

Dan Vandal, Liberal Party, Saint Boniface - Saint Vital

Thank you for your email on behalf of the Lake Winnipeg Foundation.

I have had the pleasure of participating in your Walk for Water event in Gimli to show my continued support for the protection of Lake Winnipeg. As a cottage owner on Lake Winnipeg, I have the privilege of enjoying the natural and unique beauty that our greatest lake has to offer.

I have responded to your questions below.

1) How will your party address Canada's water infrastructure deficit to protect our fresh water in the context of a changing climate?

A Liberal government will invest in the green infrastructure projects that so many Canadian communities desperately need – projects like local water and wastewater facilities, climate resilient infrastructure, energy efficient buildings, and systems to protect against changing weather. We will boost investment in green infrastructure by nearly \$6 billion over the next four years, and almost \$20 billion over ten years.

2) How will your party ensure wetlands protection is in place by 2019?

We will deepen our commitment to work with other governments to protect Canada's freshwater through education, geo-mapping, watershed protection, and infrastructure investments in the best waste water treatment technologies.

3) How much more will your party invest in new research and coordinated regional solutions to address the root causes of harmful algae blooms in Lake Winnipeg?

We are committed to the protection of the Lake Winnipeg Basin. We will work with the province of Manitoba – as well as our American partners – to prevent the spread of invasive species, undertake science-based initiatives to better understand and manage water levels. Instead of muzzling scientists and destroying their research, a Liberal government will ensure that researchers regain their voice, and base our policies on facts provided through research.

4) Will you support this plan? How?

We will begin by restoring \$1.5 million in federal funding for freshwater research, which was cut by the Conservatives, and make new investments in Canada's world-leading IISD Experimental Lakes Area. Liberals are serious about engaging in an open and innovative partnership with the provinces and territories, as we work together to fulfill our environmental responsibilities.