

Briefing Note

Deliver a Plan to Protect 30% of Manitoba by 2030

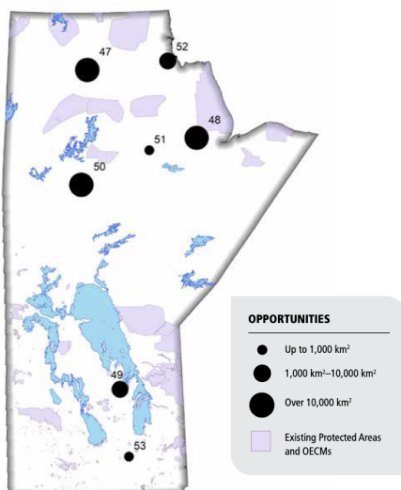
CPAWS Manitoba is calling on all political parties and candidates in the upcoming provincial election to commit to developing an action plan that will protect 30% of Manitoba's lands and waters by 2030.

This action plan must include the following commitments:

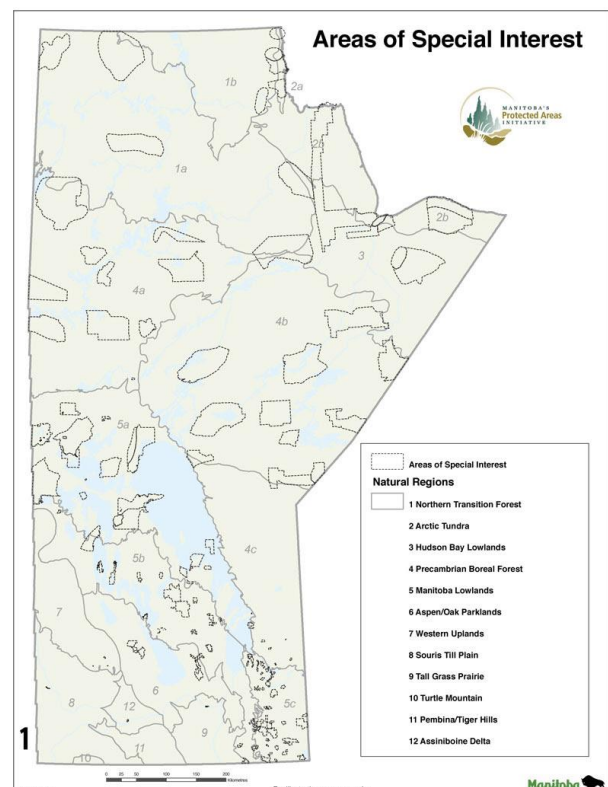
- Protect 30% of Manitoba's lands and inland waters by 2030 for future generations.
- Protect Manitoba's polar bears, caribou, birds, bees and other endangered wildlife.
- Preserve peatlands, wetlands and forests which clean the air we breathe, filter the water we drink, control flooding and fight climate change by storing carbon.
- Support Indigenous-led conservation initiatives in the spirit of reconciliation.
- Complete the protection process for Manitoba's Areas of Special Interest that were designated as candidates for protection years ago.

91% of Manitoban Voters Want to Protect At Least 30%

- **91%** of Manitobans want to **expand protected areas to at least 30%** of the land in Canada (according to an [October 2022 poll by Nanos](#))
- **85%** of Manitobans believe protected areas **support human well-being**
- **82%** of Manitobans believe protected areas **play an important role in addressing climate change**
- **78%** of Manitobans believe protected areas **support a healthy sustainable economy**



MAP CODE #	OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW PROTECTION	TOTAL AREA OF OPPORTUNITY FOR POTENTIAL PROTECTION	% OF PROVINCE FOR POTENTIAL PROTECTION	% OF PROVINCE IN EXISTING AND POTENTIAL PROTECTION
47	Seal River Watershed Indigenous Protected Area	~117,000 km ²	~18.1%	~29.1%
48	York Factory First Nation Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area			
49	Fisher River Cree Nation Conservation Areas Initiative			
50	Nisichawayasik Cree Nation Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area			
51	Aski Pabminahmasswin – Tataskweyak Cree Nation Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area			
52	Manitoba's Caribou River Provincial Park to Wapusk Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area			
53	Winnipeg National Urban Park			



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Existing Pathways to 30% Protection in Manitoba

Much of the work has already been done to identify which areas to protect in Manitoba. The following opportunities represent 40.6% of the province. With strong provincial leadership and support, enough of these opportunities can be realised in time to achieve the target of at least 30% of Manitoba's natural lands and waters protected by 2030.

11.1% of Manitoba is Currently Protected



Manitoba has protected 71,561 sq. km. That's 11% of our province. We're ranked 7th out of 13 provinces & territories for the percentage of lands and waters protected.

Areas of Special Interest (Candidate Protected Areas): 11.3% of Manitoba



The Manitoba government identified Areas of Special Interest (candidate protected areas) more than 20 years ago. The areas selected represent the enduring features found within ecoregions that still need to be captured in Manitoba's protected areas network. There are 120 candidate protected areas remaining which total 73,746 sq. km.

Seal River Watershed Indigenous Protected Areas Initiative: 7.7% of Manitoba



The Seal River is one of the largest ecologically intact watersheds in the world. It is teeming with 3,000 beluga whales, 400,000 barren ground caribou and massive flocks of birds. CPAWS is working with the Seal River Watershed Alliance of Dene and Cree peoples to protect the entire watershed: a whopping 50,000 sq. km.

The governments of Manitoba and Canada are working with the Alliance on launching a joint feasibility study.

Other Indigenous-led Conservation Initiatives: ~10.3% of Manitoba



There are at least seven other Indigenous-led conservation initiatives underway in Manitoba with study areas spanning at least 67,000 square kilometres. Delineating the boundaries for these areas is presently underway. These opportunities could collectively protect as much as 10.3% of Manitoba.

For more information please visit www.cpawsemb.org or contact CPAWS Manitoba Executive Director Ron Thiessen at ron@cpawsemb.org or (204) 949-0782.