



FRANCO PLATFORM 2025

*Proposals by and for the Franco-Ontarian
population*

FRANCO PLATFORM #ONTARIO2025

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



The Assemblée de la francophonie de l'Ontario (AFO) is proud to be the umbrella organization and the voice of 795,760 Franco-Ontarians. Our position statements were developed through “bottom-up” consultation with 196 individual members, 128 associative members, and 23 institutional members.

As we approach the 2025 provincial elections, the Franco-Ontarian community is mobilizing to ensure that its priorities are heard and taken into account by all political parties. This Franco Platform 2025, developed by the AFO, outlines concrete and strategic proposals to address the urgent needs of the largest Francophone community in Canada outside Quebec.

During the last elections, the AFO highlighted the importance of addressing the shortage of Francophone and bilingual workers, expanding access to French-language health services and long-term care, and increasing the Francophone presence in Ontario. These objectives remain at the core of our concerns.

The priorities presented in this platform are the result of consultations with our members and partners across all regions of the province. We aim to improve access to essential services, support our institutions, and strengthen the social and cultural fabric of the Francophone community. By integrating these priorities into their commitments, Ontario's political parties will help build a sustainable and equitable future for Franco-Ontarians. A vibrant Francophone community contributes to the growth and vitality of the entire province of Ontario.

We hope this platform enriches your reflections and discussions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Fabien Hébert". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Fabien Hébert

President

PRIORITIES FOR 2025

Access to French-Language Health Services

Access to healthcare is a fundamental pillar of well-being for all Ontario residents. However, regional disparities and the shortage of Francophone or bilingual healthcare professionals limit equitable access to services in French. This situation creates significant barriers for Francophones; in healthcare, receiving information and expressing oneself in one's language of choice can be a matter of life and death. To ensure an equitable healthcare system, it is crucial to address these challenges with targeted and effective actions.

The AFO has collaborated with Francophone health leaders to [develop strategic recommendations](#). We call on our future elected officials to consider these concrete solutions to transform the healthcare system sustainably and to ensure that every Francophone in Ontario receives the services they are entitled to.

Proposed Commitments :

- Plan French-language healthcare services alongside those for the majority population, rather than as an afterthought.
- identify linguistic needs on health cards and match patients with Francophone or bilingual providers.
- Create interdisciplinary primary care teams that are Francophone or bilingual and/or open service points for existing teams.
- Add navigators to primary care teams to guide Francophones through a continuum of appropriate services.
- Make Active Offer mandatory for designated and identified healthcare providers while providing the necessary resources.



Access to French-Language Health Services

- Implement a strategy to increase Francophone and bilingual human resources, including training, recognition of foreign credentials, salary incentives, and wage equity across healthcare sectors.

Access to French-Language Education

French-language education is the foundation of our community's vitality. It not only helps preserve our language and identity but also prepares the Francophone and bilingual workforce of tomorrow.

The AFO has collaborated with its members in early childhood and education to identify the barriers that still exist within the French-language education system. This system must address the current and future needs of Franco-Ontarian families so their children can contribute to building the Ontario of tomorrow.

Proposed Commitments :

- Ensure funding that meets the needs of Francophone early childhood care centres to respond to growing demand.
- Increase incentives to attract young people to careers in French-language teaching.
- Revise the school board funding formula to address the crisis in school transportation and infrastructure.
- Strengthen partnerships between secondary and postsecondary education to facilitate the transition for Francophone and Francophile students.

Strengthening Francophone Postsecondary Institutions

Postsecondary education is a crucial component of the French-language education continuum. Francophone postsecondary institutions are essential drivers of development for Francophone communities and the province as a whole. However, these institutions face ongoing challenges related to funding and, more recently, the restrictions on study permits imposed by the federal government.

The situation is particularly challenging in Northern Ontario, where the Université de Sudbury, despite its efforts, is still awaiting its charter and the associated funding. Community leaders have reaffirmed their support for the Université de Sudbury project, and the AFO calls on the provincial government to prioritize funding for this institution.

Proposed Commitments :

- Provide priority funding to the Université de Sudbury to make it a cornerstone of French-language postsecondary education in Northern Ontario.
- Introduce additional incentives to encourage students to pursue their studies in French.
- Collaborate with the federal government to mitigate the impacts of reduced foreign study permits and maintain the attractiveness of Francophone institutions.

Support for Francophone Cultural Centres and Media

Cultural centres and theaters allow us to express and experience our culture collectively while sharing it with all Ontarians. Francophone community media reflect this reality, delivering news that affects us daily while ensuring we see ourselves represented, informed, and encouraged to engage more actively in our community.

While shifts in culture and the way information and entertainment are consumed have occurred, these institutions have not become less relevant—but they have become less funded.

Proposed Commitments :

- Establish stable and sustainable funding for Francophone cultural centres to strengthen community vitality.
- Support the digital transition and financial resilience of Francophone community media by creating specific assistance programs.
- Promote collaboration among cultural organizations to maximize resources and enhance their impact.

Francophone Immigration and Credential Recognition

Francophone immigration remains a key solution to addressing the shortage of Francophone and bilingual workers while strengthening Francophone communities across Ontario. However, challenges persist regarding credential recognition and support for integration.

It is essential to strike the right balance with measures that facilitate the seamless integration of Francophone immigrants while meeting the province's economic and social needs.

Proposed Commitments :

- Set a target of at least 5% for Francophone immigration and allocate increased resources to support the integration of newcomers.
- Accelerate the recognition of foreign credentials for regulated professions and introduce short bridging programs to ensure rapid workforce integration.
- Launch international campaigns to promote Ontario as a top destination for Francophone immigrants.

CONCLUSION

The commitments outlined in this platform address the urgent needs of the Franco-Ontarian community. They provide a clear roadmap for building an inclusive and prosperous future for all Franco-Ontarians.

By responding to these priorities, the next provincial government will have the opportunity to ensure not only the flourishing of Franco-Ontarians but also their essential contributions to Ontario's economic, social, and cultural development.

The Franco Platform 2025 is an invitation to work together for the growth and prominence of our province.

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