

## #YGKLGBT Survey

### 1) What are the issues facing LGBT residents of your community?

Safety. Acceptance. Lack of access to information and support groups.

As Mayor I would work to make resources readily available to community members: to increase safety and acceptance: from sensitivity training for police and fire personnel, to inclusivity training with residents and city staff, and championing a culture of cooperation and compassion.

There are many studies on how to facilitate safe, accepting and accessible communities. We need to utilize this research and connect it meaningfully to our community so Kingston exemplifies these characteristics for LGBT residents.

LGBT youth issues are a major area that we need to give attention to. As a Director of the Kingston Youth Shelter, I see the correlation between coming out younger ages and youth homelessness and the connection between bullying and mental health.

### 2. What would you do in your district to support LGBT people as a member of Kingston City Council?

My values and my experience building safe and inclusive communities will come with me to City Hall if I am elected Mayor.

For the last 15+ years as a Student Affairs professional (in post-secondary education institutions) I have worked to foster space where all people feel comfortable - and are able - to be themselves.

I am committed to educating and deconstructing assumptions and sharing personal stories to move us forward and also working with partnerships such as Egale Training (<http://egale.ca/>) to coordinate sessions accordingly.

I went to McBurney Park in solidarity with a small group of other concerned community members when a hate letter was written to other members of our community. I spoke during this occasion to share why I was present: to help build a community in which no one fears.

As Mayor I will continue to lead from the values of cooperation, creativity and compassion which inspire my work today.

### **3. Would you commit to fixed funding and support for LGBT community events and resources?**

I have not made commitments to provide fixed funding to any group during the campaign as such a choice would ultimately be a decision made by council collectively. Candidates who claim they could guarantee funds are being misleading at best.

However, I can commit to co-leading sessions for youth on safe and inclusive communities (in my capacity as Mayor). I would also support having similar sensitivity and inclusivity sessions for all City Staff to influence the actions and attitudes that local government brings to supporting the LGBT community.