

Mayor and Councillor Candidate Questionnaire

This questionnaire is prepared on behalf of 2SLGBTQ+ voters in Kelowna based on community input regarding issues that are important to them regarding the October 2022 election. All candidates for mayor and council are invited to complete the questionnaire. Results will be published on Advocacy Canada's website as well as on social media. In the spirit of transparency, results will include a mention of any candidates who do not complete the questionnaire.

The deadline for completion is September 30, 2022. Thank you in advance for your response.

Email *

gord@lovegrovekelowna.ca

Your First and Last Name *

Gord Lovegrove

What do you believe are the most critical issues for the local 2SLGBTQ+ community? If elected, *
how would you work with the local community to address these issues?

Safety and stigma. If elected, I will work and lead by example, to support and love my 2SLGBTQ+ family and friends. I will participate in PRIDE events. I will remain an ally, and reinforce that all of us must love and accept each other - no judgement. I will stand for justice, and stand against discrimination at all opportunities where I see my fellow Kelowna citizens being treated in any way unkindly.

Homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia are still prevalent in Kelowna, resulting in significant socio-economic disparities within 2SLGBTQ+ communities. If elected, how will you combat homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia? *

Phobia - irrational fear of something. I will continue to love and accept and support and work with my 2SLGBTQ+ family and friends like I have since 1982 when at Vancouver City Hall working with Gord Price (Councillor) and Nelson MacLachlan (BAC), at UBC Vancouver, and now at UBC Okanagan with my colleagues, staff, and students.

Have you ever participated in 2SLGBTQ+ cultural competency or equivalent training? *

Yes, at both UBC campuses, and as part of my DSA role advising Canada's federal Deputy Ministers of Transport and Infrastructure.

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

I will continue to address the ongoing issues of homelessness and mental health, with particular sensitivity to creating 'safe' mental/physical spaces for my 2SLGBTQ+ family and friends. I already to this via my co-leading UBCO's Technology Node of the UBCO Homelessness Research Cluster. I also have been asked to serve on the KGM Board to feed and shelter people experiencing homelessness, loving them where they are at, respectful of their beliefs and gender identity. Most recently, I have been approached by 6 self-identified Indigenous community leaders from across western and northern Canada, to co-supervised their PhDs in Sustainable Indigenous Infrastructure, Housing, and Transport.

If elected, how would you address issues impacting 2SLGBTQ+ seniors, particularly with regard to affordable housing? *

As I type this, Karen and I are inviting seniors to share our 4 bedroom/3 bathroom home as we move into our backyard Net Zero carriage house. Our ads (via Happipad.com) specify it as 2SLGBTQ+ friendly. I am also co-leading the Kelowna CoHousing group, which is intended to provide inclusive, affordable equity housing for seniors. In my role as DSA to the DM of Infrastructure Canada, I pushed to have the CMHC CoOp housing program re-launched, including land banks to reduce rental housing, and keep it leased and under government control.

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

☒ Yes

☐ No

If elected, would you support funding for 2SLGBTQ+ community and social services? *

☒ Yes

☐ No

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