

May 24, 2022

Tom Warner  
Chair, The Senior Pride Network Toronto**RE: IMPORTANT ISSUES FOR 2SLGBTQI+ SENIORS IN THE ONTARIO PROVINCIAL ELECTION 2022**

Dear Tom,

Thank you for sending us your organization's questionnaire. We appreciate the opportunity to speak on these issues. I am happy to provide you with a response on behalf of Mike Schreiner and the party.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Crist  
Office Manager  
Green Party of Ontario**IMPORTANT ISSUES FOR 2SLGBTQI+ SENIORS IN THE 2022 ONTARIO PROVINCIAL ELECTION AND CALLS TO ACTION FOR THE NEXT ONTARIO GOVERNMENT****Overall: Ensure that 2SLGBTQI+ inclusivity and respect for 2SLGBTQI+ seniors are integrated into the development and delivery of policies, programs and services for seniors within a human rights and equity framework.**

Ontario Greens are committed to creating a comprehensive strategy to ensure equitable, inclusive and affirming access to care and treatment for 2SLGBTQIA+ seniors within public services including our healthcare system and long-term care.

**Ontario Seniors Strategy: Specific inclusion of service and care needs of 2SLGBTQI+ seniors as a priority within Ontario's seniors strategy. In particular, specific acknowledgement of the under-representation and under-serving of Indigenous, Queer, Trans, Black and People of Colour (IQTBPOC) communities with priority given to addressing their service and care needs and to ensuring their direct consultation and involvement in the development of policies, programs and services.**

Ontario Greens would support the creation of a Provincial 2SLGBTQIA+ Secretariat and the creation of a Provincial 2SLGBTQIA+ Action Plan and commit to supporting the creation of a dedicated funding program of no less than \$25 million a year for 2SLGBTQIA+ social and community services.

We will require anti-racism, anti-oppression and cultural responsiveness training for all public sector employees and legislators that is trauma informed and rooted in equity. We will also consult directly with under-served and under-represented communities to ensure that they are directly involved in the development of the policies, programs and services intended to serve them.

**Direct funding of services for 2SLGBTQI+ seniors: Provincial ministries and bodies providing funding for healthcare, for assisted living and residential/long-term care and for social-service delivery must establish standards of appropriate and equitable distribution of funding that include providing direct funding to agencies and organizations serving 2SLGBTQI+ seniors.**

We will ensure that agencies and organizations serving 2SLGBTQI+ seniors are properly funded so they can deliver the services people need.

**Home care: There is a need for substantial investments in home care to facilitate aging in place given the high percentage of people including 2SLGBTQI+ seniors who wish to avoid any form of congregate or assisted living for as long as possible. Lack of adequate home care options necessitate LTC and reduced flexibility and autonomy for 2SLGBTQI+ seniors.**

Ontario Greens support expanding and improving homecare so that seniors can age in place. We will:

- Make it easier for seniors to live together by streamlining and simplifying the approvals process for cohousing and coliving developments. Repeal laws that would prohibit or create barriers to cohousing and coliving.
- Increase support for community centres and neighbourhood coalitions, which play an important role in encouraging community connections and reducing isolation for elders.
- Create incentives for retrofitting homes to make them safer and easier to age in place.
- Ontario Greens also support expanding options for seniors to age in place. We plan to
- Increase funding to home care services by 20% so that people can safely stay in their homes longer
- Create a standard basket of core homecare services that providers must make consistently available across the province.
- Shift to entirely nonprofit homecare providers within the public system.
- Provide team coordinators as a single access point within family health teams to ensure care is consistent with patient needs.
- Mandate that personal support workers are paid a minimum of \$25 an hour and for their travel time between visits.
- Increase high-quality homecare options for those experiencing frailty, dementia, and disability.
- Collect meaningful quality indicators to hold homecare organisations accountable and to promote quality improvements.
- Pilot a support program as part of a basic income phase-in for those doing unpaid caregiving in families and communities.

**Long-term care: Implementing the recommendations of the Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission with particular priority to educating staff, families and residents to be more inclusive and respectful of 2SLGBTQI+ seniors.**

Ontario Greens will strengthen obligations for long term care licensees to respect and recognise residents' gender identity, as well as their social, cultural, spiritual, and language care needs. We will also repeal Bill 218 that shields long term care owners and operators from liability for negligence and amend

the Residents' Bill of Rights to align with the prohibited grounds for discrimination in the Ontario Human Rights Code.

We are committed to providing anti-oppression and 2SLGBTQIA+ comprehension training and education for all healthcare professionals, including long-term care providers that are trauma informed and rooted in equity.

We will also amend the Residents' Bill of Rights by adding the right of residents to have accommodations made for themselves and their spouse or life partner so they can continue to live together in long-term care. This will be part of an expanded choice, patient-centred long-term care framework.

We will also reinstate annual comprehensive inspections of long-term care homes without advance notice, and ensure homes with infractions face the legislated consequences.

**Housing: The Ontario government must provide for affordable, accessible housing, in respectful, welcoming and safe environments, for 2SLGBTQI+ seniors including accommodation in seniors housing, assisted care, residential care and long-term care homes.**

We have prepared a comprehensive housing strategy that challenges and changes the way Ontario delivers on affordable housing. Some of the highlights include:

- Build 160,000 affordable rental units, including 60,000 supportive housing units.
- Mandate inclusionary zoning so 20% of units are affordable units in housing projects above a certain size.
- Renew 260,000 community housing units over the next decade in partnership with the federal government under the National Housing Strategy.
- Extend financial support to 311,000 Ontario households via the portable housing benefit.
- Reinstate rent controls on all units and implement vacancy control to limit rent increases between tenancies.
- Provide nonprofit housing providers with the support needed to buy rental buildings to maintain affordability permanently.
- Create a seed fund of \$100M for co-operative housing.
- Allow triplexes and fourplexes within urban boundaries and midrises on transit corridors.
- Create a task force to address the financialisation of housing.

For those experiencing homelessness/ housing insecurity we will:

- Utilize a Housing First model to ensure that stable, permanent housing solutions are the first priority when helping those in need.
- Engage with communities with lived experience with homelessness on program development, as well as communities who, due to systemic barriers, face disproportionate levels of homelessness, including 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

More generally, we will improve programs and services that take an intersectional approach to meet the needs of all people, including those with disabilities, the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, women, Black, Indigenous, and racialized people, and those with housing insecurity.