

# B. C. TAP WATER ALLIANCE

Caring for, Monitoring, and Protecting  
British Columbia's Community Water Supply Sources

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Stop Fracking British Columbia – www.bctwa.org/FrackingBC.html



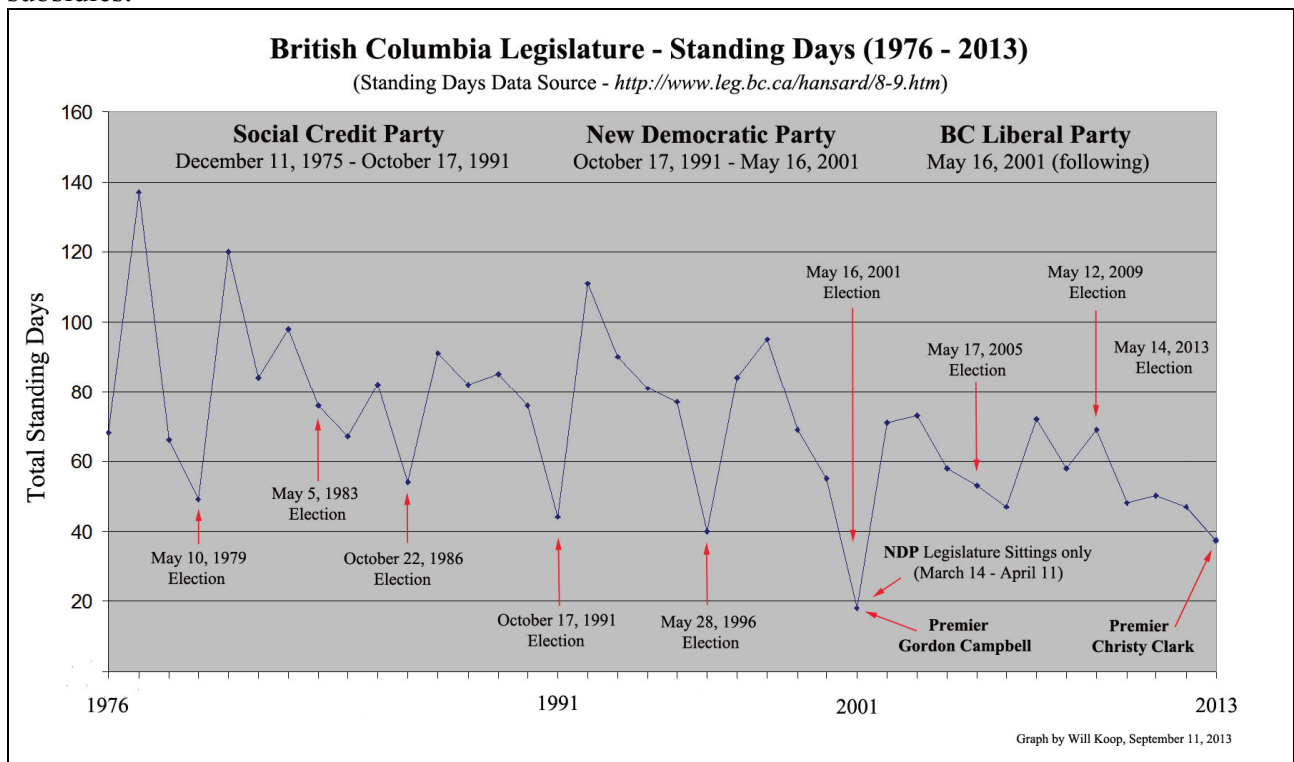
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Media Release

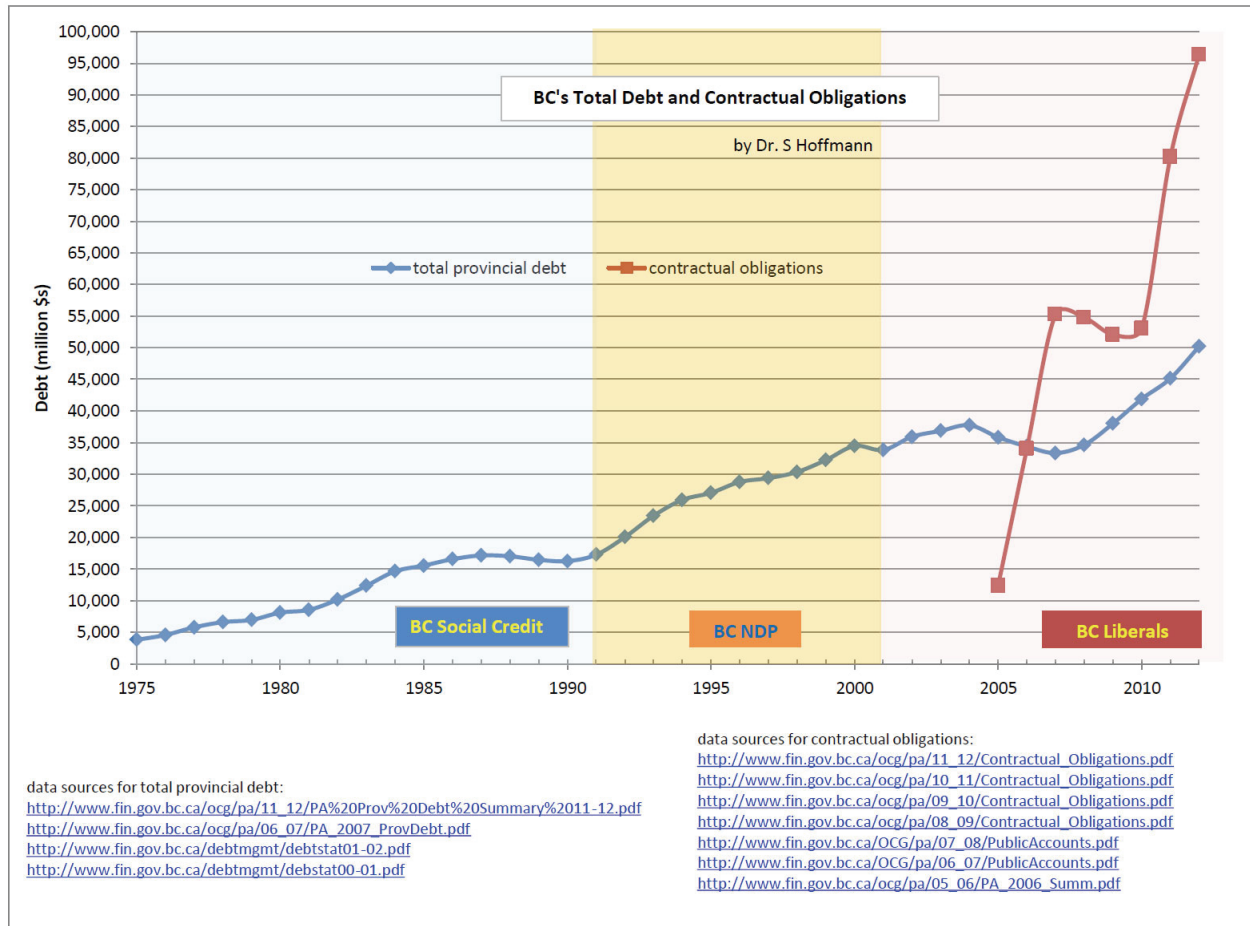
## DUBIOUS TRACK RECORD IN BC LEGISLATURE – BC LIBERALS TRASH PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY FOR FRACKING / LNG AGENDA

Vancouver – Yesterday, BC Liberal Finance Minister Mike De Jong announced that his administration will not convene a Fall Session of the BC Legislature.

Amidst the small host of political scenarios for the BC Liberals ducking public accountability through opposition party debate, the Liberal Cabinet has set the worst record and reputation over the last 37 years – through three separate political administrations – for convening the fewest sittings of the BC Legislature. This record is illustrated in the graph below. Other than 2001, when the BC Liberals did not once convene the Legislature for the remainder of 2001 following their election to office, should the government not convene the House, 2013 will be the only year since 1976 with the lowest number of legislative sittings, part of a steady downward statistical trend. Under this administration (like none other) has come the gutting of environmental legislations through policies of industry deregulation, along with significant corporate tax concessions and government subsidies.



The BC Liberals are also dogged by another sordid reputation – having the worst collective debt in BC’s legislative history. The following graph, posted on the [Common Sense Canadian website](#), provides compounding and troubling data, showing that BC’s actual debt is closer to \$170 billion, not the approximate \$50 billion usually cited by the BC Liberals and most of its critics.



Premier Christy Clark yesterday boldly defended her administration’s decision to axe the Legislature sittings, stating that “*building an LNG industry in British Columbia*” was her Party’s main driver, including the Premier’s scheduled absence in the Fall for a trade mission of Asia to quietly court Nation State investors for contracts to certify BC’s proposed Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facilities.

So far, the BC Liberals have ignored [serious, deficient public accountability and environmental planning issues](#) concerning the life-cycle development of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) in northeast BC. As a result of this failure, from 2011 to 2013 energy corporations have proposed a dozen LNG facilities for BC’s coastline, along with new gas pipelines that are to be sourced not only from fracked gas production sites in northeast BC, but also from sites in the Western fracking Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

One of the looming significant issues related to both fracking and LNG development are proposals by the energy companies for BC Hydro to provide significant additional amounts of energy from its electrical grid (i.e., the proposed \$8 billion plus Site C dam). In a [recent letter and press release](#), the B.C. Tap Water Alliance criticized Energy Minister Bill Bennett for the scant public review period of BC Hydro’s August 2013 Integrated Resource Plan (which is presently scheduled over a six

week period and to end by October 18<sup>th</sup>) and offered the Minister recommendations for a proper public review over a five month period. The final version of BC Hydro's report is to be handed over to the Minister on November 15<sup>th</sup>. With the BC Liberals cancelling the Fall Session of the Legislature, there will be no opportunity for public accountability and debate by the public's elected officials on BC Hydro's controversial plans for the fracking / LNG industry, nor on many other fronts.

In addition to BC Hydro's new agenda to augment the fracking / LNG industry, Energy Bill Bennett announced shocking news in a [Vancouver Sun article today](#) that British Columbia's "*homeowners, small businesses and industrial users are facing a staggering 26.4 percent electricity increase from 2014 to 2016.*"

Among a diverse assortment of environmental and social planning issues related to fracking and LNG that will not be debated in the Legislature this Fall, is the issue of repeated transgressions reported by news media in [the Khutzeymatteen Grizzly Bear Sanctuary](#) (situated north of Prince Rupert) by the TransCanada Pipeline Company during the summer of 2013.

"Amongst other pressing issues, this government clearly does not want the public's elected officials to go on record to debate the serious future environmental consequences, social and economic issues related to the upstream and downstream fracking industry," notes Will Koop, B.C. Tap Water Alliance Coordinator.