

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:

Tax incentives could be offered to developers willing to incorporate child care spaces into their designs. This would be an easy incentive to offer and would have a large benefit to the community. The municipality should look at assisting in early morning food services for children to make sure everyone has a proper start to their day. Also, working with the School District to introduce healthy food alternatives in our schools would go a long way in helping our children both in learning and providing a sound nutritional diet. If we take the lead on child care and healthy eating initiatives, we will attract new business and new families to our community while we are helping our children locally to succeed.

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:

I would like to see more funding provided to programs like the one offered by Canadian Tire called “Jump Start”, designed to allow more underprivileged children to participate in organized sport. The idea to include public transit passes is a good one that could be incorporated into the Jump Start program or made available through our Recreation department.

One of my platform ideas is to start a Youth Task Force comprised partly of youth committee members. We need our youth to become more actively involved. This would be a good start.

We need a Community Centre. And I think one centrally located centre makes more sense than trying to coordinate all the schools to be open with staff in each location. A community centre would give our youth a place to meet and play and would allow our diverse cultures a chance to get together in a non threatening environment.

I would like to see the skateboard park moved to a more visible location so our children can be safe. Our community also needs safe bike routes throughout Terrace.

I would also be looking for a community based task force to spearhead the development of an accessible walking and bike overpass from Kalum and Keith over to the George Little House to give our children (and adults) access to the rest of Terrace and a safe place to cross the tracks.

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:

I believe that for our community to be truly successful, we need to bring organizations like Make Children First and other social agencies in Terrace together to form a task force. As Mayor, I would immediately form such a Task Force. If we could have a unified concept prepared from all the partners in our city, we could then take that information forward into action planning. Even the comments you've made in this question are very relevant and should be developed from a visionary set of statements to action plans that we could adopt in Terrace. Stacy Tyers for the Anti-Poverty Group has already given me information on Co-op housing that I think should be developed in Terrace. To make these changes though, we'll need everyone to come to the table. We can brainstorm these ideas, adapt them to Terrace's unique situation and then move them forward. I'm excited about the chance to encourage this type of community involvement and action. It's long overdue.

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:

Creating family friendly festivals, celebrations, public performances and sports events would be a huge boost to the spirit and optimism of Terrace. We need more of this kind of community activity. The Riverboat Days festival is a good example of how much these events are enjoyed by many. Closing off Lakelse Avenue for a mini street festival through the summer, with bands, children's activities, food kiosks, rides and games would have a huge impact. It would draw people downtown, promote a sense of community spirit and be something for our youth to look forward to each year.

Your ideas on creating simple structures are excellent and should be incorporated into our downtown plan.

We need to build sidewalks in our community. It is far too dangerous for our children to walk to and from school. I've seen people in wheelchairs struggling down the sides of roads that have no sidewalks and are in complete disrepair. This to me is unacceptable. I want to introduce a plan to repair more roads and build sidewalks each year to stop this downward trend of community neglect.