

## 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?**

Councillor Ward 5 Cambridge

**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?**

The 2SLGBTQIA+ community is very important to me. I have quite a few family members who are part of the community. My Grandmother and Uncles were "out" before I was even born. I have cousins and friends all who are proud members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. I am a very strong ally for the community yet at the same time I am a bit shocked at the mistreatment at times because I have always loved and accepted people for who they are.

One thing that needs to be done in Cambridge is I have become aware that nothing is done for Pride. All events happen in K-W. We have a large 2SLGBTQIA+ community in Cambridge and we need to make sure that they feel welcome and accepted here. I think if we have some events of our own then it will allow people to feel welcome and accepted here. It also raises awareness to others in the Cambridge community. Awareness creates acceptance!

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

I have not because I didn't know that it existed. But elected or not it is something I would be interested in.

**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 think that we need to raise awareness. Knowledge is what can teach people which leads to acceptance. I think we as a city need to celebrate the community and leaders, such as council, need to show support for ALL members of the community.

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

I think we need to sit down and talk to leaders in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community to find out exactly what is needed. I do not pretend to be an expert. Instead I would rather sit down and figure things out with the stakeholders. I know homelessness affects a lot of teens because their parents disown them (which as a parent myself, is beyond horrible!). What social supports are currently in place? What are the gaps that we need to fill? Are there government grants that we can apply for that will help fund necessary supports? We need to make sure these people are taken care of both mentally and physically. It will take the 2SLGBTQIA+ working with the cities and region to solve this problem.

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

1000% trans rights are human rights!!! We always tell our kids "You get to love whoever you want to love, you get to be whoever you want to be, we just ask that you are a kind person."

**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 think we need events for Pride and events that celebrate different cultures (ie Brantford Villages). We need to embrace all people and this will help people feel part of the community while educating the masses. I would also like to see when new public buildings are being built that they install universal bathrooms to make it inclusive. Again, I feel like I would need to sit down and chat with leaders in the 2SLGBTQIA+ to see what they feel they really need support with.

**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?**

Absolutely! We need to educate kids while they're young to love and accept everyone! I think we need to make sure that teachers and administration are making sure that 2SLGBTQIA+ feel accepted and included. We need to keep making each generation more loving and accepting than the previous one!