

15 October 2019

Re: Green Party stance on policies relating to Lake Winnipeg

Bring everyone to the table – Include Indigenous governments as signatories to the [Memorandum of Understanding](#) Respecting Lake Winnipeg and the Lake Winnipeg Basin

While it is laudable that the federal and provincial governments have reached a memorandum of understanding, it does not respect the reality of Lake Winnipeg. Indigenous governments and organizations in particular have been left out of these kinds of policy conversations for far too long. We want more than symbolic participation; Indigenous peoples should be leading these negotiations, in recognition of their role as stewards of the land since time immemorial.

Greens are deeply committed to greater collaboration among orders of government, which informs our entire approach to federalism. We will create a Council of Canadian Governments, bringing together federal, provincial, territorial, municipal, and Indigenous governments to discuss high-level policy issues. This will provide a spirit of collaboration that can bring broader changes to environmental policy, and more specifically, water management in Canada.

Strategically engage with and support community-based water monitoring efforts – implement the [recommendations](#) listed in “Elevating Community-Based Water Monitoring in Canada”

The Green Party supports community-based water monitoring efforts. We believe communities are well-placed to participate in the stewardship of their local lands, in particular Indigenous communities who have already been doing so.

We will also create opportunities for expansion of capacity for projects like this through the creation of a Community and Environment Service Corps. We are excited to encourage more youth to participate in making their communities livable and healthy.

Respect and use Indigenous knowledge in decision-making – ensure that the commitments made in federal legislation are meaningfully implemented in practice ([Bill C-68](#) and [C-69](#)). ([link to Bill C-68](#)).

Greens will absolutely respect and use Indigenous knowledge in decision-making, or will hold any government to account to do so. We have seen consistent failures by governments who claim to be interested in true partnership with Indigenous peoples, but who have not always respected their needs and knowledge.

Green Party policy is shaped around meeting our profound commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. We will further protect the obligations in Bills C-68 and C-69 by enacting legislation to enshrine UNDRIP in law, and fully embracing all 46 articles of the Declaration. A Green government will remove all obstacles within the judicial, legislative and executive branches of government to wholly implement UNDRIP.