



Gordon Campbell
BC Liberals



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BC NDP



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BC Greens



Education



Allowing tuition to increase while freezing student financial assistance is completely unacceptable. The current levels of tuition fees are too high. Furthermore, their platform mentions nothing about student loans and student debt. The platform offers nothing new except for a major expansion of the Sauder School of Business at UBC.

Transit



A common U-pass program across BC is great but it needs to be matched with significantly improved transit service. Finally, the platform does not mention any restructuring of the undemocratic and unaccountable Translink Board of Directors.

Housing



The BC Liberal platform offers little for students who are faced with high rental rates. We need affordable housing on and off-campus for students. The platform mentions upgrading and renovating existing units but fails to provide adequate new housing units.

Childcare



The issue of childcare is difficult to find within the BC Liberal platform. Besides an unspecified "increase funding" to childcare, the platform does not address the issues of affordability and availability.

UBC Governance



The undemocratic governance structure at UBC was not mentioned in the BC Liberal platform.

Education



A funded tuition freeze is a start and a commitment to reducing tuition fees when the economy turns around is great. However, the problems students face is pressing and action needs to be taken immediately. Cutting interest rates on student loans is also mentioned within the platform along with restoration of needs-based grants. By increasing minimum wage, it will alleviate the pressures students are faced with in terms of financing their education.

Transit



Providing 500 additional buses for the Lower Mainland is great but it is still far from the amount that was originally promised to the public. Furthermore, the BC NDP wants to restore democratic control and public accountability in Translink's Board of Directors

Housing



The BC NDP promises to provide 2400 new social housing units in the first year with an additional 1200 units every year for the next four years. However, there is little mention of housing on campus for students.

Childcare



Capping the fees of childcare needs to be paired with increased funding to compensate the lost revenues but this fails to address the issue of affordability. However, the BC NDP wants to implement a full-day kindergarten for five-year-olds which would free up 10,000 existing childcare spaces.

UBC Governance



The undemocratic governance structure at UBC was not mentioned in the BC NDP platform.

Education



The BC Green Party will immediately reduce tuition by 20% and provide a full tuition refund for graduates who work and live in BC for five years after receiving their degree. However, the BC Green Party mentions nothing about student loans, interest rates, financial assistance and the ballooning student debt.

Transit



Besides prioritizing transit, the BC Greens offer little in terms of alleviating the current pressures on our public transit system. Furthermore, it makes no mention of the unaccountable and privatized Translink Board of Directors.

Housing



The BC Greens would commit 1% of the total provincial annual budget to provide affordable housing. However, there are no specific details as to how many housing units this will create and how many of these units will be allocated for students.

Childcare



Creating tax benefits for companies that provide on-site childcare is well intended. However, providing childcare is fairly costly for individual companies to do due to the permit requirements. The BC Greens also lack detail as to how they are going to secure universal and affordable childcare.

UBC Governance



The undemocratic governance structure was not mentioned in the BC Green Party platform.



Post-secondary Student

We currently pay
\$75,003.00
over 3 years

Did you know that in March 2008, the BC Government cut \$60 million in University funding despite rolling record surpluses?

Did you know that the BC Government actually profits from student debt? The BC Government borrows at prime - 1% to finance the student loans but expects students to repay them at an interest rate of prime + 2.5%.

Our post-secondary education is critical to the resilience of our economy. It is very crucial that we understand the issues that post-secondary students are faced with and that we properly invest in our education system.

Education **\$15,000.00**

The upfront costs of education are too high and students are struggling. Tuition is constantly rising yet student financial assistance is completely frozen. Our schools are underfunded and it is compromising the quality.

Transit **\$963.00**

Luckily, students have a U-Pass to help with the cost of transportation. However, our public transit system is over-capacity, and the Translink Board of Directors is closed and unaccountable to the public.

Housing **\$21,600.00**

Affordable housing for students does not exist on or off campus. There are around 3000 people on the waitlist to get into the student residences at UBC.

Childcare **\$37,440.00**

Childcare is unavailable and that which is available is very expensive. Parents can find themselves waiting for over three years in order to get into childcare at UBC. They can also find themselves paying over \$1000 per month, per child.

UBC Governance **Disempowered**

The UBC Board of Governors is stacked with provincial government appointees and students are grossly underrepresented. Even though UBC is a public institution, the Board meetings are closed to the public and only 15 guests are allowed in if they have reserved tickets.

Visit
<http://studentvoter.ca>
and on **May 12, vote for education.**



An initiative brought to you
by the AMS External Office.

The Alma Mater Society is the student union at UBC and it represents over 45 000 students.

Authorized by the AMS, registered sponsor
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Report Card

*An analysis of the various
parties' platform*

Vote in the May 12 BC Elections
*Brought to you by the AMS, the student union
at UBC representing over 45,000 students.*