



New Democrat BC Government Caucus

New Democrat MLAs on the record: The cost of BC Liberal contracts with IPPs

John Horgan:

“The Liberal government has locked us into contracts with private power producers that force us to buy very expensive power even when we don’t need it. Then we sell it back to the open market at a huge loss. This buy high, sell low scheme is another reason ratepayers are seeing a major hike to their bill today.” ([BC New Democrat Caucus release, November 26, 2013](#))

“It’s irrational to spend more than you need to for energy, when the fundamental mandate of BC Hydro should be to provide reliable, low-cost, clean energy in abundance to every corner of the province.” (Voice of BC, October 11 2012)

“The contracts the Liberals sought with IPPs are expensive, unnecessary, and outrageous. We’re buying at \$68 when the electricity is only worth \$10.” ([BC New Democrat Caucus release, May 17 2012](#))

“The Liberals are putting their friends’ business interests ahead of the public interest. The result is rate increases of 36 per cent over five years, with more to come” ([BC New Democrat Caucus release, May 17 2012](#))

“We’re losing money, big time, and it’s Liberal policy that’s doing it.” (CKNW, May 15 2012)

“What Hydro does is it sends power to other markets when it’s advantageous to do so. [...] When the price is right. We’ve been doing that since the 1980s. We did it through the NDP period; the Liberals have been doing it, as well. What the Campbell government is trying to do is to stimulate the independent power sector. They’re trying to artificially create a marketplace for these high-priced, low-value producers of energy to get into the U.S. market. They’re saying that Hydro will become what they call an “aggregator” -- they will collect these inefficient, uneconomic projects and then try and flog them in the United States. [...] How do you do that without cross-subsidies from domestic ratepayers? I think that’s voodoo and magic. [...] Every energy economist that I’ve talked to -- Marvin Shaffer, John Calvert; I met with Jim Quail, who is a regular participant in Utilities Commission’s hearings. We’ve heard from first nations. Every single group that I’ve talked to about this energy plan has serious, serious concerns. The only group.... Well, there are two groups: The Independent Power Producers say, “Heck, yes. This is a great idea. We’re going to make a whole lot of money.” And the industrial users have stood down their opposition to independent power because there’s a clause in the Clean Energy bill that says they can negotiate their own deals -- fixed-price long-term contracts, not available to you and I, Vaughn, but available to large industry, traditional backers of the B.C. Liberals.” (Voice of BC, May 20 2010)

“People in this province are concerned that they are going to be paying more for electricity so that friends of the B.C. Liberals can strike it rich using our rivers. The B.C. Liberal government has made it clear that they won’t let the public interest stand in the way of their plan to slowly privatize our energy system.” ([Caucus release, October 20, 2009](#))

Mike Farnworth:

“Clearly, there's a huge public concern about what is in essence an almost lottery-style rush to give away our rivers and streams in this province.” (CKWX, February 22 2011)

Adrian Dix:

“They acknowledge, I think, what's obvious -- what, you know, we've been saying for years, which is that the BC Liberals engaged in bad business practices that damaged BC Hydro. And it's ratepayers that are paying the price.” ([CTV, August 20 2011](#))

Carole James:

“We know Gordon Campbell's private power agenda is driving up electricity costs for business and consumers.” ([BCNDP release, April 22, 2009](#))

“BC Liberal friends and donors reap private profits from our public resources without adequate environmental controls or local say in development decisions.” ([BCNDP release, April 22, 2009](#))

Michelle Mungall:

“We learned that we have a bit of a financial mess at B.C. Hydro. It's a mess that this government is going to have to clean up, and we will do that.” “We're very clear that it was not right for ratepayers to have to pay inflated costs for these private power projects. The Liberals went ahead with that, and now that issue has come home to roost, and the BCUC highlighted it.” ([Voice of BC, March 14 2018](#))