

# A question of questions

Have you ever been asked something, started to respond, and then stopped mid-sentence wondering to yourself “How do I really feel about this?”

Questions. They push us to think in ways we may not have considered before. They push us out of our comfort zone. They represent opportunities to reflect, and also to learn new things.

With election watch stretching into November for BC residents, I am asking myself many questions about the role of government and wondering how these next few years are going to shape social justice in communities. Previous governments have made small progress on important issues like child poverty and affordable housing. Will the next terms of the federal, BC provincial and municipal governments be the ones that finally develop comprehensive plans and progress on solving social issues? What will three newly elected governments mean for BC communities?

I suppose that is a question worth asking my local municipal candidates, and I urge you, dear readers of SPARC BC News, to do the same

with your local candidates. This special issue on municipal elections and voter engagement is part of a BC wide campaign to encourage more dialogue between voters and candidates, with a special focus on asking questions. Questions raise issues and they require candidates to develop a clear position on where they stand.

We have researched and written six articles about social issues affecting communities today, included resources for more information, and outlined possible questions you may want to use to find out what your local candidates have to say about them. You may also want to use this issue to start dialogue with friends and family and share your own thoughts about the role of local government in your community.

By getting involved, you get a say about the kind of community in which you want to live —all it takes is just one question.



DEREK GENT  
PRESIDENT, SPARC BC

**Municipal Elections are on  
November 15, 2008**