Since 2002, our provincial government has been short-changing children and families.

From the moment their kids are born to the day they graduate, BC parents are struggling against growing pressures: childcare fees as high as mortgage payments, increasing school fees and constant fundraising for basics, skyrocketing tuition fees and student debt.

From early childhood through Kindergarten to Grade 12 and on to post-secondary, children and youth need increased, stable investment in quality public education to thrive in the future.

But that’s not what we’ve seen under the BC Liberal government.
FROM PRE-SCHOOL TO POST-SECONDARY, PARENTS ARE PAYING MORE

Parents’ estimated annual subsidies to public education:
- School supplies—$92 million
- PAC fundraising—$40 million

Average debt for BC grads with a Bachelor’s degree increased nearly 60% between 2000 and 2010 to $32,300.

BC government revenue from post-secondary tuition has increased 400% since 2001.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monthly childcare fees for one toddler</th>
<th>Montreal</th>
<th>$164</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Winnipeg</td>
<td>$451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>$1,325</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 2002, Christy Clark, then Minister of Education, illegally stripped teachers’ collective agreements. She slashed class-size limits, ratios for specialist teachers, and guaranteed supports for children with special needs.

She also cut budgets, so that education funding as a share of BC’s overall spending and economy has dropped dramatically—about $300 million per year!

The result? **3,500 teaching positions were lost**, classes got larger, and kids stopped getting extra support, even though their needs increased.
EDUCATION SPENDING IN BC

IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE—The numbers tell the story
FEWER TEACHERS TO GIVE KIDS SPECIAL HELP

Specialist teachers are highly trained to give each student the kind of individual attention they need and deserve. Yet, in the past 15 years, BC schools lost more than 1,694 important specialist teacher positions.

These positions are restored by order of the Supreme Court of Canada, but the cuts should never have happened in the first place.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FTE SPECIALIST TEACHERS (FTE figures are rounded)</th>
<th>2001–02*</th>
<th>2015–16</th>
<th>CHANGE 2001–02 to 2015–16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Library Services</td>
<td>922</td>
<td>565</td>
<td>-357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counselling</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>868</td>
<td>-122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education</td>
<td>4052</td>
<td>3064</td>
<td>-987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language Learning</td>
<td>1016</td>
<td>797</td>
<td>-219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal Education</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>7186</strong></td>
<td><strong>5492</strong></td>
<td><strong>-1694</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OUR INCLUSIVE CLASSROOMS BECOME HIGHLY COMPLEX WHEN STUDENTS HAVE A WIDE RANGE OF DIVERSE NEEDS
Yet today there is less support for more students who need extra help

Students with Special Needs

FTE Special Education Teachers
Since 2002, **257 public schools have been closed** because of underfunding. Many children are now forced to travel up to **two hours** each day to school and back.

Even more schools are in a state of disrepair, with lead in the drinking water, asbestos in the walls, inadequate maintenance and lack of seismic upgrading, despite promises from the BC Liberal government.

In some growing districts, schools are so overcrowded that thousands of students spend years in portable classrooms.
By contrast, BC’s private schools—including elite boarding schools—get massive government subsidies.

In 2016–17, private schools in BC received an estimated $358 million in public funding.

Between 2005–06 and 2016–17, funding for BC’s private schools increased by a gold-plated 92%!
GROWING INEQUITY AND SOCIAL INJUSTICE

Food for thought: One in five BC children are growing up poor: that’s over 163,000 kids! Yet BC is the only province without a poverty reduction plan.

Of the teachers surveyed:

- 81% have students in their class who start the day hungry
- 43% indicate the school has a breakfast program
- 80% have students in their class who are without food for lunch or snacks
- 44% indicate the school has a lunch program
The situation is even tougher for BC’s Indigenous children: one in three kids living off-reserve and half of those living on-reserve are growing up in poverty.

Child advocates have been sounding the alarm for years, but BC’s child protection system is in crisis. Between 2007 and 2016, 914 BC children died and 2,957 suffered critical injuries while in government care.

It’s time to take action for vulnerable kids!
All of us who care about kids and public education know it’s time for change!

This May 9, Election Day, make sure the candidate you vote for supports:
- significantly increased investment for better learning conditions.
- a bold plan for new school construction and timely seismic upgrades.
- more funding and resources to implement curriculum change.
- a poverty reduction plan and increased funding for mental health supports.
- more resources to support children in care and other vulnerable kids.

Together, we can make a difference for all BC kids.

Change is possible! #FundBCschools

For more information and source material for all the stats, go to BCTF.ca/TheNumbersTellTheStory.