

Shuswap Teachers' Association



Courageous Boards Stand Up to Liberals

Several school boards in the province have stood up for their students by voting to censure the Minister of Education and/or the BC government in general. The districts of New Westminster, Richmond, Coquitlam, Vancouver Island North, Prince Rupert, and Coast Mountain all decided that their previous, "behind the scenes," efforts were not having the desired effect on this extremely ideological government. Being democratic bodies, the boards voted to show the government that the direction in which they are taking the BC education system doesn't serve students.

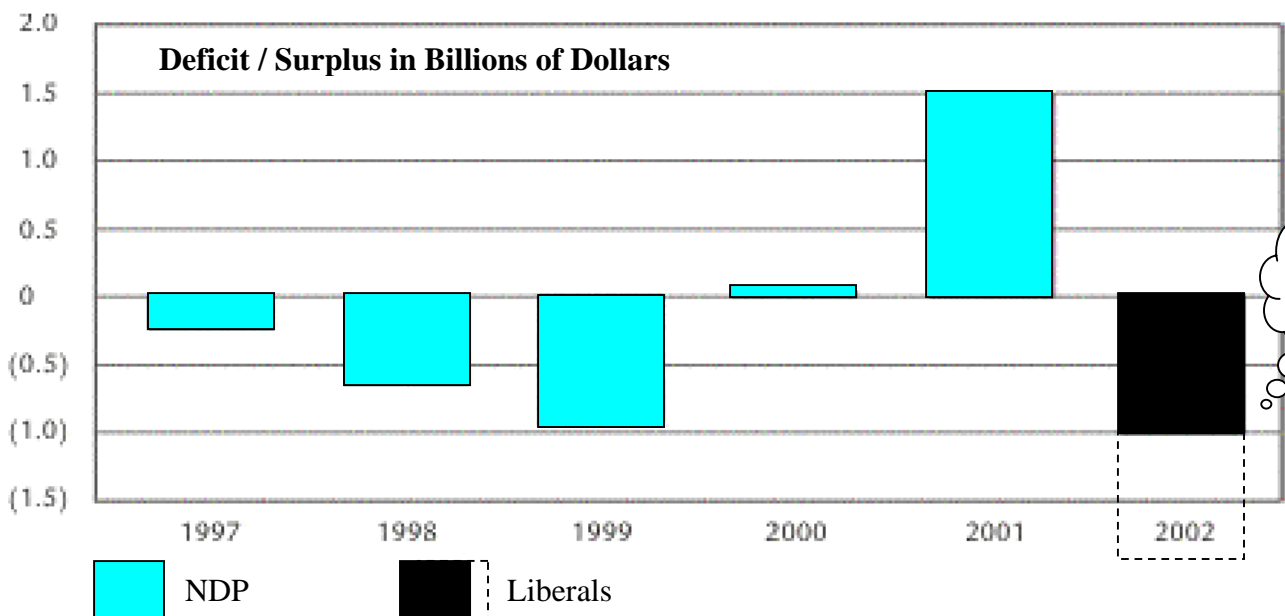
The cuts that our own district will experience next year will have a devastating effect on the ability of the Board to offer the level of quality that the Shuswap needs and deserves. The Shuswap Teachers' Association calls on the trustees of our school system to bring forth a motion to censure the Minister of Education. If such a motion is passed unanimously, it will send the strongest possible message to the government.



What can we as teachers do? Let our trustees know what we think and vote on Nov. 16 for trustees who support public education.

Update from BCs Auditor General

Misinformation about the state of the province's finances during the NDP government continues to fly about the media. Fortunately, the Auditor General of British Columbia, our independent monitor of the government's finances, has released his latest report. In it, he shows that the last two NDP budgets were, in fact, balanced. Now under the mismanagement of this Liberal government we have the largest deficit in years! One Billion! Not only that but the Auditor General notes that the deficit would have been even higher without some "unusual adjustments". He states that without these adjustments the deficit would be TWO BILLION! The Liberal Party's tax cuts for the rich have not done what was promised. Kids, seniors, and those most vulnerable in our society continue to pay the cost for an economic theory (trickle down) that Reagan, Thatcher, and Mulroneu demonstrated, decades ago, does not work.



Another Broken Promise

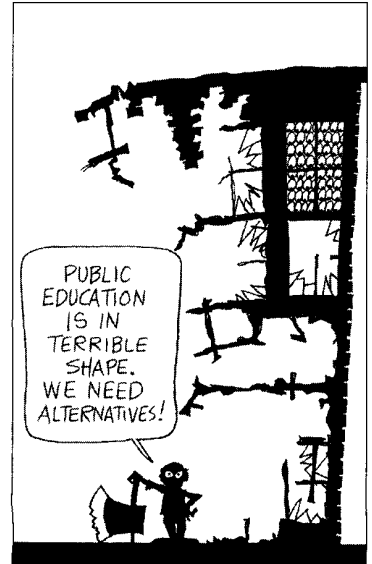
The following is a quote from the BC Liberals web site.
<http://www.bcliberals.com/KnowTheFacts/document/chap3.htm>

"The BC Liberals promised to protect education funding leading up to the 2001 Election through our New Era for British Columbia document. The BC Liberal Government has met AND beat this promise, increasing the education budget by \$20 million."

Well this is true. Like Education Minister Christy Clark, the BC Liberal website conveniently forgot to mention that the \$20 million did nothing more than compensate school boards for the 50% increase in MSP premiums.

Making up for only one of several government imposed cost increases is not "protecting education". This is typical of the spin that the government tries to put on what they call the facts.

It is time our School Board stood up and, at the top of their voices, tell the public what is really happening. The students of the Shuswap deserve no less.



Do your part to irritate the complacent



What's Up Doc?



Calendar

November 18 - LRA

November 25 - Implementation Day

December 09 - LRA

December 19 - STA Christmas Open House

Cuts Hurt

World Wide Web

<http://www.canadians.org/>

The Council of Canadians.

<http://www.policyalternatives.ca>

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

<http://www.handsoffhydro.com/>

Site dedicated to keeping BC Hydro in the hands of those who paid for it.



<http://www.strategictoughts.com/>

Analysis of BC political events.

<http://www.bctf.ca>

The British Columbia Teachers' Federation.

Vote

November 16, 2002

for Trustees who support Public Education

STA - www.bctf.ca

