

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 *

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Your First and Last Name *

Tom Macauley

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?

Safe spaces and positive community programs for youth and young adults in our city are severely lacking. I believe the impacts of that reality are felt much more by marginalized and vulnerable populations – specifically including 2SLGBTQ+ young people. If elected I will be proposing a series of new advisory committees to be created. This would include an advisory committees for youth and inclusiveness. These committees would be made up of council approved community members, experts, staff, and councillors. We need more voices at City Hall, not less.

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? *

This is precisely why an advisory committee is needed. While I have ideas about things that MIGHT work, I don't believe that myself or any other candidate has all the answers. We need a committee that acts as a task force that will work together to make changes. Those changes might be in current city by-laws, processes, etc. at city hall. I believe the first step to combatting systemic issues is to identify the bad roots in the system. That will require a team effort.

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

Not recently. When I was a student at UBCO, I participated in workshops related to cultural competency, and I studied it somewhat formally through women and gender studies courses I took. That said, I would be open to participating in any learning opportunities.

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

The fact of the matter is: we need a comprehensive and robust addictions and mental health campus in the Okanagan. I am not talking about a 20-30 bed solution, I am talking about a 500-600 bed campus that would serve the entire Okanagan and beyond. If the provincial government can invest a billion dollars at the Royal museum, they can certainly do this. Right now we need to immediately call on government to take action on this in addition to the 48 recommendations that have been recently released by the attorney generals office. But as it pertains to 2SLGBTQ+ people in the midst of this crisis, we need to ensure that any solutions (short or long term) , need to keep such vulnerable groups in mind. Having actions and policies reviewed by an advisory committee would be critical to maintaining that lens.

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

While I don't have first hand experience with affordable housing issues related to 2SLGBTQ+ communities – I have first hand experience when I was looking for an apartment to rent in Kelowna. I had my god-mother with me when I went to view several places and she is African American. As a white heterosexual male, I can tell you that my life changed that day. I witnessed modern racism in a way I had never believed was possible in a place like Kelowna. It would be absolutely no surprise to me if 2SLGBTQ+ people's experience similar things. It's deplorable behaviour. I would suggest that by-law be reviewed to ensure that vulnerable groups are protected in anyway we can.

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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