

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:

In response to (a) will I ask the question “will this be good for our children.” The answer is absolutely. For (b) we as a council and members of the UBCM must put pressure on both provincial and federal governments to lobby for quality childcare in this country. Regarding (c) I’m not sure whether we are at a point right now in this community where we are building residential areas or large commercial projects, but if we do get to that point as a city, absolutely new developments must be fit into a community agreed upon social plan. To answer (d) we must budget monies to assist non-profit agencies who are looking after the marginalized peoples of our community. In response to (e) the school board recently approached the city council to provide free recreational passes for all Grade 5 students in the district. This is a step in the right direction, and city council now needs to look at how we may be able to extend this to other users. This ties in a response to (f) which has me wanting to suggest a partnership between the city and the school district to provide bus passes for low income families for students who are now having to walk a substantial distance to attend school. Can we build on this idea and extend to families, absolutely. And finally (g) I have already been to one community planning session hosted by SPARC BC which looks at collaborative social planning; I will continue to be actively involved in this initiative.

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:

Having affordable access to recreational facilities goes hand in hand with a well scheduled public transit system. Public transit is, believe it or not, supposed to be for the public, not just those that can afford it. I also believe that bus routes to schools, recreational facilities, and shopping facilities should be direct and should not need transfers, bus times should also be coordinated. There are not many welcoming and inclusive places for our youth to engage in healthy, positive recreation. Every community that I lived in prior to moving to Terrace had a community center. We need more community centers, and I believe there is an opportunity to work with the school district (who has the space), government agencies, RCMP, and the City to coordinate staffing and activities. As well there could be an opportunity to build a facility for youth. It's important that if we go this route, that the youth are involved in the building of the facility. It will give young people pride and ownership in the building and this (as studies show) dramatically lowers the vandalism rates.

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:

As an answer to (a), we must bring services to those neighbourhoods which are already viewed as “low income”. The provincial government must be made to take responsibility for housing ALL of the people in this province. We must lobby the government for some funds to build affordable housing. These facilities must have child friendly recreational areas, should work in a community garden concept, and be built within walking distance to elementary schools. Questions (c) and (d) go hand in hand. We must provide healthy foods for those families who do not have the means. We have to begin FoodShare/Good Food Box programs; the city should play the lead role in this. We have space in each neighbourhood to begin community gardens. In response to question (e), yes I would support the development of a Regional Food Policy Council. The most important task to begin with would be to bring all the partners together and set out a strategic direction and goals. Answering (f) there are many factors contributing to homelessness in this community. There are addiction issues, a serious lack of affordable housing, jobs that don't pay a living wage. We need an addiction treatment center in the northwest. We must lobby businesses and government to increase the minimum wage. We must encourage residential building owners to offer subsidized, low-income rents.

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:

I think the first step is that we need to have a conversation with children and youth. Ask them what they see as the problems; what do they want to see in terms of facilities and activities. We would never consider an plan involving adults without consulting adults...so it only makes sense to talk to our user group. In response to (b) we have to be a part of a community social planning process; what have other communities done, what does the data show; how does it translate to our community, what are the steps to getting there. And finally for question (c), it comes back to the very first question, is not so much HOW will you, but WILL you...I think it's as simple as answering the question, "will this be good for our children."