

# *Coalition to* **BUILD** **A BETTER B.C.**

The strength of British Columbia is our people. We each contribute in unique and different ways, through our talents, ideas and hard work to build a better BC.

Building communities where every woman, man and child is treated with fairness and dignity, and respect is a shared responsibility.

When government singles out groups of individuals – by cutting services they depend on, raising fees inequitably, and unfairly shifting taxes – it diminishes all of us. It doesn't bring us together. It divides us.

The purpose of the Coalition to Build a Better BC is to bring us together.

The public, community and cultural services that we have built together over the years contribute greatly to a vibrant and diverse BC. They help to ensure that every British Columbian can participate and share in a quality of life that is recognized around the world.

Public, community and cultural services are essential cornerstones of a civil society. They are a critical component of our economic well-being, especially in difficult economic times. A strong public sector to support, build and regulate the private sector is vital to the social, environmental and economic health of the province.

Due to drastic funding cuts, chronic underfunding and misaligned political priorities many of these services are at risk of disappearing, and putting our way of life and the environment at risk.

Many of the cuts affect the most vulnerable people in our communities, particularly women, children, isolated seniors, and those with the lowest incomes. It is unacceptable for government to take more from those who have the least, in order to give more to those who have the most.

We call on the provincial government to:

- Immediately stop eliminating public and community services;
- Fulfill their legislative responsibility to provide adequate, fair and consistent funding to support public services and community groups; and
- Work in substantive consultation with groups and individuals to build public and community services that give every individual the democratic opportunity to participate in building a better BC.

We, the undersigned, are joining our voices together. We will work with community partners, from every background and region, to build a better British Columbia.

For a list of Coalition partners please turn over.

## Coalition Members

- Alliance for Arts and Culture
- BC Association of Social Workers
- BC/Yukon Association of Drug War Survivors
- BC Government and Service Employees' Union
- B.C. Federation of Labour
- B.C. Federation of Retired Union Members
- BC Health Coalition
- BC Persons with AIDS Society
- BC Retired Teachers Association
- BC Teachers Federation
- Canadian Federation of Students
- Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC
- Check Your Head
- Council of Senior Citizens Organizations
- CUPE BC
- Federation of Post Secondary Educators
- First Call
- Health Sciences Association
- Hospital Employees Union
- International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Northwest District 250
- Positive Women's Network
- Positive Living Fraser Valley
- Seniors on Guard for Medicare
- South Fraser Community Services Society
- Wilderness Committee
- Union of BC Indian Chiefs
- Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter

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