



### **Niagara Region Anti-Racism Association Candidate Survey**

2026 Municipal Election

There is no deadline, we will publish your answers as we receive them on our website [www.nrara.rorg/election26](http://www.nrara.rorg/election26) and our socials @thenrara. Please reply to [thenrara@gmail.com](mailto:thenrara@gmail.com). Until we receive your answer we will have “Response not received yet” next to your name.

We will be doing a media release with the answers received by the end (midnight) of Wednesday, September 30.

Partial answers and additional comments will be accepted, including as a separate attachment. Thank you for completing our survey.

First question is for school trustee candidates only:

1. Niagara-related school boards have not published suspension rates by race, which [neighbouring school boards have](#), showing Black students are disproportionately suspended.

Will you advocate and vote for publishing suspension rates by race data within a year of being elected?

- a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. Other:
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2. White supremacist groups like the Dominion Society are posterong across Niagara promoting mass deportations (rebranded as “remigration” even though they want to deport non-migrants i.e. citizens as well). Until recently some municipalities like St. Catharines deliberately avoided publicly addressing this out of concern it would incentivize these groups to increase their activity. Other cities like Hamilton have publicly condemned hate groups like the Dominion Society, and last week were joined by West Lincoln, Grimsby, Lincoln, and the mayor of St. Catharines.

Do you:

- a. Believe it's better not to give attention to these groups by condemning them
  - b. Commit to publicly condemning these groups, now as a candidate, and as an elected official, and to advocating that the government body you are elected to condemn these groups publicly
  - c. Believe these are not white supremacist groups or there is nothing wrong with their postering
  - d. Support the idea of "remigration" promoted by these groups
  - e. Other:
3. Niagara Regional Council Chair Bob Gale resigned mere hours after he was exposed for buying, owning, and authenticating Nazi memorabilia. The mayors of Niagara Falls and Pelham said he did nothing wrong and is just a collector, while the mayor of St. Catharines said this was a distraction from "really important" things. Very few elected officials condemned Bob Gale.

Do you:

- a. Condemn Bob Gale for owning Nazi memorabilia
- b. Believe Bob Gale did nothing wrong
- c. Other:

Do you also:

- a. Believe this scandal is a distraction from "really important" issues
- b. Believe top officials collecting autographed hate propaganda like *Mein Kampf* is a "really important" issue and racism, not a distraction
- c. Other:

At a press conference on April 2<sup>nd</sup> Minister Flack was asked how another "Hitler debacle" could be avoided. Can you confirm you do not have, nor have you ever had, nor will you ever have, Nazi memorabilia?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. It's your personal business or doesn't matter

d. Other:

4. The Niagara Falls mayor said it was “out of context,” “misconstrued,” and a “split hair” to condemn comments by the ex-CAO at a City Council meeting saying Indigenous evacuees out in public would be seen as “homeless” by residents.

Statements by the [Kashechewan](#), [Nishnawbe Aski Nation](#), [Chiefs of Ontario](#), and [Niagara Regional Native Centre](#) condemned the ex-CAO’s comments for reinforcing stereotypes and ignoring that all Indigenous peoples have every right to be on their own land.

Do you:

- a. Believe the ex-CAO’s comments were taken “out of context,” “misconstrued,” or a “split hair”
  - b. Agree with the Kashechewan, Nishnawbe Aski Nation, Chiefs of Ontario, and Niagara Regional Native Centre in condemning the ex-CAO’s comments for amplifying racism.
  - c. Other:
5. Niagara Regional Council and several municipalities like St. Catharines, Welland, Grimsby, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Thorold and Lincoln have passed motions supporting Ukraine, and some motions supported military escalation.

Niagara Regional Councillors also unanimously “sanctioned” themselves from Russia, which is not how sanctions against individuals work.

Niagara Regional Council also lit their “Everyone Welcome” sign in Israel’s colours and the City of St. Catharines officially sided with Israel (“rally for Israel”) in a statement by a city councillor on behalf of the mayor.

Yet many elected officials said expressing similar support for Palestinians is out of their jurisdiction, would be divisive, or would be traumatizing.

Do you:

- a. Believe Palestine is not a municipal issue and so should not be addressed, though Ukraine and Israel are
- b. Believe governments should express support for Palestinians, they did for Ukrainians and Israelis

c. Other:

6. Niagara Regional Police have had the second worst disproportional use of force against Black people (% of use of force incidents vs % of population) in the province since publishing this data was required by the Ontario Anti-Racism Act. It has been up to almost 10x disproportional: in 2025, 26% of the use of force was against Black people who were less than 3% of the population in the 2021 census. This is the same as Minneapolis, where George Floyd was murdered, which the US Department of Justice called “discriminatory.”

Neighbouring police forces such as Hamilton, Peel and Toronto, who are less disproportional than Niagara, have apologized for their own systemic racism in their disproportional use of force.

Yet the Police Chief, when he was Deputy Chief, said the data shows there is no systemic racism in the Niagara Police. One Police Board member who is running for mayor of Wainfleet had said in 2020 as a Niagara Regional Councillor that systemic racism is a “shadowy term...bandied about.”

To our knowledge none of the Police Board members have mentioned disproportional use of force against Black people, including the Board Chair who used to be co-chair of the Police Chief’s Community Inclusion Council, and one Board member who is a Regional Councillor and chairs the Niagara Regional Council’s Diversity Equity Inclusion Advisory Committee.

Do you:

- a. Condemn systemic racism in the Niagara Regional Police based on their own use of force by race data and call for an apology and addressing the disproportional use of force by race against Black people
- b. Believe data does not show systemic racism in the Niagara Regional Police
- c. Believe “systemic racism” is a “shadowy term...bandied about”
- d. Both b and c
- e. Other: