

CPAWS Manitoba

Manitoba Provincial Election Questionnaire

DEADLINE TO RESPOND: August 29th, 2023

CPAWS Manitoba is calling on all political parties and candidates in the upcoming provincial election to commit to developing an action plan that will protect 30% of Manitoba's lands and waters by 2030.

Questionnaire

Political Party: Green Party of Manitoba

Name of person submitting this questionnaire on behalf of the party: Dennis Bayomi, Deputy Leader (Health Critic)

Contact information of person submitting this questionnaire:
Dennis.Bayomi@greenparty.mb.ca

- Will your party commit to producing an action plan that will protect 30% of Manitoba's lands and inland waters by 2030?

Yes

No

*Comments: We in the Green Party of Manitoba recognize, through our Climate Emergency Foundation Policy, that the Climate Emergency must be treated as the "Emergency" that it truly is. This includes committing to protecting **50% of Manitoba's natural spaces over the next 5 years** (by 2028), surpassing the 30% by 2030 commitment by the Federal Government. This would include all of the province's Areas of Special Interest, comprised of over 70,000 km² (11% of Manitoba); the Seal River Watershed, one of the largest ecologically intact watersheds in the world of over 50,000 km² (7%); and at least a half dozen other Indigenous-led conservation efforts that are underway encompassing over 60,000 km² (10%). We would work closely with Manitoba's Indigenous leaders, scientific experts and environmental organizations to identify other important areas of our province that merit protection. In the process, we would work collaboratively with those individuals and organizations to develop a significant public education and outreach program*

to communicate the importance of this work. Our Party would pledge at least \$100M towards these protection initiatives, recognizing the profound value of ensuring our natural spaces remain healthy and intact for generations to come and counter the dramatic impacts of Climate Change.

- Will your party commit to a 30x30 action plan that permanently protects Manitoba's habitat for polar bears, caribou, ducks and endangered wildlife?

Y Yes No

Comments: We will commit to protecting **50% of Manitoba's natural spaces over the next 5 years** (by 2028), surpassing the 30% by 2030 commitment by the Federal Government. As mentioned earlier, this would include protecting the Seal River watershed, home to thousands of beluga whales, hundreds of thousands of barren ground caribou and countless birds. We would especially focus on protecting critical habitat for polar bear, under imminent threat by Climate Change. We would support the continued work of local, world-recognized researchers who have been identifying polar bear populations under threat and approaches to protecting them. We would carefully scrutinize mining companies' applications for exploration licenses/claims and deny any applications in the Hudson Bay Lowlands region, where female polar bears give birth and raise their cubs for almost eight months a year. As mentioned earlier, we would work closely with Indigenous leaders, scientific experts and environmental organizations on this initiative and collaborate to develop a significant public education and outreach program to communicate the importance of this work.

- Will your party commit to a 30x30 action plan that preserves peatlands, wetlands and forests which clean the air we breathe, filter the water we drink, control flooding and fight climate change by storing carbon?

Y Yes No

Comments: We in the Green Party of Manitoba recognize the Climate Emergency for the "Emergency" that it truly is. We are running out of time and absolutely **MUST** preserve and protect our peatlands, wetlands and forests, as they provide the very essence for all life and profoundly contribute to our own health and well-being. We will commit to protecting **50% of Manitoba's natural spaces over the next 5 years** (by 2028), surpassing the 30% by 2030 commitment by the Federal Government. This includes those very spaces mentioned and will include a public education and outreach program, in collaboration with Indigenous leaders, scientific experts and environmental organizations. In particular, education on the importance of peat conservation and using alternatives will be essential,



- Will your party commit to supporting Indigenous-led conservation which will help protect 30% of Manitoba by 2030 in the spirit of reconciliation?

Y Yes No

*Comments: In the Green Party of Manitoba, we believe strongly that a key to reconciliation is supporting Indigenous leadership in the protection of our natural spaces. We place the highest priority on respecting and incorporating Indigenous wisdom in our policies, a prime example being our Climate Emergency Foundation Policy. We will commit to protecting **50% of Manitoba's natural spaces over the next 5 years** (by 2028), by including support for Indigenous-led conservation. This will consist of working with the Sayisi Dene First Nation in protecting the Seal River Watershed, home to their community on Tadoule Lake; with the Fisher River Cree Nation to protect the southeastern Interlake area; and over a half dozen Indigenous-led initiatives currently underway encompassing over 60,000 km².*

- Will your party complete the protection process for Manitoba's Areas of Special Interest that will contribute to protecting 30% of Manitoba by 2030?

Y Yes No

*Comments: As mentioned earlier, we will commit to protecting **50% of Manitoba's natural spaces over the next 5 years** (by 2028), including completing the protection process for over one hundred of Manitoba's Areas of Special Interest (ASIs), spanning over 70,000 km². We will do this in close consultation and cooperation with Indigenous communities, environmental organizations and recognized scientific experts.*

