

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:

A) Our community is child friendly. I raised three children in Terrace. One thing I would like to have seen was more neighbourhood parks. Bit by bit I have seen more green space. Since my family was small I've seen the creation of the Grand Truck walkway, new soccer fields at Mountainview Elementary, playground at Ferry Island, expanded development of the Howe Creek trails, to name a few. There is certainly room growth, for example better biking lanes. There will be an opportunity to review an early childhood development perspective when Council reviews the Official Community Plan in 2009.

b) Childcare is a provincial and federal matter. When the City reviews its Official Community Plan (OCP) this would be a good opportunity for community members who work in the childcare field to give suggestions to Council. If elected, I will definitely consider the suggestions to see what way the City of Terrace can support conditions for increasing the number of available quality childcare.

c) When the Provincial and Federal government cuts back on social funding, they are essentially downloading onto communities. City Councils around the province must be careful that those burdens are not put on to backs of local tax payers. Depending on the circumstances, Councils may be able to come up with some creative assistance but they have to be careful not to accept the responsibilities of federal and provincial government.

d) It depends on the support. Bring the request to Council. Council gives countless letters of support for groups requesting funding.

e) I believe this is already in place.

- f) If transportation has been a barrier for families attending ECD programs, has Terrace Make Children First Initiative raised this issue with Terrace Transit?
- g) Council has a number of liaisons with many groups in town. In addition, there is a Joint Use Agreement with the School District. There will be an opportunity for collaborative community planning with these groups and the community in general when the OCP is reviewed.

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:

- A) The director of leisure services will be looking at bettering opportunities to recreational facilities. If the fares for City Transit's are reduced or waived, and they are very affordable now, Council will have to look at increasing taxes or making reductions in other areas of the city budget.
- b) I believe that we offer a welcoming and inclusive environment for youth in our community. In this last term, City Council supported the Bike Skills Park and the new Bike Trails on Terrace Mountain. We have seen the completion of the Phase I and II of the Sportsplex where there is more opportunity for sport and youth programming. I believe that youth are made to feel welcome on the very few times they come to Council meetings. I believe City staff make youth feel comfortable if they were to address a certain department.
- c) I am open to suggestions. I think it's time that a youth were asked if they would like to have a committee that could be advisors to Council on issues they see are important.

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:

- a) When the OCP is reviewed, I believe it is important to ensure more housing density closer to downtown, legalizing secondary suites. When people want to build duplexes or other multi-family units, this offers more generational housing units that many times means affordability for low income families.
- b) Council has recently created a new zoning “small lot residential zone”. The intent of this zoning would be smaller lots that would be more affordable. The city has a Housing Task Force and part of their mandate is sustainable affordable housing. The City has hired a new sustainability coordinator and I would expect new ideas in the area of sustainable affordable housing.
- c) Child Poverty is a local, provincial and federal concern. There is a labour shortage. I believe that a diversified industrial sector will ensure that good paying jobs and the spin offs to small and medium size businesses should ensure employment opportunities. When the economy is struggling, children are affected. Council should continue on its track of trying to redevelop jobs in the resource sector.

- d) Council has supported the Food Share Program, Good Food Box, and community gardens. I think our new sustainability coordinator may have some new ideas in this area.
- e) I would need more information on a Regional Food Policy Council. Not knowing anything about it but answering what I see as their most important task – 100 Mile Diet. The Premier talked about fresh vegetables and fruit for rural and remote parts of the province. If UBC's agricultural department did an experimentation of green houses using geo thermal energy from the Kitimat Valley, I think there would be an opportunity to enhance food security in the northwest part of our province and also in South East Alaska.
- f) Homelessness is a national problem. What we see in Terrace is seen in many communities across Canada. There are 200,000 homeless people in Canada. For starts, I think the Federal Government needs to reduce the Capital Gain Tax on rental properties and make it more enticing for developers to build rental housing units. Are there local or provincial tax incentives that would encourage more rental housing? Council could explore inclusionary zoning where housing developers set aside a portion of units that would be affordable to people on lower incomes.

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:

- a) As a whole, Terrace is generally a safe place for children and youth. One of the areas that the City is lacking and I believe will make efforts to change are bike lanes. I would anticipate as Council goes through a strategic planning session and through the budget process that bike lanes will become a priority, not only for youth but for all. Council funds events like the Aboriginal Days and River Boat Days and events like these are great opportunities for active youth participation. I would expect the next Council ensures that these items are maintained. I also think that a Youth Commission/Task Force or something along those lines would be a good way for youth to become active in our community.
- b) I think the Measuring Up Terrace is one of the best ground roots committees that the City has right now. I hope that funding will be found to enable this great committee to continue working to ensure that Terrace is inclusive and accessible for everyone.
- c) Build environment – child friendly. I would love to see a better agreement with the City and School Districts that would allow neighbour access to schools after school hours

and on weekends. I think the road blocks include overtime for custodians which can be a very expensive item for the City. It is not insurmountable; it just needs the will of all stakeholders involved. I also think there will be opportunities as the OCP is reviewed. The extension of Howe Creek is also another opportunity for families to get out and exercise.