A Brilliant Coup by
Premier Gordon Campbell!

FUNDING REDUCTION IN GUISE OF NEW STATUS

If we needed further proof of the ingenuity, entrepreneurial zeal and sheer unadulterated brilliance of our esteemed Premier Campbell, recent events at what will soon be called the new Vancouver Island University provide it in spades.

As custodian of the public purse, our fearless leader takes seriously his responsibility for limiting wastage on such idle luxuries as social welfare, healthcare and education, and for channelling much-needed funds into corporate celebrations of provincial identity like the Winter Olympics.

This year, once expansion FTEs had been clawed back and the usual round of refusing to fund the costs of inflation had been followed up by additional cuts to base funding, even the most ardent supporter of fiscal restraint might have been satisfied with things as they were ... but not our Gordon!

Like the financial hero he has always been, the Premier came up with yet another clever scheme for making it impossible for institutions to balance their budgets without laying off more faculty, many of whom are teaching only 12 hours per week as they stuff themselves shamelessly at the public trough.

It really is a hoot! By granting so-called “university status” as well as name-changes to five postsecondary institutions, Mr. Campbell saddled them with unfunded transition costs estimated at between 1 and 1.5 million dollars each: effectively a further 2-3 % cut.

Not only that, but at Malaspina at least our genius also managed to avoid losing votes by convincing most of those attending his media extravaganza at the Nanaimo campus that he was to be thanked for a magnanimous gesture. Howls of adulation greeted his speech announcing the plan, as a handful of mean-spirited dissenters were shuffled away from the scene of activity. Way to go Gordon!