



Education

I believe that childhood education must be a priority, to ensure the social and economic viability of our province's future.

Currently, BC has the lowest education investment and the biggest class sizes in Canada.

As Premier, I would implement a five-part plan to increase funding and expand our childhood education system, while also improving

the viability of our post-secondary system by ensuring that our province benefits from University-based research.

Dana's five point education plan:

1) Increase funding to K-12 education by \$500 million in the first year of NDP government.

- Rolling back all of the Liberals corporate tax cuts since 2002 and adding 11% tax to income over \$250,000 would fill BC's budget deficit and leave \$500 million surplus for K-12 education investment.
- Use increased funding to begin re-opening schools that have been closed in rural communities.
- Also increase funding for aboriginal education to ensure equal graduation for aboriginal youth.

2) Return collective bargaining rights over class size to the BCTF

- Listen to parents, teachers and front-line educators when it comes to making sound decisions.
- Collective bargaining is a good first step to ensure that class sizes come down.

3) Work to establish half-day preschool for 4 year olds.

- Refuse to foot the bill for the federal government's prison spending spree
- Redirect funds from building prisons into preschool education.
- Investments in early childhood education pay off massively in long-term benefits of reduced crime, increased employment and increased health.

4) Transition towards "Open Source Textbooks" and "Open Source Courseware" at all levels of our education system.

- Open Source Textbooks and Courseware work to ensure high-quality and low cost
- Switching to Open Source Textbooks means a reduced education cost for both taxpayers and students.
- Open source educational materials have worked well in other jurisdictions, including California, Florida and South Africa.

5) Ensure that all Intellectual Property produced at publicly-funded post-secondary institutions remains public property.

- Currently much University research ends up owned and patented by corporations
- Student tuition fees should not be subsidizing corporate research.
- Establish a public Venture Capital firm to license and capitalize on publicly owned Intellectual Property, with all profits being redirected back into the educational system.

Facts about Education in BC

- BC spends \$5.1 Billion on Primary and Secondary education
- BC spend \$1.4 Billion on Post-Secondary education
- Education funding has decreased from 19.6% of budget to 15.3% since 2002
- There are 1631 School in BC (down 190 since 2002)
- Rural school closures have displaced 27,460 since 2002
- BC has 896 less teachers since 2006
- BC has highest class sizes in Canada
- BC spends lowest percentage of GDP on education in Canada
- 78% of students graduate (49% of First Nations students). 8th lowest in Canada.
- Non High School Graduates make up 34% of society, but 74% of prisoners
- High School graduates live 9.2 years longer than non graduates (US data)
- 92% of employed 24 year olds have graduated
- Each additional High School graduate generates \$127,000 in tax revenue (US data)
- Education is top heavy: There is 1 Administrator for every 10 teachers in BC
- Completing University doubles employment rate
- Employees with a Masters earn 75% more than employees with High School only
- Benefits of Post-Secondary education are \$12/\$1 spent (US data)
- Benefits of preschool are \$16.14/\$1 spent (80% to economy, 88% from reduced criminality)