



## **2011 Manitoba Election Survey #2**

### **Licensing & Environment Act**



**If elected, will your party:**

- 1) **Require effects assessment for renewal or extension of long-term resource extraction licenses? Manitoba Liberals will review the procedures for renewal and/or extension of long-term resource extraction licenses recognizing that the process has been slow and inadequate under the NDP.**
  
- 2) **Make sure environmental and licensing standards for public works (public funds, lands, use) are available prior to reviews, etc.? Manitoba Liberals will review environmental and licensing standards for public works and put in place improved approaches for reviews.**
  
- 3) **Hold public hearings for any multi year extended, renewed or new forestry or mill license? Manitoba Liberals recognize that public participation is a vital part of ensuring good decisions are made with respect to forestry resources in Manitoba. Manitoba Liberals also recognize that the NDP have been negligent in ensuring public participation in many facets of public policy including renewals of forestry and mill licenses. It is the Manitoba Liberal Party's intent that any renewal or new forestry mill license which covers a period of five years or more (for a single license, or a series of licences) will include public hearings.**
  
- 4) **Appoint a Manitoba environment auditor with powers to obtain information, advise ministers, audit licences, review decisions? Manitoba Liberals recognize the need for environmental audits and indeed have on at least one occasion requested such an audit be done by the Auditor General. Rather than put in place a separate environment auditor, Manitoba Liberals will act to ensure that the Auditor General has the powers and expertise needed and will undertake thorough environmental audits.**

- 5) **Conduct public and stakeholders reviews in order to update Manitoba's Environment Act? Manitoba Liberals recognize the need to update Manitoba's Environment Act and will in the first two years of their mandate undertake public and stakeholder reviews to look at changes that are needed.**
- 6) **Provide a citizens guide to Manitoba government public registries? Yes**
- 7) **Fulfill the federal-provincial EA harmonization agreement? Manitoba Liberals recognize that other provinces have done better than Manitoba in holding joint federal-provincial environmental reviews. Manitoba Liberals will review the present EA harmonization agreement with a view to improving the process in the future.**
- 8) **Resource the Environment Act public registry so contents of licensing files are known, files are updated, and accessible on a timely basis? Yes**
- 9) **Maintain a complete online listing of public registry file contents? Manitoba Liberals will make sure that the public registry files and their contents are easily searchable so that people can rapidly find the information they need.**
- 10) **Include in public registry files both public review documents, and government comments about Environment Act proposals/licences? Yes**
- 11) **Mandate coordination between clean environment commission records, and environment act proceedings records? Yes**
- 12) **Assist the clean environment commission to make their archives electronic? Yes**
- 13) **Phase out environmental licensing in stages, so elements in an environment act proposal/development are reviewed, made public, reviewed, and licensed together? Manitoba Liberals will review this issue and act to improve the process.**
- 14) **Establish a public list of all grandfathered environment act licences in Manitoba? Yes**

- 15) Put in place automatic triggers for public hearings for large-scale developments? **Manitoba Liberals will review the current process and improve it.**
- 16) Ensure environmental act proposals continue to have public comment periods with comments posted publicly on a timely basis? **Yes**
- 17) Ensure guidelines for a proponent's or developer's environmental statement are public and open for comment prior to filing of that statement? **Manitoba Liberals will ensure both general guidelines for proponents and developers and specific guidelines for specific projects, where they are given, are made public at or shortly after they are provided so that the public can access this information.**
- 18) Ensure contents required for a proponent's EI Statement or scoping document are public when the proponent is informed of these requirements? **Yes, either at the time the proponent is informed or very shortly afterwards.**
- 19) Add to the environment act: environmental assessment, public registry, clean environment commission regulations? **This will be a part of the environment act review. Manitoba Liberals will listen to presentations made during the review and make changes. We expect these changes will be included, but will not prejudge the review process.**
- 20) Provide environmental statement standards, for use in similar projects such as: wind energy projects, waste water systems, road networks, transmission systems, energy generation stations, causeways, floodways? **Yes, Manitoba Liberals will provide general environmental standards, as well as those specific to specific projects.**