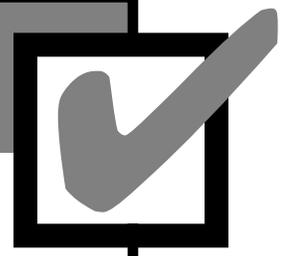


**MAY
17**

Make your vote count

for Acute Care in British Columbia



Campbell Liberals' policies cause chaos in BC hospitals

In 2001, BC had the leanest in-patient acute care system in Canada. Yet, between March 2002 and March 2004, the BC Liberals closed 1,279 hospital acute care beds, and downgraded, downsized or closed 71 hospitals.

The result? Patient gridlock in acute care units, increased waitlists, reduced staffing, unused operating rooms, and crowded ERs.

At Surrey Memorial Hospital, where a breakdown in emergency care led to the firing of Fraser Health CEO Bob Smith, the chaos in acute care has been compounded by cuts to long-term care and home health support programs – a move that's landed many seniors in acute care beds. It's a province-wide problem.

Patient care also suffered from the Campbell government's massive privatization agenda, which eliminated 8,000 skilled, experienced health care workers and handed hundreds of millions of dollars in contracts to foreign corporations, who then hired

fewer staff at half the wages.

News reports – particularly in the Lower Mainland – have raised serious concerns about infection control and hospital cleanliness, leading to a province-wide audit of privatized housekeeping services.

Last spring, the BC Liberals imposed a 15% wage rollback on more than 40,000 health care workers, sparking further recruitment and retention problems. Statistics show that wage rates for trades workers, renal dialysis, biomedical, cardio and pharmacy technicians are now more than 10% lower than their Alberta counterparts.

For rural residents, hospital closures and downsizing have forced people to travel longer distances for services, putting patients requiring critical care at increased risk.

And despite growing surgical waitlists, many BC operating rooms are sitting idle or not functioning at full capacity.

Acute care cuts

Beds closed

- Interior Health - 387
- Fraser Health - 457
- Vancouver Coastal Health - 158
- Vancouver Island Health - 141
- Northern Health - 139
- and more...

Hospitals closed

- Ashcroft & District General Hospital
- Enderby & District Hospital
- Gorge Road Hospital (Victoria)
- Kimberley & District Hospital
- Pleasant Valley Health Centre (Armstrong)
- Saint Mary's Hospital (New Westminster)
- Sparwood Hospital
- Victorian Community Health Centre (Kaslo)

Hospitals downgraded

- Castlegar & District Hospital
- Cumberland Health Care Centre
- Delta Hospital
- Kootenay Lake Hospital (Nelson)
- Ladysmith Hospital
- Mission Memorial Hospital
- Port Alice Hospital
- Princeton General Hospital
- Summerland Hospital
- UBC Hospital

*** Plus more than 50 hospitals that have been downsized since 2001*

Questions for candidates

1. What steps will you take to deal with the developing crisis in hospital emergency rooms, and how will you ensure operating rooms are functioning at full capacity?
2. What will you do to improve access to acute care services in rural areas?
3. How will your party address workload and staff morale issues in BC hospitals?

Gordon Campbell's Liberals

PUTTING OUR HEALTH CARE AT RISK

Authorized by the Hospital Employees' Union, Mary LaPlante registered sponsor under the Elections Act, 604-438-5000

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