

For immediate release: Ontario PCs get an F on queer and trans issues in the 2022 election.

May 25th, 2022 - In April 2022, Queer Vote Ontario (QVO) submitted a questionnaire to all major Ontario political parties on 2SLGBTQIA+ issues in the 2022 Ontario election. Responses received were assessed by Queer Vote Ontario coalition members. The Ontario New Democrats and the Ontario Greens received B letter grades, while the Ontario Liberals received a B-. Despite repeat attempts, including the provision of an extension, Doug Ford's Progressive Conservatives did not submit a response. Given their failure to engage with our campaign, and the lack of 2SLGBTQIA+ specific commitments in their election platform, they have received an 'F' from Queer Vote Ontario.

Queer Vote Ontario assessed each party response alongside their platform commitments on 2SLGBTQIA+ issues. We graded for 2022, not 2002. The ONDP, GPO and OLP all affirmed their commitments to QVO's three policy priorities for the 2022 provincial election - expanding access to gender affirming healthcare, creating a 2SLGBTQIA+ action plan and dedicating \$25M a year to 2SLGBTQIA+ health, social and community services.

Tyler Boyce, Executive Director of the Enchanté Network, said "We are elated to see three of four major political parties endorse Queer Vote Ontario's three election priorities. Nonetheless, in 2022, we encourage all parties to aim for an A - to recognize that speaking about 2SLGBTQIA+ people isn't enough - we need political parties that understand the systemic and intersectional nature of anti-2SLGBTQIA+ discrimination and recognize that our communities, especially QTBIPOC communities, must be reflected across party platforms, not just in a short platform segment on 2SLGBTQIA+ people."

On the lack of response from the Ontario Progress Conservatives, Fae Johnstone, Executive Director of Wisdom2Action and spokeswoman for QVO, said "In 2022, there's no excuse for a party or party leader to flat out ignore 10% of the population. Queer people in Ontario deserve better than a premier too scared to stand up for 2SLGBTQIA+ Ontarians."

"It's disappointing the party that's spent the last 4 years running our province can't be bothered to engage with a queer and trans Ontarians. Hundreds of thousands of Ontarians identify as members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, but Ford and his party couldn't be bothered to answer a simple questionnaire about us and our needs".



About Queer Vote Ontario

Queer Vote Ontario is a non-partisan coalition of 2SLGBTQIA+ and allied organizations in Ontario advocating for 2SLGBTQIA+ communities in the 2022 Ontario election. With over 50 member organizations across Ontario, our campaign is raising the bar on queer and trans issues. Learn more at www.queervote.ca

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