

## FEDERAL CANDIDATES FAIL TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON LINGUISTIC POLICY

MONTREAL, September 16 -- The results of the Task Force on Linguistic Policy survey of federal candidates are in, and they are not encouraging. The survey, sent to every sitting Members of Parliament and every candidate in the September 20th election, offered five questions. Here is a summary:

1. Do you support the passage of Quebec's Bill 96?
2. Do you support the passage of amendments to the federal Official Languages Act ?
3. Do you believe Members of Parliament have a duty and a responsibility to protect the rights of minority language communities across Canada?
4. If Bill 96 is passed by the Quebec National Assembly in its current form, should the federal government use its Constitutional power of disallowance?
5. Do you believe that Quebec can unilaterally amend the Canadian Constitution and declare Quebecers and all of Quebec a nation, solely defined by the French language?

While only 1 Liberal candidate replied, and no Conservatives, we received 3 replies from NDP candidates, 8 Green Party and 16 replies from the Peoples party of Canada. The Bloc Québécois answered for all its candidates, answered in support of Bill 96, changes to the Official Languages Act, in support of MPs role, against disallowance and in favour of Quebec's amendments.

All but three of the candidates answered no to supporting Bill 96 (Q1). Contrary to their party's view on Bill 96 (see our [federal report card](#) for an in depth summary of the federal political parties views on Bills 96 and C-32). The Green Party, which is the only party to take a stand against Bill 96, had one dissident. Laurent Poliquin (candidate for Saint-Boniface—Saint-Vital in Manitoba) responded that he supports bill 96. Eric Fleury and Nathan Lang were the only two People's Party of Canada candidates that supported the bill.

However, on the issue of the role of MPs in defending minority rights (Q3), all respondents said yes. Surprisingly, 20 of the 28 candidates that responded support the federal government using its power to disallow Bill 96. "In sending out the questionnaire, the Task Force warned the failure to answer will be seen as support for Bill 96 and changes to the Official Languages Act" said Andrew Caddell, a member of the Board.

The Task Force on Linguistic Policy is a populist, member-based organization with broad support across Quebec among members of all linguistic and cultural communities. It counts thousands of supporters and is not dependent on government funding. The Task Force was established in May of 2021 in response to the threats posed to the human rights of all Quebecers by Bills 96 and C-32.

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Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Political Party	Candidate
No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Green Party	Jennifer Purdy
No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Green Party	Aidan Blum
No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Green Party	Shaughn McArthur
No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Green Party	Imtiaz Popat
No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Green Party	Laura Mariani
No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Green Party	Greg Boettcher
No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Green Party	Felix Kongyuy
Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Green Party	Laurent Poliquin
No	No	Yes	No	No	Liberal Party of Canada	Olumide Adewumi
No	No	Yes	No	No	New Democratic Party	Richard Warren
No	No	Yes	No	No	New Democratic Party	Hal Berman
No	Yes	Yes	No	No	New Democratic Party	Alexandre Vallerand
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	People's Party of Canada	Eric Fleury
No	No	Yes	Yes	No	People's Party of Canada	Tyler Beauchamp
No	No	Yes	Yes	No	People's Party of Canada	Chelsey Taylor
No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	People's Party of Canada	Chase Wells
No	No	Yes	Yes	No	People's Party of Canada	Charles Hislop
No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	People's Party of Canada	Stephen Makk
No	No	Yes	No	No	People's Party of Canada	Earl Gosse
No	No	Yes	Yes	No	People's Party of Canada	Harry Jaaskelainen
No	No	Yes	Yes	No	People's Party of Canada	Alexis Stogowski
No	No	No	Yes	No	People's Party of Canada	Paul McCormack
No	No	Yes	Yes	No	People's Party of Canada	James Bountrogiannis
No	No	Yes	Yes	No	People's Party of Canada	Daniele Ritacca
Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	People's Party of Canada	Nathan Lang
No	No	Yes	Yes	No	People's Party of Canada	Stephen MacLeod
No	No	Yes	Yes	No	People's Party of Canada	Alexis Stogowski