

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:

I am not just a single parent, but I am the primary caregiver as well. This means that as a parent, I am responsible for the early childhood development of a 5 year old boy and an 11 year old girl. They are developing well. That being said, I have had a lot of excellent help through the years and have done what I could to support those professionals and institutions that I have leaned on.

For the past 5 years, I have been on the Board of Directors as Vice President for the College Campus Childcare Society; a Society that has been focused on providing an excellent early childcare and learning facility. I have also been involved in supporting my children`s primary education, and served for one year as the President of the Terrace Chapter of the Canadian Parents for French.

I have considered many aspects of ECD with the instructors at the College, and believe that the system is underfunded, under-appreciated and in crisis. I support and have supported universal ECE, and will use my influence on City Council to lobby other governments on this issue. But I won`t stop there, I am interested in finding unique and creative ways to address the needs of EC Educators and parents at the municipal level. I would encourage child friendly workplaces, and would work with the College to address the pressing need for EC facilitators. I realize that the labour market is under threat from poor pay at the institutional level, and from government policy that encourages homecare often provided by unlicensed caregivers in unregulated environments, so I am not seeing any quick fix.

I am definitely committed to Early Childhood Education and Development, and would be an advocate for this issue if elected.

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:

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

Your response:

Support in transitions seems to speak to the question of change in general. I think it is up to Parents and Educators to prepare our children for change, and for our social and health services to assist citizens who stumble when confronted with catastrophic change. Therefore, I will support all these systems as resources allow, and lobby to increase financial support in those areas that are underfunded, or in the case of a new hospital or detox centre, aggressively develop the resources to break ground.

I am also a believer in recreation as a tool to release stress and develop community support. In that I have been hands on in developing trails, playgrounds and parks. A community that communes provides support for those times of personal stress. The Library is an important part of this puzzle as it is a place for the community to learn and grow intellectually together.

Finally, we need to accept that our community is diverse, and that all citizens add value in their own way. Respect is the key to providing support that is appreciated and therefore successful.

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.

- o *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:

There is a natural economic divide in humanity that transcends social and economic engineering, but there is currently too much of a divide in our society to call ourselves truly compassionate. I am in favour of some social planning and appropriate regulation of the economy. The problems, as in all of your questions, are complex, and the solutions are even more complex. In this case we could be talking about an economic policy shift at the national level, a shift that is muted by multi-national agreements. At the provincial level the biggest impact can be had through stronger emphasis on primary education and ECE. Placing more emphasis in these areas will yield generational change but are overlooked by a short term result mentality. At the municipal level, we are in the trenches, most often allocating all our resources to damage control rather than looking at the real problem.

So in a nutshell, I would have to say education is the key to attacking this systematic problem. Education so we can be made aware of the implications of not addressing this problem and education as the primary mover of income. I would support any education initiative that addresses fundamentals, whether it be for our children, or for adults who have a deficit that needs to be addressed so that they can make better choices for themselves. This would include having the right educational opportunities in our community to address labour needs, and ensuring that learned skills can be maintained and remain competitive.

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:

Safe communities are caring communities. So if we all cared for each other more, the safety issue would go away. If only it were that simple . . . but it is.

We need to see our children as developing right through to adulthood. We need to educate, encourage and support our youth, not just those who are successful, but all our youth. And when they fall down, we pick them up and encourage them again.

I am very interested in community based justice that uses education, reparation and forgiveness when dealing with youth or young adults that show remorse or are prepared to deal with their guilt in this manner. We can care about them, rather than throw them away.

I want to see a different role for our police in the community. I have heard from youth that there is too much of a divide between the police personnel and the community as a whole. I would encourage the RCMP to recognize this and to find a way to become more involved, not as an institution, but as individuals. We need to see our police as neighbours who *care* about our welfare, not as security personnel. That being said, we still need strong security, I will always support effective policing.

We need city planning that can enhance safety concerns. We also must live in our downtown, encourage recreation in the heart of the city, not just a skate park, but whole streets that encourage constructive recreation.

And of course, we also need good social support systems. When there is a social need we need to be able to move in and provide care without hesitation.