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## PEMBROKE MUNICIPAL ELECTION: CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Response requested by Sept. 22**

Free to be you! That's the goal of Pembroke Pride and PFLAG Renfrew County. We are volunteer-run organizations, working to create a safe and inclusive community for all, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

The reality is, lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender, non-binary and others on the LGBTQ rainbow often face bullying, rejection, violence and discrimination at school, at home, at work and in the community. Studies show that homophobia and transphobia lead to increased risk of self-harm, drug use and homelessness in the LGBTQ population. **Supportive environments are essential for the mental and physical wellbeing of LGBTQ youth and adults.**

As a community we can take action. This year's **Pride Festival** was a great example. Our City raised the rainbow flag and we welcomed more than 500 visitors to a Pride Brunch at the Courtyard Bistro, a Pride Festival on the grounds of the Champlain Trail Museum, and a Pride Party at Milano's. Families and individuals from across Renfrew County attended. Businesses and organizations from across the city and beyond participated. So far, we're the only Pride Festival in Renfrew County!

As a candidate for Mayor or City Councillor, please tell us how you will help create a safe and inclusive community for all.

We respectfully ask that you answer the following questions and feel free to add your own comments. We'll share your responses on the [Pembroke Pride](#) and [PFLAG Renfrew County](#) websites and Facebook page/group.

**Please email your responses to [pempride@gmail.com](mailto:pempride@gmail.com) by Sept. 22.**

- 1. Would you support a rainbow crosswalk in Pembroke, similar to what we're seeing in dozens of communities across Canada?**
- 2. How can the City work with us to promote and expand the annual Pride Festival to attract even more participants from Pembroke and across Renfrew County?**
- 3. Do you have any other ideas or comments about how we can create a safe and inclusive community for LGBTQ youth and adults?**

Thank you for taking the time to read and reply.

Sincerely,

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