



## **2011 Manitoba Election Survey #1**

### **Lake Winnipeg**



**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. A Liberal government will act quickly and decisively to save Lake Winnipeg. A Liberal government will act immediately to set up a Lake Winnipeg Authority which will conduct the public hearings and take actions, including regulations, to help improve the situation of Lake Winnipeg.**
  
- 2) Put in place funding for public participants for preparation and participation in the Lake Winnipeg hearings? A decision on public funding will be made by the Lake Winnipeg Authority.**
  
- 3) Make sure this participant funding is at least as much as participant funding for the Wuskwatim hearings? A decision on public funding and the extent to which it occurs will be made by the Lake Winnipeg Authority. The Lake Winnipeg Authority will have a Scientific Advisory Committee and the ability to commission research studies needed for its decisions.**
  
- 4) Keep on line the schedule, presentations, transcript, and all evidence for the hearings before, during and after the hearings? Yes.**
  
- 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? Manitoba Liberals will give a clear mandate to the Lake Winnipeg Authority which includes the health of the lake over time, public policies and past assessments and economic factors in relation to regulation of the lake for 40 years.**

- 6) Make sure participant funding is administered by an agency other than the agency managing the hearings? **The Lake Winnipeg Authority will make decisions about participant funding.** If there are any questions of bias, Liberals will consider putting in place an independent appeal process.
- 7) Put regulatory mechanisms in place for protection of waters adjacent to, inside, flowing into, and for marshes, wetlands, or islands in Lake Winnipeg? **The Lake Winnipeg Authority will have regulatory powers with regard to protection of shorelines, marshes, wetlands and islands in Lake Winnipeg.**
- 8) Ensure this protection meets the protection standard for waters inside protected areas in Manitoba that has been in place for 20 years? **Manitoba Liberals see that Manitoba needs marine protected areas to be established for critically sensitive ecosystems around Lake Winnipeg with regulations surrounding such marine protected areas to be established.**
- 9) Establish a Lake Winnipeg Commission with the resources and regulatory ability to guide a science-based recovery of Lake Winnipeg? **Manitoba Liberals will establish a Lake Winnipeg Authority with the resources and regulatory ability to provide for science-based management of Lake Winnipeg.**
- 10) Provide the Lake Winnipeg Commission oversight on environmental proposals, licenses or dispositions, which may impact Lake Winnipeg? **The Lake Winnipeg Authority will have the ability to make regulations with respect to Lake Winnipeg and restoring the health of Lake Winnipeg.**
- 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**
- 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**
- 17) **Remove both Nitrogen and Phosphorous at water treatment plants?** Manitoba Liberals support the science which shows that removal of phosphorous from municipal sewage is a critical step in reducing excessive algal growth on Lake Winnipeg. In addition to ensuring Winnipeg's sewage treatment removes nitrogen at the earliest possible time, Manitoba Liberals will act to ensure removal of phosphorous by municipal treatment plants and sewage lagoon throughout the province, with timelines and transition plans to be developed and implemented.

We add the following: A large contributor to the algae blooms and the Lake's poor health is high phosphorous levels in the Lake. Liberals will reduce the phosphorous levels

in Lake Winnipeg by eliminating the use of commercial as well as household dishwater detergents with phosphorous, reducing the use of phosphorous in fertilizers used for lawns and golf courses, replacing the use of phosphorous as an additive to our drinking water, accelerating the removal of phosphorous from the City of Winnipeg's sewage, requiring the injection of hog manure into the ground when it is spread in the summer, and putting strict limits on the amount of phosphorous being discharged from all municipal sewage lagoons.

Liberals will also fight to protect the health of other lakes, such as Killarney Lake. Efforts on these smaller watersheds will be very important in building the necessary knowledge to clean up Lake Winnipeg. These efforts will include not just reducing phosphorus inputs but also reducing the phosphorus burden in the Lake and its sediments. The implementation of a provincial water management system will also yield a substantial reduction in phosphorus in Manitoba waterways.

Manitoba is blessed with abundant lakes and rivers. Already there are a number of initiatives established to help with the management of our waterways and our watersheds. Among these are the Red River Basin Commission, and the Lake Manitoba Stewardship Board. Liberals recognize the importance of local involvement in water stewardship and will set up additional Stewardship Boards for the Assiniboine River Basin, the Saskatchewan River Basin, and for the combined Nelson and Churchill River Basins. Liberals will also look to the need to convert such boards into authorities over time with the power to act to manage the watersheds.

18)       **Have a public plan with benchmarks and reports back - to protect  
Lake Winnipeg watershed? Yes**

