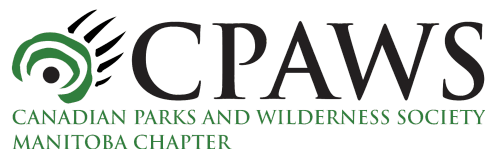


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CPAWS Manitoba

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: Manitoba Liberal Party

Name of person submitting this questionnaire on behalf of the party: Dougald Lamont, Manitoba Liberal Leader

Contact information of person submitting this questionnaire:

- 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:

Lake Winnipeg and its tributaries accounts for a significant proportion of Manitoba's freshwater, along with diverse ecosystems and wildlife habitats.

The Lake has been devastated by pollution, both from runoff and certainly from the City of Winnipeg. Successive NDP and PC governments have failed to take serious action to prevent nutrient loading which has increased dramatically in the last several decades, resulting in harmful blue-green algae blooms exploding out of control and the presence of invasive aquatic species, especially zebra mussels.

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For almost 20 years, the North end Water Pollution Control Centre (NEWPCC) has been the single largest source of phosphorus flowing into Lake Winnipeg. Although the province has set the phosphorus limit to 1.0 mg/L, the NEWPCC remains non-compliant. A Manitoba Liberal government will prioritize the NEWPCC biosolids facility project as a critical faculty upgrade.

We will further work with the Lake Winnipeg Foundation and water conservation districts and all stakeholders to address pollution hotspots and to develop small water control projects to enhance wetlands. We will also support the creation of “Floating Wetlands” in Winnipeg’s rivers and select waterways around combined sewer outlets to help naturally capture the excess pollution and nutrients naturally and at low cost.

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

Yes

No

Comments:

It is well proven that when we repurpose our land back to its native landscape, we will begin to see not only positive effects on wildlife, but also a low-cost and highly effective process of natural carbon storage.

The federal government has committed to a 30x30 approach but Manitoba is lagging far behind. Manitoba Liberals have already committed to not only to work with all stakeholders to increase the number of protected areas in Manitoba by 30% by 2030, but also to make Manitoba the first province in the country to reach net zero in GHG emissions by 2034.

Manitoba Liberals have already introduced a bill in the Legislature to recognize ecological corridors, which allow wildlife to recover as they connect larger territories for species to roam, breed, and grow. Part of this strategy will also include significant efforts to remove invasive species which are often threatening endangered native species.

- *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?*



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x Yes No

Comments:

Yes. We are the only party to specifically commit to funds to support re-wilding and the creation and preservation of wilderness corridors. The effects of climate change have been devastating on our communities. Wildfires in northern Manitoba have raged out of control. Spring flooding has become more and more severe, and extreme weather events will continue to result in catastrophic losses for Manitobans across the province.

Climate change and the erosion of our natural landscapes has created a pressing need to protect and preserve these areas which have been compromised by human activity.

A Manitoba Liberal government will work with municipalities, First Nations, farmers, and other stakeholders to double the number of protected areas in Manitoba. We have committed to creating a \$300-million annual green fund that will support such projects.

We will work to create wilderness corridors and restore natural habitats – forests, wetlands, and grasslands to name a few. Our priority areas for rewilding include:

- The Red River Valley
- The Red River Floodway and Extension
- The Little Saskatchewan River

We will also restore the provincially run tree nursery and seed bank to fight climate change in a way that is low cost, and naturally effective.

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

Yes No

Comments:

Reconciliation is about peace and healing for past harms imposed on Indigenous peoples. Indigenous communities have often faced incredible destruction to their environment, communities, and local economies due to the actions of previous NDP and PC governments. The same hydro projects that power Manitoba's economy and generate billions in revenue are often built on Indigenous lands with few restrictions, permits, and little to no consultation with affected communities.



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A Manitoba Liberal have committed to establishing a long-term fund to address the costs and damage created by Hydro projects, with the intent to restore habitats and repair environmental damage.

In addition, we will direct the Manitoba Hydro Board to work to work in partnership with First Nations communities to ensure that all outstanding compensation is addressed.

Manitoba Liberals are committed to righting past wrongs and that is why one of our crucial platform pillars is focused on the theme of reconciliation.

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

Yes

No

Comments:

Manitoba's Areas of Special Interest were originally designated with the intent that some of the ecoregions they cover still need to be protected. These areas are critical to the protection of Manitoba's lands and waterways and will absolutely be a necessary factor when designating 30x30.