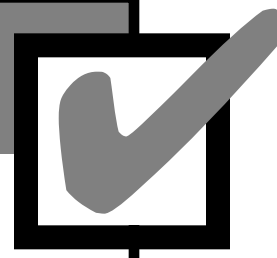


**MAY  
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# Make your vote count

## for Public Health Care in BC



## Campbell Liberals selling off public health care

The Campbell Liberals' privatization agenda is steadily eroding BC's public health care. Despite coast-to-coast polls showing how much Canadians value public health care, Gordon Campbell's policies have made serious inroads toward creating a private, for-profit health care system in BC.

### MEDICAL SERVICES PLAN (MSP):

On April 1, 2005, the Campbell Liberals handed over the operations of BC's Medical Services Plan (MSP) and PharmaCare to an American company – Maximus – with a 10-year, \$324 million contract. The deal gives the company access to British Columbians' medical, pharmaceutical, financial, criminal and other private records.

The post-911 *USA Patriot Act* allows the FBI complete access to all personal and confidential information contained in American companies' databases, leaving British Columbians vulnerable to privacy invasion.

Privatizing MSP also violates the *Canada Health Act*, which enforces public, non-profit health care administration.

### KEY HEALTH CARE SUPPORT SERVICES:

With the passage of Bill 29, key health care support services – including laundry, housekeeping, dietary, security and others – were privatized in a "bidding war", where large corporations vied for lucrative multi-year contracts.

In the process, more than 8,000 skilled, experienced health care workers were fired and hundreds

over...

## Questions for candidates

1. Will you repeal legislation that has made it easier to privatize health care?
2. Will you support legislation that makes it possible to crackdown on private clinics that violate the *Canada Health Act*?
3. Will you end the practice of funding health care infrastructure through P3s?

## WHO GOT THE PRIVATE CONTRACTS?

### Fraser Health Authority

- Housekeeping - French-based **Sodexo**
- Security - **Intercon**
- Laundry - US-controlled **K-Bro Linen**
- Retail food services - UK-based **Compass Group (Morrison)**
- *and others*

### Vancouver Coastal Health Authority

- Food services - **Sodexo**
- Security - **Paladin**
- Laundry - **K-Bro Linen**
- Housekeeping - US-based, **Aramark**
- *and others*

### Vancouver Island Health Authority

- Housekeeping - **Compass Group (Crothall)**
- Retail and patient food - **Compass Group (Morrison)**
- *and others*

### Provincial Health Services Authority

- Housekeeping - **Compass Group (Crothall)**
- Retail and patient food - **Compass Group (Morrison)**

## 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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of millions of dollars in public funds were handed over to private multinationals to deliver health care services.

## **PRIVATE CLINICS:**

A surge in private clinics in BC has led to \$126,000 in fines levied by the federal government for BC's violations under the *Canada Health Act*.

- in Sept/Oct 2004, more than 1,300 day surgeries were contracted-out in the Lower Mainland
- Lion's Gate Hospital privatized cataract eye surgeries to the Northmount Eye Surgical Centre in North Vancouver
- St. Paul's Hospital moved to contract-out 1,000 day surgeries at an additional cost to taxpayers of \$800,000
- Vancouver Coastal Health Authority is seeking bids to contract-out hundreds of day surgeries at Richmond Hospital
- Provincial Health Services Authority issued a Request for Proposal for approximately 100 monthly surgical procedures at BC Children's Hospital

## **PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (P3):**

The Campbell Liberal government has been determined to create public-private partnerships in health care despite evidence showing that these projects are subject to cost overruns and a lack of public scrutiny.

Abbotsford's MSA General Hospital will be phased out when BC's first privatized health care facility, the Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre, opens. Vancouver General Hospital's Academic Ambulatory Care Centre is also a P3 project in the works.

And St. Paul's Hospital's redevelopment agenda to build a new facility in False Creek may follow suit. A Providence Health Care news release has revealed plans to "maximize public-private partnership opportunities for facility renewal and development."

The private consortium, Access Health Abbotsford – who won the bid on the Abbotsford hospital – has already overrun costs by 94%. The project's cost estimate has risen from \$720 million to \$1.4 billion. Construction costs rose from \$211 million in 2001 to \$355 million as of January 2005. And the annual service payments on the 33-year contract have doubled to \$40.6 million – money that will come from the Fraser Health Authority's operating budget – funds that could be funnelled to public health care services.

In addition, the BC Liberals have closed more than 2,500 long-term care beds and used affordable housing funds to build assisted living units through public-private partnerships, costing seniors and their families more money for care.

*"Many of the so-called 'new solutions' being proposed for health care – pay-as-you-go, user and facility fees, fast-track treatment for the lucky few, and waitlists for everyone else – are not new at all. We've been there. They are old solutions that didn't work then, and were discarded for that reason. And the preponderance of evidence is that they will not work today."*

**Roy J. Romanow, Q.C.  
Chair, Royal Commission  
on the The Future of  
Health Care in Canada,  
November 2002**

# Gordon Campbell's Liberals

## PUTTING OUR HEALTH CARE AT RISK

