

trying to decide whether I've got everything signed, and what have you.

Of course, I submitted it. I went home, and I realized that I had left a piece of paperwork out of there. I admit I'm not the best at doing the paperwork, but nonetheless I figure there should be a system in place to be able to help me with that.

Easingwood: Yeah. Even at the federal income tax office, over on Vancouver at Johnson Street, you at least can talk to a person.

David: I'm being [gouged] in everything, like: [inaudible], comp., medical - everything. I pay it all, and I have for almost 30 years. Just to even get the simplest bit back is just so outrageous.

Easingwood: David, hang on there for a moment.

David Cubberley, you can just feel the frustration in this person's voice:

Cubberley: Well, it drives me crazy, exactly this thing. They closed off public access, so there's no way to go and see a person about your file. So you get involved in this telephone maze, and you actually finally do get through to somebody. Then, you find out that they have inputted the information to be able to tell you the status of your file.

Easingwood: He can't even talk to someone on a simple matter, trying to get his son on his medical.

Cubberley: Joe, this is the era of customer service. There is no other domain in which anyone would accept this kind of treatment.

And it's absolutely unacceptable that it's happening in the public health system about a matter as important as health care. I mean, think of that; we're not talking about my toaster that doesn't work and I need to see the complaints department about it.

Easingwood: David, thanks and good luck. Keep us posted on that. I'd like to hear the rest of the story.

Break)

Easingwood: Let's go to Noelle next, here.

Joelle: No, I don't agree with any privatization. One thing I would like to know is what is the ratio per patient per nursing staff at the present time?

Easingwood: You mean, like, in an acute care hospital or other facilities or home care, or what?

Joelle: Start with an acute care hospital.

Easingwood: So the Royal Jubilee, Victoria General: any thoughts on that, David?

Cubberley: Well, we need more nurses in the system. I can't tell you the ratios. Everywhere there is a shortage of nurses. So we need more than we have. But I can't tell you whether the ratio we supply in is adequate or inadequate; I just don't have a basis for that.

Easingwood: What is the point of the question, caller?

Noelle: Well, I did spend some time in the hospital. It took me a year and a half before I was able to have surgery. Conditions were terrible - not the nursing staff, not the surgeons. The cleaning staff, the food: it was atrocious.

Easingwood: Yeah. Those stories just don't end, David. You were making the point off the air. Tell it on the air.

If you're in the hospital for a couple of days, that's one thing; you're in hospital. But when you go to your care home, it's home.

Cubberley: Yeah, that's where you live, and you're likely not coming out of there. So that means that the meal is served is the family meal. For that to be treated on a purely production-line basis - built somewhere else, treated as a sub-assembly, shipped in with just-in-time delivery, rethermalized, including the toast - and put in front of people on a daily basis, what they do is they lose their appetite.

I've had people contact me and talk about that fact. Someone that they know is dying, who's in a home and is going to die sooner because they're losing their appetite because the food is unappetizing.

Easingwood: Is there anything on the Liberal horizon that you would classify as help and a solution to any of these problems? We've got about 30 seconds.

Cubberley: No. I think they're in collective denial because they believe fundamentally that privatization is a good thing irrespective of how it's working. So there's a great.... They're very invested in this. They've been doing a lot of it by stealth, not the privatization at the hospitals but the kind of thing they're doing with B.C. NurseLine. So they've bought into it, and they're having a great deal of difficulty dealing with the fact that it doesn't deliver more efficient service on the ground, and it doesn't deliver effective service on the ground.

If we could learn a bit from what others have experienced with this, it would be good for the B.C. government.

Easingwood: David Cubberley, thank you.

Aman Nirwan
Media Monitoring
Public Affairs Bureau
Phone: (250) 356-8704
Fax: (250) 356-2722
Email: Aman.Nirwan@gov.bc.ca

pabmediamonitoring@gov.bc.ca
24/7 Line: (250) 356-0881

Sharma, Rishi PREM:EX

From: PAB Media Monitoring PAB:EX
t: Fri, September 23, 2005 5:51 PM
ect: Special prosecutor gets more preparation for Basi-Virk trial - A Channel -5:16pm- September 23, 2005

Media Monitoring Television

Trial pushed to February - special prosecutor gets more preparation for Basi-Virk trial - A Channel -5:16pm- September 23, 2005

Hudson Mack: The trial of two former BC Government aides charged with corruption has been set back to February in BC Supreme Court.

David Basi and Robert Virk were set to appear in November but their court date has been rolled back after the special prosecutor in the case said he needed more time to provide evidence in the defence.

Basi and Virk are charged with accepting benefits, breach of trust, fraud, after a police investigation on the BC Legislature in December 2003.

FOR REDISTRIBUTION

REBECCA KNAPMAN

Media Monitoring - Public Affairs Bureau

Phone: (250) 387-1028 Department Phone: (250) 356-0881

Fax: (250) 356-2722

E-mail: Rebecca.Knapman@gov.bc.ca

Department E-mail: pabmediamonitoring@gems3.gov.bc.ca

Sharma, Rishi PREM:EX

From: PAB Media Monitoring PAB:EX
Date: Fri, September 23, 2005 3:44 PM
Subject: Trial for Basi & Virk now set for February - BN, CKNW 3pm - September 23, 2005

Media Monitoring Radio

Trial for Basi & Virk now set for February - BN, CKNW 3pm - September 23, 2005

Two former BC government aides facing corruption charges won't go on trial until February.

The trial of Dave Basi and Robert Virk had been set for November, but a BC Supreme Court judge has pushed back the date after the Crown asked for more time to prepare.

Basi and Virk were charged with accepting benefits, breach of trust and fraud following a police raid on the B-C legislature in December of 2003.

The Crown claims the two men put the bidding process for BC Rail at risk by leaking confidential documents in the hope of getting federal government jobs.

FOR REDISTRIBUTION

REBECCA KNAPMAN

Media Monitoring - Public Affairs Bureau

Phone: (250) 387-1028 Department Phone: (250) 356-0881

Fax: (250) 356-2722

E-mail: Rebecca.Knapman@gov.bc.ca

Department E-mail: pabmediamonitoring@gems3.gov.bc.ca

Sharma, Rishi PREM:EX

From: PAB Media Monitoring PAB:EX
At: Fri, September 23, 2005 6:59 AM
Subject: Friday's B-C Calendar - Broadcast News - September 23, 2005

Media Monitoring Advisory

Friday's B-C Calendar - Broadcast News - September 23, 2005

VANCOUVER -- B.C. Teachers' Federation releases results of three-day strike vote. (9 a.m. at 550 W. 6th Ave.) (BN staffing)

VANCOUVER -- Education Minister Shirley Bond reacts to a strike vote taken by British Columbia teachers. (10 a.m. at World Trade Centre lobby, 999 Canada Place) (CP staffing)

VANCOUVER -- Dispute among Mission A&W employees over \$14 million lottery prize back in B.C. Supreme Court before Chief Justice Donald Brenner. (10 a.m. at B.C. Supreme Court)

VANCOUVER -- David Basi, Aneal Basi and Bobby Virk in court on bribery, breach of trust and fraud charges in B.C. legislature raid case. (2 p.m. at B.C. Supreme Court) (CP staffing)

RICHMOND -- Court appearance for Charles Kembo on three murder charges. (9 a.m. at Richmond Provincial Court)

NEW WESTMINSTER -- B.C. Supreme Court trial of Derek Post, accused of killing Breann Voth, 19, whose body was found face-down in Coquitlam River in 2002. (10 a.m. at B.C. Supreme Court)

VANCOUVER -- Gaming Law conference. Through Sept. 23. (Pan Pacific Hotel)

VANCOUVER -- Vancouver Mayor Larry Campbell assesses first three years of Four Pillars program and proposes steps to move forward. (8:30 a.m. at Law Courts Inn, 800 Smithe St.)

VANCOUVER -- Former UN ambassador Stephen Lewis speaks about citizens' health advocacy on international scale at annual conference of Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. (8:45 a.m. at Westin Bayshore Hotel)

Broadcast News Vancouver

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Rajwa
Monitoring Officer
Public Affairs Bureau
Phone: (250) 356-7393

605

Fax: (250) 356-2722
pavan.bajwa@gov.bc.ca

pahmediamonitoring@gov.bc.ca
Line: (250) 356-0881

Sharma, Rishi PREM:EX

From: PAB Media Monitoring PAB:EX
t: Tue, September 13, 2005 7:51 PM
ject: Dirk Meissner - Controversial BC Rail deal dominates B.C.'s first extended question period - CP - September 13, 2005

Media Monitoring Print

Controversial BC Rail deal dominates B.C.'s first extended question period - CP - September 13, 2005

By Dirk Meissner

VICTORIA (CP) _ An old deal dominated the new-look B.C. legislature Tuesday.

The Liberal government's controversial partnership with CN Rail to dump Crown-owned BC Rail was the first target of the Opposition New Democrats during the legislature's first-ever extended question period.

One of the initiatives announced in Monday's throne speech was an extension question period in B.C.'s often-fractious legislature from 15 minutes to 30 minutes.

NDP leader Carole James said the transfer of BC Rail's freight operations to private CN Rail now could cost some B.C. taxpayers hundreds of dollars a year.

Property owners with rail crossings on their land recently received letters from CN advising them they are responsible for maintenance costs at the crossing, she said.

"This has come as a complete surprise to the property owners," James said. "Where in the sale contract does it speak to the fact that CN is now allowed to charge British Columbians for upgrades to the railway that (the Liberal) government gave away?"

The Aug. 16 CN letter says property owners must sign an agreement and send a cheque for \$535 to pay the crossing costs.

"Property owners will be responsible for annual agreement fee of \$500 per year," says the letter.

The letter says CN is working to ensure all its crossings meet Transport Canada guidelines.

It says CN will do minor maintenance, but property owners are responsible for the costs associated with sight-line clearing, replacing or widening planks, improving approach grades and installing gates and locks.

Property owners have until Sept. 30 to pay, says the CN letter, or the crossing may be removed.

B.C. Transportation Minister Kevin Falcon said the crossing costs are nothing new to the property owners.

The owners were regularly billed for improvements in the past, but previous governments were not diligent in collecting the bills, he said.

"There's nothing new here," he said. "It's always been a requirement if there's upgrades or improvements they are liable to pay for them."

CN Rail and the B.C. government announced a partnership in December 2004 that would see CN take over the freight operations of BC Rail under a renewable 60-year lease.

The 1,600-kilometre BC Rail main line runs from North Vancouver to Fort Nelson, including the resource-rich northern community of Tumbler Ridge.

The government said it would use the \$1 billion from the deal to pay off an estimated \$500-million BC Rail debt and at least \$170 million of the remaining money to spur investment in the province's north.

The deal has been controversial for the government on two fronts.

Premier **>Gordon Campbell<** was accused of breaking a 2001 election promise not to sell the railway and the BC Rail deal has become part of an ongoing police investigation that has led to criminal charges at three former government workers.

Charges of fraud, influence peddling, breach of trust and

accepting bribes were laid on Dec. 21, 2004, against Dave Basi and Bob Virk.

charges stemmed from the Dec. 28, 2003, police raid on the B.C. legislature.

Basi was ministerial assistant to then Liberal house leader and finance minister Gary Collins, who left the government, while Virk held a similar position under then transportation minister Judith Reid, who also left the government.

Charges of money laundering were laid against Aneal Basi, a former communications officer who worked in the Transportation Ministry.

All three men have since been fired by the government.

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REBECCA K NAPMAN

Media Monitoring - Public Affairs Bureau

Phone: (250) 387-1028 Department Phone: (250) 356-0881

Fax: (250) 356-2722

E-mail: Rebecca.Knapman@gov.bc.ca

Department E-mail: pabmediamonitring@gems3.gov.bc.ca

Sharma, Rishi PREM:EX

From: PAB Media Monitoring PAB:EX
Date: Mon, September 12, 2005 6:55 AM
Subject: Times Colonist, A01 - September 12, 2005

Media Monitoring Print

- **Caption Only: FIREFIGHTERS REMEMBERED ON 9/11**
- **Budget highlights new legislature session**
- **Witnesses wanted in shooting**

Caption Only: FIREFIGHTERS REMEMBERED ON 9/11

Times Colonist (Victoria)

Mon 12 Sep 2005

Page: A1 / Front

Section: News

Source: Canadian Press

Illustration:

• Colour Photo: Fred Chartrand, Canadian Press / FIREFIGHTERS REMEMBERED ON 9/11: Brittany McDonald is overcome by emotion as she sits beside Michael Lee of Sahtlam fire department on Parliament Hill on Sunday at a memorial ceremony for Canadian firefighters killed in the line of duty. McDonald's brother Dustin Engel of Duncan, died June 20, 2004 in the line of duty. Story, C1

Budget highlights new legislature session

Times Colonist (Victoria)

Mon 12 Sep 2005

Page: A1 / Front

Section: News

Byline: Jeff Rud

Source: Times Colonist

Expect to see plenty of new faces, a revised budget and possibly even a refreshing new tone when the B.C. legislature resumes sitting this week.

But don't expect much in the way of fresh bills, as both sides predict the fall session will be light on legislation.

After a quiet summer following May's provincial election, government gets back to work today with the throne speech to be delivered by Lt.-Gov. Iona Campagnolo shortly after 2 p.m.

"Primary objectives of this session are to get the budget through," said Premier Gordon Campbell. "It isn't going to be a huge legislative calendar this fall."

The budget, to be presented by new Finance Minister Carole Taylor on Wednesday, is being billed as an update. Government introduced a budget in February, but it was never fully debated or passed in legislature.

This time, there will be full estimates debates -- the process of detailed examination of each ministry's spending -- with a beefed-up NDP contingent of 33 MLAs providing the scrutiny.

That compares to the three NDP MLAs in the house when it dissolved last April. Meanwhile, the Liberals have seen their caucus shrink from a record 77 members in 2001 to 46.

"I think there's a lot of nervous energy in our caucus," said NDP Leader Carole James, who will sit in the house for the first time this fall. "We have a lot of new people coming into the legislature and I think there's a great deal of respect for the fact that they were elected to represent their communities."

The NDP is expected to go hard after the government on problems in health care -- specifically a shortfall in promised long-term care beds -- and problems plaguing the privatization of public services. The opposition will also be watching closely when the trials begin Nov. 28 for former Liberal ministerial assistants Dave Basi and Bob Virk on charges of accepting bribes, breach of trust and fraud.

But the item that could well dominate this session isn't officially on the agenda yet. B.C.'s 42,000 teachers and the government are on another collision course that most predict will end with the government legislating a new contract, perhaps as early as this fall.

As for the budget, Taylor said an update is required because seven months have passed. The Finance Ministry has re-crunched the numbers and updated forecasts to reflect changes to critical items such as natural gas and oil prices. And because of government restructuring after the election, all of the ministry budgets had to be re-done.

"It's almost a brand new process, but it is going to be built on the budget of Feb. 15," Taylor said.

Don't expect new spending to fund election-campaign promises, though.

"The premier has said repeatedly that the commitments that were made in the election but after the Feb. 15 budget were commitments that could be met within the (existing) budget," Taylor said.

Witnesses wanted in shooting

Times Colonist (Victoria)

Mon 12 Sep 2005

Page: A1 / Front

Section: News

Byline: Sandra McCulloch

Source: Times Colonist

Victoria police on Sunday were looking for anyone who witnessed the shooting of a 25-year-old squimalt man during a scuffle with two officers the day before.

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The man is at Royal Jubilee Hospital, where he underwent surgery for a single gunshot wound to the abdomen. He is expected to recover.

The officer whose gun fired the shot is on administrative leave while the matter is investigated. He has been a police officer for four years.

Names of the officers and the shooting victim have not been released.

Staff at the McDonald's restaurant at 1149 Esquimalt Rd. called police at 5:21 p.m. Saturday when a man outside the restaurant began punching the windows, said Deputy Chief Bill Naughton at a press conference Sunday afternoon.

"The report was the man was pounding on doors and windows with his fists and that staff had locked the doors to protect themselves," said Naughton.

The man then began punching and kicking vehicles in the parking lot. A police car with two officers arrived in the area at 5:30 p.m. and officers found a man matching the description on Esquimalt Road near Macaulay Street.

When the officers tried to arrest the man, he resisted "and all three went to the ground," said Naughton. At least one of the officers had his gun drawn. The male was unarmed.

"During the struggle on the ground, one of the officers' weapons discharged, striking the man in the abdomen," Naughton said.

The officers gave the shooting victim first aid while an ambulance was summoned.

Both detectives and forensic identification officers arrived at the scene and began interviewing witnesses. The scene was in full view of an apartment block.

An outside police department will complete the investigation, said Naughton. He said it was "way, way too early" to characterize the shooting as accidental, even though he acknowledged the officer involved made a statement to that effect at the scene.

It's not clear whether drugs or mental illness played a role in the man's violent behaviour, said Naughton. In any case, no call was made to the region's emergency mental health team.

While both officers had handguns, Naughton said at least one of the officers was also armed with a Taser, which is a non-lethal option for police when dealing with violent people.

The immediate priority of the department is to gather evidence from the scene and statements from witnesses, said Naughton.

Naughton said the officers involved will likely not be interviewed for several days, giving them time to consult with lawyers.

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Ivan Bajwa
Media Monitoring Officer

Public Affairs Bureau
Phone: (250) 356-7393
Fax: (250) 356-2722
navan.bajwa@gov.bc.ca

mediamonitoring@gov.bc.ca
24/7 Line: (250) 356-0881

Sharma, Rishi PREM:EX

From: PAB Media Monitoring PAB:EX
: Sun, November 27, 2005 12:47 PM
ject: Media Monitoring - AM Update - November 27, 2005

Media Monitoring -- At A Glance

November 27, 2005 - AM Update

In The News:

de Jong says nothing's changed in the cosy relationship between big labour and NDP - Broadcast News - He's responding to the move by NDP Leader Carole James to loosen ties with the union movement by establishing a one-member, one-vote system. But de Jong says big labour has gone from overt control to covert control. He says unions gain an increased presence on the NDP's provincial council in exchange for giving up the affiliation votes labour used to have with the party.

Mike de Jong: 'Big labour remains firmly in control of the NDP' - BCTV Global - **James:** We are showing with this resolution that we're not afraid to examine ourselves. We're not afraid to take a look at our party and our structure and look at the best way of making sure that every member gets involved in our party whether from an affiliated union or a constituency. **de Jong:** It's pretty clear to anyone who is looking at this that big labour remains firmly in control of the NDP. They've actually increased big labour representation on the provincial council, guaranteed big labour representation at the executive level-an organization that favours one group over another is hardly democratic in my view.

Jack Layton: 'Gordon Campbell let's for-profit clinics like the Copeman Clinic open in Vancouver' - CKNW - Layton has made a campaign style speech to delegates at the BC NDP convention in Vancouver. He used the opportunity to slam the Martin government's record on health care. **Layton:** We can see that they've accomplished nothing on waiting lists despite the emphasis that was given to that in the last campaign by the Prime Minister. And they also do nothing while Gordon Campbell let's for-profit clinics like the Copeman Clinic open in Vancouver with plans to spread right across this country.

Jack Layton: The sale of Terasen is not a good idea for the people of British Columbia - CKNW - Jack Layton vowed to fight the sale of our water and gas to friends of U.S. President George W. Bush. **Layton:** Well the people of British Columbia are gonna send a strong message to every Liberal at every door: The sale of Terasen is not a good idea for the people of British Columbia or for the people of Canada. Layton also pressed the issues of offshore drilling and the mountain pine beetle infestation.

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James says new relationship with organized labour will make NDP more democratic - CBC Radio 1
- James says the reforms will send an important message to the public. **James:** It provides an opportunity for every member of the party, whether they belong to a union or whether they belong constituency to get involved in a party. It takes away the opportunity to have delegates at convention based on resources and says that you have to be a member of the party and your counted the same way whether you're a labour organization or a constituent.

NDP shake up voting rules at conventions - News 1130 - From now on, voting at conventions will take on a one member, one vote format. NDP leader Carole James addressed the convention in Vancouver telling delegates the new changes will open up the party. Dr. John Redekop with Trinity Western University says it's a smart plan that means that there will be no block voting from big labour at conventions and the party will need to open itself up to more compromise and negotiation.

Hansen sure 2010 Games won't take province over budget - CKNW - Hansen says VANOC was allotted enough money to guarantee it won't go overboard. **Hansen:** There is a maximum of \$600 million that we will put into the Games and we have every indication so far that VANOC will manage within the allocation. What they're finding is that while their costs are going up, so are their other revenue going up... Hansen says the government committed \$139 million in case VANOC went over their original budget plan.

Schedule:

Monday, November 28, 2005

VANCOUVER -- Dave Basi, Aneal Basi and Bobby Virk face trial on corruption charges in the provincial government's sale of B.C. Rail. (10 a.m. at B.C. Supreme Court)

VANCOUVER -- John Punko and several other alleged Hells Angels back in court, likely to fix trial dates. (800 Smithe St.)

CAMPBELL RIVER -- George Osmond on trial for first-degree murder in April 2004 death of 13-year-old Kayla John at Zeballos. (10 a.m. at B.C. Supreme Court)

KAMLOOPS -- Murder trial of Darlene Young in shooting of husband and his friend. (10 a.m. at B.C. Supreme Court)

KELOWNA -- First-degree murder trial of Ronald Fowler, 36, accused in sexual assault and killing of 51-year-old Diana Russell in February 2002. (10 a.m. at B.C. Supreme Court)

Transcripts:

Keith Baldrey: When the public sees NDP, they see labour-when they see Liberals, they see business - *The Angle* - BCTV Global - 9:40 AM

➤ **BC NDP Leader Carole James' speech to the NDP Provincial Convention - BC NDP News**

Detail

Keith Baldrey: When the public sees NDP, they see labour-when they see Liberals, they see business - *The Angle* - BCTV Global - 9:40 AM

Robin Stickley: Time now to join up with Keith Baldrey, our legislative bureau who is actually in Vancouver this weekend, over from the island covering the NDP convention going on. Nice to see you again, Keith.

Vaughn Palmer: Always good to be here, Robin.

RS: So let's chat about the convention going on this weekend. We talked yesterday a little bit about the fact that one of things on the agenda was, of course, lessening ties with labour and I understand that now the change to status on labour has been passed and it was almost unanimous.

Reporter: Yeah, it was-not a lot of debate, either. It was-you know, you go back a few months ago and there was all this consternation and worry in the NDP about changing its formal relationship with organized labour. The motion put forward yesterday-and, again as you say, passed with almost unanimity-was a compromise motion. It doesn't sever the ties between the NDP and organized labour but it does-it lessened the presence of labour, the automatic presence of labour at NDP conventions.

In the past, the unions could send delegates based on how many union members they actually had. If you had 20,000 members, you could send a number of delegates based on that. Now the formula is based on how many people in the union belong to the NDP.

So, there's still a very strong labour tie there with the New Democrats-very strong presence at the conventions, not as automatically as big as it was in the past. So I think that is-that's a bit of a shift.

Labour still enjoys automatic status of the provincial council and the provincial executives, so it still has a relationship as a special interest group unlike any other special interest group out there-and, again, with a political party.

The Liberals argue that, "Hey, we don't have anything like that in our constitution. We have no formal ties to any special interest groups," which is true up to a point. But, of course, at the end of the day, I don't think-I think the average person out there in the public, when they see NDP, they see labour. When they see Liberals, they see business. So, that's link that the public makes in their minds. Now the link is a little less-well, a little weaker, I think, in the constitution of the NDP, which is going to have an impact on future conventions. But, at the end of the day, NDP and labour are always going to be linked just as Liberals and business are always gonna be linked.

Right. Mike de Jong saying he didn't think that this made that much of a difference.

P: Yeah, and that's one way to look at it. I do think that-having gone to NDP conventions for 20

years-in the past, you would see a vast number of delegates automatically awarded to trade unions and that is not necessarily going to happen in the future and that is a change, I think, for the NDP. It's not quite as severed as Carole James, I think, was hoping for at the beginning of this process. She would like a more of-sort of a divorce between the two. But I don't think the NDP itself can ever really find itself to completely sever ties with the labour movement 'cause that's an unrealistic expectation and I don't think the public-even if they sever ties completely, the public is still gonna link always labour with New Democrats.

RS: The perception is there for sure. So, leader Carole James addressed delegates yesterday. This is interesting timing for her though and maybe you can tell us whether you feel she's in the hot seat or not over the recent MLA salary controversy. Yesterday, you told us this is *the thing* which is not discussed!

Reporter: Yeah, exactly! The thing that shall not be named. It was-- in fact, she referred to it in her speech yesterday. It was a rather lacklustre speech, quite frankly. I think, disappointing for a lot of people because there was nothing specific in it. She talked about the need to change but she didn't talk about the need to change into something. You know, what exactly does she want the NDP to change into?

She referred to the salary hike increase, not by name, just by saying, "Last week, we made a mistake and you let us know about it." Well, that's fine for a reference but on Friday night, I can tell you, the mood at the convention was one of anger. There was a lot of vitriol and rhetoric by delegates aimed at the NDP caucus for participating in this stunt with the Liberals to raise their salaries and more than one speaker got up at that time microphones and denounced the NDP caucus and denounced Carole James-a couple of them as well-- for arbitrarily scuttling the thing without consulting the caucus.

So, they had a rough ride on Friday night but on Saturday everything was, you know, kiss and make up, and it was a positive reaction to Carole James.

One thing I can tell you-you know, covering the NDP for years, they are known for having these intense policy discussions, which is a thing the average person in the public just thinks, "Well, you know, that's a waste of time!"

But, they really, I think, getting into these policy debates. There's a lot of anger that's thrown around. And it is unusual for a political party to see convention delegates criticize their own party with such passion and indignation.

That's happened before at NDP conventions; it's happened at this one. It doesn't mean that there's not support for the leader and the caucus at the end of the day but they're held, I think, more to account in the NDP than perhaps other political parties, which is why you see that criticism levelled at them publicly and in such an angry fashion and that was the issue of the convention, Robin. It was salary increases. It wasn't the changing relationship with labour.

RS: Okay, Keith, about 30 seconds left to go here. Quickly, I want to ask you, obviously, end of the

legislative session last Friday. Let's talk about the relationships quickly between the two parties. It started out on fairly friendly terms. Is that still the case?

Porter: It's still I think better than it was in previous years. It's still-it certainly took a downturn with this fiasco over the salary hikes. The Liberals now say they can't trust the NDP when it comes to making deals in the House.

I think the anger is gonna dissipate on that issue and I think in the spring it's gonna be a more feisty session, I think, not quite the warm and cozy relationship between the Liberals and the NDP as we saw the last few weeks but it's still better and healthier than anything we saw in the 80s and 90s between the NDP and Socreds or the NDP and the Liberals. So, Carole James and Gordon Campbell are still talking to each other.

RS: And that's a good thing. All right, Keith. Thanks so much for the update this morning. We know you're busy this weekend and we appreciate your time. Have a safe trip back over to the island this afternoon.

KB: Yeah, gotta get home and watch the Grey Cup!

RS: That's right. Thanks Keith.

NDP Leader Carole James' speech to the NDP Provincial Convention - BC NDP News Detail

Thank you. What a wonderful welcome! And what an incredible team! I am so proud of each and every one of them and each and every one of you.

Fellow New Democrats, fellow British Columbians, I speak to you today as the leader of the largest NDP opposition in history, a party on the move, a party fulfilling its destiny, deeply rooted in every BC community, with enduring values and a tenacious spirit.

Fellow New Democrats, I speak to you today as the leader of a party reborn and ready to take on the challenges of a new century. I want to begin by offering you my thanks.

Two years ago this week I stood in this room and addressed you as the new leader of the NDP. At that moment the future of our party was still an open question. Joy and Jenny's incredible courage kept our spirits up and our vision alive. But the road ahead was uncertain.

That day I promised to work with all my passion to re-build our party and prepare for the next election. And when I left this hall, I began a journey that took me to every corner of the province, a journey into the heart of British Columbia. At times it was challenging. At others, exhilarating. But every moment it was inspiring. Because each and every day, I could count on the people in this room. I could count on you to keep me going, to keep me focussed, and to keep me grounded.

On election night, I knew who had delivered our historic victory. It wasn't the television ads, or the debate, or the tour, or the campaign strategy. We owed our victory to you. To your persistence, your determination to build a better, more just and fair province for the people of British Columbia. This caucus matches any in our party's history. They come from every part of the province and from every walk of life.

I have never worked with a more talented group of people, or with people more committed to progressive values.

They came together as individuals, quickly became an effective team, and gathered around a single purpose: To hold the Campbell government accountable and to put forward a positive agenda for change.

And last week when we made a mistake, you spoke up. You told us we were wrong. And you were right. But we cannot allow it to overshadow our incredible success.

Because, in just a few short months, we've accomplished much: New Democrats have fundamentally altered the terms of debate in British Columbia. No longer can the Liberal government do what it wants, when it wants. Today there are questions. Today they face consequences.

Children at risk now have a voice in BC. And the government's shameful record of uncaring mismanagement and cover up has been exposed.

Rural communities in crisis now can't be ignored or tossed aside to the whims of the market without public scrutiny.

Working people now can't have their rights taken away without Gordon Campbell and the Liberals being held to account for it.

Now, when a forest worker dies on the job, there are people in the Legislature who stand up and say enough is enough.

Because of New Democrats, the public dialogue has changed. Because of New Democrats, the public interest matters again.

When it came to education, and the Campbell government stripped away teachers' rights to negotiate a fair deal, New Democrats forced the Liberals hour after hour, day after day to face questions the public wanted answered.

When it came to the sale of Terasen Gas, and the Campbell Liberals denied thousands of BC citizens a voice, New Democrats brought their voice to Victoria... and we brought their voice to Ottawa.

When it came to the health and safety of our province's fire fighters, and the Campbell Liberals left two-thirds of them out in the cold...

New Democrats held the Liberals' feet to the fire and forced them to change.

Today, there is an Opposition... the strongest in BC history... providing British Columbians with a clearer vision and a new voice for change. And we can all be proud.

But, friends, we cannot be complacent. We must engage the future. Because the future is a fundamental part of our tradition. We are a young political movement born in the midst of the turbulent twentieth century. Born in response to the great challenges of the time, with a progressive vision, innovative and courageous. One that held broad social inclusion at its heart. Ours is a proud history. And as we've always done, we must face our future with confidence and conviction.

Because British Columbia is changing fast. And New Democrats are responding.

Forging a new politics, applying our values in a world very different from the world in which our party was born.

Today, peoples' expectations from government are much different than they were only a generation ago.

And for those of us who believe in a positive, active, and progressive role for government, those changes have placed a unique demand on our politics.

It is less demanding for those who believe that government is always - and everywhere - the problem. That government democratically elected by citizens and accountable to them is something to be eliminated, shunned, or sold off.

As New Democrats, we're challenged to re-vitalize government. To re-shape it as a positive force for change. And that challenge can only be met if we understand our goals and how we must achieve them. Social justice, opportunity, fairness, solidarity and equality. These have ever been our goals, and they ever will be. But the means to achieve those goals can't become ends in themselves. Because, when we do that, we no longer speak to the future, but for the past.

Today, British Columbia is in the midst of perhaps the greatest social and economic transformation of its history.

Where once immigrants to BC were primarily European in origin, today our province moves to global rhythms, driven by an accelerating inflow of people and cultures from every corner of the world.

Where once we could confidently stand on the value of our raw resources to provide for our future, now we face the realities of a new world economy.

Our challenge is to ensure every community in this province has a sustainable future. That everyone,

in every region, benefits from our shared prosperity. And that our prosperity is there for future generations.

Where once BC governments believed First Nations could be sidelined without consequence to other British Columbians today First Nations can no longer be ignored. Their rights are enshrined in law. And their fate is tied to the destiny of every other British Columbian.

Where once we felt cut off by the Rockies to the East and the Pacific Ocean to the west today BC is at the crossroads of global trade, commerce, and culture.

In short, the province I grew up in is very different than the province we now serve. New Democrats are on the cutting edge of change. But we have not - and will not - pay a price for change with our values. New Democrats today speak as we always have - and always will... for ordinary people. For those who work hard, pay their fair share. For those who live paycheque to paycheque, and who struggle to balance the competing needs of work and family. For those being left behind. For the homeless, the addicted, the marginalized. For those who have no voice, for children and for those falling through the cracks.

In BC, New Democrats stand for a fairer, more just and equal province. Where governing means taking an active interest in the lives of all citizens. Where governing means ensuring every British Columbian has every chance to meet their full potential. A province where our values are joined with the need for a new approach to politics.

In 2005, our values rooted in the Regina Manifesto are more important than ever.

In a world defined by change, social solidarity is the best way for our province to meet our challenges, and ensure we succeed. To secure a bright future for our children, then their knowledge, their skills, and their intelligence must be nurtured.

The Campbell government doesn't understand that.

Their only answer is to de-skill the workforce, subsidize jobs outside the province, abandon resource-dependent communities, and make it harder for ordinary families to pursue opportunity.

Our answer is to support BC jobs and communities, to give British Columbians the tools they need to succeed. To secure a bright future, we must enhance public health care.

Privatization is this government's only answer. Schemes like the Copeman clinic drain resources and support for universal access to medicare. Our answer is innovation, renewal, and reform of public health care.

To secure a bright future for all British Columbians, then we must enhance support for the most vulnerable. This government is punishing the poor. We want to spread economic opportunity and support to every British Columbian, every community.

There will be change in British Columbia.

Because we believe in public services, in a better life for ordinary people let it be New Democrats who lead that change. Because we believe BC is more than the sum of its citizens... that it's a community that everyone matters...

Let it be New Democrats who shape our common future.

Generations from now will judge our provinces' response to the challenges of the 21st century. They will judge us not on the success of this industry or that nor on the success of the few but on how broadly opportunity for success was distributed. On the success or failure of the least privileged among us. On the number of people we left behind.

Ours is a movement that is defined by an enduring faith in a better, more humane and just future. by an abiding faith in equality and fairness.

Friends, when we leave this convention, we leave stronger than ever. Strong in our purpose, strong in our resolve. If we look ever forwards, if we remain true to our goals. We will make this new century BC's progressive century.

The work starts here. Let's do it now.

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Pavan Bajwa
Media Monitoring, Manager

Public Affairs Bureau
Phone: (250) 356-7393
Fax: (250) 356-2722

pavan.bajwa@gov.bc.ca

abmediamonitoring@gov.bc.ca

24/7 Line: (250) 356-0881