



Edmonton, august 27 2021

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

FEDERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN 2021 CFQO PRESENTS ITS PRIORITIES TO THE MAIN POLITICAL PARTIES

As part of the 2021 federal election campaign, the Comité FrancoQueer de l'Ouest (CFQO) has asked the main political parties to answer questions relating to 2SLGBTQIA+ issues.

BILL C-6

1. Heterosexual conversion therapies have not yet been completely banned in Canada. Several federal MPs, largely based in Alberta, have voted against Bill C-6, which aims to ban them. **What will your party do to ensure that these unscientific therapies are banned across Canada?**

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

2. The Liberal government has invested \$15 million in 2SLGBTQIA+ organizations in 2021. **How does your party plan to fund 2SLGBTQIA+ organizations to address sexual health, mental health and other needs in an equitable and sustainable manner?**

3. There is no consensus in Canada regarding non-gendered writing in French. **What is your party's position on ensuring the visibility of non-binary and transgender people in French, including the use of pronouns such as "iels" instead of "ils" and "elles"?**

HEALTH

4. Access to hormone treatments and gender confirmation surgery is uneven and problematic in Canada. The costs associated with hormone treatments are staggering and are not currently covered by provincial health care systems. Furthermore, access to a physician that is authorized to make a formal diagnosis is limited. In addition, access to gender confirmation surgeries are similarly impeded, where cost can be prohibitive to many individuals, and access to doctors and surgeons are almost impossible. **How does your party intend to facilitate access to these treatments?**

5. Health Canada allows "men to donate blood if their last sexual contact with another man was more than 3 months ago". This policy is discriminatory and deprives provincial authorities of blood and plasma donations. **Will your party find alternative, evidence-based approaches to the screening and collection of source plasma donors?**

HUMAN RIGHTS

6. The situation in Afghanistan suggests that the lives of people from LGBTQIA+ communities are at risk. **Is your party committed to implementing strategies specific to these individuals to grant them refugee status more quickly?**

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About the CFQO

The Comité FrancoQueer de l'Ouest is based in Edmonton and is the 2SLGBTQIA+ resource for French-speaking minority people in Western Canada. It acts as a voice on sexual and gender diversity issues to raise awareness of 2SLGBTQIA+ identities in the Francophone minority community. cfqo.ca/