



## NEWS RELEASE

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**\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\***

### **New poll shows British Columbians opposed to BC government cutting public services**

**British Columbia** – Results of a mid-August poll by Ipsos Reid, done on behalf of the B.C. Federation of Labour and a number of public sector unions, show strong support for budget measures that help BC families weather the current economic downturn. “These results confirm what the labour movement has been saying for a long time: the provincial government needs to take decisive steps now to protect valuable public services that working families in this province need,” said Jim Sinclair, President of the B.C. Federation of Labour.

“Unfortunately, the Campbell government has so far ignored our call for these steps. We’re hoping that the tabling of a revised budget on September 1<sup>st</sup> will show a change of direction, a change that begins to align the government’s budget priorities with the majority of people in BC,” Sinclair added.

“It’s obvious from this poll that voters will not accept balancing the books by cuts to valuable public services,” Sinclair said.

The poll found strong support for a variety of budget measures:

- 86 percent supported investing in more public services like post-secondary education and re-training programs for unemployed workers.
- 75 percent opposed cuts to services like child protection, legal aid and provincial parks to balance the budget.
- 61 percent opposed cuts to spending on environmental protections and enforcement to balance the budget.
- 84 percent supported increased funding for local health authorities to prevent cuts to health services.
- 85 percent supported new initiatives to protect and create jobs in British Columbia.
- 76 percent supported creating a new childcare program to help working families.

“The poll also showed that British Columbians are looking for greater tax fairness from the provincial government. When 76 percent of respondents support increasing taxes paid by corporations and BC’s wealthy, it tells me that BC voters are very receptive to meaningful tax reform,” Sinclair noted.

“We will be in Victoria for the budget presentation on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Hopefully, the priorities reflected in these polling numbers are also reflected in what the Finance Minister tables in the Legislature. British Columbians deserve nothing less,” Sinclair concluded.

- 30 -

*The telephone poll was conducted by Ipsos Reid August 8th-12th, 2009. The survey of 801 adult British Columbians has a margin of error of +/-3.5%, 19 times out of 20.*

#### **To arrange for an interview with Jim Sinclair, please contact:**

Summer McFadyen, Assistant to the President: 604-728-7744 (smcfadyen@bcfed.ca).

Encl: BCFL Public Services Opinion Poll

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