

Phone: 709-0299 Fax: 709-0721 www.vancouversvoice.com COPE/Green Office: 698 Kingsway, Vancouver, BC V5T 3K4

# WHERE WE STAND ON:



IMPROVING THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE

# Imagine a flourishing Downtown Eastside

Criminalizing people for being poor, or for their illness, is no solution to the problems plaguing our Downtown Eastside.

We need to address the problems of poverty and drug addiction at their roots, by providing harm reduction programs that work and by preserving affordable housing downtown.

Imagine a Vancouver that truly is a worldclass city – a city that takes care of its less fortunate citizens.

A city that gives first priority to ending human misery in the Downtown Eastside.

A city that presents to the world a face of compassion.

A city that doesn't just celebrate its natural beauty and diverse cultural heritage, while treating some of its citizens as disposable.

A world-class Vancouver that doesn't punish its people for being poor, that doesn't accept poverty and drug addiction as normal.

Elect a City Council That Cares - On November 20, Vote for Vancouver's Voice

# City Council Candidate: Ann Livingston, Green Party

"The Downtown Eastside of Vancouver has become my neighbourhood since I moved here six years ago. Thousands of people die here – First Nations, poor people, and people addicted to drugs and alcohol. In my work with addicts, I am sometimes overcome with despair over the squalor and misery of people's lives.

"The spectacle of sidewalks crowded with sick and homeless people being searched by police officers is the legacy of six years of Philip Owen's leadership. We can do better than this.

"As a city councillor, I will promote an approach to the Downtown Eastside based on common sense, good research, sound public health policy initiatives and human rights."

- Ann Livingston

"Ann has worked for six years in the cause of social justice in the Downtown Eastside. She provides a rare example of how intelligence, creativity, and self-sacrifice can be combined. I can think of nobody better qualified to serve on City Council."

Bruce K. Alexander, Ph.D.,
Professor of Psychology Simon
Fraser University



Ann Livingston Green Party City Council Candidate

#### **VOTER REGISTRATION – WHAT?**

If your registration on the Provincial Voters List is correct, you will also be on the City Voters List – call 873-7681 to confirm. If you're not on the City Voters List – and a Canadian citizen over the age of 18 – you can register to vote if you've lived in British Columbia for the past six months and in the City of Vancouver for the past 30 days.

#### **VOTING DAY - WHEN?**

Election Day is Saturday, November 20, 1999. Voting places will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Advanced polls are November 8th, 9th, and 10th from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., call 873-7681 for locations.

# The NPA has failed to address the real problems in the Downtown Eastside

Heavy-handed police crackdowns on drug users might play well on television dramas and with NPA backers. But these NPA policies only make a bad situation worse by pushing crime and addiction out into neighbourhoods beyond the Downtown Eastside. Now, increased property crime, AIDS and hepatitis epidemics, and drug abuse are spreading all over the city. Drug use by our youth is increasing city-wide, and the average age of intravenous users in Vancouver is getting younger and younger, in contrast to most places in Europe where the average age of addicts is rising. Housing quality has a major impact on health. The NPA has failed on housing in this most desperate of neighbourhoods. In fact, they have consistently ignored quality of life issues, and refused to use the knowledge and expertise that is available in the community and in the province.

### The COPE/Green Platform on the Downtown Eastside

here are plenty of examples of good strategies, ideas that are working in Europe, the US and elsewhere. We can implement programs and by-laws to help those who need it most.



# A COPE/Green/Independent City Council will:

- O use the power already held by the city to create antihomelessness conversion and demolition controls, which discourage the loss of existing rental units;
- O look at ways to help community organizations buy and renovate downtown hotels and rooming houses;
- O establish a Community Development Corporation to help bring together the people and the money to build low-income housing on the Downtown Eastside;
- O implement empowerment programs for current drug users, including peer counselling and education;
- O expand treatment options to improve the health status of intravenous drug users; and
- O set up prevention and education programs aimed at both the public and at vulnerable populations such as youth.



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For more information on the campaign, or how to volunteer and get involved in your civic election, call us at 709-0299.

#### For Your City Council

Bev Ballantyne GREEN Paul McDonell NO Fred Bass COPE Nancy A. Chiavario IND Andrea Rolls COPE Ann Livingston GREEN Sid Tan GREEN Raymond Louie COPE

David Cadman COPE Tim Louis COPE **Bud Osborn** COPE

### **For Your Park Board**

Roslyn Cassells GREEN Dan Rogers COPE Mike Horn GREEN Munna Prasad COPE

Dale Hofmann GREEN Anita Romaniuk COPE Loretta Woodcock COPE

#### **For Your School Board**

Al Blakey COPE Jane Bouey COPE Tea Buechner GREEN Hans Grages CREEN Noel Herron COPE

Robert Kiyoshk COPE Adrienne Montani COPE Kelly White GREEN Alan Wong COPE