

Protected Areas

Policies/Commitments

Analysis/Audit from Manitoba Wildlands Speeches Chart

Manitoba Government 1999 – 2006 inclusive

Manitoba Wildlands

January 2007



1999

Quote	Nature of Statement	Speech/Source /Date	Analysis
		Throne Speech November 25, 1999	Chitek Lake and Nanowin Poplar River park reserve extended December 1999

2000

Quote	Nature of Statement	Speech/Source /Date	Analysis
By working in co-operation with Aboriginal communities and with industry, we have protected over 200,000 hectares of endangered spaces within our first seven months in office. We will continue to work co-operatively to sustain our environment for the benefit of future generations.	Past Action; General Commitment	Budget Speech - May 10, 2000	Between October 1999 and April 2000 (inclusive), new protection for three park reserves totaled 235,900ha. This included protection of Hudwin Lake Park Reserve (128,700ha), which was subsequently allowed to lapse October 31, 2000 and has not been renewed. Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dec '99 extension of Chitek Lake Park Reserve (99,600ha) & Poplar/Nanowin Rivers Park Reserve (748,370ha) • April '00 new protection – Birch Island Park Reserve, (79,000ha) Fisher Bay Park Reserve (28,200ha) & Hudwin Lake Park Reserve (128,700ha)

2001

Quote	Nature of Statement	Speech/Source /Date	Analysis
Other measures to help protect our environment include: . . . continuing with an action plan to create more provincial parks and protected areas	Specific Commitment	Budget Speech April 10, 2001	The 2000-2003 <i>Action Plan for a Network of Protected Areas</i> has never been updated, and there is currently no Action Plan in place.
Other measures to help protect our environment include: . . . setting aside boreal forest lands. Manitoba is already a leader in protecting boreal forest. We will be making other announcements in this regard.	General Commitment	Budget Speech April 10, 2001	Manitoba led Canada (summer 2000) in land quantum protected from development during the 1990's. As of April 2001, the Doer government had protected 107,200ha of boreal park lands as new decisions since taking office in 1999. New boreal protection Sept. '99 – April '01: 5a & 5b – Birch Island Park Reserve (79,000ha) 5a & 5b – Fisher Bay Park Reserve (28,200ha)

2002

Quote	Nature of Statement	Speech/Source /Date	Analysis
Since 1999, close to a million hectares has been added to protected areas and parklands in Manitoba.	Claim	Throne Speech November 27, 2002	This statement is inaccurate. Government calculations include permanent designation or extension of regulation for areas under interim protection prior to September 1999. These were not NEW additions to Manitoba's protected areas network. Between September 1999 and November 2002, 195,099ha of new protected area in Manitoba. New protected areas (Sept '99 – Nov '02):

			<p>Birch Island Park Reserve (79,000ha) Fisher Bay Park Reserve (28,200ha) Goose Island Park Reserve (145ha) Grand Island Park Reserve (915ha) Kinwow Bay Park Reserve (8,400ha) Pelican Islands Park Reserve (130ha) Pemmican Island Park Reserve (32ha) Sturgeon Bay Park Reserve (14,490ha) Walter Cook Uplands Caves Park Reserve (3,200ha) Criddle/Vane Homestead Provincial Park (132ha) Pembina Valley Provincial Park (171ha) = 134,815ha + 60,284ha WMAs =195,099ha</p> <p>See Manitoba Wildlands Protected Areas Audit: http://manitobawildlands.org/pa_grades.htm#pa_audit</p>
<p>Some of the most significant emissions reductions can be achieved through community efforts to set aside green spaces and the energy efficiency choices made by consumers</p>	<p>Policy Statement</p>	<p>Throne Speech November 27, 2002</p>	<p>Carbon sequestration is not the same as emissions reductions, though large boreal protected areas contribute to climate change mitigation through carbon storage.</p> <p>The Manitoba Government's October 2002 Climate Change Action Plan http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/climatechange/pdfs/final-mccap-sep-16-02.pdf makes no mention of protected areas as part of the province's climate change plan.</p>

Our Environmentally Sensitive Areas Tax Credit will better enable us to protect the land around creeks and riverbanks, and our recently announced sustainable forests policy will better enable us to protect critical forest areas.	Declaration	Budget Speech April 22, 2002 - Environmental Stewardship	<p>Only one new ‘critical forest area’ has become a protected area since this statement was made. The Bell and Steeprock Canyons Protected Area was protected in May 2004.</p> <p>The 2002 policy document <i>Next Steps: Priorities for Sustaining Manitoba's Forests</i> referenced has not yet been audited. However, the level of ecological representation in Manitoba’s forest regions has not increased since 2002.</p>
Another example of long-term vision leading to sustained change over time is the Protected Areas Initiative.	Declaration	2002 Budget Paper – The Economy - Appendix 2	<p>The Protected Areas Initiative is based on the <i>Action Plan for a Network of Protected Areas</i>, which expired in 2003 and has not been updated.</p> <p>View the <i>Action Plan for a Network of Protected Areas</i>: http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/pai/actionplan.html</p>

2003

Quote	Nature of Statement	Speech/Source /Date	Analysis
Your Government will continue to invest in wilderness trails and parks	Specific Commitment	Throne Speech November 20, 2003	No public inventory of new trails exists. No new wilderness parks/protected areas have been established since spring 2003.
The network of wilderness protected areas has been steadily expanded during that period. [since 1999]	Past Action	Throne Speech November 20, 2003	<p>No new wilderness protected areas were established between 1999 and the end of 2003.</p> <p>This statement was made as the <i>2000-2003 Action Plan for a Network of Protected Areas</i> expired, and no update for the <i>Action Plan</i> had been initiated. (As of January 2007, there is still</p>

			no <i>Action Plan</i> in place)
In the coming months, your Government will sign a memorandum of understanding with the federal government to create a new Lowlands National Park on the western shore of Lake Winnipeg.	Specific Commitment	Throne Speech November 20, 2003	The MOU was signed by the Governments of Manitoba and Canada March 2004, as an agreement to work to conclude community consultations for a Lowlands national park agreement by May 2005. As of January 2007, the MOU has not been fulfilled; consultations and negotiations to arrive at an agreement have not begun.
A new provincial park will be added in addition to the Caribou River, Pembina Valley and Trappist Monastery Provincial Parks that we have announced recently.	Specific Commitment	2003 Budget Speech Environmental Stewardship	<p>Of those parks referenced, only Pembina Valley (171ha) is new (protected in 2001). Caribou River has been under protection since 1995. Trappist Monastery since 1997.</p> <p>In 2003/2004, the government announced permanent protection for Manigotagan River Provincial Park (7,432ha) (Dec '04)</p> <p>Other 2003/04 actions re: new Provincial Parks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April/July 2003 permanent designation of South Atikaki Provincial Park – logging prohibited, otherwise open to development. NOT protected • Feb '04 permanent protection of Criddle Vane Homestead Provincial Park (132ha) (already under interim protection) • June '04 permanent protection 49ha of the 87ha Rivers Provincial Park (new) • May 2004 Bell Steeprock Canyons Protected Area
We have fully protected all or part of 21 Wildlife Management areas, and extended park reserve status to East Paint Lake and Manigotagan.	Past Action	2003 Budget Speech Environmental Stewardship	We commend the protection of WMAs – their protection is part of an initiative started 1997. At the time (in 2003), Manigotagan Park Reserve was not protected

			from development. East Paint Lake had been under interim protection since 1997.
Also, to support the eco-tourism industry, we have provided a grant to the Narcisse Snake Dens, and developed a Watchable Wildlife initiative.	Past Action	2003 Budget Speech Environmental Stewardship	Eco tourism is most assisted by creation of wilderness protected areas.
We are building on our commitment to create over 1,000 new cottage lots and 1,900 new campsites by providing \$750,000 for cottage lot development and campsite improvement inside and outside provincial parks.	Specific Commitment	2003 Budget Speech Environmental Stewardship	The cottage lots program has been plagued with problems, including lack of archeological review of sites, lack of surveys, and objections from current property owners, cottagers, and First Nations regarding sites earmarked for expansion.
• A new provincial park will be established – adding to three others created since 1999 along with over 20 protected areas and other initiatives that preserve wild spaces for future generations.	Specific Commitment	2003 Budget - Building Our Environmental Future	See above re: provincial parks establishment 2004. Of the three Provincial Parks established since Sept. '99, two have been under interim protection since 1997 (see above)
• Another provincial park, adding to Caribou River, Pembina Valley and the Trappist Monastery parks created since 1999.	Specific Commitment	Press Release – April 22, 2003 'Budget 2003 At a Glance'	Only Pembina Valley Park is new since 1999, the others were initially protected in 1995 and 1997. This government moved them to permanent status. See above.

2004

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My government's Green Strategy includes designation of pristine lands and environmentally sensitive areas as protected green zones;	Specific Commitment	Throne Speech November 22, 2004	There is no protected green zone designation. The 'Green Strategy' is not publicly available on Manitoba Government web site at this time.
Since 1999, over one million hectares of Manitoba wilderness have received new or renewed protected status.	Past Action	Throne Speech November 22, 2004	This statement corrects previous statements by adding "or renewed". Caribou River Wilderness Park comprises 764,000 ha of this total, and has been protected since 1995.
The coming year will see	Specific	Throne Speech	New Protection from Dec.'04 through

<p>additional designations of protected areas and ecological reserves, including the nomination of a pristine boreal forest region on the east side of Lake Winnipeg as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.</p>	<p>Commitment</p>	<p>November 22, 2004</p>	<p>2005: Manitotagan Provincial Park (7,432ha) Brokenhead ER (563ha) Armit Meadows ER (263ha) Birch River ER (183ha) Total: 8441ha</p> <p>As of January 2007 the nomination of the World Heritage Site (WHS) is not done, significant resources for lands planning are needed before UNESCO nomination can proceed.</p>
<p>The [UNESCO World Heritage] site that is being nominated is 43 000 square kilometres in total, roughly the size of Nova Scotia, and would join the Atikaki Wilderness Park with Ontario’s Woodland Caribou Park and adjacent First Nation lands. The UNESCO designation is a recommendation of the East Side Planning Initiative, which is enabling communities on the east side of Lake Winnipeg to manage and benefit from any future development in their region.</p>	<p>Declaration</p>	<p>Throne Speech November 22, 2004</p>	<p>This WHS nomination was initiated by First Nations in spring 2002, with announcement and signing of the First Nation Protected Areas Accord. In December 2004, Manitoba’s government stated its public support http://manitobawildlands.org/pdfs/MBGovtWHSSupport_V12.pdf.</p> <p>Canada added it to its tentative list of WHS sites in April 2004. The East Side Planning Initiative (ESPI) November 2004 report supported the First Nation led WHS nomination.</p> <p>WHS acknowledgement from UNESCO will be based on lands plans and land protection being in place.</p> <p>Visit http://manitobawildlands.org/lup_whs.htm</p>
<p>To further enhance Manitoba’s many natural assets, we have designated five new provincial parks since 1999 – Pembina Valley, Caribou River, Trappist Monastery, South Atikaki, and the Criddle/Vane Homestead – encompassing a total of nearly 800,000 hectares</p>	<p>Past Action</p>	<p>Budget Speech April 19, 2004 – Conservation and Water Stewardship</p>	<p>Caribou River is not new protected land; it has been under protection since 1995. Neither is the Trappist Monastery new protected land. South Atikaki has not had mining rights withdrawn and is therefore not protected.</p> <p>Pembina Valley, Criddle/Vane Homestead, and the Beaudry addition are the only new and fully protected Provincial Parks designated by the current government since 1999 – a total of 318ha.</p>

			See Manitoba Wildlands Protected Areas Audit: http://manitobawildlands.org/pa_grades.htm#pa_audit
We have also recently signed an agreement that will lead to the creation of the Manitoba Lowlands National Park – Canada’s newest national park.	Specific Commitment	Budget Speech April 19, 2004 – Conservation and Water Stewardship	This MOU expired June 2005. No significant steps towards a national park have occurred since it was signed March 2004.
In addition, the Protected Areas Initiative will receive \$100,000 to further support our network of protected areas in Manitoba.	Specific Commitment	Budget Speech April 19, 2004 – Conservation and Water Stewardship	From May 2004 through Nov. ’05, 19,800ha of lands were protected. This protection did not result in an increase in natural region representation. New Protection in from May’04 through 2005: Bell/Steeprock Canyons Protected Area (11,310ha) Rivers Provincial Park addition (49ha) Manigotagan Provincial Park (7,432ha) Brokenhead ER (563ha) Armit Meadows ER (263ha) Birch River ER (183ha) Total: 19,800ha

2005

Quote	Nature of Statement	Speech/Source /Date	Analysis
To accommodate a larger number of visitors, Budget 2005 increases funding for one of Manitoba’s favourite parks, Birds Hill Provincial Park.	Specific Commitment	Budget Speech: <i>Water Protection, Natural Areas and Climate Change</i>	Parks infrastructure upgrades are needed throughout Manitoba’s parks systems.
This past year we: • designated Manigotagan River as the province’s newest provincial park • created an ecological reserve for a rare river-bottom forest south of	Past Action	Budget Speech 'Water Protection, Natural Areas and Climate Change'	We applaud action to protected Manitoba lands and waters. Bois des Esprits is not yet a designated protected area. Lands have been purchased and transferred to the province. Designation, withdrawal of mining rights etc remain to be done. (

<p>St. Adolphe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • took action to protect and preserve almost 80 acres of the Bois des Esprits in southeast Winnipeg • committed to a proposal for a Boreal Forest region on the east side of Lake Winnipeg as a UNESCO World Heritage Site • protected four new areas and added land to two existing parks • provided \$600,000 for sustainable forest management and renewal 			<p>The commitment to the proposed WHS has not come with funds to assist the WHS First Nations in their stated intent to undertake community-planning processes.</p> <p>Chitek Lake park reserve protection also extended October 2004.</p> <p>No progress on natural region representation has occurred since 1999. The representation method and protection standard are Manitoba policy.</p>
<p>Budget 2005 continues the commitment to protect our water and natural resources now and in the future...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More parkland and upgraded park facilities 	<p>Specific Commitment</p>	<p>Budget 2005 In Brief</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrading facilities in provincial parks including more support for the popular Birds Hill Provincial Park. 	<p>Specific Commitment</p>	<p>Press Release – March 8, 2005 'Budget 2005 At A Glance'</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining and enhancing Manitoba's network of protected areas 	<p>Specific Commitment</p>	<p>Press Release – March 8, 2005 'Budget 2005 At A Glance'</p>	<p>This is essentially a status quo statement.</p> <p>Manitoba needs a new <i>Action Plan</i> for its network of protected areas.</p>
<p>[The Budget] also contains more resources for sustainable forest management and plans to maintain and enhance protected areas.</p>	<p>Specific Commitment</p>	<p>Press Release – March 8, 2005 'Budget 2005 Invests in Infrastructure and Health Care, Reduces Taxes, Pays Down Debt'</p>	<p>There are over 100 areas in the province under review to become protected areas. 10,000,000 acres within those 100 areas have been reviewed by the minerals sector and are supported for protected status.</p> <p>View the Manitoba Natural Regions and Rank 1 2004 Map: http://manitobawildlands.org/pa.htm#mining</p>

2006

Quote	Nature of Statement	Speech/Source /Date	Analysis
[I]n 2006 we contributed \$1 million to the work of the Manitoba Recreational Trails Association. In addition, we will make further investments in the next phase of the TransCanada trail through Winnipeg.	Past Action	Throne Speech November 15, 2006	We commend the investment in Manitoba's recreational infrastructure. This step does not increase protected lands in Manitoba or fulfill other commitments.
Our government is committed to protecting wildlife and natural spaces and cleaning up contaminated sites.	Policy Statement	Throne Speech November 15, 2006	We commend this general sentiment; however, specific commitments by government to establish new protected areas – such as the goal to establish five major protected areas by 2010, and the permanent protection of the Poplar/Nanowin Rivers Park Reserve (see below) have not yet been acted upon.
We will continue to expand protection for Manitoba's beautiful natural areas. Our government will work with First Nations and stakeholders to enact permanent protection for Poplar River and develop special protection measures for Little Limestone Lake.	Specific Commitment	Throne Speech November 15, 2006	We look forward to the announcement of permanent protection for the Poplar/Nanowin Rivers Park Reserve, now clearly overdue. We also look forward to protection for Little Limestone Lake. Natural spaces and natural areas language may be an indication that government has lost track of protected areas policy and commitments.
Today's budget provides resources for a new and improved made-in-Manitoba parks reservation system	General Commitment	Budget Speech March 6, 2006 – Natural Areas and Environmental Stewardship	
We are also extending 911 emergency service to five major provincial parks, and increasing resources for parks maintenance.	Specific Commitment	Budget Speech March 6, 2006 – Natural Areas and Environmental	Manitoba's parks are lacking management plans, staff, and clear information on lands that are protected from development.

		Stewardship	
This year... we will reach our 1,000 new cottage lots goal.	Specific Commitment	Budget Speech March 6, 2006 – Natural Areas and Environmental Stewardship	Although government may achieve this goal, the cottage lots program has been plagued with problems, including lack of archeological review of sites, lack of surveys, and objections from current property owners, cottagers, and First Nations regarding sites earmarked for expansion.
Budget 2006 provides additional resources for campground upgrades, including more yurts, as well as expanded electrical, washroom and shower facilities.	Specific Commitment	Budget Speech March 6, 2006 – Natural Areas and Environmental Stewardship	See comments earlier re management plans, etc.
Over the last two years, we have established five new ecological reserves, offering the highest level of protection.	Past Action	Budget Speech March 6, 2006 – Natural Areas and Environmental Stewardship	<p>Lands protected within these five ERs totals 1031ha. Manitoba's network of protected areas totals 5.3 million ha.</p> <p>Brokenhead ER (563ha) Armit Meadows ER (263ha) Birch River ER (183ha) Shay ER (7ha) Little George Island ER (15ha) Total: 1031ha</p> <p>There appears to be some confusion about protection standards. Clarity on minimum required standards and regulation steps for protected areas establishment are the basis for public policy. Ecological reserves are important, but rarely provide representation of the natural region due to size.</p>
We have also extended designation of the Fisher Bay and Birch Island Park reserves for an additional five years.	Past Action	Budget Speech March 6, 2006 – Natural Areas and Environmental Stewardship	Yes – we congratulate the government on this action. It is unfortunate that a full 10 years will be needed for decisions for these protected lands. Lack of staff, and failure to support the

			First Nations protected areas MOU result in these delays.
Budget 2006 provides additional resources to advance the First Nations-Manitoba-Ontario UNESCO World Heritage site nomination	Specific Commitment	Budget Speech March 6, 2006 – Natural Areas and Environmental Stewardship	No funding to support needed lands plans have been provided. These funds are for facilitation of meetings, which are moving into their third year.
[Budget 2006] doubles our grant to the Nature Conservancy of Canada's National Campaign for Conservation to \$200,000.	Specific Commitment	Budget Speech March 6, 2006 – Natural Areas and Environmental Stewardship	This amount is twice the funds in reference above re WHS.
New support will be provided to advance the UNESCO World Heritage site nomination	Specific Commitment	Budget 2006 In Brief – Water and Environmental Protection	See above.
Today's budget provides resources for a new and improved made-in-Manitoba parks reservation system	General Commitment	Budget Speech March 6, 2006 – Natural Areas and Environmental Stewardship	