

## 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) Safety and caring for all children is my definition of child friendly. Any assistance we can give to organizations working on a project which is within our means would qualify for study of the project.
- B) We do not become involved in private enterprise at the city. I would encourage any new developer that is going to employ a lot of individuals to prepare a day care program but it would not be in my power to demand it. There may be places within the new downtown revitalization where tax free status for development is possible. I also chair 16/37 Community Futures which has aided many child care facilities in town.
- C) I would prefer to be guided by your committee in deciding the necessary services.
- D) We do support non-profit agencies now. But keep in mind we do not finance projects already receiving funds from another level of government.
- E) There are protocols currently in place and anything further could be brought to staff for discussion with council.
- F) I think transportation relief would be a great help. We, unfortunately, do not set the fee structure or have flexibility in this.
- G) I, currently, am liaison to Skeena Diversity, and other councillors assist with other social committees in the community. This brings issues to council in a timely manner.

## 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 age old problem of who's going to pay is a very difficult one. I would encourage staff to continue to have free skating and free swimming on a limited but regular basis. As I mentioned earlier we do not set transit fees nor do we control the scheduling. There may be some possibility for groups to rent the pool or arenas at a reduced rate in order to provide service to specialized groups and I would support that.

As to the safe parks, community centres, schools and libraries: I would like to see some liaison with the school board so that gyms could be open for activities in non school hours. There are homework clubs available now.

B – I suggested at the all candidates meeting that we form a Youth Advisory Group to the city and assist them in formation, procedure and outcome of their ideas.

C -Community safety is everyone's business. We have just recently restored two RCMP to the streets and they will be working with the young people in both a uniform and non uniform presence.

There are activities created for youth by churches, special interest groups, art gallery, music festival, various individual groups such as Kermode Friendship, as well as your own. I feel my job as a liaison is to present the projects to council and have staff investigate if they fall within the criteria for assistance. If they don't we can sometimes change a policy to supercede the current one.

We need buy in from the transitional age group that they will be interested in participating in these programmes. There needs to be a willingness on behalf of youth to make it happen. Working "with" you and not "for" youth will build self esteem and leadership skills.

### 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. I'm not sure that I agree that Terrace is "ghettoized". People the world over like to live with those who know and understand them. So we do have ethnic communities whose youth often want to move on as they grow up. We have low cost housing (Although not nearly enough of it) and it did tend to be in certain areas but now is more scattered.
- b. I think we need building and health inspections on a regular basis and a concerted effort to make landlords comply. Unfortunately I know anything they do will be added to the cost of the rent and of that I have no control.
- c. I will try to keep the focus when we meet with provincial politicians, developers, and service agencies. We need to see that local services agencies are funded sufficiently by the provincial and federal governments.
- d. How could anyone not support the incredible work that these groups do?
- e. I am not familiar with what a Regional Food Policy Council does but would certainly be willing to listen and learn.
- f. I have a strong understanding of the homelessness issue in Terrace having been tutored by Stacey Tyres. I have also been active with the downtown addictions problems. Met with these individuals and supported Ksan House in the Wet Shelter project. I think the homelessness issues is very complicated and no one solution will be enough. We need a Wet Shelter, we

need low cost housing and we need family assistance to give individuals the support they need to become contributing members of society. Our first line of assistance is from the provincial government.

#### 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 – I'm sure everyone will remind you we have just restored two more members of the RCMP. This allows for a downtown programme to be put in place fully by next summer. I will continue to push for lighting in the park and back alleys and removal of tree limbs. A good example of light is the significant change in the skate board park now the parking lot lights are in place. There does have to be some responsibility by parents to assure they know where their children are and they are not walking the streets for fun or after a late night shift at work. It takes all of us to make this happen.

B- Continue to support, as I have in the past, the activities of Skeena Diversity, school and friendship centre and church programs.

C- I would support changes in policies that will result in building environment changes to provide a child friendly environment.