



**2011 Manitoba Election
Survey #1**
Lake Winnipeg



Green Party Response – Received August 18, 2011

If elected, will your party:

- 1) **Make sure public hearings, announced by the Selinger government regarding the health and regulations of Lake Winnipeg, are held within six months?**

Yes, hearing should have been held more than 3 decades ago, before we regulated the lake, we need to get on with it ASAP.

- 2) **Put in place funding for public participants for preparation and participation in the Lake Winnipeg hearings?**

Yes, participant funding is vital to ensuring that concerned citizens and organizations can provide their input, and therefore all angles are considered.

- 3) **Make sure this participant funding is at least as much as participant funding for the Wuskwatim hearings?**

Likely yes, but unaware of total amount of funding given for Wuskwatim. Need more information to answer fully.

- 4) **Keep on line the schedule, presentations, transcript, and all evidence for the hearings before, during and after the hearings?**

Yes, access to information and a clear record is vital, not just during the hearings, but also as historically as time passes.

- 5) **Give Clean Environment Commission hearings a clear mandate that includes the health of the lake over time, status of the lake system, public policies and**

past assessments, and economic factors in relation to regulation of the lake for 40 years?

Yes, review should be as broad as possible so that all factors can be considered.

- 6) Make sure participant funding is administered by an agency other than the agency managing the hearings?

Yes, this would help to prevent any conflicts of interest.

- 7) Put regulatory mechanisms in place for protection of waters adjacent to, inside, flowing into, and for marshes, wetlands, or islands in Lake Winnipeg?

Yes, regulatory policy should be broadly construed to protect all of Manitoba's waters.

- 8) Ensure this protection meets the protection standard for waters inside protected areas in Manitoba that has been in place for 20 years?

Yes, moreover we would work to improve and enhance protection standards (e.g. creating protection standards for waters inside provincial parks).

- 9) Establish a Lake Winnipeg Commission with the resources and regulatory ability to guide a science-based recovery of Lake Winnipeg?

Yes, the Commission should include both experts, and concerned citizens and organizations as well.

- 10) Provide the Lake Winnipeg Commission oversight on environmental proposals, licenses or dispositions, which may impact Lake Winnipeg?

Yes.

- 11) Put consistent, predictable annual funding in place for the Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium?
Yes.
- 12) Provide multi year funding for the Lake Winnipeg Foundation to support delivery of its mandate and mission?
Yes.
- 13) Put in place meaningful consultations with Aboriginal Peoples regarding Lake decision-making that may impact rights?
Yes.
- 14) Invest in research, public education, Lake reports, data collection, and a virtual library about Lake Winnipeg?
Yes, access to information and transparency is key for both scientific research and citizen empowerment.
- 15) Support citizen science, lake monitoring, and ongoing reporting about the Lake, its marshes, wetlands, shoreline, and species?
Yes.
- 16) Support shoreline inventory guidelines to provide guidance for management, protection, and monitoring of shoreline systems?
Yes, establishing the “ordinary high water mark” has become difficult in the post hydro water regulation era.
- 17) Remove both Nitrogen and Phosphorous at water treatment plants?
Yes.
- 18) Have a public plan with benchmarks and reports back - to protect Lake Winnipeg watershed?
Yes, reporting is vital to track progress.

