

1) “Will you and your party renew the Lake Winnipeg Basin Program in Budget 2022?”

The Lake Winnipeg Basin Program is a key component to understanding and preventing damage to our great natural resources. The Nelson River Basin, one of the largest and most productive waterway systems in the north, is directly fed by Lake Winnipeg. Any efforts to reduce blue-green algal blooms that directly affect Manitobans downstream helps ensure the constituents of Churchill-Keewatinook Aski have quality waterways for cultural, commercial, and social uses. Renewing and ensuring sustained support for the Lake Winnipeg Basin Program is critical to this end.

2) “Will you and your party commit to using LWCBMN data to target federal dollars to phosphorus hotspots?”

Acknowledging the effects surplus phosphorus has on Lake Winnipeg, the Lake Winnipeg Community-Based Monitoring Network ensures that data is collected to help identify phosphorus hotspots. This community data helps develop a better understanding to tackle the problems on Lake Winnipeg. For communities on the east side of Lake Winnipeg like Poplar River, Wanipigow, and Bloodvein, the threat posed by phosphorus caused algal blooms directly threatens their livelihood to fish their traditional sites. The economic, cultural, and spiritual significance of this sacred great lake cannot be overstated.

3) “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?”

Historically, Indigenous knowledge has often been ignored by those in government. Establishing an Indigenous-led taskforce is essential to ensuring traditional knowledge is used in collaboration with scientific research to enrich the quality of data. First Nations and Métis people deserve a voice in bringing the essential indigenous knowledge of Lake Winnipeg to help inform policy and management.