



August 19, 2019

We Fish. We Hunt. We Trap. We Vote

Questions for our Political Leaders in Advance of the September 10, 2019 Manitoba General Election

The Manitoba Wildlife Federation, celebrating our 75th Anniversary in 2019, is the oldest conservation organization in Manitoba. We are also the largest, with over 14,000 members in every part of the province. We deeply value our angling, hunting and trapping heritage, promoting safe and ethical practices. We advocate for laws that ensure the sustainability of our shared resources and work collaboratively with like-minded individuals and organizations. We request that you provide written answers to our questions in advance of the provincial election. Your responses will be shared with our members through our social media channels. We thank you in advance for taking the time to respond to issues of importance to our members. Your responses can be emailed to our office at info@mwf.mb.ca.

Yours in Conservation

Brian Strauman
President

cc: MLAs of each political party



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1. Shared Management – The enactment of Bill 29 (Safe Hunting and Shared Management) provides important mechanisms to limit the dangerous practice of night hunting, as well as to create a more inclusive and collaborative approach termed Shared Management. These are extremely important issues to our members. Will you support the development of legislation (regulations) under the Act to fully implement the restrictions on night hunting and implement the process for Shared Management in 2019?
2. Enforcement – The number of Conservation Officers in Manitoba has declined significantly in the last 20 years, from 140 to approximately 90. We have the utmost respect for these guardians of our fish and wildlife resources, but officers are now spread too thinly over the province to effectively enforce fisheries and wildlife regulations. Enforcement of the commercial fishing regulations on Lake Winnipeg over the last few years has almost been absent. What will you do to enhance recruitment and retention of officers, as well as to return the number of field officers to a more appropriate level, thereby ensuring an adequate level of enforcement?
3. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) – is a fatal disease of members of the deer family (deer, elk, moose, caribou) and has been propagated globally by the practice of game ranching. CWD has been detected in wild populations of deer in Saskatchewan, within a few km of the Manitoba border. The prion that causes the disease can be taken up by agricultural crops, potentially jeopardizing Canada's multibillion-dollar agricultural industry, and can potentially impact human health (as occurred with a related disease – mad cow). What specific actions will you take to a) keep Manitoba CWD free, b) support the enhancement of monitoring for the disease in wild populations in Manitoba, and c) respond should CWD be detected in Manitoba?
4. Third Party Certification of Manitoba's Great Lakes Fisheries – third party certification processes are extremely common in the forest industry and are becoming more common in marine and inland fisheries. Certification greatly improve resource management, enhances sustainability (something that our fisheries on Lake Winnipeg,

in particular require), enhances data collection on which better informed decisions can be made and provides a much-needed process for all stakeholders/partners to have a hand in decision-making of the resource. Will your party support and resource the effort needed to have the fisheries of our great lakes certified to third party systems such as the Marine Stewardship Council standards?

5. Hunter and Angler Recruitment and Retention – Our organization administers the provincial Hunter Safety (Education) program as well as provides other hunting and shooting skills training. In 2019, we also began developing training programs for people (including immigrants to Manitoba) who have not fished before in our Province. How will your party support our efforts of introducing a new generation of hunters and anglers to these life-long activities?