

Revoke Campbell honour: Critics

'INELIGIBLE': Ex-premier was nominated for Order of B.C. while still in office, they charge

BY **CASSIDY OLIVIER**
THE PROVINCE

Hundreds of B.C. residents are joining an online protest over the B.C. government's decision to award ex-premier Gordon Campbell the Order of British Columbia.

Online opposition has grown steadily since Friday's announcement that Campbell will receive B.C.'s highest honour for being an "exemplary British Columbian in education, business and public service."

As of Monday, a Facebook page in protest of the announcement had close to 2,000 "likes," a Twitter account had just under 200 followers and the online petition had 1,200 signatures.

Ingrid Voigt, leader of the B.C. Refederation Party, said she started the "Gordon Campbell does not deserve the Order of B.C. award" Facebook page because she believes Campbell is undeserving of the honour due to what she calls his poor track record as premier.

But she is arguing that Campbell is ineligible under nomination rules since he was an elected official when nominated.

"The protocol office of the Order of B.C. states that a nominee may not be an elected official, either municipally, provincially or federally," she said. "And nominations closed March 10, and Gordon Campbell didn't resign his seat until March 15 — five days after nominations closed."

"Otherwise it says to us, there is one rule for the upper echelon of the province and another set of rules for the rest of us." — *Cheryl Baron, B.C. NDP member who started the online petition*

Cheryl Baron, a B.C. NDP member who started the online petition "Gordon Campbell is ineligible to receive the 2011 Order of B.C.," said the people who nominated Campbell can try again next year.

"I personally don't think he deserves the award either, but that's not the point," she said. "If the protocol office of the Order of B.C. com-

mittee was to follow their own rules then they would have to rescind it from him this year and look at it again next year.

"Otherwise it says to us, there is one rule for the upper echelon of the province and another set of rules for the rest of us."

Campbell announced his retirement from politics last November after his approval ratings dropped into the single digits due largely to the controversy over the HST. He was recently appointed Canada's High Commissioner to the U.K.

No one from the Order of B.C. office was able for comment Monday.

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Don't be caught in big picture

SPEEDSTERS: Digital billboard focuses on school violators

BY **FRANK LUBA**
THE PROVINCE

Speedsters who zoom through school zones stand a chance of having their photos taken and getting a scolding, as more than 540,000 kids head back to school today in B.C.

The Community Against Preventable Injuries, also known as Preventable, is positioning a digital billboard outside Aubrey Elementary in Burnaby today that will photograph speeding cars and display their picture for 20 seconds with the message, "Before you rush through here, have a word with yourself."

This is the first time the technology has been used in North America. No records of the pictures will be kept.

Allan Lamb, spokesman for Preventable and president of the BCAA Road Safety Foundation, said the sign will be moved around schools in Burnaby for two days before moving to Surrey schools Thursday and Friday.

There's not enough money to keep the sign and its message travelling around the province all year long. Lamb hopes a high-profile, week-long blitz will get the crucial message to drivers to slow down.

"On average, seven persons are killed in traffic accidents every week in our province," he said.



Bobby Robu fine-tunes the giant monitor to get drivers to slow down near Aubrey Elementary school today in Burnaby. MARK VAN MANEN — PNG

"Traffic crashes are the leading cause of deaths and injuries for our young people," said Lamb. "There's nothing that kills our teenagers more than traffic crashes. Nothing. It's absolutely horrific."

SafeKids Canada, which defines children as those up to 19 years of

age, notes that children aged 10 to 14 years have the highest incidence of pedestrian-related injuries while those aged five to 14 years are at the greatest risk for pedestrian-related fatalities.

There's more than just the toll on lives, Lamb said.

"Our province is paying \$8.8 billion in social costs for traffic crashes. These are preventable, they're predictable and they're totally unnecessary."

The school zone speed limit is 30 km/h and is in effect from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily Monday to Friday,

unless otherwise posted.

Breaking the rules could result in a fine of \$196 to \$253. Speeding 40 kilometres or more over the speed limit results in the impoundment of a vehicle for seven days.

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