

## **Manitoba 2024 Budget Submission**

### **A Budget to Help Manitoba – and the Planet**

### **Protecting 30% of Manitoba by 2030**

March 8, 2024

**Recommendation 1:** Ensure sufficient resources for a conservation task force that will produce a Manitoba action plan for achieving the protection of 30% of Manitoba by 2030.

**Recommendation 2:** Invest in government capacity by significantly increasing budget allocations for the Parks and Protected Spaces branch and ensuring staffing levels are adequate to support the required work.

**Recommendation 3:** Ensure adequate resources for staffing and the processes required by relevant departments including Environment and Climate Change, Economic Development Investment and Trade and Natural Resources, Municipal and Northern Relations and Indigenous Economic Development, Agriculture, as well as the Premier’s Office.

**Recommendation 4:** Invest in the capacities of Indigenous Nations as leaders and supporters to ensure their sovereignty, rights, and aspirations are ensured throughout.

**Recommendation 5:** Ensure sufficient resources are available for required public consultations.

### **Rationale:**

The Manitoba NDP has committed to creating an action plan that will set the course for protecting 30% of Manitoba’s lands and waters by 2030. This commendable target is an ambitious task. As securing a protected area typically requires processes that take years to accomplish, the need for a swift and assertive start is required.

The previous provincial administration greatly diminished the government’s capacity to fulfill its role in moving forward on establishing protected areas. The Parks and Protected Spaces branch as well as the departments involved in 30x30 need adequate resources to build and maintain the capacity required for planning and for effective engagement with Indigenous communities and Manitobans.

Along with government staff capacity, it's fundamental that Indigenous communities have the means to work effectively with the province. These resources include funds for ensuring internal capacity for Indigenous communities to lead or support the identification of protected area sites, the processes involved, and the implementation of agreements.

Establishing protected areas through legislation also requires that public consultation is undertaken. Ensuring the resources are allocated for this purpose is essential.

Please feel free to connect with me anytime as I would be happy to discuss.

Thank you,



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