PC Response – Received September 7, 2011



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.

- 2) Put in place funding for public participants for preparation and participation in the Lake Winnipeg hearings? Yes.
- 3) Make sure this participant funding is at least as much as participant funding for the Wuskwatim hearings? We will consider this idea.
- 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?

The mandate provided to the CEC for the public hearings will be clear and comprehensive.

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

We will consider this idea.

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

Winnipeg?

We would explore the use of protected areas.

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

See response to #7. We will consider this.

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

We are committed to the development of a long-term, science-based strategy aimed at restoring the health of Lake Winnipeg. We will work with all stakeholders to determine the best policies and mechanisms to achieve this.

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

See response to #9.

- 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?

We will consider this.

- 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?

Leading scientists have repeatedly stated that a focus on phosphorus reductions is key to limiting algae production and to helping restore the health of bodies of water such as Lake Winnipeg. We will support an aggressive plan to reduce phosphorus loading into our lakes.

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

Yes.