

While the Olympic Bid goes ahead at the cost of over 30 Million dollars and a \$700,000 trip to Salt Lake City by the Olympic Bid Corporation, the provincial government has made the following spending decisions:

June 1, 2001

Deputy Ministers get 32% pay raise. Heads of Crown Corporations have pay increased by up to 150%.

June 4, 2001

Premier hikes pay of ministerial assistants by about \$15,000 a year.

June 5, 2001

Premier announces largest cabinet in BC's history while eliminating the ministries of Environment and Multiculturalism.

June 6, 2001

Personal income taxes cut by 25%, overwhelmingly benefiting the top tax bracket, not the bottom 2 tax brackets. Premier says tax cuts will mean greater revenue for health and education.

June 7, 2001

Provincial government insider Andrew Wilkinson hired for \$180,000 a year Deputy Minister post.

June 28, 2001

First act of minister responsible for public safety: scrap photo radar.

July 11, 2001

Provincial government chops 14 government employees charged with responsibility for BC's endangered species and kills both Buy BC program and the BC Shares food bank program. Later caves to public pressure and reinstates BC Shares for remainder of fiscal year.

July 13, 2001

Provincial government fires the ICBC board of directors.

July 14, 2001

BC Liberal government overturns grizzly bear moratorium.

July 17, 2001

Campbell government pulls out of a suit supporting the right of same sex couples to be married.

July 23, 2001

Fiscal Review Panel confirms budget surplus of \$1.1 billion for 2001-2002.

July 26, 2001

Human Rights Commissioner fired.

July 30, 2001

Government announces \$700 million in business tax cuts in first budget. Forecasts \$1.5 billion deficit and 3.8% economic growth for 2002.

August 1, 2001

Environmental auditor axed.

August 9, 2001

Contract imposed on BC nurses and health science professionals.

August 10, 2001

Softwood Lumber Duty imposed by Americans.

August 14, 2001

Provincial government kills universal childcare, pay equity, anti-SLAPP legislation, and protection for practitioners of complementary medicine and removes the independence of the Child, Youth and Family Advocate.

August 14, 2001

Provincial government passes legislation to boost the pay of 5 Liberal backbenchers by \$6000 per year for the previously unpaid positions of government caucus committee chair.

August 15, 2001

Provincial government passes bill to make education an essential service, a bill so flawed the Liberals have already had to contemplate amending it.

August 22, 2001

Provincial government overturn WCB anti-smoking regulations, force workers to inhale second-hand smoke.

September 4, 2001

Finance Minister downgrades growth forecast for 2002 by a "full point" from 3.8%

September 7, 2001

BC's unemployment rate reaches two year high -- 7.9 per cent.

September 12, 2001

Capital spending frozen at colleges and universities.

September 13, 2001

First Quarter Report released. Deficit jumps to \$2 billion, up \$500 million. Collins says government will be "downsized".

September 17, 2001

Collins announces government ministries to be cut by 10 to 40 per cent.

September 28, 2001

BC taxpayers learn that the Campbell government is letting the BC Liberal Party off the hook for the costs of the abandoned Nisga'a lawsuit.

October 3, 2001

Three-year health and education funding freeze announced. Government breaks promise to increase funding with economic growth.

October 3, 2001

Deregulation minister Kevin Falcon first promises release of the 220 regulations destined for the government's open trash bin.

October 6, 2001

Welfare recipients across BC receive warning letters from Human Resources minister Murray Coell - just in time for Thanksgiving.

October 10, 2001

Hydro chair Larry Bell reveals that the government plan to renege on their commitment to phase out Burrard Thermal.

October 15, 2001

Affordable Housing Week begins. Liberals announce affordable housing projects on hold.

October 17, 2001

Eye exams de-listed from MSP coverage.

October 29, 2001

Opposition urges Premier Campbell to convene a fiscal summit of business, labour, academic and community leaders in light of province's looming fiscal crisis.

October 29, 2001

Minimum wage reduced to \$6 an hour for new workers.

October 30, 2001

Mental Health Advocate Fired.

October 30, 2001

Health Planning Deputy Minister, John Tegenfeldt fired - earnings and severance total \$300,000 for five months work.

October 31, 2001

Forest Minister Mike De Jong's proposal for profit-based stumpage is leaked to the press, to a chorus of contempt from industry experts.

November 1, 2001

Gordon Hogg confirms hot lunch programs at community schools on chopping block.

November 15, 2001

Finance committee reports out -- Liberal backbench recommends premier proceed with caution on cuts to public services.

November 20, 2001

Government announces 1/3 of public sector to lose jobs; biggest cuts in Canadian history. Hires comedian to ease the blow.

November 22, 2001

Second Quarter Report Released. Deficit Climbs to over \$2 billion.
Economic growth for 2002 downgraded to 0.6% from 3.8% in July.
November 30, 2001 16 questions proposed for aboriginal treaty referendum. Cost to total \$9 million. Aboriginal leaders call for boycott.

December 6, 2001

Document leaked detail sweeping cuts to Pharmacare and MSP.

December 6, 2001

Women's groups in Victoria boycott the government's annual vigil at the legislature in memory of 14 women slain in 1989, saying the provincial government's spending cuts will push women into further violence and poverty.

December 7, 2001

BC unemployment rate climbs to 8.5 % for two year high.

December 12, 2001

The government announces it is slashing the number of health authorities in BC, a move that hurts small communities by centralizing decision-making in Victoria and moving health care farther away from home in direct opposition to the recommendations of the 1991 Royal Commission on health.

December 19, 2001

The government releases report on coastal forestry that calls for the closure of half the mills in the region. This report comes on the heels of 2 other reports quietly released in the week before Christmas that also target coastal communities, leading to higher hydro costs and big increases in ferry fares. Coastal MLAs remain silent in the face of these attacks on their communities.

December 19, 2001

Finance Committee recommends deep cuts to the watchdogs of government: the Child, Youth and Family Advocate (45%), the Ombudsman (35%), the Police Complaint Commissioner (30%), Elections BC, the Freedom of Information and Privacy Commissioner (35%), and the Auditor-General, (15%). Only the Conflict of Interest Commissioner's budget is spared. The cut to the Auditor-General is yet another broken promise.

December 31, 2001

Media reports first surface of the government's plan for the first round of massive civil service cuts in mid-January, involving grief counsellors, rides home for the distraught and a strategy to ensure fired employees don't steal government property. The contract for handling the firing of up to 12,000 jobs -- what the Campbell government is calling "Announcement Day" -- is being contracted out by the government.

January 1, 2002

The cost of getting sick goes up in British Columbia, as the Campbell government's first cuts to Medicare, announced in December, go into effect. Media also note that the first day of the New Year usher in "invisible tax breaks" that for most British Columbians will mean "little or no difference in their take-home pay" -- but will reduce government revenues by \$2 billion. (Times Colonist 02/01/2002) - In a related development, the New York Times published a story on New Year's Day in its international section entitled "Tax cut costly to British Columbia's Liberals."

January 4, 2002

Media reports that the Campbell government plans to spend over \$100,000 on a PR campaign to "brand" BC.

January 8, 2002

The BC and Yukon Territory Building and Construction Trades Council revealed the government has quit a federal-provincial project dedicated to keeping tabs on the underground economy, turning its back on about \$84 million a year in revenues lost to government coffers in this sector.

January 10, 2002

The government's competition for the privatization of welfare closed, with the favoured company widely rumoured to be Accenture, the company responsible for the Harris government's disastrous and costly experiment in welfare privatization. The Ministry of Human Resources had quietly fast-tracked a request for proposals on November 29, 2001.

January 12, 2002

Stats Canada reports that BC lost more jobs than all the rest of Canada in the month of December and that the unemployment rate has jumped to 9.7%, a 7 year high. BC lost 11,000 jobs in December, 4000 more than the rest of the country combined.

February

Massive cuts to legal aid and the closing of community and family law offices. Board of Legal Services Society fired. Open Learning Agency Board fired. Technical University amalgamated into SFU.