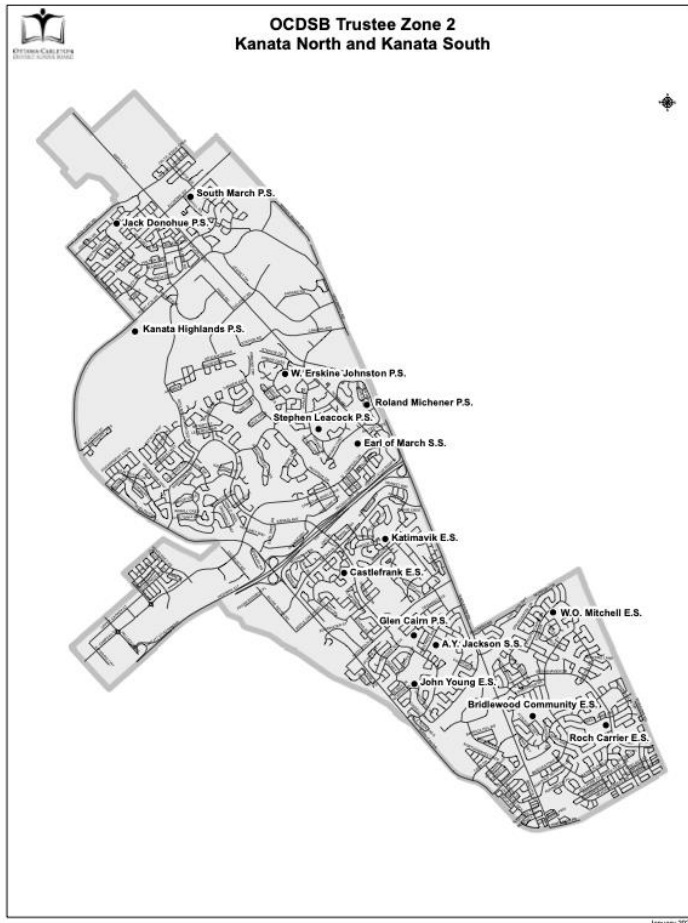


Zone 2- Kanata North/ Kanata South



Alysha Aziz

Contact details: info@alysha2022.com

Platform: <https://alyshaforocdsbtrustee.nationbuilder.com/>

Did not respond to Federation survey or Ottawa Against Antisemitism survey.

Other

In a survey from the Canadian BDS Coalition, Aziz agreed to describing Israel as an 'apartheid state' and making the school board an 'apartheid free zone' (i.e., no tolerance for anything connected to Israel), as well as denouncing the IHRA definition of antisemitism.

Ashley Darling

Contact details: electtrusteedarling@gmail.com

Platform: <https://www.trusteedarling.ca/>

Did not respond to Federation survey

Other

On Ottawa Against Antisemitism survey, agreed with consultation with Federation and the Jewish Educators Group on mandatory educator training on antisemitism, as well as hiring a Jewish Equity Coach and adopting the IHRA definition of antisemitism.

Thomas DeGroot

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Platform: <https://thomasdegroot.ca/>

Survey response:

Q1: Will you ensure legitimate consultation with the mainstream Jewish community in all aspects of reacting to the antisemitism crisis?

A: Anti-Semitism has been on the rise in recent years, and even more prominently seen throughout the course of the pandemic. The [Ontario] Government has recognized this plight and have mandated training to help combat this scourge in our communities and in our schools. It recently came to light that components of the training provided by the OCDSB were completely inappropriate and potentially harmful to its cause. Dr. Jeffery Wilkinson whose doctoral thesis equated the Holocaust with the displacement of Palestinians in 1948 was part of a panel session. The Minister of Education directed the Deputy Minister to call the Director of Education at the OCDSB immediately to discuss this unacceptable circumstance.

Q2: How will you ensure the Board respects the voices of minority groups and protects all minorities, including Jewish students?

A: During my time on Parliament Hill we regularly heard from minorities at committee. Their testimony would always bring insightful information that we made sure was included in the reports and in recommendations. As a trustee I would draw upon those experiences and ensure before any decision is made, that we have heard and considered all voices.

Q3: Would you be supportive of the school board adopting the IHRA definition of antisemitism?

A: Yes

Other

Contacted Federation to learn more about the school antisemitism crisis and how he can help.

Michael Edwards

Contact details: michael.edwards@bell.net

Platform: <https://sites.google.com/view/edwardsfortrustee/home>

Survey response:

Q1: Will you ensure legitimate consultation with the mainstream Jewish community in all aspects of reacting to the antisemitism crisis?

A: Yes

Q2: How will you ensure the Board respects the voices of minority groups and protects all minorities, including Jewish students?

A: Any group that experiences discrimination should be afforded the opportunity to have their concerns heard and to participate in a mutually respectful dialogue designed to address the discrimination faced by students.

Q3: Would you be supportive of the school board adopting the IHRA definition of antisemitism?

A: Yes

Other:

From the Ottawa Against Antisemitism survey: "Federation and [OCDSB's] Jewish Educators Group participation in the hiring of trainers would be beneficial, participation in the training courses should be voluntary."

Alastair Luft

Contact details: alastairluft@gmail.com

Did not respond to Federation survey.

Other

From the Ottawa Against Antisemitism survey: "I certainly condemn antisemitism in any form, and if, as indicated, there has been a rise in Jewish-Hate, then providing antisemitism training to staff sounds like it makes sense, although I would appreciate understanding the scope and aim of the training. At the same time, I would support – in principle – the participation of stakeholders from the Jewish community in selecting who would provide that training, as well as the content. However, I would want to know more about different stakeholder communities before specifically endorsing either the Federation or OCDSB's JEG in comparison to other groups" and, "I would unequivocally support hiring a Jewish Equity Coach."

Alex Rochman

Contact details: <https://profrochman.wixsite.com/trustee>

Q1: As trustees, will you instruct the administration, with direct oversight of the trustees, to work with and consult with the Ottawa Jewish community and our representative groups, such as the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, to participate in antisemitic training that accounts for the authentic lived Jewish experience, and to ensure authentic Jewish community consultation in all aspects of remediation of this crisis (including education, guest speakers, cultural notices, etc.)?

A: Absolutely YES! No hate at all should be neither accepted nor left undiscussed within the OCDSB scope. Antisemitism has its peculiarities, as it has developed in so many ways and places. Consultation and collaboration with the Federation and other representative groups will be extremely beneficial in this process of educating all students on this matter, showing them actual examples of historical facts and practices of prejudice and hate in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, and worldwide.

Q2: How will you ensure the Board respects the voices of minority groups and protects all minorities, including Jewish students?

A: First and foremost, OCDSB must abide by what it should promote: no hate, no prejudice, and cultural openness and protection.

Therefore, any minority group –which clearly includes Jewish students-, must be heard and have their concerns addressed, and this must be frequently reinforced on the Board’s resolutions and communications, so it can be incorporated into its practices.

Another initiative could be having one of the Board members to watch over this and report on any needs and opportunities.

Q3: The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism has been adopted by Ontario, Canada, and many municipalities, to help non-Jews understand and recognize modern antisemitism. Contrary to some misinformation, this definition does not interfere with freedom of speech. Therefore, as trustee, would you be supportive of the school board adopting this definition of antisemitism as well?

A: For sure, the IHRA definition has to be officially adopted by OCDSB and there should not be any doubt about. Besides already being adopted by the province, it is a clear –and, from my point of view, common sense- definition, that is contested by those with a hidden agenda.