

Proud Vote Questionnaire

Policy Questions

1. What do you believe are the main concerns of gender and sexually diverse people in Ontario? What specific actions will take to improve the lives and wellbeing of gender and sexually diverse communities?

I believe that the main concerns of gender and sexually diverse people are fear of discrimination and marginalization. Personally I will start looking into an intensive education campaign that would focus increasing public awareness into specific issues that affect the well being of gender and sexually diverse people in Ontario.

2. Many gender and sexually diverse youth haven't seen themselves reflected in the curriculum. Where do you stand on the current elementary and secondary health and physical curriculum, and how will you ensure that youth get the information they need?

The Libertarian party plans to allow parallel private services to run along the government's own service offerings. We also plan on a liberalization of the school's curriculum. This will diversify the school's offering, in terms of curriculum.

3. Trans and gender diverse people lack quality, accessible healthcare in Ontario. In what ways do you think the Government can better support access to medical services and specialists for trans patients in the province? In what ways will you bolster access to trans-inclusive healthcare?

Our plan is to create a framework that will allow private health care service to coexist along government structures. Increased competition will, naturally, improve services offered to the public.

4. The gender and sexually diverse community are disproportionately affected by mental health and addictions due to various social and economic factors. What steps will you take to improve the overall mental health and wellness of our community?

First we would have to analyze what factors negatively affect gender and sexually diverse communities. Why are these communities affected more than other communities? Most likely is lack of opportunity. Our party will reduce the government red tape that prevents so many businesses to achieve their full potential. This, in turn, will create additional jobs and as a result more opportunities. On the social plan I would advocate for an intensive public education campaign organized by various towns across the province.

5. Gender and sexually diverse people are less likely to be hired or secure stable employment, and experience wage disparity in comparison to their cisgender (non-trans) and heterosexual peers. What initiatives do you believe the Government can develop or support in order to reduce the rate of unemployment and underemployment in the gender and sexually diverse community?

We are going to make sure that the principle of equal treatment of all members of society will apply.

6. What will you do to help end the one-year MSM (“men who have sex with men”) blood ban?

This would be up to specialists to determine what is appropriate. The government should not interfere or politicize the health care services offered to society.

7. What will you do to help end the criminalization of people living with HIV/AIDS in Ontario?

First and foremost I will try to educate myself about various issues that people living with the HIV virus are facing. I believe that education always trumps coercion, therefore once I understand myself various nuances of this problem I will try to figure out an education plan that will address these issues.

8. The principles of Truth and Reconciliation are important to addressing the impact of colonialism on Two-Spirit/gender and sexually diverse Indigenous peoples. What does your plan for Truth and Reconciliation look like? Will you fully implement the 94 Calls to Action, and how will you address the impacts of colonialism?

Here we have to remember that the provincial government doesn't have a lot of say in these problems. Another important fact to remember is that Indigenous people are the first communities that formed in Canada therefore they deserve a lot of respect on our side. I will tirelessly work towards reducing the marginalization that Indigenous people are still exposed to this day. I did read the the 94 Calls to Action document and I will lobby the federal government to fully implement it.

9. Organizations working with or for the gender and sexually diverse community struggle to gain or maintain long-term, sustainable funding. How will you support organizations, specifically ones that provide important health and social services and ones that work in arts, culture, and heritage?

We have to remember that these organizations provide a very important service to a marginalized segment of society. Personally I believe that more exposure will attract more funding. I believe that this should be attacked at the municipal level. Many people are not even aware that such an organization even exists in their community. What can we do to increase awareness?

10. How do you intend on increasing support to HIV/AIDS organizations in Ontario?

Our complete removal of government's red tape in all aspects of society will generate increased awareness and support for HIV/AIDS organizations.

11. What steps will you take to end invasive, medically unnecessary operations on Intersex children?

This is a Human Rights issue and I believe that is very important to create a legislative framework that will ban these operations without prior consent of the affected party.

12. The rights of sex workers are important to the gender and sexually diverse community, with our community being well represented within the workforce. What will you do to help end the criminalization of sex work in Ontario, ensuring full labour rights and protections?

We would like to legalize sex workers. I believe that this is the only way to end discriminations in this area. This will also make sure that the persons involved in sex work will be equally treated in front of labour laws.

13. Gender and sexually diverse youth are overrepresented in the homeless youth population. What specific steps would you take to address the gender and sexually diverse youth homelessness crisis in Ontario?

Homelessness is also a result of lack of opportunity and career choices. I believe that removing many of our rules and regulations will have as an effect an increased economic activity and this, in its turn, will create more training/career opportunities therefore we will be able to reduce the percentage of homeless people overall.

14. Many gender and sexually diverse people are concerned about moving into retirement communities, care facilities, or having at home care out of fear of having to "go back into the closet" or because they fear they won't receive sensitive, informed care. How will you ensure long-term care will competently accommodate and work with the gender and sexually diverse community? What steps will you take to improve long term care for our community?

This again comes to reduced market supply. Wouldn't removal of regulation help increase market supply and as a result the retirement communities will be more open towards sexually diverse people? Also an education program geared towards retirement communities will make this process easier.

Party Questions

1. Does your party have any openly gender diverse and/or sexually diverse candidates? If comfortable answering: How many, and in what ridings? Also, what concrete steps will your party take to increase representation of gender and sexually diverse people among candidates?

Please note that the Libertarian Party was founded in 1974 by two gay men. Our leader, Allen Small, knows one of them personally. As a result of this we treat everybody equal. Anybody is

welcomed to join our party. Unfortunately I don't have an answer as to how many gender/sexually diverse people we have as candidates.

2. Does your party have policies and practices that are affirming of gender and sexually diverse people? If so, what are they? If no, will you commit to adding them?

First of all we have to understand exactly what are the needs of gender and sexually diverse people. Our party treats everybody as equal.

3. Have your staff and volunteers been through training on gender and sexually diverse topics and issues? If yes, please explain. If no, will you commit to participating in training on an ongoing basis?

Due to lack of knowledge about this topic on my side I do pledge to educate myself a bit better on this topic. This is the only way I can make sure that I make the right decisions.