

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 *

peter@petertruch.ca

Your First and Last Name *

Peter Truch

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?

I believe that hatred and non-acceptance from a large part of Kelowna residents is still prevalent. On this issue, we continue to need leadership and champions for diversity and accessibility for all, irrespective of race, religion, orientation, gender, and physical capability. Personally, I am part of the Transparent Okanagan group, continually learning and listening from others within the circle to help guide my children through the complexities of growing up in this society.

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? *

In addition to my answer above, I would lead the charge to ensure that champions of the 2SLGBTQ+ communities are profiled and celebrated. As I don't claim to be an expert in these issues, I'm also very much listening to ideas from within the community!

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

Yes

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

While not specifically tailored to the 2SLGBTQ+ community, I have a three-ish point plan for creating affordable housing for all (fully inclusive of all residents of our city).

- 1) Understand, through a rapid study, the income levels currently in Kelowna, and expected income levels/potential in the near future for incoming residents.
- 2) Encourage home builders, and have Council zone/approve missing middle (<https://missingmiddlehousing.com>) housing in the central areas of the city helping to minimize both housing and mobility costs. Ensure approvals reflect the available housing supply is sufficient based on Kelowna's income levels.
- 3) If this is not enough to provide affordable housing for all income levels (eg construction costs aren't low enough to provide the supply), then the City needs to develop a financial program with many tools, that is complementary to provincial and federal programs to help residents attain housing (purchase and/or rental), similar to Regina's.

Along with this, although not specifically municipal-led, I will advocate to all of our health partners provincially (and even federally) to increase mental health supports. Having personally suffered with mental health issues in the past, I know how valuable that support is for recovery, and that shouldn't be dependent on one's ability to pay, or have other barriers in the way.

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

See above. Again, I note my plans are fully inclusive.

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

This form was created inside advocacy-canada.lgbt.

Google Forms