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To: Dan Howe <dhowe@specialolympics.bc.ca>

1. Will you commit to changing the deadly and unacceptable health conditions faced by individuals with intellectual disabilities?

Yes I will commit to reducing the amount of bureaucracy in the BC government so that important issues such as these can be addressed. As an owner of a software consulting company for 17 years I have seen firsthand the inefficiencies in the healthcare system in so many ways. The Primary Care Network model should have been implemented many years ago like other provinces so more people can access a variety of health care services rather than relying on family doctors. I would push for a less centralized system such as the Buurtzorg model in the Netherlands where health professionals have more decision making ability and can make decisions that will help everyone including individuals with intellectual disabilities. Finally, I will encourage as a society to start paying attention to issues such as these and to work towards solving the problems as a society rather than the failed attempts at lobbying the government and the bureaucrats. We can do better.

2. Will you engage individuals with intellectual disabilities and their supporters during the policy-making process on all issues that impact their health and wellbeing?

I would absolutely engage with people with intellectual disabilities to learn more about their issues. When I led the Smart Cities Challenge in Penticton I learned a great deal about the challenges that so many marginalized groups in our society has and how their voice is not being heard. This is a systemic problem with the size of our government and no intrinsic motivation to do better. It isn't the governing party that is the issue, it is the inefficiency and size of the government.

3. When in government, will you commit to ensuring the Ministry of Health prioritizes improving health outcomes and quality of life for people with intellectual disabilities?

Unfortunately, I don't believe the Ministry of Health currently has the capability to improve health outcomes for anyone, including people with intellectual disabilities. We need to look at different solutions, including making it easier for people to donate and non-profits to operate so they can do the job that the government cannot. Until the systemic problems in the Ministry are solved, we are all going to suffer.

4. Will you commit to creating a governmental task force to improve the health of people with intellectual disabilities?

No, I believe there are too many task forces and meetings taking place and not enough action. I would encourage immediate action, not talk.

5. Will you commit to supporting sufficient funding and resources to ensure people with intellectual disabilities will no longer face inequality in health and in life?

If we reduced the amount of tax and bureaucracy in the government there would be more money for us all to donate to organizations such as yours to help improve the health outcomes. I think we have a systemic problem in our society where we are not fostering community and working towards helping our local community enough. If we looked at things with a different perspective and had more money in our pockets, we would likely find that people would help those with intellectual disabilities. Encouraging and educating employers is one way to help. In my hometown there is a fantastic business owner who hires many staff with intellectual disabilities, including my cousin.