

Proud Vote Questionnaire

On Thursday, June 2nd, 2022, Canadians will vote in the 43rd Ontario general election, electing Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP) in 124 ridings, including 5 in Simcoe County.

The results of this election will have a significant impact on gender and sexually diverse communities in Simcoe County and Ontario as a whole. We are sending all candidates representing the main parties in Simcoe County ridings, a list of questions about issues important to our community. We will grade and share the candidate's response.

Policy Questions

1. What do you believe are the main concerns of gender and sexually diverse people in Ontario? What specific actions will be taken to improve the lives and wellbeing of gender and sexually diverse communities?
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?
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 Ontario? In what ways will you bolster access to trans-inclusive healthcare?
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 our community's overall mental health and wellness?
5. 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?
6. 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?
7. The repeal of the three-month MSM ("men who have sex with men") blood ban has been replaced by another deferral policy that still primarily impacts men who have sex with other men. The new deferral policy ignores advancements in HIV diagnosis, treatment, and prevention, while also disqualifying some straight donors. What steps will you take to make blood donation fairer and based on science instead of stereotypes?

8. Do you intend on increasing support to HIV/AIDS organizations in Ontario or access to healthcare? If so, what will you do to increase support or accessibility?
9. What steps will you take to end invasive, and medically unnecessary operations on Intersex children?
10. In today's world, reproductive healthcare, such as abortion rights is being called into question. What will you do to ensure Ontarians have access to abortion services, birth control, and contraceptives?
11. 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 to reduce the rate of unemployment and underemployment in the gender and sexually diverse community?
12. 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?
13. The principles of Truth and Reconciliation are important to address 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 implement the Calls to Action that are relevant to the Province of Ontario?
14. 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?

Party Questions

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 the representation of gender and sexually diverse people among candidates?

Does your party have policies and practices that are affirming of gender and sexually diverse people? If so, what are they? If not, will you commit to adding them?

Have your staff and volunteers been through training on gender and sexually diverse topics and issues? If yes, please explain. If not, will you commit to participating in training on an ongoing basis?