

- 1. How will you and your party resolve the longstanding stalemate that continues to prevent action to remove phosphorus from Winnipeg's wastewater? How will you ensure immediate action is taken ensure phosphorus in Winnipeg's effluent does not exceed 1 milligram/litre?**

At least \$166 million annually will be used from revenues taken from a \$50/tonne carbon tax, to ensure Winnipeg's water treatment plants are brought up the standards that limit phosphorous to 1mg/L. Run off from all areas, however, needs to be managed. The optimal approach is to re-establish the surrounding wetlands. The cattails and other plants were and are effective in eliminating phosphorus and other contaminants. In addition, these chlorophyll containing wetlands form part of the biomass that needs to be re-established to provide a healthy planet and can serve as a model for other countries by use of the natural ecosystem as a natural filtration system. The effluent from Winnipeg should be managed by Winnipeg's budget but for the safety of Manitoba's citizens and for the ecosystem, help from the province can be provided.

- 2. Will you and your party commit to increasing MCWS's budget to rebuild the department's core capacity to monitor and manage Manitoba's valuable freshwater resources? To which other MCWS programs would you direct further investment?**

A commitment to quality work means a commitment to quality staff, adequate budget as well as proper evaluation of the work to ensure Manitoba's valuable freshwater resources are kept safe, that staff follows the guidelines and the budgeted funds are used appropriately. Staff will be hired by open postings. Standards will be updated and posted as to the currently accepted methods that are to be used to protect the water. Fishery methods standards will be reviewed to ensure sustainability and proper oversight of the industry. An update of the Manitoba Water Quality Standards is needed, to make the objectives and the guidelines current with standards of today as well as making them useful to apply. The objectives will include oversight and evaluation of success measurements.

Education regarding the ecosystem of streams will aid in the improvement of land use and it's impact on water quality. Riparian areas are to be left untouched as much as possible to improve water quality.

A semi-annual update on the website will be needed to maintain transparency and will include further objectives to correct the found deficiencies.

- 3. Will you and your party commit to rapidly re-introducing a comprehensive bill enabling strong regulatory protection of Manitoba's threatened wetlands?**

The aim will be to protect wildlife access and use of Manitoba's seasonal wetlands as well as to the semi-permanent and permanent wetlands. Mallards and pintails use less permanent wetlands because they warm quickly in the spring and provide the invertebrates important to early nesting, whereas diving ducks like canvasback and redhead favour semi-permanent and permanent wetlands. A no-net loss policy on a wetland types needs to be set up. If a wetland is deemed to need to be eliminated, it will have to be replaced by establishing another wetland area of the same size in an adjacent area. All ecosystems need to be kept in balance and these should be re-established back to at least that of the 1950's levels to increase the amount of plants present in Manitoba (as these are the earth's lungs) and as a protection for all species. The environment must be more in balance than it currently is. Wetlands cannot continue to be eliminated for large farmed areas. Field edges need to be re-established, with this change legislated if necessary. Costing of the full environmental impact of drainage would have to be mitigated. Increases of phosphorus into a system should not be allowed. Instead, the wetland edge for drainage would need to

be established to handle the phosphorous naturally. The ability to “buy” a way to pollute must stop now. Similarly, the carbon emissions associated with drainage would have to be paid for by the creation of proper natural areas to allow ecosystems to function to clear pollutions rather than allowing just “paying to pollute.” Methods to deal with human activity must be re-established as ecosystems and that cost must be paid for by the company. No longer can money be just paid.

4. How will you and your party develop and fund a collaborative, events-based monitoring program? Will you also commit to regular annual public reporting of collected data?

Consultation with ecosystem experts is needed to determine the most cost effective approach to monitoring water quality for Lake Winnipeg. Commitment to public reporting of these consultations is needed. Water monitoring must be expanded from just flood monitoring but to all times of the year. The monitoring must cover nutrients, inflows and outflows of water from the lake. On-going water quality monitoring at multiple points within the lake must be established, with objectives for each area and goals for re-establishment of wetlands, and overall improvement in the water quality defined. Usage of the water must be monitored. Quarterly reporting is needed. Persons living adjacent to these monitoring points should be trained on how to monitor the nutrients, contaminants, the margins of the waters edge for re-establishment of the ecosystem’s plants and animals. Active community involvement promotes the feeling of ownership of this body of water that is used by all Manitobans. This means that interested agencies and groups should be included in the improvement of the water as well as monitoring to ensure that the quality continues. Bi-annual or annual public reporting of the collected data must be posted to the website, siting those elements achieved and those that still require improvement so all members are involved. First Nations, Indigenous Affairs and Northern Development Canada, and the Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization are organizations to engage. Funding again should be charged based on the cost to re-establish natural habitat that yields improved water quality, rather than just a pay for pollution.

5. Do you and your party support the establishment of an independent Office of the Environmental Commissioner of Manitoba?

An independent Office to oversee progress on the many environmental challenges in the province is absolutely necessary. This office needs to be immediately established as a key element in protecting and re-establishing the ecosystem for a healthy Lake Winnipeg.

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Look down on someone only if you are reaching to help them up.

“The price good men pay for indifference to public affairs is to be ruled by evil men.” - Plato

“Education os the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world.” - Nelson Mandela

“You cannot get thru a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do does make a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.” - Jane Goodall
Your Vote Does Count!