

2SLGBTQIA+ Questionnaire for Waterloo Region Municipal Candidates

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

No

What role are you running for?

I am acclaimed as Mayor of North Dumfries and Regional Councillor

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?

Not sure how to put it into words, negative treatment, judgements, rejection. What I fear the most is aggression, harm both physically and emotionally.

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

Sorry, 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 feel my biggest job is to defeat hate of any kind, to try and get people to see the heart of the individual.

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 spoke with the Minister of Health, in 1998 the Government of the day closed down the Mental Health Institutions as well as a ward in every hospital. Those wards are still there today but are or were empty. I asked that they be reopened as an evaluation center. Homeless would go there, be assessed and resources made available. Next, I would look at office building that are no longer fully utilized, lets reach out and see if some businesses can share a building and free up the underutilized building for homes/apartments for the homeless. Some will still not want to come; they want their own space and I totally understand this. Working with GRCA and municipalities could we not take a stretch of land and put tiny homes on it with a hub like the indigenous long house which would have services to assist these individuals.

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?

I have to be honest, a motion is just words and I am sure we could find more than adequate words but we must do more. We as a society must have courage enough to intervene and state that each life has worth, each life is valued, each life is needed in this world. Then we have to instill this in the hearts of all but especially in our children for they are the society of today and tomorrow. What joy there is when we just love one another.

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?

Yes, again it comes down to acceptance, valuing one another, it is the only way we can improve and change the world. Lead by example, all of us need to lead by living acceptance. Our actions speak louder than any words.