

MCMASTER STUDENTS UNION WARD 1 ALL CANDIDATES DEBATE – OCT 16, 2018

OPENING WORDS

My name is Lyla Miklos.

I am committed to making the city I love an even better place to live, work and play.

I am an education worker with the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, a broadcast journalist with 101.5 FM The Hawk, a lay chaplain for The First Unitarian Church of Hamilton, the owner of Lyla – The Publicist, a theatre artist and vocalist and an out and proud sex positive, queer, feminist, labour activist.

I bring my dedication and commitment to equity, accessibility, anti-oppression, transparency and democracy to this election and to my role as your next Ward 1 City Councillor.

CLOSING WORDS

At the top of this debate I self-identified as a sex positive, queer, feminist, labour activist.

But I did not always self-identify this way. I used to be a Jehovah's Witness. A religious organization that is sexist, patriarchal, homophobic and proactively apolitical.

When I was a teen I could no longer accept that as a woman my worth as a human being was less than a man's. I could no longer accept that homosexuality is a disease that needs to be cured. I could no longer accept that the powers that be controlled my destiny and the fate of all humanity.

I had to reclaim my power as a queer woman and say I have the power to not only improve my being, I have the power to make my community, my city, my world . . . better, richer, fuller, more diverse, more hopeful, more sustaining and one that truly believes in the inherent worth and dignity of every living being.

I bring this hopeful vision of the future with me wherever I go and I will bring it with me to City Hall when I become your new Ward 1 City Councillor.