

2SLGBTQIA+ Questionnaire for Waterloo Region Municipal Candidates

Name: Natasha Rolleman

Email Address: rollemannatasha@gmail.com



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

No

What role are you running for?

WRDSB trustee - Kitchener

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?

I believe the most critical issues for our local 2SLGBTQIA+ at the school board level are representation and acceptance. If elected I would ensure the voices of our local 2SLGBTQIA+ community are being heard and their needs are being met. I will ensure I am always available to consult with members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community to gain a better understanding of their needs and how we can work to achieve them.

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

Not yet, but I would like to participate at the first opportunity.

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?

If elected as a WRDSB trustee, I plan to promote as much education as possible in order to combat homophobia, biphobia and transphobia.

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

As a former employee of the Cambridge Shelter and a volunteer at Ray of Hope Kitchener this is an issue I am passionate about. I am running to become a WRDSB trustee because I believe that in order to create a better future for everyone in our community we first need proper education. We need to implement better mental health support and educational tools so that children who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+ have the support they need from early on and so that their peers are able to support them properly.

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

Yes I agree with this statement. Groups that face higher rates of violence and discrimination need to be protected.

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?

If elected as a WRDSB trustee, and as a member of our KW community, I only vote for and support council members who work hard to represent the needs of queer, racialized and marginalized residents in our community.

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, I agree that representation is critical at all grade levels. There are ways to implement education that is geared towards students at all ages. If elected as a WRDSB Trustee I would support motions that promote an inclusive, equitable and diverse learning environment for all students.