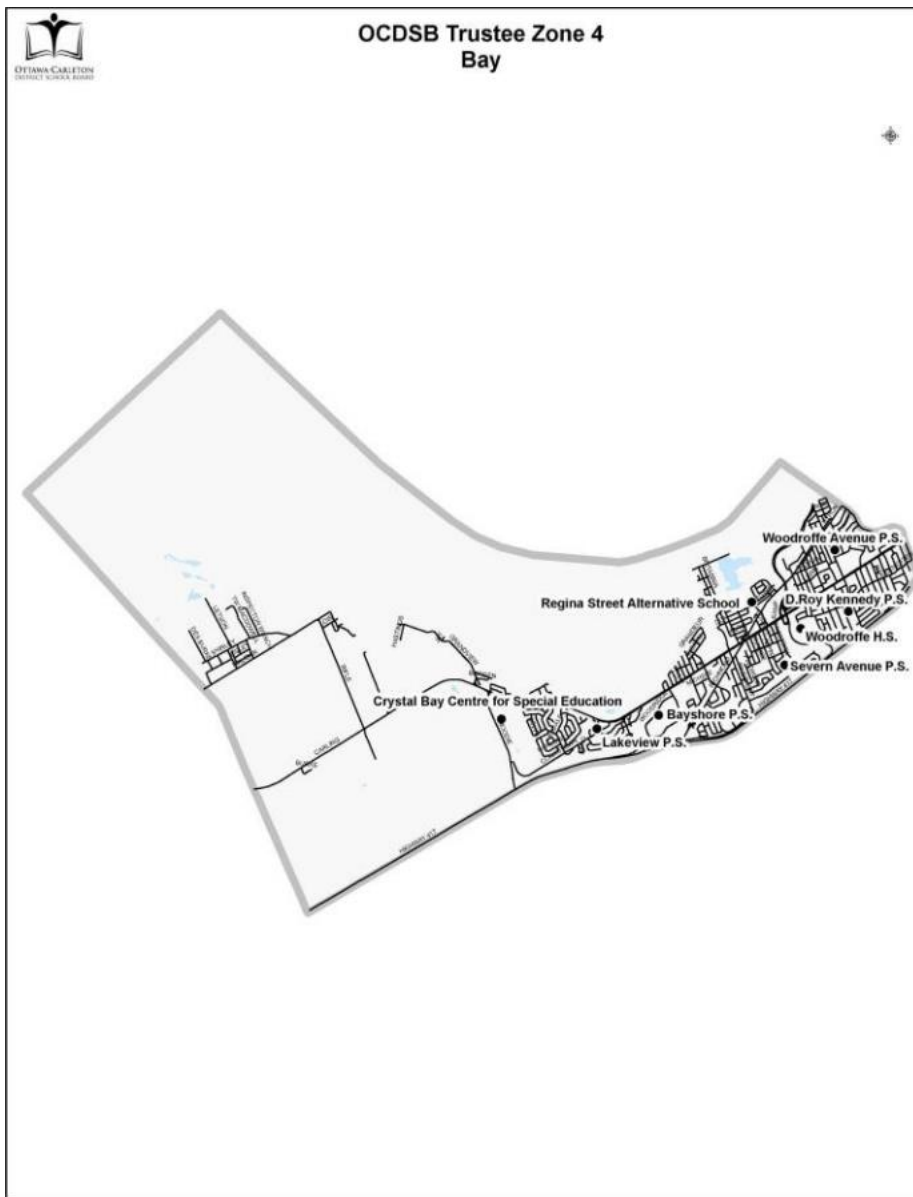


ZONE 4

Bay / Kitchissippi

Wards 7 and 15



Benoit Massé

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1. *How would you ensure that Jewish parents and community organizations, including the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, are meaningfully consulted about antisemitism and the experiences of Jewish students in our schools?*

If elected, I will ensure that Jewish parents and organizations such as the Jewish Federation of Ottawa are viewed as essential partners in creating safe and inclusive schools. Consultation must be ongoing, not limited to times of crisis.

I would support regular meetings between trustees, board administration, and representatives of the Jewish community to discuss concerns, identify emerging issues, and review the effectiveness of board initiatives. I also believe Jewish students and families should have accessible and confidential channels to report incidents and share their experiences.

Just as importantly, incidents of antisemitism must be properly documented and reflected in board data. We cannot effectively address a problem if we do not accurately measure it. Reliable data can help identify trends, inform decisions, and ensure appropriate action is taken.

Most importantly, I will listen to those directly affected. Policies are most effective when informed by the lived experiences of students and families. Every parent should feel confident that their concerns will be heard, taken seriously, learned from, and acted upon so that similar incidents are less likely to occur in the future.

2. What steps would you support to strengthen education about antisemitism and Jewish culture for trustees, staff and students, guided by the provincially adopted IHRA working definition of antisemitism?

Education is one of the most effective tools for combating hatred and misinformation. I support mandatory training for trustees and staff on antisemitism, including contemporary manifestations of antisemitism, Jewish history, and the experiences of Jewish communities in Canada.

I also support the use of the IHRA working definition of antisemitism as an important framework to help identify and address antisemitic incidents consistently and effectively. Educational resources should be developed in collaboration with recognized Jewish organizations and subject matter experts to ensure accuracy and relevance.

For students, learning opportunities should include education about Jewish culture, history, and contributions to Canadian society, as well as lessons about the Holocaust and the consequences of hatred and discrimination. A better understanding of Jewish identity helps build empathy, respect, and inclusion.

Education must go beyond awareness. Staff and students should understand how antisemitism can manifest in today's environment and how to respond appropriately when incidents occur. Building this knowledge is essential to creating schools where Jewish students feel safe, respected, and supported.

3. How will you ensure no policies or actions of the school board, including teacher activity, contradict that definition (e.g. by delegitimizing Israel)?

School board policies must be applied consistently and aligned with provincial requirements, human rights obligations, and the board's responsibility to provide safe learning environments. If elected, I will support regular reviews of policies and practices to ensure they do not inadvertently tolerate or enable antisemitism.

Teachers and staff have an important responsibility to maintain professional neutrality while fulfilling their educational duties. Classrooms should be places where students learn how to think, not where they are encouraged to adopt particular political positions. If concerns arise that actions, materials, or activities are inconsistent with board policies or contribute to a hostile

environment for Jewish students, those concerns should be reviewed promptly and addressed appropriately.

I believe the board has a responsibility to ensure that its policies, training, and practices are consistent with the provincially adopted IHRA definition. Doing so provides a common framework for recognizing and addressing antisemitism while ensuring that Jewish students feel protected and included.

My priority will always be the well-being, safety, and inclusion of students. No student should feel targeted, isolated, or unwelcome because of their Jewish identity, ethnicity, religion, or connection to Israel.

4. How can the board follow the provincial mandate to reduce divisive geopolitical activism in our schools?

Schools exist first and foremost to educate students and support their achievement and well-being. While current events may be discussed in age-appropriate and educational ways, schools should not become venues for political activism that creates division, tension, or fear among students.

I support a clear distinction between education and activism. Staff should be equipped to facilitate balanced, respectful discussions when relevant to the curriculum, while avoiding activities that promote particular political viewpoints or place students in adversarial positions based on their identity, faith, or background.

The board should provide clear guidance to staff, reinforce expectations regarding professional conduct, and respond promptly when activities undermine student safety or inclusion. Trustees also have a responsibility to ensure that board resources, classrooms, and school activities remain focused on learning and student well-being rather than political advocacy.

Our focus must remain on creating welcoming learning environments where all students, including Jewish students, feel respected, supported, and able to succeed. By keeping schools focused on education, respect, and student achievement, we can reduce division and strengthen a sense of belonging for every student.

Emily Quaile

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Public record highlights:

Gaza / genocide / BDS (2024–25): Quaile publicly defended Capital Pride’s 2024 statement of solidarity with Palestinians. The statement itself condemned the October 7 Hamas attacks, described Israel’s campaign in Gaza as genocide, and committed Capital Pride to consider BDS principles in sponsorship reviews.

Sources: [CBC interview](#)

Capital Pride parade (Aug. 24, 2025): Quaile was Lead Negotiator for Queers for Palestine–Ottawa in the group’s 2025 disruption of the Capital Pride parade.

Sources: [CTV report](#)

Antisemitism / anti-Palestinian racism (2026): Co-signed the August 2026 trustee-candidate shared principles statement, which explicitly commits to combating both antisemitism and anti-Palestinian racism in schools.

Sources: [Shared principles](#)

Q4P organizational position: Queers for Palestine—Ottawa describes itself as anti-Zionist and advocates BDS. Quaile was publicly identified as the group's Lead Negotiator in 2025.

Sources: [Q4P statement](#)

Did not respond to survey.