

Premier defends taxpayer-funded ads promoting Coquihalla privatization

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VICTORIA -- The B.C. government is defending a taxpayer-funded ad campaign promoting the privatization of the Coquihalla Highway.

New Democrat Jenny Kwan calls it propaganda to convince people that paying tolls for the next 55 years will be good for them.

In Question Period, she demanded the transportation minister reveal how much is being spent on the effort.

Judith Reid didn't answer the question, but did say tolls on the road have only contributed \$550 million toward the \$2.5 billion invested to build and maintain the Coquihalla.

Later, Premier Gordon Campbell tried to justify the ad campaign by saying people have asked his government for the facts, and it is providing them with the facts.

But one fact he can't provide is the cost of the Coquihalla ad campaign.

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