

Survey for Running Candidates in Nova Scotia in the Federal Election of April 28th, 2025

It is important to understand your position the issues listed, as much for the Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse (FANE), as our 29 member organizations located throughout the province and the Acadian and francophone community.

This survey focuses on 5 key issues for the Acadian and Francophone community in Nova Scotia:

- Early Childhood
- Francophone Immigration
- Support for Francophone Organizations in OLMCs (*Official Language Minority Communities - OLMC*)
- Federal Support to Provinces in Providing Access to Quality French-Language Services
- The Judicial Contestation Program

Please send your answers on or before **April 15th** ~~April 10th~~ to info@federationacadienne.ca

EARLY CHILDHOOD

In Nova Scotia, there are **only 380 spots available** in French-language daycares. Meanwhile the **current demand requires 3,780 spots**.

Access to education and training to guarantee qualified personnel to work in early childhood education and care is extremely important. French-language colleges and universities need **financial support to offer this training**.

Questions:

1. Given the lack of available spots in French-language daycares, what do you propose to improve access to French-language childcare services for Francophone families?
2. Will your party support and fund French-language colleges and universities in minority communities to offer training programs for early childhood education and care for Francophone children?

FRANCOPHONE IMMIGRATION

The Official Languages Act requires that **the demographic weight** of minority Francophones communities throughout the country (*Official Language Minority Communities – OLMC*) be **restored to what it was in 1971**.

In Nova Scotia, the demographic weight **was 5%. Today it is 2.9%**.

Questions:

1. What do you plan to reverse the declining trend in the demographic weight of Francophones in Nova Scotia (currently 2.9% compared to 5% in 1971)?
2. How do you plan to encourage Francophone immigration to Nova Scotia, to support the growth of the French community and help meet the demand for French-language services in the province?

SUPPORT FOR FRANCOPHONE ORGANIZATIONS IN MINORITY COMMUNITIES

The Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse (FANE) and its 29 member organizations **work hard to preserve the French language and culture.**

The **continuation of this work** is ensured through **financial support** from the federal government.

Question:

1. How do you plan to financially support Francophone organizations in minority communities, such as FANE, so they can continue their important work?

FEDERAL SUPPORT TO PROVINCES: ACCESS TO QUALITY FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

Provinces like Nova Scotia **rely on federal support** to provide **French-language services** to its citizens. The Nova Scotia government passed the **French-Language Services Act** in 2004 and revised it in 2024. **To implement this law, federal financial support is necessary.**

Question:

1. How should the federal government aid the province to offer French-language services in a more efficient and accessible manner to its Francophone citizens?

JUDICIAL CONTESTATION PROGRAM

The Judicial Contestation Program is very important for Francophone minority communities. **This program helped** Acadians and Francophones in NS **obtain French-language schools.** Additionally, this program allowed the Chéticamp region to gain the right to a provincial protected special electoral district.

Question:

1. The Judicial Contestation Program has played a key role in obtaining rights for Francophone communities. Do you support maintaining and strengthening this program to uphold the rights of Francophones in minority situations?

Thank you very much for taking the time to answer our survey during this busy season.

Please send your answers on or before **April 15th** April 10th to info@federationacadienne.ca