



# FRESH START FOR SOME OLD FRIENDS

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2016

### WESTCOAST NEWS

## Inmate suicides a sign of bigger problems

Have our jails become 'default mental health facilities?' » A10



### BUSINESS

## Mining's gloomy horizon

Venture capital is almost non-existent for grassroots projects. » C8



# THE Power Players

## Christy Clark's five most powerful advisers

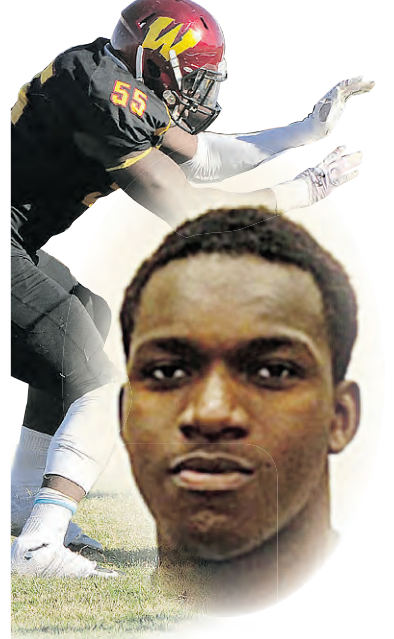
- Ben Chin** Handles crises and deals with the media
- Sharon White** Runs the party and the election machinery
- Michele Cadario** Policy and operations boss for Clark
- Steve Carr** De facto chief of staff's fingers are in every provincial pie
- Carole Taylor** The newest face in the office, her \$1-a-year job is as ambassador to the business community

These five operate primarily behind the scenes to put out political fires and make sure government sticks to Clark's vision. » A8

### SPORTS

## Surrey athlete America's most wanted

Jonathan (King) Kongbo has college grid coaches drooling over him. » C5



### WEEKEND REVIEW

## Europe's 70-year crisis

Matthew Fisher: Refugee crisis was decades in the making. » D1



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## WEEKEND EXTRA

# Power behind the premier

They keep a low profile (mostly), but their influence runs deep in the B.C. government

ROB SHAW  
VANCOUVER SUN

## VICTORIA

**A** liquefied natural gas guru. The one-time anchor of CBC news. B.C.'s former finance minister. These are just a few of the political power players who run the B.C. government. Hand-picked by Premier Christy Clark, they operate largely out of sight, turning the premier's policies into action, predicting her problems and navigating her crises.

The premier's inner circle is a mixture of former bureaucrats and federal Liberals. That's a shift away from close friends and federal Conservatives who, in the past, have dominated the ranks of her senior staff.

Veteran bureaucrat Dan Doyle had anchored Clark's crew as chief of staff until last month, when he announced his retirement from day-to-day duties. He retains the title of chief of staff, but is now an on-call adviser.



Michele Cadario, right, is Premier Christy Clark's deputy chief of staff.

## MICHELE CADARIO

"The Operator"

Deputy chief of staff, operations and policy

A longtime friend, Michele Cadario implements Clark's policies and works with the rest of government to make sure ideas get executed the way Clark intended. Cadario also supervises the premier's schedulers, checking to see if her limited time is booked with the right people, on the right priority files, at the right time.

The connection between Cadario and Clark dates to the mid-1990s when both were junior staffers for the federal Liberals in Ottawa. Cadario spent much of her life in politics, rising to deputy chief of staff to then-prime minister Paul Martin in 2003. She later worked as director of communications for Canuck Place Children's Hospice before joining Clark's leadership bid in 2011, her transition team into office and serving as her deputy campaign director in the 2013 election.

Cadario has kept a low public profile for most of her career, but was named in a privacy commissioner's report last year for bulk deleting most of her emails.



## STEVE CARR

"The LNG Boss"

Special adviser

The top staffer in the premier's office is a former 27-year civil servant who helped the premier kickstart her most important file: liquefied natural gas.

An economist by training, Steve Carr spent years as deputy minister of LNG, growing what's become the core of the premier's jobs plan. He created the new LNG tax regime and led negotiations with large LNG companies (though none have made final investment decisions).

The importance of the file led to close work with Clark, both within B.C. and on overseas trade trips. When Carr, 56, announced his intent to retire last year, Clark asked him to instead lead her staff.

Don't let his title of special adviser fool you. Carr has all the powers of her chief of staff, overseeing political employees in the building and making sure virtually every file of importance to government is aligned with the premier's priorities.

It's the second time Clark has turned to an experienced, non-partisan civil servant to take on the hyper-partisan role of running her office. Carr's predecessor, Dan Doyle, spent 50 years working for the government and was known for his calm demeanour and problem-solving skills. Carr appears a similar choice.



## BEN CHIN

"The Voice"

Executive director, communications and issues management

A recognizable face, Ben Chin was a senior TV reporter and anchor at CBC from 1997 to 2002. Now, the 52-year-old is Clark's top fixer. He predicts problems, puts out fires on priority issues generating bad press, and talks with media on stories that are developing.

Chin also gives Clark a strong connection to the new federal Liberal government. He worked with Gerald Butts (the prime minister's principal secretary) and Katie Telford (the PM's chief of staff) in the mid-2000s in the office of Ontario's then-premier, Dalton McGuinty.

Chin headed communications for McGuinty, served as vice-president of the Ontario Power Authority and then worked as a consultant for the Air Miles rewards program before joining Clark's team in Victoria.



## CAROLE TAYLOR

"The Ambassador"

Special adviser

The most recent addition to Clark's staff (she starts Monday), Carole Taylor was finance minister under then-premier Gordon Campbell from 2005 to 2008. More recently she was chancellor of Simon Fraser University.

Taylor and the premier have had the occasional conversation at events the past few years, which led to an offer from Taylor to help Clark if needed.

Clark intends to use Taylor as a sort of ambassador to B.C.'s business community, as well as to help develop policy.

She'll report directly to the premier, have an office near Clark in Vancouver, work part-time and receive a salary of \$1 a year. It's a similar adviser role filled for Clark by businessman Jim Shepard in 2011.



## SHARON WHITE

"The Partisan"

President of the B.C. Liberal party

While the other staffers run government, Sharon White oversees the perpetual motion machine that is political fundraising, membership sign-up and election readiness for Clark's B.C. Liberal party.

A commercial real estate lawyer in Vancouver, White is a longtime B.C. conservative organizer who once ran as a Social Credit candidate.

She helped Clark win her first seat in the legislature in 1996 and worked on Clark's failed Vancouver mayoral bid in 2005.

White had signed up to chair Rich Coleman's leadership bid in the 2011 party race. But she switched to co-chair Clark's campaign after Coleman bowed out, and took over the party after Clark's victory.

White hired Laura Miller as party executive director in 2013, and together they're credited with modernizing party fundraising and communications.

Miller resigned in December to face criminal charges in Ontario related to a gas plant scandal, leaving White to stickhandle the party through two Metro Vancouver byelections and prepare for the 2017 election.



## Video at vancouver.sun.com

A look at the five top staffers who hold powerful positions for Premier Christy Clark.

# Carole Taylor tapped to advise Clark

Former finance minister will be paid \$1 a year to help work on long-term vision

ROB SHAW  
VANCOUVER SUN

VICTORIA — Former B.C. finance minister Carole Taylor is joining Premier Christy Clark's staff as a special adviser. The Vancouver Sun has learned.

Taylor, who served as Gordon Campbell's finance minister from 2005 to 2008, will begin her new job with Clark on Monday.

The premier is expected to leverage Taylor's deep ties in B.C.'s business community, using her to engage corporate leaders, refine government's economic policies and provide strategic advice.

Taylor will be paid \$1 a year and work part-time out of Clark's Vancouver offices, where she'll participate in planning and policy meetings and report directly to the premier, The Sun has learned.

Clark used to have a similar relationship with Jim Shepard, the former CEO of Canfor and Finning International Inc.,

who served as her senior policy adviser from 2011-12.

Taylor is also expected to assume some of the duties that used to be fulfilled by Clark's principal secretary — a job that has sat vacant for seven months, but which generally involved providing policy advice and working on a long-term vision.

As Campbell's finance minister, Taylor was responsible for some major B.C. policies, including the introduction of the carbon tax in 2008. She left politics in 2008 to chair a federal economic advisory panel, and later became chancellor of Simon Fraser University.

At first glance, Clark and Taylor would appear to have differing approaches to politics. Clark has spoken frequently about enjoying the cut and thrust of political life, including question period and sparring with her critics.

Taylor has made clear she has little time for partisanship and personal attacks, in 2008 calling that "nonsense" and "not my style."



ARLEN REBER/CP/PHOTO FILES

Former provincial finance minister Carole Taylor will serve as Premier Christy Clark starting Monday, The Sun has learned. Taylor has strong ties to the federal Liberals and is expected to report directly to the premier.

She's said she prefers developing policy.

"I never mind disagreeing with people on issues," Taylor told reporters when announcing her retirement as an MLA. "I think that's how you get to good decisions. But I'm not interested in ever attacking somebody else personally."

Taylor's appointment also bolsters Clark's ties to the federal Liberal government in Ottawa.

Taylor's late husband, former Vancouver mayor Art Phillips, served briefly as an MP under Pierre Trudeau's government. Taylor was appointed chairwoman of the CBC and Radio-

Canada in 2001 by then-prime minister Jean Chretien.

Taylor has also served on the boards of TD Bank Financial Group and Bell Canada. Earlier in her career she was a television journalist and an independent Vancouver city councillor.

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