

Campbell vows drug strategy will start day after election

COPE mayoral hopeful outlines plan at major fund raiser

By KARENN KRANGLE

Mayoral candidate Larry Campbell vowed Sunday to begin implementing a controversial harm-reduction drug strategy on Nov. 17 — the day after the civic election.

“Our city can be great,” Campbell told about 600 loudly cheering supporters at the Coalition of Progressive Electors’ \$100-a-plate fund-raising dinner at the Hyatt Regency ballroom. “But our city won’t be great unless we respect everyone in it — until we take the concerns of everyone seriously. Until nobody in Vancouver is disposable.”

“If we’re fortunate enough to be elected on Nov. 16, then Nov. 17 is the first day if the four pillars.”

In past years, party fund-raisers at big downtown hotels were the preserve of the conservative Non-Partisan Association, which receives generous donations and backing from influential business people and developers. Past campaigns — even the well-funded ones for former mayor Mike Harcourt, who was supported by COPE but who ran as an independent — saw the party’s fund-raising dinners at places like the Greek community centre or large restaurants or halls.

This year, party organizers called the event COPE’s “big show, apart from election night.”

Campbell, who has said in his campaign he wants an inquiry into the 63 missing women from the Downtown Eastside, also promised to “get to the bottom of that tragedy.”

This comment, along with several others, received enthusiastic applause from the crowd which also gave Campbell two standing ovations.

“We have a city bursting with frustrated poten-

