

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

**What party are you running with?** Ontario Liberal Party

**What riding are you seeking election in?** Cambridge

**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?**

A sense of belonging within your community, safe and secure housing, equal and accessible opportunities for full and meaningful participation in society and in our workplaces are critical issues for everyone in our communities, especially and urgently for those in our 2SLGBTQI+ community.

If elected, I pledge to do work with and listen to 2SLGBTQI+ youth, 2SLGBTQI+ leaders and 2SLGBTQI+ organizations to better understand and represent what matters most to them.

In addition, throughout and across our local communities, elected officials at all levels (MPPs, MPs, Municipal Councils, School Board Trustees) as well as business, community and faith leaders need to work collaboratively and in a connected way to ensure that everyone feels that they belong in our community.

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

Participated through personal workplace Corporate Training

**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?**

Homophobia, biphobia and transphobia are urgent and pressing issues. These are complex issues that requires input and action from more than one level of government, one community or one organization to fully and completely address.

I believe that diversity, equity and inclusion work is occurring will play a role in helping to address phobias related to the 2SLGBTQ+ community.

Education, understanding and awareness are some of the best antidotes for hateful and hurtful behaviour. Therefore, a government led by the Ontario Liberal Party will continue to support programs that ensure 2SLGBTQI+ youth are better welcomed and supported in schools.

As well, as is stated above, if elected, I pledge to do work with and listen to 2SLGBTQI+ youth, 2SLGBTQI+ leaders and 2SLGBTQI+ organizations to better understand and represent what matters most to them.

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

The Ontario Liberal Party recognizes that far too often, members of the 2SLGBTQI+ community are the target of abuse, bullying, discrimination and worse. Recognizing that everyone needs a safe, supportive place to call home, we commit to building a minimum of 2,000 supportive homes for 2SLGBTQI+ youth.

In addition, a government led by the Ontario Liberal Party will provide culturally competent and gender affirming health, mental health and long-term care for 2SLGBTQ+ 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?**

At this point, committing to these requests is not part of our election platform. However, if elected, as I've noted above, these are important conversations and discussions we'll have with the broader 2SLGBTQ+ community across the province to determine if there is a viable path forward.

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

The Ontario Liberal Party and me as a candidate are fully committed to reducing the wait times to accessing gender-affirming surgeries. In addition, we are committed and recognize the need to work with the individuals, the medical community and other stakeholders to identify and remove barriers to gender-affirming surgeries. • Further, we are committed to expanding universal access to fully cover medications that prevent and treat HIV, including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) medication to prevent HIV transmission and antiretroviral therapy as well as to reducing barriers to culturally competent gender-affirming surgeries. As is noted above, our party is committed to providing culturally competent health, mental health and long-term care for people in the 2SLGBTQ+ community.

**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?**

The Ontario Liberal Party's platform includes \$20 million for 2SLGBTQI+ community centres, organizations and community activities like PRIDE festivals.