through the new 2010 LegaciesNow and ArtsNow initiatives and the BC Arts Council, the Province is giving the arts community in British Columbia more funding than ever to bring out the best in music, art, theatre and culture.

The new Picture BC initiative will similarly invite British Columbians

to celebrate the best in British Columbia in music, art, poetry, prose, photography and film.



A new interactive Picture BC website will be launched later this year, in partnership with the Union of BC Municipalities, Tourism BC, and LegaciesNow. It will provide a unique point of connection for all the world to learn more about our province and to invite all British Columbians to contribute to the single largest electronic repository of freely available B.C. art and art sources in the province.

## OUR PLAN FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY

- Establish an Asia-Pacific Museum of Trade and Culture to showcase the history and diversity of B.C.'s multicultural communities, and to foster greater understanding, appreciation, tolerance and pride of heritage, in partnership with multicultural organizations.
- Implement the new B.C. Skills Connect for Immigrants program to help new immigrants overcome barriers to employment.
- Aggressively recruit foreign-trained doctors, nurses, skilled professionals and business investors through the newly expanded B.C. Provincial Nominee Program, which allows applicants to gain permanent residence status more quickly.
- Hold annual Multicultural Dialogues between MLAs and B.C.'s ethnic community leaders.
- Increase support for ESL programs, translation services and translated government publications.







## FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES THE BEST IN HEALTH

### ACT NOW FOR BETTER HEALTH

The best health care starts with healthy eating, regular exercise, and other preventative measures to stay fit and reduce the chance of illness. The new ActNowBC initiative will help advance those healthy living practices with the most comprehensive health and fitness program in North America.

## *Great Goals for a Golden Decade* *Two: Lead the way in North America* *in healthy living and physical fitness*

### OUR PLAN FOR HEALTHIER LIVING & PHYSICAL FITNESS

- Expand the Action Schools! BC program to Grades K-9 in every school by 2010 and develop a suitable model for Grades 10-12.
- Make physical fitness mandatory in the school curriculum for all students in Grades K-9.
- Direct more funding to promote music, art and physical fitness programs.
- Eliminate junk food in B.C. schools within four years.
- Expand the school Fruit and Vegetable Program to provide a free serving of B.C.-grown fruit or vegetables to all students in public schools across B.C., by 2010.
- Expand the anti-tobacco strategy to reduce smoking, especially among youth and pregnant women.
- Lead the new ActNowBC initiative to make B.C. the healthiest jurisdiction in North America, working in partnership with LegaciesNow, community organizations, school districts, health authorities, and health care providers.
- Launch a Passport to 2010 program that will provide recognition, rewards and incentives for all British Columbians to meet individually tailored annual health and fitness goals.
- Continue major investment in playground to podium sports through 2010 LegaciesNow.
- Provide new tools to help all citizens develop, with their physicians, “personal health plans” with realistic goals and strategies to meet those goals.
- Expand pregnancy outreach programs to help women make healthy choices during pregnancy and give all newborns a healthier head start on life.
- Provide free, universal access for all children to hearing screening, sight testing and dental checks before age six.
- Expand drug and alcohol treatment for at-risk and addicted people who are seeking help.



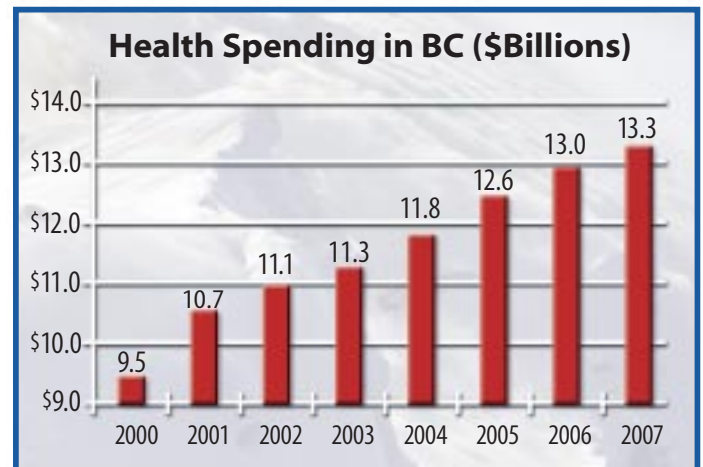
## FOR BC PATIENTS HIGHER HEALTH FUNDING

### **\$3.8 BILLION INCREASE FOR HEALTH CARE**

In our 2001 New Era election platform, we vowed to “Maintain this year’s overall \$9.3 billion budget for health” and to “Increase future health care funding as economic growth increases government revenues.” In fact, we not only kept that promise – we exceeded it.

As the chart opposite shows, by 2007, health care funding will have increased from \$9.5 billion to \$13.3 billion since we came into office – an increase of \$3.8 billion. That’s nearly a 40% increase – another \$759 million in this year alone.

This year, we will spend over \$3 billion more on health care than when we came into office. That represents an increase of over \$8 million a day, \$300,000 an hour, nearly \$6,000 a minute, and almost \$100 a second – seven days a week, 365 days a year!



### **44% OF THE ENTIRE BUDGET NOW GOES TO HEALTH CARE**

The fact is, B.C. has the third highest per capita health spending in Canada and the highest per capita physician spending in the country. Health spending now accounts for nearly 44% of all government operating expenditures. New federal health funding will add \$5.4 billion to health care in B.C. over the next 10 years.

### **MORE OF EACH HEALTH DOLLAR SPENT IS NOW GOING TO PATIENTS**

Every penny of administrative savings realized from changes made to health delivery is now being reinvested into improvements for patients in our B.C. health system. This includes \$100 million for patients from reduced administrative costs, achieved by reducing the number of regional health authorities from 52 to six, and \$40 million from reduced health ministry bureaucracy. The consolidation of laboratory management has put an additional \$70 million over two years back into improved lab services, allowing for over \$35 million in technology upgrades to improve the coordination of information and delivery of lab services for British Columbians.

#### **We have increased health funding by nearly \$6,000 per minute**

	2000	2005
<b>Per year</b>	\$9.5 billion	\$12.6 billion
<b>Per day</b>	\$26.1 million	\$34.4 million
<b>Per hour</b>	\$1.1 million	\$1.4 million
<b>Per minute</b>	\$18,154	\$23,914
<b>Per second</b>	\$302.60	\$398.60



## FOR BC PATIENTS REAL IMPROVEMENTS

### MORE FUNDING NEW SERVICES

- Over \$3 billion increase in annual health funding from 2000 to 2005.
- Double the number of doctors in training by 2008.
- Added 600 more nurses and over 2,500 new nurse training spaces – a 62% increase.
- New Fair PharmaCare reduced costs for 280,000 people with lower incomes; 82% of all registrants now pay the same or less for all prescriptions.
- Eliminated or reduced Medical Services Plan (MSP) premiums for 290,000 British Columbians on lower incomes.
- More than doubled the budget for immunizations in B.C.
- Over 4,000 new, replaced or upgraded residential care and assisted living units to date.
- 5,000 new residential care and assisted living beds for seniors by 2008, including over 1,700 new units already under construction.
- 75% increase in the number of MRI machines, from nine to 16.
- Added seven CT scanners, for a total of 38 province-wide, including enhanced access in Kamloops, Kelowna and Prince George.
- Almost 60% increase in access to renal dialysis, with new services in 23 communities.
- \$263 million in new spending for mental health, including the \$125 million mental health program and \$138 million capital plan.
- Reduced the number of health authorities from 52 to six, reinvesting \$100 million in savings in patient care.
- Introduced new rural travel assistance program to help eligible rural residents travel for medical services.
- Installed cardiac defibrillators in every ambulance and increased training for paramedics.
- Introduced standards of care for emergency health services and chronic diseases.

### REAL PROGRESS ON SURGICAL WAIT TIMES

- 68,000 more surgical procedures in 2003 over 2001, totalling nearly 900,000 surgical procedures annually.
- Median wait time for diagnostic tests dropped to the shortest in Canada from 2001 to 2003.
- Median wait times to visit a specialist dropped to the shortest of any province in Canada from 2001 to 2003.
- Virtually eliminated wait times for cancer services.
- 33% reduction in people waiting for heart surgeries in 2004.
- 21% increase in hip replacements, 33% increase in knee replacements, 20% increase in cataract removals, and 40% increase in angioplasties.
- \$45.7 million in additional funding in 2004 to provide 240 more heart surgeries, 2000 more orthopaedic surgeries (including hip and knee replacements, arthroscopy and spine surgeries), 500 more cataract procedures; and nearly 17,000 more diagnostic procedures.

### THE BEST HEALTH IN CANADA

- ✓ British Columbians have the longest life expectancy in Canada.
- ✓ B.C. leads Canada in most cancer survival rates.
- ✓ B.C. has the best breast cancer outcomes in Canada.
- ✓ B.C. has the lowest smoking prevalence rate in Canada, including the lowest proportion of teen smokers.
- ✓ B.C. attracted the largest number of doctors from other parts of Canada in 2003 and second most in 2002.
- ✓ B.C. has the lowest median wait times in Canada for access to diagnostic tests and specialists.
- ✓ B.C. has one of the very best PharmaCare programs in Canada.



## FOR PATIENTS IN EVERY REGION

### THE LARGEST INCREASE IN NURSING EVER

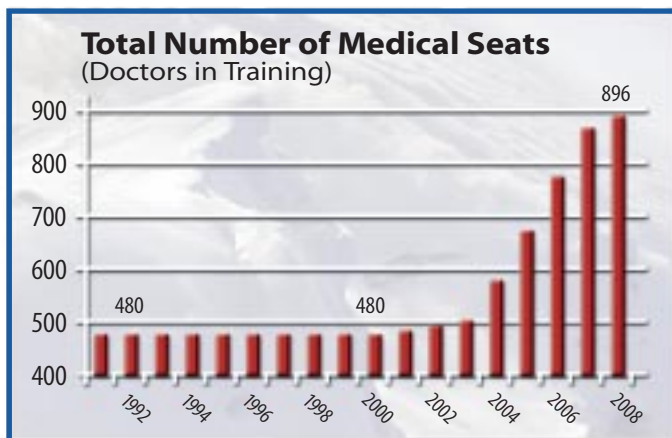
- Launched a \$62.5 million nursing strategy to train, recruit and retain nurses, and increased the number of nurses in training by 62%.
- Added 600 more nurses and over 2,500 new nurse training spaces. That's nearly 30 times more new nursing seats than the 85 seats added by the NDP over the entire 1990s.
- Created B.C.'s first ever programs to train nurse practitioners at UBC and UVic, with the first class graduating in 2005.
- Gave B.C. nurses the highest starting wage and second highest maximum wage in Canada, with a 23% wage increase in 2001.
- Ensured B.C. health support workers are still among the highest paid in Canada, despite wage measures taken to bring salaries and benefits more in line with the Canadian average, and to direct more funding back into patient services.
- Negotiated a new 3-year agreement with B.C.'s 28,000 nurses that will provide improvements in patient care and nursing, with no extra wage costs for two years.
- New BC NurseLine offers 24/7 telephone access to help from a registered nurse in 130 languages, and after-hours pharmacist support.

### DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF DOCTORS IN TRAINING

As the chart shows, we have nearly doubled the number of doctors in training. The number of first-year undergraduate medical students has been increased from 128 to 224 since 2001. By 2008, there will be a total of 896 medical students in training at any given time in B.C., up from 480 under the NDP. We are also doubling post-graduate positions, or residencies, to 256 by 2010.

According to the Canadian Institute for Health Information, B.C. attracted more family physicians and specialists from across Canada than any other province in 2003. In our first two years, the number of physicians in B.C. grew from 8,105 to 8,348. We now have one of Canada's highest rates of physicians per capita.

B.C.'s doctors are now among the highest paid in Canada, following a 20.6% lift in compensation in 2002 that was equivalent to an average increase of \$50,000 per doctor. A new three-year agreement with the B.C. Medical Association means that for the first time ever, B.C.'s physicians have agreed to take no increases in fees or salaries for at least two years. Instead, they are working with the government on ways to improve both patient care and support to physicians.



### OUR PLAN TO INCREASE PHYSICIANS & NURSES

- Increase the number of new doctors trained in Prince George, Victoria and UBC and create a new medical training campus at UBC Okanagan in Kelowna.
- Invest \$77 million over three years for continued recruitment, training and retention of nurses.
- Aggressively recruit foreign-trained doctors and nurses through the newly expanded B.C. Provincial Nominee Program, which allows applicants to gain permanent residence status more quickly and permanently practice in British Columbia.
- Increase the number of nurse practitioners graduating in the province, including new graduates at UNBC.



# FOR COMMUNITIES ACROSS BC NEW HOSPITALS AND FACILITIES

## OUR PLAN TO IMPROVE HEALTH FACILITIES



- Completed the Prince George Regional Hospital redevelopment, including a new four-storey patient care building with new medical/surgical beds, improved critical care services, a new Emergency department and other improvements.
- Opened the 19-storey Jim Pattison Pavilion at Vancouver General, with 459 new beds, and modern equipment and care facilities, to fully utilize the huge facility that the NDP had left empty throughout the 1990s.
- Redeveloped the Royal Inland Hospital in Kamloops, with a new state-of-the-art Emergency Department opened last year and a new Medical Imaging Department to be opened this June.
- Commencing work on the \$5.3 million revitalization of G.R. Baker Memorial Hospital in Quesnel to turn the hospital's third floor into an updated acute care unit.
- Started construction of a new 300-bed Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre for residents of the Fraser Valley, to be completed by 2008.
- Renovated Mills Memorial Hospital Emergency Department in Terrace, and Bulkley Valley District Hospital Emergency Department and Diagnostic Imaging Department in Smithers.
- Completed a \$21 million expansion of the East Kootenay Regional Hospital in Cranbrook to attract specialists and to create a regional centre of services.
- Building a new 11-storey Academic Ambulatory Care Centre in Vancouver that will coordinate ambulatory patient care services and academic programs in medical education, physician teaching clinics and research, starting in 2006.
- Opened the new Life Science Centre at UBC, the Northern Health Sciences Centre at UNBC, and UVic's Medical Sciences Building.
- Began the renovation and redesign of St. Paul's Hospital's Emergency Department, to be completed this September, and the renovation of Whistler Health Centre Emergency Department.
- Delivered four new centres of excellence for thoracic surgery at sites across the province.
- Started construction of the Nanaimo Regional General Hospital expansion to improve access to patient care, surgical services, and maternal programs, beginning next spring.
- Completed the Saanich Peninsula Hospital Emergency redevelopment in 2003.
- Created a new rehabilitation unit at Victoria General to help patients recover from strokes and brain injuries.
- Launched major improvements to the Fraser Valley Cancer Centre in Surrey and the Vancouver Cancer Centre, to acquire and accommodate eight new or replacement linear accelerators (Linacs).
- Increased number of dialysis stations by almost 60% across B.C. since 2001, with major expansions to renal dialysis services in Creston, Kelowna, Penticton, Prince George, Surrey, Terrace and Williams Lake. Expansion includes 61 machines for independent dialysis to allow patients to receive care at home.
- Completed a new \$17 million mental health facility in Kamloops and constructed or expanded mental health facilities in Campbell River, Terrace, Prince George, Vancouver and Vernon.
- Created new access to specialist care for rural residents in 50 additional communities through expanded telehealth across the province.



## FOR ALL BRITISH COLUMBIANS CANADA'S BEST PHARMACARE

### FAIR PHARMACARE

Under the new Fair PharmaCare plan, 280,000 British Columbians now pay less, or nothing at all.

It's a fair PharmaCare system because it is income-sensitive, unlike the old PharmaCare program. Under the previous system, people with higher incomes often paid less for their prescription drugs than those with lower incomes. That wasn't fair.

For example, before Fair PharmaCare, a single mother earning \$28,000 with no extended medical insurance would have paid more than a retired couple with an income of \$56,000 for the same drugs. The single mother with half the income of the couple would have paid over twice the amount. She would have paid \$1,300, while the couple would have only paid \$550, on a total drug cost of \$2,000.

Fair PharmaCare changed that. Now, those who earn less pay less for their prescription drugs. To ensure British Columbians' annual drug costs do not exceed their ability to pay, there is now a family maximum based on net income. Once that maximum is reached, PharmaCare covers 100% of all drug costs above that amount. This is the best catastrophic drug coverage in Canada.

The same single mom mentioned in the example above now pays 37% less than she did before. A retired couple earning \$18,000 a year now pays 38% less for their prescription drugs. If their total prescription costs are \$2,000 annually, they now pay only \$250, as compared to \$400 previously.

## THE FACTS ABOUT PHARMACARE

- B.C. is one of only three provinces in Canada that has a universal drug coverage program for all of its citizens, where access is not restricted based on age and income.
- Only B.C. offers a zero deductible for low income earners not on income assistance.
- B.C. is tied for first place in Canada for the number of drug classes funded under its prescription drug program.
- B.C.'s PharmaCare system provides coverage for about 18 million prescriptions annually.
- B.C. has one of Canada's best immunization programs, with 100% coverage for many vaccines.
- In addition to Fair PharmaCare, other B.C. PharmaCare plans provide 100% coverage for patients in long-term care, patients on income assistance, and children at home with severe handicaps – and more.

**PharmaCare Funding Is Way Up  
(\$Millions)**





## FOR ALL CANADIANS A 10-YEAR HEALTH STRATEGY

### A NEW HEALTH DEAL FOR CANADA

Last September, Premier Campbell and other First Ministers negotiated a new health agreement for all Canadians. It will add another \$41 billion to Canada's public health care system over the next 10 years.

British Columbia will receive an extra \$5.4 billion in health funding, which will help lift Ottawa's share of all health funding to 25%. That's still only half of what the federal government contributed back in the sixties. But it's a major step forward that will ensure our health care system is sustainable and will result in better health care services and increased accountability.



### OUR PLAN FOR BETTER HEALTH CARE

- \$1.5 billion increase for health care over the next three years, including an extra \$759 million this year.
- Expand the BC NurseLine into a comprehensive HealthNow Helpline that offers free round-the-clock telephone access to a broad range of health services in up to 130 languages.
- Increase investments in high-tech medical equipment, such as MRI and CT scanners.
- Increase funding by \$100 million this year to reduce wait times in key surgical and medical priorities, including cardiac treatment, diagnostic imaging, joint replacements, and sight restoration - as identified in the new federal/provincial health agreement.
- Establish national standards for wait times.
- Improve home care services and support, and other key programs in the community sector, with an additional \$100 million this year from the extra \$759 million budgeted for healthcare.
- Improve Aboriginal health care through a national strategy to raise Aboriginal health outcomes to the averages for other Canadians, within a decade.
- Expand primary care to increase 24/7 access to multi-disciplinary primary health teams.
- Expand telehealth to improve rural and remote residents' access to health services and specialists.
- Develop a National Pharmaceuticals Strategy to provide all Canadians access to catastrophic drug coverage, to accelerate access to breakthrough drugs, to strengthen the national evaluation of drug safety and effectiveness, and to pursue national purchasing strategies to obtain drugs and vaccines at the best price possible.
- Improve accountability with new nationally comparable progress reports on key performance indicators.
- Build on B.C.'s 10-year health human resources strategy, with a national strategy to address long-term needs for a stable supply of health professionals in every province.



## FOR SENIORS A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE

### *Great Goals for a Golden Decade* *Three: Build the best system of support in Canada for persons with disabilities, special needs, children at risk and seniors*

- Eliminated provincial income tax for all people earning less than \$15,500 a year.
- Increased the refundable sales tax credit for low income seniors by 50%.
- Reduced prescription costs for 280,000 citizens with lower incomes through Fair PharmaCare – 82% of all registrants now pay the same or less for all prescriptions.
- Reduced or eliminated MSP premiums for 290,000 lower income seniors and families.
- Added, replaced or upgraded over 4,000 residential care and assisted living units for seniors to date, plus an additional 1,700 new units now underway.
- Expanded Palliative Care Benefits to ensure patients living at home receive the same end-of-life care benefits as they would in a hospital.
- Created new assisted living Registrar to oversee and enforce new health and safety standards in assisted living facilities.
- Helped seniors with rheumatoid arthritis and Crohn's disease by adding coverage for Remicade and Enbrel.
- Increased the homeowner grant threshold to protect people from higher taxes resulting from higher property values.
- A senior couple earning \$30,000 a year now pays over \$930 per year less in total provincial taxes than when we took office.

## OUR PLAN TO HELP SENIORS

- Complete 5,000 new residential care and assisted living beds by 2008, including 1,700 units currently under construction.
- Increase resources for home care, counselling services and outreach activities.
- Engage British Columbians in a dialogue on the issue of mandatory retirement and what affordable changes, if any, should be made to improve seniors' standard of living.
- Work with the new Premier's Council on Aging and Seniors' Issues to identify a comprehensive long-term plan to create the best system of support in Canada for seniors within the decade.  
  
Work with the Council to identify immediate priorities for improving seniors' independence, quality of life and life expectancy.
- Continue to oppose the NDP's attempts to impose an inheritance tax on B.C. families.
- Push to increase the age at which seniors must convert their Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs) into Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIFs).
- Push to increase the age at which seniors must start drawing down their RRIF savings, to give seniors more flexibility in financial planning.





## FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES BETTER SUPPORT SERVICES

### **NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

### **INCREASED CHILD CARE**

### **BETTER SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN NEED**

- An increase of \$70 per month in income assistance for persons with disabilities – the largest single increase ever in B.C. history and the second highest rate in Canada.
- Doubled the dental coverage limit for the approximately 13,000 persons with persistent multiple barriers from \$500 to \$1,000 over two years, bringing their dental coverage to the same level as persons with disabilities.
- 15% fewer kids in care and nearly double the number of annual adoptions since 2001.
- The highest funding for childcare subsidies and capital improvements in B.C. history.
- Nearly triple the funding for combined early childhood development and autism intervention programs since 2001.
- 32,000 additional childcare spaces now eligible for funding and 10,000 more children eligible for childcare subsidies.
- 200 more cold/wet weather beds, 153 extra year-round emergency shelter beds, & 200 new housing units in Vancouver's former Woodward's building.
- The highest budget ever for transition houses, providing new programs and 24/7 access to services to protect the personal safety of women and their children.
- Over 5,100 new social housing units created and over 3,300 more to be added, with the highest social housing budget in B.C. history – over 50% higher than under the NDP.
- Forgivable student loans for new speech pathologists, audiologists, occupational therapists and physiotherapists who agree to practice in underserved communities.
- Increased access to dental coverage for children in low-income families and people on income assistance.

## OUR PLAN TO HELP CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

- Increase the monthly amount that persons with disabilities can earn without penalty while on income assistance to \$500 this year, up from \$400 currently – as compared to \$200 under the NDP.
- Increase the amount that persons with persistent and multiple barriers to employment can earn without penalty while on income assistance to \$500 per month, up from \$300 per month, starting this year.
- Implement the new regional service delivery models in community living and child protection, starting this year.
- Expand access to speech pathology for special needs children in B.C.'s schools.
- Increase respite support for families who are taking care of individuals with special needs, with \$91 million in new funding over three years for adults with developmental disabilities.
- Increase the income threshold to make more families eligible for child care subsidies.
- Fund an \$84 million federal/provincial program to provide transitional housing and support for those in need.
- Continue to implement the comprehensive strategy developed by the Premier's Task Force on Homelessness, to tackle homelessness, mental illness and addictions.
- Convert underutilized school spaces into centres to address community needs, such as early childhood development, daycare, libraries, music centres, and meeting rooms.
- Invest \$76 million to provide universal access to hearing screening, sight testing and dental health checks for all children under age six.
- Invest over \$47 million over three years to improve access to dental treatment for young children and low-income families.
- Expand childcare and early childhood development with an expected \$600 million in new federal funding over five years.



## FOR FIRST NATIONS NEW HOPE AND HELP

### NEW AGREEMENTS NEW RELATIONSHIPS

- Agreements-in-Principle with four First Nations at treaty tables.
- 145 economic development agreements, 82 treaty-related measures agreements and 15 shellfish pilot projects with First Nations now underway across B.C.
- \$15 million First Nations Benefits Trust, for 25 First Nations along the BC Rail corridor.
- Treaty land offer to the Haida Nation of 200,000 hectares, an area equal to 20% of the Queen Charlotte Islands.
- Doubled the First Citizens Fund to \$72 million.
- New forest sector opportunities that will double the allowable annual cut (AAC) available to First Nations to 8%.
- 93 forestry agreements with First Nations to provide access to over 14.5 million cubic metres of timber and over \$100 million in forestry revenues.

### LEADING THE WAY IN CANADA IN PARTNERSHIPS WITH FIRST NATIONS

Real progress means forging a new relationship with First Nations, based on recognition, respect and reconciliation. That goal has been formalized in a protocol agreement with the First Nations Summit and was reinforced in the 2003 Throne Speech with a formal statement that was unprecedented in Canada.

We established annual meetings between Cabinet and First Nations leaders from across B.C. The Premier and Cabinet have also initiated annual First Citizens' Forums that invite an open dialogue on a wide range of issues of interest to Aboriginal British Columbians.

B.C. is leading the way in Canada, with new revenue sharing opportunities for First Nations in forestry, and oil and gas; new economic project agreements to foster job creation and partnerships; new co-management agreements in parks; and new collaborative management agreements aimed at facilitating development opportunities while protecting environmental, spiritual and cultural values.

B.C. is breaking new ground with First Nations in areas like adoption, child protection, early childhood development, education and health care, and in service delivery for Aboriginal women, people with disabilities, people in need, and people at risk.

## OUR PLAN TO WORK WITH FIRST NATIONS

- Work with First Nations to ensure that our five great goals for improving health, education, support services, environmental management and job creation are realized in First Nations' communities.
- Expand the Aboriginal Employment Partnership Initiative to develop new job opportunities for Aboriginal people.
- Increase First Nations' representation in the public service.
- Develop with First Nations a new framework for respecting Aboriginal rights and title in the absence of treaties.
- Increase support for Aboriginal child care.
- Develop a comprehensive Aboriginal Children's Strategy, to better coordinate funding and support for Aboriginal children's services.
- Extend broadband Internet access to 100 First Nations' communities across B.C. by 2006.
- Work with Aboriginal leaders to develop a national blueprint to improve the health status of Aboriginal peoples in Canada.
- Negotiate workable, affordable treaty settlements under the BC Treaty Commission process.



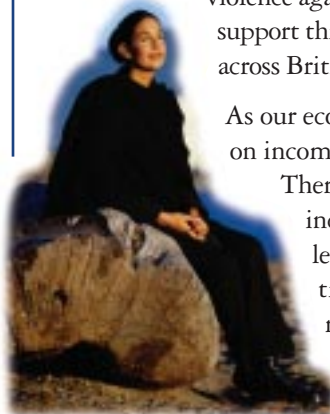
## FOR BC WOMEN THE FUTURE IS WIDE OPEN

### NEW SUPPORT NEW OPPORTUNITY

- Increased support to prevent and combat violence against women.
- New province-wide crisis line to provide 24/7 support for victims of family and sexual violence.
- New Safe Streets Act to help protect women from aggressive panhandling and solicitation.
- 32,000 more childcare spaces eligible for funding and 10,000 more children eligible for childcare subsidies.
- Enhanced health care services in maternity, midwifery, breast cancer screening, mental health, and drug and alcohol treatment.
- Largest increase in transition house funding in a decade.

B.C. now has the highest proportion of women in the workforce of any province in Western Canada. We have the highest percentage of women owning or operating a small business in Canada. The median weekly wage for women in B.C. has grown at nearly twice the rate for men. We have more women working in B.C. than ever before, and nearly half of the new jobs we have created since 2001 have gone to women.

B.C. is spending more than ever before on childcare and programs to combat violence against women. More women than ever are now receiving support through victims' services, with 153 separate programs across British Columbia.



As our economy has improved, the number of single women on income assistance has dropped by 16% since 2001.

There are now 52% fewer single parents dependent on income assistance, as the vast majority of those people leaving welfare are now employed and earning two or three times more income. Provincial income taxes have been reduced by as much as 44% for people earning \$20,000 and have been eliminated entirely for those earning less than \$15,500.

### OUR PLAN TO SUPPORT WOMEN

- Provide over \$37 million in new funding to support women and children escaping violence and provide 24/7 access to safe housing.
- Expand the BC NurseLine into a comprehensive HealthNow Helpline that offers free round-the-clock telephone access to nursing, pharmacist, physician, mental health, and crisis intervention support in up to 130 languages.
- Explore viable options to extend parental leave benefits to self-employed and part-time workers.
- Work with the Royal BC Museum to establish a World Women's History Museum, as a satellite expansion, to celebrate the milestones, contributions, and great women achievers in history, both here in B.C. and around the world.
- Increase the income threshold to make more families eligible for childcare subsidies.
- Increase support to combat Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and improve women's health in pregnancy.
- Provide new tax incentives and financial assistance to help women advance their education, skills and employability when returning to the workforce after long absences due to child rearing.



## FOR OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER STREETS & SCHOOLS

**BETTER  
COMMUNITY  
POLICING**

**TOUGHER  
ENFORCEMENT  
& SENTENCING**

**MORE  
EFFECTIVE  
CRIME  
PREVENTION**



A key responsibility of government is to ensure law and order and to promote the safety of its citizens. Families should not have to feel threatened by the prospect of home invasions, break-ins or car thefts. Women, children and seniors should not have to worry about being accosted or assaulted on our streets or when using public transit. Young British Columbians should not have to fear being bullied at school or beaten up by youth gangs.

Citizens should not be terrorized by organized crime or victimized by drug traffickers. Parents should not have to worry for the safety of their kids at playgrounds or parks.

We need to improve and intensify our efforts to keep our citizens safe, and build on the actions we have taken to improve public safety.

### OUR PLAN FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

- Invest an additional \$122 million in policing, corrections and courts to add 215 RCMP officers around B.C. to fight major crime, cyber-crime and boost rural policing.
- Increase funding to support programs that combat violence against women.
- Implement the new sex offender registry in B.C.
- New ISPO<sup>T</sup> policing team, to better monitor known sexual predators.
- New Amber Alert system to help solve child abductions.
- Expand the successful Bait Car program to combat auto thefts across B.C.
- Pass new Civil Forfeiture Act to ensure that criminals don't profit from the proceeds of their crimes.
- Combat gang violence by working with communities through the Integrated Gang Task Force.
- New integrated policing units to fight organized crime, solve murders and improve coordination between jurisdictions.
- Oppose the NDP's plan to repeal the new Safe Streets Act and Trespass Act which prevents aggressive panhandling and prohibits unwelcome people or activities on private property.
- Returning 100% of all traffic fines to municipalities for enhanced community policing and crime prevention.
- Institute "zero tolerance" of bullying in B.C.'s schools.
- New policing unit of 82 officers with broader enforcement powers to improve public safety along SkyTrain corridors.
- Expand PRIME computer technology across B.C. to improve police communication and coordination.
- Enforce new legislation to combat impaired driving with enhanced enforcement, increased penalties and new rehabilitation measures.





## FOR ALL CITIZENS REAL DEMOCRATIC REFORM

### THE MOST PROGRESSIVE GOVERNMENT IN CANADA

- Free votes to all MLAs in the Legislature, including Cabinet ministers, on all matters not specifically designated as confidence votes.
- Initiated televised Open Cabinet meetings, on a monthly basis – a first in Canada.
- Held a referendum on treaty principles in which over 700,000 British Columbians cast a ballot.
- Created an independent Progress Board, to report to British Columbians on government's progress in meeting key indicators and targets.
- Legislated a set date for provincial elections every four years – another first in Canada – starting this May 17th.
- Established three-year rolling Service Plans for every ministry, with clear performance targets.
- Passed Truth in Budgeting legislation to outlaw deficits and tie cabinet ministers' pay to performance.
- Passed the toughest privacy protection law in Canada, to safeguard personal information.

### THE CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY: A WORLD FIRST IN DIRECT DEMOCRACY

On May 17th, all voters will have an unprecedented chance to choose between two electoral systems that will ultimately determine how MLAs are elected in future.

British Columbians will be able to choose between the current "first past the post" system, and a new "single transferable vote" system that has been recommended after over a year of study and deliberation by the Citizens' Assembly.

The Citizens' Assembly was made up of randomly selected British Columbians drawn in equal numbers from every electoral district, who were broadly representative of our province in all its rich diversity. Together, they held 50 public hearings and received 1,603 written submissions.

This initiative, a world first in direct democracy, was performed completely free of political interference. True to that principle, the government will remain neutral on the two options presented, and whatever the outcome, will abide by the people's choice.

### NEW PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

- Established Premier's Task Force on Homelessness, Mental Illness and Addictions to work with mayors to address challenges in these areas.
- Returning 100% of all traffic fines to municipalities for enhanced community policing and crime prevention.
- New Fair Share revenue sharing deal for Northeastern B.C.
- Provided the UBCM with \$2 million to help meet local needs for B.C.'s seniors.
- \$25 million to the Union of BC Municipalities to maximize tourism in every region.
- Jointly funded \$800 million in Canada-B.C. Infrastructure projects.
- New regional development initiatives in the North, Southern Interior, and North Island-Coast.
- Increasing funding for libraries by \$12 million over three years.
- New Community Charter, giving B.C. local governments the most autonomy, tools, and accountability of any province in Canada.
- New agreement with federal government and Union of BC Municipalities to return \$635 million in federal gas tax revenue over five years to B.C.'s communities, and ongoing annual payments to improve and support environmentally sustainable municipal infrastructure.



## FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT NEW PARKS & PROTECTION

### NEW PARKS TOUGHER STANDARDS

- Established 37 new Class A parks and one new ecological reserve; added 150,000 hectares to our parks system and expanded 34 existing parks and four existing ecological reserves.
- Established the new Gulf Island National Park Reserve and an \$8 million BC Trust for Public Lands to conserve ecologically important private lands for public benefit.
- Completed \$73 million deal to purchase Burns Bog to forever protect the “Lungs of the Lower Mainland,” in partnership with local governments and the federal government.
- Preserved the Codd Wetlands, in partnership with community and conservation groups, to help protect habitat for 191 species of birds, mammals and amphibians.
- Protected and preserved the Hofert/Hoodoos area.
- Invested over \$24 million in capital improvements to B.C. parks – two to three times the rate the NDP invested throughout the 1990s.
- Successfully fought the Sumas 2 gas-fired power plant, in partnership with local residents and communities, to prevent air pollution in the Fraser Valley.
- Established new energy policy with targets to create 50% of all new electricity through clean, renewable power, including \$800 million via BC Hydro for 16 new green energy projects – B.C.’s largest ever private sector investment in green energy.
- Introduced a comprehensive, \$16 million Drinking Water Action Plan to strengthen groundwater protection and improve water quality.
- Created a \$7 million Living Rivers Trust Fund.
- Established new Pacific Salmon Forum to improve fisheries and aquaculture management with independent, science-based solutions.



- Fewer black bears destroyed in our first three years than in the NDP’s last three years in office – 35% less.
- Created 286 new wildlife habitat areas and 26 Ungulate Winter Ranges, growing the total area designated for wildlife habitat protection from only 80 hectares under the NDP to almost 3 million hectares today.
- Dedicated over \$29 million since 2002 through the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund to the study, conservation, and rehabilitation of vital habitats across B.C.
- Passed new legislation to protect species at risk, for the first time ever in B.C.
- Introduced new regulations that are among the strongest in the world to prevent fish farm escapes and reducing escapes from fish farms from over 68,000 fish in 2000 to only 40 in 2003.
- Created more regional airshed management plans than the NDP did in their entire 10 years in government.
- Established B.C.’s first ever program to clean up old contaminated sites on Crown land and report on the progress in reducing risks and liabilities posed by contaminated sites.



## FOR CLEANER AIR AND WATER

*Great Goals for a Golden Decade*  
**Four:** *Lead the world in sustainable environmental management,  
with the best air and water quality,  
and the best fisheries management – bar none*

### OUR PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- Build a new Cold Water Release Facility at Kenney Dam to improve fish habitat in the Nechako River basin, and in the Murray - Cheslatta watershed, working with industry and communities.
- Reinvest all net revenue from parking fees and pine beetle management in parks back into improving B.C. parks.
- Invest \$16.5 million more over the next three years to improve park conservation and safety with up to 50 new Conservation Officers and Park Rangers and a new BC Conservation Corps.
- Promote alternative energy in wind, tidal, solar, fuel cell and run-of-the-river power projects, working with the new Alternative Energy and Power Technology Task Force.
- Continue new tax reductions for alternative fuel vehicles.
- With the KITASOO First Nation create a Spirit Bear Conservancy on the Central Coast.
- Invest \$20 million in capital improvements in B.C. parks over the next three years, including \$12 million in 2005/06 – the largest budget for improvements in over 15 years.
- Provide up to \$2,000 in sales tax relief towards hybrid electric vehicle purchases until March 31, 2008.
- Double the provincial government fleet of hybrid vehicles within the next three years.
- Work to establish a new federal/provincial Pacific Salmon Agency for fisheries management in B.C.
- Develop a marine protected area strategy, working with communities, First Nations and environmental groups.
- Continue to implement the new \$80 million B.C. Community Water Improvement Program to improve drinking water quality and wastewater disposal infrastructure.
- Triple the \$7 million already committed to the new Living Rivers Trust Fund, to further improve watershed management and fish habitat, and restore B.C.'s waterways.
- Investing \$49 million over three years to enhance economic development and environmental sustainability in our provinces's agricultural industries.
- Invest \$8 million to control invasive weeds and help B.C. farmers and ranchers – the most over a two-year period in more than a decade.
- Implement the new Climate Change Action Plan.
- Implement the Drought Management Action Plan with communities across B.C.
- Complete the Central Coast, Morice, North Coast and Sea-to-Sky land use plans in consultation with First Nations.





## FOR WORKING FAMILIES THE BEST IN JOB CREATION

### CANADIANS ARE MOVING BACK TO BRITISH COLUMBIA

In 2003, for the first time in six years, more people moved to British Columbia from other provinces in Canada than moved out. That trend is continuing, as over 10,000 Canadians have moved to B.C. in the last two years. Families are moving back to B.C. and children are coming home because jobs are growing faster here in British Columbia than in any other province in Canada.

### BC IS LEADING CANADA

*First* in job creation

*First* in growth of housing starts

*First* in small business confidence

*First* in investment growth

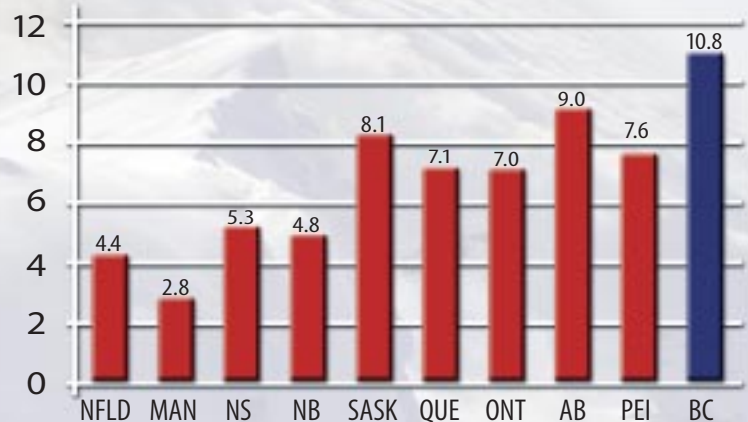
*First* for investor immigrants

### BC IS WORKING AGAIN

- Over two million people are now working in B.C.
- Lowest unemployment rate in 24 years
- Lowest youth unemployment since 1990



**% Job Growth since December 2001**



### GREATER JOB GROWTH THAN ANYWHERE IN CANADA OVER 200,000 NEW JOBS

- B.C. has created over 200,000 new jobs since December 2001.
- Over 95% of all new jobs created are full-time jobs.
- More than 102,000 British Columbians have left income assistance since June 2001 – an over 40% reduction.
- Construction jobs have grown by over 60% since December 2001.
- Housing starts in B.C. grew at nearly four times the national rate in 2004.
- Only eight strikes in the entire province in 2003 – the lowest number ever since at least 1972.
- The fewest number of worker-days lost due to strikes and lockouts in 30 years.
- 104 public sector agreements successfully negotiated, without labour disputes.





## FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA BUSINESS IS BOOMING

### NEW GROWTH IN SMALL BUSINESS

- B.C. is leading Canada in job creation.
- B.C. had the largest number of new business incorporations in 2004 in ten years.
- B.C. had the greatest overall drop in consumer bankruptcies in Canada in 2004.
- B.C. is leading Canada with 36% of small businesses owned and operated by women.
- B.C.'s small businesses contribute almost 30% of the province's gross domestic product – the highest rate in Canada.
- B.C. created 22,000 new small businesses since 2001.
- B.C. had a record year for retailers with over \$47 billion in sales – 17% higher than in 2001, well above the national average.



*"43 years ago, I started in business. Today, 43 years later, business in the province of B.C. has never been better than it is right now."*

- Jimmy Pattison

*Great Goals for a Golden Decade*  
*Five: Create more jobs per capita than anywhere else in Canada*

### OUR PLAN FOR FREE ENTERPRISE

- Launch a comprehensive review of B.C.'s tax policies and legislation, to develop revenue-neutral options for simplifying, streamlining and enhancing fairness.
- Explore viable options to extend parental leave benefits to self-employed and part-time workers.
- Work with the new B.C. Competition Council to conduct a comprehensive review of B.C.'s competitiveness in every sector and region. The Council will identify barriers to growth and opportunities for improvements for government and the private sector alike.
- Create a permanent Small Business Roundtable, to provide ongoing advice to government on making B.C. the most business-friendly jurisdiction in Canada.
- Oppose the NDP's real plan to rewrite the Labour Code and eliminate workers' democratic right to a secret ballot vote on certification.
- Oppose the NDP's real plan to rewrite Employment Standards legislation and to tilt labour laws in favour of their political allies in organized labour.



## FOR BC TAXPAYERS OUR PLAN IS WORKING

### LOWER TAXES FOR ALL CITIZENS

- The lowest provincial income taxes in Canada for all lower and middle income levels.
- Eliminated provincial income taxes for anyone earning under \$15,500 – benefitting 330,000 people.
- Reduced provincial income taxes by 28% for those earning \$30,000 or less.
- Reduced provincial income taxes by an average of 25% for all other taxpayers.
- In 2001, B.C. taxpayers enjoyed the largest increase in after-tax income in 20 years. In 2002, after-tax income grew five times the national average growth rate.
- 42 separate tax relief measures that, by year's end, will have returned \$6.8 billion back into taxpayers' pockets since 2001.



*"B.C.'s tourism industry applauds Premier Gordon Campbell and his government for their initiatives to promote our province as a world-class destination."*

- Michael Campbell  
President, Council of Tourism Associations of BC



*"B.C.'s housing industry is booming again. It's a sure sign of the confidence that people have in B.C.'s future and the policies of this government."*

- M.J. Whitemarsh  
Chief Executive Officer  
Canadian Home Builders' Association of BC

### THE LOWEST INCOME TAXES IN CANADA

Four years ago, we vowed to reduce British Columbians' provincial income tax rates to the lowest base rate in Canada. We delivered. British Columbians now have Canada's lowest provincial income tax rate at every level for lower and middle incomes – a measure the NDP opposed at every turn.

With this year's budget, the BC Liberal Government has lowered taxes for individuals and businesses by about \$1.6 billion annually compared to 2001. By the end of this year, our tax relief measures will have returned a total of \$6.8 billion in tax savings back into B.C.'s economy since the last election.

This year, we have further reduced or eliminated income taxes for 730,000 citizens earning under \$26,000. We have eliminated provincial income taxes entirely for all British Columbians earning less than \$15,500. In fact, an individual earning \$20,000 now pays 44% less in provincial income taxes than when we came to office.

B.C.'s top marginal income tax rate has also been reduced to the second lowest level in Canada. That is encouraging people with higher incomes to live, work and invest in B.C. And we have stimulated economic growth, with more competitive business tax rates, targeted tax credits, and the elimination of punitive taxes on capital investment. The sales tax on machinery and equipment, and the NDP's corporate capital tax on non-financial institutions were both silent job-killers – and now they are gone.

### OUR FISCAL HOUSE IS BACK IN ORDER

- ✓ The largest reduction in debt in B.C. history – \$1.7 billion
- ✓ A record surplus budget projected
- ✓ Surplus budgets projected into the future
- ✓ Eliminated the NDP's \$3.8 billion structural deficit
- ✓ Higher credit ratings, lower interest on debt



## FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA NEW RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY

### OVER \$1.5 BILLION FOR NEW RESEARCH

- Established the \$56.25 million Leading Edge Endowment Fund to fund 20 research chairs and nine regional innovation chairs who are leading new research in neuroscience, marine ecosystems, salmon conservation, sustainable rural development and more.
- Over \$900 million in provincial funding for research and access initiatives since 2001.
- \$600 million leveraged in research funding from other sources.
- \$4.4 million in clean energy and fuel cell research and \$5.1 million for new aquaculture research.
- \$30.5 million to launch Project Neptune, the world's largest cable-linked seafloor observatory, to monitor fish stocks, earthquakes, and climate change.
- \$27.5 million to Genome BC.

### LEADING GROWTH IN HIGH-TECH

Confidence in B.C.'s technology industry is on the rise, with record levels of employment and GDP growth in the sector last year. As the global technology industry has begun to rebound, following a very tough period following 9/11, British Columbia high-tech companies are now benefiting from several changes made to encourage growth and job creation.

B.C.'s top marginal income tax rate has been lowered from the highest rate in Canada to the second lowest rate in Canada today. The tax rate on stock options was lowered from 38.5% in 2000 to 21.9% in 2002. Federal changes to the treatment of taxation on the triggering of stock options are also helping B.C.'s technology firms attract and retain skilled knowledge workers.

We are also doubling the annual number of graduates in computer science, and electrical and computer engineering. And a new agency, Leading Edge BC, is now spearheading technology growth across B.C.

Several other steps have been taken to further expand investment and opportunities. Premier Campbell has led annual Leading Edge marketing missions to promote our technology industry in key international markets. He also appointed a Premier's Technology Council to help develop a comprehensive technology strategy for B.C. that is now in place. With the Council's help, we are acting to bridge the "digital divide" by connecting every community in B.C. to broadband Internet access by 2006.

## OUR PLAN FOR TECHNOLOGY

- Expand the Scientific Research and Experimental Development Tax Credit to encourage Canadian and foreign controlled development-stage companies to locate in B.C.
- Create new tax incentives to keep intellectual property – such as patents – here in B.C.
- Promote alternative energy in wind, tidal, solar, fuel cell and run-of-the-river power projects, working with the new Alternative Energy and Power Technology Task Force.
- Provide \$100 million to the Michael Smith Foundation in 2007, to expand health research and technology.
- Dramatically increase access to venture capital to encourage innovative business development in the province.
- Expand the Leading Edge marketing program, to aggressively promote B.C. technologies in key markets.



# FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA A WORKING FOREST INDUSTRY

## REAL PROGRESS FOR FOREST WORKERS AND COMPANIES

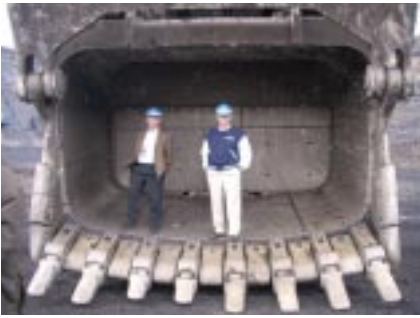
- 29 community forest opportunities have been extended across B.C. to give local communities new control and opportunities in forestry.
- Consensus-based planning on our land base that provides greater stability, improved long-term forest management, and confirms public ownership of Crown lands.
- Market-based stumpage, which lowered costs for coastal producers and increased both competitiveness and jobs.
- New international marketing initiatives, like Dream Home China, to market B.C. forest products.
- New opportunities for smaller operators, community forests, and First Nations, through the reallocation of 20% of the timber supply from large licensees with fair compensation for affected licensees.
- A new Forest and Range Practices Act that eliminated needless regulations and “red tape.”
- New flexibility and increased value-added growth.
- Implemented all 42 Filmon FireStorm Report recommendations to reduce risks of wildfires.
- \$125 million Forestry Revitalization Trust to help forest workers and contractors affected by tenure reallocation.
- Over \$100 million invested since 2001 to help tackle the mounting pine beetle infestation.



## OUR PLAN FOR FORESTRY

- Work with the B.C. Competition Council to recommend a long-term strategy for reviving and securing B.C.’s pulp and paper industry.
- Provide \$101 million over the next three years, plus \$30 million through the enhanced Northern Development Initiative, to promote the use of pine beetle-damaged timber, to support affected communities, and to reforest affected areas. This is in addition to \$100 million in new federal funding.
- Expand the community forests program, with new stumpage arrangements to help new entrants in forestry.
- Expand on the successful Dream Home China project to make B.C. China’s leading supplier of softwood lumber, pulp and paper products.
- Expand forestry programs at UNBC and UBC to train more professional foresters and address other critical shortages in forestry.
- Work with First Nations to provide new opportunities for revenue sharing and increase Aboriginal participation in B.C.’s forest industry.
- Further expand the small scale salvage program.
- Work with Independent Power Producers and forest companies to produce clean, reliable, competitively priced electricity supply sources for B.C.’s lumber and pulp mills.
- Continue to fight for a fair resolution to the softwood lumber dispute and the return of all money owed by the USA to our forestry industry.
- Oppose the NDP agenda that would return us to the job-killing forest policies of the 1990s by repealing parts of the Forestry Revitalization Plan.





## FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA MORE ENERGY & MINING

### NEW EXPLORATION RECORD GROWTH HIGHER WAGES

- Record high oil and gas production, with investment up 112% over 2000 levels.
- Total drilling up 50% above 2000 and summer drilling up 72% in same period.
- Highest mineral exploration in over a decade – over 300% increase in last four years.
- Most mineral claims staked since 1991 – over 10,000 more last year than in 2001.
- Average mining wage up 21% from 2000, to \$94,500.

After a decade under the NDP, where half of all miners lost their jobs, mining is back in British Columbia. The energy sector is growing even more rapidly, with record levels of investment and exploration that are creating thousands of new jobs and opportunities for B.C. families. In fact, the biggest challenge these days is finding enough skilled workers in B.C. to meet all that new demand.



Our new energy policy is generating new growth, with \$800 million in new independent power projects, and clean, alternative energy from wind power, tidal, thermal and cogeneration sources. As promised, BC Hydro's core assets have been protected under public ownership by legislation, which also ensures low electricity rates, independently set by the BC Utilities Commission, free of political interference.

The new summer drilling program, new Sierra Yoyo Desan Resource Road, and changes to help deep well and directional drilling are all creating year-round employment. New mining policies, new tax credits, the new \$25 million Geoscience BC initiative along with lower taxes, less "red tape", and faster approvals are all spurring growth.

## OUR PLAN FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- New Oil and Gas Education and Training Consortium and 180 new student spaces, to train more skilled workers in key demand areas.
- Further expand royalty credits program, to increase summer drilling and year-round jobs in Northeast B.C.
- Establish new Orphan Well Fund, to reclaim and restore abandoned well sites to their natural states.
- Implement the new Mining Plan, to further enhance competitiveness and sustainable growth in B.C. mining.
- Work with communities, First Nations and other governments to promote environmentally sound coalbed methane extraction.
- Continue to pursue opportunities in offshore oil and gas, based on solid science and responsible environmental stewardship.
- Invest \$2.5 million for engineering and environmental studies aimed at advancing construction of the new Omineca-Stewart Resource Road and to open up access to energy, forestry and mining.
- Encourage new exploration of oil and gas in the Bowser and Nechako Basins.
- Promote alternative energy in wind, tidal, solar, fuel cell and run-of-the-river power projects, working with the new Alternative Energy and Power Technology Task Force.



## FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA IT'S OUR TIME TO SHINE

**NEW FACILITIES  
ACROSS BC**  
**NEW OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR EVERY  
COMMUNITY**  
**NEW DREAMS  
FOR OUR CHILDREN**  
**NEW JOBS TODAY  
AND TOMORROW**



### **BUILDING FOR BEYOND 2010**

The 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games are already providing enormous economic benefits across B.C. Hosting the Olympics is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to attract new investment and showcase our entire province to the world.

The Olympics provide a tremendous springboard to foster achievement and bring out the best in British Columbia.

- 244,000 new full-time jobs
- \$10.7 billion in economic activity
- \$2.6 billion in tax revenues
- More funding for athletes
- New Olympic Live sites
- \$600 million in direct Olympic investment
- New training venues
- \$4 billion in Olympic procurement opportunities

### **THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO SHOWCASE THE BEST OF BC**

- 2005 Grey Cup in Vancouver
- 2005 National Cross-Country Ski Championships in Prince George
- 2006 World Junior Hockey Championship in Vancouver, Kamloops, Kelowna and Victoria
- 2008 North American Indigenous Games in Cowichan
- 2009 Police and Fire Games in Burnaby

*“Premier Campbell announced that the annual marketing budget for Tourism British Columbia will double, from \$25 million to \$50 million. This bold, visionary move is unprecedented in the history of the province. There is probably no single investment this province could make that will pay for itself as quickly and as many times over as this.”*

*David Littlejohn, Vice President  
Council of Tourism Associations of B.C.  
Nanaimo Daily News, September 30, 2004*



## FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA WE'RE DOUBLING TOURISM

*Over 114,000 British Columbians now work in B.C.'s 18,000 tourism enterprises, and 152,000 others work in related businesses. Tourism generates over \$9 billion annually to our provincial economy and contributes \$1 billion each year in revenue to government.*



### OUR PLAN FOR TOURISM AND FILM

- Double the funding for Tourism BC, starting this year, to double tourism marketing in B.C. and around the world – a measure the NDP intends to reverse.
- Increase tourism's share of the hotel room tax from 1.65% to 3% by 2008, to ensure its marketing revenues grow as the tourism industry grows.
- Provided one-time grant of \$12 million to Tourism BC, to give each of B.C.'s six regional tourism agencies \$2 million more for marketing their tourism attractions and amenities.
- Work with the Union of BC Municipalities to market tourism throughout B.C., with \$25 million in new funding provided in 2004/05.
- Continue to promote summer and winter tourism with domestic marketing campaigns across B.C.
- Develop an integrated First Nations Tourism and Cultural strategy, working together with First Nations.
- Work with Tourism BC to produce and market an IMAX film that shows the best of B.C. around the world.
- Host the most successful Olympics ever.
- Build the new \$565 million Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre, to generate \$230 million in additional annual convention business for B.C.
- Implement the BC Resort Strategy, to create new and expanded all-season resorts throughout B.C., with \$4 billion in new investment.
- Expand and market the new signed "circle routes" and winery routes aimed at drawing tourists to every region in our province.
- Build the Spirit of 2010 Trail network to link 18 communities across B.C. with four new world-class hiking trails and turn abandoned rail beds into major tourism attractions.
- Rebuild the historic Kettle Valley railway trestles that were destroyed in the Okanagan fires.
- Expand efforts to promote marine tourism, agri-tourism, and eco-tourism.
- Invest \$16.5 million more over the next three years to improve park conservation and safety with up to 50 new Conservation Officers and Park Rangers and a new BC Conservation Corps.
- Open new tourism Gateway Centres at key provincial gateways, including Peace Arch, Osoyoos, Golden and Merritt.
- Welcome visitors to British Columbia, Canada with attractive new gateway signage at our provincial borders, ports and airports.
- Build on the recent tax credit increases for B.C.'s film industry to secure B.C.'s future as Canada's top film production location.
- Lead annual film and tourism investment missions to key international markets in the United States and abroad.





## NEW GATEWAYS TO THE ASIA-PACIFIC

### OUR PLAN TO OPEN UP CANADA'S PACIFIC GATEWAY

- B.C. Ports Expansion Strategy
- B.C. Airports Expansion Strategy
- B.C. Borders Improvement Strategy
- BC Rail Investment Partnership
- Open Roads Investment Strategies
- Doubling Tourism Marketing Budget
- International Marketing Strategy
- B.C. Branding Initiative
- Dream Home China Project
- Leading Edge Marketing Missions
- New Trade and Cultural Offices
- B.C. Competition Council
- Asia-Pacific Trade Council
- World Trade University
- World Trade Forums
- One World Scholarships
- Pacific Centre for Disease Control

### A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR A GOLDEN DECADE

As Canada's only Pacific province, B.C. is strategically placed to become North America's best gateway to Asian, South Asian and emerging markets. Our ports are closer. Our products are better. Our multicultural heritage and traditions are more attractive. The list of advantages is endless. But there's more we can and must do.



We need to open up our ports, airports, roadways and borders, to expedite the free flow of goods, services and people. We need to become more competitive and productive. We need to put more energy and resources into marketing the best of B.C. around the world. We need to open up our province to new trade, investment, visitors and cultures, with new strategies to welcome the world and understand it better. Our plan will do just that.

Now that we have got our economy back on track within B.C., it's time to take our province to a higher level. That's what our Asia-Pacific Gateway Initiative is all about – opening up new gateways to trade, cultural exchange, and partnerships in education.



### BC IS THE FRONT DOOR TO THE PACIFIC RIM

For most of our history, Europe has been the centre of global trade and has dominated North America's trade orientations. The new world will flip that "old map" on its head, as Asia becomes more important than ever before.

In the new world, North America will increasingly look west to increase trade with emerging markets. As Canada's front door to the Asia-Pacific, British Columbia is uniquely positioned to take advantage of that opportunity.





## TOWARDS A BRIGHTER FUTURE

### A \$10 BILLION ACTION PLAN TO OPEN UP BC

- New bridges
- Expanded ports
- Enhanced borders
- New resource roads
- New rapid transit
- New rail services
- Better roads
- Expanded airports
- Better public transit



### OUR PLAN FOR TRANSPORTATION

- Continue to dedicate all fuel tax revenues to improving transportation.
- Expand the Port of Prince Rupert with \$30 million from the provincial government, \$30 million from the federal government, and \$60 million from the private sector for a total investment of at least \$120 million to open up B.C.'s northern gateway to the Asia-Pacific.
- Complete the \$670 million expansion of Highway 1 through the Kicking Horse Canyon, working in partnership with the federal government.
- Complete the \$200 million first phase of the Cariboo Connector towards four-laning Highway 97 between Cache Creek and Prince George.
- Build the new Okanagan Lake bridge in Kelowna.
- Build the RAV Line to ease congestion, reduce vehicle emissions, and improve rapid transit from Richmond to downtown Vancouver.
- Support TransLink's plan to improve rapid transit to communities in the Lower Mainland's northeast sector.
- Complete the Sea-to-Sky Highway expansion project.
- Work with the federal government and the private sector to expand the cruise ship facility in Prince Rupert.
- Invest \$2.5 million for engineering and environmental studies aimed at advancing construction of the new Omineca-Stewart Resource Road and to open up access to energy, forestry and mining.
- Work with BC Ferries to deliver three new ships and improved ferry service between Port Hardy and Prince Rupert, along the mid-Coast, and Queen Charlottes.
- Complete \$241 million in improvements at international border crossings.
- Implement a new ports strategy, to create 32,000 new jobs by 2020 and open our ports to new customers.
- Work with municipal governments to build new cycling routes as a healthy, alternative mode of transit.
- Build the North and South Fraser perimeter roads, working in partnership with the federal government.
- Support TransLink's plan to build the new Fraser River crossing – the Golden Ears Bridge – connecting Maple Ridge to Langley.
- Complete expansions to the airports at Prince George, Terrace/Kitimat, Cranbrook, Campbell River and Courtenay/Comox.
- Twin the Port Mann Bridge to widen the Trans Canada Highway.
- Build the new Pitt River Bridge and Mary Hill Bypass.
- Build a new bridge across Lower Arrow Lake, to replace the Needles ferry.
- Support BC Ferries' plan to build new ferries and expanded terminals with private capital through open tendering, to avoid risks and costs for taxpayers.
- Ensure that BC Ferries' rates and routes remain independently regulated and free of political interference by fighting the NDP's plan to re-politicize the management of our ferry system.
- Oppose the NDP's plan to reverse the new model for BC Ferries which would add nearly \$600 million to the provincial debt.



## NEW NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

### **\$1 BILLION BC RAIL INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP**

Nothing will do more to open up B.C. and create new opportunities for stable, long-term growth across the North than the \$1 billion BC Rail Investment Partnership with CN Rail. Mayors, community leaders and shippers along the BC Rail corridor told us that the status quo was not working for their communities and businesses. They said that changes were needed to create a truly integrated, continental rail network for British Columbia that would increase shipping capacity, reduce shipping times, and keep rates as low as possible.

The former BC Rail operation wasn't working for taxpayers either. Under the NDP and previous governments, it cost taxpayers over \$860 million in bad debts and write-downs – almost twice the cost of the fast ferries fiasco.

The Mayor's Advisory Council recommended a strategy for moving forward. We listened and acted on that advice, with a new partnership to improve rail service.



### **BENEFITS OF BC RAIL INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP**

- BC Rail Company continues as a publicly owned Crown Corporation that retains ownership of BC Rail's tracks, railbeds and rights-of-way.
- \$135 million towards the new Northern Development Initiative to generate new investment, job creation and opportunities across the North.
- \$15 million for 25 First Nations along the BC Rail corridor to control and invest in their priorities.
- \$200 million to support transportation improvements across British Columbia.
- \$500 million to eliminate BC Rail's debt and to eliminate any future risks from bad debts and write-downs that cost B.C. taxpayers \$860 million over the previous 15 years.
- \$750 million in tax revenues over the term of the lease paid by CN to municipalities – over quadruple the amount previously contributed by BC Rail.
- 600 new rail cars, lower rates and costs for shippers, and faster, better access for all interline shippers into the USA.
- \$17.2 million to support the expansion of the Port of Prince Rupert, which will be further enhanced by \$15 million in investment by CN Rail to support track and railcar upgrades.
- A new Chicago Express rail service direct from Prince George, and a new state-of-the-art wheel repair shop in Prince George that repatriates work to British Columbia from Washington State.
- A new tourism/passenger rail service from North Vancouver via Prince George to Jasper.

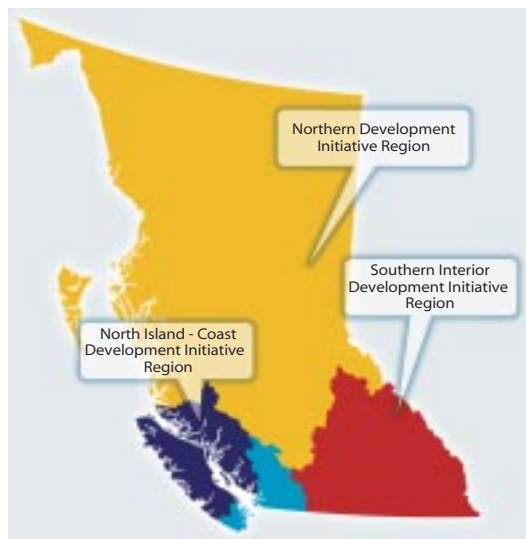


## NEW REGIONAL GROWTH

### OUR PLAN WILL EQUALIZE OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS BC

#### NEW REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

#### NEW ECONOMIC DIVERSITY



Under the NDP, British Columbia officially became a “have-not” province, and a recipient of equalization. Our regional economy and resource-based communities were hit especially hard. Today, there is new hope in every region.

Our economy has recovered. We are about to officially become a “have” province once again. And with budget surpluses now projected, there is new capacity to equalize opportunities in every region.

Premier Campbell's government has launched three new regional development initiatives to create new investment opportunities and jobs in the regions outside of the Lower Mainland and the South Vancouver Island.

It started with a new Northern Development Initiative that was initially funded with proceeds from the BC Rail Investment Partnership. Under our plan, that Initiative will be expanded this year, to provide a total of \$185 million for Northerners to leverage and invest in forestry, pine beetle recovery, transportation, tourism, mining, Olympic opportunities, small business and sustainable economic development.

Similar locally controlled new regional development initiatives have also been announced for the North Island-Coast, the Southern Interior, and the 25 First Nations along the BC Rail corridor. Together, these new measures will reinvest \$300 million into equalizing opportunities across British Columbia – measures the NDP opposed and have vowed to largely undo or defer in their new platform. By contrast, we strongly believe that this is a plan worth fighting for on May 17th.

## OUR PLAN FOR REGIONAL GROWTH

### \$300 MILLION IN NEW FUNDING FOR REGIONAL GROWTH

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ \$185 million Northern Development Initiative includes:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$25 million endowment</li> <li>• \$80 million for cross-regional investments, including \$30 million for pine beetle management</li> <li>• \$80 million for regional development across the North with \$20 million in each of the following four regions: Peace; Cariboo-Chilcotin/Lillooet; Northwest; Prince George</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ \$50 million North Island-Coast Development Initiative</li> <li>✓ \$50 million Southern Interior Development Initiative</li> <li>✓ \$15 million First Nations Benefits Trust</li> </ul> |
|--|--|





## REAL LEADERSHIP FOR BC IN CANADA

### **NEW PARTNERSHIPS STRONGER RELATIONSHIPS MORE FEDERAL FUNDING NEW INVESTMENT IN BC**

- \$5.4 billion in new funding for health care over 10 years.
- New agreement with federal government and Union of BC Municipalities to return \$635 million in federal gas tax revenue over five years to B.C.'s communities, and ongoing annual payments to improve and support environmentally sustainable municipal infrastructure.
- Over \$1 billion dollars in other new investments for B.C.'s communities, through various federal/provincial partnership programs.
- Established the Provincial Congress to bring together mayors, MLAs, MPs, and senators from all parties each year on issues vital to B.C. – a first in Canada.
- A new Council of the Federation to forge new agreements between provinces and territories and stand united in Canada.
- New joint Cabinet meetings with Alberta to work together on common challenges and opportunities, and to become a stronger voice for both provinces in Canada.



Four years ago, relationships between B.C. and other governments were at an all-time low. Today, Canada is stronger than ever and British Columbia's intergovernmental relations are at an all-time high.

So many successful partnerships have been forged. We have made real progress on dozens of priorities including: the Kicking

Horse Canyon, the Spirit of 2010 Trail System, the 2010 Olympics, the new Gulf Islands National Park, saving Burns Bog, the Canada (RAV) Line, the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre and the national health agreement.

British Columbians have also gained a stronger voice in Ottawa, as all Premiers have stood united on key issues of common concern, like equalization, health care, and national security.

We have forged stronger trade ties with other countries, like China, India, and Japan. And that is paying off with new investment, jobs and opportunities for British Columbians. We have led the way in the national fight for a fair resolution to the softwood lumber dispute.

Under Premier Campbell's leadership, B.C. is a real force for positive change in Canada. The new 10-year agreement on health care is a shining example of how well Canada can work when Canadians work together.

## OUR PLAN TO BUILD A STRONGER NATION

- Work to build a national literacy strategy, a national PharmaCare strategy, and a national daycare strategy.
- Work to expand the National Parks system in British Columbia.
- Open up Canada's Asia-Pacific Gateway with new national investments to open up British Columbia.
- Lead Canada's fight for a fair resolution to the softwood lumber dispute.
- Push for a national strategy to combat the mountain pine beetle infestation.
- Push to establish a National Congress, modeled after the successful Provincial Congress, where representatives from all levels of government meet to advance national objectives.
- Expand B.C.'s sister cities network in the Asia-Pacific.





## REAL LEADERSHIP FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

### THE SPIRIT OF BC SAW US THROUGH

- 9/11
- SARS
- BSE
- Stock market crash
- Softwood dispute
- Mountain pine beetle
- Record floods and drought
- North Thompson, Kootenay and Okanagan firestorms
- Avian Flu

### COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

- ✓ Brought us together
- ✓ Made us stronger
- ✓ Helped BC triumph

**YOUR LEADERSHIP**  
will make the difference  
this election

### DECISIVE DIRECTION FOR A GOLDEN DECADE



This is the decisive decade for British Columbia. It will determine the world of possibilities that our children will inherit, as it holds the future of our communities and our province in the balance.

The BC Liberals have a proven plan and an experienced team who have led our province to reclaim its place as a true leader in Canada.

Where our province goes from here is now in British Columbians' hands. It is up to you – and all citizens – to decide who is really best to lead B.C. forward and keep our economy going strong. It is up to you to elect a local MLA who will best represent your interests and your community's interests.

Over the past four years, with the support of all our citizens, we have paved the way forward for a golden decade ahead. This is your chance to ensure we can continue to build upon that strong foundation to realize the full potential of our great province and its people.

This is your chance to vote for real leadership and real progress – for British Columbia. To that end, we ask for your support and your vote of confidence in re-electing our BC Liberal team in government.

✓ *On May 17th*

**VOTE TO KEEP OUR ECONOMY GROWING STRONG**

**VOTE TO KEEP OUR PROVINCE MOVING FORWARD**

**VOTE FOR PREMIER CAMPBELL AND THE BC LIBERALS**

# THE BC LIBERAL TEAM



**WE NEED YOUR  
HELP TO ELECT**



**Gordon Campbell**  
Vancouver - Point Grey

**A BC LIBERAL  
GOVERNMENT!**



**John Van Dongen**  
Abbotsford - Clayburn



**Mike DeJong**  
Abbotsford - Mt. Lehman



**Gillian Trumper**  
Alberni - Qualicum



**Dennis MacKay**  
Bulkley Valley - Stikine



**Patty Sahota**  
Burnaby - Edmonds



**Richard Lee**  
Burnaby North



**John Nuraney**  
Burnaby - Willingdon



**Harry Bloy**  
Burnquitlam



**Steve Wallace**  
Cariboo North



**Walt Cobb**  
Cariboo South



**Barry Penner**  
Chilliwack - Kent



**John Les**  
Chilliwack - Sumas



**Wendy McMahon**  
Columbia River - Revelstoke



**Stan Hagen**  
Comox Valley



**Richard Stewart**  
Coquitlam - Maillardville



**Graham Bruce**  
Cowichan - Ladysmith



**Jeannie Kanakos**  
Delta North



**Val Roddick**  
Delta South



**Bill Bennett**  
East Kootenay



**Tom Woods**  
Esquimalt - Metchosin



**Rich Coleman**  
Fort Langley - Aldergrove



**Claude Richmond**  
Kamloops



**Kevin Krueger**  
Kamloops - North Thompson



**Al Horning**  
Kelowna - Lake Country





**Sindi Hawkins**  
Kelowna - Mission



**Mary Polak**  
Langley



**Cathy Baskin**  
Malahat - Juan de Fuca



**Randy Hawes**  
Maple Ridge - Mission



**Ken Stewart**  
Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows



**Mike Hunter**  
Nanaimo



**Ron Cantelon**  
Nanaimo - Parksville



**Blair Suffredine**  
Nelson - Creston



**Joyce Murray**  
New Westminster



**Bill Belsey**  
North Coast



**Rod Visser**  
North Island



**Katherine Whittred**  
North Vancouver - Lonsdale



**Dan Jarvis**  
North Vancouver - Seymour



**Ida Chong**  
Oak Bay - Gordon Head



**Tom Christensen**  
Okanagan - Vernon



**Rick Thorpe**  
Okanagan - Westside



**Richard Neufeld**  
Peace River North



**Blair Lekstrom**  
Peace River South



**Bill Barisoff**  
Penticton - Okanagan Valley



**Greg Moore**  
Port Coquitlam - Burke Mtn



**Iain Black**  
Port Moody - Westwood



**Maureen Clayton**  
Powell River - Sunshine Coast



**Shirley Bond**  
Prince George - Mt. Robson



**Pat Bell**  
Prince George North



**John Rustad**  
Prince George - Omineca



**Olga Illich**  
Richmond Centre



**Linda Reid**  
Richmond East



**John Yap**  
Richmond - Steveston



**Murray Coell**  
Saanich North and the Islands



**Susan Brice**  
Saanich South



**George Abbott**  
Shuswap



**Roger Harris**  
Skeena



**Kevin Falcon**  
Surrey - Cloverdale



**Brenda Locke**  
Surrey - Green Timbers



**Daniel Igali**  
Surrey - Newton



**Bob Hans**  
Surrey - Panorama Ridge



**Dave Hayer**  
Surrey - Tynehead



**Barbara Steele**  
Surrey - Whalley



**Gordon Hogg**  
Surrey - White Rock



**Lorne Mayencourt**  
Vancouver - Burrard



**Virginia Greene**  
Vancouver - Fairview



**Wally Oppal**  
Vancouver - Fraserview



**Laura McDiarmid**  
Vancouver - Hastings



**Patrick Wong**  
Vancouver - Kensington



**Rob Nijjar**  
Vancouver - Kingsway



**Carole Taylor**  
Vancouver - Langara



**Juliet Andalis**  
Vancouver - Mount Pleasant



**Colin Hansen**  
Vancouver - Quilchena



**Jeff Bray**  
Victoria - Beacon Hill



**Sheila Orr**  
Victoria - Hillside



**Pam Lewin**  
West Kootenay - Boundary



**Ralph Sultan**  
West Vancouver - Capilano



**Joan McIntyre**  
West Vancouver - Garibaldi



**Lloyd Foreman**  
Yale - Lillooet

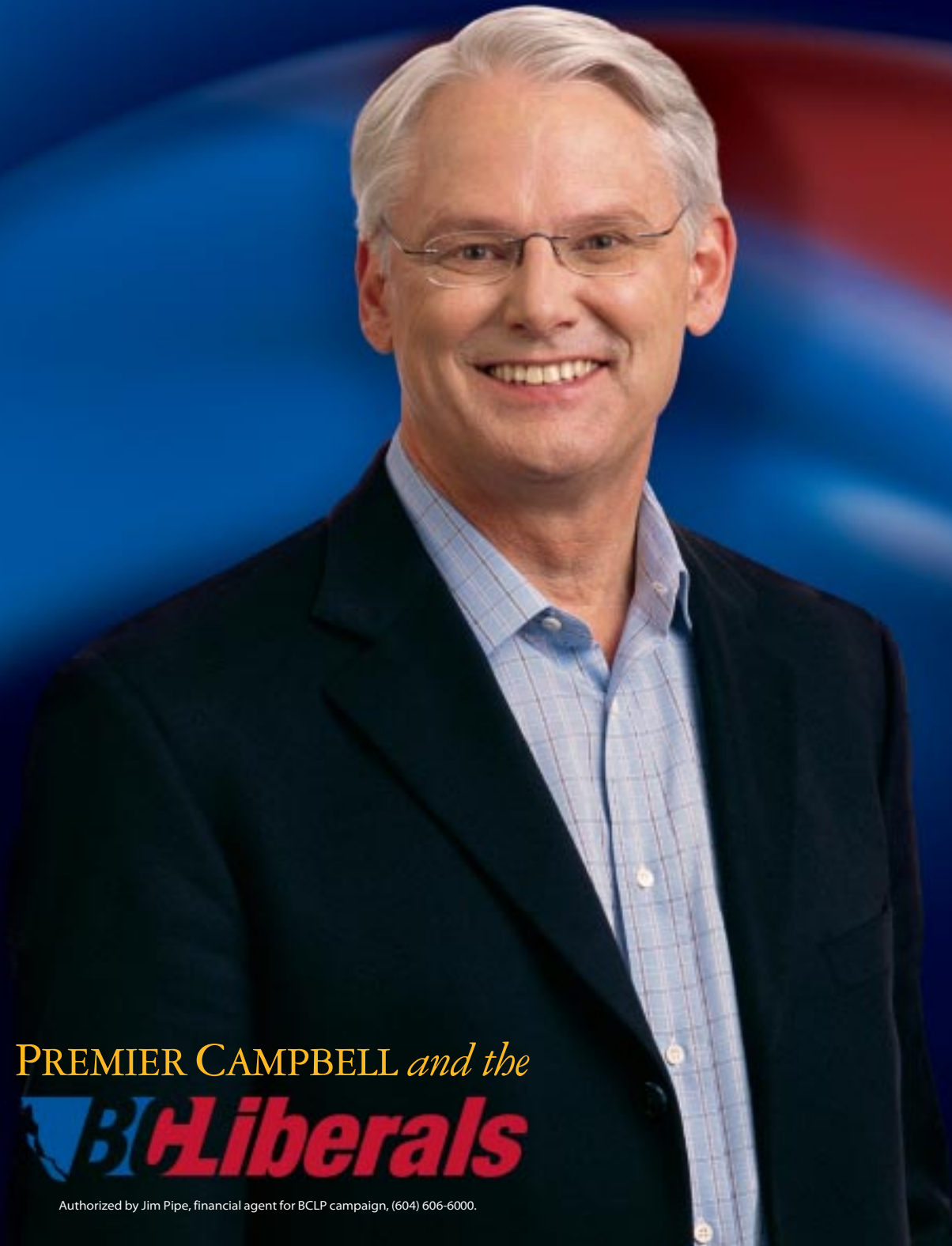


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Authorized by Jim Pipe, financial agent for BCLP campaign, (604) 606-6000.

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