

ELECT

CHRIS GORMAN

FOR SCHOOL TRUSTEE



Responses to the Community Action Toward Children's Health (CATCH) Questionnaire to School Trustee Candidates

- 1. In what ways will you help make your community more child friendly (for example: safe routes to school and access to services), and how will you report your progress?**

Decisions at the Board of Education should always be made in the best interest of our children. As a father of two young children, it is important that our community is child friendly. To do this, it will be important that our team of School Trustees work together to maintain open, constructive dialogue with municipal colleagues to ensure that our children have safe routes to schools, such as sidewalks and bike lanes, by advocating that they be incorporated in new developments approved by City Hall. Also I will be a strong advocate for continually improving the School District's school bus program and providing continued education for parents and students about travelling safely to and from schools.

- 2. How will you help children in your community find housing that is safe, comfortable and does not cost more than 30% of the family budget, and how will you report your progress?**

Housing falls outside the Board of Education's mandate. However, affordable housing is an important issue for me since it is a real challenge for some parents, children, and staff. Affordable housing needs to be a priority for our municipal, provincial, and federal colleagues. For my part, I will remain attentive to the consequences of housing issues and raise them with colleagues who have the mandate and authority to appropriately address them.

- 3. What will you do to increase access to community owned resources and facilities to improve early childhood development (for example: co-location of services in public buildings and remove barriers to wider use of public buildings), and how will you report your progress?**

Currently, School District No. 23 shares space in some of its schools with preschool operators. To encourage fair and equitable access, sponsorships or subsidies may be available to qualified families. This is a mutually beneficial program and I will continue to support it.

With the recent announcement that an elementary school will be built in the Rosewood Drive area of West Kelowna and the extension at Okanagan Mission Secondary, there is an opportunity for the School District to partner with West Kelowna and Kelowna to create Neighbourhood Learning Centres where schools become a place to not only access education, but recreational facilities, community services, and culture programs. This integration of services builds community and is an initiative that I support pursuing.

"Committed to quality education - today and tomorrow."

- 4. What will you do to encourage businesses to be more child friendly (for example: breastfeeding friendly policies and child safe public spaces), and how will you report your progress?**

Business policy falls outside the Board of Education's mandate. However, as a parent of young children, I am aware of the services and provisions that make a difference when taking care of them in public places. For instance, I continue to find it frustrating when local establishments do not have change tables in the men's washrooms. I would encourage our colleagues who have jurisdiction over business policy to ensure that appropriate policies and practices are in place to ensure that businesses are child friendly.

- 5. As an elected mayor, councillor or trustee, how will you ensure that all council and board decisions are made from a child friendly perspective, and how will you keep residents aware of your advocacy for children?**

By its very definition, the Board of Education is charged with making decisions in the best interest of our children. The practices of the Board ensure that residents have access to the discussions and decisions that affect them. Proceedings from Board meetings are documented and publicly available on the School District's website (www.sd23.bc.ca), with a summary regularly published on Castanet.

If you have any questions or comments regarding any of my answers or would like to explore other issues, please do not hesitate to contact me at 250.212.6401 or by email at chris@votegorman.ca.

Additional information about me and my campaign can be found at www.votegorman.ca.

**I hope I've provided enough information for you to support me for
School Trustee on November 19th.**