

## 2SLGBTQIA+ Questionnaire for Waterloo Region Municipal Candidates

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

Yes

**What role are you running for?**

WRDSB School Board Trustee

**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?**

As a transgender candidate for the WRDSB Trustee position, I believe that transgender representation is critical in light of recent board politics. I have spent the last few months connecting with individuals entrenched in both sides of the recent WRDSB discussions and have learned much from individuals on both sides.

**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 the most important thing for our schools to do is to ensure that our school system is a safe and accepting place for LGBT students, and broadly speaking great strides have been made in this respect in the past decade. I believe that the most effective way to combat transphobia in the WRDSB system at this juncture is the election of a transgender candidate who, by virtue of being present in meetings and conversations can raise aware and help communicate that transgender individuals are not so different from everyone else!

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

This is a tricky question, and I'll be forthcoming that I simply do not know enough about these matters myself to provide an informed response at this point in time. I certainly believe that mental health, especially amongst our youth, is of paramount concern to the WRDSB system. I would defer to experts and allies of the LGBT community to understand where our current system is succeeding and where improvements can be made.

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

I agree with this statement

**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?**

I believe that representation and exposure is important at all grade levels, and I certainly wish that I had been given this when I was a child as it would likely have let me know far sooner that I could be loved and accepted while also being transgender. That being said, I also believe that there is always room for healthy conversation about how various material support or detract from these and other educational objectives. I believe that LGBT representation is critical, but I likewise believe that some representation handle matters too deep for children of certain age brackets.