



## Federal Elections 2021

### Questionnaire for candidates

The Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario (ACFO) du grand Sudbury is dedicated to promoting the development and growth of Franco-Ontarians. It works to improve services to Francophones. This is achieved through sustained and ongoing involvement with all levels of community development in our region. It also acts in concert with all the organizations and groups that work to promote the interests of the Franco-Ontarian community in order to allow Francophones to fully live their culture.

One of our mandates is to keep the Franco-Ontarian population of our region informed about what affects them. To do so, we are providing you with the opportunity to answer the questions below, and we will be happy to share these answers with the media and Francophone organizations in our network.

#### **1. Modernization of the Official Languages Act**

Given that on June 15, 2021, the government tabled Bill C-32: An Act to amend the Official Languages Act and that the Act had not been substantially modernized since 1988;

Given that this bill contains many of the demands of the Canadian Francophonie, but has also excluded significant demands;

Given that the Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne du Canada and the Assemblée de la francophonie de l'Ontario (AFO) are asking the next government to commit to introducing a new bill that would include the measures already covered by C-32 and add further measures that would better ensure real compliance with the Act, such as designating the Treasury Board as the sole central agency responsible for coordinating and implementing the Act, broadening the powers of the Commissioner of Official Languages, strengthening Part VII of the Act, and committing to restoring and increasing Francophone immigration across the country

Given that your riding has a high percentage of Francophone residents who will be directly impacted by this bill;

Do you believe that additional amendments are required to the Official Languages Act? If so, what gaps are you most concerned about? If no, why not?

## **2. French Language University in Sudbury**

Given that the Francophone community in Northern Ontario has been calling for a French-language university in its territory for over 50 years;

Given that in April 2021, Laurentian University cut 28 French-language programs;

Since Laurentian University has unilaterally cut its ties with the federated universities;

Given that the Francophone community in Northern Ontario has lost all confidence in Laurentian University;

Given that the University of Sudbury, the former Collège du Sacré-Coeur founded in 1913, already has a charter, and in March 2021, declared itself a French-language university;

Given that the actions of Laurentian University are contributing to an accelerated exodus of our young Francophones and a brain drain due to the disproportionate layoffs of Francophone professors;

Given the economic impact of an exodus of our students and faculty on the entire community;

Given that French immigration is largely dependent on the availability of a French-language university education in Sudbury;

What are you going to do to support the Franco-Ontarian community in Northern Ontario and ensure a comprehensive offer of university education in French?

## **3. Immigration**

Given that the federal government has not met its Francophone immigration targets since 2003;

Given that the City of Greater Sudbury is one of 14 cities in Canada recognized as a welcoming Francophone community by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada;

Given that the City of Greater Sudbury is one of 11 communities accepted into the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada's Rural and Northern Pilot Program

Given that the Northern Policy Institute's report *Migrants parlant le français dans la région du Grand Sudbury : 2017 – 2026* (French-Speaking Migrants in Greater Sudbury: 2017 – 2026)

estimates that between 32.5% and 35.6% of future migrants would need to be French-speaking to simply maintain demographic weight;

How will you improve targets to ensure our demographic weight is maintained and how will you support the Northern Ontario Francophone community to attract Francophone immigrants to our region?

Thank you! A table with the names of all the candidates and their answers to each question will be sent to the local media on September 10, 2021.

**Please return this questionnaire no later than September 8, 2021 to:**

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