

Q: Will you and your party renew the Lake Winnipeg Basin Program in Budget 2022?

A: I will commit to ensuring that a re-elected Liberal Government renews the Lake Winnipeg Basin Program in Budget 2022. The current 2021 Liberal Platform pledges to renew the Freshwater Action Plan in 2022, of which the Lake Winnipeg Basin Program is a major component. The pledged scale of investment for the Freshwater Action Plan is \$100 million per year for ten years, an almost tenfold increase in the current program which allocates \$70 million over five years.

I have publicly stated that I will press for a multifold increase in funding for the Lake Winnipeg Basin Program over the previous 2017-2022 program amount. Present funding levels (\$25.7 million over five years) are not adequate to meet the challenges Lake Winnipeg faces, including the impacts of climate change and increasing nutrient loads.

Please note that the Conservative Party platform commits to leaving freshwater funding at the current inadequate levels. The NDP platform refers to launching a freshwater strategy but does not highlight Lake Winnipeg or list any costing.

Q: Will you and your party commit to using LWCBMN data to target federal dollars to phosphorus hotspots?

A: The federal Liberal government, along with other partners, currently supports the critical work of the Lake Winnipeg Community-Based Monitoring Network (LWCBMN) in identifying phosphorus hotspots so that efforts to reduce nutrient loading can be targeted and effective. I will commit to, and advocate for, increased funding to support the LWCBMN's work in Manitoba, interprovincially and across the Canada/US border. I am also committed to ensuring that data from LWCBMN is utilized to target and direct federal investments to phosphorus hotspots.

More needs to be done to support watershed districts, Indigenous communities, volunteer citizen scientists and research institutions, like the Centre for Earth Observation Science at the University of Manitoba, in collecting monitoring data. Robust data will allow federal, provincial, municipal, and Indigenous governments to work together to prioritize phosphorus hotspots, and focus investments in sewage treatment and land management to reduce nutrient loading to Lake Winnipeg.

Q: Will you and your party establish and fund an Indigenous-led task force to ensure meaningful inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge in all future reporting and public policy processes for Lake Winnipeg?

A: The incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge into reporting and public policy processes is critical to the success of watershed management in the Lake Winnipeg Basin. I support establishing and funding an Indigenous-led task force to ensure that the contributions of traditional knowledge are sustained and

strengthened. In this way, Indigenous Knowledge and western science together can help us reach our shared goal of restoring the health of Lake Winnipeg.

I believe it is essential that First Nations and Métis leadership from across the basin be engaged to drive the design and structure of the task force so that it reflects the priorities and worldviews of the communities they represent.