



**LAKE  
WINNIPEG  
FOUNDATION**

## **Federal candidates respond to Lake Winnipeg questions 2015**

News

LWF

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Fresh water matters to us, and we know it matters to our members and supporters.

In the lead-up to Canada's election, we wanted to learn more about how federal parties and candidates plan to address the challenges facing Lake Winnipeg.

We sent four questions - focused on solutions for Lake Winnipeg - to all Manitoba candidates representing the four federal parties running a full slate. We also contacted each party's national headquarters.

### **Question 1**

Canada currently has an \$88 billion water infrastructure deficit (Our Living Waters Call to Action for the Next Government of Canada). Increasingly frequent extreme weather events caused by a changing climate are introducing additional uncertainties and costs. The City of Winnipeg's North End Water Pollution Control Centre, immediately upstream of Lake Winnipeg, is the fourth-largest phosphorus polluter among all wastewater treatment facilities in Canada (National Pollutant Release Inventory, Environment Canada) and costs for much-needed upgrades continue to rise. How will your party address Canada's water infrastructure deficit to protect our fresh water in the context of a changing climate?

### **Question 2**

Across the vast prairie landscape that drains into Lake Winnipeg, approximately 17.5 hectares of wetland habitat are destroyed every day (Ducks Unlimited Canada). Without these natural ecosystems to act as filters for melt and storm water, excess nutrients continue to flow unchecked into Lake Winnipeg, causing harmful algae blooms. Wetland destruction also exacerbates drought and flooding at enormous cost. In 2011 alone, flood-related costs in Manitoba exceeded \$1.2 billion (Manitoba 2011 Flood Review Task Force Report). A strong, coordinated approach to wetland protection is necessary in the Prairie provinces. With the health of Lake Winnipeg at stake, time is of the essence; leadership is critical in the next four years. How will your party ensure wetland protection is in place by 2019?

### **Question 3**

The current federal investment in Lake Winnipeg is \$18 million over five years, \$7.4 million of which was administered through the Lake Winnipeg Basin Stewardship Fund (Lake Winnipeg Basin Initiative, Environment Canada). This funding is insufficient, as evidenced by the fact that the fund - intended to last until 2017 - ran out of money in early 2015. How much more will your party invest in new research and coordinated regional solutions to address the root causes of harmful algae blooms in Lake Winnipeg?

### **Question 4**

Strong leadership is necessary to protect Lake Winnipeg and to ensure our solutions are commensurate with the scale of the problem. LWF's Lake Winnipeg Health Plan includes eight concrete, sector-specific actions to restore Lake Winnipeg (The Lake Winnipeg Foundation). Guided by the scientific advice of nationally recognized freshwater researchers, it is now being realized in partnership with conservation organizations, industry associations, educational institutions and community groups. The Lake Winnipeg Health Plan is a vehicle for collaborative action. Will you support this plan? How?

## Where do our future federal leaders stand on Lake Winnipeg?

To help you make an informed decision on Oct. 19, we're now sharing what we learned.

In total, we sent out 58 inquiries. We received responses from 15 individual candidates – eight running for the Liberal Party and seven running for the Green Party – and from one party, the Green Party.

**Edit:** Subsequent to our initial deadline, we received responses from an additional three candidates – one running for the New Democratic Party and two running for the Green Party – and from two additional parties, the Liberal Party and the New Democratic Party.

Below, we've listed the names of all candidates we contacted. Those in bold responded to our questions. We did not edit any responses and are sharing what we received in the format in which we received it.

Click on a bolded name to read the candidate's response.

### **Brandon-Souris**

David Neufeld (Green Party)

Larry Maguire (Conservative Party)

Melissa Wastasecoot (New Democratic Party)

Jodi Wyman (Liberal Party)

### **Charleswood-St James-Assiniboia-Headingley**

[\*\*Doug Eyolfson \(Liberal Party\)\*\*](#)

Steven Fletcher (Conservative Party)

[\*\*Kevin Nichols \(Green Party\)\*\*](#)

### **Churchill-Keewatinook Aski**

Niki Ashton (New Democratic Party)

Rebecca Chartrand (Liberal Party)

[\*\*August Hastmann \(Green Party\)\*\*](#)

### **Dauphin-Swan River-Neepawa**

Laverne Lewycky (New Democratic Party)

[\*\*Ray Piché \(Liberal Party\)\*\*](#)

Robert Sopuck (Conservative Party)

[\*\*Kate Storey \(Green Party\)\*\*](#)

### **Elmwood-Transcona**

[\*\*Daniel Blaikie \(New Democratic Party\)\*\*](#)

[\*\*Kim Parke \(Green Party\)\*\*](#)

[\*\*Andrea Richardson-Lipon \(Liberal Party\)\*\*](#)

Lawrence Toet (Conservative Party)

### **Kildonan-St Paul**

Jim Bell (Conservative Party)

Suzanne Hrynyk (New Democratic Party)

MaryAnn Mihychuk (Liberal Party)

Steven Stairs (Green Party)

### **Portage-Lisgar**

Candace Bergen (Conservative Party)

[Beverley Fert \(Green Party\)](#)

Dean Harder (New Democratic Party)

Ken Werbiski (Liberal Party)

### **Provencher**

Ted Falk (Conservative Party)

Terry Hayward (Liberal Party)

Les Lilley (New Democratic Party)

[Jeff Wheeldon \(Green Party\)](#)

### **Saint Boniface-Saint Vital**

François Catellier (Conservative Party)

Erin Selby (New Democratic Party)

[Dan Vandal \(Liberal Party\)](#)

Glenn Zaretski (Green Party)

### **Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman**

James Bezan (Conservative Party)

Deborah Chief (New Democratic Party)

[Wayne James \(Green Party\)](#)

Joanne Levy (Liberal Party)

### **Winnipeg Centre**

Pat Martin (New Democratic Party)

[Robert-Falcon Ouellette \(Liberal Party\)](#)

Allie Szarkiewicz (Conservative Party)

Don Woodstock (Green Party)

### **Winnipeg North**

Levy Abad (New Democratic Party)

Kevin Lamoureux (Liberal Party)

[John Redekopp \(Green Party\)](#)

Harpreet Turka (Conservative Party)

## **Winnipeg South**

### [\*\*Terry Duguid \(Liberal Party\)\*\*](#)

Gordon Giesbrecht (Conservative Party)

Brianne Goertzen (New Democratic Party)

### [\*\*Adam Smith \(Green Party\)\*\*](#)

## **Winnipeg South Centre**

Joyce Bateman (Conservative Party)

### [\*\*Jim Carr \(Liberal Party\)\*\*](#)

Matt Henderson (New Democratic Party)

### [\*\*Andrew Park \(Green Party\)\*\*](#)

## **No response from your candidate?**

Feel free to use our questions to reach out to those running in your riding. (If you get a response, let us know!)

Want to learn more about what Canada's political parties are saying about Lake Winnipeg and fresh water? Follow the links below.

[Conservative Party website](#)

[Green Party response to LWF questions](#)

[Liberal Party response to LWF questions](#)

[New Democratic Party response to LWF questions](#)

### **Tags:**

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