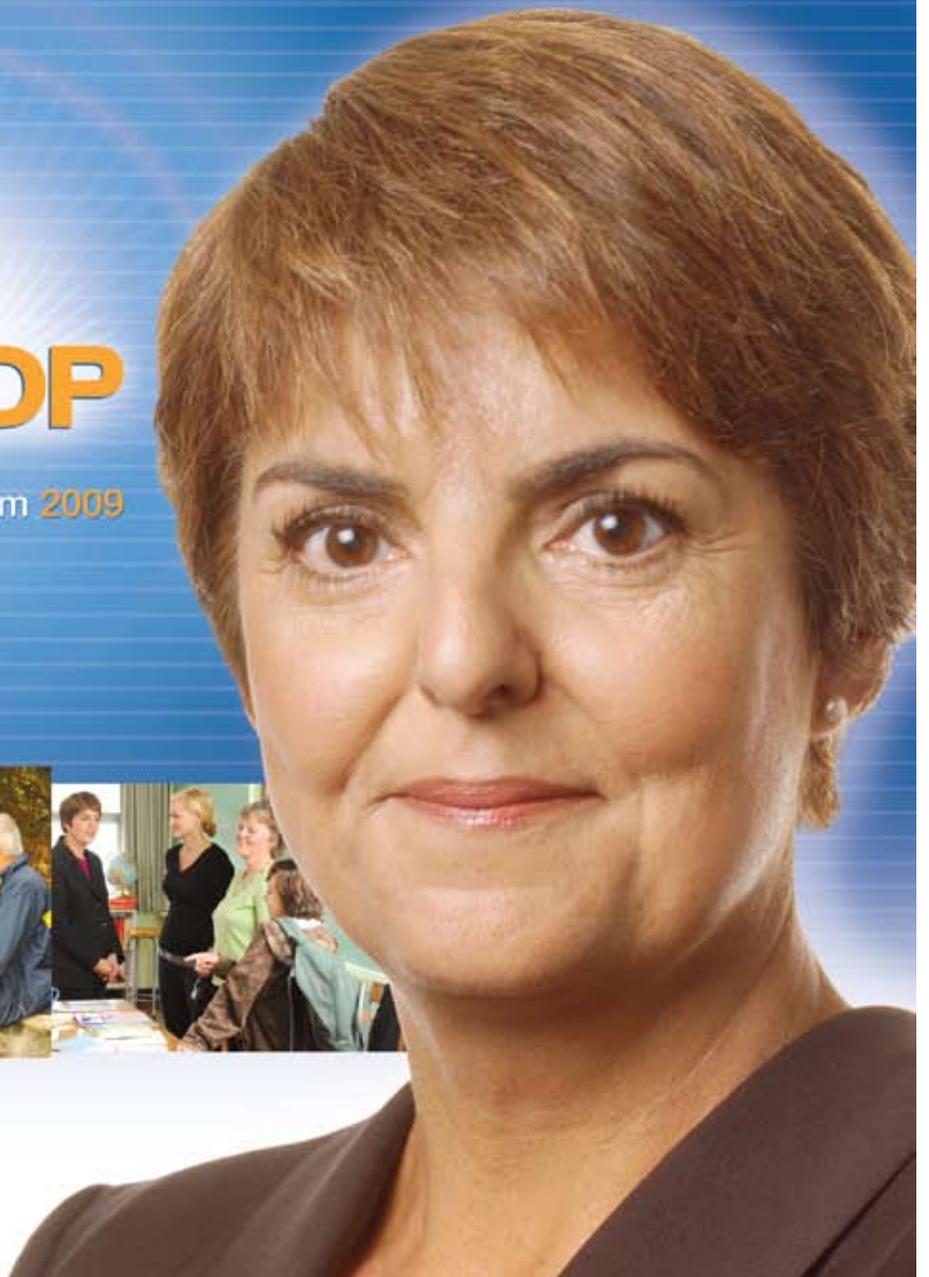


# Take back your BC

because everyone matters



Platform 2009



# Take Back Your British Columbia

British Columbia is our home. We cherish its natural beauty, its incredible diversity, and its history.

The values that helped build BC – hard work, fairness, and the public good – are as important today as ever.

But for the last eight years the Campbell government has undermined these values, giving away BC to private interests, making life less affordable for average families, and slashing vital public services that you count on – like health care and education.

Now, with job losses growing, communities struggling, and families worried about their future, Gordon Campbell's tax increases and service cuts are making life harder for average families.

After eight years, it's clear you can't trust Gordon Campbell to put average people first. His plan is wrong for families, wrong for communities, and wrong for the economy.

Today's New Democrats understand the challenges average families face. And we have a no-nonsense plan that provides support for your family today and secures BC for tomorrow.

In these pages you will find our commitments to provide a significant tax cut to families and business, to invest in vital green infrastructure and jobs, to improve public health care and education, and to stop the giveaway of BC's rivers, streams and forest lands to private interests.

The New Democrat plan is guided by your priorities. We will focus on the fundamentals – what matters to you and your family – day in and day out, year in and year out.

We will spend only what we can afford, and we will balance the budget in our term.

Together we can put an end to the Campbell government's arrogance and neglect. And we can build a province for every British Columbian, from every part of the province.

Together we can take back your British Columbia, because in BC, everyone matters.

Sincerely,



Carole James  
Leader of the BC NDP



because everyone matters



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# It's time to end eight years of Gordon Campbell's arrogance and neglect

## **It's time to Take Back Your BC.**

On May 12, British Columbians will choose between two very different futures for our province.

Gordon Campbell is making life harder and less affordable for working families. He's increasing taxes and cutting the services you depend on.

### **Gordon Campbell's plan:**

- Increases taxes for average families by tripling the gas tax. And Campbell's top advisor says it has to increase to 24 cents on every litre of gas.
- Breaks his promise to build 5,000 long-term care beds and improve care for seniors.
- Cuts the budget for community safety, including courts, prosecutors and corrections.
- Continues the sell-off of BC's lands, rivers and streams to private interests.
- Promotes offshore oil and gas and other environmentally-destructive practices.

With BC's economy hurting, Gordon Campbell can't be trusted to protect you in tough times. And if he's elected he will use the recession to slash vital public services even further and increase your taxes.

## **British Columbians deserve better.**

Carole James and the New Democrats offer positive solutions that put you first.

### **Carole's no-nonsense plan focuses on the fundamentals:**

- Cut hospital wait times and improve seniors' care.
- Strengthen BC business and support BC jobs.
- Stop the giveaway of public resources and services.
- Make life more affordable for average families.
- Improve classroom conditions and access to post-secondary education and training.

On May 12, ask yourself: Who can you trust to put the needs of average families first?

## **On May 12, Take Back Your BC.**

# Investments, Opportunity and Jobs for the Future



because **everyone** matters

## Investments, Opportunity and Jobs for the Future

Eight years ago, Gordon Campbell promised British Columbia prosperity for all. Instead we have seen prosperity for a few and years of higher costs, job losses and service cuts for the rest of us.

Gordon Campbell's arrogance and deliberate neglect is hurting everyday families.

While key public services have been cut and privatized, and the plight of resource communities and families ignored, Gordon Campbell puts all his energy and your money into a few pet projects that have cost BC taxpayers hundreds of millions in uncontrolled overruns.

British Columbians have said 'no' to costly private power projects that drive up Hydro rates and damage rivers. They have said 'no' to the privatization of hospitals and highways that means delays and additional costs. But Gordon Campbell persists with the privatization of public resources, services and assets. And he refuses to remove the cloud of corruption that hangs over the privatization of BC Rail.

Now, in a period of economic downturn, British Columbians are paying a high price for eight years of Gordon Campbell's arrogance and neglect. He refused to admit BC was in a recession and that meant he wasn't prepared for the downturn that the rest of BC could see coming:

- **Overruns on projects like the Vancouver Convention Centre and the Olympics meant no Rainy Day fund ready to help troubled communities and industries.**
- **Gordon Campbell has done nothing to help the growing number of unemployed. In January and February 2009, BC lost almost 70,000 jobs but he failed to get action from Ottawa to help families cope.**
- **During the worst recession in two decades Campbell's plan triples the gas tax, raises fees and hydro rates, and cuts important services.**

Gordon Campbell is simply out of touch with the times. His plan hurts businesses and average families by raising taxes and spending even more of your money on his pet projects.

### **70,000 British Columbians lose their jobs in January and February**

The Campbell Liberal response? *It could be a "good thing"*, said Economic Development Minister Ida Chong, if it also sends a message that BC is able to start rebuilding.

## Solutions for everyday families

Carole James and the NDP say it's time to put ordinary people first.

It's time for no-nonsense leadership that provides real solutions to help make life more affordable for the ordinary families and communities struggling to make it through these tough times.

Carole James and the NDP will take practical steps to:

- **Support job creation, business development, and skills training for all British Columbians.**
- **Stabilize and improve BC's basic public services like health care, education, child care, seniors care, and transportation and make those services more affordable, more efficient and more accountable.**
- **Expand infrastructure and economic opportunity to all regions and sectors of our province.**

Carole James and the NDP believe these turbulent economic times call for pragmatic solutions, flexibility and leadership that recognizes and respects the problems faced by families, communities, and businesses throughout BC.

And these times call for the honesty and fiscal responsibility to admit we can't solve every problem overnight.

The starting point must be a government that is prepared to listen. That means working with communities and industries to address the short and long-term economic priorities that will help British Columbia recover from the current recession as soon as possible, and to then move forward to new opportunities, prosperity and environmental sustainability.

It also means respecting all partners in the economy. We will respect free collective bargaining and encourage stable labour relations between employers, workers and the unions that represent them. We will not tear up legally-binding contracts as Gordon Campbell has done.

## Strategic investments to spur job growth and economic activity

For eight years, we've seen how Gordon Campbell puts his own pet projects ahead of the needs of BC's families, communities and industries. He has wasted precious tax dollars on a few specific projects in Vancouver, leaving little else for the rest of the province.

We've seen the cost of his approach: whole communities have been devastated and thousands of workers left jobless as sawmills close and the forest industry lurches from crisis to crisis. In Mackenzie, for example, most of the town's 4,700 residents work in the forest industry, and more than a quarter – 1,200 workers – have been thrown out of work. For them, and so many other workers, families and communities, their rainy day is here, but there is no help coming from an unprepared BC Liberal government.

Carole James and the NDP have common sense priorities to improve economic activity and support job creation:

#### **A. TAX BREAKS TO SUPPORT BUSINESS AND CONSUMERS**

**Scrapping the gas tax.** Gordon Campbell's gas tax is unfair and it doesn't work. Working people pay, while big polluters are let off the hook and greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise. The NDP will scrap the tax, putting \$1.8 billion back into the economy over the next three years.

**Ending privatization at BC Hydro to control rising rates.** BC businesses and households face increased costs of hundreds of millions of dollars because of Gordon Campbell's drive to privatize BC Hydro and new electric power sources. Carole James and the NDP will end the privatization of our electricity system, which will help stabilize rates and keep BC's Hydro advantage for you and for future generations.

**Providing a tax holiday for small business.** Carole James and the NDP will boost small business with a one year tax credit against the small business income tax.

**Holding the line on ferry rate hikes.** The NDP will implement a moratorium on the BC Liberals' scheduled 2010 and 2011 fare increases pending a full review of the privatized corporation. Public accountability will be restored and the future direction for BC Ferries will be based on its importance as BC's 'marine highway'.

#### **Gas tax hitting School Districts hard**

School Districts – already hard hit by Campbell Liberal underfunding – have been hit with enormous gas tax costs. Some examples:

Cariboo-Chilcotin	\$ 250,000
Vernon	\$ 75,000
Nanaimo-Ladysmith	\$ 200,000

## B. NEW TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT INVESTMENTS

Carole James and the NDP will:

- **increase investment in road rehabilitation and upgrading, and provide new funds to address rural needs.**
- **Advance the construction of the Cariboo Connector project to boost economic development and jobs in the central interior.**
- **Expand passenger train service between Seattle and Vancouver.**
- **Make necessary capital investments in needed bus and transit options in Metro Vancouver to cut congestion and pollution.**
- **Tune up TransLink.** The Campbell Liberals' approach to TransLink has resulted in expensive privatization schemes, decisions made in secret and dictated by the Campbell government. The NDP will repeal Bill 43 to restore democratic control and public accountability to local government and taxpayers.

## C. INVESTING IN JOBS, COMMUNITIES, LOCAL ECONOMIES AND FAMILIES

While Gordon Campbell focuses on mega-projects like the billion dollar Vancouver Convention Centre expansion, hundreds of community projects across BC remain unfunded but ready to go. Investment in those projects will spread economic benefits widely across BC and increase the effectiveness of our stimulus package.

Carole James and the NDP will:

**Accelerate overdue infrastructure upgrades** of our schools, universities and other public buildings.

**Expand and accelerate the seismic upgrading of BC schools.** Upgrade post-secondary infrastructure to meet enrollment demands.

### Metro Vancouver commuters now pay the highest fares in the country

Ferry fare increases soared beginning in 2003, the year Gordon Campbell privatized BC Ferries.

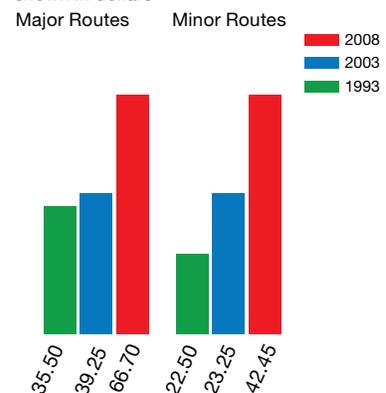
### Rural Road Neglect

The Campbell Liberal Budget cut road rehabilitation funding by \$15 million in 2009 (down to \$146 million from \$161 million last year). The NDP will not only restore last year's level of investment, but boost it by \$5 million.

### TransLink Tune-Up

The Liberals' approach to TransLink just isn't working – decisions made in secret, no accountability, and decisions that flow down from Victoria. The NDP will repeal Bill 42 to ensure democratic governance of TransLink by locally elected councillors and Mayors. And we will assist TransLink to invest directly in property acquisition and property development for transit projects.

**Ferry fares car and driver**  
shown in dollars



**Establish a new retrofit program** to ensure public facilities like hospitals and schools are energy efficient.

**Establish new low-interest loan programs** to help businesses and homeowners retrofit their homes and workplaces to improve energy efficiency and reduce costs.

**Accelerate hospital construction** and fund new community diagnostic and surgery clinics.

#### **D. INVEST IN PROGRAMS THAT CREATE WEALTH**

Carole James and the NDP believe BC can lead the world in emerging sectors and in traditional resource industries. With a changing world marketplace and new opportunities within BC, we will work with business, academia, First Nations, and community economic development agencies to:

**Expand BC's trade promotion with 6 new offices to take advantage of emerging trade opportunities.**

**Create an Export Development Agency** that works with BC business and is advised by BC business leaders to develop new export strategies, global business opportunities, and closer cooperation with other partners.

**Establish new local preference buying policies – Buy BC –** to ensure BC small businesses, farmers and food processors, and local communities enjoy the economic benefits that flow from expenditures of provincial and local tax dollars.

**Make new investments in tourism, mining, agriculture and the arts.**

#### **Does Local Preference Buying Work?**

Many U.S. cities and states give preference to local businesses as a way to nurture small business and local economies. A survey by the National Association of State Purchasing Officials found that 39 states use the location of a firm as a tiebreaker if all other aspects of the bid are equal, while 15 states allow in-state bidders to ask for a higher price (usually 5% but can range up to 15%).

The benefits for local economies can be significant. A 2007 study commissioned by Local First Arizona found that a purchasing contract with an independent local supplier re-circulated three times as much money in the local economy as the same contract with a national firm.\*

\* Source: "Procurement Matters: The Economic Impact of Local Suppliers" by Heather Rodriguez and Dan Houston of Civic Economics, Nov. 2007

## Rural BC matters

In community after community, ordinary families are paying the price for Gordon Campbell being out-of-touch with their daily lives and too arrogant to listen to their concerns. BC relies heavily on the wealth generated by rural and resource communities, but Gordon Campbell can't seem to see beyond Hope. It's time for rural British Columbians to benefit from their fair share of the wealth they help to generate.

Carole James and the NDP will take concrete actions to support rural and resource communities.

### A FAIR SHARE FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

**Rural Economic Development Fund.** This fund will transfer a fair share of the province's wealth back to where it is created. The fund will support resource communities' economic diversification and investments in infrastructure and resources.

**Restoration of local autonomy.** Carole James and the NDP will repeal the Significant Projects Streamlining Act, end Gordon Campbell's requirement that all projects over \$50 million be public-private partnerships, and restore local oversight of power generation.

**A new Worker Transition Program** to reduce the impact of the boom-and-bust cycle. The Program will help displaced workers train for new opportunities, generating a more stable and prosperous future for working families.

**Establish a Community and Jobs Protection Commissioner.** The Commissioner will work with local government, business, workers and unions to protect community infrastructure, save jobs and support emerging industries.

**Fight for longer and better EI protection.** More must be done to make sure families have the security they need. More and more BC workers are suffering layoffs and unemployment but unrealistic restrictions on EI mean that many are unable to collect after years of employment and premium payments.

### Supporting your community recreational facilities

For years, Gordon Campbell's focus has been on a few mega-projects. Meanwhile, he's ignored the need for construction or renewal of a lot of local recreational facilities.

Carole James and the NDP are committed to major capital investments that would support community proposals for new and upgraded recreational facilities. This initiative will support new jobs, and teach generations of kids and adults who will enjoy activities like soccer, skating and ice hockey. It's time everybody go a fair chance for expanded recreational facilities.

## Revitalizing BC's resource and rural industries to support jobs and communities

The forest, agriculture, mining and other rural industries have long been a fundamental part of British Columbia's strength and growth. Generations of British Columbians have made a living in the bush or the mills, the mines or the smelters, on our farms and ranches, and in the process have built communities small and large in every region of this province.

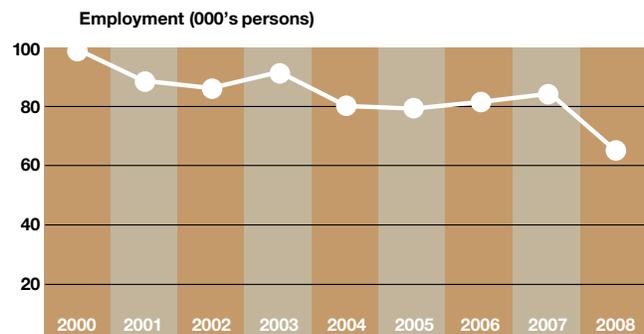
Gordon Campbell has turned his back on these industries and the working families who depend on them. As a result, tens of thousands of jobs have vanished in just the past two years. Gordon Campbell's policies of neglect and indifference have broken the back of once-proud industries.

Carole James and the NDP will stand up for resource workers and communities, and will revitalize and modernize BC's resource and rural industries.

**"The Liberal government's forestry ideas have failed."**

*Les Leyne, Times-Colonist, Jan. 22, 2008*

**Forest job slide getting worse under Gordon Campbell**



**A. A NEW VISION FOR FORESTRY** through a focus on reforestation, diversification and innovation, along with tenure reform that maximizes value and opportunity for British Columbians.

**A Green Plan for BC's forests.** This plan includes:

- **Expanded reforestation to address the massive “die-back” resulting from the pine beetle outbreak and the reforestation backlog created by the neglect of the Campbell government.**
- **Updated forest resource inventory and expanded research and development to help BC adapt to climate change.**
- **A strengthened Private Managed Forest Land Act to improve protection and management of watersheds, wildlife and public resources.**
- **An updated old growth strategy for coast and interior old growth forests.**

**Restricting Raw Log Exports.** The BC Liberals' drive to export more raw logs has meant the export of jobs and opportunities, and the closure of mills. Carole James and the NDP will restrict raw log exports to make sure BC logs create BC jobs.

**Aligning BC's forest industry to 21st Century Opportunities.** By capitalizing on new technology and processes, the NDP will reduce wood waste and get more value from BC timber. By re-establishing value-added manufacturing and exploring opportunities for new forestry products such as wood waste by-products, we can make BC a world leader in the new sustainable uses of biomass and in dealing with the implications of climate change for our forests.

**Structural modernization of BC's forest industry.** BC needs to reform its tenure system through a broad, community-based process that gives communities and workers a strong say in the future of the forest industry. Tenure reform will ensure we get more value out of the land base and that local communities, First Nations and businesses have access to the timber they need. The NDP will create a permanent Commission on Forestry to guide the change in our industry in a public, accountable way.

“The single-biggest factor in the demise of the industry remains the government’s inability to have its finger on the pulse of the industry and the economy itself.”

- Editorial, Nanaimo Daily News, Jan. 7, 2009

## **B. SUPPORTING MINING AND MINING JOBS IN BC.**

Mining has been a key part of BC's history and will remain so with the NDP. Carole James will listen to and support, a strong, environmentally sustainable mining industry that ensures long-term stability for jobs.

**Strategic planning** to help ensure the BC mining and exploration sectors are well-positioned to resume a world-leading role as mineral suppliers when demand returns.

**Organizing permitting and regulatory processes** so that industry, First Nations, communities and all stakeholders have certainty.

**Extending the tax credits for ‘flow-through’ mining shares** beyond the current expiry date of December 31, 2009 set in law by the BC Liberals to provide greater stability for the mining industry in coming years.

## C. INCREASING OPPORTUNITY IN BC'S AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY

**Establishing a strong Buy BC and food security program** building on the growing trend to buy food products that are locally produced, healthy, and linked to BC's long-term food security needs.

**Strengthening the ALR** by making preservation of arable land the priority of the Agricultural Land Commission and by returning the Commission to full provincial status.

**Renewing support and investment programs** for food producers and processors. For years, the Campbell Liberals have cut supports and downgraded the services of the Ministry of Agriculture, hurting those industries and costing BC needed jobs.

### Revitalizing and supporting food production:

- **Expand school and consumer education programs to ensure British Columbians learn more about food production and food security issues.**
- **Restore services to help farmers get their products to markets.**
- **Support community agriculture, co-ops and farm organizations, including small scale farmers; expand community gardens and local farmers markets.**
- **Review the BC Liberals' new Meat Inspection Regulation to support increased farm-gate sales, and ensure all producers and processors are treated fairly.**
- **Eliminate the BC Liberal gas tax that, in its first year alone, cost the agri-food sector \$13 million.**
- **Review agriculture tax policy to foster investment and maintenance of productive agricultural lands.**

"There is a huge demand for Island food, but the supply is diminishing. We lost another five farms on the Island this year."

*Sandra Mark, Edible Strategies, Parksville-Qualicum News, March 12, 2009*

## D. NEW INVESTMENTS IN TOURISM AND ARTS AND CULTURE

Gordon Campbell's 2009 budget cuts investments in tourism, arts and culture are affecting thousands of jobs and hundreds of small businesses and organizations across BC.

Carole James and the NDP know that tourism drives business, investment, jobs and quality of life in BC. And BC's creative industry employs 74,000 British Columbians and in 2007 generated \$2.3 billion. For every dollar invested in arts and cultural programs, \$1.36 comes back.

Tourism also provides important opportunities for First Nations and sustainable business. To build on BC's tourism potential and to sustain tourism jobs, Carole James and the NDP will:

**Increase intensive marketing programs at home and abroad.** During the 2010 Games, we need to ensure that tourism opportunities are maximized not just in Vancouver and Whistler, but across our province.

**Increase marketing support for local initiatives.** Carole James and the NDP will help local communities, regions and First Nations market their unique local attractions, cultural and sporting events.

Carole James and the NDP are committed to expanding support for arts and culture throughout BC, including for First Nations, through:

**Restoring 2009 funding cuts to the arts** and increasing the budget for the BC Arts Council.

**Providing a new \$50 million capital fund** to be administered by the BC Arts Council for investment

in large, medium and small projects that support the growth and sustainability of BC's professional and community arts, culture and heritage sectors.

## **E. RECOGNIZING ABORIGINAL RIGHTS TO BRING A SECURE FUTURE FOR ALL**

After years of expensive and lengthy court cases and treaty-making efforts, First Nations and the BC and federal government now have to make "The New Relationship" real. Our commitments include:

**Respect, recognition and accommodation** of aboriginal title and rights in developing government agreements and treaties, ending court actions by government that have sought to deny such title and rights and broadening the range of tools available to include legislation and resources.

**Support for the adoption by the Government of Canada of** the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to help guide the policies of the BC government.

**Improvements to the BC treaty process** by providing greater independence to the Treaty Commission and recognizing aboriginal title and rights without the need to establish those principles in expensive court cases.

**Fair agreements and shared decision-making** on economic development and resource management, recognizing that these agreements are able to provide concrete benefits from revenue and benefit-sharing.

**Empower the Legislature's Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs** which includes both government and opposition members, to actively consult the First Nations Leadership Council and implement The New Relationship.

Carole James and the NDP will work with First Nations and all other British Columbians to bring about reconciliation and shared decision-making on land and resources so we all benefit from settling these long-standing injustices.

## **The BC Green Bond: Supporting Jobs and Investments for the Future**

Driving many of these economic incentive activities is the NDP's Green Bond program. The Green Bond is a safe, dynamic and ethical investment plan created to help tackle the world trends that have hit BC hard: a declining economy coupled with rising unemployment and climate change.

### **BC Green Bonds will:**

- Provide British Columbians with a safe investment opportunity.
- Create a pool of capital to invest in the new economy of green infrastructure and technology.
- Facilitate the creation of over 150,000 jobs over the next 10 years.
- Involve British Columbians in the fight against climate change by cutting air pollution and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by almost 10 million tonnes.
- Cut the monthly bills and expenses of British Columbians through more energy efficient homes and businesses and new convenient transit options.
- Ensure the profits flow back to British Columbians rather than offshore bond holders.

# Making Life More Affordable for Everyday Families



because **everyone** matters

## Making Life More Affordable for Everyday Families

While life for most British Columbians has become more difficult during the current recession, the fact of the matter is that Gordon Campbell's policies and neglect have been making life less affordable for everyday families.

- **An unfair gas tax that he's threatening to triple.**
- **Higher MSP premiums and increasing privatized health care requiring families to pay more out of pocket.**
- **Soaring BC Hydro rates driven by expensive privatized power schemes.**
- **Increasing ferry fares even as the price of fuel dropped.**

### Solutions for everyday families

Carole James and the NDP will protect your pocketbook and provide greater opportunities for you and your family.

Making life more affordable will help families and the communities they call home. A higher minimum wage, scrapping the gas tax and lower Hydro bills will mean more money for local businesses, and more jobs for British Columbians.

Nobody has a magic wand to cure this recession. But U.S. President Barack Obama and governments all over the industrial world recognize that giving everyday families and small businesses economic relief helps stimulate economic confidence and activity.

### Tax relief now for ordinary families, starting with Campbell's new gas tax

This recession is hurting everyone. But rather than trying to find solutions that have real meaning to all British Columbians, Gordon Campbell will use the recession to cut services ordinary people depend on and to privatize more public resources, public assets and public services.

Carole James will put families first, with practical solutions that will give them some relief from the troubled economy by:

**Eliminating the gas tax** on July 1, 2009 will mean savings of \$158 per year for a family of four whose household income is \$60,000 – that's equal to a 6.7% cut in the provincial personal income taxes they pay.

#### **Protecting working families from skyrocketing BC Hydro rates by:**

- **Ending Gordon Campbell's requirement that BC Hydro purchase all new energy from private energy producers.**
- **Ending the sell-off of BC Hydro.**
- **Restructuring the two-tier Hydro rate to take into account income, geography and availability of energy alternatives.**
- **Facilitating lower rates in the future through common sense policies such as suspending the Smart Meter project that will cost British Columbians \$1 billion – without evidence of environmental or financial payback.**

**Keeping public transit affordable** by rolling back TransLink increases to pre-2008 levels, while providing equal revenue to TransLink. The NDP will also restore local democratic control to TransLink to end taxation without democratic accountability.

**Making BC Ferries affordable, safe and accountable to all British Columbians** particularly those in ferry-dependent communities, by:

- **Putting a hold on the BC Liberals' 2010 and 2011 fare increases until a full review has been completed of the Corporation's operations and fare schedule.**
- **Rolling back the massive salary increases for BC Ferries directors.**
- **Ending the privatization of BC Ferries so that it is once again fully accountable to all British Columbians.**
- **Working with coastal and inland communities that rely on affordable, accessible ferry service.**

**Enact anti-scalping legislation to stop price gouging** on ticket sales for large events, and prohibit re-selling tickets for more than their face value, similar to existing laws in Ontario, Alberta and Manitoba.

## Investing in accessible and affordable community services

A community's strength lies in its ability to provide access to affordable services for the families who depend on them. For eight years, those services have been neglected by Gordon Campbell.

For example, as working families struggle to do their jobs or look for work, pay bills and keep food on the table, access to affordable, dependable child care is crucial. Yet those same families currently pay some of the highest fees for child care in the world. And only about 15% of BC's young children have access to child care.

Carole James and the NDP will provide real solutions to improve key community services.

"Carbon tax taxation is not revenue-neutral to the north... We travel longer distances. Heating public buildings, homes and so forth costs more."

*Councillor Don Zurowski, City of Prince George, Sept. 17, 2008*

Campbell's 2007 child care funding cuts mean an additional cost of \$2 to \$4 per day for every child in spaces with subsidized care. That's a total of \$1,920 per family of four with two children in daycare.

"BC has chosen not to prioritize child care. The cost of this decision is having an enormous negative impact on the ability of B.C. businesses to attract women, young families and skilled workers in general to the workforce."

*From a B.C. Chamber of Commerce resolution, 2007*

**Carole James and the NDP will create more affordable and accessible child care spaces for families by:**

- **Capping fees.**
- **Improving recruitment and retention, and enhancing training of teachers and early childhood education professionals.**
- **As finances permit, introducing all-day kindergarten for 5-year-olds and the accompanying after school care. This will free up 10,000 spaces within existing group child care centres and family child care providers.**
- **Creating targets and timelines to build an affordable, accessible, quality child care system.**

**Carole James and the NDP will increase housing availability and affordability by:**

- **Encouraging new market rental and co-op housing through the Market Housing Partnership Program in concert with the private, non-profit and cooperative housing sectors.**
- **Pushing the federal government to change federal tax laws to encourage the development of market rental housing.**
- **Making sure the interests of landlords and tenants are properly balanced by closing the “renovation” loophole that allows landlords to evict tenants and charge unfair rent increases, expanding landlord-tenant mediation and education services and supporting service offices of the Residential Tenancy Branch.**
- **Increasing protection for manufactured homeowners by requiring park owners to provide longer eviction notices and increased relocation expenses, and working with manufactured home park owners to retain their parks for the long term.**
- **Undertaking a comprehensive review of the Residential Tenancy Act and Residential Tenancy Branch system, and reopening branch offices in under-served regions.**
- **Reviewing the Strata Property Act to better meet the needs of strata property owners.**

Under Gordon Campbell, BC's minimum wage hasn't increased in eight long years, and now ranks dead last in Canada in terms of purchasing power.

The Fraser Institute's January 2009 report on the minimum wage estimated that 44% of minimum age earners were not youth, and were over the age of 24.

## Better opportunities and protection for working people

While Gordon Campbell gave himself and his top aides big pay raises, BC's lowest-paid workers haven't had a raise in eight years. Almost 250,000 British Columbians are earning less than \$10 an hour; two-thirds of them are women; and almost 100,000 are in the prime working age of 25 to 54. BC's minimum wage now ranks dead last in Canada for purchasing power.

At the same time, immigrants aren't able to apply their skills in the professions they were trained for. Carole James and the NDP have practical solutions to provide opportunities and hope for a better future for hundreds of thousands of British Columbians.

**Raising the minimum wage to \$10 an hour**, and linking it to inflation – to help make sure BC's lowest-paid workers never fall so far behind again.

**Improving foreign credentialing** to help immigrants work in their chosen field and also help alleviate the skills shortage many sectors are experiencing.

**Strengthening protection for foreign workers** and increasing support services for new immigrants.

**Restoring employment standards for all workers** to protect the most vulnerable, particularly children.

**Providing coverage for agricultural workers** under the Employment Standards Act to help prevent exploitation of vulnerable farm workers.

**Protecting those hurt on the job** by restoring lifetime pensions, increasing compensation claim benefits and improving inspections and enforcement.

“The huge raises awarded to deputy ministers contrast starkly with the experience of ordinary families... There comes a point – in any administration that lasts more than one term – where hardening of political arteries combines with smugness to bring about a downfall. The Campbell government, with this tone-deaf announcement, is heading in that direction.”

*Editorial, Times Colonist, August 12, 2008*

# Taking Back BC

Ending the Privatization  
and Neglect of  
Our Natural Resources



because everyone matters

## Taking Back Your BC

### Ending the Privatization of Our Resources, Our Assets, Our Services

British Columbians are paying the price for Gordon Campbell's sell-off of BC assets:

- **Private interests are being given control over hundreds of rivers and streams.**
- **BC Liberal friends and insiders benefit, ordinary citizens pay more.**
- **The export of raw logs has reached unprecedented levels.**
- **BC Hydro is being privatized – piece by piece – and is prevented from developing new energy sources.**
- **Forest land is being removed from the forest land base and turned into private real estate projects.**
- **In a deal tainted by corruption, BC Rail was sold off by Gordon Campbell. That backroom deal involved the payment of almost \$300,000 to Campbell's campaign manager, Patrick Kinsella. The winning bid? Headed by one of Gordon Campbell's biggest fundraisers.**

Government should be trusted to manage our natural resources and public assets like BC Hydro for the generations of British Columbians to come.

Gordon Campbell's sell-off of BC just doesn't make sense – for our province's finances or its future. It is costing jobs, it is driving up electricity and transportation costs, and it is robbing us of future opportunities.

#### IPPs push up power costs, industry says

"BC Hydro customers could take a \$400-million-per-year financial hit if the Crown corporation signs up too many independent power producers to sell it electricity, a spokesman for Hydro industrial customers is warning.

The Vancouver Sun has learned that Brian Wallace, legal counsel for the Joint Industry Electricity Steering Committee, said in a speech last week that without restrictions on expansion of independents, or IPPs, Hydro could be forced to sell large annual power surpluses at a loss to buyers in the United States.

Wallace said Hydro could find itself in a position where it is contracted to pay IPPs \$120 a megawatt hour for electricity – but find no buyers willing to pay more than \$60."

*Vancouver Sun, Mar. 18, 2009*

### Solutions for everyday families

Carole James and the NDP say it's time to take back your BC, and end the privatization and giveaways of BC assets. Carole James will help secure a future where our abundant natural resources and our valuable public assets are managed for the lasting benefit of our children and grandchildren and for long-term environmental sustainability.

## Stopping the sale of BC's rivers: Taking Back Your BC

### A Sustainable Energy Plan for BC

Carole James and the NDP will keep the control of our natural resources in public hands and will ensure BC Hydro takes the lead in providing clean, affordable energy.

Gordon Campbell has forced BC Hydro to purchase all new energy from private producers. This puts British Columbians in a lose-lose situation: we're losing our resources and we're paying more for private power.

Carole James and the NDP will stop privatization and escalating power rates. BC Hydro will again play a leading role in the development, generation, transmission and sale of electricity based on 3 core principles:

- 1. Public ownership**
- 2. Environmental stewardship**
- 3. Effective public oversight of all energy resources**

The roles of the BC Utilities Commission, Oil and Gas Commission, and Environmental Assessment Office will be strengthened to ensure effective public accountability.

To move BC towards a clean, affordable and renewable energy future, the NDP's Sustainable Energy Plan will:

**Place a moratorium on new private power projects** until a full review of anticipated supply and demand is completed. Existing contracts with private suppliers will be honoured.

**Allow BC Hydro to generate new sources of energy** including renewable, green energy sources and energy conservation initiatives.

**End the privatization of BC Hydro.**

**Foster community power initiatives that involve and benefit local residents and businesses**, and allow local governments and First Nations to once again have oversight over power generation projects in their communities.

**Expand Community Energy Trusts** to help First Nations and regional governments develop cost-effective, sustainable energy projects.

**Cancel the \$1 billion 'Smart Meter' project and use the money to expand conservation programs.**

**Expand residential, commercial and public sector energy retrofits through the BC Green Bond.**

**Strengthen conservation standards in the BC Building Code.**

**Ensure a fair return for British Columbians in water rental rates** by having all power producers – public and private – pay the same rate.

## Stopping the sell-off of BC's public services: Taking Back Your BC

Carole James and the NDP will put a stop to the privatization of our public services. We believe your public assets are there to benefit all British Columbians, now and into the future.

Under Gordon Campbell, many of the services that we once were proud of have been privatized, from BC Rail to hospital cleaning services, and from big infrastructure projects to the maintenance of our highways. These privatization schemes have poured millions of dollars into the pockets of Campbell's friends and campaign donors but have only resulted in higher costs and declining services for ordinary British Columbians.

Carole James and the NDP will stop the sell-off of BC's public services by:

### **1. Calling a public inquiry into the sale of BC Rail.**

In the biggest corruption scandal in the history of BC, Gordon Campbell's Liberal government sold off BC Rail to benefit their friends. Ever since the police raided the legislature more than five years ago, questions have swirled about Gordon Campbell's role in the privatization of our public railway.

Now we have learned that the tracks of the corruption scandal lead right into the premier's office. Gordon Campbell's campaign manager, Patrick Kinsella, was secretly paid almost \$300,000 to help sell-off this public asset. And evidence suggests he was working for CN Rail at the same time he was working on the public dime.

Gordon Campbell and his entire cabinet refuse to answer the tough questions about the role of their campaign manager in the tainted BC Rail deal. They refuse to come clean about Mr. Kinsella's involvement in other privatization deals, including his role in landing a \$1.45 billion deal to privatize parts of BC Hydro. But as experts have said, the Campbell Liberals' excuses don't hold water.

British Columbians deserve to know the truth behind what happened to ensure a similar corruption scandal never happens again. Carole James and the NDP will strike a public inquiry into the sale of BC Rail as soon as the current corruption case has moved through the courts.

"One has to conclude that the privatization of energy in BC may be the worst public policy ever pursued by government in this province. Think of that the next time you flick on the lights."

*Mark Hume, Globe and Mail, Oct.29, 2007*

### **2. Ensuring that the public interest comes first when building infrastructure.**

Gordon Campbell's Liberal government likes to claim that public-private partnerships are a good deal, but the facts show that privatized deals are an expensive and complex way to build public infrastructure. And all too often, it is ordinary people who pay the price for these botched privatization schemes.

The record shows that public-private partnerships cost more money and undermine the public interest. In only eight months, the cost of the privatized Port Mann more than doubled – from \$1.5 billion to at least \$3.3 billion. And even at that inflated price, the deal fell through.

The Campbell government was forced to admit that public financing would lower the cost of the project by \$200 million because the provincial government gets a better rate on loans than private corporations do.

Even Gordon Campbell's former finance minister Carole Taylor has said that privatization schemes harm the public interest -- as we saw with the way the Canada Line construction devastated small business owners on Cambie Street. When projects are controlled by private companies, the public interest is quickly shoved aside when corporate profits are at risk.

The Campbell Liberals have been trying to hide the true costs of privatization. They refuse to let the public know the details of public-private partnerships contracts, even though we will be footing the bill for these projects for generations. And a 2008 report by the Auditor General into the Campbell government's outsourcing of key services concluded that the BC Liberals were pursuing privatization without sound baseline information or business plans.

### **3. Putting a stop to the privatization of health services.**

It took the Supreme Court of Canada to reign in Gordon Campbell's drive to contract out health services through Bill 29. But much of the damage had already been done, and the Liberals continue to push ahead with their privatization agenda in health care.

With more outbreaks of serious and often fatal infections like C. Difficile, it's more important than ever to recognize the importance that hospital cleanliness plays in infection control. But the Campbell Liberals' agenda of privatizing hospital cleaning has put patients at risk.

Gordon Campbell paved the way for privatization of health services, and is under-funding many aspects of cleaning services. The Workers' Compensation Board cited Compass Group – which holds the cleaning services contracts at Nanaimo Regional General and Cowichan District Hospitals – for 16 contraventions of health and safety laws over a 6-month period in 2008.

Now Gordon Campbell is turning over our hospitals themselves to private corporations. If the BC Liberals' record on privatizing health services is anything to go by, the public has every reason to be worried.

Even for purely financial reasons, privatizing our hospitals makes no sense. The cost of the privatized Abbotsford Hospital increased from \$211 million in 2001 to \$355 million by the time it opened in 2008. A report by forensic auditor Ron Parks found that the Diamond Care Centre cost 103% more as a P3 than it would have if it was built in as a traditional public project.

### **4. Keeping our forest lands in public hands.**

As residents on Vancouver Island can attest, Gordon Campbell's drive to hand over control of our forest land base to some of his biggest donors has opened up thousands of hectares of formerly job-supporting forest land to uncontrolled real estate development.

As a damning July 2007 report from the Auditor General found, Gordon Campbell's Liberal government put a private company's profits ahead of the public interest when they released thousands of hectares of lands from Tree Farm Licenses along the west coast of southern Vancouver Island.

# Making Our Communities Stronger



because **everyone** matters

## Investing to Make Our Communities Stronger

### When Gordon Campbell decides he wants a new roof for BC Place, the sky's the limit. \$365 million? Not a problem.

When the residents of Hazelton need a roof for their leaking community centre, the money doesn't flow quite as freely. For years, they waited patiently for much-needed renovations for their centre – which serves as the town's primary meeting and social venue. As a close-knit community, it is one of their priorities – but it's not Gordon Campbell's.

When Gordon Campbell wants his state-of-the-art Vancouver Convention Centre, the sky's the limit. To the tune of \$500 million in uncontrolled cost overruns.

When civic leaders and advocates pushed him for a comprehensive plan to help provide basic shelter for the homeless, those pleas fell on deaf ears. Even BC's Auditor General has cited the Campbell Liberals for failing to take the lead on homelessness.

When communities are shattered by growing and horrific gang violence, Gordon Campbell cuts the budget for community safety. Public safety is one of our priorities – but it's not Gordon Campbell's.

### Solutions for everyday families

Sensible investments in our social infrastructure are investments in BC's future: a community centre that doesn't leak, housing for the homeless, a feeling of safety as you head home from work – these are the things that help keep our communities strong and growing. They're what give us a sense of pride and security as a society – looking out for our neighbours.

While Gordon Campbell continues to duck these priorities, Carole James and the NDP will make sensible and realistic investments that address these issues head-on.

### Investing in Safe Neighbourhoods – cracking down on gang violence

On Gordon Campbell's watch, there has been an epidemic of gang and gun violence in many communities from Prince George to Vancouver.

Eleven of the 20, and 14 of the 25, most dangerous cities in Canada are located in BC.

Gordon Campbell is not doing enough to fight gang violence and keep our streets safe.

The Campbell Liberals have:

- **Closed 10 jails, 24 courthouses, and the Vancouver Pre-Trial Centre.**
- **Cut \$20 million out of public safety and policing services.**
- **Eliminated 15 Crown Prosecutors and reduced the Crown prosecution budget by \$5.5 million.**

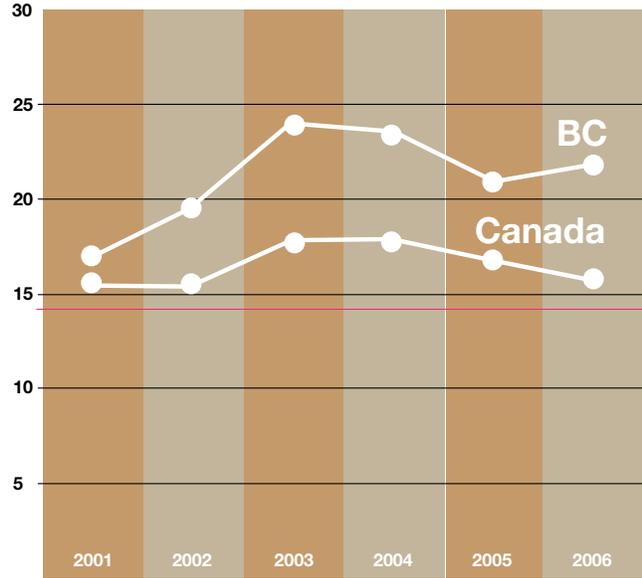
And even as gang violence in BC was reaching new heights, Campbell's 2009 Throne Speech didn't once mention gangs, and his budget further cuts prosecution, court and corrections services. Since those cuts were announced in February, there have been 26 shootings and 15 killings.

Everyone deserves to feel safe in their communities. It's time for tough new measures to combat gang violence.

**“Vancouver has seen a 364% increase in street-level homelessness since 2002.”**  
*Social Planning and Research Council of BC  
 April 8, 2008*

**“The continuing increase in the number of homeless counted suggests a lack of success in managing homelessness, let alone reducing it.”**  
*BC’s Auditor General*

**Percentage of Children Living in Poverty – BC vs. Canada**  
*\*Stats c/o Campaign 2000, First Call BC*



Carole James and the NDP will fight gang violence and improve safety by:

- Hiring and funding 168 new police officers and creating an anti-gang prosecution team.
- Restricting the revolving bail door for known gang members.
- Pushing for tougher laws and penalties for gang-related crimes involving guns, body armour and armoured cars.
- Establishing a task force to develop initiatives for better police coordination including the feasibility of a regional police force for Metro Vancouver.
- Expanding crime and gang prevention programs for youth-at-risk and their families.
- Increasing SkyTrain police and other steps to improve the safety of transit users.
- Improving support for victims of crime.
- Making the police complaint process more transparent and effective and including the RCMP in a provincially-mandated complaint process.
- Working with the federal government and other provinces to make it easier to send criminal suspects back to their home province to face outstanding charges.
- Improving courtroom services to speed up hearings.
- Enhancing legal services for family and community law.
- Improving the Native Court Workers Program.

## Reduce poverty and homelessness plaguing our cities and towns

Gordon Campbell’s record on poverty and homelessness is one of failure and neglect:

- The worst child poverty in the country, for the fifth year in a row. BC is the only province in the country where child poverty rates were actually higher in 2006 than they were in 1997.
- Between 12,000 and 15,000 homeless British Columbians in communities throughout BC.
- 70,000 jobs lost in the first 2 months of 2009.

Carole James and the NDP believe it's time to make sure no British Columbians are left behind by:

**A. REDUCING HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA** through housing construction assistance improvements and a poverty reduction plan.

**Ending the crisis in homelessness in 5 years.** The NDP will set firm targets for social housing, and report progress to the Legislature annually. First year commitments are for 2,400 social housing units, with 1,200 units in each of the next 4 years. During this time, short-term shelters will be supported to offset the housing shortage.

Making life more affordable for the most vulnerable British Columbians by increasing the earnings exemption to \$100 per month for individuals and \$200 per month for families.

Increasing support payments for people with multiple barriers who are unable to work.

Increasing Income Assistance-to-Work supports, such as allowances for work clothing, bus fares to job interviews, etc.

Developing a poverty reduction plan with targets and timelines that build on our initiatives that will raise the minimum wage, support jobs and skills training, increase affordable housing, improve child protection and change income assistance.

## **B. PROTECTING CHILDREN AND IMPROVING OPPORTUNITIES FOR BRITISH COLUMBIANS**

There's no better example of Gordon Campbell's neglect and wrong priorities than BC's child protection System. Before he was elected he promised to increase funding. Right after the election he cut the heart out of child protection, and children in care are still paying the price.

Carole James was successful in her call for an independent Child and Youth Representative to watch over vulnerable children. Carole James and the NDP will expand on that success protecting children-at-risk through:

- **Immediate investments in child protection services.**
- **Following 'Jordan's Principle' to ensure the health and safety of Aboriginal children comes first, ahead of any jurisdictional disputes.**
- **Extending the term of BC's Child and Youth Representative past November 2011 to make sure there is ongoing and vigilant public oversight of BC's child protection system.**
- **Enhancing support for the transition to First Nations' governance of aboriginal child welfare.**
- **Reducing Community Living wait lists, to help some of BC's most vulnerable adults and their families get adequate care.**

**Investing in equality of opportunity by:**

"The huge raises awarded to deputy ministers contrast starkly with the experience of ordinary families... There comes a point – in any administration that lasts more than one term – where hardening of political arteries combines with smugness to bring about a downfall. The Campbell government, with this tone-deaf announcement, is heading in that direction."

*Editorial, Times Colonist, August 12, 2008*

- **Establishing a Ministry of Women's Equality.**
- **Creating provincial women's centres as a central point of contact and help for women facing hardship or the threat of violence.**
- **Reducing waitlists at rape relief and crisis centres.**
- **Increasing resources for the investigation into the Highway of Tears murders and holding an inquiry into the multiple murders of women in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.**
- **Strengthening human rights protections by establishing a Human Rights Commission, and enhancing preventative actions such as community anti-racism and discrimination programs, including a provincial anti-hate hotline.**

# Protecting Health Care and Education

Strengthening Vital Services  
for British Columbians



because everyone matters

# Protecting Health Care, Seniors Care and Public Education

## Solutions for everyday families

While waitlists have grown, emergency rooms overflow, and classrooms become more overcrowded, Gordon Campbell's priority has been to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on cost overruns and pet projects. It comes down to priorities. Carole James and the NDP will make sure vital public services come first.

### **Carole James will improve patient care and ensure our schools have the resources they need.**

With health care privatization comes higher costs, poorer quality service, decreased accountability, and reduced access for ordinary British Columbians. Carole James will put an end to the creeping privatization of health care. She will rescind Bill 29, which the Campbell Liberals used to open the door to mass contracting-out of public services.

British Columbia slid from second to seventh in health care funding between 2002 and 2007 and during this time thousands of acute care beds were closed and hospitals and residential care homes were shut down across BC. British Columbians can't trust Gordon Campbell to protect health care after the election.

## Smart investments to reduce wait times for patients

Overcrowded ERs, hallway medicine, and code purples result from Gordon Campbell's neglect of health care. Carole James and the NDP will introduce a Wait Time Reduction Strategy to deliver public – not private – solutions:

- **Build 4 new specialized public day surgical centres in high-need areas, with an initial focus on hip and knee surgeries and cataract procedures.**
- **Expand best practices to improve hospital efficiencies like those at the Richmond Hip and Knee Reconstruction Project and the Mount Saint Joseph Hospital Cataract and Corneal Transplant Unit which have significantly increased surgeries.**
- **Improve focus on early intervention with 4 new Public Diagnostic Centres equipped with new MRI and CT equipment to take pressure off high-demand areas.**
- **Establish an Urgent Care Centres pilot project to help relieve pressures on overcrowded emergency rooms.**
- **Implement an immediate plan to deal with the bed shortage driving the acute care crisis in the Lower Mainland. Start by expanding the capacity and efficiency of existing hospitals, including:**
  - **Upgrading St. Paul's Hospital with a 10-year plan to maintain it as a Centre of Excellence.**
  - **Accelerating the Surrey Memorial Critical Care Tower as a public project, including a day surgical centre.**
- **Expand the capacity and efficiency of hospitals across the province to address acute care shortages in centres like Vernon, Prince George and Nanaimo.**
- **Deliver wait time guarantees in 5 priority areas, based on the Ontario model: cancer, cardiac, hip and knee, cataract and diagnostics.**
- **Connect patients to services more rapidly – regardless of where they live or who their doctor is – through a Patient Surgical Registry, based on the Saskatchewan model.**

## More doctors and other health professionals for BC families

Up to 200,000 British Columbians do not have regular access to a family doctor, and BC is short of nurses and health professionals. Carole James and the NDP will train, recruit and retain more doctors, nurses and health professionals by:

- **Expanding BC's medical schools at locations across BC and providing additional residency positions for foreign-trained MDs. We will increase the family practice and specialist residencies from 18 to 25.**
- **Adding 1,000 nurses and licensed practical nurses over four years by increasing training spaces, expanding co-op and summer student work placements, and providing increased scholarships.**
- **Enhancing mentoring and transition programs to keep existing nurses in the system and attract nurses who have left, back to BC.**
- **Expanding the number of diagnostic technicians, lab technologists, medical radiographers, and other health professionals.**

### **How much bridge would it take to hire 2,000 more nurses?**

Good question. If Gordon Campbell had decided to take less than 10% of what he is spending on the overruns for the Port Mann Bridge, he could have hired 2,000 more nurses for BC.

## **Innovation in public health care**

### **BC Liberal underfunding and privatization has contributed to ER overcrowding, longer surgical wait lists, and dirty hospitals.**

Carole James and the NDP will leverage existing dollars to deliver better results and more accessible, affordable health care through innovation, not privatization.

At the heart of this innovation is the establishment of a Health Quality Council – similar to the Saskatchewan model – to identify new opportunities for innovation and best practices. The Health Quality Council will be an advisory body made up of provincial, national, and international health experts that will:

- Develop and implement evidence-based best practices and reforms.
- Implement province-wide innovation in specialized surgical centres and chronic disease management initiatives.
- Work directly with government, health authorities and health care professionals to improve overall quality and performance of the health care system.

## **Improving care for seniors**

Gordon Campbell's record on care for seniors is inexcusable. Over his eight years, he has cut long-term care and community home support. He has separated couples and forced others to move away from their families, friends and communities.

Seniors care has deteriorated to the point that BC's Ombudsman has launched a systematic investigation into problems with senior care.

Carole James believes seniors deserve better. The NDP will provide more support for seniors with new investments to expand the number of long-term care beds, to improve seniors care and to help seniors stay in their own homes. These changes will help improve hospital care and reduce waitlists by freeing up acute care beds.

### **A. APPOINT AN INDEPENDENT SENIORS REPRESENTATIVE**

The Representative for Seniors will work to improve systems of care and support for seniors and their families in British Columbia. The Representative will work on behalf of seniors and their families by recommending policy reform for better services and programs for seniors, providing support to seniors and their families, and providing information to the public on seniors' issues.

**B. EXPANDING RESIDENTIAL CARE BEDS** through re-opened and new long-term care beds.

- Re-opening 300 beds in the first six months at enhanced care levels through the renovation and rehabilitation of public facilities closed by the Campbell Liberals.
- Partner with the non-profit sector to create 3,000 more new long term care beds to fill the gap left by the BC Liberal broken promise to create 5,000 new beds.
- Ensure proper planning for the future needs of our growing seniors population so we have the appropriate mix of community-based services such as residential care, palliative care, assisted living and supportive housing.

**C. BETTER QUALITY OF CARE FOR SENIORS** through more direct care and facility quality assurance.

- Setting and funding a provincial minimum standard of 3.2 hours of direct care per resident and addressing inconsistencies in the care delivered from one facility to the next.

**D. MORE FUNDING FOR HOME SUPPORT AND CARE** by:

- Increasing the number of seniors who receive support and the number of hours of care per week received by each senior.
- Helping more seniors stay at home through increased support for preventive health services and resources.
- Building on the recommendations from the Premier's Council on Aging and Seniors' Issues that were never acted on by the Campbell Liberals.

**The key priorities of the Health Quality Council will be:**

- **Accessibility** – health services obtained in most suitable setting in reasonable time and distance
- **Acceptability** – services that are respectful and responsive to user needs, preferences and expectations
- **Appropriateness** – services that are relevant to user needs and based on accepted evidence based practice
- **Effectiveness** – services provided based on scientific knowledge to achieve desired outcomes
- **Efficiency** – resources optimally used to achieve desired outcomes.
- **Safety** – risks are mitigated to avoid unintended or harmful results.

“The findings suggest a system in decline, largely because of deteriorating access to services.”

*Bridging the Islands: Re-Building BC's Home and Community Care System*  
BC Medical Association, May 2008

## Improving Community-Based Child and Family Care

Gordon Campbell has reduced access to community health care with fewer family doctors and community care nurses. Carole James and the NDP understand that the essence of effective health care is to make it more available in people's own communities.

**The NDP will reverse eight years of BC Liberal neglect by:**

- **Establishing Community Health Centres led by nurse practitioners with a focus on primary and preventive care, and chronic disease management. These centers will follow the successful Ontario model and will initially focus on high-need groups and under-serviced areas such as First Nations, rural communities, seniors, and recent immigrants.**
- **Improved access to community care through:**
  - **Capital funds for more not-for-profit community health care and dental clinics.**
  - **More flexible hours for health clinics, recognizing the realities of family schedules.**

**Improving public health by:**

- **Increase cancer screening programs, including new province-wide early screening for colorectal cancer.**
- **Supporting the Therapeutics Initiative with a permanent, independently-managed fund.**
- **Getting tough on smoking by banning cigarette sales in pharmacies, stopping the flavouring of cigarillos, and piloting programs that provide free access to nicotine replacement therapies.**
- **Requiring clear food labelling to reduce harmful carcinogens, toxic substances and genetically engineered foods. Toxins in our environment are a growing cause of cancer.**

## Enhancing Mental Health and Addictions Services

Gordon Campbell's Liberals have failed people living with mental illness and addiction. The BC Liberals eliminated the Mental Health Advocate and cut staffing in the Mental Health Division by 70%. In addition, they haven't adequately funded residential and community-based services, including detox, addiction treatment, and long-term mental health beds. This has led to an increase in the number of people who are homeless.

**Carole James and the NDP will improve services for patients suffering from mental illness and addictions by:**

**A. BUILDING SUPPORTIVE HOUSING** for the mentally ill and those living with an addiction by re-investing in a non-profit and supportive housing program.

**B. ENHANCING OUTREACH SERVICES** to ensure that people with mental illnesses and addictions are connected to the services they need.

**C. INCREASING COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION TREATMENT PROGRAMS** including immediate support for 100 new detox spaces, 100 new addiction treatment spaces, and 100 new long term mental health treatment beds, as well as developing Riverview into a centre for excellence on mental health and addiction.

**D.IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH PROMOTION, PREVENTION, AND EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS** by strengthening family and youth involvement, improving networks of support, and collaborating with service providers.

**E.IMPROVING PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY AND COORDINATION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES** by working with consumers, providers, families and communities to implement better oversight of mental health and addiction services.

## Protecting education: Reducing class size to help students

Strong public education is key to building strong communities and securing BC's future. But for the last 8 years, Gordon Campbell has hurt public education by closing schools, increasing class sizes and cutting supports to students.

One hundred and seventy-seven schools have been closed, placing pressures on communities and putting hardship on families. There are over 14,000 classrooms that violate the government's own class size and composition laws. Carole James and the NDP will involve parents and students in the delivery of public education.

She will respect teachers and the critical role they play in guiding every student to reach their potential.

### **Carole James and the NDP will:**

- **Keep schools open. Carole James and the NDP will work with local communities, educational professionals, parents and others to keep schools open – including flexibility in the per-pupil funding formula for rural areas. And she will ensure local boards of education do not have to sell valuable school properties that can be used for alternative community purposes and future education needs.**
- **Meet existing class size and composition requirements, including for those classes with special needs students.**
- **Increase the number of special education teachers and teacher assistants.**
- **Improve student assessments and individual learning plans.**
- **Provide stronger support for schools that have difficulty in meeting academic standards.**
- **Provide multi-year funding envelopes to help local boards plan with security.**
- **Make school buildings safer by fast-tracking seismic upgrades.**

## Investing in accessible and affordable post-secondary and apprenticeship opportunities for British Columbians

An economy is only as strong as the women and men in the workforce driving it. So it makes sense that the diversified economy we seek – one that will help us weather downturns like the one that we’re experiencing now – requires highly skilled and trained workers. But Gordon Campbell is making that harder and harder for young British Columbians and their families.

Tuition at colleges and universities has more than doubled since Gordon Campbell took office. And by eliminating student grants and taking BC from first to worst in financial assistance for low- and middle-income students, graduates now have the second-highest student debt load in the country.

### **Carole James and the NDP will invest in opportunities for affordable advanced learning and skills training by:**

#### **A. MAKING COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY EDUCATION MORE ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE**

Restore the core funding for colleges and universities that the Campbell Liberals cut in 2008, and provide stable, multi-year funding to make sure institutions can better plan for the future.

Make advanced education and training more affordable for young British Columbians through a five-point affordability plan, implemented over four years as financial resources permit:

- 1. Freeze tuition rates and compensate post-secondary institutions for lower tuition revenues.**
- 2. Restore needs-based student grants.**
- 3. Expand post-graduate student grants to improve research and teaching activities.**
- 4. Cut interest rates on student loans making loans more affordable and reducing debt.**
- 5. Simplify grant and loan applications and provide more repayment options and establish an Independent Financial Aid Review Office to improve student service.**

Modernize classroom and learning environments and help fix overcrowded, poor student learning spaces by upgrading the infrastructure of post-secondary institutions.

#### **B. EXPANDING APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

- Align apprenticeship programs with today’s technologies, needs and practices through closer collaboration with industry partners and the completion of a full program review of the Industry Training Authority, as recommended by BC’s Auditor General.**
- Expand apprenticeship spaces by at least 4,000 – twice the number planned by the Liberals’ current budget.**
- Improve apprenticeship and accreditation standards by reinstating compulsory trades, recognizing national standards for the Red Seal trades, and bolstering accreditation standards and enforcement.**
- Establish a task force to make recommendations on the establishment of a College of Trades.**
- Provide stability for apprenticeship participants by delivering stable funding for the Industry Training Authority, in contrast to the two years of cuts planned by the BC Liberals.**

### **C. PROMOTING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

- **Fueling tech transfer opportunities between post-secondary institutions and the private sector to create new patents, businesses and skilled jobs, and help diversify BC's provincial and regional economies.**
- **Taking a more prominent leadership role in helping grow the emerging high-tech business cluster near Vancouver's False Creek, including land acquisition to house tech companies and infrastructure investments to enable companies to expand their research and productivity and to encourage partnerships with the private sector.**
- **Creating more high-tech parks throughout BC by building on the success of models like Discovery Park to create high-tech parks in the North and Interior, in partnership with local post-secondary institutions.**
- **Investing in technology through allocating \$200 million from our Green Bond Technology Fund to leverage matching federal dollars over ten years.**

# Clean Air, Land and Water



because everyone matters

## Investing in a Sustainable Future: Clean Air, Land and Water

Living in British Columbia, we are blessed with an environment that is the envy of the rest of the world. Mountains and valleys, forests, rivers, lakes and ocean. We have it all right here in BC. But Gordon Campbell has failed our environment by supporting largely unregulated exploitation and degradation.

On his first day in office, Gordon Campbell eliminated the Ministry of Environment. BC still hasn't recovered from the 44% cut he made to environmental protection programs.

Despite strong opposition, Gordon Campbell continues to pave the way for offshore oil and gas exploration and development in BC's sensitive waters.

Gordon Campbell ignored the report of a legislative committee that made important recommendations to protect wild salmon stocks.

Gordon Campbell is privatizing our natural resources, increasing old growth logging and raw log exports, converting high quality forest land to real estate development, and selling off our rivers and streams to private interests.

Even as communities and First Nations raise serious concerns about coal bed methane development, Gordon Campbell is allowing development to proceed in the absence of strong environmental standards.

"Our governments are failing to protect our salmon, our oceans and our future from open net-cage salmon farms. That is a fact."

*Catherine Stewart, Living Oceans Society, The Province, Oct. 10, 2008*

"[Gordon Campbell is] going green around the edges and that's it. There's no green in the centre."

*Vicky Husband, Feb. 23, 2009*

### Solutions for everyday families

After eight years of Gordon Campbell's destructive environmental policies, British Columbians want a real commitment to a sustainable future.

Carole James and the NDP will stop the neglect and mismanagement of our environment, and deliver real action on climate change, strong environmental protection and tough rules for polluters.

## Getting tough on pollution and polluters

In the fight against climate change, Gordon Campbell has taken us in the wrong direction. His plan isn't fair, it won't work, and he's not listening to British Columbians' concerns.

New Democrats are committed to taking bold action on climate change. We have a plan for climate protection that enshrines the principles of fairness, openness, and effective environmental stewardship. Our plan:

**Sets hard cap on emissions by 2010.** While Gordon Campbell's gas tax allows big polluters responsible for 30% of greenhouse gas emissions off the hook, Carole James will set limits on emissions by all large polluters. We are committed to having our industry bring their emissions down in a structural and effective manner that is fair and ensures we continue to be competitive in the world market. This gives us the foundation to meet our objective of a 33% reduction in emissions by 2020.

**Commits to develop** a continental 'cap and trade' plan to reduce overall emissions, such as the plan proposed by U.S. President Obama and supported by leading climate change experts.

**Adopts California's tough vehicle tailpipe emission standards** and expands transit options to strengthen BC's fight against climate change.

**Continues the moratorium on offshore exploration and drilling** and crude oil tanker traffic on the sensitive BC coast.

**Says 'no' to coal bed methane projects** that have not undergone full community consultation and proper environmental assessment.

**Ends the routine gas well flaring** that accounts for 13% of BC's greenhouse gas emissions.

**Provides low-interest loans to retrofit homes and businesses** reducing energy use and cutting almost 10 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020.

When it comes to cap-and-trade, the broader principle is that we've got to move to a new energy era, and that means moving away from polluting energy sources towards cleaner energy sources. That is a potential engine for economic growth. I think cap-and-trade is the best way, from my perspective, to achieve some of those gains, because what it does is it starts pricing the pollution that's being sent into the atmosphere.

*U.S. President Barack Obama, News Conference, March 24, 2009*

## Protecting land, air, water and wildlife

Gordon Campbell has undermined the enforcement of environmental regulations. Carole James and the NDP recognize that you can't enforce meaningful protection without fully funded on-the-ground staff and resources.

### The NDP will:

- **Fund enforcement of environmental protections and regulations.**
- **Protect endangered wildlife with BC's first Species at Risk legislation and establish a Species at Risk Stewardship Fund available to landowners, farmers, First Nations, academic institutions, community groups.**
- **Safeguard and enhance freshwater and saltwater fish stocks:**
  - **Implement the recommendations of BC's Sustainable Aquaculture Committee, including the transition to closed containment fish farming within five years.**
  - **Strengthen the Salmon Protection Act and re-establish programs that support the return of salmon and steelhead runs throughout BC.**
- **Restore the BC Parks system:**
  - **Stop Gordon Campbell's push for privatization and commercialization of parks and park services.**
  - **Restore funding to BC Parks and add interpretive services.**
  - **Establish an Environmental Youth Corps, to renew campground and park infrastructure.**
- **End the sale of pesticides for residential and cosmetic use to help protect public health, safety and the environment, following the lead of 17 BC municipalities, the provinces of Quebec, Ontario and PEI. This approach does not affect agricultural use which is separately regulated and golf course use will be specifically addressed.**
- **Ensure safe drinking water and protect our freshwater resources through a full assessment and consultation process leading to a revitalized Water Act for BC.**
- **Improve public accountability of environmental protection services by establishing a Standing Committee of the Legislature on Environment and Sustainability, extending the mandate of the Auditor General to include environmental considerations, and reviewing the Environmental Assessment process to make sure long-term, cumulative impacts of proposed projects are fully analyzed.**

# Open, Honest Government



because **everyone** matters

## Open, Honest Government

Gordon Campbell has broken his promise to have an open and accountable government. He has pushed through his pet projects, handed lucrative deals to BC Liberal insiders, and refused to answer questions about the BC Rail corruption scandal.

Gordon Campbell's Attorney General recently said British Columbians aren't interested in corruption and broken lobbyist laws. Carole James believes that's wrong. British Columbians want government cleaned up. They want to know that their leaders are acting in the interests of all British Columbians instead of the interests of donors, friends and party insiders.

## Solutions for everyday families

Carole James and the NDP will bring open, honest and accountable government to Victoria. The NDP will take action to restore British Columbians' faith in the openness and accountability of their elected leaders by:

- **Rolling back the huge 43% pay increases approved by Gordon Campbell for his top officials and advisors.**
- **Striking a public inquiry into the sale of BC Rail, as soon as the current corruption case has moved through the courts.**
- **Strengthening conflict of interest legislation and requiring cabinet members and senior officials to place their holdings in blind trusts.**
- **Closing loopholes and toughening the Lobbyist Registration Act to reduce the influence of lobbyists over decision makers.**
- **Bringing greater openness and accountability to budget making and stopping the efforts of the Campbell Liberals to hide the true costs of privatization.**
- **Ensuring large projects like the Olympics and the Vancouver Convention Centre are fully audited by BC's independent Auditor General.**
- **Revising the Trade, Mobility and Labour Investment Agreement (TILMA) to restore full autonomy for municipalities and removing provisions which enable corporations to sue governments and seek multi-million dollar fines for public policies with which they disagree.**
- **Taking the money out of political decision making by ending corporate and union donations to provincial political parties as part of an electoral reform package.**
- **Cutting red tape and requiring faster turn-around on Freedom-of-Information requests supported by realistic funding for the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy office.**
- **Acting on electoral and campaign finance reform.**

### 2009 referendum

In the coming referendum concerning the form of our voting system, we believe individual voters should make that choice free from political party influence. The BC NDP will not campaign for either side in the referendum. If the referendum passes, we will respect the outcome and implement the new system. If it fails, we will continue to advance other options for reform.



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