

School District 20 Candidate Questionnaire

This questionnaire is prepared on behalf of 2SLGBTQIA+ voters and parents of 2SLGBTQIA+ students in SD 20. A by-election to fill the trustee position within Electoral Area 2 (City of Castlegar & part of Electoral Area J of RDCK) will take place on Saturday, April 20, 2024. The questions are based on community input regarding issues that are important to them regarding the by-election. All candidates in the School District 20 by-election 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 March 30, 2024. Thank you in advance for your response.

Email *

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Your First and Last Name *

Emily Duggan

What do you believe are the most critical issues for local 2SLGBTQIA+ students and their parents? If elected, what work would you do as a trustee to address these issues? *

The most critical issue is that parents/guardians are being excluded from the process and conversation surrounding LGBT issues. Resources and lessons are being given out and taught to students on this topic without parental/guardian consent and in many cases without parental/guardian knowledge. There are little to no parameters around teaching SOGI 123 to other people's children. Leaving it open for educators to decide what is important and what is not. Which in turn is overstepping boundaries that need to be respected.

If elected, I would push to have parameters and guidelines set in place that facilitate parental/guardian inclusion. SOGI 123 needs to be completely reviewed to include parental/guardian consent and inclusion.

Do you support the BC Education Minister's [statement](#) on SOGI? If not, why? *

I agree that no student or employee should be bullied based on their sexual orientation or identity. However I feel the statement would hold more weight and mean more to communities across BC if the statement was instead "bullying of any kind for any reason is unacceptable". I find it highly inappropriate that LGBT people of any age are constantly being singled out and over represented in our society. We are all protected under the Human Rights Code and to consistently cherry pick different demographics and hold them on a pedestal only creates division. If our goal is truly inclusion then we need to start practicing including everyone rather than simply what is trending at the current moment.

Have you ever participated in 2SLGBTQIA+ cultural competency or equivalent training? If not, are you willing to do so? *

I have not. I am always willing to participate and engage. However, I find it very discriminative to have LGBT cultural competency or equivalent training available for folks yet no options for the same care in training on how to respect different religious beliefs and views. This is not an example of inclusion or diversity. Again it is selecting one demographic and holding it on a pedestal above all others. Respect and understanding should be aimed at everyone. I would be thrilled to participate in a training exercise that includes all backgrounds and teaches how we can live harmoniously with all cultures, religions and belief systems that make up our community.

Do you support school administrators being required to take 2SLGBTQIA+ cultural competency * or equivalent training in alignment with the Education Minister's statement on SOGI?

I support school administrators being required to take training on how to respect and accept all cultures, religions and belief systems. I am not supportive of only representing certain demographics. That is not how we will foster proper inclusion or diversity in our public education system. That is how we will create division and resentment in our schools which will in turn trickle out to our communities. If school administrators are required to take LGBT cultural competency or equivalent training than it is only fair and responsible for them to also take cultural competency or equivalent training on different religions and belief systems. That includes the culture of heterosexual individuals and couples.

Homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia are still prevalent in BC schools, resulting in significant * harm to marginalized 2SLGBTQ+ students. If elected, how will you combat homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia in SD 20?

If elected I would combat the issues of Homophobia, biphobia and transphobia by encouraging educators to stop giving these students and staff special treatment. I believe that it is the special treatment provided to these groups that has created resentment in not only our hallways at school, but throughout our community. Resentment leads to the mistreatment of others. As responsible adults it is time we recognized this and move forward with the understanding that there is space for us all. We do not need to constantly separate our youth into categories and labels. If the past 10 years has taught us anything, it is that we truly are stronger together rather than when we are divided.

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

Yes

No

If elected, how will you ensure that school dress codes are equitable for all gender identities? *

If elected I would work to ensure that all students understand it is important to dress appropriately while at school. Regardless of a person's identity, it is important to respect yourself as well as those around you. Wearing clothing that properly covers your body is part of that. Wearing non offensive clothing is also part of that. There is a time and place for everything and remembering that the purpose of attending school is to become academically educated is key.

Do you support gender-diverse media in school libraries? If not, why? *

As far as gender diverse media in school libraries goes, no I do not support this at an elementary, middle or high school level. Gender diversity is an ideology. While I believe ideology is very important and should be discussed as well as studied, the lower levels of education are not the place for it. I believe wholeheartedly that the proper place for ideology is at the college and university levels. Resources available in elementary, middle and high schools should focus on the basics of education to foster critical thinking in our youth so that when they enter college or university they may approach any ideology with a better understanding of what that is. An idea rather than a fact.

Do you support all schools having gender neutral washrooms? *

Yes

No

If elected, how would you support non-binary and trans students' participation on school sports teams and physical education classes? *

If elected, to support ALL students participation on school sports teams and physical education classes I would advocate and push for a new category for trans identifying individuals. It is unfair and unsafe to the biological girls to have a biological boy play against them, regardless of feelings. Biology matters and should never be ignored. Through tried tested and true science we know that there are physiological differences between male and female bodies and their physical capabilities. To combine sexes in sports creates an uneven playing field. Sports are an essential part of learning. Everyone should be able to participate safely and fairly. If we do not create a category specifically for transgender athletes and we continue to allow biological males to play on biological female teams, women's sports will eventually become obsolete. It is imperative that we protect female sports by advocating for a transgender league.