



**Submission to  
Lake Winnipeg Foundation**

April 4, 2016

**Question 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 to ensure phosphorus in Winnipeg's effluent does not exceed 1 mg/L?**

It is most unfortunate that the costly delays and partisanship from the NDP has postponed the City of Winnipeg's new wastewater treatment systems to go online. The PC Party of Manitoba is committing to investing \$1 billion a year in strategic infrastructure, and to developing a new partnership with municipal governments. No modern city can go without providing the essential services of clean water for its residents and the treating of its outgoing wastewater. We recognize the importance of moving this project forward and will make it a priority to engage with the City of Winnipeg to move forward on sewage treatment, including phosphorus reduction. We believe that these and other targeted strategic infrastructure investments will be able to provide a measurable return on investment in helping grow Manitoba's economy and improving environmental health.

**Question 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?**

The budget for the Department of Conservation and Water Stewardship has been on the NDP's chopping block for years, resulting in tens of millions of dollars in cuts to the services and important work in provides to Manitobans. The PC Party of Manitoba has committed to implement a province wide Alternative Land Use Service policy, first developed and tested right here in Manitoba. This will involved partnerships with the federal government, several provincial departments including MCWS, municipal governments, private sector donors, NGO's and landowners. Our plan is to work with all stakeholders to find long-term and viable solutions for everyone in an effort to both preserve our wetlands and help with flood mitigation.

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

Our Party supported the introduction of Bill 5, which was belatedly introduced by the NDP during the last legislative session. As described above, our commitment is to implement the ALUS model as a necessary part of a comprehensive approach to wetland conservation. If the PC Party is fortunate enough to gain the trust and respect of Manitobans and form the next Provincial government of Manitoba, we will undertake due diligence and consult with all stakeholders in developing a comprehensive plan.

### **Question 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?**

The PC Party believes in open government and collaboration with citizens and organizations interested in improving public services such as reporting and monitoring. We would consider any proposals to make our monitoring programs more open and effective.

### **Question 5) Do you and your party support the establishment of an independent Office of the Environmental Commissioner of Manitoba?**

The PC Party believes in applying science to adopt programs that provide the best return on investments and the highest quality services for all Manitobans. Our first priority is to conduct a performance review and value-for-money audit across government to identify how we can deliver programs more effectively and efficiently. The PC Party will work to achieve concrete outcomes when it comes to protecting our environment, and will consider all options to achieve that goal.