

Adam Smith, Green Party, Winnipeg South

Thanks for taking the time to write. Here are my answers:

1. We will address the water infrastructure funding deficit by putting a point of the GST (\$6.5 billion) annually towards it as well as creating a Canadian Infrastructure Bank that will allow the provinces to borrow for infrastructure at the cheaper national rate. These loans can be tied to guarantees that some funding goes to water infrastructure and that wetland-harming urban sprawl is reduced.

2. Our party will establish special task forces involving all stakeholders, all levels of government and scientific experts to prepare, over the next two years, area-specific climate change adaptation strategies. We will work with provinces to restore riparian ecosystems. Restore critical wetlands, especially where they might serve to dampen flood levels. The U.S. has invested billions in restoring riparian buffers, while we have done little. Federal programs could be delivered through existing government agencies, such as the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) and ENGOS like Ducks Unlimited.

We will also work with landowners (provide incentives/tax breaks) to restore and/or forego drainage on prairie potholes and wetlands that currently receive much of spring meltwater. There are some excellent models in existing provincial programs; for example, the Wetland Restoration Incentive Program (WRIP) initiated in 2008/09 as a partnership between Manitoba, DUC, and the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHC).

3. We will be spending an additional \$75-million in funding annually for Environment Canada, Health Canada, Parks Canada, and Fisheries and Oceans. Exactly how much of that would go to studying the problems of Lake Winnipeg hasn't been decided yet but the Greens strongly opposed the closing of the Experimental Lakes Area and would support reopening it or something similar.

4. I would support this plan by using my position as an MP to build awareness and develop and support relevant legislation.