

2025 Full Federal Candidate Responses - Sudbury, Sudbury East, Manitoulin and Nickel Belt

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 [Changing Systems, Transforming Lives: Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy 2024-2028](#)? How will you address anti-Black racism and structural violence against racialized communities, and ensure these efforts are effectively implemented in Sudbury, Sudbury East, Manitoulin and Nickel Belt, particularly at the systemic and institutional levels?"

Here are their responses:

Jim Belanger

Progressive Conservative Party Candidate - Sudbury East - Manitoulin - Nickel Belt

No Response

Andréane Chénier

New Democratic Party Candidate - Sudbury East - Manitoulin - Nickel Belt

No Response

Himal Hossein

Green Party Candidate – Sudbury East - Manitoulin - Nickel Belt

Thank you for reaching out and for the important work you do to uplift and empower Black communities in our region. Your question touches on one of the most pressing and personal issues of our time—how we, as a country and as leaders, respond to systemic racism and the growing resistance to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) efforts.

As a candidate for the Green Party of Canada, I stand firmly in support of Changing Systems, Transforming Lives: Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy 2024–2028. This strategy is a critical step toward dismantling deeply rooted structures of oppression that have harmed Black, Indigenous, and racialized communities for far too long. But acknowledging the problem is not enough—we must take bold and intentional action.

The Green Party is committed to:

Establishing a national strategy to combat systemic racism in all its forms, including in healthcare, education, policing, housing, and employment.

Creating an independent national task force with legislative power to oversee implementation of anti-racism policies across federal institutions.

Reforming the criminal justice system, including ending racial profiling and carding, and reallocating resources toward community-based services that support safety and well-being.

Ensuring equitable funding and access to mental health, education, and employment programs for racialized and marginalized communities.

Centering lived experience and community leadership in the design and implementation of policies that affect racialized populations.

In Sudbury, Sudbury East, Manitoulin, and Nickel Belt, we must ensure that these national strategies translate into local, systemic change—in our schools, hospitals, government offices, and community services. We must listen, invest, and act. Anti-Black racism is real, and so is our collective power to dismantle it.

This work must be collaborative. As someone deeply committed to building a fair and compassionate Canada, I invite members of our community—especially those passionate about racial justice, equity, and meaningful change—to join my campaign. Let's walk this path together. Whether by volunteering, sharing your stories, or helping to organize locally, your voice matters.

If you believe in a future where equity is not an afterthought but a foundation, I welcome you to be part of this campaign for transformation.

Marc G. Serré

**Liberal Party Candidate - Sudbury East - Manitoulin - Nickel Belt
Incumbent**

Let's be clear: systemic racism—especially anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism—is a deeply rooted reality in Canada, and it demands bold, sustained action. In every part of this country, including right here in Sudbury East--Manitoulin--Nickel Belt, too many Black, Indigenous, and racialized residents still face unequal access to opportunity, services, and justice.

That's why I fully support *Changing Systems, Transforming Lives*, Canada's updated Anti-Racism Strategy. As your Liberal candidate, I'm committed to ensuring its goals are implemented at every level—especially here in the North, where rural and small-town realities often amplify systemic barriers.

Here's what this looks like on the ground:

- Supporting **Black- and Indigenous-led and racialized community organizations** in Greater Sudbury and Manitoulin with the tools, funding, and autonomy to lead change.
- Working with local partners to ensure **equity is built into public services**—including healthcare, education, policing, and economic development.
- Ensuring **federal funding reaches grassroots initiatives** in our riding—like through the Supporting Black Canadian Communities Initiative, and the new Black-led Philanthropic Endowment Fund.
- Standing up for **inclusive policies**—not just in name, but in practice—especially as DEI programs come under attack from those who want to turn back the clock.

With over \$1 billion already committed to empowering Black communities, and the extension of the UN Decade for People of African Descent, our Liberal team is showing what it means to back up words with action.

My message is simple: **equity isn't a trend—it's a commitment**. And in this riding, that means listening, partnering, and ensuring every resident, regardless of background, can thrive.

Shari St. Louis

People's Party of Canada Candidate - Sudbury East - Manitoulin - Nickel Belt

Awaiting Response (request to Ms. St. Louis was delayed)

Nicholas Bonderoff

People's Party of Canada Candidate – Sudbury

I've reviewed *Changing Systems, Transforming Lives: Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy 2024–2028*. While I don't agree with many of the assumptions or the top-down approach it takes, I understand that these issues are important to many in our community and deserve open discussion.

I don't support the federal government's current DEI framework, as I believe it often focuses too heavily on surface-level identity categories and creates division instead of solving real problems.

That said, I believe strongly in fairness, equal treatment under the law, and creating real opportunity for everyone, regardless of background.

In response to your question: I believe the best way to address anti-Black racism and structural violence is by focusing on equal opportunity—ensuring individuals have the freedom and support to succeed based on effort, skill, and personal choice. That means removing barriers to employment, supporting education and entrepreneurship, and making sure institutions serve people based on merit, not political categories.

In Sudbury and across the region, that starts with focusing on the basics—safe communities, jobs, and individual rights. Government shouldn't be dividing people into categories or treating them differently based on race. It should ensure that everyone plays by the same rules and has a fair shot at success.

I'd also be happy to speak with your group in person if you're open to that. I think we may find more shared goals than it seems at first glance, and I value honest, respectful conversations.

Viviane Lapointe
Liberal Party Candidate - Sudbury
Incumbent

Thank you for reaching out to give me an opportunity to respond to your questions about the Liberal government's plan to address anti-Black racism and structural violence against racialized communities across Canada and in particular, Sudbury.

As part of the Liberal team, I strongly support the continued implementation of Changing Systems, Transforming Lives: Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy 2024–2028. It is a community-defined strategy that takes a holistic, trauma-informed approach to evidence-based decision-making through a firmly anti-racist and anti-oppression lens. The goal writ large is to dismantle the barriers that racialized Canadians— particularly Black, Indigenous, and newcomer communities—face across institutions. The tangible outcomes of achieving that goal include economic, social, and cultural empowerment, racial equity in immigration, health, and housing systems, and justice and public safety systems reform.

In Sudbury, I will continue to advocate for federal funding and build partnerships that support culturally responsive community services, youth mentorship programs, mental health supports, and Black-led organizations in Greater Sudbury and the surrounding areas. Our communities deserve direct investment not only in programming but in leadership and voice.

In Parliament, I will continue to support legislation and funding that targets systemic racism, including investments in justice reform, police accountability, and the expansion of access to employment, education, and health care for racialized and equity deserving groups.

In Sudbury, I've met with community leaders and youth who have called for more inclusive hiring in public institutions, anti-racist and anti-oppression education in schools, and better representation in decision-making roles. If re-elected, I will continue to push for transparency and accountability in local services and public institutions, including in federally-supported housing, education, and health initiatives, to ensure equity is built into how services are delivered. I will continue to work with local post-secondary institutions, employers, and community organizations to promote equitable hiring, training, and retention for racialized Individuals.

I am deeply disturbed by the attacks on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion efforts in the United States. We need to enhance, refine, and strengthen EDI efforts, not destroy them. Our Liberal government has already made it clear: we will not walk away from this work.

Thank you again for reaching out. I look forward to continuing this conversation and working together for real, lasting change.

Ian Symington
Progressive Conservative Party Candidate - Sudbury

No Response

Nadia Verrelli
New Democratic Party Candidate - Sudbury

Thank you for following up and for your continued advocacy and for creating space for candidates to address critical issues impacting Black and racialized communities in our region and across Canada.

As the NDP candidate for Sudbury, I want to be clear: diversity, equity, and inclusion are not optional - they are essential pillars of a just society. We unequivocally support and are committed to implementing Changing Systems, Transforming Lives: Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy 2024–2028 in full. New Democrats believe that justice and equity must be more than just pretty words; they must be reflected in budgets, in legislation, in public institutions, and every level of government. I know that these issues are inter-sectional. I have worked hard to help my students understand the interconnectedness of these issues we face.

Our approach to anti-Black racism and structural inequality will be systemic and sustained.

We will:

Champion community-led solutions by supporting Black and racialized organizations in Sudbury and beyond. We will support permanent core funding for black and racialized organizations to advocate for justice, and build capacity rather than temporary grants that force groups to fight

for their survival.

Hold institutions accountable through stronger anti-racism legislation, independent oversight, and mandatory equity audits across federal services and publicly funded institutions.

Ensure anti-racism strategies are fully integrated into housing, health care, policing, immigration, and employment policies. We will require public institutions - especially policing, corrections, education, and child welfare—to publicly report on anti-racism benchmarks and outcomes.

Combat systemic violence through police reform, divesting from harmful models, and reinvesting in mental health, social supports, and alternatives to incarceration.

Pushback against DEI is a symptom of systemic resistance to equity. We will not be deterred. Too often, the North is left out of federal anti-racism conversations. I am committed to changing that by building relationships rooted in accountability and by ensuring that voices from Sudbury and the surrounding regions are heard - not just during elections, but every day. As a New Democrat, I do not accept incrementalism to fix these injustices. We know that change is long overdue and I will not accept pretty words over real action.

Thank you again for the opportunity to respond. I look forward to ongoing conversations and to learning from, and working with, your coalition.