

Full Evaluation, Rank, and Grade
Document of the British Columbia
Political Parties in the 2009 BC General
Election

Evaluation and Ranking Document Completed by

the  Foundation for Democratic Advancement
(May 5, 2009)

The Foundation for Democratic Advancement is a non-partisan advocate for the public in issues of democracy and elections.
(www.democracychange.com)

Purpose of Evaluation: To determine a non-partisan, objective grading and ranking of the British Columbia (provincial) political parties in terms of viability and better representative of British Columbians as a whole.

This determination is an independent perspective to give the residents, candidates, and parties of British Columbia an informed, non-partisan, objective perspective on the political parties in the 2009 BC General Election.

The views in this non-partisan Evaluation are the views of the FDA. Also, the Determination is an example of a way to assist voters in making their decisions at the ballot boxes and holding political representatives and their parties accountable.

There are 32 registered BC political parties:

Advocational International Democratic Party of British Columbia
The Annexation Party of British Columbia
BC NDP
BC Refederation Party
BC Youth Coalition
British Columbia Conservative Party
British Columbia Democratic Futures Party
British Columbia Liberal Party
British Columbia Libertarian Party
British Columbia Marijuana Party
British Columbia Party
British Columbia Patriot Party
British Columbia Social Credit Party
Citizen's Action Party

Communist Party of BC
Democratic Reform BC
The Emerged Democracy Party of British Columbia
The Freedom Party of British Columbia
The Green Party Political Association of British Columbia
The Herb Party
Link BC
The Moderate Democratic Movement
Nation Alliance Party
Party of Citizens Who Have Decided to Think For Themselves
And Be Their Own Politicians
People's Front
The People of British Columbia Millionaires Party
Planting Seeds Party
The Platinum Party of Employers Who Think and Act to Increase
Awareness
The Progressive Nationalist Party of British Columbia
Reform Party of British Columbia
The Sex Party
Western Canada Concept Party of BC
Western Party
Work Less Party of British Columbia
Your Political Party of BC

*Note, though some of the political parties are outside of the mainstream British Columbia politics, it is important from an objective standpoint, to be open to all ideas and perspectives. Ultimately, the grading and ranking results will determine the merit of the political parties.

Also, the FDA and its members are in no way affiliated with any of the political candidates and parties in this Evaluation.

The Evaluation represents an assessment of the British Columbia political parties based on objectivity, transparency, and non-partisanship.

Methodology for Evaluation and Grading/Ranking of the BC Political Parties:

Overall: Establish the basic priorities of British Columbians as a whole, and use those basic priorities to evaluate/grade/rank the political parties.

The basic priorities of British Columbians as a whole:

Economy (sound development, management of the BC economy for the benefit of all British Columbians)

Budget (sound, fiscal management of public revenue and expenditure, and fair distribution of government expenditure to all sectors of British Columbia.)

Health: (improved and equality of service across British Columbia.)

Education: (improved quality of public education.)

Housing: (increased low income housing and stabilization of rent increases.)

Environment: (more responsible, sustainable management of the BC environment.)

Methodology for Evaluating, Grading, and Ranking:

Qualitative analysis of the BC political parties, and qualitative results converted into quantitative results.

The evaluation will be based on comparison of political parties in light of the basis priorities of British Columbians.

The political parties will be graded and ranked for each area of evaluation, and then the results will be combined for an overall grade and rank.

Note, there is no perfect evaluation of the BC political parties or any person or organization for that matter. The FDA strives to assist voters with their decision-making and hold political parties accountable. The FDA views its non-partisan grading and ranking results as one perspective of potentially many. Ultimately, voters must decide for themselves which political party is in their better interest.

Focuses of Evaluating/Grading/Ranking:

1. Determine the viability of the BC political parties based on the number of party members running in the 2009 election.

Viable political party is defined as a party which runs candidates in 36 BC constituencies (out of a total of 70), and therefore has a reasonable chance of representing British Columbians.

The political parties determined unviable, will be removed from the remaining of the evaluation process.

The determined viable parties in terms of basic structure will be evaluated in terms of party leadership, party vision, incumbency record (if relevant) and party policies.

2. Evaluate party leadership based on the leaders' backgrounds including qualifications and experience. The party leaders will receive a score from 0-10.

3. Evaluate party vision based on the basic priorities of British Columbians. The parties will receive a score from 0-10.

4. Evaluate the incumbency record of the BC Liberals based on the basic priorities of British Columbians. The BC Liberals will receive a score of 0-20. (This score will be added to the total percentage score for the BC Liberals.)

5. Evaluate the policies of the political parties in each policy section

based on a comparison of the political parties' policies in light of the basic priorities: economy, budget, health, education, housing, and environment.

One evaluation criteria will be adopted for each section:

Soundness of policy. It will have a score from 1-10

Weighting:

The policy section will have a total weighting of 60, incumbency 20, and background and vision 20.

So in essence, policies will have a three times the weighting of the background and vision sections, and two-thirds the overall weighting when incumbency is added.

This weighting should not impact the significance of parties' visions, because vision should be reflected in policies. Also, party policy of an incumbent should reflect its past policy, and therefore, the higher weighting for policies should not dilute the incumbency weighting. And party leadership though important, is contingent on what a party does or its policies.

Information sources:

Media articles and analysis of political parties.

Political parties policy statements, including policy platforms.

Relevant questions answered by representatives of the political parties on a need basis.

Chief Evaluator, Stephen Garvey, CEO of the FDA. (www.democracychange.com)

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Evaluation/Rank/Grade of the 2009 BC Political
Parties

1. Determination of Viable BC Political Parties:

2009 registered British Columbia Political Parties:

Advocational International Democratic Party of British Columbia
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BC Refederation Party
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Reform Party of British Columbia
The Sex Party
Western Canada Concept Party of BC

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Work Less Party of British Columbia
Your Political Party of BC

The criteria for determining a viable political party from an unviable political party is whether or not a party is running candidates in 36 BC constituencies (out of a total of 70). A party with 35 or less candidates is deemed unviable.

The FDA established this criterion in order to filter out parties that have no hope of forming the BC government as a result of the 2009 BC election.

The BC Liberals, BC NDP, and BC Green party, are the only parties to have 70 candidates.

The closest fourth party is the BC Conservatives, in which it has 24 candidates. It is reasonable to say that the BC Conservatives have no hope itself of forming the BC government.

Hence, this evaluation is narrowed down to three parties: BC Liberals, BC NDP, and BC Green Party.

2. Backgrounds of Party Leaders

Gordon Campbell (BC Liberals)

Gordon Campbell is British Columbia's 34th Premier. His government was sworn into office on June 5, 2001 with the largest majority in B.C. history. On May 17, 2005, he became the first Premier in over 20 years to be re-elected in British Columbia.

Mr. Campbell inherited a provincial economy from the previous NDP government that was among the worst in the country. People were leaving the province in search of opportunity elsewhere. Mr. Campbell and the B.C. Liberals vowed to fix the economy and bring in a new era of hope and prosperity. In the seven years since being sworn into office, the government has brought in major reforms to help meet those objectives.

Bold tax cuts on the first day in office sent the clear signal that B.C. was open for business. As a result, B.C. now has among the lowest personal income tax rates in the country. Investment was encouraged by reducing business taxes and eliminating the tax on corporate capital, giving B.C. amongst the lowest corporate and small business taxes of the G7 nations. These actions, combined with a government-wide commitment to fiscal discipline, allowed the province to introduce the first balanced budget under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

Since the Campbell plan was put in place, B.C.'s economy has dramatically improved and is now one of the strongest in the country. B.C.'s job growth is leading the nation. Fiscal prudence and renewed economic vigour has allowed for record investments in important programs such as health care and education.

An ambitious plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 33 per cent has made B.C. a leader in the fight against climate change. New programs have been introduced to help every British Columbian reduce their emissions and save money. Mr. Campbell also began the process of building a New Relationship with First Nations People and invested record amounts in closing the social and economic gaps between aboriginals and non aboriginals that have persisted for generations.

Personal Background

Gordon Campbell is married to his wife of over 38 years, Nancy. She is a principal in the Howe Sound School District. Nancy and Gordon have two grown sons, Geoffrey and Nicholas. Mr. and Mrs. Campbell are voracious readers, have coached soccer and baseball, and climbed Mount Kilimanjaro with their sons to help raise over \$130,000 for the Alzheimer Society of B.C.

Mr. Campbell taught under the auspices of CUSO in Yola, Nigeria in the early 1970s. While there he coached state championship teams in basketball and track-and-field and helped rebuild the school library. His personal commitment to literacy expanded while he was Mayor of Vancouver, when he spearheaded the creation of the new public library

and was instrumental in bringing the Peter Gzowski golf tournament to Vancouver.

Mr. Campbell has a B.A. in English from Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. He received his MBA from Simon Fraser University after attending the Executive MBA program at nights while he was still working.

Mr. Campbell has been awarded the Simon Fraser University “Distinguished Alumni” Award and the Inter-Faith Brotherhood “Man of the Year” Award. Mr. Campbell was also granted the rare honour of being given a First Nations name by the Ahousaht First Nation in recognition of his efforts to improve the lives of First Nations people. Campbell’s First Nations name is Chamatook, which means: “The one who is able to do the right thing and bring harmony.” Mr. Campbell is also the author of a children’s book, *Tuaq: The Only One* which was published in 1995. He was born in Vancouver.

Past Leadership Experience

Before he became Premier, Mr. Campbell was leader of the Opposition from 1993 to 2001. Prior to that, he served as Mayor of Vancouver for three terms, from 1986 to 1993, during which time he served as president of the Union of BC Municipalities. As Mayor, his council re-zoned the False Creek, Burrard Inlet and Fraser Lands areas, creating what many have recognized as North America’s most liveable downtown core. Mr. Campbell’s council also introduced the country’s first needle exchange program, launched the blue box recycling program, spearheaded the creation of Vancouver’s internationally-renowned public library and protected more heritage buildings and created more park space than ever before in the city’s history.

As Chair of the Greater Vancouver Regional District, Mr. Campbell guided the region’s Creating Our Future program. That led to the Liveable Region Strategy, which was adopted in the mid-1990s.

Gordon Campbell has been involved in public life since 1984. His innovations include: the city caucus structure in Vancouver; the first fixed provincial election dates in Canada; free votes in the Legislature; a fixed legislative calendar; and the first ever Provincial Congress, which brings together all MLAs, MPs, Senators, and 15 Mayors from every region of the province. Perhaps his government's boldest reform initiative was the creation of a Citizens’ Assembly, which was established to recommend how the Legislature should be elected.

Throughout his time in office, Mr. Campbell has shown himself to be a leader who delivers results. He is a reformer who believes in the power of ideas to strengthen our public institutions.

(Source: BC Liberal’s biographical information on Gordon Campbell.)

FDA Summary:

BA, MBA

Teaching experience

3 terms of Mayor of Vancouver

8 Years as leader of BC opposition
8 years as Premier of BC

Carole James (BC NDP)

Carole James has led British Columbia's New Democratic Party since 2003. In May 2005, Carole was elected MLA for Victoria-Beacon Hill and leader of the largest NDP Opposition in BC's history.

Upon becoming party leader, Carole set to work reaching out to British Columbians and building a compassionate and fiscally responsible alternative to the Campbell government's extreme and one-sided agenda.

While the Campbell government was slashing public services, laying off health care workers, and deregulating environment protection, Carole argued that economic growth, fiscal responsibility, and strong public services go hand-in-hand. She said the traditional divides in BC politics no longer reflect the daily reality in the lives of average British Columbians. To secure BC's future, every person and every community matters.

In 2005, British Columbians from all walks of life and all parts of the province responded to Carole's message sending 33 NDP MLAs to the Legislature in Victoria.

As Opposition Leader, Carole and her team have established a reputation as out-spoken advocates for average British Columbians who are being ignored by an arrogant and out-of touch administration. Under Carole's leadership, the NDP has exposed the Campbell government's shameful treatment of seniors, its disregard for working people, and its flagrant abuse of public funds, like the \$500 million spent on convention centre cost overruns.

But for Carole, leading BC's Opposition has always meant more than opposing the government. It's also about proposing solutions. To that end, Carole has laid out a far-reaching agenda for change, articulating a vision for BC's future where average people and communities are treated with respect and have a say in the decisions that affect their lives. In consultation with British Columbians, Carole has laid out a plan to re-vitalize BC's forest communities, to protect seniors, to help working people make ends meet, to fix health care and to protect BC's environment. And she has continued to promote a competitive economy that benefits business, entrepreneurs, and working people.

In 2007, for example, after consulting with BC's business community and working people, Carole said a New Democrat government would BC's lowest paid workers their first raise in seven years and cut small business taxes. Carole's balanced approach is also reflected in her commitment to a fair and effective climate action plan that provides incentives to change behavior while getting tough on big polluters; in her commitment innovation and entrepreneurship in our forest through tenure reform; and in her plan to reduce taxes for middle-income British Columbians.

Carole's approach to politics and public life was shaped, in large part, by her upbringing. Born in England, Carole immigrated to Canada as a young child. She learned her values from her parents and grandparents who were deeply involved in the life of their community, in humanitarian work and in the peace movement. Her siblings included many foster children and she learned from a very young age to stand up for her rights and her principles. In Grade 7 she remembers leading a demonstration in her school to allow

girls to wear pants - an early political act that showed the tenacity and purpose that has defined in her contribution to public life that began by being involved in her children's education.

In 1990, Carole was elected as a school trustee in Greater Victoria, a position she held for 11 years. From there, she went on to become President of the B.C. School Trustee Association, elected for an unprecedented five terms. As Chair, Carole earned her reputation for strong and inclusive leadership. Among her many accomplishments, Carole counts the role she played improving education for First Nations students and fighting to ensure broad public consultation on school board amalgamations.

In 1999, Carole decided to take up a position in government leading the development of a province-wide child care program. Though she and her team made great progress, Gordon Campbell's 2001 election victory spelled the end of improved access to child care for working parents. Instead of creating new opportunities for children and their families, Carole was asked by the new government to slash budgets and dismantle years of work. Because the Campbell government wasn't interested in child care, Carole left government to apply her passion where she could make a difference.

That opportunity came when Carole accepted a position as Director of Child and Family Services for Carrier Sekani Family Services, an agency serving First Nations communities throughout the North in the area of child welfare.

Carole's experience living in Northern BC had a profound impact on her life. She developed a first hand appreciation of rural BC and the enormous contribution it makes to the well-being of the entire province. She also saw how top-down decision making in Victoria can adversely affect people living hundreds of miles away. It was in the North where she met her husband Al Gerow. And it was the advice of a Northern First Nations elder - who told her that she had a responsibility to take what she learned in the North and apply it as NDP leader - that helped her decide to enter the BC NDP leadership race in 2003.

Five years later, Carole lives in Victoria with her husband and is the proud parent of her two children, Alison and Evan.

(Source: BC NDP's biographical information on Carole James.)

“Never held a private sector job or managed a payroll, but wants to control B.C.’s \$38-billion budget.

Opposed to the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games: “I didn’t support the government trying to gain the Olympics.” (CBC radio, Jan. 16, 2004)

Against the new Port Mann Bridge: “The wrong bridge and the wrong plan.” (CTV, Sept. 27, 2007)

Opposed reducing taxes and has stated: “It doesn’t work to make tax cuts.” (CFAX radio, Aug. 6, 2003)

Doesn’t believe that MLAs should have free votes in the Legislature.

Wants to rip up the Softwood Lumber Agreement.

Plans to dismantle the independent power sector, eliminating thousands of rural jobs.”

(Source: BC Liberals)

FDA Summary:

No formal education beyond high school diploma

Experience in health/social sector

3 years in BC government, Childcare Development division

11 years as School Trustee

5 terms as President of the BC School Trustee

3 years as leader of the BC opposition

Jane Sterk (Green Party)

Jane Sterk, Leader of the Green Party of BC, brings a wealth of experience, commitment and understanding to her position as leader, thanks in large part to her success in business, politics, government, and education.

She has the innate ability to identify and address the issues that affect individuals, families and communities, and the determination to work toward the transitions we all must make if we're to prosper and thrive in the future.

Long an advocate for environmental responsibility and sustainability, social justice and fair trade, Jane served as councillor in the Township of Esquimalt, on Vancouver Island, where she topped the polls when she was elected in November, 2005.

She also ran an effective campaign in the 2005 Provincial election under the Green Party banner. In the 2004 Federal Election, Jane had the distinction of garnering the 5th highest number of Green votes out of 308 Canadian ridings.

Jane is an adjunct professor at University Canada West where she teaches MBA courses in Business Environment and Organizational Behaviour. She owned a retail business in the computer industry which created 60 full time positions

Jane Sterk has a Ph.D. in Counselling Psychology and a Masters in Education. She worked as a psychologist in private practice and the public health system and as a public school teacher. The mother of two grown sons, and the very proud grandmother of two, Jane and her husband John, a retired lawyer, is also an accomplished sailor, enjoys yoga, cycling, swimming, running and walking.

(Source: BC Green Party)

FDA Summary:

MA in Education, PhD in counseling psychology

Business owner experience

Former psychologist

Adjunct Professor for MBA courses

Former City Councillor

Ran for office in 2004 Federal Election and 2005 Provincial Election
Background Evaluation:

Basis for evaluation: Leadership--identifies issues and act on them, vision, strength to carry through, independent yet team player, and strong communication with public.

Sub scores:

	Campbell	James	Sterk
Education:	8/10	5/10	8/10
Profession Experience:	5/10	5/10	7/10
Political Experience:	10/10	7/10	5/10
Total:	23/30	17/30	20/30

Score:	Campbell	James	Sterk
	7.7/10	5.7/10	6.7/10

Rational: Both Campbell and Sterk have equally strong educational backgrounds, and James' education is limited to her experience in the health/social sector.

Through her business experience, Sterk has the strongest professional experience of the three candidates, and Campbell and James have limited professional experience.

Campbell has very strong political experience, followed by James and then Sterk.

3. Visions for British Columbia by the Parties

BC Liberals

to Keep B.C. Strong by creating jobs, stability and confidence in the economy. The Conference Board of Canada predicts that British Columbia will lead the nation in economic growth next year if British Columbians continue to have confidence in one another, in our wealth of human talent and in all that our province has to offer.

Together we will continue to open Canada's Pacific Gateway and to attract new investment and jobs to every region of our province. We can forge a new relationship with First Nations, lead the way on climate action, and create new opportunities for growth in clean energy, forestry, mining, small business, tourism, technology and every sector of our economy.

A strong economy allows us to increase funding for crucial public services like health care, education, social housing and public safety. We maintain our economic strength by living within our means and maintaining low taxes, and prudently managing taxpayers' money.

(Source: BC Liberals)

FDA Summary:

Emphasis on economy; environment secondary.

BC NDP

Take BC back---people centered government

These are difficult times for BC families. People are worried about their jobs and their savings. They're worried about the future for our children. And they're worried about safety in our communities.

Families deserve a government that has the right priorities, that is focused on the fundamentals. But they're not getting that from Gordon Campbell.

The NDP plan combines innovation with fiscal prudence to provide real solutions. Here are the highlights:

Scrapping Gordon Campbell's unfair and ineffective gas tax

One year small business tax holiday

New Rural Economic Development Fund

Investments in Tourism, Trade, Mining and Agriculture

End of eight year freeze on minimum wage; increase to \$10 an hour

Smaller class sizes and more resources for the classroom

Post-secondary tuition freeze and added resources for colleges and universities

More police, more prosecutors and expanded court and victim services

Enhanced water, land and air protection, protection for species at risk, park improvements and a new environmental youth corps.
More nurses and health professionals
Improved seniors care with 3000 new long-term care beds and independent seniors advocate
Shorter waitlists and plan to clear backlogged emergency rooms
Crackdown on government waste and inefficiencies, including executive pay roll backs and ban on partisan government advertising
Moratorium on sale of BC rivers and streams.
New capital investment in green infrastructure and transit, and reduction of transit fares
Stopping privatization of BC Hydro, returning accountability to BC Ferries
Deficit reduction and a balanced budget in year 4
(Source: BC NDP)

FDA Summary:

Spend and environment, and some emphasis on economy.
Contradictory vision—high spending does not correlate to economic development or balanced budget.

BC Green Party

Strengthen economy; care for one another; protect resources and environment; reform government

To begin with, most political parties base their measure of well-being almost solely on economic growth. The Greens prefer broader indicators, such as the General Progress Indicator (GPI), which evaluates positives (such as services, health and income) versus negatives (such as pollution, habitat loss, and crime).

By these broader indicators, North America has not experienced any real progress since about 1972: not for our citizens, and certainly not for our planet!

Green Values of Ecological Wisdom, Social Justice, Non-Violence, and Participatory Democracy, are endorsed not only in Canada, but globally in over 70 countries around the world. They are a model for making sense of this destructive consumer-based approach. Greens believe in the decentralization of decision making, where feasible, so that each region makes its own decisions, using the Green Values as the measure of the quality of those decisions. This requires living **within** the environment we create, rather than just setting aside a park. Being Green becomes a lifestyle, not just a political choice. The economic well-being that the Green Party promotes is more qualitative rather than quantitative. We recognize limits to material and energy consumption. We believe there is a better course to chart that will not lead to resource scarcity and ecosystem failure. We will influence public policy through a Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) rather than relying solely on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). By failing to subtract negative economic and social activity from its total calculations of economic activity, the current

GDP indicator significantly distorts the national evaluation of real wealth creation, prosperity and quality-of-life.

Greens advocate fiscally responsibility. We believe in and free and open markets, lead by minimal but meaningful government oversight. With a current federal government budget of \$240 billion annually, there are a lot of important choices to be made. Why are we not using our economic wealth and muscle to build a social and economic environment that will protect all our citizens, for ALL generations??

The Green Party respects the need for a balance between competition and co-operation in a mixed economy, and, the gifts and flexibility that this dynamic tension offers to society. Accordingly, we recognize the strengths and weaknesses of business and organized labour and will work to continuously improve the functioning of both for the public good. We believe in social justice while still encouraging self-reliance, respecting the principle of reward for effort and risk. We believe that these principles must exist in a system where environmental issues are at the forefront of decision making.

The Green Party knows that social justice at home and abroad is both an environmental and an ethical issue. We observe that short-term economic needs too often take precedence over sound leadership and environmental stewardship. Our policies seek to directly address the core structural causes of poverty and poor health.

The environment has many functions essential to people's well being - one of which is our economic security. On Vancouver Island North, we have enjoyed from the time of the first peoples to recent years an abundant economy based strongly on the forest and the sea. But even as we watch, these riches are vanishing before our very eyes, leaving only a trashed environment and unemployed citizens behind. How can recent governments which have endorsed this destruction claim any economic wisdom?

Now look to the national and global scale, where economic strength is defined by energy availability. We all know that our fossil fuels, at least oil and natural gas, will be exhausted within a generation. How can any government propose to exhaust them even faster? Now is the time to transition to renewable energy! European countries began this transition to energy from the wind and other forms of solar energy over a decade ago, and with great success to date. Their economy is prospering, while our is headed to certain destruction unless we too make the transition.

Multi-national corporations that operate under international trade agreements written to limit democratic oversight, exert exceptional power. We will work with Green parties and other partners around the world to introduce mandatory international environmental and social standards for multi-national corporations. With other measures, this will help re-establish democratic accountability, human rights and the protection of the global environmental commons.

Greens believe the role of government is to protect and serve its citizens. Just open any newspaper and note how many ways our current government is failing to do this simple and ever-present task! We believe in good government and the collective voice of Canadians. Green Party policies will make Parliament and Provincial Legislatures more democratic and diverse through democratic renewal. Government must be far more accountable and transparent. By voting Green, you are saying that you want the system to change, that you want a future for our children and grandchildren. This change will begin as soon as the balance of power in a parliament is held by Green members! You must want change for it to occur -- otherwise you get the same old stuff in the same old box.

While independent, Green parties around the world share common values as expressed in the [Global Greens Charter](#). These principles are: ecological wisdom, sustainability, respect for diversity, social justice, non-violence and participatory democracy.

Canada must play a far more significant role in the world, building peace, advancing human rights and protecting vulnerable eco-systems. Canada has the capacity to help and our leadership must be felt at crucial moments. We must rise to the many challenges facing the world and advance a new global vision to replace the culture of fear that diverts massive human and financial resources from real global threats.

(Source: BC Green Party)

FDA Summary:

Emphasis on environment over economy.

Vision Evaluation:

Basis for evaluation: Future prosperity of British Columbia based on sound development, management of the BC economy for the benefit of all British Columbians, sound, fiscal management of public revenue and expenditure, and fair distribution of government expenditure to all sectors of British Columbia, improved and equality of health service across British Columbia, improved quality of public education, increased low income housing and stabilization of rent increases, and more responsible, sustainable management of the BC environment.

Score: BC Liberals BC NDP BC Green Party

6/10

4/10

4/10

Rational: BC Liberals good vision for economy, but not enough for environment and other sectors. NDP a lot of promised spending on many sectors, but not enough emphasis on economy—contradictory. Green Party not enough emphasis on economy and other sectors besides the environment.

4. Incumbency Record of the BC Liberal Party

Principle Information:

“Gordon Campbell promised to make schools safer by "fast tracking" seismic upgrades, but in Vancouver, where 74 schools are rated as high risk in an earthquake, only seven seismic upgrades have been completed.

More than 10,000 classrooms in the province do not meet the Campbell government's own class-size and composition laws.

Gordon Campbell slashed the number of special needs teachers by 17 per cent.

Functional illiteracy has increased under Gordon Campbell's watch.

Gordon Campbell continues to heap unfunded costs, like the gas tax, on school districts.

Under Gordon Campbell, 177 schools have closed.

Progress Board report on poverty, crime an indictment of Campbell's record - James July 10, 2007

VICTORIA - British Columbia's ninth place provincial ranking on poverty and crime rates is an indictment of Gordon Campbell's record, NDP Leader Carole James said today. The findings are part of the B.C. Progress Board's Interim Report.

"Under Gordon Campbell, B.C. is becoming known as Canada's capital for poverty, crime, and despair," said James. "One in four children lives in poverty, homelessness is exploding and now the Premier's own Progress Board says that for the third year in a row B.C. ranks second to last in the social condition of our population."

The B.C. Progress Report's 2007 Interim Report compares B.C.'s social condition to other provinces based on five categories: low-income cut off, personal property crime, income assistance levels, low birth weight, and long-term unemployment. B.C.'s overall ranking was ninth in Canada, with the second worst poverty and crime rate in the country.

James said the Progress Board Report comes on the heels of a report by Seattle's Cascadia Institute which found that the poverty rate in B.C. is growing and the median income is falling.

"At precisely the time we should be making progress on issues like child poverty and crime, Gordon Campbell is looking the other way," said James. "It's shameful that with big surpluses, high commodity prices, and a growing economy so many British Columbians are being left behind.""

(Source: BC NDP)

“First province in Canada to legislate hard targets for greenhouse gas emissions, including a 33 per cent reduction by 2020

- First jurisdiction in North America to legally require all government ministries, agencies and Crown corporations to be “carbon neutral”, by 2010
- First jurisdiction in North America to legislate a requirement for electricity self-sufficiency by 2016, with 50 per cent of all new demand for power to be met through conservation
- First jurisdiction in North America to legislate

a carbon emissions tax that also requires 100 per cent of all revenue collected on fossil fuel emissions to be returned to taxpayers through other new tax cuts

- First in Canada to join the Western Climate Initiative, which now includes 11 states and provinces that are committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through market-based approaches which lower costs and open up trade
- First in Canada to legislate a framework for introducing a regional or continental “cap and trade” system that will set hard caps on greenhouse gas emissions and mandatory requirements for future reductions
- First in Canada to legislate requirements for capture of landfill gases, “zero routine” flaring in natural gas production, capture and storage of produced water from coal gas extraction activities
- First in Canada to create a provincial Crown agency for facilitating carbon trading and carbon offsets, through the Pacific Carbon Trust
- LiveSmartBC.ca – featuring new incentives, rebates, tax exemptions and extensive information to help individuals and businesses make green choices that save them money, at home, at work and on the road
- The new \$94.5 million Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, involving UVic, UBC, SFU and UNBC, which will make British Columbia an even more important world leader in climate research and adaptation strategies
- \$100 million commitment over four years for the Innovative Clean Energy Fund, which is investing in new clean energy technologies
- The new BC Bioenergy Network and Geoscience BC
- Seven new regional Citizen Conservation Councils to help build public literacy about steps to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change
- Creation of the world’s largest cabled seafloor observatories (Projects Neptune and Venus) to monitor marine ecosystems, measure changes in our ocean chemistry relating to climate change, and provide early notice of earthquakes and tsunamis
- Creation of the Pacific Coast Collaborative, with California, Washington, Oregon and Alaska, to help focus on solutions for green growth, climate action and ocean health
- Creation of the International Climate Action Partnership, which British Columbia founded along with several other US states and countries around the world, including the United Kingdom, France, Germany and the European Commission

Under the Softwood Lumber Agreement \$2.4 billion has flowed back to BC’s forest industry.
Since 2001 British Columbians have seen their taxes go down an average of 37%, leaving more money you in your pocket. The NDP has voted against more than 100 tax cutting measures.

Independent Power Producers have invested an estimated \$2.4 billion in BC and have created 1,100 jobs in rural and First Nations' communities around the province – and is predicting \$6.8 billion in further investment to come.

Building a new Port Mann Bridge will relieve the most congested highway in British Columbia, and will allow for transit service across the bridge for the first time in over 20 years.

The \$3 billion Gateway Program includes major road and bridge improvement projects, including the Pitt River Bridge, North and South Fraser Perimeter Roads, and expanding the Port Mann Bridge and Highway

TILMA created the second largest economy in Canada, and Conference Board of Canada found TILMA will add 4.8 per cent to real GDP and create 78,000 new jobs in BC alone. The 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games are expected to generate over \$10 billion in economic activity, and the Games and their resulting activity are estimated to create 244,000 jobs.”

(Source: BC Liberals)

“Thinks the legislature is his own private playroom

After invoking closure and ramming through several important pieces of legislation in the spring sitting of the legislature, Premier Campbell arrogantly cancelled the fall sitting. When he could no longer ignore the economic storm, he announced a five-day sitting in late November. In those five days, he answered exactly one question.

9. Has abandoned ferry-dependent communities

Under the Campbell government's watch, ferry rates have skyrocketed while service has deteriorated. Service was cut back again in 2008 while fares on some routes have more than doubled.

8. Constantly ignores and dismisses independent officers who disagree with him

2008 was a year in which independent officers of the legislature - including Child and Youth representative Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond and Auditor General John Doyle - had to fend off attacks from Premier Campbell and his government MLAs. Their wrongdoing? They had the audacity to be critical of failed government policies.

7. Ignores real problems and spends exorbitant sums on self-promotion

At a time when average British Columbians are worried for their jobs and tightening their belts, the Campbell government spent tens of millions of dollars on shameless self-promoting TV ads. The premier even had the gall to hand out faux gold medals to construction workers - with the name "Gordon Campbell" in bright, shiny letters.

6. Just wants you to shut up

The Campbell gag law comes into effect Feb. 12 and will restrict the ability of British Columbians to make comments on public policy.

5. Hides from accountability

Despite serious concerns about key insiders like Ken Dobell and Pat Kinsella, Campbell refuses to tighten up lobbyist registration legislation. And five years after the RCMP raided offices at the legislature, he refuses to come clean about what his office knows about the BC Rail corruption trial.

4. Sits idly by as the forest industry collapses

More than 15,000 jobs have been lost in the industry in the last two years, but the only

thing the Campbell government has done is launch a do-nothing roundtable. It took three years before he replaced one of B.C.'s most inept forest ministers.

3. Gives outrageous pay raises to his top deputies but refuses to raise the minimum wage
Top deputy ministers were given pay raises of up to 43 per cent - and it was announced on the opening day of the Beijing Olympics. The minimum wage has been stuck at \$8/hour since 2001.

2. Displays appalling environmental hypocrisy

The Campbell government dumped a punitive gas tax on British Columbians in 2008, effectively placing the environmental onus on average consumers. Meanwhile, the government wants to allow offshore coastal drilling, refuses to take action on species at risk, has privatized rivers and streams across B.C. and presses ahead on dangerous coalbed methane extraction.

1. Refuses to help the most vulnerable in our society: children and seniors

Despite promising to live up to the Hughes report to help children in care, the Campbell government has failed to protect vulnerable children. Under Campbell, B.C.'s child poverty rates are the highest in Canada for the fifth consecutive year. And caregivers are appalled to see their parents and grandparents abused and neglected, while the Campbell government has still not lived up to its 2001 promise to create 5,000 new long-term care beds.

Gordon Campbell is pressing for oil and gas exploration off the B.C. coast and promoting coal bed methane without any safeguards.

The Campbell government continues to ignore recommendations that salmon farms take a precautionary approach to protect wild fish species.

B.C. remains one of only two provinces without protection for endangered species.

The Campbell government-backed private power projects threaten streams all over B.C. Agricultural land is being removed from the land reserve, and cutbacks have reduced environmental protection and conservation services.”

(Source: BC NDP)

“B.C. students returned to colleges and universities last fall under the weight of record amounts of debt - averaging out at \$27,000 per student - after the Campbell Liberals cut student loans despite a government report calling for more support for students.

B.C. tuition fees have nearly doubled to \$4,855 a year under Gordon Campbell, and in those eight years, B.C. has gone from having the lowest tuition fees in Canada to having the second highest.

Those students are making do with fewer teachers and resources thanks to a \$50 million cut imposed on colleges and universities last year by the Campbell Liberals with only two weeks notice.

The Campbell government eliminated BC's affordable housing program in 2002, and by 2008 there were more than 12,000 people on the waiting list for subsidized housing, including 3,100 seniors.

Homelessness has doubled since Gordon Campbell took office, and now the numbers of homeless British Columbians lie between 10,000 and 15,000 people. The number of people living on the streets or couch surfing in Metro Vancouver has jumped by 364 per cent since 2002.

Recently BC's Auditor General reported that the Campbell government has no plan to deal with homelessness, and lacks even basic information on the problem.

Campbell government-appointed health authorities are bending the rules to close facilities like Zion Park Manor in Surrey and Cowichan Lodge on the Island without giving proper notice to senior residents or their families.

The Campbell Liberals' love for privatized health care has led to lower standards of care and even attempts to conceal results from inspection reports showing high hazard ratings in seniors' care homes around B.C.

Through cutbacks to Pharmacare and Medical Services Plan coverage, and delays in building badly needed new acute care hospital beds and emergency rooms, the Campbell government put more pressure on seniors health services on top of their reductions to long term care beds.

Gordon Campbell and the BC Liberals have dodged questions about the BC Rail corruption scandal for years, even though new evidence suggests his campaign manager Patrick Kinsella and his Chief of Staff Martyn Brown worked together to manage the deal.

Gordon Campbell has changed the law so he doesn't have to account for the costs of the Olympics, for B.C. Ferries, his climate change program or privatization schemes.

Government watchdogs were either wiped out or had their funding cut, and when they criticize the Campbell government, they are sternly criticized.

Campbell made changes to weaken out Freedom-of-Information law, and today B.C. has the second worst record in Canada for responding to FOI requests. The Campbell government gave itself the right to edit and censor public inquiry reports. Bad news, such as the massive cost overruns at the Vancouver Convention Centre, are covered up.

To prove that his attacks on freedom of information are partisan, Campbell passed the infamous gag law that limits what individuals and groups can say during election campaigns. Campbell's weak Lobbyist Registration Act lets his well-connected friends remain at the trough for government contracts.

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Gordon Campbell has abandoned forestry workers - since 2007 over 20,000 family-supporting jobs have been lost in the industry and more than 40 mills have been mothballed.

The only 'action' Gordon Campbell has had to offer the forest industry has been a do-nothing roundtable. As former Finance Minister Carole Taylor said, "All we can do is sit down and be spectators."

The Campbell Liberals are further hammering the forest industry with increased hydro rates and its gas tax.

In what is almost an annual event, the Campbell government has again announced that construction of new beds and facilities at Surrey Memorial Hospital will begin - next year. The building has been slowed as a result of Campbell's insistence on an expensive and lucrative privatization scheme.

The closure of emergency rooms in Ashcroft, Princeton and elsewhere in the Interior has become more frequent as communities cope with hospital cutbacks and doctor shortages. Last year the Vernon Jubilee hospital faced more than 50 code purples, which saw early discharge of hospital patients.

The Campbell Liberals closed down hospitals and care homes in their first term. And since then they've shut care homes at a time when we need more care beds for seniors. B.C.'s standard of care has fallen as the Campbell government put foreign-based corporations in charge of hospital cleaning and food preparation, and slashed the wages of health care providers.

Medicare and Pharmacare services were cut back or de-listed, which means higher costs for working British Columbians needing health care. Medicare premiums were bumped up.

The Campbell Liberals have jacked up government fees of all types - including tuition fees, B.C. Hydro rates, ferry fares, and transit fares - to the point where many British Columbians are forced to make painful choices about whether they pay for heat or to get around, amongst other things. Gordon Campbell's gas tax hikes transportation costs for people without fighting climate change.

The Campbell government has refused to take effective action on practices designed to increase costs for working people, including renovations of rental accommodation to get around rent controls, ticket scalping, and payday loans.

In the 2009 budget, the Campbell Liberals cut transfers to communities by 24 percent, and made similar cuts to ministries that serve rural B.C. On top of cuts to forestry and tourism, we recently learned that rural B.C. travelers will be cut off from Vancouver during the 2010 Olympics due to heavy-handed security measures affecting small B.C. airlines.

Rural British Columbians are already reeling from reduced access to education and to health services, especially for seniors as the Campbell government closed four hospitals and downgraded four more, and ordered the closure of many schools in smaller centres. Gordon Campbell has done nothing about 20,000 lost jobs in the forestry sector and provided little transition to communities affected by the mountain pine beetle epidemic. Now rural British Columbians are being forced to pay an unfair and ineffective fuel tax when they drive and try to heat their homes.

Despite the current recession, Campbell's recent budget cuts funding for tourism, agriculture, forestry and small business development.

Small airlines around B.C. are facing financial ruin due to heavy handed security regulations being imposed for a period of nearly two months around the 2010 Olympics. Rural British Columbians will face vastly longer flight times because the Campbell government won't supply small airports with security screening equipment, unlike Vancouver airports.

New one-size-fits-all meat inspection regulations from the Campbell government are driving small food producers in every part of B.C. out of business.

Small businesses on Cambie Street in Vancouver were bankrupted when the Campbell government closed the street to build a transit line and refused to provide compensation. Members of the government have regularly denied responsibility.

Residents of the Lower Mainland already pay the highest fares in Canada, and the Campbell government appointees on the Translink board are already considering a new round of fare increases for after the May election. Surrey is short 500 buses for its needs, and other communities face similar lack of access to transit.

In spite of promises of local control, openness and accountability, the Campbell Liberals have removed elected representatives from the Translink board and replaced them with their own appointees.

British Columbians in Victoria, Kelowna and other centres are also dealing with rising fares, no accountability and a lack of action on new transit development.”

(Source: BC NDP)

Hospital emergency rooms in crisis, long wait lists

When economy was good, wasted money on pet projects and failed to plan for tough economic times ahead

Homelessness up 364%, ongoing neglect of treatment for addictions and the mentally ill

\$500 million wasted through Convention Centre project mismanagement while communities around BC can't get funding for health clinics and community centres

Salary increases of up to 43% for top Campbell advisors

More private, for-profit surgery and health clinics

Inaction on forestry crisis while tens of thousands of jobs have been lost

Highest transit fares in Canada, service levels down

Business bankruptcies in the wake of Campbell megaprojects

Ignored cost of housing, gave landlords more power over tenants

Classroom conditions worse, special needs kids neglected

Soaring tuition fees

Ineffective gas tax that hurts average families. Free ride for big polluters and offshore oil drilling

Declining care and fewer spaces for seniors in

need

Up to \$50 million spent annually on governments ads that tell you how well they are doing

Dirty hospitals and torn up contracts for health care workers

Mean-spirited cuts to services for the most vulnerable, worst child poverty rate in Canada

Cut training and ignored skills shortage
(Source: BC NDP)

FDA Summary:

Emphasis on economy and big business. Neglect of other areas like health and education. And inconsistent approach to environment—says a lot and focused on some keys environmental issues like greenhouse gases, but neglected other areas.

Incumbency Evaluation:

Basis for evaluation: Past record of the BC Liberals based on sound development, management of the BC economy for the benefit of all British Columbians, sound, fiscal management of public revenue and expenditure, and fair distribution of government expenditure to all sectors of British Columbia, improved and equality of health service across British Columbia, improved quality of public education, increased low income housing and stabilization of rent increases, and more responsible, sustainable management of the BC environment.

Score: BC Liberals

10/20

Rational: Too much emphasis on big business and economy at the neglect of other areas, and inconsistent, narrow approach to the environment.

4. Policies of the Political Parties:

Economy:

BC Liberals

\$14 billion infrastructure program over the next three years, to create up to 88,000 new jobs building roads, bridges, airports, public transit, schools, hospitals, universities, community facilities, and other types of capital infrastructure.

44 per cent reduction in small business income tax

- We will reduce the small business income tax to the lowest rate in Canada by April 1, 2012
- Raise the small business income threshold to \$500,000 on January 1, 2010
- Double the BC Training Tax Credit, effective July 1, 2009
- Reduction in general corporate income tax rate to the lowest rate in Canada by 2011
- Eliminating red tape and costly barriers to investment and job creation
- Leading Canada with open trade and labour mobility, and “Open Skies”

(Source: BC Liberals)

FDA Summary:

Emphasis on small and big business.

Spend on infrastructure and lower business taxes.

BC NDP

Scrapping Gordon Campbell's unfair and ineffective gas tax

One year small business tax holiday

New Rural Economic Development Fund

Investments in Tourism, Trade, Mining and Agriculture

End of eight year freeze on minimum wage; increase to \$10 an hour

Crackdown on government waste and inefficiencies, including executive pay roll backs and ban on partisan government advertising

Moratorium on sale of BC rivers and streams.

New capital investment in green infrastructure and transit, and reduction of transit fares

Stopping privatization of BC Hydro, returning accountability to BC Ferries
(Source: BC NDP)

“The NDP oppose cutting your taxes: The NDP have voted unanimously against over 100 tax cuts that the B.C. Liberal government has introduced since 2001.

The NDP will raise your taxes: The NDP have made billions of dollars in spending promises, with no explanation of where the money to fund those promises will come from. That means two things: tax hikes and deficits that your children and grandchildren will have to pay for.

The NDP will cripple the oil and gas industry: The NDP want to cancel incentive programs that support hundreds of summer drilling jobs. They also plan to raise royalty rates and impose over \$1 billion in new taxes on the industry – driving jobs out of B.C. and crippling an industry that provides billions for government to invest in services like health care and education.

The NDP will kill clean, green independent power projects: The NDP has called for a ban on independent power project that would eliminate 1,100 rural jobs. This will destroy clean energy projects that provide economic opportunities to rural and First Nation communities in every corner of the province.

The NDP are being dishonest about their hidden carbon tax: The NDP plan to impose a massive, punishing tax that would cost job-creating industries such as mining, forestry and oil and gas at least \$1.5 billion, destroying rural jobs and investment.

The NDP are against a new Port Mann Bridge: “The wrong bridge, and the wrong plan,” was the response of NDP leader Carole James to the B.C. Liberal plan to build a new Port Mann Bridge to clear the Lower Mainland's most congested crossing and bring transit to the bridge for the first time in over two decades.

The NDP will cancel the Softwood Lumber Agreement: That would claw back \$2.4 billion in duties from industry and cost \$200 million in government revenues per year, and would re-impose a 30 to 40 per cent export tax on lumber exports eliminating certainty for the industry and destroying jobs in communities across BC.

The NDP are against the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games: “I didn’t support the government trying to gain the Olympics.” – NDP leader Carole James, Jan. 16, 2004.

The NDP have voted against critical projects: Including the new Abbotsford Regional Hospital, Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria, the Canada Line, and the new Surrey Outpatient Hospital.”

(Source: BC Liberals)

Make solving ER crisis and wait lists top health priority

Will protect working families and the services they depend on when times are tough

Real action to reduce homelessness, improve addiction treatment and support for mentally ill

Shift focus from Campbell's pet projects to peoples' actual needs

Roll back Campbell's pay hike and raise minimum wage to \$10

Invest in **public** surgery clinics and hospitals

A long-term plan to help rural communities by restricting raw log exports and investing in infrastructure and economic development

Help people get out of cars with more buses and affordable fares

Better support for businesses adversely affected by government projects

Better protection for tenants, work with municipalities and business for more affordable housing

Respect teachers, help kids with special needs

More affordable post-secondary education and skills training

Replace gas tax with tough regulations for big polluters and ban on offshore oil drilling

Care standards and more beds for seniors in need

Use this money to reduce health care wait lists and improve care for seniors

Clean up hospitals, fairness for health care

Increase support for families, vulnerable people and homeless

Increase training to solve skills shortage

(Source: BC NDP)

FDA Summary:

Lacks overall focus; scattered approach.

More response/reaction to the policies of the BC Liberals.

No emphasis on big business.

BC Green Party

Expand small business grants and introduce employment incentive programs for green industry

Increase basic personal income tax deductions to protect low-income British Columbians

End homelessness and poverty

Move to a genuine wealth accounting system

Reduce our carbon footprint

Shift tax loads to individual practices and industries that pollute

Advance fair trade over free trade

Eliminate corporate welfare

Invest in alternative, local energy generation

Reduce our dependence on gambling and oil and gas revenues

Expand small business grants and introduce employment incentive programs for green industry

Increase basic personal income tax deductions to protect low-income British Columbians

A Green economy will thrive by directing investment and shifting taxes to promote desirable results such as job creation in clean industry and discouraging pollution and environmental impact. There are major opportunities in energy conservation, transit expansion, renewable energy generation, retrofitting homes and buildings, organic agriculture and local manufacturing. We will create long term “green collar” jobs in a

time of financial crisis, and help lower emissions to contain climate change at the same time.

To support entrepreneurs and small businesses, we will introduce Green Business, a program to ensure business people have the tools they need to adopt clean-tech practices and succeed in tomorrow's green economy. This includes initiatives to remove the provincial sales tax from made-in-BC goods, to harmonize the administration of the GST and PST to lower costs, and to provide solid information to new businesses on economic opportunities and resources, among other strategies to support small businesses in recognition that small and mid-sized businesses are BC's primary job creators.

Require Corporate Accountability

BC Greens will introduce and enforce amendments to the Business Corporations Act to ensure that businesses operate in a manner that positively contributes to social, environmental and economic prosperity. We plan to eliminate conflicts where corporate activity such as fishfarms compromise the ability of other business sectors such as eco-tourism to operate optimally.

Generate Clean and Green Energy

BC Greens will foster the building of green and clean, renewable energy facilities with an emphasis on co-operative and municipally-owned utilities, while providing the opportunity for private producers and transmission operators to participate in a mixed public / private energy system.

The Green Party favours generating power where there is demand and does not advocate for improving transmission systems or creating new transmission infrastructure for large scale projects, favouring many smaller district-scale energy production systems. These systems build in resiliency in the case of failure and create many more longer term jobs than large scale projects.

A new Ministry, combining environment, energy and climate change portfolios will oversee a new BC Energy Authority responsible for all aspects of energy regulation and planning for the province. Regional Resource Advisory Boards will establish a diversified portfolio of projects to meet regional requirements in as local a manner possible.

Conservation will become a primary focus of Green energy policy which combined with an aggressive clean energy build out will remove our use of fossil fuels entirely.

Plan Liveable Cities & Transportation

BC Greens focus on improving the quality of life in communities with a variety of clean, affordable and efficient transportation options. These include walkable neighbourhoods; bicycling networks and infrastructure; promoting zero-emission electric vehicles; more buses of varying size and increased frequency and affordability; and rail of all forms (light rail, commuter and distance passenger rail and freight). We propose balanced and planned infrastructure investment --- not expensive mega-projects. Evidence shows we cannot build our way out of traffic grid-lock. New roads and bridges simply lead to urban sprawl and increase long-term overcrowding.

Greens will restore integrity and accountability to our government through increased public oversight for ministries, crown corporations and public appointments. Greens will redesign the structure of our government to reflect what we want to build, not what we

have. We will create new ministries and combine existing ones to build a new structure that can achieve the goals we set and streamline bureaucracy. Green MLAs will call for reforms to government that decentralize decision-making and strengthen the role of local government and the autonomy of First Nations.

(Source: BC Green Party)

FDA Summary:

Emphasis on environment

Does not factor in recessionary conditions

Not in touch with economy, and what it takes to development the economy.

Economy Evaluation:

Basis for evaluation: Policies that reflect sound development, management of the BC economy for the benefit of all British Columbians.

Score: BC Liberals BC NDP BC Green Party

6/10

5/10

4/10

Rational: BC Liberals had the more coherent approach to the BC economy, by having clear policies on spending and small and big business development. The NDP approach was scattered, with lots spending promises, but minimal big business development. The Green Party lacked a clear, realistic focus on economic development.

Budget:

BC Liberals

Responsibly managing your tax dollars

- Targeting spending where it's needed most: health, education, housing and job creation
- 100 per cent of all future surpluses to be used first to eliminate the operating debt
- Maintaining our Triple A credit rating, the top credit rating possible
- Work toward balanced budgets by 2011

(Source: BC Liberals)

BC NDP

Deficit reduction and a balanced budget in year 4

(Source: BC NDP)

BC Green Party

Implement "Triple bottom-line" accounting for government departments

(Source: BC Green Party)

Budget Evaluation:

Basis for evaluation: Policies that reflect sound, fiscal management of public revenue and expenditure and fair distribution of government expenditure to all sectors of British Columbia.

Score: BC Liberals BC NDP BC Green Party

6/10

6/10

5/10

Rational: All three parties failed promise balanced budgets, except after 3 or 4 years. The BC Green Party had not stated budget reduction. All three parties lacked specifics on fiscal responsibility and accountability of public expenditure.

Health:

BC Liberals

Increasing
investments in
healthcare

As the chart shows, total annual funding for healthcare will continue to soar over the next three years, by over 16 per cent. The Ministry of Health Services alone will see a three-year total funding increase of \$4.8 billion. Health spending across government will be \$8 billion more or 86 per cent higher in 2011/12 than the NDP's last full year in office.

Major expansions: Prince George

Regional Hospital; 300-bed Abbotsford Regional Hospital & Cancer Centre; East Kootenay Regional Hospital; Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital; Royal Inland Hospital; Nanaimo Regional General Hospital; and Prince Rupert Regional Hospital; Fort St. John Hospital and Residential Care Project
New: Northern Medical School; Critical care tower at Surrey Memorial Hospital; Surrey Outpatient Hospital; Royal Jubilee Hospital; Emergency department in Victoria; Kelowna General Hospital (Patient Care Tower, Cardiac Care Centre and Medical School); BC Children's Hospital; Patient Care Tower at Vernon Jubilee and Northern Cancer Centre in Prince George
(Source: BC Liberals)

FDA Summary:

Vague health policy

Focus on structural development of health sector.

BC NDP

More nurses and health professionals

Improved seniors care with 3000 new long-term care beds and independent seniors advocate

Shorter waitlists and plan to clear backlogged emergency rooms

(Source: BC NDP)

FDA Summary:

Focus on more health professionals and more beds for seniors.

BC Green Party

We spend far too much on disease management instead of preventive measures that improve our health. BC will become healthier through province-wide green initiatives that reduce environmental pollutants such as pesticides, carbon emissions and domestic chemicals. BC Greens will support programs to promote healthier lifestyles through better nutrition and increased physical activity. By cleaning and greening our environment, we reduce cancer, asthma and other illnesses.

Investing in home and locally grown organic agriculture will provide BC with essential provincial food security, while increasing nutritional quality disease prevention and creating new jobs in agriculture.

(Source: BC Green Party)

FDA Summary:

Lacks comprehensive policy for health

Health Evaluation:

Basis for evaluation: Policies that reflect improved and equality of health service across British Columbia.

Score: BC Liberals BC NDP BC Green Party

6/10

6/10

5/10

Rational: Both the BC Liberals and BC NDP's health policies were undeveloped. The BC Green Party's health policy lacked comprehensiveness.

Education:

BC Liberals

Annual funding for education at all levels will go up by over \$800 million by 2011/12. K-12 education funding will increase by 35 per cent by 2011/12 over 2000/01 levels, despite a continued drop in student enrolment, with 53,000 fewer students today than in 2001. Per pupil funding will rise to historic high levels.
(Source: BC Liberals)

FDA Summary:

Increased expenditure for the education sector
Minimal specifics of education policy

BC NDP

Smaller class sizes and more resources for the classroom
Post-secondary tuition freeze and added resources for colleges and universities
(Source: BC NDP)

“The NDP oppose a parent’s right to know: Carole James and her NDP MLAs have opposed Foundation Skills Assessment testing, which is a vital tool for teachers and parents to gauge student learning. They also refused to denounce the BCTF plan to stop teachers from providing written comments on student report cards.”
(Source: BC Liberals)

FDA Summary:

Tuition freeze, smaller class sizes, and more resources for schools

BC Green Party

Our schools will build a sense of community by engaging students in neighbourhood activities and becoming multi-use facilities at the hub of local communities. Programs will be expanded with more physical education and new teaching methods based on how children learn. Our commitment is to re-invest in a skilled workforce trained for the new economy and developing emerging green technologies that will create those new jobs BC Greens propose expanding industry's role in training our workforce and offering incentives and tuition support to students for training or re-training. We propose to reduce

tuition fees by 20% over four years and to increase government grants to the institutions to compensate for reduced tuition fee income.
(BC Green Party)

FDA Summary:

Reduce tuition fees, train and re-train for new economy with new job demands

Education Evaluation:

Basis for evaluation: Policies that reflect improved and equality of health service across British Columbia.

Score: BC Liberals BC NDP BC Green Party

6/10

6/10

6/10

Rational: All three parties are saying similar things and with minimal specifics. Note, the BC NDP makes no promise to open new schools, despite criticizing the BC Liberals for closing schools.

Housing:

BC Liberals

- Quadrupled funding for social and supportive housing since 2001
- Doubled the number of shelter beds
- New 24/7 access to emergency shelters
- New Rental Assistance Program
- Over \$500 million for new and upgraded affordable housing

Dedicate \$123 million to create 1,000 new homes for seniors and persons with disabilities across BC. Those units will be built this year, largely in smaller communities

- Establish a registry for residential care aides, so British Columbians can be confident that care aides who are disciplined by one care facility are tracked and known when applying for work at any other provincial care facility
- Legislate a new “Residents Bill of Rights” to set out clear commitments to care and to the rights of seniors living in residential care facilities, including the right to representation through resident and family councils
- Develop a new provincial website to give families new access to comparative, detailed information about residential care facilities
- Increase access to home-support services, in-home nursing and rehabilitative care to help seniors live more healthy, active, independent lives

(Source: BC Liberals)

BC NDP

Restore BC’s affordable housing program. Convert the \$250 million BC Housing Endowment Fund into an immediate investment in housing to build 2,400 housing units immediately and 1,200 more units each year for four years.

Expand social housing on existing sites.

Legislate an independent officer to review and report annually on the progress of the government’s homelessness plan.

(Source: BC NDP)

BC Green Party

Greens are committed to improving social services to exceed basic human needs by extending the availability of affordable housing.

Our commitment is to establish local trusts built on provincial standards to implement programs that improve access to housing, education and tackle problems like substance abuse.

(Source: BC Green Party)

Housing Evaluation:

Basis for evaluation: Policies that reflect increased low-income housing and stabilization of rent increases. The BC Green Party's policy lacks comprehensiveness

Score: BC Liberals BC NDP BC Green Party

7/10

7/10

5/10

Rational: The BC NDP has the more comprehensive health policy in which it tackles homelessness. However, the BC Liberals have a more broadminded housing policy. The BC Green Party's housing policy is vague, undeveloped.

Environment:

BC Liberals

- Becoming world leaders in clean energy, new uses of wood, climate action and green growth
(Source: BC Liberals)

“No caps on greenhouse gas emissions. Polluters can pollute as much as they want. Carbon tax - BC will be the only jurisdiction with a carbon tax on consumers. Rates are too low to be effective.

No revenue from the tax goes towards transit and climate change solutions to reduce emissions.

Promised the oil and gas industry that he is opposed to our plan to end flaring and fugitive emissions.

No new programs for green alternatives to reduce energy use.

His gas tax does not provide one cent to environmental solutions and Campbell's own numbers show it won't reduce greenhouse gas emissions enough to meet targets.

His gas tax hurts average families but lets big polluters off the hook.

He opposes the NDP commitment to end flaring of waste gases in the oil and gas industry - the source of 13% of BC's emissions.

He has cut environmental protection programs by 44 per cent.

He supports lifting the moratorium on oil drilling on our sensitive coast.

He's fast-tracking coal bed methane projects without environmental standards - ignoring the impacts on our groundwater.

Hundreds of rivers are at risk because Campbell is selling off public control to his friends in the private power industry.

He's cutting funding for environmental assessment and enforcement

He opposes regulating fish farms to protect our wild salmon stocks.

BC is one of only two provinces without protection for species at risk”

(Source: BC NDP)

BC NDP

Enhanced water, land and air protection, protection for species at risk, park improvements and a new environmental youth corps

Improved seniors care with 3000 new long-term care beds and independent seniors advocate

Shorter waitlists and plan to clear backlogged emergency rooms

Moratorium on sale of BC rivers and streams

Cap emissions from big polluters and make polluters pay for breaking the standards.

Implement a 'cap and trade' plan - just like US President Obama.

End 'flaring' in the oil & gas industry, to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 13%
Implement California's tough vehicle tailpipe emission standards.
Maintain the moratorium on coastal oil drilling and crude oil tanker traffic.
Protect endangered wildlife with BC's first species at risk legislation.
End the sell-off of hundreds of BC rivers to private power interests.
Help British Columbians to be part of the solution by expanding transit, and fund building and home retrofit programs to cut greenhouse gases.
Introduce BC Green Bonds to stimulate jobs and investment in green infrastructure and emission reducing technology.
Enforce environmental rules and regulations
Stop the dismantling of the Agricultural Land Reserve.
(Source: BC NDP)

Real caps on greenhouse gas emissions from BC's largest polluters.

Cap and trade to set a price on emissions - the plan recommended by US president Obama and Canada's National Roundtable on the Environment.

Polluters pay by auction for emission permits. Revenue goes towards transit and other climate change solutions to reduce emissions.

End flaring and fugitive emissions responsible for 13% of BC's greenhouse gas emissions.

Green Bond program: 1. Low interest loans retrofit homes and businesses. 2. Incentives for new green technology to reduce industry emissions. 3. Transit project to provide affordable alternatives to car travel.

(Source: BC NDP)

BC Green Party

British Columbia could one day be the 'Greatest Place on Earth' but there is a lot of work to do to honestly claim that title. It is true that our province is a spectacular part of our world and British Columbians have a lot to be grateful for all BC provides. However in the last one hundred years the rapid depletion of resources and high levels of badly planned development has put us deeply into environmental debt. The BC Greens recognize that a protected environment with conserved resources is essential for healthy communities and a strong economy.

BC Greens plan for the environment will conserve resource use with improved efficiencies in homes and business practices and protect wilderness for its priceless values to the world and the ecological services like clean air, clean water, healthy soils and biodiversity protection that it provides

To slow the rate of climate change we need to price the cost of pollution into the economy and embrace energy conservation and alternative energy sources that will eliminate carbon emissions from burning petroleum products. Greens promote tax shifting as a crucial step to combating climate change by imposing higher taxes on polluting industries while reducing personal income taxes and providing financial incentives for clean-tech industry.

The BC Greens would use a portion of these collected taxes to build new transportation infrastructure, including pedestrian, rail, bicycle and public transit. Greens support a combination of carbon taxes and a global cap and trade system -- not either or, but both. BC Greens are committed to restore and enhance public and local government control over resource use, development and protection. We would repeal Bill C 30 and reaffirm the right of local and regional governments to say no to development and resource use that is not in the economic, social or ecological best interests of their region. Greens would establish regional ecological and energy management boards to review development proposals and we would strengthen the environmental assessment process to ensure resource use is sustainable and environmentally benign. BC Greens are committed to tax relief for agriculture to create jobs and local government reforms to encourage expansion of local food production and processing. By decentralizing food regulation and strengthening local food availability, public health and safety and BC's provincial security will improve.

Ensure the Agricultural Land Reserve remains intact and support small family farms.
Take immediate and substantive action on climate change.
Prevent genetic modification of our food supply
Promote smaller scale forest tenures such as woodlots and community forests, promote selective logging and investment in value-added wood industries.
Reform the Agricultural Land Commission and the appointment process
Eliminate invasive species through job creation in control measures and preventative planning.
Enshrine the right to water and air quality into our human rights code
Move fishfarms off wild salmon migration routes and encourage closed containment systems.
Protect Burns Bog as a UNESCO World Heritage Site
Halt provincial Gateway and other expanded pavement and bridge solutions in favour of transit and bicycling infrastructure and compact, intact communities
Protect community water supplies from development and keep water under public control.
Pass strong Species at Risk legislation.
Minimize the environmental impact of mining and oil and gas extraction
Strengthen Environmental Assessments and Standards and reform the appointment process.
(Source: BC Green Party)

Environment Evaluation:

Basis for evaluation: Policies that reflect more responsible, sustainable management of the BC environment.

Score: BC Liberals BC NDP BC Green Party

5/10

8/10

9/10

Rational: The BC Green Party has the more comprehensive, broadminded environmental policy. The BC NDP is less developed, but equally comprehensive. The BC Liberals policy lacks the comprehensiveness and broadmindedness of the other parties. Many areas of environmental concern are not mentioned in the BC Liberal policy like protection of rives, oceans from the oil and gas sector, and wild fish from fish farms, and payment from big polluters.

Grading and Ranking Results

Score	BC Liberals	BC NDP	BC Green Party
Background of Leaders:	7.7/10	5.7/10	6.7/10
Vision:	6/10	4/10	4/10
Incumbency:	10/20		
Subtotal:	23.7/40	9.7/20	10.7/20
Policies			
Economy:	6/10	5/10	4/10
Budget:	6/10	6/10	5/10
Health:	6/10	6/10	5/10
Education:	6/10	6/10	6/10
Housing:	7/10	7/10	5/10
Environment:	5/10	8/10	9/10
Subtotal:	36/60	38/60	34/60
Total:	59.7/100 (59.7%)	47.7/80 (59.6%)	44.7/80 (55.9%)

Overall Ranking/Grading:

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|---------|
| 1. BC Liberals | 59.7/100 (59.7%) | C Grade |
| 2. BC NDP | 47.7/80 (59.6%) | C Grade |
| 3. BC Green Party | 44.7/80 (55.9%) | C Grade |

C Grade refers to minimally satisfactory result.

Analysis

The BC Liberals received a 50% score (D grade—marginal performance) for their incumbency record, and yet the party received 59.7% score (C grade) overall. Perhaps, this higher grade would be reflected in a re-elected BC Liberal government.

The difference of .1% between the BC Liberals and BC NDP is extremely marginal. Also, the BC Green Party is very close to the BC Liberals, with only 3.8% difference. All three parties received C grades.

The BC Liberals had the stronger leadership of the three parties.

The BC Green Party lacked consistency in its policies, through too much emphasis on the environment.

The BC NDP had slightly better policies than the BC Liberals, but lost points due to its weaker leader.

Conclusion

There is little to choose from the three parties, with only 3.8% separating them.

The BC Liberals offer stronger economic policy and leadership, and the BC NDP offer stronger policies overall, but with weaker leadership. The BC Green Party offers the better environmental policy and reasonably strong leadership, but it has weak economic and health policies.

With merely a C grade for all three parties, the prospects of BC governance from 2009 to 2013 do not look good. Though there is no other reasonable choice for BC voters.

BC politics needs considerable improvement. A C grade for the better political representative in the opinion of the FDA is unacceptable.