

**On Tuesday, May 12,
we can take back B.C.
for ourselves,
our children and
our grandchildren.**

***It's our time to
be heard.***

***It's our time to
stick together and
seize the day.***



VOTE
Tuesday May 12

Gordon Campbell has failed ordinary people

IN SO MANY WAYS, Gordon Campbell has created a profoundly unequal British Columbia. His well-connected friends and insiders have done very well. Ordinary people have paid the price.

The current world-wide financial crisis was triggered by the insatiable greed of the few. They continue to collect their obscene bonuses, while the burden falls on ordinary families.

It's a pattern that should be familiar to every British Columbian – it's the way Gordon Campbell runs B.C.

- *Our public streams and rivers are sacrificed* to private power developers, at ten times the cost of public power. For the few, guaranteed profit and minimal environmental oversight. For ordinary families, a 25% rate increase for electricity in two years and more to come. *More details, page 5.*
- *With public hospitals in crisis and patients facing long waiting lists, Gordon Campbell is opening the door to more private, for-profit health care* for those who can afford it. *(More details, page 8)*
- *The last census reports the median B.C. wage dropped 3.4 percent* between 2000 and 2005. B.C. workers were the only ones in Canada who experienced such a drop at a time of economic growth. Mr Campbell gave his own *highest paid advisors* raises of up to 43 percent. *More details, page 7.*
- *In our forest communities, 25,000 men and women have lost their jobs since 2007.* Gordon Campbell ignored them, but gave international forest companies *carte blanche* to sell thousands of hectares of forest land for real estate development. The auditor general found the government acted *“without due regard for the public interest.”*
- *Almost 200,000 children live in poverty.* We've had the worst child poverty rate in Canada for six years. Over 700 children died without anyone investigating. Gordon Campbell ignored them all, and *gave himself a \$65,000 raise.* *More details, page 6.*
- *Young people face new roadblocks in getting the education and skills training they need to succeed.* Tuition more than doubled. Cuts in college and university budgets and programs. We've gone from having the lowest student debt to second highest, and plunged from *first to worst in assistance to students.* *More details, page 9.*
- *Statistics Canada reports B.C.'s expenditure per capita on public education has fallen below the Canadian average.* More than 170 schools have been closed. *More details page 9.*
- *Despite his promise to build more long term care beds for seniors, the BCMA reports the number of beds was cut by 553 between 2001 and 2007.* At the same time, he cut the number of people receiving home support by 24 percent. Funding is being shifted to *private, for-profit facilities,* without adequate regulation or standards of care. *See page .*
- *New evidence at the B.C. Rail political corruption trial shows who really*

benefited from the privatization of our provincial railway – hundreds of thousands in payments to Patrick Kinsella, rewarding his *insider influence and connections* with Mr. Campbell.

- *The Agricultural Land Commission has been gutted,* threatening B.C.'s irreplaceable and scarce farmland. Over 70% of development applications are now routinely approved.
- *At the privatized B.C. Ferries – which sent construction jobs to Germany and doubled ferry rates – directors were given a 60 percent raise.* At Translink, Mr. Campbell's hand-picked directors were given *500 percent.* For CEOs of crown corporations, up to *166 percent.* *More details, page 7.*
- *With gang violence exploding, community safety has been undermined with further cuts in prosecutions, courts and corrections* in Mr. Campbell's latest budget. These cuts come on top of the closure of 10 jails and 24 courthouses. *More details, page 11.*
- *For individuals and groups who are concerned about what he's doing to our B.C., Mr. Campbell has an arrogant, autocratic and dictatorial answer – a new gag law, and 16 separate amendments to restrict access to public information.* He even changed the public inquiry act so he can *edit out anything he doesn't want us to know.* *More details, page 16.*



Campbell favoured foreign corporations and wealthy insiders when times were good

He can't be trusted to help ordinary people when times are bad

UNDER GORDON Campbell, economic growth has been profoundly unequal. His out-of-touch decisions have favoured foreign corporations and wealthy insiders at the expense of rest of us. For retired workers and working families, he has produced declining and stagnant incomes, and record levels of consumer debt.

Recently released Census data shows that workers' median incomes in B.C. fell by 3.4 percent between 2000 and 2005, by far the worst record in the country. In Canada as a whole, incomes rose by 2.4 percent. Since he took office, Mr. Campbell has almost completely erased the 3.7 percent income gain workers made in the 1990s.

"The necessary foundation for future economic growth in the province has not been laid. B.C. businesses have not invested as much per capita in new plant and equipment as those in most other parts of the country," reported B.C. Stats, April, 2008.

Resource towns are emptying. The five mid-sized towns with the fastest population declines in Canada are all in B.C.

Thousands of good jobs in manufacturing and forestry have been lost – 25,000 forestry jobs since 2007.

Local businesses have been pushed to the brink of bankruptcy by Mr. Campbell's imposition of private-public partnerships, such as the Cambie line where he has arrogantly turned his back on the disruption caused in people's lives. These large, complex contracts make it harder

for local construction companies to compete, and deliver billions in infrastructure projects to American and European firms.

"Consistently relying on P3s displaces small and medium-sized local businesses," says a study by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Instead of supporting B.C. businesses and workers, Mr. Campbell's increasingly out-of-touch and arrogant government is diverting billions of our tax dollars to the bottom line

"BC continues to lose jobs faster than any other province in the country.

"In the last 12 months, BC's unemployment rate has jumped more than 60 percent and continues to climb. Almost 70,000 full-time jobs have been lost."

**– B.C. Federation of Labour,
March 14, 2009**

of foreign investors and international corporations.

With the economic turmoil now spanning the globe, we must have a different approach – an approach that puts B.C. workers and companies first. It's our money. It should be circulating here, not sent offshore. Government should:

- Raise the minimum wage \$8 to \$10 and index it to inflation, not freeze it for eight years while doling out huge wage boosts for his own highest paid advisors as Mr. Campbell has done. Ontario's

minimum wage is \$9.50 and will go to \$10.25 within 12 months.

- Make post-secondary education and training an affordable option for all families.
- Invest in accelerated seismic upgrades for schools, new affordable housing to address homelessness, accelerated transit projects and green retrofits, and closing the infrastructure gap in communities across B.C. Local businesses should have the opportunity to

bid on these projects, not be shut out by Mr. Campbell's P3 ideology.

- Revitalize the forest industry and the rural economy. We should restrict raw log exports from public lands to encourage the creation of good jobs in re-manufactur-

ing, support communities devastated by the pine beetle, and mill closures and ensure workers receive fair severance packages and access to re-training.

In short, our government's decisions should benefit B.C. workers, families and businesses, not foreign corporations and Campbell insiders.

Economic decisions that enrich the few at the expense of the many

*One more way
Gordon Campbell
has failed ordinary people*

Sacrificing public rivers to private profit

IF YOU'RE WONDERING why your Hydro bill keeps going up – and why it's going up another 25 percent within two years – you need only look as far as Gordon Campbell.

With little regard for the public interest, Mr. Campbell has opened the floodgates to private corporate power producers and higher bills for you.

When you flip on a light switch, 12 percent of the power now comes from private corporations. But they account for more than 60 percent of the cost of producing electricity.

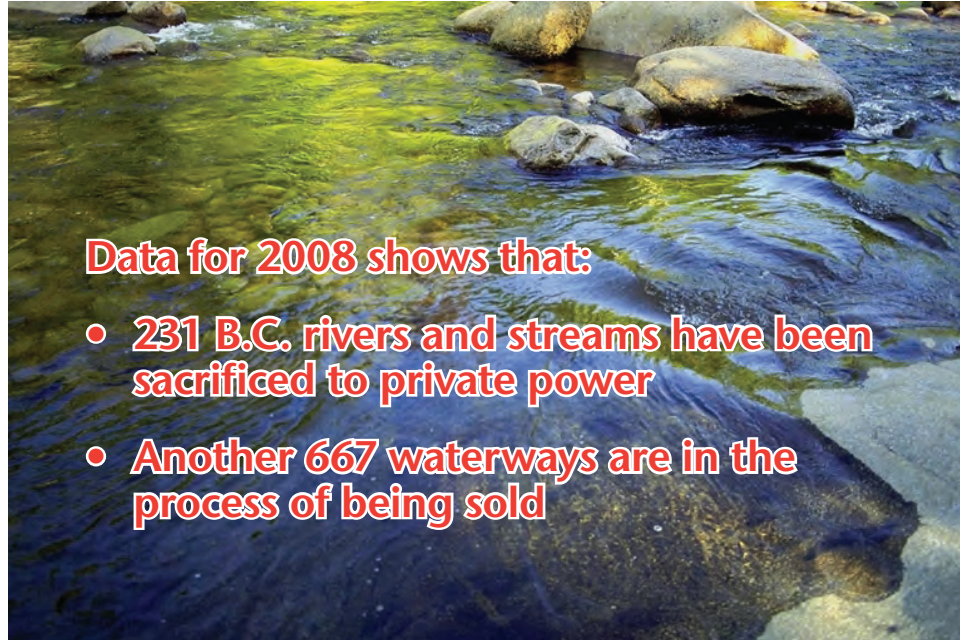
In the last six months, B.C. Hydro produced over 24,000 gigawatt hours of electricity at a cost of \$144 million. In the same period, B.C. Hydro paid \$228 million to private corporations for the small fraction of power they produce. (*B.C. Hydro Second Quarter Report, 2008*)

Hydro-based electricity is by far our number one source of carbon-dioxide-free energy. It doesn't mess up the thin layer of atmosphere that we can breathe. Yet for some homeowners, Mr. Campbell's policies will drive up the cost of electricity to the point where it may be cheaper for them to switch to fossil fuels that contribute to climate change.

Turning off public power

For decades, B.C. Hydro has been responsible for meeting our energy requirements. It has planned and built generating facilities in the public interest, for the common good.

Mr. Campbell has changed that. Without even giving British Columbians a hearing, and even though it costs much more, he has decreed that all new power must be bought from private corporations. Instead of allowing B.C. Hydro to continue to



provide the clean energy needed by your family and local businesses, he has turned Hydro into a guarantor of private profit.

Huge new costs

Under Mr. Campbell's direction, B.C. Hydro has been forced to enter into long term agreements to buy power from so-called Independent Power Producers (IPPs) at \$70 to \$90 per megawatt hour. By Nov. 2007, we were on the hook to pay IPPs a staggering \$28.5 billion.

Because of our existing public infrastructure and economies of scale, B.C. Hydro's cost of production is much less – just \$5.85 per megawatt hour. Spot market prices are also much lower – about \$54 per megawatt hour, falling to about \$10 during the spring freshet.

“The wildlife and flora of the areas affected (by private power plants, access roads and transmission lines) will be severely at risk if not destroyed outright so that private companies can supply the power that B.C. Hydro has supplied us for over 40 years,

and do so at a huge profit thanks to high sale prices fixed by the Campbell government,” writes Rafe Mair, April 14, 2008, in *theTyee.ca*.

Even worse to come

Mr. Campbell's government is considering more than 600 applications to turn even more B.C. rivers into guaranteed profit centres for private corporations. Understandably, the applications are pouring in at a furious pace. It's a modern day gold rush – a rush to convert public rivers to private profit at the expense of everyone who turns on a light bulb.

Our province's potential for hydro energy is a tremendous asset that belongs to all British Columbians. It should be used for the common good, not to guarantee profits for private corporations, not to drive up electricity prices for working families and local businesses.

Selling out our rivers and needlessly hiking electricity rates

*One more way
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Even when times were good, Campbell gave B.C. the highest child poverty rate in Canada

THEY'RE HUNGRY when they get to school. They pretend they forgot their lunch. The other kids tease them about their clothes. They're afraid to tell mom and dad that they need money for a field trip or running shoes for gym class. They do without. They have no choice.

For six years in a row, our province has had the highest child poverty rate in Canada. The most recent Census reports that almost one in four – 23.5% – of B.C.'s children live in poverty. Our child poverty rate is almost twice the national average. And the depth of poverty is worsening.

We also have the highest proportion of working poor families – parents struggling to support their children, often holding down two or more low-wage jobs to try to get by.

It's no way for children to start their life

Children who live in poverty face incredible obstacles. Poor nutrition affects their ability to learn in school, as well as their physical development. Their thrift store clothes make them the target of bullies who don't understand. Their overall well-being and health is threatened.

Mr. Campbell has erected a cliff. Thousands of our children are trapped at the bottom. Mr. Campbell's actions have blocked their path to opportunities and success as productive adults:

- For eight years, Mr. Campbell has frozen the minimum wage for working parents. He has resisted all calls to at least index it to inflation. His government still says it has no plans to increase it.
- Mr. Campbell has weakened em-

ployment standards, undermining protection for vulnerable workers whose families live paycheque to paycheque.

- He has ripped up contracts, and imposed wage rollbacks on working parents.
- He has failed to provide affordable child care, limiting many parents' ability to work.

Mr. Campbell's priorities are elsewhere. Instead of giving poor children a hand up, he has spent millions each year to give raises to his highest paid insiders and bureaucrats. And he has handed out huge tax giveaways, heavily skewed to those who already have the most.

Gordon Campbell has deepened poverty

"B.C. has a huge number of low-wage jobs where people might be in the work force for the entire year, or you might have a couple where both people are working the entire year and you still don't earn enough money," says Steve Kerstetter, a member of FirstCall's coordinating committee, a coalition advocating for the rights of children and youth.

"The poorest are hit hardest by the tax cuts in losing necessary services, whether it's child care or home care for seniors. The working poor see no benefits as the minimum wage remains at a level that no one can survive on," wrote the Nanaimo Daily News, Sept. 23, 2008. "...it's the wealthy who have gained the most from Liberal tax cuts."

Public health physicians have also expressed their concern.

"Poverty in childhood not only leads to immediate and lifelong



health concerns, but also impacts lifelong achievement," said Dr. James Lu, Chair of the Health Officers Council of B.C., in a July, 2007 submission to the government.

He has let down thousands of B.C. children

There are 196,000 B.C. children living in poverty. It's a staggering number.

But our children and grandchildren are not numbers. They are individuals. Every one of them deserves our care and concern. Mr. Campbell has demonstrated no such concern. Through his actions, he has let them down and pushed them backwards.

Making B.C. #1 in child poverty

*One more way
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While ordinary people fall behind, huge pay increases for Campbell's highest paid advisors

IN JULY, 2006, Gordon Campbell increased salaries for his top bureaucrats and closest insiders. He promised he would not review their salaries again for another four years.

In direct violation of that promise, his government announced even more massive pay increases on Aug. 8, 2008. They withheld the announcement for a week in the arrogant belief that no one would notice it on a Friday afternoon during the opening ceremonies for the Summer Olympics.

Mr. Campbell increased the wage range for most deputy ministers by 35 percent to a maximum of \$299,215. He increased his own deputy's wage range by 43 percent to \$348,600.

Within these ranges, he awarded raises that will cost you \$3.15 million a year. It is the third time he has spent millions to give large increases to those who are already at the top, while keeping the minimum wage frozen for eight straight years. B.C. is the only province that did not increase its minimum wage in 2008. The B.C. Liberals still say they have no intention of doing so.

"In a stunningly ill-timed gesture, the premier has chosen this, of all moments, to fatten the mandarins' paycheques," editorialized the Victoria Times-Colonist, Aug. 12, 2008, adding that the huge raises contrast starkly with the experience of ordinary families.

The "obscene pay hikes for senior bureaucrats show Campbell is out of touch," said The Province, Sept. 4, 2008.

"This is about a lot more than money," added the Nanaimo Daily

News, Sept. 23, 2008. "It's about a government that really does seem to be arrogant and out of touch with B.C."

It is arrogant. It is disrespectful. But it is perfectly in character. Mr. Campbell has always favoured the well-off, the connected, the corporate elite. When he talks about increasing prosperity, he's not talking about working families. His version

of increased prosperity is targeted at those who are already in the highest income bracket. employment standards so they're almost meaningless. (The government doesn't even enforce the watered-down laws; workers who have been mistreated by an unscrupulous employer must download a "self-help" kit from the internet.)

Freeze the minimum wage. Make it harder for workers to join a union, and easier for an employer to interfere. Bring in temporary foreign

A snapshot of wage trends in Campbell's BC:

- **Gordon Campbell up 54%**
- **Campbell's highest paid advisors..... up 43%**
- **Translink directors..... up 500%**
- **B.C. Ferries directors..... up 60%**
- **CEOs of crown corporations..... up 166%**
- **Working people down 3.4%**
- **Minimum wage..... frozen for 8 years**

of increased prosperity is targeted at those who are already in the highest income bracket.

The 2006 census, the most recent conducted, shows that the median earnings of full-time workers in B.C. dropped 3.4 percent between 2000 and 2005. As a result of Mr. Campbell's determination that nothing is too good for those at the top, ordinary B.C. workers are the only ones in Canada who have experienced such a drop in earnings during times of economic growth.

The growing income inequality and stagnant wages are the inevitable result of deliberate actions taken by the Campbell government. Tear up contracts, despite promises it would never happen. Impose wage cuts on working people. Weaken

workers to build public projects like the RAV line at \$5 an hour under working conditions the B.C. Human Rights Tribunal describes as tainted with coercion and intimidation.

Under Mr. Campbell, a privileged few can count on huge pay increases and tax breaks. For everyone else, there's a growing wage gap, more low-wage and temporary jobs, more insecurity, and more of our money going to those who already have the most.

Stagnating wages and growing inequality

*One more way
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has failed ordinary people*

ALONE. ABANDONED. DECEIVED.

Gordon Campbell's shameful treatment of the frail and elderly in British Columbia

SENIORS BEING left to fester in soiled diapers. A man not being bathed for 11 days, placing him at 'serious risk' of infection. A woman being doused with water to force her to take her clothes off," wrote Michel Smyth in *The Province*, Oct. 14, 2007.

Gordon Campbell arrogantly stands aloof from the problems facing the frail and elderly. Inadequate inspection of care homes. No advocate for us. No independent process for families to complain. No provincial standard of care.

Gordon Campbell broke his word

- He promised to build 5,000 new long term care beds.

The B.C. Medical Association reports a net decline of 553 beds between 2001 and 2007. B.C. now has the lowest number of residential care beds per capita in Canada, and spends the least on seniors care per capita.

- He promised to improve home support and home care.

Home support hours province-wide have been cut by 12 percent. The number of people receiving home support has been cut by 24 percent. Up to 80 percent of elderly home support clients have had cuts in help with bathing, grocery shopping, laundry and cleaning.

- He promised to work with non-profit agencies to provide care.

Non-profit organizations with a long history of delivering care to seniors have been cut out by Mr. Campbell. His government is closing beds



in public and non-profit nursing homes, and shifting public dollars to private for-profit facilities.

- He promised "high quality public health care services that meet all patients' needs where they live and when they need it."

Mr. Campbell closed or downsized 12 hospitals in B.C. We now have just 1.8 beds per 1,000 people, compared to the Canadian average of 3.0 beds. Vancouver and the Fraser Valley have a shortage of 550 acute care beds. The shortage is expected to get worse, reaching 750 beds within two years. It's already acute in rural areas.

- He promised to reduce wait times.

On average, British Columbians have the longest waiting times in Canada for MRI scans, cardiovascular and heart surgery. Since 2002, our province has dropped from second place to seventh place in Canada in per capita funding of health care.

Beds in hospital hallways, cancelled surgeries

When every available bed is full, including those in the hallways, hos-

pitals issue a "Code Orange." Off-duty doctors and nurses are called in. Those already on duty prepare for double shifts. It used to happen very rarely to deal with emergencies – a plane crash, a building collapse, a riot. Today, it's a regular occurrence.

"At present, we are truly in a crisis," wrote Dr. Rob Granger, a surgeon at Royal Columbian Hospital, in a letter dated March 6, 2008. "Operating slates are cancelled on a daily basis, operating rooms are closed, and patients are sitting in hallways for nursing care."

Paying more for less

We're one of only two provinces that impose a fee for health care. Mr. Campbell increased MSP premiums by 50 percent within a year of taking office, and eliminated coverage for services such as physiotherapy, chiropractors, and eye exams.

*Cuts in care for seniors
and hospital patients*

*One more way
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has failed ordinary people*

For many students and working families, Gordon Campbell has priced post-secondary education and skills training out of reach

YOUNG PEOPLE know it. Parents and grandparents know it. In today's rapidly changing world, a good education is vital. It opens the door to opportunity, success and security for students and their families. It helps diversify our economy. It helps us meet competitive challenges from abroad. It strengthens our communities.

Education must be a priority for government. It is essential to our future.

The Gordon Campbell government has failed to meet that overriding public interest. It has fallen far short of Mr. Campbell's promise to ensure that "anyone with a 75% average or better can gain access to advanced education in B.C."

Rising costs, staggering debt for students

Campbell more than doubled tuition fees, putting university out of reach for many of our families.

He created a massive increase in student debt. When he took office, B.C. student debt was the lowest in Canada. Now it's the second highest. As a result, many bright, ambitious and qualified young people hesitate to apply for admission to university. It's a life-long loss for them, their family, and their community.

Adding to the financial burden, Mr. Campbell cancelled grants that provided assistance to qualified students from families with modest means. Our province has gone from first to worst in financial assistance to students.

Mr. Campbell transformed student loans. They should be designed to help students. Instead, student loans are now a money-making enterprise

for his government. He charges students almost twice as much interest as it costs the government to borrow.

Budget cuts, name games

In March of last year, Mr. Campbell's government delivered another blow – a surprise budget cut for col-

Schools closed as funding fails to keep up with downloaded costs

WHEN OUR grandchildren are forced to change schools, leaving behind their friends, their teachers and their safe familiar surroundings, it frequently sets them back academically. Research shows that the more transitions they go through, the less likely they are to graduate.

Gordon Campbell has closed 177 schools, and more closures are likely. Thousands of children have been needlessly forced to change schools, endure long bus rides, and begin again to learn to fit in with a new crowd.

Mr. Campbell proudly says that he is spending more than ever on education. He never mentions that he has downloaded even more in new costs on local boards of education. Insufficient funding to cover inflation. No funding for collective agreements that his government negotiated.

leges and universities, forcing cuts and even elimination of courses and programs. Funding per student is now 3 percent less than it was when he took office.

Mr. Campbell recently announced the "creation" of new "universities". He re-named several colleges. Little else has changed. He provided no funding, just a name change. It's another shameful deception. Our children and grandchildren deserve better access to real universities, not cuts in funding and new signs in front of the existing buildings.

He has cut directed funding for special needs students, making it more difficult to get assessments. He has made it harder to qualify, and thereby "delisted" special need students. He has cut the number of special needs teachers by 17 percent.

He says he wants children to learn, yet he has reduced the number of those who teach. Even allowing for declining enrolment, it would take almost 1,000 specialist teachers – including ESL and special needs teachers, counsellors and librarians – to get back to where we were when he took office.

Fewer opportunities for our children and grandchildren

*One more way
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Gordon Campbell's devastating record on our environment

FOR SIX YEARS, the Campbell Liberals established the worst environmental record in B.C. history. Suddenly, after all those years of practise shooting in the wrong direction, Mr. Campbell has hung up new targets. He is going to save the world from climate change. In the meantime, his government's devastation of B.C.'s environment continues.

Hundreds of rivers handed over for private power development. More of our wildlife at risk. Promotion of oil and gas development off shore and in our parks. A drastic drop in reforestation. Thousands of hectares of tree farm licenses turned over for corporate real estate developments.

Weakening of the agricultural land reserve. On all the environmental issues where Mr. Campbell has the power to do something other than talk, he has taken us backwards.

Mr. Campbell cut funding for environmental protection by more than 40 percent. He cut regulations, saying industries could regulate themselves. Raw log exports have doubled. His government received a failing grade on air quality from the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Mr. Campbell has ignored the science. He allows fish farms to threaten wild salmon runs. He lifted the moratorium on hunting grizzlies for sport. He refused to protect species at risk.

As one of his first acts, Mr. Campbell eliminated the government agency established to promote a transition to a green economy. He terminated the Climate Change Plan and actively fought the Kyoto Accord.

Will Mr. Campbell's gas tax help

fight climate change?

"The government's own figures show that this is not going to do a warm bucket of spit for climate change," said Norman Spector on the Bill Good Show, CKNW, April 28, 2008.

"As presently designed, B.C.'s carbon tax will further impoverish the poor, destroy productive industries, imperil public finances, erode the province's competitive position and ignite inflation – and it won't make an iota of difference to greenhouse gas emissions," wrote columnist Harvey Enchin, Vancouver Sun, May 2, 2008.

Retirees and working people will pay, while some of B.C.'s worst industrial polluters won't pay a penny on their smokestacks.

Failing to protect our environment

One more way Gordon Campbell has failed ordinary people

POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

ELEVEN OF the 20 most dangerous cities in Canada are located in British Columbia. Vancouver has the second-highest rate of violent crime and property crime in North America.

In the last decade, the number of known criminal gangs preying on people in B.C. has exploded from under ten to 129, and the number of gang-related murders has also exploded. Too often the victims are innocent bystanders caught in the cross-fire.

The Campbell government arrogantly claims everything is fine, re-

fuses to act or takes us in the wrong direction.

- The 2009 budget includes more cuts in prosecutions, courts and corrections.
- Eighteen young women have disappeared on the “Highway of Tears” between Prince George and Prince Rupert. The Campbell government refused to send the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team to the area to investigate.
- No death affects a community more deeply than the unexplained death of a child or

grandchild. Under Gordon Campbell, 713 kids died without anyone looking into how and why they lost their lives.

- Since 2001, Mr. Campbell has closed 10 jails. Every one of our current correctional centres is filled beyond capacity. He has shut down 24 courthouses, delaying justice for victims of crime.

Turning a blind eye on safety in our communities

*One more way
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As many struggle to find or pay for shelter, Gordon Campbell diverts housing funds

A ROOF OVER one's head, a place to call home, is a primary need for every individual and family, and for the well-being of our society as a whole. No one can feel they are part of a society that leaves them or their family vulnerable to eviction, makes it impossible to obtain adequate housing, or forces them to sleep on the street.

Tenants fear eviction

Tenants are increasingly threatened with eviction because the Campbell government allows landlords to exploit loopholes to massively increase rents and turn apartments into condos.

Seniors face insecurity

People who live in mobile homes, the majority of whom are seniors, are

being pushed out by condominium developments. At least 20 mobile home parks around B.C. have recently closed or are in the process of closing. Even if they could find a vacancy in another location, many long time residents have mobile homes that are too old to legally travel on B.C. roads or live in manufactured homes that are not designed to be moved a second time.

A shelter shell game

Instead of targeting affordable housing, Mr. Campbell has handed massive tax giveaways to the well-off. Instead of delivering new social housing, he has converted existing social housing units into supportive housing. Instead of using federal money intended for low-income housing for that purpose, he has di-

verted it to other things.

As of March 31, 2008, there are over 12,000 on the waiting list for subsidized housing. This includes 3,100 seniors. Homelessness has more than doubled.

In short, Mr. Campbell has failed to assist the people who really need housing, those who have no shelter at all, and those who live in substandard housing.

Instead, he has cancelled B.C.'s affordable housing program, and made it more difficult for thousands of people to afford a home.

Affordable housing for families and individuals

*One more way
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Day by day, year by year, Gordon Campbell's becomes more arrogant, more unaccountable

GORDON CAMPBELL has set a high-water mark for secrecy, obstruction and deception. It is a stunning U-turn from his ringing promise to run the "most open, democratic and accountable government in Canada."

Many government decisions that affect us are made by a small, secretive inner-circle with scant regard for the public interest. Highly paid unelected advisers lurk behind closed doors, handing out billions in gifts and contracts to friends, insiders and large corporations.

Mr. Campbell, arrogant and unaccountable, wants to keep us in the dark.

- He has imposed a black shroud of secrecy on the public's business through 16 separate amendments restricting access to public information.
- The ultimate tool to uncover the truth is the public inquiry. But Mr. Campbell changed the law so he can edit public inquiry reports and remove anything he doesn't want us to know.

- Mr. Campbell has tried to neuter independent watchdogs established to protect the public interest – such as the Auditor-General – by repeatedly cutting their funding or eliminating them entirely.

- Despite the billions of public dollars involved, secrecy has been imposed on the operations of B.C. Ferries, the Vancouver Olympic Organizing Committee, and the Medical Services Plan.

- The terms of a 990 year lease given to CN Rail on behalf of the people of B.C. are a state secret.

- Few issues are more vital to the public interest than health care. Mr. Campbell requires health authority officials to sign confidentially agreements. He refused to release the full report of an investigation into extra-billing.

- In 2007, the government appointed a task force on Pharmacare. Five of the eight members have ties to big drug corporations. Patients – who are most affected by the cost of drugs – had no representatives. Not one.

- Mr. Campbell put transit planning into the hands of a small group of highly-paid bureaucrats who meet in private. Transit users and the public are denied real input and information.

- The courts had to step in to throw out his attempt to impose a gag law to silence groups and individuals who want to speak out before or during an election.

- The Campbell government routinely obstructs access to information that is supposed to be available. They tried to charge a fee of \$173,000 to an environmental group that asked for data on polluters.

- The culture of secrecy is so pervasive they have created a rubber stamp to mark documents on key public issues "shred after meeting".

Trying to keep us in the dark

One more way

Gordon Campbell has failed ordinary people

Join BC FORUM today!

BC FORUM is a registered non-profit society for retired union members, and active members age 50 and over. We are dedicated to representing the interests and well-being of members, their families and spouses.

Membership in BC FORUM allows you to realize the kind of savings on programs, services and products that are only possible through group negotiations.

Membership costs \$15 per year. Your membership includes free coverage under BC FORUM's \$2,500 group accident insurance plan. Optional benefits offered are homeowner, tenant, extended health and dental, and

travel medical insurance. Members also have access to financial advice and planning, discounts on selected travel packages and income tax services. Our newsletter, The Advocate, will inform you about current initiatives.

There are more than 100,000 retired union members in BC. Together, we can be a powerful voice for the well-being of our families. Join today!

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