

BC POVERTY REDUCTION COALITION

February 17th, 2011

WHERE ARE THE LIBERAL CANDIDATES ON THE NEED FOR A BC POVERTY REDUCTION PLAN?

(Vancouver) Today, the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition released the results of its survey of the Liberal leadership candidates, summarizing where they stand on poverty in BC.

Candidates were asked whether they support a poverty reduction plan with clear targets and timelines, as well as what direct action they would take in 7 key policy areas (such as: income assistance; minimum wage; child care; housing; and community health care).

A summary of the BC Liberal candidates' positions can be found at: <http://bcpovertyreduction.ca>. (The coalition will be releasing a similar survey of the NDP leadership candidates prior to their April elections.)

The BC Poverty Reduction Coalition's call for a provincial plan is endorsed by over 300 BC organizations that have come together to seek the introduction of a comprehensive poverty reduction plan. According to an Environics poll, 91% of people said they would feel proud if their Premier took leadership on poverty reduction.

Ted Bruce, co-chair of the Coalition states: "With the lowest minimum wage in Canada, and the highest poverty rates, The Poverty Reduction Coalition is looking for leaders who will make reducing poverty a priority." So far, George Abbott is the only Liberal candidate committed to a clear poverty reduction plan with legislated targets and timelines.

The Coalition has also posted a humorous video on its website and YouTube that has generated over 3000 views in less than a week. The video is at: <http://bcpovertyreduction.ca> and highlights the fact that without a clear plan, we have little hope of success.

For more information or to request an interview contact:

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