

**Question 1**

Discrimination, bullying and suitable healthcare and education. There are many things which can be done to improve the lives and well-being of gender and sexually diverse communities which will be covered by my answers to your questions below.

**Question 2**

I am not sure of all of the details within the curriculums of elementary and secondary schools. However, I believe that children should be taught to accept people for who they are and not to be judgmental because someone is different. I also believe that the curriculum should include explanations and information concerning gender and sexually diverse individuals in order for students to have a real understanding of who they are.

**Questions 3**

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will work with advocates and health care providers to reduce barriers to care and improve access to transition-related surgeries and gender-confirming surgeries, provided here in Ontario. We will fully cover the cost of all transition drugs and medications.

Our pharmacare plan will improve access to other essential medicines, including medications required to treat and prevent HIV. It is based on the World Health Organization's List of Essential Medicines, which includes pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) medications for the purposes of preventing HIV.

**Question 4**

Andrea Horwath and the NDP government will establish a dedicated, and inclusive Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions. It will have one job: coordinating and building the integrated mental health and addictions services that Ontario needs, delivered close to home, consistently and comprehensively across the province.

We will update and implement the outstanding recommendations of the Select Committee. And based on the Auditor General's 2016 recommendations, we will:

- Start measuring and publicly reporting wait times
- Develop an overall strategy to reduce wait times, including setting wait time targets
- Set a timetable for developing mental health standards
- Explore the need for new dedicated mental health emergency departments
- Hiring 2,200 new mental health care workers
- Allowing 28,000 more Ontarians to access the services they need every year.
- 30,000 new supportive housing units
- At least 3,000 every year for the next ten years and funding for ongoing rent supplements and support staff costs.

**Question 5**

This deals with gender discrimination to which we are vehemently opposed as we are to any type of discrimination. We believe in equal pay for equal work no matter the gender, sexual orientation, colour, etc of a human being. We will work to end discrimination by enforcing anti-discrimination laws.

**Question 6**

We are opposed to the MSM blood ban. It should never have happened in the first place because it's not about gender, it's about disease potential and blood is already screened so these things are inexcusable. I will fight to get this blood ban overturned.

**Question 7**

I don't believe that anyone has ever been criminalized just for having HIV. It had to do with the lack of disclosure to a sexual partner so that they can make the choice. Criminalizing someone just for having the virus would be absurd and the NDP would certainly condemn that.

**Question 8**

True government-to-government relationship with Ontario's First Nations

- We will work with First Nations leaders to sign a cooperative, government-to-government accord.
- Implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- Moving first on the recommendations related specifically to provincial jurisdiction.
- Replace the Far North Act
- We'll work with First Nations leaders on an appropriate replacement to the Act.

The NDP is always inclusive and does not believe in leaving anyone behind.

**Question 9**

Please refer to #3 to answer the healthcare portion of this question.

Advancing arts and culture

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will stabilize annual funding for the Ontario Arts Council and the Ontario Media Development Corporation, and ensure it meets the needs of both new and established artists.

We will establish a new \$50-million fund over the next five years out of the Jobs and Prosperity Fund to match TV and film industry investment in new studio space.

We will work with municipal governments to streamline zoning for new and expanded TV and film production facilities. We will maintain stable, predictable and competitive tax credits to bring productions to Ontario and keep those jobs here.

And our \$10-million investment to allow libraries to give out passes to museums and galleries will move more people through those important cultural centres.

All of this while keeping inclusion of all peoples including those of diverse gender and sexual orientation.

**Question 10**

Again please refer to the healthcare section of our policies.

**Question 11**

We do not agree with or condone unnecessary surgeries of any kind.

**Question 12**

We believe that sex work in Ontario should be decriminalized and that these workers deserve full labour rights and protections the same as workers in any other field. This has to do with strengthening the labour laws.

**Question 13**

First of all, all types of discrimination will be outlawed and anti-discrimination enforced. Community-based not-for-profit organizations will be able to apply for grants to improve the lives of people left behind over the last 20 years.

**Question 14**

We will work with the LGBTQIA2S+ community to support every effort to make long-term care homes across Ontario more inclusive and more affirmative spaces — where people can always live with pride.

**Question 15**

Yes, our party absolutely does. I do not know any exact numbers, and I am not sure which ridings they are in. I have had the pleasure of meeting several of these people at conventions and council meetings.

The NDP has already been taking steps for quite some time. During the candidate nomination process within our party. It is always emphasized that the candidate search committees focus on involving so-called "affirmative action" members (which must include LGBTQ's) as much as possible to have them run as candidates.

**Question 16**

Yes, absolutely. Please refer to the above answer for the answer to this question. I will also mention that we have an LGBTQ caucus within our party who are fierce fighters for their rights.

**Question 17**

All members of our party and our own staff have the utmost respect for LGBTQ's as valuable human beings. It is in our DNA, as social democrats, that we do not discriminate against anyone for who they are as human beings....

I hope that my answers to your questions are satisfactory. If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me anytime!

Yours in Solidarity,

David Matthews  
NDP Candidate  
Simcoe-Grey