

## 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?**

Chair of the Region 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?**

It is essential that the 2SLGBTQIA+ feel safe, accepted and included throughout our community. The need to callout hate and intolerance and address it for what it is a requirement by all community leaders.

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

Yes

**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?**

Policies and practices must be designed to ensure that systemic hate is recognized and people from the 2SLGBTQIA+ community are at the decision making table, vision making tables and a system for reporting discrimination employed.

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

The needs of our unsheltered population can only be addressed one person at a time. The issues of discrimination, mental health, post traumatic disorders, poverty, addiction and family breakdown are often contributing factors to homelessness. Community partners and outreach workers are the contact points where trust can be built and supports are provided when the individual is ready to accept the help. Harm reduction and our mobile health unit also provide necessary services.

**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?**

Racism is wrong. Systemic racism does exist and must be called out and dealt with. I believe that the Region has implemented policies and procedures as well as hiring staff for our equity, diversity and inclusion that provide the appropriate resources to continue to address the specific needs of Black, indigenous, queer people, and racialized individuals, However, there is much more that needs to be done.

**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 this conversation must involve educators, parents, trustees and the community to find a balance that is progressive.