



FEDERAL ELECTION :: JANUARY 23, 2006

DEFEND DAYCARE!

MEET SOME OF THE BC CHILD CARE ADVOCATES WHO ARE CANDIDATES IN THE FEDERAL ELECTION

Bill Siksay - Burnaby-Douglas

Excerpt from *Candidates disagree about taxes*, Burnaby News Leader
[13 Jan 2006]

Incumbent Bill Siksay from the NDP says such tax credits [refers to earlier comments by Conservative candidate] are nice but don't actually help solve the problems faced by those the credits are supposed to help.

The problem with a tax credit for textbooks, for instance, "is you have to be at university first to be able to take advantage of that ... what we need is a program that lowers tuition and makes it possible for folks to get to university, to get the education that they need."

Similarly, with the child care allowance, "the problem in Canada right now is there aren't enough spaces for child care," Siksay said. "The reality is it doesn't create a child care space."

And for the tax credit for kids in organized sports, "If you can't afford to lay out the money for that the tax credit doesn't help you."...

Catherine Bell - North Island's candidate

EXCERPT from Vancouver Island News Group / North Island Gazette
[15 Dec 2005]

"Catherine Bell was born and raised in a North Island logging family. She has lived and worked in Royston, Gold River, Tahsis and Courtenay.

As a provincial vice president with the BC and Government and Service Employees Union from 1996 to 2005, Catherine has provided service and support to working people throughout the North Island.

Catherine is a passionate advocate for rural communities. For six years she served on the steering committee of the Community Development Institute -- an arm of the Social Planning and Research Council of BC - to promote strategies for stronger, sustainable communities.

Catherine has a record of speaking out for working families. She has advocated for quality, accessible childcare as chair of the BCGEU childcare committee. She is a member of the newly-formed Affordable Housing Society, a group that is working for solutions to the lack of affordable housing in the north island...."

Dawn Black - New Westminster-Coquitlam

ELECTION: Candidates weigh in on poverty
Metrovalley Newspaper Group
January 11, 2006 [Page: 3]
Janis Warren

DAWN BLACK

NDP - New Westminster resident, Community volunteer

"This country is one of the few countries in the western democracy that doesn't have a housing program," Dawn Black says.

During the last minority government, NDP leader Jack Layton and his caucus were able to pressure the Liberals to force them to roll back a large corporate tax credit and re-allocate the money into affordable housing, Black says.

Under an NDP government, there would be increases to child tax credits and a child care program that's accessible and affordable," Black says. "Rosalie Abella, a Supreme Court justice, said a few years ago that child care is really the ramp that will allow women, particularly single moms, to drive out of a poverty situation if they have accessible and quality child care".

Libby Davies – Vancouver East

NDP CHILD CARE PLAN A NEW START FOR CANADA'S CHILDREN

December 13, 2005

Media Release

Vancouver- The NDP's plan for a new *Child Care Act* will ensure that federal childcare funding goes directly to childcare, and not into provinces' general revenue, as has been the case under the Campbell government in BC, Vancouver East NDP candidate Libby Davies said today.

NDP Leader Jack Layton today unveiled the NDP's child care plan, to ensure federal funding for child care is for licensed, high-quality, non-profit child care. The commitment would increase current levels of funding to \$1.8 billion in the first year, with an additional \$250 million a year for the next three years. The plan would immediately create 200,000 new spaces with an additional 75,000 spaces over three years and increase the Child Tax Credit by \$250 a year until it reaches an extra \$1000.

BC representative for the Childcare Advocacy Association of Canada, and long time child care provider, Sharon Gregson, praised Layton today for a proposal that provided more options for more parents. "Good child care is good for kids," said Gregson. "A Child Care Act recognizes accessible, licensed child care as a national priority, which is what we have been asking for all along. What is also critical in this plan is the mechanism to ensure accountability on the part of the provinces," she added.

In 2002, the BC provincial government shifted federal child care transfers into general revenue, but there is nothing in the most recent deal between BC and Ottawa to prevent that from happening again. "Parents and care givers have been demanding a national program, that provides accessible, quality not-for-profit child care for everyone, not another Liberal promise to hand over billions to the provinces with no guidelines and no strings attached," said Davies. "

"The Conservatives are offering an allowance while the Liberals have given us 12 years of empty promises. The NDP proposal reaches out to everyone. With an increase the Child Tax Credit and a commitment to permanent funding for quality, licensed child care, the NDP is offering a real investment in our children's future," said Davies.