

2SLGBTQIA+ Questionnaire for Waterloo Region Municipal Candidates

Name: Mark Fisher

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

No

What role are you running for?

Regional Council for City of Waterloo

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?

Systemic racism, and people not being treated equally with dignity and respect. Need to ensure equal opportunity is provided and barriers and eliminated.

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?

As above, and promote acceptance and respect.

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

We need more affordable housing or geared to income housing and the Provincial Government will need to help with the cost to get these units built. My impression is that there is a shortage of mental health professionals and hence we need to graduate more in this field. Cost to see a mental health professional (if one is available) is prohibitive. I pledge to petition the Provincial Government to get the costs covered as part of our provincial health plan. The costs to see a mental health professional is in the \$200 a hour range and most cannot afford this even if it is covered by a benefit plan as most plans have limits. Homelessness is a big issue and we need to identify the root costs of homelessness. Is it mental health, drug or alcohol abuse or the fact you do not have the income to buy or rent a home. We need to direct resources at each of these issues to resolve the problem and hopefully break the cycle.

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

Yes.

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?

Not sure, but the Region is trying to remove barriers for employment and ensure everyone has an equal chance to be employed.

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?

Not sure.