

Sources and Full Text for Selected Protected Areas Commitments 2005-2007:

Legislative Assembly Proceedings, Thursday, March 24, 2005

Hydro Minister Chomiak

http://www.gov.mb.ca/legislature/hansard/3rd-38th/vol_26b/h26b.html

* (13:45)

Mr. Chomiak: “Mr. Speaker, one of the issues that came out very prominently in the hearings, the over 80 community hearings that were held with residents of the east side, was broad-based support that that area of the province be declared a UNESCO World Heritage site to preserve the boreal forest, to preserve the natural state, and to preserve the economic way of life of people in those communities.”

Legislative Assembly Proceedings, Monday, May 9, 2005

Conservation Minister Stan Struthers

http://www.gov.mb.ca/legislature/hansard/3rd-38th/vol_43/h43.html#con

Mr. Struthers: I think maybe the last protected area that I want to key in on a little bit is the UNESCO World Heritage site that we have been working on in conjunction with a number of First Nations in the area, in conjunction with Pikangikum from across the Ontario border and also in conjunction with the federal government. It is an example of what governments can do when they get together, take an issue seriously and really be guided by elders in communities, by chiefs and councils in communities that want and need to have a say in many of these issues.

Manitoba New Democrat, Interview with Conservation Minister Stan Struthers, Winter 2005

The NDP government recently announced that it would be leading the campaign to have the boreal forest on the east side of Lake Winnipeg declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Why did it make this decision?

Stan Struthers;

“...One of the report’s recommendations was that the Manitoba government play an active role in promoting the [World Heritage Site] site in order to protect the integrity of the boreal environment. The site would include the traditional territories...as a protected area in their sacred trust. We’re embracing this recommendation because it’s the right thing to do. It’s the right thing to do not only in terms of promoting eco-tourism and recognizing the hard work of the Aboriginal communities in safeguarding their traditional territories, but most of all in terms of finally, respecting the decisions of the people of the east side concerning their own way of life and respecting the treaties we signed so many years ago.”

Manitoba Government – Green and Growing – Protecting Our Natural Areas

December 2005

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/greenandgrowing/green.pdf>

(page 17)

“We will build on this by:

* setting the goal of permanently designating five new, major protected areas by 2010 - adding to our growing network, including the six provincial parks designated since 1999

...

* introducing new special protection and management designations that recognize unique areas such as Little Limestone Lake, the traditional territories of Little Grand and Pauingassi First Nations, sacred sites and urban green spaces”

(page 20)

“We will build on this by:

...

* ensuring as hydropower development in Manitoba expands that the east side boreal area remains intact and not harmed by any new electricity transmission projects”

Manitoba Government – Climate and Green Initiatives – Climate Change Action - A Priority for Manitobans

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/est/climate/index.html>

“Manitoba has brought in measures to protect the boreal forest, water quality and polar bears.”

Manitoba Government – Climate and Green Initiatives – Forestry

http://www.gov.mb.ca/est/climate/mb_doing/forestry.html

“Managing Our Forests to Enhance Carbon Storage

Opportunities exist, however, to adapt to and benefit from these changes. For example, with careful planning, forests could be managed as carbon sinks.”

“Some communities have put forward a proposal to have their traditional territories, along with the Atikaki Wilderness Park and land on the Ontario side of the border, nominated for a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Manitoba government supports this effort and has brought together First Nations governments and the governments of Ontario and Canada to further this work.”

Manitoba Government – Seeing Green – Parks, Protected Areas and Recreational Spaces

Undated – but since January 2006 and at least as old as February 2007 (according to internet archive caches)

http://www.manitoba.ca/seeinggreen/protect/nature/parks_and_areas.html

“We will build on our natural treasures by:

* setting the goal of permanently designating five new, major protected areas by 2010”

Government of Manitoba Throne Speech

November 16, 2006

http://www.gov.mb.ca/legislature/hansard/5th-38th/vol_01/h01.html#st

“Our government is committed to protecting wildlife and natural spaces and cleaning up contaminated sites. This year, we listed woodland caribou as threatened under our

Endangered Species Act. In the upcoming year, we will list two bird and three plant species.

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. We will continue to commit funds this year to clean up contaminated areas, including orphaned petroleum sites and abandoned mines.”

Conservation Minister Stan Struthers – Quoted on CPAWS Manitoba Website

Undated - sometime in 2007

<http://www.cpawsmb.org/>

"I'm very much looking forward, through our provincial government, working toward the permanent protection of the Fisher Bay park reserve." ~ Manitoba Conservation Minister Stan Struthers

Manitoba NDP Responses – Manitoba Wildlands 2007 Provincial Election Survey

March 2007

http://manitobawildlands.org/web_docs/election_mb07_NDP.html#parks

“A re-elected NDP government will maintain protection standards for all existing protected areas”

“We will continue to work towards completing protected areas networks, to represent all natural regions in Manitoba as quickly as possible.”

“New developments must pass through review, consultation, and assessment process such as environmental licensing, consultations with affected Aboriginal communities, etc. prior to a new license being issued. The protection of environmentally or culturally significant areas not already protected will be addressed as a part of this process.”

“The establishment of protected areas remains a priority and we will continue to work at completing protected areas networks in forestry license areas.”

2007 Manitoba Budget Address – Protecting Our Environment

April 4, 2007

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/finance/budget07/speech/speech16.html>

“We are working with the City of Winnipeg to add further protected areas to our network.”

“Budget 2007 supports First Nations-led efforts to:

- secure a UNESCO World Heritage designation, putting this spectacular region on the world map;”

NDP Announcement – ‘Today’s NDP moves forward with East Side protection’

May 11, 2007

<http://manitobawildlands.org/pdfs/NDP-EnvCommnts07Elect.pdf>

“Today’s NDP will move forward to protect the East Side of Lake Winnipeg by introducing a new legislative tool for protecting designated areas and implementing land use plans”

“The proposed legislation will create a new protected areas designation, which would allow East Side First Nations to create and implement their land-use plans and ensure the area is protected in a way that is consistent with the establishment of a UNESCO World Heritage Site on the East Side of Lake Winnipeg.”

“The new legislation will be drafted in consultation with First Nations and will encourage communities like Poplar River First Nation to implement their land-use plan and continue working toward the creation of a UNESCO world heritage site, while permanently protecting Poplar-Nanowin Rivers Park Reserve.”

NDP Announcement – ‘Moving forward in partnership with Aboriginal Manitobans’

May 15, 2007

<http://manitobawildlands.org/pdfs/NDP-EnvCommnts07Elect.pdf>

- “Introduce legislation to create a new protected-areas designation, which would allow East Side First Nations like Poplar River to create and implement their land-use plans and ensure the area is protected in a way that is consistent with the establishment of a UNESCO World Heritage Site on the East Side of Lake Winnipeg.”

NDP Announcement – ‘1,500 scientists urge saving Canada’s boreal forest’

May 17, 2007

<http://manitobawildlands.org/pdfs/NDP-EnvCommnts07Elect.pdf>

“The NDP has pledged that no hydro development will take place on the East Side and is working in partnership with First Nations to ensure Manitoba’s vast boreal forest is protected.”