



Elizabeth May & Adriane Carr on “BC Priorities”

Provide affordable housing and solutions for homelessness

Friday, September 19, 2008: Green Party of Canada leader Elizabeth May and Vancouver Centre candidate and deputy leader Adriane Carr today visited Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside to discuss a “BC Priority” for the party: homelessness and affordable housing.

More and more people are sleeping in doorways and begging for money in our cities. Low and fixed income people are getting priced out of their apartments. Older apartment buildings are being converted into condos, squeezing out long-term residents.

Failure in recent years to use a portion of the billions of surplus federal budget dollars to solve homelessness is a national disgrace.

To combat the disgraceful rise in homelessness and reclaim our place as a compassionate society that ensures that every Canadian has affordable, safe and secure housing, the Green Party of Canada will:

- Create a National Affordable Housing Program
- Provide funding through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) for the building of non-market housing that’s affordable, healthy and green.
- Provide sufficient funds through CMHC to community-based agencies to build 20,000 new and 10,000 rehabilitated affordable housing units per year for the next ten years in Canada.
- Offer credit and loan guarantees to non-profit housing organizations and co-operatives for the building and restoration of quality, energy-efficient housing for seniors, people with special needs and low-income families
- Offer dedicated funding to the co-operative housing sector to enable more new affordable housing projects to proceed

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- Offer tax incentives to private investors to build affordable, healthy, energy-efficient, multi-unit rental housing, low-cost “non-market” housing, and to include a percentage of affordable housing in their housing projects
- Offer tax credits for gifts of lands or buildings to community land trusts to provide affordable housing
- Create a new source of funds--\$500 million per year—for this National Affordable Housing Program through new Municipal Registered Retirement Savings Plans Bonds which enables Canadians to invest in their communities.
- Tackling other roots of homelessness through increased funding for mental health services; expanded drug addiction treatment centres; de-linking drugs and crime so addictions can be treated as medical problems and providing a guaranteed liveable income.

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