

## 2SLGBTQIA+ Questionnaire for Waterloo Region Municipal Candidates

**Name:** Carla Johnson

**Email Address:** carla@carlajohnson.ca



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

No

**What role are you running for?**

WRDSB Trustee

**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 biggest issue I see is the growing attacks coming from the far right. It is extremely disturbing to see them trying to take over school boards across the country. All leaders need to ally with and protect the 2SLGBTQIA+ community from the vitriol and attempts to remove protections and supports.

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

I spent 29 years teaching and actively allying with the community, but I don't even remember being offered competency training. I would be very willing and interested in taking it.

**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 have always spoken up strongly to address the phobias and bigotry. Words, actions and policies must support each person in 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?**

This is personal one for me. My child is trans and non-binary. They are now 26 and coming out as trans has brought a lot of calm to our family, but we spent years trying all kinds of counseling and medications to help them cope with deep, dark mental health struggles. My child is amazing and brilliant, a bright shining light, but I have spent many sleepless nights crying for their pain.

Regarding housing, my partner has volunteered with Habitat for Humanity for many years in several key leadership positions in the province. We know the solutions are extremely challenging, but we have to do something.

I can not promise miracles, but I can promise I am open to creative and inventive solutions. We have spent many hours at home brainstorming ideas to help solve these issues and concerns.

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

100%!!

**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?**

As a teacher, I was always aware of how "white" our schools are physically. I am a white woman, but I always made sure my classrooms had posters on the wall with many faces and leaders from the BIPOC community. I would like to propose we work with schools to ensure there is artwork and posters around schools that visually reflect and represent the diversity of the school community. Not many people think of this, but even the wall colour paint needs to be thought about. It is often pale and uninteresting.

**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!!