

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 bluegreen 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. I support the initiatives that the Lake Winnipeg Foundation and the Lake Winnipeg Indigenous Collective do to improve the health of our waterways. From hydroelectricity to tourism, fisheries to cultural significance, the health of Lake Winnipeg affects us all. We need a government who will listen to scientists who rely on this community-based data, while ensuring that Indigenous knowledge holders actively have a seat at the table. Communities who rely on the Lake Winnipeg Basin Program deserve sustained support and funding, not empty promises