

The Honourable Doug Ford
Main Legislative Building;
1 Queen's Park
Toronto, ON
M7A 1A1

The Honourable Mike Shreiner
Room 451, Main Legislative Building,
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON
M7A 1A2

The Honourable Andrea Horwath
Room 381, Main Legislative Building,
1 Queen's Park
Toronto, ON
M7A 1A8

The Honourable Steven Del Duca
Suite 404, 344 Bloor St. West,
Toronto, ON
M5S 3A7

Dear Premier Ford, Dear Ms Horwath, Dear Mr. Del Duca, Dear Mr. Schreiner,

In a 2021 study, the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages found that 81% of Ontarians agree that more needs to be done so that young people can become bilingual.*

French Second Language (FSL) programs are supported in Ontario elementary and secondary schools with policy, curriculum and funding from the Government of Ontario. Through the Official Languages in Education Protocol and Agreement with the Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario commits to strengthening FSL programs and to ensuring that the opportunity is there for all students to become bilingual in French and English, our Official Languages.

And yet, Ontario students do not have universal access to quality French immersion programs. Ontario enrolment rates in French immersion as a percentage of total student enrolment continue to lag behind those of Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland & Labrador, Prince Edward Island, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. Our brief on the State of French Second Language Education in Ontario can be found here: <https://on.cpf.ca/en/1-the-state-of-french-second-language-education-in-ontario/>

As a network of parents/caregivers and volunteers across Ontario and Canada, we promote opportunities for youth to learn and use French. We have been active in promoting the benefits of bilingualism and education for over 40 years and we would like to know how you and your party plan to help Ontario students who want to become bilingual.

We invite you to answer the following questions by May 26, 2022. We will post your responses, as received, on our website and share with our members and the public via social media.

1. What has been your and your family's experience with learning French?
2. Do you support current provincial funding for Core, Extended and Immersion French programs? How will you ensure these funds are spent on French Second Language programs in local school boards?



3. Will you commit to eliminating waiting lists and lotteries for entry to French immersion programs?
4. If elected, how will you and your party ensure that we have an adequate supply of qualified French teachers across Ontario?
5. What will you and your party do to make Ontario a leader in graduating English/French bilinguals from our French Second Language programs?

We look forward to hearing from you and your party on French as a Second Language programs in Ontario schools.

Best regards,

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CPF Ontario President

*<https://www.clo-ocol.gc.ca/en/statistics/infographics/what-canadians-think-english-french-2021>