

Signe Knutson, Green Party, St. Boniface

Here are my answers to your questions:

1. The Green Party will ensure that Winnipeg's wastewater facility is funded to make all necessary repairs, upgrades and/or rebuild to bring it up to acceptable standards. We would also encourage citizens to use Lake-friendly products to reduce inputs of phosphorous. In addition, the Green Party encourages, would remove barriers to and would financially assist home and building owners to install composting toilets, keeping effluent out of the system to begin with. It is very important to keep phosphorus in Winnipeg's effluent below 1 milligram/litre. Personally, I was very concerned when the ELA was dismantled by the Harper government (I protested when he and the Ministers met in Gimli) and I would like to see it fully operational again.
2. The Green Party would re-instate MCWS's budget in full, and increase funding to environmental assessment by requiring industry to bear the onus of ensuring their own projects meet environmental standards. In addition we will halt any further hydro dams, mining development, industrial hog barns, and peat mining.
3. The Greens have a comprehensive wetlands strategy that includes compensating farmers for maintaining and redeveloping wetlands on their property. The introduction of a new and strengthened Surface Water Management Act is a priority for the Green Party.
4. The phosphorous monitoring across the Lake Winnipeg watershed could be funded through increased budget to MCWS and we would look forward to annually updated information in order to monitor improvements that we are committed to.
5. The Greens fully support the establishment of an independent Office of the Environmental Commissioner of Manitoba.