

Press Release
For immediate release -

UNHINDERED ACCESS TO CANDIDATES; ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTALS OF A HEALTHY DEMOCRACY

Wednesday, October 7th 2026 - L'Association des francophones du Nord-Ouest de l'Ontario (AFNOO) is very pleased with the number of municipal election candidates who have responded to our questionnaire, ahead of the October 26th election.

At the beginning of September, our organization sent a list of questions to 187 candidates in a dozen Northwestern communities. They include:

- *What place should the francophone community have in your city or town?*
- *What sort of policies would you put forward to make available or to improve access to municipal information in French?*

So far, one third (33%) have responded. Their answers will be published on our website (in the language submitted by the individual), in our newsletter and on our social media platforms.

The objective of this non-partisan exercise is to inform candidates about local francophone issues in their community and to share their points of view with voters.

However, we are having some difficulty connecting with those seeking office in Greenstone. The Municipality of Greenstone doesn't publish contact information for candidates on their website (only their names). The administration's decision not to release candidates' contact information is due to an internal policy of neutrality. They have decided not to share them with our organization.

After searching the web, AFNOO was able to find contact information for 6 of the 21 Greenstone candidates; 5 of them seeking reelection for the position of mayor or councillor for whom we were able to reach. For all other cities and townships we contacted, the process of acquiring the entire list or a majority of election campaign email addresses from an official source was straightforward.

"A list of names, without the means to connect with them, serves little purpose for voters who want to be informed about where candidates stand on issues before exercising their democratic right", as stated by AFNOO's managing director, Elodie Grunerud.

For each candidate who hasn't had the chance to respond to AFNOO's questions, including those from Greenstone whom we haven't been able to connect with, you can still submit your answers via email at

the following address: web@afnoo.org. Please respond as soon as possible so that we can include them in our public database before the advanced voting period begins.

We encourage voters to visit our website [for the list of responses submitted by candidates](#) (which are sorted by municipality) before visiting the ballot box.

Annex

Percentage of candidates by community whom we have contacted:

- **100%** - Fort Frances (11), Kenora (14), Manitouwadge (13), Marathon (13), Nipigon (10), Red Lake (9), Shuniah (6), Sioux Lookout (11), Terrace Bay (11) and Thunder Bay (48)
- **83%** - Schreiber (10 of 12)
- **73%** - Ignace (8 of 11)
- **70%** - Atikokan (7 of 10)
- **67%** - Dryden (10 of 15)
- **29%** - Greenstone (6 of 21)

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AFNOO ensures the political, educational, economic, linguistic, social and cultural development and prosperity of Francophone communities in Northwestern Ontario.

For more information :

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