

LAKE WINNIPEG FOUNDATION

As provincial regulator, how will you ensure the City of Winnipeg takes immediate action to address the NEWPCC's impact on Lake Winnipeg? What consequences will you impose for non-compliance?

The NDP recognize the valuable advocacy the Lake Winnipeg Foundation has done and continues to do for the betterment of the health of Lake Winnipeg. We take seriously the recommendations and proposals put forward by the LWF and support their immediate implementation. We will work with the City in a collaborative fashion to ensure the implementation is completed so we can protect the Lake while working towards a broader upgrade of the North End facility.

The NEWPCC is long overdue for upgrades that would reduce and eventually eliminate its harmful impact on Lake Winnipeg. The Pallister PCs attempt to re-direct funds away from accounts allocated for the NEWPCC is the wrong direction. That's why the NDP has committed to funding the provincial share of the cost of the upgrades to the site. And we will work with the City to ensure that an interim solution can be successfully delivered. We believe a cooperative and consultative approach will bear better results rather than the confrontational and unilateral approach showed by the Pallister PCs.

Will you commit to amending regulation to prohibit drainage of threatened wetlands? How will you fund effective enforcement in order to protect wetlands?

We know that protecting wetlands is one of the single most important actions we can take to protect our environment and help protect the health of Lake Winnipeg. We worked on significant improvements to conservation districts while in government to protect wetlands and surface water in Manitoba over the course of many years. Moreover, we support and affirm the principle of "no net loss of wetland benefits" and will work with stakeholders to establish regulations which put this principle into reality.

We will enact regulations that protect threatened wetlands and will work to bring together all parties to the table – landowners, producers, companies, stakeholder groups, researchers and scientists to ensure that wetland regulation is based on science. Moreover, we will strengthen regulation to ensure the reduction of wetlands is curbed in Manitoba and that threatened wetlands are protected and rehabilitated for the future.

How will your government protect Manitobans' businesses and property investments on Lake Winnipeg?

The best way to protect business and property investments in Lake Winnipeg is to protect the health of the Lake.

We will take immediate action to work with the City of Winnipeg to find interim measures to support the health of the lake. And we will also immediately prioritize the upgrade of the North End Sewage Treatment Plant so that this major source can be addressed. More broadly, we will work to protect surface water in our province through increased protections for wetlands as well as working with municipalities and other governments to ensure the level of phosphorus and nutrients entering the lake are lessened over time and that Lake Winnipeg is restored to health.