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# f o B e W W E S T E i d i e M D æ M A L

Intro

This is the Best of the WWEST, inspiring women with real stories. Hosted by Westcoast Women in Engineering, Science and Technology.

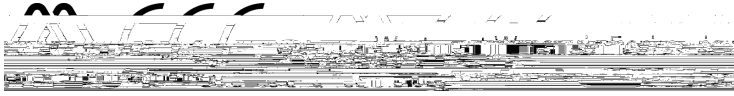
DANNIELE

Hag,









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what we can to support that.



MITZI

- it was really inspiring and to see so many people in my community working so hard to get me elected. It was really mind blowing for me. And I was so pleased and so proud, because I was successful as well. You know, I was up against some tough candidates. And in fact, there were six people on the slate. There was a couple of really well known people in the community and, you know, I think there was some people in the community and in the media who thought that there might be an upset as well. So I really wanted to make sure it was very solid. And my team wanted to make sure that it was a very solid win. To say, you know, this is the will of our community. This is definitely the will of our community.

DANNIELE

Yeah.

MITZI

Yeah. So all of that, of election night. And then once we knew what the results were in my constituency, then joining my colleagues as well, and being part of the unfolding story, you know, and then, of course, everything that happened after has been very memorable. You know, it feels like we've gone through a lot of historic times in the last two and a half years, but for me that that election night, is something that I will never forget.

DANNIELE

Yeah, I mean, how could you?

MITZI

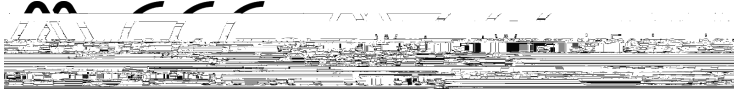
[Laughs]

DANNIELE

That sounds pretty incredible. So here on the podcast, we talk to a lot of women in STEM, and I'd love to hear why women in STEM are so important to the BC government.

MITZI

Yeah, well, it's a really important part of our economy. And it's really important that there's equal access to those good paying jobs and those careers as well. And the trend that we've seen has been that, you know, there have been barriers for women. So it's really important that we tackle from in lots of different ways, we tackle those barriers so that women and girls can get into that modern sector, so that they can benefit from those well paid jobs, and they can build their careers. And you know, they can have good family supporting jobs as well. So we need to look at like the whole continuum of making sure that girls see themselves in those kind of careers and in those kind of educational pathways. And then once young women are signing up for courses, we need to make sure that they feel that that's a very supportive learning environment. And so they continue, and they're not dropping out. And then we need to support the workforce and the industry as well to make sure that there are well supported jobs and that there's equal access for women to be able to get into those jobs, and again to stay in those jobs as well. When I look at, for example, the trades, and I hear from women, you know, who put themselves through that training, and then they get themset wogwwwww









And some of the biggest crises that I would face that would be really difficult to manage would be like a funder phoning me up and saying, we're not going to fund you for the next quarter. If quite often on a Friday afternoon, you might have a young person coming in for counseling, revealing something that needs to be reported and needs to be handled or really struggling. That kind of case work I can manage, I can support the staff person through it, I can navigate the system with them. But in contrast, when there's a funder or a foundation or something that says to you, you're not up to this mark or this standard in some way, or you don't fit these criteria. And I'm trying to be a voice on behalf of the community.

DANNIELE

Yeah.

MITZI

And I'm thinking, but I know my community, I know there's a gap. I know there's a need, and you're just putting barriers in the way and I think that was what, that's what tired me out more than the clinical work, supporting my staff and building the team and building community capacity was really hard work.

DANNIELE

Yeah.

MITZI

But it felt like it was within my skill set, right? And it was within my capacity. And that was what I was there to do.

DANNIELE

Mm hmm.

MITZI

And then I would get pulled away from that to have to tackle these other challenges. And I literally did have one day, a funder just phoned me up and said, you're not getting your cheque. And to me, that would, and there was no reason for it. And then I'm looking for the paperwork to kind of understand whether this was justifiable or not. And to me, I'm thinking, but we're serving 40 kids in that program. How am I going to support those kids? If you're suddenly without notice, telling me that you're pulling this cheque? So yeah, that was, that's the kind of thing that really tired me out. And that was relentless, that even by my 10th year in working in that community, that there's still that challenge of having to fulfill whatever the latest thinking is in the minds of the funders, and yeah, and it's very tiring, I know, for all of my colleagues who are still in that sector, I really appreciate all the work that they're continuing to do.

DANNIELE

Yeah, absolutely. Shout out to them.

MITZI

Yeah.







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MITZI

So we're starting at five days paid leave. And I'm really looking forward to getting back into the house after these couple of great weeks so that I get to stand up and make my contribution to the debate on the legislation. So I'm really proud of that, it's a really significant milestone that we've been successful in moving forwards on.

DANNIELE

Yeah, absolutely. Congratulations. All right. So you've already accomplished so much. So what are you dreaming up for the next five to 10 years of your career?

N've already





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DANNIELE

Right.

MITZI

- and what it's like and everything. So yeah, you know, I mean, I enjoy reading. I don't do enough of it at the moment. I will get to that. I enjoy doing crosswords. I enjoy doing Sudoku. You know, eventually, I will have days when I can probably fill my boots with all that stuff.

DANNIELE

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DANNIELE

If you had to choose one food to eat for the rest of your life without health consequences, what would it be?



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