

2007 Manitoba Election Environment Commitments



May 2007

Manitoba Liberal Party

Liberal Announcement – May 18, 2007 – ‘Liberals to hold ‘Save Your Lakes’ rallies around the Perimeter’

<http://mlp.manitobaliberals.ca/?p=310>

“The Manitoba Liberals have previously announced that they will:

- Make major investments in water treatment facilities around Manitoba, starting with a faster, more efficient nutrient treatment plant for the City of Winnipeg;
- Immediately ban the use of phosphorus in automatic dishwasher detergents in Manitoba;
- Implement a ban on winter spreading of human and animal manure;
- Encourage water conservation by making low-flow faucets and toilets mandatory in new construction.”

Liberal Announcement – May 7, 2007 – ‘Liberals Launch New Environment Ad’

<http://mlp.manitobaliberals.ca/?p=275>

“Gerrard’s major environment announcement on Earth Day, the second full day of the campaign, set out a plan to clean up Lake Winnipeg that included:

- * Building a water treatment facility for the City of Winnipeg that would save taxpayers \$600 million over the NDP’s plan
- * banning phosphorous in dishwasher detergents, which would reduce contamination by 2%
- * putting an environmental levy on cosmetic fertilizers

Since then, Gerrard has also announced that Liberals would expand the ALUS program, which pays farmers for providing environmental services, including wetlands preservation, best practices for water and drainage, and reducing or “sequestering” greenhouse gases.

He also announced funding for rapid transit and the turning Manitoba Hydro into “Manitoba Energy” with the goal of making it one of the

world's leading public utilities in green energy production, including biodiesel.”

Liberal Announcement – May 4, 2007 – ‘Liberals offer Smarter, Greener, Livable Winnipeg’

<http://mlp.manitobaliberals.ca/?p=265>

“Smart planning means creating denser neighbourhoods where people and businesses live side-by-side (or one on top of the other) and are well-supported by public transit. It also means locating malodorous industrial operations, such as the proposed OlyWest plant, outside of city limits and committing to biking and hiking trails, urban green spaces, community gardens, and other measures that make urban communities livable cities.”

“Manitoba Liberals will:

- Commit \$75 million in immediate provincial funding for high-speed transit, including the option of light rail, based on discussions with the City of Winnipeg in the first 90 days of a Liberal government;
- Increase transit ridership, starting in the first year with free transit passes on weekends for seniors and post-secondary students and reduced fares for seniors and post-secondary students on weekdays;
- Put priority on provincial incentives for urban ‘infill’ developments, especially multi-family developments and mixed-use developments where appropriate, in city centres and surrounding neighbourhoods
- Require large industrial hog plants and other malodorous operations to be located outside of municipal limits as is the case in Brandon and Neepawa
- Place a priority on adequate funding for biking and hiking trails, urban green spaces, community gardens, and alternative green space designs that quiet and beautify communities.”

Liberal Announcement – April 29, 2007 – ‘Green Liberal economy will produce big benefits for rural Manitoba’

<http://mlp.manitobaliberals.ca/?p=230>

If elected, a Liberal government will expand Western Manitoba’s successful Alternate Land Use Services (ALUS) pilot program province-wide Dr. Gerrard pledged.”

“Dr. Gerrard also said Liberals want to make the development of renewable fuel alternatives in Manitoba a major priority.”

“Some key elements of the Manitoba Liberal’s Agricultural Policy already unveiled this past week are:

- * Take the successful ALUS program province-wide within four years;
- * Provide a partial subsidy for testing biodiesel quality to better grow the emerging industry;
- * Set a goal of no net loss of wetlands alongside a commitment to give farmers a legal right to drain land zoned as cropland that is balanced by support for the expanded ALUS program;
- * Promote water retention initiatives such as the one that exists on South Tobacco Creek.”

Liberal Announcement – April 28, 2007 – ‘Gerrard showcases Liberal plans for Hydro in AGM speech’

<http://mlp.manitobaliberals.ca/?p=229>

“Should the Liberals form the next provincial government, Dr. Gerrard said Manitoba Hydro will be given an expanded mandate to cover not only the generation of hydro-electricity in the province, but to also work cooperatively with the province’s private sector to build globally competitive partnerships that develop other forms of energy such as wind, bio-diesel, geo-thermal, and solar.”

“The Manitoba Liberals’ plan for Manitoba Hydro includes:

- * Expanding the mandate of Manitoba Hydro to include assisting the development of globally competitive enterprise networks for the generation and sale of alternative forms of energy, including wind, bio-diesel, geo-thermal, solar, and bio-gas capture operations;
- * Establishing a ‘Public Commission into the Future of Manitoba Hydro’ to conduct a grassroots public review of the future direction of Manitoba Hydro and how the public utility can best serve Manitobans in the future;
- * Screening all government appointments to Manitoba Hydro’s Board of Directors by a review committee of the Manitoba Legislature to ensure the highest quality people are selected as board members.”

Liberal Announcement – April 22, 2007 – ‘Liberals announce expansion of wetland conservation’

<http://mlp.manitobaliberals.ca/?p=179>

“. . . I am pleased to announce that a Liberal government will take the ALUS program province-wide within four years. Additionally, a Liberal government will provide a further \$1.8 million in the first year to move the program along.” (Jon Gerrard)

“Wetland restoration and reconstruction has long been a major policy plank for the Manitoba Liberals who have consistently called for a policy

of no net loss of wetland areas for Manitoba as well as beyond-sustainability initiatives to reclaim lost wetlands.”

Liberal Announcement – March 23, 2007 – ‘Liberals first to run carbon-neutral election campaign’

<http://mlp.manitobaliberals.ca/?p=100>

“Manitoba’s Liberals . . . will become the province’s first political party to run a carbon-neutral election campaign. The Liberals also announced their campaign pledge to run a carbon-neutral provincial government in Manitoba.”

Liberal Commitments – 2007 Party Platform – ‘Creating an Environmental Legacy for Future Generations’

http://mlp.manitobaliberals.ca/?page_id=222

“The Manitoba Liberals will make the environment a major priority, engaging governments, producers and citizens alike to embrace environmental best practices, clean up our lakes and rivers, and build a green economy in Manitoba.”

Addressing Climate Change: Reducing Manitoba’s Greenhouse Emissions and Fossil Fuel Consumption

“Manitoba Liberal climate change policy focuses on reducing agricultural emissions, improved energy efficiency, and the development of homegrown renewable energy alternatives.

Encourage people to swap gas guzzlers for energy tea-totallers

“Manitoba Liberals will remove the PST from the most fuel efficient vehicles and provide an additional \$500 bonus for the purchase of a “green” vehicle if owners are taking a gas-guzzling “beater” or SUV off the road.”

Reward Producers for Environmental Services

“Manitoba Liberals will encourage the use of innovative technologies, fertilizers and feed and pay producers to follow best practices both for greenhouse gas reductions and water management.”

Encourage Renewable-Energy Mass Transit

“Manitoba Liberals will require that all transit buses in Manitoba are green by 2012. We will support public transit by providing free transit passes for seniors and post-secondary students, and increase funding for transit to reduce fares for all riders. We will work with the City of Winnipeg to allow carpoolers to drive in bus/taxi lanes.”

Supporting Green Energy Alternatives

“Manitoba Liberals will investigate the development of industrial scale bio-diesel production in Manitoba, including recycling of waste oil as well as primary processing from crops. We will provide incentives for converting existing vehicles to bio-diesel. We will also provide incentives for geothermal heat and wind power generation.”

Increase Conservation Programs Through Hydro

“Manitoba Liberals will encourage aggressive conservation programs including improved consumer retrofits and encouraging companies and institutions to use waste heat to generate their own power. These measures can help create jobs in both construction and high-tech while at the same time freeing up more power for export.”

Cleaning Up The Sixth Great Lake: Lake Winnipeg

“Manitoba Liberals propose a comprehensive strategy to deal with the problem through better regulation, new investments in clean water infrastructure, encouraging environmental best practices and a sustained lobbying effort to encourage other provinces and states to reduce their impact on the Lake Winnipeg watershed.”

Make a Major Investment in Water Treatment Facilities

“Manitoba Liberals will make investing in clean water infrastructure a major priority so that Winnipeg can accelerate the construction of water treatment plants, and so that municipalities can improve their water treatment systems.”

Stronger Regulations

“Immediately Ban phosphorous in dishwashing detergents

... .

Implement a Green Tax on Cosmetic

... .

Ban the practice of spreading of manure on snow

... .

Encourage water conservation by making low-flow faucets and toilets mandatory in new construction, and provide incentives and rebates for their use in retrofits.”

Defend The Lake Winnipeg Watershed

“Manitoba Liberals will join with the Federal Government to lobby States and Provinces whose waters flow into Manitoba to set concrete goals, a timeline, and strategies to reduce the contaminants flowing into our province.”

Reducing Pollution through Prevention, Education and Partnership

“Manitoba Liberals will launch a public education campaign and encourage safe disposal sites at participating stores.”

Better Science for Best Practices

“Manitoba Liberals will fund research for the establishment of a series of small “model” watersheds to do the research required before applying solutions basin-wide.”