

WEST COAST DAILY

NEWS



**CAMPBELL
SAYS "WE'RE
MOVING UP!"**



**WE'RE
#1**

BC CHILD POVERTY HIGHEST IN CANADA

PLUS



**FIND OUT WHICH
BC CABINET
MINISTER PAYS
\$6.25 AN HOUR**



Find out how much
Gordon Campbell
cut his own taxes.

**100 words
or
less**

2010 Games: Homeless to outnumber athletes

An estimated 3,000 athletes are due to visit Vancouver next February for the Olympics, a number that won't be far off the number of homeless people sleeping on the

streets of Vancouver every night of the multi-billion dollar games.

With the Olympics only 11 months away, Campbell is still trying to figure out how to hide

the homeless from the estimated 10,000 foreign journalists.

Since the BC Liberals were elected, homelessness in BC has risen by over 200 percent.



We're #1 In Child Poverty

Under Gordon Campbell's leadership, one in four children in British Columbia live in poverty. That's the highest child poverty rate in Canada.

"The Province has lost any right to call BC 'The Best Place on Earth' when 181,000 children can call this province the 'Poorest Place on Earth,'" says Jason Luciw, a writer from the Kelowna Capital News.

The province is a record setter, topping the list for the

highest child poverty rates in Canada for five straight years. About half of these children live in families where at least one parent works full-time.

Now, with British Columbia leading the country in the job losses, child poverty will continue to grow.

According to First Call, a coalition of groups working to end poverty, BC has the highest rate of poverty for children because we also have the highest rates of working poor families in Canada.

With too many low-wage jobs in British Columbia, poor kids are left growing up in poor families. Each month, more than 78,000 people use a food bank in BC, one-third of which are children.

BC: The Best Place on Earth (to export raw logs)

Record log exports in BC have led to massive layoffs and an economic crisis in communities all across the province.

Almost 30 million raw logs have been exported since Gordon Campbell took office in 2001. As a result, more than 26,000 high paying forestry jobs have vanished, and fifty-five mills have closed.

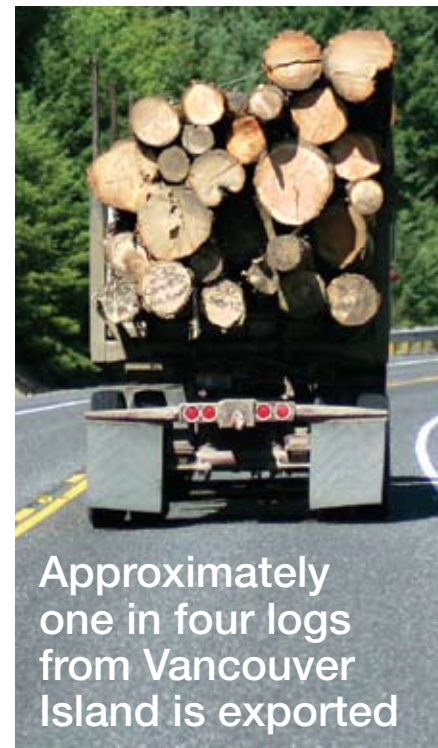
Today on Vancouver Island, about one in four logs is exported, resulting in fewer forestry jobs.

When mills close, the entire local economy feels the effect.

When logs are exported, jobs in lumber processing that support families and communities are exported by the thousands to Washington and Oregon and Asia.

The forest industry and forest communities have been completely abandoned by Gordon Campbell's government.

Worse still, Campbell pretends it's not his fault even though he de-regulated the forest industry and opened the door wide open to raw logs exports which have sky-rocketed.



Approximately one in four logs from Vancouver Island is exported

BC #1 In Canada for Tuition Fee Hikes

Since being elected Premier in 2001, Gordon Campbell holds the distinction of raising college and university tuition fees faster than anywhere else in the country.

"Thanks to Gordon Campbell, students in BC are just flat broke," says Shamus Reid, Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students-BC.

The Campbell government has a poor record when it

comes to the cost of university and college. In 2001, the year Campbell was elected Premier, undergraduate tuition fees in BC averaged \$2,592. Today that number is \$4,960, a 90 percent increase.

As a result, the average student debt upon graduation in BC has sky-rocketed. In 2001, it was the lowest in Canada at \$18,500. Today the average BC student has a debt of \$27,000 when they graduate, the second-highest in the country. From best to near last in 8 years is not what you'd call an academic achievement.



Chequebook health care

Four hundred thousand BC residents don't have a family doctor. The shortage is getting worse not better. The Campbell government broke its promise to build 5,000 seniors care beds. Quality seniors care is getting harder to find. Waiting times for everything from an MRI to seeing a doctor at the emergency ward are getting longer too.

It's pretty clear why. When Gordon Campbell was first elected in 2001, health care spending in BC (as a percentage of GDP) was

2nd highest among Canadian provinces. Gordon Campbell has allowed BC to drop to 7th place.

The Campbell government and corporate promoters of for-profit health care have been doing their best to convince people that the only way to improve Canada's health care system is to open it to private, for-profit, interests. Don't believe it.

Universal public health care—Medicare—is the most efficient, fair and affordable method of providing health care for everyone.

On May 12 X You Can Bring Change to BC

Numero Gordo

The numbers don't lie

\$3,000,000,000: Provincial revenues lost each year thanks to Campbell's tax cuts that led school closures, tuition increases, overcrowded emergency rooms, broken promises and sweeping cuts to important public services that people depend on.

\$9,500: Campbell's savings each year from his income tax cut, in spite of his \$186,000 salary.

\$1,570: Tax savings for individuals earning \$50,000 per year.

\$554: Tax savings for individuals earning \$16,600 per year.

54%: Salary increase Gordon Campbell awarded himself in 2008.

0%: Increase to minimum wage introduced by Campbell in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009.

200,000: Combined population of Nanaimo and Prince George (and the number of children in BC living in poverty).

400,000: The number of BC residents who don't have a family doctor.

7th highest: Health care spending in BC (as a percentage of GDP) compared with other provinces in 2008.

2nd highest: Health care spending in BC (as a percentage of GDP) compared with other provinces in 2001.

200%: Increase in private for-profit medical clinics in BC over the last five years.

3,000: Estimated number of athletes competing in 2010 Winter Olympics.

3,000: Estimated number of homeless people sleeping in the street of Vancouver.

43%: Salary increase Gordon Campbell gave his Deputy Minister which increased her annual salary to \$348,600.

30,000,000: Number of raw logs exported from BC since Gordon Campbell took office in 2001.

26,000: Number of forestry jobs lost since Gordon Campbell took office in 2001.

55: Number of BC mills closed since Gordon Campbell took office in 2001.

School's Out Forever

Waves of school closures hurt students



In the largest wave of school closures in BC history, from 2001 to 2008, the Liberals shut down 177 public schools, disrupting the lives and education of 26,000 students and their families.

These youngsters often face longer school days. They have to travel by bus or car rather than walk to their local school. This impacts their extra-curricular activities and programs in their home communities.

Neighbourhood schools also play an important role beyond education. They serve young people and their families, and provide a public space for programs and events, and a hub for community

Between 1999 and 2005, Saskatchewan increased per capita school funding by \$193, while per capita funding in BC rose by only \$2.

life. But where a community sees value in a school, the Campbell government sees tax savings.

The closures and large class sizes are a direct result of government underfunding. Between 1999 and 2005, Saskatchewan increased per capita school funding by \$193, while per capita funding in BC rose by only \$2.

A Mustel Group poll shows overwhelming support for keeping schools open. Sixty-seven percent said that the "broader role in the neighbourhood" should take precedence over "cost effectiveness."

And the schools that Campbell hasn't yet closed are also being neglected. The Ministry of Education states that there are 3,336 classes in grades 4-12 this year that have more than the recommended 30 students, and 10,985 classes have four or more special-needs children.

Unbelievably, more schools are slated to close or are under the axe in the coming years.

54% For Him, Nothing For You



How would you spend a 54% salary increase?

That's a problem facing Gordon Campbell and his senior bureaucrats these days. In 2007, Premier Campbell voted himself a 54% pay increase, hiking his salary to \$186,200 a year. Include his gold-crusted pension plan and his pay package tops a quarter million big ones a year.

And because its tough to get people to move to Vic-

toria with salaries in the \$200,000 range, Campbell had no choice but to jack up salaries of his advisors. His Deputy Minister needed a 43 percent raise, taking her salary up to \$348,600 (that's not a typo).

In stark contrast, the minimum wage in BC has been frozen at \$8 an hour for 8 years. A person working full time at minimum wage earns \$16,600 a year, the equivalent of Premier Campbell's monthly salary, or what his Deputy Minister takes home every two weeks (also not a typo).

On May 12 ~~X~~ Vote to Fire Gordon Campbell

LOWEST IN CANADA

BC Liberals take credit for eight years of minimum wage freeze

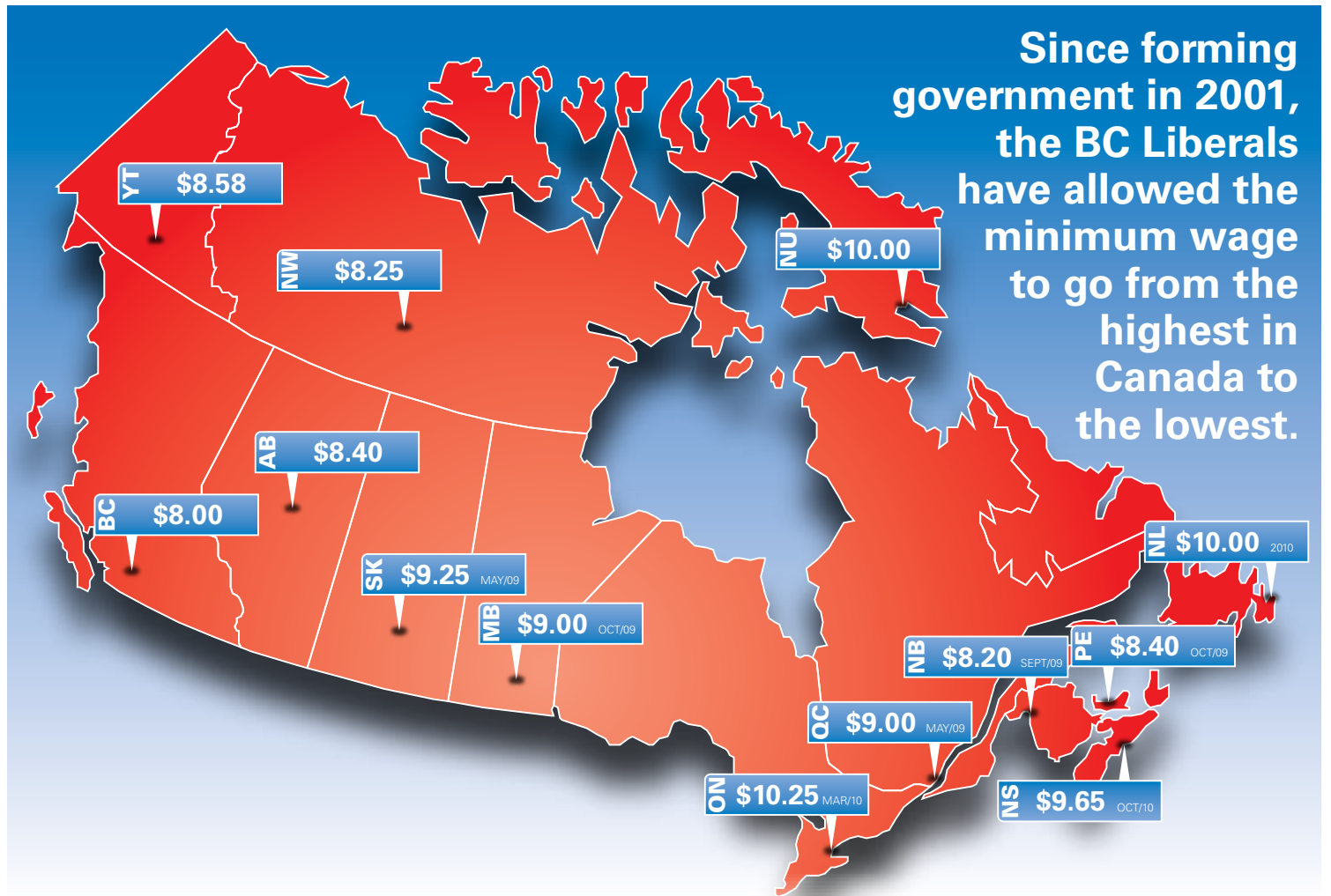
Premier Gordon Campbell is taking full credit for having the lowest minimum wage in Canada as part of his job creation strategy.

BC Labour Minister Iain Black added that raising the minimum wage to \$10 an hour would be catastrophic to the BC economy.

When Gordon Campbell and the BC Liberals took office in 2001, BC's minimum wage was \$8 an hour, the highest in the country. Eight years later it's still \$8.

Campbell did come up with a way to carve \$2 off that by introducing a \$6 an hour "training" wage that included no real training, just a 25 percent wage cut.

Black has also been tasked with keeping a straight face as he answers questions about having the lowest minimum wage in the country. Although the minimum wage hasn't increased in 8 years, Black engages in some mental gymnastics to confuse anyone who suggests its been "frozen". "There's no decision that's been made to 'freeze' the



Since forming government in 2001, the BC Liberals have allowed the minimum wage to go from the highest in Canada to the lowest.

minimum wage, that's absolutely ridiculous," said Black, adding that the freeze hasn't prevented him from increasing his own salary.

Some Liberal caucus members may also be in conflict in supporting the minimum wage freeze. Several Liberals own businesses, including Forestry Minister Pat Bell from Prince George. Bell owns two Wendy's franchises that pay a starting wage of \$6

"The pay hikes stand in stark contrast to the Liberals' refusal to raise the minimum wage. Again, this reinforces the increasingly unshakeable images of the Campbell Liberal government as unfeeling and unsympathetic to those less well-off."

Keith Baldrey, Global BC

to \$8 per hour.

Since forming government in 2001, the BC Liberals have allowed the minimum wage to go from the highest in Canada to the lowest.

Pressure on the Liberals to increase the minimum wage is mounting. 30 municipal councils in BC support an increase to \$10, and over 100,000 people have signed the petition to increase the minimum wage to \$10.

In January, the Minister of Labour in New Brunswick declared that it was "embarrassing" to have one of the lowest minimum wages in the country and his government announced an increase to \$8.25. "It's embarrassing. We're the last in Canada," said Minister Donald Arsenault. "We have a lot to do. Businesses also have to look in the mirror."



THE MRI DEPOT

MRI's aren't cheap.

The waiting lists at public hospitals aren't getting any shorter.

We feel your pain.

No we don't, but we know we can make money off your pain.

THE MRI DEPOT BC
BUY ANY 5 MRI'S,
GET YOUR 6TH
FREE!

This coupon cannot be used in conjunction with our layaway or our "Two for One: Arm and a Leg" offer.