

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **CAMPBELL LIBERAL'S LABOUR LEGACY WILL CONTINUE TO CAUSE CHAOS**

**VICTORIA**—The enormous damage caused to B.C.'s health system will remain an embarrassing legacy of the Campbell Liberals, say New Democrats.

"This agreement is an important victory for health care workers," said Carole James, Leader of the New Democrat Official Opposition. "I met many hundreds of workers who had their livelihoods taken away by Gordon Campbell when he forced through Bill 29 and triggered the largest layoff of women workers in B.C. history.

"This agreement doesn't undo the damage, but it does say very clearly that Gordon Campbell was wrong to attack the rights of health care workers."

On January 28, 2002, the Campbell Liberals forced through Bill 29 – the *Health and Social Services Delivery Improvement Act*, the catalyst for wide-spread layoffs and privatization within B.C.'s health sector. The legislation allowed for the layoff of 9,000 workers – mostly women working in B.C.'s health care system and allowed for the replacement of cleaning and food services with for-profit contracts at reduced pay. Low wages and repeated lay offs in these sectors have contributed to high staff turnovers that impede continuity of care. Seniors facilities have been particularly impacted.

"The damage done in the last six years has been so great to workers, seniors and patients that it is hard to quantify," said NDP Health Critic Adrian Dix. "The complete arrogance of the Campbell Liberal's has caused chaos. Patients and seniors will continue to suffer with reduced cleanliness, poor food services and lack of good quality care."

"The Campbell Liberals created hardships for working families with this unconstitutional legislation," said NDP Labour Critic Chuck Puchmayr. "This government must now work toward rebuilding stability and predictability in the healthcare sector and address the crises they created."

The New Democrats will continue to press Gordon Campbell and his Liberals to make health care a more attractive field that people will choose to stay and work in.

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