

February 3rd, 2025

Dear Premier Ford, Ms. Crombie, Ms. Stiles and Mr. Schreiner,

A 2021 study by the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages revealed a striking fact: 81% of Ontarians want more action to help young people become bilingual.

French Second Language (FSL) programs in Ontario's English-language elementary and secondary schools are the foundation for this ambition, supported by provincial policies, curriculum, and funding. Through the *Canada–Ontario Agreement on Minority-Language Education and Second Language Instruction*, our province has pledged to strengthen FSL programs and provide every student the opportunity to become bilingual in English and French—Canada's official languages.

Yet, despite this commitment, access to quality French Immersion programs is not universal across the province. Ontario's French Immersion enrolment rates lag behind those in Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon. Our detailed report, "The State of French Second Language Education in Ontario," highlights these gaps and is available [here](#), on our website.

For over 45 years, Canadian Parents for French (Ontario) has been a dedicated network of parents, caregivers, students, educators, and volunteers advocating for bilingualism and promoting opportunities for youth to learn and use French. **Now, we're turning to you: How will you and your party empower Ontario students in English-language schools to achieve bilingualism?**

We invite your response to the following questions by February 11th, 2025. Your answers will be shared on our website and amplified to 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 the current provincial funding for Core French, Extended French, and French Immersion programs? How will you ensure these funds are spent specifically to FSL programs in local school boards?
3. Will you commit to eliminating waiting lists and lotteries for entry into French immersion programs?
4. If elected, how will you and your party ensure an adequate supply of qualified French teachers across Ontario?
5. Will you commit to updating the French as a Second Language (2013) curriculum to align with the recommendations of the *Right to Read* report, as was done with the English Language and Français curriculums in 2023?
6. What will you and your party do to make Ontario a leader in graduating English-French bilinguals from French Second Language programs?

Bilingualism is not just a sought-after skill in Ontario workplaces; it's a vital part of who we are as Ontarians and Canadians. In a time when we must assert ourselves, embracing both of our official languages is how we stand strong, united, and distinct. This is our moment to invest in the future we deserve.

We look forward to your vision.

Best regards,



Denise Massie, President
Canadian Parents for French (Ontario)