

## MEDIA RELEASE

### School Board Candidate Launches "Schools Not Prisons" Campaign

Date: September 15, 2011  
For Immediate Release

Victoria, BC - Today, David Bratzer officially launched his campaign for school board trustee of District 61 (Greater Victoria). His campaign theme is "Schools Not Prisons." It recognizes education as a major factor in determining whether a young person ends up in jail.

David Bratzer has served Esquimalt and Victoria as a police officer for the past six years. In 2006, he graduated as class valedictorian and top academic student from the Police Academy at the Justice Institute of BC. In 2008, he became one of the first officers in North America to call for an end to the failed War on Drugs. In 2009 and 2010, he testified against "tough on crime" bills in Ottawa before the Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs.

The campaign will highlight opportunities to improve public education for all students while reducing their risk of contact with the criminal justice system. For example, he is scheduled to make a brief presentation at the next school board meeting regarding the district policy on Substance Abuse. The policy has not been updated for nineteen years and during this time enormous progress has been made in the field of evidence-based drug education. This public meeting is scheduled for September 19th at 7:30pm in the Tolmie Board Room at 556 Boleskine Road.

"A school board benefits from diversity. I can bring a unique skill set and a fresh perspective to the board table," stated David Bratzer, adding, "I would like to engage the entire community in building a safer and healthier school environment."

He will be on leave during much of the campaign and his views do not represent those of his department. He is following in the footsteps of Derek Chow. Now retired, Mr. Chow served as a Saanich School District trustee for nine years during his policing career.

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