

Ben Thornton
Council Candidate, Ward 8, North Marysburgh
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1. What does diversity, equity, inclusion and Indigeneity (DEII) mean to you?

In broad terms, fostering an environment with a broad range of human differences (including race, ethnicity, national origin, gender and gender identity, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic background, ability, religion, philosophy, and political beliefs), and taking necessary steps to allow everyone a chance to participate and succeed regardless of their background. In particular, in Canada, this includes understanding the particular history and circumstances of indigenous people and the challenges they face as a result of several hundred years of official and unofficial policy.

2. What have you done personally or professionally to develop your own understanding of anti-racism?

I try to read a range of insights particularly related to current affairs issues.

3. What DEII, anti-oppression and/or cultural competence training have you received and how will you apply what you learned as a councillor/trustee?

As the head of a not-for-profit organization some years ago, I participated in training sessions to improve our understanding of these issues, and intended to improve our competencies.

4. How will you work to ensure that every resident in our community is included?

It is always my goal to treat everyone equitably, to be aware of my own cultural biases, and to continue to learn. I am the first to admit there is always more to learn, and it is important to let those who are most directly affected by racism or other forms of oppression do the teaching.