

Do you identify as a member of a 2SLGBTQI+ community? No

What party are you running with? Green Party Ontario

What riding are you seeking election in? Waterloo

What do you believe are the most critical issues for the local 2SLGBTQI+ community? If elected, how would you work with the local community to address these issues?

Finding belonging and inclusivity. I think it's been a difficult journey to get to a point where there is tolerance and acceptance for the 2SLGBTQI+ identifying folks. It is so important that equitable opportunities for living, working, and playing are provided to all. I have heard from students who have told me how difficult it is to find supports, as well as the barriers that exist to feeling comfortable in their bodies. My hope and aim is to listen to the local communities and understand the issues on a deeper level, seek their advice on provincial level actions that can be taken immediately, short-term, and long-term to address the barriers and implement adequate supports.

Have you and your staff team ever participated in 2SLGBTQI+ Cultural Competency Training?

No

Systemic homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia are still prevalent in Ontario, resulting in significant socioeconomic disparities within 2SLGBTQI+ communities. If elected, how will you combat homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia?

I would implement a zero-tolerance policy within my team. However, unlike the penalty-reward system that is a pervasive aspect of colonial culture, my aim is to call-in rather than call-out the folks that act in a homophobic, biphobic, or transphobic manner. Oftentimes folks don't realize the phrases or sentences that they say as reflexes are in fact harmful. The response level I advocate for is a tiered system: inform, educate, allow for change, and finally accept (this may mean the person stays or leaves depending on the change). Provincially, the Ontario Green Party's plan is to immediately strike a task force to address the adverse effects of racism, homophobia, and transphobia on peoples' mental health and the barriers to accessing healthcare faced by marginalized communities, particularly those who are Indigenous, Black, racialized, and/or 2SLGBTQIA+.

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

Use a "housing first" approach to develop dedicated supportive housing for people with mental health and addictions issues, physical disabilities, or acquired brain injuries, who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Mental health care is of utmost importance, especially for folks experiencing complex trauma. The Ontario Green Party plans to integrate mental health care into OHIP coverage to ensure that folks are able to access the help and support they need. Additionally, the Ontario Greens realize they do not have the answers but they can draw from others' experiences, including groups that work closely with the 2SLGBTQI+ community.

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

Yes

If elected, do you commit to supporting the creation of a Provincial 2SLGBTQI+ Secretariat and the appointment of a Parliamentary Special Advisor on 2SLGBTQI+ Issues?

Yes

If elected, do you commit to supporting the expansion of current Ontario public health insurance to include all medically necessary gender-affirming care procedures?

Yes

If elected, do you commit to supporting the creation of a dedicated funding program of no less than \$25 million a year, for 2SLGBTQI+ social and community services?

Most likely yes. This is very specific and I am new to this so I don't want to commit to something without learning about the budgets. I do believe the funding is important, though.