

# **2025 Full Candidate Responses - Sudbury and Nickel Belt Ridings**

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Black Lives Matter Sudbury asked all candidates running in the upcoming 2025 Ontario provincial election one question:

In light of the growing pushback against Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) efforts, what actions will you and your party take to implement Ontario's Anti-Racism Strategic Plan? How will you address anti-Black racism and structural violence against racialized communities, and ensure these efforts are effectively implemented in Sudbury, particularly at the systemic and institutional levels?

Here are their responses.

## **France Gélinas** **New Democratic Party - Nickel Belt**

The NDP is committed to Diversity, Equity and inclusion. In all nomination races, priority is given to include representation from equity seeking groups.

We called on the Ontario government to include the collection of race-based health data to identify trends in the health services of Ontarians. Unfortunately race-based health information is not yet collected.

Members of the ONDP Black Caucus – Canada's first Legislative Black Caucus – introduced Bill 178, Black Mental Health Day Act, 2020, that would declare the first Monday of March each year Black Mental Health Awareness Day, but would also require the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to collect race-based data and require the provision of culturally appropriate health services. An NDP government will make this the law.

New Democrats opposed the Ford government, when they insultingly budgeted only \$1000 (thousand) for the ARD in their first year in office, and made the directorate a program of the Ministry of the Solicitor General, who oversees police and the province's jails.

Marit Stiles and an NDP government will implement an anti-racism strategy informed by race-based data collection across Ministries, and we'll coordinate an all-government approach through a dedicated Minister, responsible for anti-racism, while mandating that all public employees and legislators receive anti-bias and anti-oppression training. We'll turn the directorate into a fully resourced Anti-Racism Secretariat, and the work of the Ministry will be advised by an Ontario Anti-Racism Advisory and Advocacy Council.

Marit Stiles and the NDP government will also end the discriminatory practice of carding once and for all and will ensure that all data collected through carding is destroyed.

The ONDP has been proud to support equity-seeking movements, and will continue to push for a fairer and more just Ontario.

**Randy Hazlett**  
**Progressive Conservative Party - Nickel Belt**

**No response**

**Natalie Labbée**  
**Liberal Party - Nickel Belt**

**No response**

**Max Massimiliano**  
**Progressive Conservative Party - Sudbury**

**No response**

**Rashid Mukhtar Choudhry**  
**Liberal Party - Sudbury**

**No response**

**David Robinson**  
**Green Party - Sudbury**

I and the Green Party of Ontario appreciate the work you do and want to emphasize that we know the issues you raise are important.

The Green Party of Ontario has a detailed platform that covers your question. I quote from it below. It is available online. I would stand it up against that of any other party in this election.

Your problem isn't figuring out which party talks big on the issue you care about though: it is figuring out who to trust.

So before I briefly reply to the questions you raise, I am going to put them in context.

We are facing a climate crisis. It puts everything you care about at risk. The threats are coming on so quickly that we are in danger of losing the progress we have made on racial equality, women's issues, homelessness, and other challenges I have supported and worked for over more than 50 years.

Your members can trust us on the issue you raise. We are the only ones that you can trust to take on the long-term challenges that threaten the lives of the people you care for.

Responding briefly to your question, here is a passage from, the platform

### **Fight to eradicate systemic racism**

Racism is deeply embedded in all Ontario systems, including systems of care, housing, policing, and more. All the daily challenges facing Ontarians are further compounded for those experiencing racism in their everyday life. As we work to eradicate systemic racism in the province, here are the actions we'll take:

- Strengthen the Anti-Racism Directorate to more ambitiously address systemic racism in education, child welfare, health and justice sectors through increased funding, more objective goals, and improved reporting on data outcomes
- Create an oversight body to advise the province to prevent systemic racism in new policy and programs
- Commit to the elimination of racism and discrimination within the Ontario Public Service ensuring this includes conducting random external audits, data collection and reporting, and establishing a safe harassment and discrimination reporting system for staff
- Bolster the Human Rights Tribunal to ensure that they have adequate resources to address each concern in a timely and effective way.
- Pass the Our London Family Act to change the way we address Islamophobia in Ontario.

### **Jamie West** **New Democratic Party - Sudbury**

Marit Stiles and the Ontario NDP support the overall aims of the Anti-Racism Strategic Plan. An NDP will re-establish an Anti-Racism Secretariat. A big part of its mandate would be to identify gaps in equitable access to government institutions and programs, as well as in the development of public education programs, and its work would be aligned with the mandate of the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

We will also create community Anti-Racism Councils to advocate on behalf of racialized communities and provide information, advice and recommendations to the government through the minister in an ongoing process.

We will clear barriers for Black entrepreneurs and small business owners to access capital.

We recognize that there are systemic challenges holding Black-owned business from reaching their full potential. We will work with community leaders and financial institutions to address anti-Black racism, access to investments, and financial supports.

Ontario NDP will implement a Community Benefits plan to ensure local communities benefit from infrastructure projects. The NDP will require future contracts for major infrastructure projects to contain provisions that mitigate the impact of construction on small businesses and also create good-paying local jobs and apprenticeship opportunities, with a focus on equity-seeking groups.

We'll work with educators and school boards to continue de-streaming with adequate funding and support, and ensure we have the data to support more equitable schools.

An NDP government will ensure that police recruitment reflects every community in Ontario, with an emphasis on equity-seeking and underrepresented communities, and mandate that police training emphasize anti-bias and cultural competency. We will work to restore community trust by ensuring that police oversight bodies are effective, responsive, and truly independent and transparent.