BC LIBERAL QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSE

or

ALTERNATIVE FACTS

Question 1

- The 2002 Liberal government stripped the teachers' collective agreement. Recently, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that the Liberal government's actions were unconstitutional and interfered with the union's charter right to freedom of association. How do you plan to implement the recent Supreme Court Decision?

Alternative Facts

- We were pleased to see the recent, immediate investment of $50 million that will enable the hiring of up to 1,100 additional teachers in districts throughout the province.

- We want this *teacher* relationship to be based on collaboration, listening and trust.

Facts

- 15 years ago Christy Clark brought in unconstitutional legislation stripping the BC teachers' collective agreement.

- BC Supreme Court ruled for teachers in 2011 and in 2014. Liberals ignored the 2011 ruling.

- Liberal government appeals 2014 ruling and wins in 2015.

- Supreme Court of Canada rules in favour of teachers in 2016.

Alternative Facts

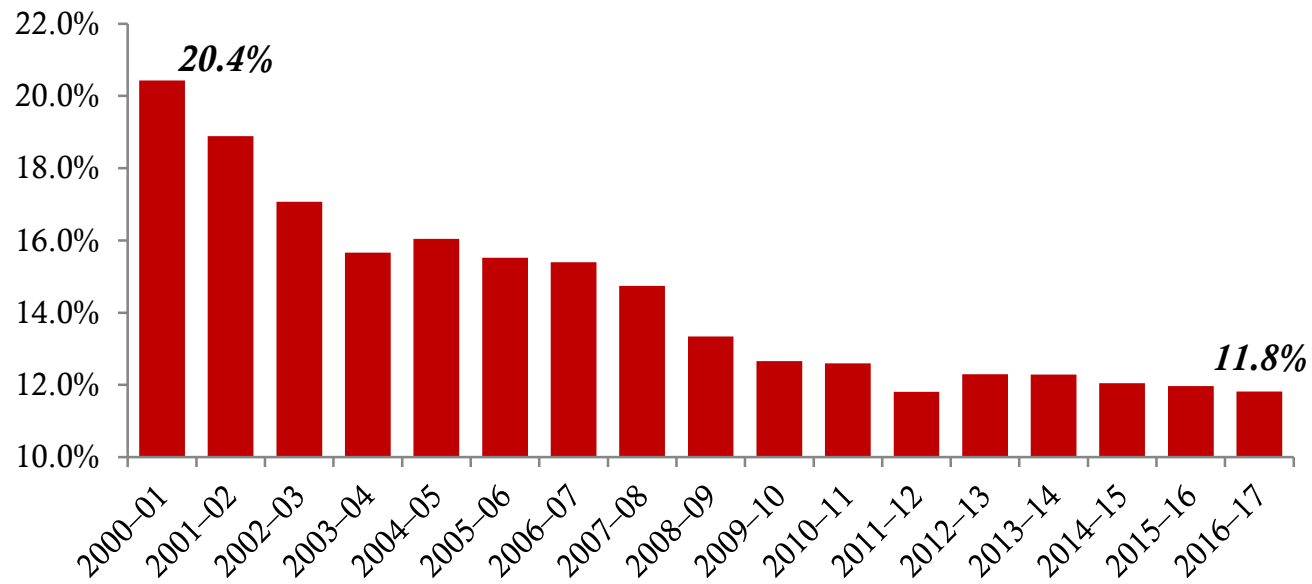- Annual average per-pupil funding is now at nearly $9,000 – an increase of 42% since 2000-01.

Facts
(from the Stats Can website)

- BC has the **lowest** total expenditures for public schools per capita in the entire country.

- BC had the 2nd lowest change for total expenditures for public schools in the country between 2006 and 2011. Only the Yukon Territories were lower.

Ministry of Education spending as % of government spending

- FACTS

Question 2

- Do you believe private school parents should receive tax breaks for putting their child in private school?

- Do you believe private education should be publically funded at all? If so, why?

Alternative Fact

- The Ministry of Education invests in students attending independent schools at approximately half the dollar amount per student in public schools.

Facts

- Private schools issue tax receipts to parents against a portion of tuition on top of 35 to 50% government funding.

- Private schools in British Columbia recently received an extra $1 million for special needs students while 24% of special education teacher positions in public schools have been cut and public school designations are up by 50%.

- Parents of private school special education kids can claim tuition costs as a medical expense tax credit.

- Private school parents get a daycare deduction that includes school lunch and recess breaks.

Question 3

- Families in BC are struggling. B.C is one of Canada's wealthier provinces and yet it has the second highest poverty rate in Canada.   Additionally, it has a child poverty rate higher than the national average. If elected, which of the following issues are you willing to commit to speaking for in the House?

- Child poverty

- Child care

- Progressive taxation

- Poverty Reduction plan

Alternative Facts

- When the BC Liberals took office, the child poverty rate in B.C. was at 14.2%. It has since been reduced to 9.7% -- the most dramatic improvement in the country.

- BC has the lowest provincial income tax for those making up to $122,000.

- The strongest job creation in Canada, with 191,500 new jobs since 2011, of which over 81% are full-time.

- Major investments in childcare including 37 new spaces at BCIT and 24 new spaces at University Highlands Elementary.

Facts

- First Call came out with statistics in November 2016 showing BC with a child poverty rate of 19.8%.

- BC is the **only** province in Canada without a poverty reduction plan.

- BCFED says that nearly ½ of the jobs created last year were part time, low paying jobs.

One more thing…

- Since 2000, the richest 1% of BC households have seen tax cuts by an average of $41,000.

- The BC government collects more money from MSP premiums than from corporate income taxes.

- When all personal taxes are considered, the higher your income, the lower your provincial tax rate. Many of our taxes are regressive. (ie: same MSP rates no matter the income)

- Source: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives