

John Redekopp, Green Party, Winnipeg North

Thank you very much for your message. Here are my responses to your questions.

1. Cleaning up our lakes does not begin with us trying to remove toxins from the water. That is no different from putting food colouring in water and then trying to bring the water back to its original clarity. There are many chemicals sold in products such as laundry detergent, household cleaners and drain pipe cleaning solutions that end up bringing polluting our lakes. We first need more control substances on these products.
2. Wetlands are an important part of our ecosystem and bring so many benefits to humans and wildlife. Yet as wetlands have been destroyed we have lost this wildlife habitat. Wetlands can also act as a sponge for excess water during spring flooding. I believe we must act soon to prohibit any development or sale of crown land used for wetlands. Furthermore wetlands should be reclaimed on potential lands to compensate for the loss of wetlands that has happened over many years. I believe a budget should be placed to begin this reclamation process.
3. One means of raising the tax revenues to compensate and reverse environmental degradation is to tax polluters. Carbon taxes have been proposed in the past but have been ignored as a solution to neutralize the destruction. Although we do not want to tax industries that leave workers unemployed, a part of the carbon tax revenue would also go to retraining and reemploying individuals in other fields.
4. Yes I would definitely support this plan that would ensure our lakes and ecosystems will be in balance for many generations to come.