

Press Release

FARFO's demands for the 2025 Provincial Elections

Ottawa - February 14, 2025: In preparation for the 2025 provincial elections, FARFO wants to highlight its four main demands to improve the quality of life of Franco-Ontarian seniors. FARFO is calling on all four political parties to commit to implementing concrete measures to meet the growing needs of Ontario's Francophone seniors. Additionally, FARFO supports the demands made public by the Assemblée de la Francophonie de l'Ontario (AFO).

"FARFO is asking candidates from all political parties to make a firm commitment to addressing the needs of Franco-Ontarian seniors," stated Jean-Rock Boutin, President of FARFO. He also added that "our demands are essential to ensuring a better quality of life for seniors while promoting their inclusion and autonomy."

Key Demands:

Access to Home Care Services and Long-Term Care Beds in French: *Aging in place is a priority for the vast majority of seniors, yet access to home care and services in French remains limited. FARFO is calling for:*

- The implementation of a "by and for" Francophones home care system through organizations designated under the French Language Services Act, with a simplified access point and a single file to avoid repeating personal histories to multiple service providers.
- Increased funding to maintain and expand home support services in French.

Expansion of Affordable and Appropriate Housing Options for Francophone Seniors: *High housing costs are forcing many seniors into long-term care facilities prematurely, and an increasing number are facing homelessness. To address this, FARFO is advocating for:*

- The development of alternative affordable housing models (cooperatives, shared housing, and integrated-service residences) while ensuring that affordable housing projects include French-language services.

Measures to Prevent Elder Abuse: *Elder abuse is a growing issue that requires targeted interventions in French. FARFO is urging:*

- Increased funding for elder abuse prevention initiatives within the Franco-Ontarian community, such as a centralized helpline capable of responding in French and the presence of trained Francophone professionals to assist seniors who are victims of abuse.
- The integration of anti-ageism efforts and elder abuse prevention measures into public policies.

Development and Adoption of a Comprehensive Public Policy on Aging: *Ontario currently lacks an integrated public policy to address the needs of its aging population. FARFO recommends:*

- The development and adoption of a provincial, intersectoral, and inclusive aging policy with strategies that ensure a coordinated approach to serving seniors and their caregivers.
- Enabling employers to recruit and hire seniors and retirees in workplaces adapted to their needs or in volunteer roles aligned with their skills (e.g., senior employment programs).

About FARFO

For over 45 years, the Fédération des retraités et des aînés francophones de l'Ontario (FARFO) has been dedicated to supporting Francophones aged 50 and over living in Ontario. As the central hub for Francophone seniors in the province, FARFO represents more than 230,000 Francophones across Ontario and maintains strong connections across various sectors.

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