

Robert-Falcon Oulette, Liberal Party, Winnipeg Centre

Thank you for taking the time to ask about our fresh water commitment.

Canada is uniquely blessed with our abundance of freshwater, whether the watersheds of the Rocky Mountains, Lake Winnipeg, or the St. John River. Canadians no longer feel that they can trust Stephen Harper when it comes to the environment.

Shockingly, the Conservatives have also cut funding for the protection and monitoring of our invaluable freshwater resources. A Liberal government will undo the damage done by the Harper Conservatives and take immediate steps to protect our oceans and safeguard our marine and coastal habitats. A Liberal government will ensure that we leave our children and grandchildren with a country that is even more beautiful, sustainable, and prosperous than the one we have now.

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. This will include acting on the recommendations of the Cohen Commission on restoring sockeye salmon stocks in the Fraser River.

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.

A Trudeau-led government will also 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. 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.

From our freshwater to our oceans, from our mountains to our Prairies – our economy benefits from our abundant resources, but also from our ecosystems that filter our air or absorb flood waters. If this beauty and long-term economic benefits are to last, we must be vigilant in protecting what we have today. It is each generation's responsibility to leave a cleaner, healthier environment to subsequent generations. Stephen Harper is failing in that obligation.

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.

For more information, please check out the Liberal's new plan for Canada's environment and economy at RealChange.ca.