
OPEN LETTER

Ministry of Transportation
5th Floor
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8

June 11, 2026

Dear Hon. Minister Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria,

As MPPs for Sudbury and Nickel Belt, the widening of Highway 69 remains one of our top priorities. On March 31st, 2026, MPP West submitted the following six written questions on the Legislative Assembly of Ontario's Order Paper for you to response.

Would the Minister of Transportation provide:

- 1. The estimated timelines for the start and completion of the 4-laning of the remaining 68 km of Highway 69.*
- 2. The most-recent status of the province's consultations with the three affected First Nations – Magnetawan, Henvey Inlet, and Shawanaga – regarding the 4-laning of the remaining 68 km of Highway 69.*
- 3. The number of meetings that have been held annually with the three affected First Nations – Magnetawan, Henvey Inlet, and Shawanaga – regarding the 4-laning of the remaining 68 km of Highway 69 for each calendar year since 2018.*
- 4. The dates of the meetings that have been held annually with the three affected First Nations – Magnetawan, Henvey Inlet, and Shawanaga – regarding the 4-laning of the remaining 68 km of Highway 69 for each calendar year since 2018.*
- 5. An update on 4-laning of the remaining 68 km of Highway 69 project that could be shared with our constituents.*
- 6. The relevant data regarding the annual number of collisions, road closures, traffic-related injuries and traffic-related fatal injuries along the remaining 68 km of Highway 69 for each calendar year since 2018.*

On June 2, 2026, MPP West received the following two responses to the six questions listed above:

- 1. The remaining 68 kilometres are in the engineering, environmental approvals and property acquisition phases. We continue to work with local First Nations and others to get this work done as quickly as possible.*
- 2. The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is widening Highway 69 from two to four lanes between Parry Sound and Sudbury.*

Jamie West

Member of Provincial Parliament/ Député
Sudbury



France Gélinas

Member of Provincial Parliament/ Députée
Nickel Belt

MTO is committed to meeting our Duty to Consult obligations with potentially impacted First Nations and Métis peoples and communities, as some of the property required to complete the project is First Nations reserve land.

MTO, in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources, is responsible for negotiating with First Nations that have Land Codes to identify mutually agreeable replacement lands in exchange for the lands required through reserves. These negotiations are ongoing and are on a willing seller/willing buyer basis.

While we appreciate these responses, they do not provide the detailed information and updates we were hoping to receive from your office. People using this highway are worried, they are upset, stressed, anxious, and often angry. There have been six deaths occurring on the 2-lane portion of Highway 69 since April of this year, (that we are aware of) and many more people injured.

As a reminder, the Premier promised the 4 laning of HWY 69 in 2018. On August 03, 2025, Premier Ford said: **"I want to make sure our highways are safe. It's treacherous, ... have you ever gone from Sudbury down to the city? Like that two-lane – that was like white-knuckled driving down there. If a transport is off by two inches, you're done."** Since then, travelers on Highway 69 continue to have life-ending and life-altering tragic accidents.

It has been almost a decade since the Premier made his first promise to 4-lane highway 69. Too many lives continue to be impacted by these delays. As Members of Provincial Parliament, we ask that you provide more detailed responses to the above submitted Order Paper questions. The families of people who died, the people who were injured, all of us want answers and action.

The people of Northern Ontario deserve Four Lanes, Zero Excuses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. West'.

Jamie West

MPP/Député Sudbury

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'France Gélinas'.

France Gélinas

MPP / Députée Nickel Belt