

2SLGBTQIA+ Questionnaire for Waterloo Region Municipal Candidates

Name: Manuel da Silva

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Do you identify as a member of a 2SLGBTQIA+ community?

No

What role are you running for?

Cambridge Ward 7

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

In any circumstance, I always like to ask myself, what would I do or say or feel like if the circumstance involved one of my children, other family member or friend.

Have you ever participated in 2SLGBTQIA+ Cultural Competency Training?

No

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

I believe that all people matter and always try to consider that if the circumstance involved someone that is close to me, how would I want them to be treated.

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

I struggle with how many people are living on our streets and it's definitely a huge issue and one that deserves significant attention and conversations aimed at solutions.

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

I believe that all people deserve to be treated with respect and peoples rights are peoples rights no matter race, colour and gender.

What is one motion would you bring to council that you think will improve the lives of specifically queer people, racialized individuals and/or marginalized residents and why?

We don't only need conversation but need action to improve our communities and help the marginalized become self sufficient and become part of the solution. We need to hear all voices and concentrate on positive change and not have people fall through the cracks.

When thinking about our schools, do you agree that 2SLGBTQIA+ representation in books and lessons is critical at all grade levels? How would you support 2SLGBTQIA+ students in schools?

We are a much different world today and we often hear "children are our future" and if we really believe that, then we need to recognize that the family structure can be very different today than years ago. As I previously stated, in any circumstance, I always like to ask myself, what would I do or say or feel like if the circumstance involved one of my children, other family member or friend. How would I want them treated and how would I want them to feel?