



Women's Rights

FIGHT YEARS OF CUTS AND NEGLECT

The Campbell Record on Women's Rights

- The poverty rate among single mothers in BC rose 15.8 per-cent between 2000 and 2004.
- One-third of BC's social assistance recipients are single-parents, about 90 per-cent of them are mothers.
- Benefits to a single mother with one child constituted only 48 per-cent of the low-income cut-off established by Statistics Canada.
- For a single mother with two children this figure was 43 per-cent.
- Under the Campbell government, single mothers were redefined as "employable" when their youngest child turned three. Previously it was seven.
- Single mothers in Norway and Austria have over \$1,500 in disposable income after paying for accommodation. In BC, single moms have \$414.
- Women working full-time all year in 2003 earned an average of 70.5 per-cent of the wages of male counterparts.
- Women constitute two-thirds of all British Columbians earning minimum wage.
- Campbell's policies have widened gender inequalities by reducing public services, gutting employment standards, freezing the minimum wage and reducing funding for child-care.
- Nearly two-thirds of women university graduates coming from lower income families report that financial barriers stood in the way of their post-secondary education.
- Female students are more likely to work part-time during the academic year, a choice reflecting their lower wages.
- From 2000 to 2005, the numbers of British Columbians receiving home support dropped 24 per-cent even as the number of seniors, a majority of whom are women, increased.
- There are only 17 women in BC's 79 member legislature and only 5 women in Campbell's 23 member Cabinet.
- BC Liberals dismantled the Public Sector Employer's Council Pay Equity Policy Framework, removed pay equity from the **Human Rights Code** and cancelled the reporting process on employment equity data collection.
- Under Campbell, government funding is no longer available to women's advocates and the Ministry of Women's Equality was eliminated. His government has dismantled reporting bodies and eliminated mandates to report on gender and other forms of equity.
- Women's equality issues have now completely disappeared from the official policy landscape.



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For too many women, living in poverty means not being able to provide a safe, secure home and adequate nutritious food for their children...Poverty also makes women more vulnerable to violence, abuse and exploitation. Addressing the poverty of women must be a central component of any poverty reduction strategy.

The province of British Columbia has the highest rates of poverty in the country...Single mothers of colour, aboriginal, or recent immigrants are most likely to live in poverty. This increase in poverty is directly related to Liberal policies, including reductions in income assistance levels, low minimum wage rates, disappearing higher-wage jobs in the public sector, and reduced access to childcare.

Prof. Gillian Creese,
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It's time for a government that

works for all British Columbians.

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