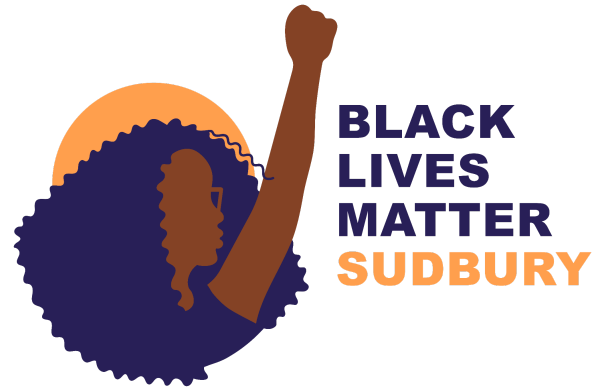


## What the Candidates Said about Anti-Racism

May 2022

### Question:

The [Anti-Racism Act of 2017](#) put forward [Ontario's Anti-Racism Strategic Plan](#) in order to challenge systemic racism faced by Black, Indigenous and people of colour (BIPOC) within our province. We would like to know what specific actions you and your party will take to continue working on the recommendations made within this plan, what new ways you will work to address anti-Black racism and structural violence against BIPOC communities, and how will you implement these actions within our Sudbury community?



### Here is what they said:

#### ***David Farrow, Liberal Candidate***

Hate and intolerance have no place in Ontario. A Liberal government in Ontario will reverse the Ford Conservatives' cuts to anti-racism programs and strengthen ways to respond to complaints about racism in public school, health and child welfare systems, led by a stand-alone Minister.

To address anti-Black racism specifically, we'll refresh Ontario's 2017 Anti-Black Racism Strategy. In education, we'll make sure Black history, literature and the contributions of Black Canadians are featured in the yearlong curriculum and end streaming in schools which can segregate classrooms. We'll also provide \$5 million to Black historical sites and community centres and \$10 million in grants to help support Black entrepreneurs and small businesses.

The number of hate crimes rose during the pandemic – especially toward Asian, Black, Jewish and Muslim Ontarians – so we'll improve the investigation of hate crimes with enhanced Crown Attorney units dedicated to advising police and prosecuting hate crimes.

We'll also extend the limitation period for putting forward human rights complaints from one to five years. We'll make it an offense punishable by major fines for engaging in acts of criminal intimidation within 50 metres of churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, gurudwaras and other faith institutions and invest in their safety and security.

We'll provide new supports for students and all Ontarians to learn about the painful truth of the Holocaust and prevent the harmful spread of its denial.

Finally, we'll pass the Our London Family Act to address Islamophobia and create new tools and strategies to combat all forms of racism.

We are also committed to implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action by working with and learning from Indigenous peoples and First Nations, guided by the principles of self-determination, reciprocity, and mutual recognition of nationhood.

This includes increasing support for the option to learn First Nations languages, allowing Indigenous elders to teach Indigenous language classes and mandating the inclusion of the painful history of Canada's residential schools across the K-12 curriculum while also learning about and celebrating the significant contributions of Indigenous peoples to Ontario and Canada.

We'll also partner to expand and strengthen Ontario's Indigenous Institutes to increase opportunities for diplomas, certificates and degrees in culturally enriched settings with permanent funding and invest \$2 million in First Nations Public Libraries since only 30% of First Nations reserves have libraries. Finally, we'll continue to support the investigation and commemoration of former residential school sites across Ontario and make September 30th – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – a statutory holiday so there's an annual occasion for everyone to learn and reflect.

### ***Jamie West – NDP Candidate***

Thank you for your letter. As a lifelong trade unionist I've been proud to support equity-seeking movements, and as the local MPP I've had the privilege to represent and learn from the diverse and determined people that call Sudbury home. As a New Democrat, I am proud that my party formed the ONDP Black Caucus, Canada's first Legislative Black Caucus.

I am also proud to say that Andrea Horwath and the NDP Caucus supported the creation of the Anti-Racism Directorate (ARD) and the passage of the Anti-Racism Act that led to the Anti-Racism Strategy. In fact, the NDP called on the then Liberal government to include the collection of race-based health data. Unfortunately, race-based health information continues to be excluded from the Act. This is why my colleagues introduced *Bill 178, Black Mental Health Day Act, 2020*. This would declare the first Monday of March each year Black Mental Health Awareness Day. It 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 Anti-Racism Directorate 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. Andrea Horwath 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 also 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.

Andrea Horwath and 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. New Democrats know too, that COVID has had a disproportionate impact on BIPOC communities, and that's why an NDP government will launch a COVID-19 emergency business fund for Black-owned small businesses and entrepreneurs and others who have faced systemic barriers.

### ***Adrien Berthier – Libertarian Candidate***

I believe I share many of the same concerns that BLM has. If elected I would represent all Sudburians. Any concerns or questions would be treated seriously, with a view to being a vocal proponent for the rights of the people of Sudbury.

The BLM can provide leadership and be a great community influencer for individual rights. I believe in the rights of the individual to make their own decisions and would especially advocate for any group of people that would like to be free from dependence on the government. I don't believe that government agencies should be coercing people into health care decisions against their will. I'm reminded of the various programs the government had in mind for the good of the Indigenous population. It should be remembered that politicians and bureaucrats are supposed to be our servants not our masters. All people are born to be free individuals and should not be subjected to the demands of a ruling class as far as possible while still maintaining a fair rule of law and a minimal social contract.

BLM should be able to provide many examples of government power structures that are harming vulnerable Sudburians of all colours.

I believe in reducing the size of our government as much as possible and coming up with private solutions for as many services as possible. By lowering taxes and reducing reliance on government services, we can remove many of the structures that keep people in a cycle of poverty and reliance. Strong leadership from people of all walks of life is encouraged to help educate and demonstrate to people how they can overcome their challenges and stand independently from government services.

The BLM can provide many great examples of out-spoken local people of colour who have overcome challenges and can be leaders for the community and our vulnerable population, here in Sudbury.

BLM influence can support entrepreneurs of colour.

The more we eliminate government interference the more easily it will be for private enterprise to provide opportunities and lift people out of poverty. By voting with our dollars when we support local businesses we can put an end to racist power structures while supporting those that are part of the solution. Instead of enriching massive corporations we have the opportunity to vote with our dollars for the values of our community.

BLM could be a powerful influencer in supporting black, native and all entrepreneurs in the city of Sudbury.

I have a personal vision also of seeing Indigenous lands restored. This could be done in such a way that native bands would act somewhat like municipalities with the legal right to collect property tax and they can have the local municipal councils act on their behalf to service the residents. The natives have been unfairly treated in so many ways and I would like to see more of them as proud members of society. Running businesses, and providing employment for all.

BLM could be a powerful community educator.

I want to live in a community where everyone is respected and has the opportunity to be who they want to be. That means radical change. That means reducing or eliminating government programs as much as possible. It means getting people the help they need to live their lives on their own terms. It means teaching business skills and money management to our youth and freeing people from addictions by providing them with hope and a path forward with their lives.

BLM can provide influence in supporting a charitable foundation that would be used to restore the soil ecology of Sudbury and bring back the active ecosystems that help make Sudbury a wonderful fusion of urban and wilderness. The vision is to restore the region as the indigenous people once saw it.

BLM can provide radical influence for change.

I would be willing to listen, advocate and work with any Sudburians affected by provincial policies, and am not afraid to suggest radical changes to our system.

Nothing in this province will change if we continue to vote for the same parties. Sudburians need to stand up and make their vote count.

This is a way for BLM to have its voice heard loud and clear.

Send a message to Queens park by voting for something different.

### ***David Robinson – Green Party Candidate***

I'll just list items from our platform. Feel free to comment.

1. Immediately strike a task force to develop policies and initiatives that address the adverse effects of racism, homophobia, and transphobia on peoples' mental health and the barriers they face to accessing healthcare.
2. Provide cultural responsiveness training for all healthcare professionals across our system that is trauma-informed and rooted in equity and anti-racism.
3. Increase core funding for community-based, grassroots mental and physical health supports in racialized, newcomer, and other communities that have traditionally been underserved.

4. Mandate and fund the collection and meaningful use of socio-demographic and race-based data to identify and correct inequities in provided care and health outcomes.
5. Address racism in schools with mandatory collection and reporting of race-based data for student, teacher and staff populations, as well as implementing standard procedures around the reporting of incidents of racism.
6. Work with school boards to ensure recruitment and retention practices for staff are transparent and reflect the diversity of Ontario's population and ensure culturally relevant and responsive programming is included in mandatory staff training
7. Update the curriculum to include informed discussions of anti-Black racism
8. Fully fund the Anti-Racism Directorate, reversing the recent cuts.
9. Require anti-racism and anti-oppression training for all public sector employees and legislator
10. Require the Ontario Public Service to commit to eliminate racism and discrimination, conduct random external audits, data collection and reporting, and establish a safe harassment and discrimination reporting system for staff.
11. Address the overrepresentation of Black children in provincial care by the development of frameworks to provide culturally appropriate services to Black children, youth and families. Identify and address existing standards and structures that continue to harm Black families.
12. Require the Ministry of Environment to develop and report on a strategy to address environmental racism

You also ask "How will you implement these actions within our Sudbury community?"

The answer, should we form a Green government, is that there are hundreds, probably over a thousand, people in public service in Sudbury that will be charged with carrying out these actions, working with the community and you to ensure that they are effective. A second answer is that I imagine BLM would wish to participate in the necessary education and evaluation process.

**Jason Laface – Ontario Party Candidate** - No response

**Sheldon Pressey – New Blue Candidate** - No response

**Marc Despatie – PC Candidate** - No response