



Privatization

EIGHT YEARS OF BACKROOM DEALS

“When we look at these privatization schemes in more detail, we learn that their main tools for ‘innovation’ are cost minimization, de-skilling staff, employee surveillance, increased hierarchical control, and a unilateral push by the employer to make people work harder – hardly what most would view as ‘innovative’.”

Professor Penny Gurstein, Director, UBC School of Community and Regional Planning

What is Privatization?

Privatization refers to the movement of services performed by public workers to private businesses that make a profit delivering these services.

A **public private partnership** (P3) is a form of privatization. P3s are multi-decade contracts for private management of public services or infrastructure such as hospitals, schools, or bridges.

Gordon Campbell’s Privatization Agenda

Gordon Campbell has unleashed an extensive program of privatization including the delivery of health care services, government information technology and other important public services. His government has also entered into long-term P3 deals in many parts of the province.

Details of these taxpayer funded privatization deals are almost always hidden from the public.

Public Risk + Private Profit = Bad Deal

The cost savings needed to make these privatizations profitable for private business comes at a high cost to workers and the public. Privatized jobs come with lower pay, fewer benefits, heavy workloads, poor training, and no job security. Privatization leads to an erosion in customer service and reduced public accountability.

In a study released in January, respected forensic accountant Ron Parks concluded that the Campbell government’s process for assessing P3s is biased, lacks public accountability and transparency and cost millions of dollars more.



In 18 months, the price [of the Port Mann Bridge Expansion] has more than doubled from the initial estimate of \$1.6 billion to somewhere “on the order of” \$3.3 billion. Sadly for taxpayers, we are not being given the information we need to assess the deal... that will lock us in for 35 years.

Vancouver Sun Editorial on the Port Mann Bridge P3, Feb 6 2009

Parks examined the Abbotsford Hospital, the Sea to Sky Highway, the Canada Line Skytrain extension and the Gordon and Leslie Diamond Health Care Centre. Parks discovered these projects cost hundreds of millions of dollars more because they were built as P3s.

He’s Their Man

In 2008, Gordon Campbell was presented with the 2008 Champion of the Year award by the The Canadian Council for Public-Private Partnerships. Council members include many of the same multi-nationals that have signed lucrative privatization deals with Campbell’s government.

“The Sea-to-Sky P3 will cost taxpayers over \$220 million more than a traditionally procured and financed project.”

Marvin Shaffer, Professor, SFU Public Policy Program



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works for all British Columbians.

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