



**Climate change is the biggest issue of our generation, and everyone needs to be part of the fight. Carole James and the New Democrat Official Opposition are committed to taking bold action on climate change, and believe BC needs to unite behind an approach that is fair, effective and transparent.**

The Campbell government's "plan" is none of these. It picks winners and losers. It puts the burden on consumers and those who can least afford to pay, while giving big polluters a pass. It was developed behind closed doors. It divides when it should unite.

The New Democrat Official Opposition offers a real alternative. We know British Columbians want to do their part in fighting climate change. But we also know that to do this effectively, government has to involve all British Columbians in the solutions.

### OPEN CONSULTATION, TRANSPARENT IMPLEMENTATION

Our Framework for Real Climate Action outlines a fairer, more effective and more transparent approach to the Campbell "plan."

But we know we do not have a monopoly on good ideas.

Carole James and the New Democrat Official Opposition are inviting all British Columbians to join in the discussion and unite in combating climate change.

Carole James, environment critic Shane Simpson and New Democrat MLAs will consult British Columbians about the approaches and ideas in our framework and about their perspectives and their solutions.

Because we know that to successfully fight climate change, we need a plan that we can all get behind. ▶



"In order to effect real progress on climate change, everyone needs to be involved."

CAROLE JAMES AND SHANE SIMPSON, letter to Premier Campbell urging him to establish an all-party committee on climate change (April 25, 2008).

## Campbell's "plan": not fair, not effective and secret

NOT FAIR

At the centre of Gordon Campbell's "plan" is a fuel tax that is unfair, and according to the Campbell administration itself, won't substantially reduce emissions. At the same time Campbell is imposing a fuel tax on consumers with no consultation, the implementation of a cap-and-trade system for reducing industrial pollution looks like it will be put off until after the next election.

### NOT FAIR

Campbell's "plan" is unfair because it:

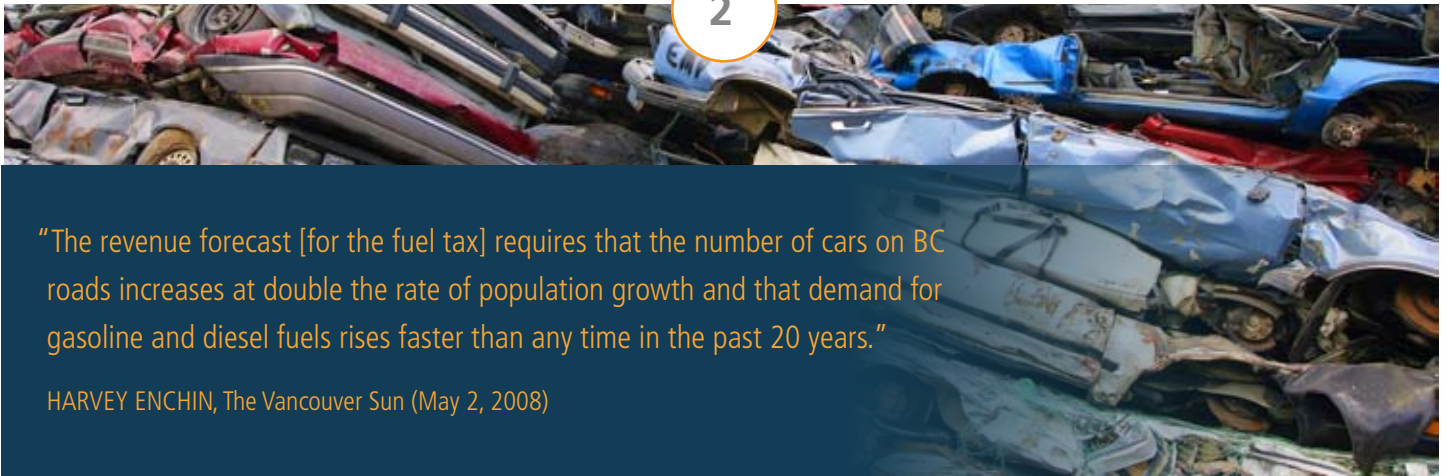
- > Taxes people without alternatives;
- > Ignores regional differences;

- > Undermines key industries and threatens jobs;
  - > Downloads costs to community services, such as schools, hospitals and local government; and
  - > Lets big polluters off the hook by exempting 30 to 40 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions in BC.
- This is why British Columbians think Gordon Campbell is out of touch.

Under Campbell's plan, all public services have to be carbon-neutral by 2012, with no financial help. Cash-strapped school boards and health authorities, bound by balanced budget requirements, have to incur these costs and possibly cut services or increase taxes. The City of Port Coquitlam alone estimates the fuel tax will add \$821,000 to their five-year economic plan, resulting in a 1.75-per-cent tax increase.

The list of organizations and municipalities expressing concern about Campbell's fuel tax is growing. It includes Port Coquitlam, Prince George, Quesnel, Fort St. John, Smithers, Williams Lake, the Regional District of Kitimat, the North Central Municipal Association, the BC School Trustees Association and many others.





“The revenue forecast [for the fuel tax] requires that the number of cars on BC roads increases at double the rate of population growth and that demand for gasoline and diesel fuels rises faster than any time in the past 20 years.”

HARVEY ENCHIN, *The Vancouver Sun* (May 2, 2008)

NOT EFFECTIVE

The centrepiece of Campbell’s “plan” is his fuel tax. Even the Campbell government admits that the fuel tax will barely make a dent on our overall emissions, reducing them by only 2.8 per cent by 2020. Further, its own documents forecast an annual two-per-cent increase in the consumption of gas and diesel over the next four years.

“Companies owning facilities that emitted 100,000 tonnes or more of greenhouse gas emissions in 2006 donated \$1.6 million to the provincial Liberals between 2005 and 2007.”

*Public Eye Online* (April 10, 2008)

“The breadth of confidentiality provisions in this legislation undermines the crucial objective of keeping government processes open and accountable to the public. Within the context of effective climate change policy, provisions limiting transparency are profoundly damaging to the public trust regarding the government’s commitment to have large emitters implement their fair share of emission reductions.”

*David Suzuki Foundation, letter to Environment Minister Penner* (April 15, 2008)

SECRET

Climate change is not the stuff of spy novels. But the Campbell Liberals seem to think so. They have consulted only with a secret list of hand-picked insiders. Negotiations are being held beyond any kind of public scrutiny.

Campbell’s cap-and-trade legislation would have restricted Freedom of Information access. It took the New Democrat Opposition, community outrage and a strongly worded letter from BC’s Privacy Commissioner

to shame his government into backtracking. Despite this, the legislation still has no detail on which industries will be covered and leaves the real decisions to be made by Campbell’s cabinet behind closed doors. As a result, while we believe cap-and-trade plans can contribute to the climate change solution, the New Democrat Opposition voted against this legislation.

Gordon Campbell hatched his so-called “climate plan” without even talking with British Columbians, so it isn’t surprising that it is unravelling.



The New Democrat Opposition believes that BC needs a comprehensive approach to sustainability. Sustainable BC, which was adopted in 2007, is a vision for BC in which dedication to a sustainable future supports healthy people and communities, a clean, productive environment, and a vibrant and diversified economy.

## A real alternative to the Campbell “plan”

### THE NDP ALTERNATIVE

The Campbell Liberal government has refused to acknowledge concerns that have been raised all over BC. Campbell’s approach does not change his record on climate pollution in a substantive way. It offers no way for citizens to be involved. It creates uncertainty and risks destroying a growing consensus on the need to take action on climate change. And it undermines the pan-Canadian approach that we need for both meaningful action and for achievement of our international obligations made through the United Nations climate change pacts.

While the government pretends to be green, they are planning to double oil and gas production and open BC’s fragile coast to offshore oil and gas production and tanker traffic.

Carole James and the New Democrat Opposition are calling for a comprehensive climate change strategy that will reduce emissions without unfairly burdening consumers with the cost.

### BUILDING ON A PROUD RECORD OF LEADERSHIP

New Democrats have a proud record of leadership on climate change and sustainability. While in government, we:

- > Pioneered integrated land-use planning to balance environmental, economic and social priorities, including strengthened protection of agricultural land and regional planning powers to cut sprawl;
- > Developed BC’s first Greenhouse Gas Action Plan and Climate Change Plan;
- > Pioneered a Green Economy Secretariat to create green jobs and stimulate a green economy;
- > Put in place a Sustainability Commissioner to ensure all government ministries incorporated sustainability principles into their business and planning;
- > Established the strictest automobile emissions controls in Canada and expanded transit;
- > Established innovative Green Building, AirCare and PowerSmart programs;
- > Met the UN goal of protecting 12 per cent of our land base through the Muskwa-Ketchika, Kitlope, Khuyzamateen and many other protected areas and parks; and
- > Were the first government to take steps towards tax shifting.

Nearly all of these leading edge initiatives were wiped out or undermined by the BC Liberal government within 30 days of Gordon Campbell coming into office. The result is that we are seven years behind on taking action.

### OUR FRAMEWORK FOR REAL CLIMATE ACTION: FAIR, EFFECTIVE, TRANSPARENT

Carole James and the New Democrat Opposition support provincial targets of a 33 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 and 80 per cent by 2050. We supported the Kyoto Protocol, which Gordon Campbell fought for years. Before Gordon Campbell even got on board with climate change, we called for the government to cap emissions at current levels as a first step towards decreasing emissions.

Our Framework for Real Climate Action offers actions to ensure all sources of emissions are addressed, and that the positive alternatives needed to make real changes are provided. Our principles are simple:

- > Fairness and equity for all regions and all citizens;
- > Effectiveness in actual climate change pollution reductions;

"Pollution must have a price tag. It is currently too cheap to pollute and too expensive not to."

*Don Drummond, Chief Economist  
TD Bank, March 7, 2007*

## 1. TOUGHER REGULATIONS FOR LARGE POLLUTERS

- > Openness and accountability in planning and implementation;
- > Environmental stewardship and resiliency in our communities and industries to meet the challenges of climate change;
- > Meeting Canada's international climate commitments made through UN treaties and agreements.

Our framework has seven action items to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enable individuals and communities to adapt and thrive:

### REGULATIONS

Tough and compulsory regulations are essential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Major polluters have proved time and again that voluntary measures do not work. Increased monitoring and enforcement are needed so polluters get the message and make positive change.

Enhanced regulations must include:

- > Toughening oil and gas regulations by banning fugitive emissions and all flaring, and, as a transition, charging royalties until the ban takes effect;
- > Introducing carbon capture and storage for coal burning and other producers of carbon dioxide;
- > Implementing an all-new Green Building Code; and
- > Reducing waste going into and the emissions coming from landfills.

## 2. FAIR AND EFFECTIVE EMISSION PRICING

### EMISSION PRICING

Putting a price on emissions has been proven to change behaviour and encourage alternatives that reduce emissions.

Carole James and the New Democrat Opposition support emission pricing and believe the best approach is an integrated one that includes a carbon tax at source, focuses on big polluters, and ensures record oil and gas profits are used to support reductions in emissions. To be truly fair and effective, we must crack down on big polluters now, not at some unspecified time in the future.

There are many ways of pricing greenhouse gas emissions, from various types of carbon taxes to "cap-and-trade" plans to combinations of the two. Some of these models have worked better than others in meeting the overall objective of reducing emissions.

Implementing a system of pricing emissions at source is a way of reducing emissions that has been used in a number of countries. For

Gas prices have increased by approximately 30 cents a litre in the four months since Campbell announced his fuel tax back in February. As Barack Obama recently said, people need us to bring in “an energy plan that works with auto-makers to raise fuel standards, and makes corporations pay for their pollution, and oil companies invest in their record profits in a clean energy future – an energy future that will create millions of new jobs that pay well and can’t be outsourced.”

example, Denmark reduced emissions by 15 per cent from 1990 to 2005 by using a carbon tax that targets large emitters at source.

Cap-and-trade plans put a cap on greenhouse gas emissions, and big polluters that go over the cap have to buy carbon credits from those that are under the cap. In this way, they essentially act as a tax. To be truly effective, a cap-and-trade scheme must:

- > Set aggressive, real caps on emissions now, not some unspecified time in the future, and lower the cap over time as industries adjust and adapt to cleaner practices;
- > Target all significant polluters, including oil and gas, big industry, aviation and shipping;
- > Set thresholds that capture as many polluters as possible;
- > Auction carbon credits, using revenue to give people the tools to cut fuel use and energy bills, build better transit, support energy-saving retrofits and other conservation initiatives to help consumers; and
- > Limit offsets to those that have been proven effective and only rely on offsets for the short term.

All pricing models include a cost to consumers. But while industry must pay its fair share at source, consumers should not have to pay both at the pump and in increased prices passed on by industry. Low income households must also be protected from the economic impact. And the way emissions are priced must not erode local and public services.

Issues of ensuring fairness for and viability of BC industries – like forestry and agriculture – across provincial and national borders need to be addressed through a carbon tariff or other means to ensure those who take positive action are not disadvantaged. Exemptions for coloured gas used for agricultural production for a period of time are important to ensure the viability of this essential sector. And transition plans so that BC workers, businesses and communities benefit from innovation in the clean energy economy are key.

### 3. REAL HELP TO INCREASE CONSERVATION AND GREEN ENERGY PRODUCTION

## CONSERVATION

British Columbians want to be part of the solution. To do so, they must have access to real alternatives. And we need to create an energy plan geared to producing affordable, clean and publicly-controlled power.

Measures needed to increase conservation and green energy production include:

- > A comprehensive home and small business retrofit program to encourage the replacement of old furnaces and hot water systems, and the installation of solar panels and other technologies that will conserve energy;
- > Assistance for local government and other public services to increase energy efficiency; and
- > Mandating BC Hydro to develop a Green Energy Plan that serves the public good rather than private profits, and encourages local energy plans involving local government and First Nations.

The 2008/09 provincial budget has \$826 million this year for building roads but only \$63 million for expanded transit.

#### 4. TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS

### TRANSPORTATION

Affordable and efficient transportation alternatives are essential. But not everyone has access to the bus or can afford a new, more efficient vehicle. Transportation alternatives will vary from community to community.

Effective action on transportation must include:

- > Increasing investment in transit now and rolling back transit fare increases;
- > Enhancing tools for local government to fund much needed transportation projects;
- > A "Road to Rail" strategy for rural BC that invests in rail to move goods and in rail/bus linkages to provide additional transportation alternatives; and
- > A "BC Diesel" strategy to encourage heavy duty truck fleets and passenger vehicles to move to bio-diesel produced from waste materials.

#### 5. LOCAL PLANNING, LAND USE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

### LOCAL PLANNING & LAND USE

Local governments and First Nations are key partners in the climate change fight. They must be at the table. And they must have the tools and resources needed to ensure their communities have the ability to adapt to the real impact of climate change.

Promoting better local planning, land use and resource management includes:

- > Repealing the Significant Projects Streamlining Act and other pieces of legislation enacted by Gordon Campbell that have reduced local government control and oversight;
- > Providing provincial incentives and regulations to promote compact communities as a positive alternative to sprawl;
- > Better protecting our agriculture land through the Agricultural Land Reserve;
- > Ending the practice of helping big forest companies remove lands from Tree Farm Licences for purposes of land speculation; and
- > Involving First Nations in planning and solutions.

#### 6. CREATING A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY AND ECONOMY

### SUSTAINABILITY

Fighting climate change poses challenges and provides opportunities. The potential benefits are multifaceted: environmental, financial, health, community vitality. In order to take advantage of the opportunities, we have to start doing things differently.

Creating a sustainable society and economy includes:

- > Developing a green industrial policy with climate-friendly tax credits, leveraging of federal dollars in green directions and expanding funding for the development of clean energy technology;
- > Providing transition support and strategies for industries and workers facing change and adaptation, including a long-term sustainability plan for forestry;
- > Re-investing in the public service to ensure proper monitoring, research and enforcement; and
- > Implementing curriculum that teaches future adults how to adapt and flourish as "citizens for our climate."

Carole James and the New Democrat Opposition support the moratorium on offshore oil and gas, are fighting against coalbed methane and increased oil and gas subsidies, have introduced bills on species at risk and toxic substances, and have put forward plans for a sustainable aquaculture industry and for the future of our forests.

## 7. LEADERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY

### LEADERSHIP & ACCOUNTABILITY

Bold action is needed now. But this action must be grounded in leadership and it must be undertaken in ways that are transparent and accountable to the people of BC.

An effective climate change plan recognizes:

- > BC cannot go it alone. Not only is this approach more costly and less effective, it does not take into account economic and competitive realities. The federal government must play a more active role, both at home and internationally. We need a national strategy on climate change that recognizes our international obligations through the United Nations climate treaty and the Kyoto Protocol. The government of BC needs to show leadership in pushing the federal government to step up as Ontario and Quebec recently did when they signed an historic climate change accord.
- > Openness and transparency. This issue is too important to be dealt with behind closed

doors. An all-party legislative committee to monitor our climate change plan and report annually to the legislature on progress would ensure accountability and take away partisanship.

- > Consistency. Gordon Campbell talks tough on climate change but at the same time his government supports increasing subsidies for the highly profitable oil and gas sector, ending the moratorium on offshore oil exploration, improper forest management, inadequate land use planning and the privatization of our energy through private power projects.

### TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE REAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR PROVINCE

Climate change cannot be fought in isolation. Issues like the sustainability of our forests, our food and agriculture, our waters, our energy production and our health and education are intricately linked.

That is why Carole James and New Democrat MLAs have been out talking with British Columbians about the issues that matter to them. The Framework for Real Climate Action is another opportunity for us to hear from you.

# NEW DEMOCRAT

## OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

To get more information on the Framework for Real Climate Action and other initiatives, please visit our website at [www.realclimateaction.ca](http://www.realclimateaction.ca) or email [realclimateaction@leg.bc.ca](mailto:realclimateaction@leg.bc.ca)