

**Do you identify as a member of a 2SLGBTQI+ community?** No

**What party are you running with?** Ontario New Democratic Party

**What riding are you seeking election in?** Kitchener South - Hespeler

**What do you believe are the most critical issues for the local 2SLGBTQI+ community? If elected, how would you work with the local community to address these issues?**

Local 2SLGBTQI+ youth in particular are concerned with the lack of acceptance and lack of targeted resources for them. When resources are available, the wait lists are long and they are not properly funded. Trans youth have limited options to access clinics which provide hormones. As a trustee, I have spoken against homophobic and transphobic comments and actions that are harmful to our students and will continue to do so as an MPP. I believe in the “nothing about us, without us” approach. I will work with the local 2SLGBTQI+ community to counter hate in our community and find real solutions to discrimination and systemic barriers that the 2SLGBTQI+ community face in healthcare, and when looking for housing and employment. The NDP is committed to making all gender affirming transition drugs and therapies accessible, and fully covered by OHIP, as well as, improving access to primary and secondary gender affirming surgeries and transition related procedures, right here in Ontario.

**Have you and your staff team ever participated in 2SLGBTQI+ Cultural Competency Training?**

No

**Systemic homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia are still prevalent in Ontario, resulting in significant socioeconomic disparities within 2SLGBTQI+ communities. If elected, how will you combat homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia?**

Politicians are leaders and must lead by example to support 2SLGBTQI+ communities and speak up when they see targeted hate. Attending TriPride, the Toronto Pride parade and raising the Pride flag at the WRDSB are all actions I have been honoured to do to stand with the 2SLGBTQI+ community and show my allyship. We can also show support by ensuring organizations that support the 2SLGBTQI+ community receive stable funding and remove barriers to access government services like healthcare, long-term care, mental health care and affordable housing.

The NDP is committed to launching a 2SLGBTQIA+ Inclusion Action Plan to ensure that government services like health care, education, and long-term care are inclusive of and welcoming to 2SLGBTQIA+ Ontarians. We'll pass the Ontario NDP's Gender Affirming Health Care Advisory Committee Act, working with advocates and health care providers to reduce barriers to care for transition-related and gender-confirming surgeries. We will make long-term care 2SLGBTQIA+ affirming so people can always live with Pride. We'll support 2SLGBTQIA-owned businesses through our diverse vendor strategy and introduce a grant program to support 2SLGBTQIA+ community organizations to expand their programming and services. It is through government actions like these that we will lead through example and demonstrate that homophobia, biphobia and transphobia have no place in our society.

**If elected, how would you address the ongoing issues of homelessness and mental health, especially as they disproportionately affect members of the 2SLGBTQI+ community?**

The NDP will put mental health care under OHIP to ensure everyone has access to mental health care when they need it, and reduce waitlists so children do not wait longer than 30 days for support. People should not fear losing their home, or fear not finding a home, because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. The NDP has a comprehensive housing platform that will create more affordable homes for people to rent and buy. We are committed to supporting 2SLGBTQIA+-owned businesses through our diverse vendor strategy and introduce a grant program to support 2SLGBTQIA+ community organizations to expand their programming and services.

**Do you agree with the statement that “trans rights are human rights, and must be protected as such?”**

Yes

**If elected, do you commit to supporting the creation of a Provincial 2SLGBTQI+ Secretariat and the appointment of a Parliamentary Special Advisor on 2SLGBTQI+ Issues?**

Yes per Ontario NDP response

**If elected, do you commit to supporting the expansion of current Ontario public health insurance to include all medically necessary gender-affirming care procedures?**

Yes per Ontario NDP response

**If elected, do you commit to supporting the creation of a dedicated funding program of no less than \$25 million a year, for 2SLGBTQI+ social and community services?**

Yes per Ontario NDP response