



Liberal Party of Canada

350 Albert, Suite 920
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6M8

Parti Libéral du Canada

350 rue Albert, Suite 920
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 6M8

October 1st, 2015

Marlo Campbell
Communications Director
Lake Winnipeg Foundation
300-207 Fort St.
WINNIPEG, MB, R3C 1E2

Dear Mr. Campbell,

Enclosed, please find the Liberal Party of Canada's formal response to your questionnaire.

For more information on the Liberal Party of Canada's vision for Canada, please take a moment to review our policies online at RealChange.ca. This site provides details on a Liberal government's policies, goals, and priorities.

On behalf of our Leader, Justin Trudeau, and the entire Liberal team, thank you for writing to identify the major concerns of your membership.

We appreciate your interest in the Liberal Party of Canada's policies as they relate to the issues which affect you.

Sincerely,

Anna Gainey, President
Liberal Party of Canada


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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 waste-water 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. In addition, Liberals will provide support for large- and community-scale renewable energy projects, and work with the provinces and territories to develop a Canadian Energy Strategy that brings cleaner, renewable energy – like solar and wind – onto the electricity grid.

We will also support efforts to prepare for changing weather patterns, such as: protections against wildfires, improved storm water systems to diminish the impact of urban floods, additional dams and dikes to prevent overland or coastal flooding, the reinforcement of energy systems in the face of possible ice storms, and the reinforcement of infrastructure to confront melting permafrost in our North. These and other efforts will be undertaken in partnership with other orders of government and based on the best available science.

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

The Liberal Party of Canada is committed to protecting our freshwater, including our wetlands. A Liberal government will rapidly develop a road map to meet Canada's international commitment to protect 17 percent of our land and inland waters by 2020. As a first step towards this goal, we will invest \$50 million per year to advance the development of Canada's parks system, as well as manage and expand National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries. We will increase science spending in our National Parks by \$25 million per year to allow for early identification of ecological stresses and avoid permanent degradation. Our open science commitment also ensures that the federal government's environmental research will be freely available to the public.

Mr. Harper's amendments to the Fisheries Act and elimination of the Navigable Waters Protection Act have weakened other important environmental protections. A Liberal government will conduct a wholesale review of these changes and restore lost protections, and incorporate more modern safeguards. The protection of our freshwater resources will be an imperative. First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples will be included in the reshaping of federal environmental laws and policies to ensure respect of rights and to reflect Indigenous values in federal legislation and regulations.

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 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. We will renew our commitment to the protection of the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence River Basin, and the Lake Winnipeg Basin. We will work with the provinces of Quebec, Ontario, and 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, and clean-up of coastal contamination. We will restore \$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.

4) The Lake Winnipeg Health Plan is a vehicle for collaborative action. Will you support this plan? How?

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The Liberal plan touches on all aspects of the Lake Winnipeg Health Plan, and we are committed to working with other governments and stakeholders on a sensible, credible approach to the environment. Our plan includes:

KEEPING WATER ON THE LAND

The protection of our freshwater resources through education, geo-mapping, watershed protection, and infrastructure investments in the best waste water treatment technologies. Water cannot be treated like any other natural resource, nor is it to be commodified. Although Canada has abundant fresh water reserves, the unprecedented drought and serious water shortages that B.C. experienced these last few months underscore how precarious a resource it is and how it should not be wasted or sold to foreign buyers, but preserved for us and future generations of British Columbians.

We are proud of the Liberal Party of Canada's long-standing position on this issue. After all, it was the Liberal government of Jean Chrétien that in 1999 brought the first comprehensive law banning bulk water exports from federally regulated lakes and waterways.

CONSERVING THE BOREAL FOREST

We will protect our National Parks by restricting development inside the parks, and where possible, we will work with gateway communities outside the parks to grow their eco-tourism industries and create jobs.

We will invest \$200 million more annually to create sector-specific strategies that support innovation and clean technologies in the forestry, fisheries, mining, energy, and agricultural sectors. These strategies will be developed in collaboration with the private sector, government, and research institutions, with the objective of producing real innovations that can be deployed in our natural resources sectors, commercialized, brought to scale, and exported.

SETTING THE STANDARD FOR WASTE-WATER TREATMENT

A Liberal government will provide dedicated funding to invest in a broad range of projects, including but not limited to: local water and waste-water facilities, climate resilient infrastructure, clean energy, and clean-up of contaminated sites to facilitate new construction. We will also support efforts to prepare for changing weather patterns, such as: protections against wildfires, improved storm water systems to diminish the impact of urban floods, additional dams and dikes to prevent overland or coastal flooding, the reinforcement of energy systems in the face of possible ice storms, and the reinforcement of infrastructure to confront melting permafrost in our North. These and other efforts will be undertaken in partnership with other orders of government and based on the best available science. We will boost investment in green infrastructure by nearly \$6 billion over the next four years, and almost \$20 billion over ten years.

MANAGING OUR SHORELINES

Protected marine areas are critical to protecting Canadian ecosystems, and also our economic well-being. These areas help fish stocks recover, support eco-tourism, protect coastlines from erosion, and protect species at risk. We will increase the amount of Canada's marine and coastal areas that are protected from 1.3 percent to 5 percent by 2017, and 10 percent by 2020. We will also reverse the \$40 million that Mr. Harper cut from the federal government's ocean science and monitoring programs.


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We commit to smarter co-management of our oceans, by working with the provinces, Indigenous Peoples, and other stakeholders. We will develop plans that not only make best use of our marine resources, but give coastal communities more say in managing the resources around them. An important first step will be the formalization of the moratorium on crude oil tanker traffic on British Columbia's North Coast, including the Dixon Entrance, Hecate Strait, and Queen Charlotte Sound, to ensure that ecologically sensitive areas and local economies are protected from the potentially devastating impacts of a spill.

We will renew our commitment to the protection of the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence River Basin, and the Lake Winnipeg Basin. We will work with the provinces of Quebec, Ontario, and 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, and clean-up of coastal contamination.

PROMOTING AGRICULTURAL WATER STEWARDSHIP

As mentioned above, we will invest \$200 million more annually to create sector-specific strategies that support innovation and clean technologies in the forestry, fisheries, mining, energy, and agricultural sectors. These strategies will be developed in collaboration with the private sector, government, and research institutions, with the objective of producing real innovations that can be deployed in our natural resources sectors, commercialized, brought to scale, and exported.

INVESTING IN A CLEAN WATER ECONOMY

Canada can be the world's most competitive tax jurisdiction for investments in the research, development, and manufacturing of clean technology. We will consult on ways to enhance the scientific research and experimental development tax credit – in conjunction with other tax measures – to generate more clean technology investment. We will start by adding electricity storage technologies and electrical car charging stations to the list of investments that are eligible for accelerated capital cost allowance. We will proactively work with provinces and firms to fight for every dollar of global investment, and will bring more clean technology companies and investment to Canada.

We will establish the Canada Green Investment Bond to support both large- and community-scale renewable energy projects. The bond will leverage the federal government's ability to provide more affordable loan guarantees for clean energy projects, and provide Canadians with the opportunity to invest in clean technologies. The focus of investment will be reducing the costs for commercially viable projects and helping to level the playing field with fossil fuel energy sources.

TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

As Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau will attend the December 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, and will invite all Premiers to join him. Within 90 days of the conference, a First Ministers meeting will be held to work together on a framework to combat climate change.

Central to this will be the creation of national emissions-reduction targets, informed by the best economic and scientific analysis. These targets must recognise the economic cost and catastrophic impact that a greater-than two-degree increase in average global temperatures would represent, as well as the necessity for Canada to do its part to prevent that from happening. We believe that Harper's targets are inadequate and meaningless without a plan to achieve them.





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We will ensure that the provinces and territories have adequate tools to design their own policies to meet these commitments, including their own carbon pricing policies. As part of the comprehensive emissions reduction agreement with provinces and territories, we will provide targeted federal funding to help them achieve these goals.

A portfolio of actions appropriate for the diverse economies of each jurisdiction is the only way to significantly reduce Canada's emissions; there is no one-size-fits-all solution. But the cost of inaction is too high and the federal government has a responsibility to lead, create the conditions and provide the support required for Canada to meet its climate targets.