

## 1. COMMITMENT TO EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT

- Municipalities are important partners in planning for and supporting Early Childhood Development services for families.
- Childcare is being listed as a number one condition for successful recruitment and retention of employees locally and from outside of Terrace.
- Municipalities are responsible for many administrative tasks, such as development zoning and registering new businesses, and can:
  - Require that child care spaces be included in new buildings;
  - Reduce administrative fees for new businesses that benefit young children and families;
  - Require and protect green spaces and child friendly spaces.

### ***If you are elected to City Council, how will you:***

- a. *Ensure that our community is child-friendly? Influence the city to make decisions using an early childhood development lens. In other words ask in all of city plans and decisions “Will this be good for our children?”*
- b. *How do you plan to provide attractive conditions for increasing the number of available quality childcare spaces to encourage full employment of parental workers and decrease stress for families?*
- c. *Encourage residential and commercial developers to investigate the inclusion of childcare and/or other ECD services in their plans?*
- d. *Support non-profit agencies providing ECD services to keep their services affordable.*
- e. *Develop protocols for subsidized use of recreational facilities by ECD services?*
- f. *Support low-income families to allow them to attend ECD programs? Transportation is often the number one barrier stopping families from accessing services.*
- g. *Be actively involved in working with other partners on collaborative community planning for ECD: health, education, social sector and business in coordinating efforts.*

### Your response:

The relationship between early child development and child academic performance, youth behaviour and ultimately adult vocational and familial success cannot be understated. Child care is one of the cornerstones of a positive and proactive civic early child development policy. In addition, positive child development is also significantly impacted by a range of issues including: adequate food, appropriate housing, poverty, safe communities and social opportunities. As a University professor, a substantial portion of my research has always been committed to child well being including: children’s nutrition habits, prevention of child maltreatment, youth crime and detention and food security and families. I have written a series of books or journal articles which I am eager to distribute to anyone who is interested in the topics. Did you know that one-third of children routinely go to school without breakfast and/or have nutritionally inadequate diets...and, that proper diet is a significant predictor of cognitive development and school performance? Did you know that providing only one serving of fruit/vegetables in school can reduce child nutritional inadequacy by nearly thirty percent? I would advocate for charitable-supported breakfast/lunch programs in every elementary school in Terrace...every school so that no individual has to feel stigmatized. Every individual has a right to food of sufficient quantity and variety and attained in a fashion that supports human dignity....this is food security. Food security is an essential building-block of adequate early child development. Food banks have become a recognized, albeit regrettably so, method of ensuring food security in communities. I would call for more municipal support for the local food bank. I would also support the local food bank exploring the broadest possible methods of ensuring food security including: co-operative food purchasing, co-op kitchens and community gardens. I would openly oppose provincial restrictions which make local food production and distribution so expensive, bureaucratic and block sensible food solutions to local problems. Finally, returning to the issue of child care, I would petition City Council for a progressive tax and zoning policy to promote businesses who provide child care on-site and to operators who provide additional spaces or relocate to Terrace. Why is it that “Universal Child Care” is only talked about at election time....it’s not a passing issue for parents who have to deal

with it day-in and day-out. We need a progressive and ongoing municipal child care policy to address the needs of children and families!

**2. SUPPORT IN TRANSITIONS FROM CHILDHOOD TO YOUTH AND ADULTHOOD**

- Civic leaders can emphasize youth-friendly spaces in areas such as parks, community centres, schools and libraries, and cities and towns can create more safe spaces for youth to congregate.
- Municipalities can create events that children and youth can help plan and be involved in, such as art shows, festivals, or performances.
- Cities can subsidize and increase accessibility to after-school programs offering sports and arts activities, homework clubs, and safe places to meet friends.

***If you are elected to City Council, how will you:***

- Support for universal access to affordable recreational facilities and activities throughout the city with well scheduled public transit?*
- Create a welcoming and inclusive environment for youth in our community where they will be actively involved in the affairs of their own community.*
- Create more public youth-friendly spaces?*

Your response:

What's wrong with the youth today....they just don't listen....we weren't like that when we were kids! Sound familiar? Probably every generation back to James Dean's "Rebel without a Cause" and who knows maybe throughout time immemorial has expressed such feelings. The answer....there is nothing wrong with them. They don't agree with us...they don't behave like us...guess what, that's their job to be different and in doing so forge for themselves their own identity and opinions which are independent from their parents/adults. Perhaps some of the blame about youth problems reside with us in that we just don't listen or ask youth what they want. I would advocate asking youth what they would like from Terrace....set up a survey kiosk in Ruins, Internet Café etc. I would encourage the City to establish a "Youth Council" comprised of local Secondary and High School students to meet with City Council on a regular (i.e., perhaps quarterly) basis. Youth know what they want and are pretty insightful about potential solutions to youth-related problems. Let's ask them!

### 3. INCREASED ECONOMIC EQUALITY

- Cities can pay their employees a living wage and can agree to only contract for services with companies that pay a living wage.
- Cities can support the development of affordable sustainable housing, provide incentives for landlords that do not exploit their tenants, and move towards discouraging of slum landlords.
- Municipal governments can advocate for reduced fare or free transit passes for low-income families.
- Municipalities can increase food security. Governments can ensure through zoning that neighbourhoods, particularly low-income areas have access to reasonably priced, quality fruits and vegetables. Cities can support community gardens and help develop and sustain local market. Municipalities can provide free or discounted recreational services and access to programs for low-income children, youth and families.
- Affordable Housing - universal issue facing most, if not all communities in BC Terrace is no exception. Here are some examples of suitable types of housing that Terrace would benefit from:
  - *Co-op housing* where the tenants can be trained and engaged right from planning phase to completion. These housing complexes would be open to diversity of tenants coming from different income levels, diversity of abilities, cultures, ages, types of families, etc. to create a model of vibrant community.
  - *Single occupancy housing attached to social services hub and employment opportunities* (eg. local recycling program, etc.).

***If you are elected to City Council, how will you:***

- a. *Work towards bridging the disparity between neighbourhoods ensuring that we move away from ghettoization of Terrace?*
- b. *Create conditions that attract development of more sustainable affordable housing, ensure that existing rental units are livable?*
- c. *The Federation of Canadian Municipalities was instrumental in getting the Campaign 2000 agenda to eliminate child poverty into the federal spotlight. What is this municipality going to do to ensure that child poverty is not ignored?*
- d. *Support food security and moving towards local production and markets; sustainability and growth of FoodShare Program, Good Food Box and community gardens.*
- e. *Would you support the development of a Regional Food Policy Council? What would you see as their most important task?*
- f. *What is your understanding of the homelessness issue? How would you go about solving it?*

Your response:

The answer to economic inequality and the growing poverty gap is, put simply, **EMPLOYMENT**. Get a person a job, with a living wage, and they won't be homeless, food insecure or transportation-challenged. I believe that far too much of the current Council's energy have been spent on trying to woo the next major mega-employer to Terrace whether that be Rio-Tinto, Mining, Container Port industry or foreign investors (i.e., the Chinese). It is as if we are stalled and waiting for a magical cure. The result: Terrace and area has one of the highest unemployment rates in the province. City council should immediately undertake an ambitious program of zoning and tax policies to encourage small and medium-sized businesses to relocate to Terrace and/or expand their number of employees. Grants should be given to entrepreneurs to start up new businesses. The City, with TEDA, should double their efforts to provide information, referral and advocacy for employment opportunities. Look at where the new construction and job creation is in Terrace: Credit Union, Mark's Work Warehouse, Wightman & Smith, Elephant's Ear and Do Your Part. Small businesses cumulatively employ more people than the elusive mega-employer...let's help them do what they do best.

**Let's get to work**

#### 4. SAFE AND CARING COMMUNITIES

- Cities can encourage usage of their public spaces and parks by making them interesting, diverse and welcoming.
- Municipalities can support and promote free, low-cost and family-friendly festivals, celebrations, public performances and sports events.
- Cities can take action to promote neighbourhood safety by opening a community policing centre, adding improved lighting at night or taking traffic calming measures.
- Simple structures such as small walls, fountains, designs in the pavement, or water ways have a positive effect on children’s lives and are relatively easy for cities to work into their design plans.
- Creating more bike routes and including them in new road structures will positively affect recreation, health and community cohesiveness, and increase bicycle safety.

***If you are elected to City Council:***

- a. What measures will you take to increase child and youth safety and active participation in our community?*
- b. What steps will you take to make Terrace a welcoming and inclusive community for all?*
- c. How will you ensure that the build environment is child-friendly?*

Your response:

When I was a Social Planner, I was involved in developing and implementing a “Safe City Campaign” in Wellington, Grey and Bruce counties. These campaigns involved municipal participation in a broad range of areas including: planning, engineering, public works, community policing, taxation, event coordination and support to non-profit organizations. I suggest that we begin a “Safe City Terrace Campaign” immediately involving the City, Regional municipality, local businesses, chamber of commerce, non-profit organizations, charitable organizations, school board and any other interested parties. While our issues are different from other municipalities (i.e., homelessness, addictions, vandalism) we may be able to take a page out of other city’s books....why reinvent the wheel? It is in everybody’s interest to promote a safe and friendly civic environment in Terrace.