

Six Pillars for a Strong BC

On May 12th, British Columbians will decide who will represent them as government. It's a crucial election that will determine who'll best manage our economy and lead BC through these turbulent economic times. There's a lot at stake for all British Columbians.

We invite you to visit www.bcliberals.com for the most comprehensive digital platform ever in Canada, with links to over 130 videos, policy papers, key government websites and detailed strategies on dozens of issues.

1 Strong leadership and stable government

BC has come a long way over the last eight years, from being the worst economy in Canada to one of the strongest economies on the continent. Today we're better positioned than most places to weather the current global economic downturn. Now is not the time for risky experiments or on-the-job training under the NDP and Carole James. More than ever we need strong leadership and a proven team in government.

2 Living within our means

British Columbians have worked too hard to get their government's fiscal house in order to see that squandered by reckless spending and runaway deficits under the NDP.

Our budget will carefully control spending while allowing us to invest more on core services. It's a big job managing a budget of over \$40 billion. Our record shows that we have a solid plan backed by a competent team that has the vision, skills and experience to properly manage your money.



- Responsibly managing your tax dollars
- Targeting spending where it's needed most: health, education, housing and job creation
- 100 per cent of all future surpluses to be used first to eliminate the operating debt
- Maintaining our Triple A credit rating, the top credit rating possible
- Work toward balanced budgets by 2011





Our province is more competitive and more attractive to new investment and job creation, because every year our government has lowered costs on our economy. We have put more money back in taxpayers' pockets and reduced costs on families and small businesses alike.

3 Lowering costs on our economy

- 44 per cent reduction in small business income tax
- We will reduce the small business income tax to the lowest rate in Canada by April 1, 2012
- Raise the small business income threshold to \$500,000 on January 1, 2010
- Double the BC Training Tax Credit, effective July 1, 2009
- Reduction in general corporate income tax rate to the lowest rate in Canada by 2011
- Eliminating red tape and costly barriers to investment and job creation
- Leading Canada with open trade and labour mobility, and "Open Skies"

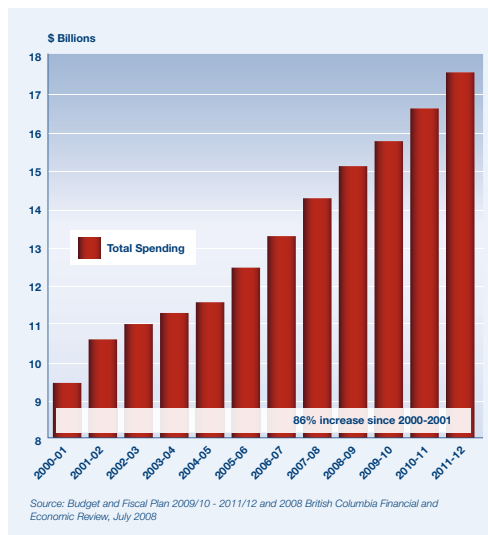
4 Improving and protecting vital public services

90 per cent of all new funding for government over the next three years will go to healthcare

BC's Healthcare system is now ranked as the best in Canada

BC has the longest life expectancy, the best cancer and cardiac care and the most generous Pharmacare program in Canada

Reduced surgical wait times for hip and knee replacements and cardiac care



Increasing investments in healthcare

As the chart shows, total annual funding for healthcare will continue to soar over the next three years, by over 16 per cent. The Ministry of Health Services alone will see a three-year total funding increase of \$4.8 billion. Health spending across government will be \$8 billion more or 86 per cent higher in 2011/12 than the NDP's last full year in office.

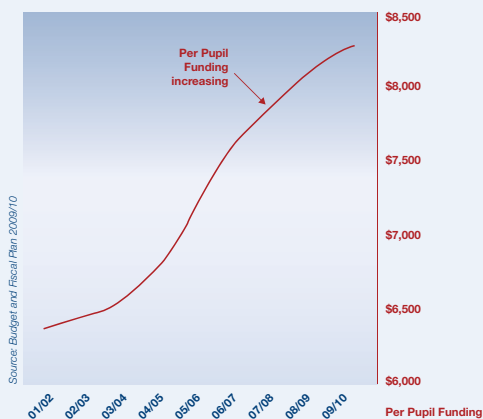
Major expansions: Prince George Regional Hospital; 300-bed Abbotsford Regional Hospital & Cancer Centre; East Kootenay Regional Hospital; Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital; Royal Inland Hospital; Nanaimo Regional General Hospital; and Prince Rupert Regional Hospital; Fort St. John Hospital and Residential Care Project

New: Northern Medical School; Critical care tower at Surrey Memorial Hospital; Surrey Outpatient Hospital; Royal Jubilee Hospital; Emergency department in Victoria; Kelowna General Hospital (Patient Care Tower, Cardiac Care Centre and Medical School); BC Children's Hospital; Patient Care Tower at Vernon Jubilee and Northern Cancer Centre in Prince George

Record-high funding for education

Annual funding for education at all levels will go up by over \$800 million by 2011/12. K-12 education funding will increase by 35 per cent by 2011/12 over 2000/01 levels, despite a continued drop in student enrolment, with 53,000 fewer students today than in 2001. Per pupil funding will rise to historic high levels.

K-12 per pupil education spending



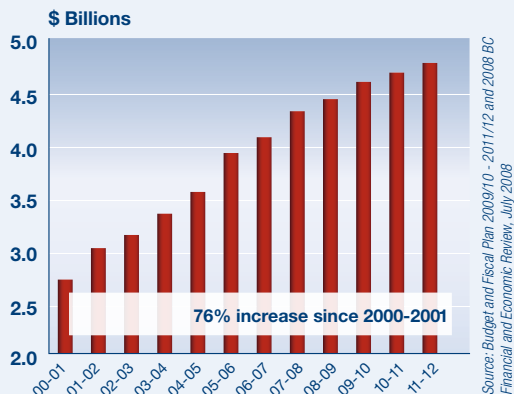
Introducing all day, voluntary five-year-old kindergarten

Increasing access to post-secondary education

Seven new universities:

Vancouver Island University, University of the Fraser Valley, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Emily Carr University of Art and Design, Capilano University, Thompson Rivers University, UBC - Okanagan

Post-secondary funding



Cracking down on crime



1. More police officers
2. More prosecutors
3. More jails and secure courts
4. Tougher laws and sentences
5. Crackdown on illegal guns
6. Outlaw armoured vehicles and body armour
7. New gang hotlines and rewards program

Providing new options and thousands of new homes for seniors



Ending homelessness with new solutions



- Quadrupled funding for social and supportive housing since 2001
- Doubled the number of shelter beds
- New 24/7 access to emergency shelters
- New Rental Assistance Program
- Over \$500 million for new and upgraded affordable housing

Protecting our environment and addressing climate change



- Becoming world leaders in clean energy, new uses of wood, climate action and green growth

5 Investing in jobs and infrastructure

\$14 billion infrastructure program over the next three years, to create up to 88,000 new jobs building roads, bridges, airports, public transit, schools, hospitals, universities, community facilities, and other types of capital infrastructure.



Historically high investments in transportation

The largest investment ever in public transit: \$14 billion

Jobs in every region in mining, agriculture, manufacturing, film and technology

1,000,000 jobs and counting, working with small business



6 Building on our strategic advantage



Forging a new relationship with First Nations

A relationship founded on mutual respect and recognition of Aboriginal rights and title. One that moves beyond the failed approaches of the past with constructive dialogue and a genuine desire to move forward together, as true partners in building a stronger BC.

Creating a bright new future for forestry



- Supporting resource workers
- "Wood First": Strengthening Canada's forest industry
- Creating new wood products, new jobs and a stronger economy
- Turning waste wood into clean, renewable energy
- Creating new value from our forests
- Opening up new markets for BC wood products
- Creating new value from tree planting and carbon sinks

Opening up Canada's Pacific Gateway to Asia

Renewable energy and sustainable jobs for rural BC

- Making BC a leader in clean, renewable energy
- Opening up a new Northern energy corridor that will create billions in investment and thousands of jobs

Building the strength of rural BC in mining and energy

Capitalizing on our unique "Olympic advantage"

- Opening up BC's potential in tourism

Investing in innovation, research and technology