

Granic Allen wins PC nomination in Mississauga Centre

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Former provincial Progressive Conservative leadership candidate Tanya Granic Allen has won the party's nomination in the riding of Mississauga Centre.

The nomination meeting was held Saturday, April 21 at the Payal Banquet Hall.

Granic Allen defeated three contenders - Natalia Kusendova, Gadeer Shah and Rosemer Enverga.

Granic Allen lives in Welbeck in Grey County.

There was a rumour of a protest planned one hour before the nomination meeting was to start, but no protesters attended.

Granic Allen has come under fire recently for social media posts dating back to 2013 and 2014. The comments, first revealed in the Toronto Star, compared women in burkas to "bank robbers" and "nijas" and questioned gay marriage, legal in Canada.

"She insulted our community," read a flyer promoting the protest being distributed by Salman Khan, one of the organizers. "We have to show her that we do not tolerate discrimination and hate speech."

But Khan could not be reached Saturday to explain why the protest did not happen.

Granic Allen passed the party's vetting process for candidates during the leadership race to replace ousted leader Patrick Brown. She finished fourth in the race.

She recently told the Canadian Press her comments do not reflect an anti-Muslim or anti-gay attitude.

"My concern ... has always been about the freedom of religion, the freedom of conscience and freedom of expression and protecting those very important rights," she said, declining to comment on whether she supports gay marriage.

"It has nothing to do with this election."

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne has said publicly that Granic Allen's comments have "no place in our society," while NDP leader Andrea Horwath described the comments in the Toronto Star as "disappointing" and added it's troubling "to see somebody seeking public office who has those kinds of attitudes that can be described as racist and homophobic."

PC leader Doug Ford said Granic Allen's comments don't reflect what his "inclusive" party stands for, but haven't stopped her from seeking the nomination in Mississauga Centre.

"Our base is growing, and we want all Ontarians to feel like they have a place in our party," he said in a statement.

The Ontario election will be held June 7.

-With files from Louie Rosella and Toronto Star