

Subject: [Fwd: Let's "do our homework" on mental health as election issue]

Date: Thu, 28 Apr 2005 15:00:54 -0700

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Let's "do our homework" on mental health as election issue

Date: Thu, 28 Apr 2005 12:20:08 -0700 (PDT)

From: elix@vcn.bc.ca

To: info@greenparty.bc.ca

CC: gordon.campbell.office@leg.bc.ca, carole@bc.ndp.ca, streetcrime@bcjusticereview.org, fonvca@fonvca.org, managecomm@dnv.org, ablanleil@andres1.com, adhorning@hotmail.com, agwebfeedback@gov.bc.ca, april.laing@gems1.gov.bc.ca, aucourant@cbc.ca, bccomments@ctv.ca, bcss.prov@telus.net, bctvnews@shaw.ca, bgerding@kelownacapnews.com, bgiven@kelowna.ca, brenda.locke.mla@leg.bc.ca, bsoprovich@westvancouver.ca, callbc@sen.parl.gc.ca, cday@kelowna.ca, chiefjudge@provincialcourt.bc.ca, civiljustice@bcjusticereview.org, cking@cmhc-schl.gc.ca, comments@chbc.com, communications@lsbc.org, complaints@cpc-cpp.gc.ca, csilver@nvsd44.bc.ca, editor@vancourier.com, ernie_crist@dnv.org, extreme_punishment_for_political_purpose@yahoogroups.com, feedback@bcmhs.bc.ca, feedback@vancoastalhealth.ca, fontana.j@parl.gc.ca, info@bchrcoalition.org, info@cmhavb.bc.ca, info@cnv.org, info@dotcommediainc.com, info@lookoutsociety.bc.ca, info@opcc.bc.ca, info@redress.org, info@silk.fm, info@vancouverfoundation.bc.ca, jamie_graham@city.vancouver.bc.ca, jclark@westvancouver.ca, jenny.kwan.office@leg.bc.ca, jferguson@westvancouver.ca, jjohnston@kelowna.ca, jody_rafuse_2004@yahoo.ca, john.blatherwick@vch.ca, john.harding@ok.bc.ca, kirbym@sen.parl.gc.ca, ladybugfund@shaw.ca, larry_campbell@telus.net, letters@ok.bc.ca, mayor@cnv.org, mayorandcouncil@city.vancouver.bc.ca, mhr.correspondence.unit@gems7.gov.bc.ca, mhr.minister@gems7.gov.bc.ca, national@cbc.ca, news1130@news1130.rogers.com, nick14@hotmail.com, nvsstar2004@yahoo.ca, owen.s@parl.gc.ca, pepin@sen.parl.gc.ca, pgoldsmith-jones@westvancouver.ca, phil_bouvier@telus.net, pm@pm.gc.ca, rcannan@kelowna.ca, rday@westvancouver.ca, ruth.ross@christianlegalfellowship.org, rwood@westvancouver.ca, sandra@victoriafoundation.bc.ca, sharonshepherd@shaw.ca, shaune.wiley@gems4.gov.bc.ca, shenanagins@yahoo.ca, shirley.bond.mla@leg.bc.ca, sustainableregion@gvrd.bc.ca, systems@ombudsman.bc.ca, tb-petitions@ohchr.org, thebigpicture@nowtv.ca, vancouverletters@metronews.ca, vdurman@westvancouver.ca, webmaster@anxietybc.com, webmaster@bchousing.org, bplatts@shaw.ca, council@dnv.org

Good public administration cannot be done without recognizing the important facts so we must all heed Mr. Campbell's statement about "doing our homework" on mental health issues. People with mental disabilities, physical disabilities and others are evicted onto streets hazardous to their health as a PROGRAMMING PROCEDURE. This is what is at issue here and not "cut-backs". Uttering mantras like "cut-backs" and "bigger budgets" or "smaller budgets" is a lazy politicians way of evading doing the homework and examining the FACTS; as devoid of substance as the contest of the "big-endians" vs. "little endians" in Gulliver's Travels.

Dr. Blatherwick stated the obvious in an email of Nov. 10/04: "Clearly, sleeping on the street for anybody is a hazard to their health". No doubt when the case at <<http://www.geocities.com/hrtcomplaint>> gets to the Supreme Court of BC he will be able to elaborate on the facts of evicting people with mental disabilities onto the streets, including the likelihood of loss of life. But this kind of eviction is done BECAUSE OF the mental disability in many cases, ie because of the troublesome behaviour which is in the nature of the illness. Again that is fact.

It is very disturbing, particularly at election time when those who will continue to administer such procedures or stop them do not come forward EAGERLY to explain their stance to the voters. As I have stated many times, I will gladly explain any procedure I used when I was employed at MHR-Woodlands as I was for almost a decade. Yet now, if I were to re-apply for employment at MHR I would be expected to administer procedures which no politician or administrator has yet explained to the public.

Please think about that for a minute: demanding that workers administer procedures hazardous to health and life which are questionable in terms of ethics, morality and legality and giving them no sound rationale for the

use of such procedures.

April at MHR said to ask someone "higher up" in the administration. Mr. Wiley, her boss, said to ask the Minister of Human Resources. But Mr. Campbell had already emailed on Nov. 9/04 to say "I can assure you that Minister Brice will give your comments every consideration". MHR Minister Brice has not replied. I need a reply now, at the very least so that I can cast an informed vote. Likewise for hundred of thousands of other voters. What does the current administration have to hide?

If I had forced a patient at MHR-Woodlands to sleep on hazardous streets I would have expected some serious consequences. One consequence I would have expected ... criminal charges under Section 215 of the Criminal Code of Canada. That has to do with providing the necessities of life to those under one's charge. But violating Section 215 is just a special case of criminal assault (and possibly even culpable homicide in extreme cases). The criminal assault can happen, using the street as the instrument of criminal assault, in many other circumstances and the victim can be a person with a mental disability.

This is far from a frivolous matter. It is very important to me as a voter and as a professional. If I were to seek employment with this government now, I would be expected to administer procedures without a public rationale which I reasonably suspect to be unethical, immoral and criminal.

Thus all I am asking for is that the parties who want to administer services to the mentally ill explain why eviction onto the street, ie forcing mentally ill people to sleep on the street AS A MATTER OF PROGRAMMING is ethical, moral and legal. Does the Green Party think such an explanation should be forthcoming before election day?

EE

> Pardon my oversight: there are three parties which could plausibly form a
> government in this election. NDP tell us they will double the budget for
> mental health. But the question below is not answered with money. Throwing
> the mentally ill into the street to suffer death and destruction of their
> health is current administrative practice and it could continue with
> greater budgets or smaller budgets. The practice is FACT. It is recorded
> on daily logs. Nobody is disputing that this is done.

>
> Will the Green Party continue to administer this practice if it is elected
> to govern BC?

>
> EE

>> Dear Gordon and Carole:

>>
>> Yesterday mental health became an election issue when you, Gordon, said
>> that Carole had not "done her homework". I have a long career in mental
>> health advocacy including almost a decade of service at MHR-Woodlands. I
>> have done my homework and I can give a forthright answer to any question
>> about any procedure which I used in my practice and public service with
>> MHR. I would like both of you to now do the same with respect to my
>> question which is an important question pertaining to public
>> administration and mental health:

>>
>> *****

>> Could you please DESCRIBE the most extreme form of punishment which MHR
>> administers and/or funds in programming at Lookout Society?

>>
>> *****
>>

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