

About Our Initiative: Queer Vote Ontario

We are a non-partisan coalition of 2SLGBTQI+ community organizations, activists and allied organizations. We are leading a provincial advocacy campaign to ensure 2SLGBTQI+ issues are on the Ontario election agenda. Through queervote.ca, we are advocating for genuine action on our issues from all Ontario political parties, candidates and party leaders.

Our coalition includes:

- Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada
- Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights
- Anti-Heroine Media
- Authentic Self Counselling Services
- Caledon Pride
- Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity
- Canadian Women's Foundation
- Capital Pride - La fierte dans la capitale
- Capital Rainbow Refuge - Refuge Arc-en-ciel de la capitale
- Carea Community Health Centre
- CAYR Community Connections
- Centretown Community Health Centre
- Community-Based Research Centre
- Diversity Ed. - Safer Spaces Canada
- Egale Canada
- Elevate Equity
- Fierté Sudbury Pride
- Fierte North Bay Pride
- FrancoQueer
- Good Work Creative and Community Agency
- Halton Parents for Change
- Hamilton Trans Health Coalition
- Intersex London Canada grassroots organization
- Kincardine Pride
- Last Hope Refugee Association (LAHORA)
- LGBT YouthLine
- MAX Ottawa
- Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women
- Ottawa Senior Pride Network
- Oxford County Pride
- Pembroke Pride
- Pflag Canada
- Pflag Durham Region
- Platform
- Planned Parenthood Ottawa
- Planned Parenthood Toronto
- Pride in Mississippi Mills
- ProudPolitics Canada



- Rainbow Coalition of Waterloo Region
- Rainbow Collective of Thunder Bay
- Rainbow Ottawa Student Experience
- SAEFTY
- Senior Pride Network Niagara
- Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region
- Sherbourne Health
- SHORE Centre
- SPECTRUM Waterloo Region's Rainbow Community Space
- Stratford-Perth Pride
- The 519
- The AIDS Committee of Durham Region (ACDR)
- The AIDS Network Hamilton of Halton, Haldimand, Norfolk and Brant
- The Bridge
- The Enchanté Network
- Toronto Pflag
- Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF)
- Wisdom2Action
- YWCA Hamilton

The Queer Vote Ontario initiative includes a survey for local candidates, a questionnaire for all provincial parties, a pledge to vote for queer residents, and a letter-writing campaign.

Featuring a call to action on 3 policy priorities, including the development of a provincial 2SLGBTQIA+ action plan, funding for 2SLGBTQIA+ community and social services, and action on gender affirming healthcare coverage, Queer Vote Ontario is committed to putting 2SLGBTQI+ issues on the election agenda.

Our Calls to Action for Ontario Political Parties

We are calling for all political parties to commit to the following three actions, should they form government after the June 2022 provincial election:

1: Create a Provincial 2SLGBTQI+ Secretariat and Action Plan

Similar to the role of the federal LGBTQ2+ Secretariat and modeled after the success of the Anti-Racism Directorate, a Provincial 2SLGBTQI+ Secretariat would play a key role advancing 2SLGBTQI+ health, rights, safety and inclusion across the Government of Ontario, while ensuring the needs and priorities of 2SLGBTQI+ people are considered within all government policies and programs. Through the creation of Ontario's



first ever Provincial 2SLGBTQI+ Action Plan, in consultation with 2SLGBTQI+ communities, the Government of Ontario can ensure sustained leadership on 2SLGBTQI+ issues across the full breadth of provincial jurisdiction, including within health and social services, education, children's aid and civil and criminal justice. Building on examples from the Government of Yukon and the Government of Canada, a Made-in-Ontario action plan would ensure long-term leadership in our province on 2SLGBTQI+ issues.

2: Create a Dedicated Annual Funding Program of \$25 Million for 2SLGBTQI+ Social, Health and Community Services

Despite significant social, health and economic disparities, 2SLGBTQI+ communities often struggle to find inclusive social and community services. 2SLGBTQI+ community organizations, and 2SLGBTQI+-specific services in social services, have suffered from chronic underfunding despite explosive demand for care and ever-expanding waitlists. Supporting 2SLGBTQI+ social and community services is the most effective means through which to immediately address the crises in 2SLGBTQI+ communities. Through a dedicated funding program, the Government of Ontario can bolster existing social and community services for 2SLGBTQI+ communities while prioritizing those with greatest need, such as refugees, newcomers, rural folks and trans, Black, Indigenous and racialized Ontarians. Through sustainable funding, small 2SLGBTQI+ social and community services can scale up their services to more effectively improve the health and well-being of 2SLGBTQI+ people in Ontario. Such a fund should be co-developed in consultation with 2SLGBTQI+ communities, particularly grassroots groups.

3: Expand Coverage of and Access to Gender-Affirming Healthcare

Ontario health coverage currently omits medically necessary services for trans and gender diverse communities. Key procedures, including facial feminization or masculinization surgery, permanent hair removal, chest masculinization, tracheal shaves, peritoneal pull and abdominal phalloplasty and others are left out of provincial coverage, despite being recognized as medically necessary by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH), the international authority on transgender health. Lack of public health insurance for gender-affirming healthcare means that trans and gender diverse communities, who are disproportionately economically impoverished, must pay out of pocket for medically necessary health services. Beyond medical coverage, significant barriers to gender-affirming healthcare persist for trans and gender diverse communities. Many trans and gender diverse people struggle to find an inclusive family physician. Through enhanced capacity building efforts, targeted funding for trans health programs and similar interventions, the Government of Ontario can drastically improve access to medically necessary health services for trans and gender diverse communities.

