



February 6, 2025

Response requested by February 14, 2025

Thank you for stepping forward as a candidate in the upcoming provincial election. If elected MPP for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, you will have a responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of your constituents, including 2SLGBTQI+ individuals. To that end, we are inviting all major party candidates to answer this election questionnaire. It addresses critical issues for the 2SLGBTQI+ community and their family members, friends and allies.

Your position on these issues is of vital importance given the recent surge in hate speech, hate crimes, discrimination and disinformation targeting 2SLGBTQI+ people and especially transgender people.

Pflag Arnprior and pflag Renfrew County are among more than 50 pflag Canada chapters that unite the 2SLGBTQI+ community and allies. We provide support, education and resources to create a safer and more equitable world for 2SLGBTQI+ individuals.

We ask that you respond to our questions by February 14, 2025. Your answers will be posted verbatim on our website (www.pflagrenfrewcounty.ca) and shared with pflag members and supporters via social media and e-mail.

Sincerely,

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PFLAG QUESTIONNAIRE
for
PROVINCIAL ELECTION CANDIDATES IN RENFREW-NIPISSING-PEMBROKE

1. Gender-affirming healthcare is recognized as life-saving, yet access remains inconsistent across Ontario. Many individuals face months-to-years-long waitlists, particularly in rural areas. **What specific steps will you and your party take to expand and protect access to gender-affirming care for trans and non-binary youth and adults?**

2. Comprehensive, evidence-based sex education is critical for fostering safe and inclusive schools, yet Ontario's curriculum has been repeatedly altered in ways that remove or weaken discussions on gender identity, sexual orientation, and consent. Research consistently shows that inclusive, age-appropriate education on these topics helps reduce bullying, improves mental health outcomes, and supports the well-being of 2SLGBTQI+ youth. **Where do you and your party stand on restoring and protecting evidence-based, inclusive sex education in Ontario schools? Will you commit to ensuring that all students receive accurate, affirming information about gender identity, sexual orientation, and consent?**

3. Trans and non-binary students deserve autonomy over their identities. Additionally, not all trans youth have safe and supportive home environments. **Will you and your party support students' right to change their name and pronouns in schools without unnecessary and potentially harmful parental or administrative barriers?**

4. The Charter of Rights and Freedoms protects all Canadians, including 2SLGBTQI+ individuals. And yet, the Government of Saskatchewan has used the notwithstanding clause to override the Charter rights of 2SLGBTQI youth and the Government of Alberta has threatened to do the same. **Will you and your party commit to upholding the rights and protections of all Canadians and oppose the use of the notwithstanding clause to discriminate against members of the 2SLGBTQI+ community?**

5. Rural 2SLGBTQI+ individuals face unique challenges, including social isolation, limited access to affirming healthcare, and a lack of community resources. **What specific policies will you advocate for to improve services and supports for 2SLGBTQI+ people in rural and remote areas like Renfrew–Nipissing–Pembroke?**