
Subject: RE: Federal Election Questions

From: Jennifer MacKinnon

Hi Jillian,

Following up from your email to Sean, I am sending along his response below:

If elected, what will you and your party do to protect and extend 2SLGBTQIA+ equality?

I have long been a champion for the rights of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community inside and outside of politics, and belong to a political party that welcomes and supports its members.

As a university student, I have led marches to protest violence against members of the community, including speaking on the steps of the Town Hall in Antigonish to condemn acts of hate that took place in the community. As a lawyer, I worked for a human rights NGO in South Africa to defend the interest of 2SLGBTQIA+ workers facing discrimination by different government entities. As a Member of Parliament I was honoured by Rainbow Railroad with their inaugural Freedom Award for my work in creating pathways for 2SLGBTQIA+ Afghan refugees fleeing the Taliban.

In late 2022, our party introduced the country's first 2SLGBTQI+ Action Plan, focused on improving equality for Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and other sexually and gender-diverse people. This plan allocated \$100 million over five years to support community organizations, fund capacity-building projects, and run awareness campaigns aimed at reducing stigma and discrimination.

If re-elected, a Liberal government will continue and expand on these efforts to ensure that Canada can be a safe and inclusive country for 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals.

If elected, how will you help create united communities where all 2SLGBTQIA+ people are safe and accepted?

We recognize the critical importance of supporting and empowering the community organizations that directly serve 2SLGBTQIA+ Canadians - our Action Plan is centered on tackling discrimination and stigma by prioritizing community action and relationship building. Our whole-of-government approach has led to the development of a range of programs and measures focused on supporting 2SLGBTQIA+ communities, including in rural Nova Scotia.

Where does your party stand on providing access to gender-affirming care?

The Liberal party is committed to enhancing access to gender-affirming care, and we have made significant investments in removing access barriers across Canada - including here at home. In 2023, we provided funding to Gender Affirming Care Nova Scotia in order to help address legal obstacles to transitioning and to create an educational program focused on queer youth policy and governance.

If elected, how will you address the current housing crisis and ensure access to affordable, inclusive housing?

Every Canadian deserves safe, affordable housing. Through my work as Canada's Minister of Housing, I have seen first hand how inadequate housing and homelessness disproportionately impact members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

Our party has made significant strides in tackling the housing crisis, including through the \$115 billion National Housing Strategy, though work remains ahead. In 2024, as Minister of Housing, Infrastructure, and Communities, I supported the rollout of Canada's Housing Plan, which focused on increasing the availability of homes, making housing more accessible for renters and homeowners, and assisting those who can't afford housing.

Through this plan, our government expanded the Affordable Housing Fund to provide \$15b in yearly support for housing projects that are affordable, inclusive and responsive to local needs. We also introduced the Co-Operative Housing Development program, the largest federal investment in new co-op housing development in more than 30 years.

The Liberal government has made historic investments in solving the housing crisis - but, there is more to do. That's why, if re-elected, our party has committed to taking further action by creating a new entity called "Build Canada Homes," which will provide \$10 billion in low-cost financing dedicated to the creation of affordable housing from coast to coast to coast, including for marginalized communities.

Thanks,
JM