

Biography
THE HONOURABLE GORDON CAMPBELL,
PREMIER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Gordon Campbell is British Columbia's 34th premier. His government was first sworn into office on June 5, 2001 with the largest majority in B.C. history. He was re-elected on May 17, 2005, making him the first premier in 22 years and only the fifth in B.C. history to be elected to two consecutive terms.

In 2001, Mr. Campbell's government inherited a provincial economy that was among the worst in the country. Mr. Campbell and the B.C. Liberals vowed to fix the economy and bring in a new era of hope and prosperity. In its first four years in office, the government 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. B.C. now has the lowest personal income tax rates in the country for the bottom two tax brackets. The corporate capital tax was eliminated to encourage investment and taxes on productivity enhancements were done away with. These actions, combined with a government-wide commitment to fiscal discipline, have meant that a major prerequisite of a strong economy – a balanced budget – has now been accomplished, as the government promised.

Since the Campbell plan was put in place, B.C.'s economy has steadily improved and is now the strongest in Canada, leading the nation in job creation and business optimism.

This fiscal prudence and renewed economic vigour has allowed massive investments in advanced education, an increase of over \$2 billion in the provincial health budget and a quarter-billion dollars in additional funds for Kindergarten to Grade 12 education.

The Campbell government's re-election in 2005 was based on a platform of achieving five Great Goals for a Golden Decade:

1. To make B.C. the best educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent.
2. To lead the way in North America in healthy living and physical fitness.
3. To build the best system of support in Canada for persons with disabilities, special needs, children at risk and seniors.
4. To lead the world in sustainable environmental management, with the best air and water quality, and the best fisheries management, bar none.
5. To create more jobs per capita than anywhere else in Canada.

Mr. Campbell previously served as mayor of Vancouver for three terms, from 1986 to 1993. 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.

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 that was adopted in

the mid-1990s. He created the region's Council of Councils, to include all municipal elected officials in formulating regional plans. Mr. Campbell was also president of the Union of BC Municipalities. In that role, he encouraged the establishment of a local government Bill of Rights, the forerunner to his government's Community Charter.

Gordon Campbell has been involved in public life since first being elected to Vancouver City Council in 1984. His innovations include: the city caucus structure in Vancouver; the first set 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.

Gordon Campbell is married to his wife of 34 years, Nancy. She is a principal of Howe Sound Secondary in Squamish. Nancy and Gordon have two grown sons, Geoffrey and Nicholas. They are voracious readers, have coached soccer and baseball, and climbed Mount Kilimanjaro with their sons to help raise over \$130,000 for Alzheimer's BC. 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.