

## Excerpts from the BC Liberal Platform

[Read the full platform here.](#)

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- Over \$800 million in additional annual funding for education by 2011/12
- Over \$300 million in extra funding over three years for vital social services
- More funding for child care subsidies, services for children and families with special needs, and supports for adults with developmental Disabilities
- New investments in social housing and new housing for seniors

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### Largest investments ever in new hospitals and health facilities

- The new BC Children's Hospital will be another major addition to the health care improvements we will provide to British Columbians.

### New support for rural and Northern families

- A BC Liberal Government will create a new program to provide new travel and accommodation assistance to families who must travel long distances to be with their children when they are receiving care.
- The new \$13 million BC Family Residence program will be launched this summer to provide those families with new travel and accommodation support, starting at BC Children's Hospital and expanding in the years ahead.

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### Record-high funding for education

- Under our Platform, annual funding for education at all levels will go up by over \$800 million by 2011/12.
- Funding for students with special needs is also on the rise, and new funding is being provided for helping students with autism.
- This year, we are providing new grants for playground expansions, more money for ESL programs, and new funding for community literacy programs, distance learning and seismically upgrading schools.

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### Pursuing excellence in education

- New efficiencies will be sought to redirect savings from administration to new performance incentives that will be developed through the Learning Roundtable.
- We will launch a major education review to be sure we are putting up-to-date tools in the hands of parents and teachers that will work for all our children.
- The Foundation Skills Assessment will remain an important part of our plan.
- We will also launch a comprehensive curriculum review to identify areas needing more attention, including a new focus on climate change, Aboriginal history, personal health and personal financial planning.
- We will work to ensure each dollar is being put to the best use in each classroom and parents will help shape the educational strategies of the decades ahead.
- A BC Liberal Government will give parents, teachers and principals the right to decide through School Planning Councils whether video surveillance cameras should be installed in their schools to help protect students and their property.
- All day, voluntary five-year-old kindergarten will be established and the plan for its development will include early childhood education expansion for interested

teachers. Eventually, voluntary preschool opportunities will be established for four-year olds, as the economy starts to grow again.

- We will continue to establish StrongStart Centres in schools across the province.
- The Neighbourhoods of Learning model will be expanded and developed in concert with parents, community groups, Boards of Education and City Councils who are interested.

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- Our Platform calls for additional funding increases for advanced education over the next three years.

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### **New support for students**

- We will continue to limit tuition increases to the rate of inflation.
- We will maintain this year's higher funding levels for student aid and create new time-limited tuition assistance programs for displaced forest workers, miners and other workers to help them through this global recession.
- A BC Liberal Government will also work with universities, colleges, TransLink and BC Transit to introduce a common U-Pass program for all post-secondary students across BC. All student bodies will have the option to participate in a universal, accessible, affordable public transit program that lowers their transit costs. For a flat fee that is the same for students throughout Metro Vancouver, and lower for students in other areas that have less access to public transit, all students will have equitable, affordable access to public transit in their regions. A BC Liberal Government will deliver that new support for students by September 2010.

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### **More services for children and families**

- Our plan increases funding for Children and Family Development.
- We will increase funding for early childhood development, childcare and supports to children with special needs.
- The budget for Adult Community Living Services will also increase this year.

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### **Ending homelessness with new solutions**

- This year, we will spend \$469 million on housing programs in BC.
- We will expand the new outreach programs that now operate in 48 communities to connect homeless people with safe housing and shelters, income assistance, employment counseling, and medical services.

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### **Improving community safety**

- A BC Liberal Government will also strengthen initiatives to stop school bullying, and it will move aggressively to combat the use and abuse of dangerous drugs, like crystal meth.
- It will expand partnerships with non-profit and volunteer organizations to further expand access to 24/7 safe homes for women escaping violent or abusive relationships.