

## Liberal Party of Canada

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Below are Terry Duguid's responses to the questions sent by the Lake Winnipeg Foundation (LWF) and Lake Winnipeg Indigenous Collective (LWIC). Terry has based these responses on the personal experience he has working on the Lake Winnipeg file. His responses reflect the current status of work up until the dissolution of Parliament in September 2019, and the commitments made in the Liberal Platform for re-election. The Liberal Party of Canada (LPC) may wish to comment more broadly on Bills C-68 and C-69.

Question: In advance of the federal election, we would like to know if your party agrees to the following three commitments:

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

### **Response from Terry Duguid:**

**Due to the nature of Lake Winnipeg and its vast watershed, cooperation and collaboration are key requirements for finding and implementing solutions. Our federal government has already been working hard with municipal governments, environmental organizations and Indigenous communities to improve Lake Winnipeg's water quality, and we will continue with this cooperation going forward.**

**The Collaborative Leadership Initiative funded by the Lake Winnipeg Basin Program has brought 25 government representatives to the table, including leaders of local First Nations governments, resulting in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that commits the parties to work together on issues related to improving water quality in Lake Winnipeg. This kind of collaborative work needs to be applied across the basin and the new Canada Water Agency under a re-elected Liberal government will play a critical role.**

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

### **Response from Terry Duguid:**

**Yes, the LPC has demonstrated agreement to community-based water monitoring initiatives in the past and is committed to doing more such work in the future. To ensure that Canada is better prepared to protect and manage our fresh water in a changing climate, a re-elected Liberal government will move forward with a new Canada Water Agency. The Agency will work together with the provinces and territories, Indigenous communities, local authorities, scientists, and others to find the best ways to keep our water safe, clean, and well-managed. Water monitoring will be a key element of the new Canada Water Agency's mandate. Our government is currently supporting important initiatives for data monitoring at the Canadian Watershed Information Network, and important citizen science monitoring work led by the Lake Winnipeg Foundation.**

- 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](#); [link to Bill C-69](#))

**Response from Terry Duguid:**

**Yes, the LPC is committed to respect and use Indigenous knowledge in decision-making and ensure that the commitments made in federal legislation are meaningfully implemented in practice. We have been listening to all stakeholders, including indigenous communities, as we work on solutions for Lake Winnipeg, and we will continue to respect the views and knowledge of indigenous communities going forward. As special advisor on the Lake Winnipeg Basin Program, I am currently playing a leadership role in designing and promoting a water strategy for the prairies that will respond to the increased nutrient pollution and climate instability (flooding) that is seriously impacting our environment and local economies. In the Lake Winnipeg Basin Program, Indigenous Engagement is prioritized as a distinct funding stream that highlights the importance of traditional knowledge and the inclusion of Indigenous communities and governments as partners.**