



Cheryl Fort

1. What would be your top priority for Francophones in your riding if elected in June?

Firstly, I would like to listen to the priorities that the Francophones have for the riding and the top priorities that they choose would be my priority. I have a love for the French Language and Culture. I myself have paid for lessons in Quebec City for six full immersion weeks and took those lessons in 2017. I have another 6 weeks pre paid and only because of COVID have I not yet taken the lessons. I look forward to being able to fully speak French one day soon. I have also encouraged my three children to learn the French Language and Culture. I supported them and French students for a three month language exchange program with International Student Exchange. It was a pleasure and delight to hear my own children return from France speaking French but also to learn about French Culture when the students lived with our family for three months. We have hosted three French students.

2. The new French Language Services Act allows the Minister of Francophone Affairs to designate government services under the French Language Services Act, including non-designated areas. Is there a government service in your riding that you will work on to have designated?

Designating an area would need to have consultation with the Francophone Community and it would be a learning opportunity for all of us. The Francophone Community would need to choose where they would like the designation and I would assist anywhere I could in the endeavour. Language is solidly linked to a person's heritage, culture and love of life and I know this full well from having to learn about my own Indigenous culture and language and realize the disconnect that I have with my language and culture. This insight gives me further motivation to protect and encourage Francophone Ontarians to thrive in their Language and to protect the Language rights we have fought so hard to have.

It would be a privilege to work along side Minister Mulroney and help bring more wonderful advancements to fruition over the next term of government. The strides that have been made in the Francophone Community has flourish in this term of government despite COVID. For example the Hearst University designation is just one of the many successes we need to celebrate!

3. The main obstacle to the Francophonie is the shortage of Francophone and bilingual workers.

How do you plan to increase the pool of Francophone and bilingual workers in your riding?

Promotion, attraction and example. We need to celebrate the French community and our province's diversity. I am strong believer in being not only bilingual but multilingual. French is a wonderful language to bridge common ground with other languages when welcoming newcomers to our province, for example Spanish speakers. The French culture is to be celebrate and we need to encourage and promote learning both of Canada's official Languages. It would be a dream for me that when students complete Grade 9 in our province they should be fluent in both French and English. I would like to see this come to fruition, we can do better.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my love of the French language but also the culture.but also the culture.