

Public Services

Public services are everywhere in your community. The water from your tap; the parks, skating rinks and pools that you and your family use; roads and buses; hospitals; schools and community centres; and colleges and universities.

Public services are local services—and they put people first. They keep money in the community. They reduce our environmental footprint. They provide steady jobs and secure employment for local people. They help us weather tough economic times.



5 ways to stop privatization

- 1** Get the facts: whether the decision will be made by city council, school board or the provincial government, you have the right to receive reports and information that politicians will use to make the decision.
- 2** Let politicians know that you have concerns. Write letters, attend public meetings, or make presentations.
- 3** Insist that the public be informed and consulted in a meaningful way on the privatization proposal.
- 4** Work with others in your community; your neighbours, co-workers and friends who also count on public services.
- 5** Don't give up. Decisions can be reviewed and revisited and politicians can change their minds.

Keep it Public
Keep it Local



keepitpublic.ca

Privatization is a Taxpayer Rip-off



Privatization is failing the people of B.C.

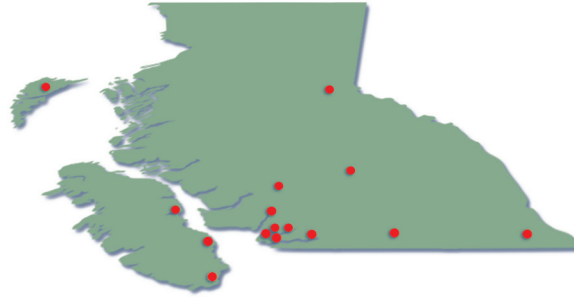
There is a global effort to privatize public services and put corporate profits first. Privatization takes many forms, but the most common is a public-private partnership (P3) where government signs a long-term contract for private corporations to build and control public services or facilities.

Does privatization save money?
NO. In most cases privatization is a taxpayer rip-off.

P3s mean:

- Higher fees for services including water, recreation and health services
- Reduced services – especially for those with lower incomes
- More secrecy and less accountability to taxpayers
- Less control over environmental regulation
- Delays in establishing new services as complex private deals are negotiated
- Loss of good jobs and local jobs to corporate headquarters

The map of B.C. is dotted with privatization failures...



Here are just a few of note:

- Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre: The government stalled construction of the project in a failed attempt to negotiate a P3. That wasted year eventually led to huge cost overruns.
- Cranbrook RecPlex: The RecPlex was returned to public operation after years of feuding with private operators.
- The Port Mann Bridge: After doubling in cost, the Port Mann Bridge P3 collapsed. The government admitted public borrowing would save \$200 million.
- Vancouver General Hospital Diamond Centre: Doing this project as a P3 cost more than twice as much as doing it publicly. Most P3s won't release financial information.
- The Maple Ridge Town Centre Project: Ruled illegal by the courts, the community paid millions to get out of the project.

An independent report by respected forensic auditor Ron Parks revealed that most P3s cost more than public projects and are plagued by secrecy.

Visit www.KeepItPublic.ca for more details.

Public success stories in B.C.

Other projects that might have gone private are instead being held up as examples of excellence in public ownership or operation.

These include:

- Queen Charlotte Islands: Solid waste services in Port Clements, Haida Gwaii, have been kept public and under Island control, with recycling services being expanded.
- Port Moody: Solid waste services were brought back in-house after a decade of complaints about the private contractor's poor service.
- Kamloops: The Kamloops Centre for Water Quality has received international accolades for excellence in public stewardship.
- North Vancouver: The Seymour Water Filtration Plant is yet another example of excellence in public stewardship.
- Whistler: A sewage treatment upgrade that was going to be contracted out was instead conducted publicly.