



2011 Manitoba Election Survey #5

Protected Areas, Parks, & World Heritage Site



If elected, will your party:

- 1) Maintain protection standards for all existing protected areas?**

Yes this is MB Liberal policy.

- 2) Fulfill public consultations steps for areas identified for protected status?**

We always believe in full consultation, yes.

- 3) Renew the memorandum of understanding with First Nations for establishment of new protected areas, maintaining conservation principles in the MOU?**

Yes this is MB Liberal policy.

- 4) Establish new protected areas in agro-Manitoba?**

We will likely look to do so but we do not have specific areas in mind at this time.

- 5) Make public location of conservation easement lands?**

We have no issue with this.

- 6) Review community pastures for protection of lands and grazing rights?**

We are willing to explore and discuss.

- 7) Resume technical steps to identify further options for protected lands inside Shilo DND base?**

This requires discussion with stakeholders, and is not our immediate priority – we would need to initiate discussion.

- 8) Work to establish new protected areas in the Hudson Bay area, starting with the 8 candidates along the west coast?**

We support new protected areas here.

- 9) **Review data for protected areas establishment since 1990 and post updated details, including size, location, and regulatory steps for each designation?**

We support it.

- 10) **Update Protected Areas Initiatives (PAI) maps regularly, making them public?**

We support it.

- 11) **Update regularly protected area, and crown land designation data on the Manitoba Lands Initiative website?**

We support it.

- 12) **Dedicate resources to support the Protected Areas Initiative, returning to former staff levels?**

We would work towards this but we cannot commit to full levels until we better understand our ability – we definitely support working towards it.

- 13) **Put clear job descriptions, and lines of authority in place for establishment of protected areas?**

Yes.

- 14) **Put management plans in place for all protected areas in Manitoba?**

Within time, but we will need to determine a timetable.

- 15) **Ensure any new Wildlife Management Area is assessed so it can meet protection standards?**

We will work towards it.

- 16) **Establish protected area management standards for rivers, open waters, lakes, shorelines etc.?**

Yes.

- 17) **Complete and make public the Systems Plan for parks and protected areas in Manitoba?**

Yes.

- 18) **Protect more lands and waters inside existing provincial parks?**

Yes,

- 19) **Finish steps to protect lands in Atikaki Park South?**

Yes.

- 20) **Establish special management areas adjacent to provincial parks and other protected areas?**

Yes.

- 21) **Increase the number of Ecological Reserve, acting on the listing of 50 under consideration?**

We would work towards it.

- 22) **Update to the 2003 Manitoba Action Plan for the Network of Protected Areas in a manner consistent with current protection standards, public policy, design standards and ecological principles?**

Yes.

- 23) **Fulfill NDP commitments to have protected areas networks in place before any new or extended forest management license is issued, and prior to a five year renewal of quote holders permits?**

Yes.

- 24) **Fulfill NDP commitment to establish an advisory committee regarding protection of boreal areas, including valuation of carbon inside boreal protected areas?**

Yes.

- 25) **Complete review of potential sites, 'areas of special interest' for protected areas?**

Absolutely yes.

- 26) **Avoid development on 100 candidates/ areas of special interest sites until review is complete, decisions in place?**

We support this.

- 27) **Establish 'marine' protected areas in Lake Winnipeg and Hudson Bay?**

Yes.

- 28) **Improve mapping for crown land designations, protected areas and parks so water bodies are identified and indicated as protected or not?**

Yes.

29) Post the surveys for all crown land designations, including protected areas?

Yes.

30) Honour First Nations nominations for establishment of protected areas, parks, or special land management areas?

We would work towards this, yes.

31) Include consultations with Aboriginal peoples in steps for establishment of any new park, or protected area?

Yes.

32) Make public the procedures for review, consultation, establishment, and regulatory steps to establish protected areas in Manitoba.

Yes

33) Make available to First Nations involved in the world heritage site nomination agreements, and regulation language under discussion with their neighbours?

Yes.

34) Return to the table with Manitoba's mining sector to resume joint technical reviews, mineral assessment, and ranking in relation to new protected areas?

Yes.

35) Act on remaining candidate sites for new protected areas from previous mining sector reviews?

Yes

36) Complete networks of protected areas for boreal forest region in Manitoba?

Manitoba Liberals believe that we must be vigorous stewards of our environment. Our vision is to provide Manitobans with an unparalleled quality of life with clean air, high quality water, a natural environment that we have respected and cared for, and opportunities for Manitobans to enjoy the outdoors.

We will complete a province-wide network of protected areas representing all major natural habitats in the province. Liberals will also include a review of water, including underwater habitat that is critical for fish or other water species, for possible protected area status. Liberals strongly support the proposed World Heritage Site

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initiative, as it provides economic, environmental, and cultural benefits to local communities and the province at large.

Within its first six months in office, a Liberal government will convene a meeting of all Boreal Forest stakeholders, to develop a long-term plan to manage and protect this vital natural resource. Manitoba Liberals see the Forest's protection as critical in the fight against climate change and as an important natural legacy that must be preserved for future generations. Liberals also see the potential of the Forest to generate thousands of jobs, through such activities as eco-tourism and the sustainable harvesting of natural resources.

The Manitoba Liberal Party was the first political party to provide active support for the preservation of the Upper Fort Garry site as a major heritage site and tourist attraction. Initially, the NDP supported the development of a large high rise building on this site. However, after much public pressure, the NDP decided to follow the Liberal lead, and Gary Doer suggested in 2008 that the site might become a provincial park. Liberals have been strong supporters of this option and supported the legislation brought forward in 2010 to achieve this goal. Liberals will continue to support the development of the Upper Fort Garry Provincial Park and Heritage Site.

Lowlands National Park: In the mid 1990s, work was done to identify land for a National Park in the Interlake region of Manitoba. A major portion of the park was to be located on Long Point and the adjacent region of the Interlake just south of Grand Rapids. A second major part was identified on the northwest side of Limestone Bay, north of Grand Rapids. In eleven years, the NDP has made virtually no progress in moving towards this National Park. A Liberal government would work to bring this new national park into existence, collaborating with the federal government, and with First Nations and Metis peoples in the region.