

## 2SLGBTQIA+ Questionnaire for Waterloo Region Municipal Candidates

**Name:** Cheryl Gordijk

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

No

**What role are you running for?**

Councillor for Ward 2 in Wilmot

**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 one of the main issues facing the 2SLGBTQIA+ community is bigotry, which often comes from a lack of understanding. If elected, I will continue to advocate for EDI training for Township staff, provided by organizations like Spectrum, and I'll work with local support agencies that can provide educational and emotional support.

**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?**

I'll continue to support the Township of Wilmot's continued financial assistance to local support organizations such as Wilmot Family Resource Centre and Interfaith Counselling Centre through grant programs.

**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 mentioned above, the Township of Wilmot currently provides community grants to local support agencies, which I've supported in the past, and will continue to do.

**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?**

I'm proud to have supported fellow councillor Jenn Pfenning's motion to have the Pride flag raised in June 2021. This is symbolic and is just a start, and I realize that there is more that needs to be done. One of the things I've learned in the past 4 years is to work with marginalized communities.

**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 support representation in all forms of education and for all grades within the education system. I will continue to stand with the 2SLGBTQIA+ students and teachers and listen to their concerns, working with Township staff and the WRDSB to advocate wherever I can provide the best support.