



FOR ALL OF US

MANITOBA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

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?

The Manitoba NDP supports improvements to safe hunting practices, and we are committed to supporting positive collaboration between the provincial government and indigenous governments in order to realize the goal of shared management of big game populations. We know regulations and laws are needed to fully realize the goal of shared management, and changes that impact indigenous hunting, must meet the province's constitutional obligations of consultation with indigenous groups as well as our commitment to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It is clear there needs to be a reset amongst the relationship between the province and indigenous groups on this file in order to fulfill the goal of shared management: the safe and responsible regulation of hunting in Manitoba and the ending of all unsafe hunting practices in our province. We are committed to re-setting this relationship and are committed to ending unsafe hunting practices that endanger lives.

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?

The NDP will begin by filling existing vacancies for Conservation Officers. We also know the ability to bargain wages and other benefits is key to attracting and retaining staff. We will repeal the Pallister PCs wage freeze legislation and permit workers and their representatives to bargain in good faith. Finally, we will consult with front line workers regarding the determination of an appropriate staffing level and human resource plan.

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?

We know the threat of CWD is real. The best way to keep Manitoba CWD free is through information sharing, collaboration across governments and jurisdictions, and education and awareness. Enhanced surveillance and monitoring of the animal population – as well as timely testing and results sharing – are two steps we are committed to helping support. We are committed to supporting the development of the Dauphin Big Game Health Laboratory in order to ensure timely results and accurate information is distributed. We are also committed to considering further expanding the surveillance zone for CWD to ensure accurate monitoring of animal populations.

In the event of detection of CWD in Manitoba, we would first coordinate with those proximate and relevant authorities to the incident to confirm the disease’s presence and determine the extent of an outbreak. The management of an outbreak requires timely coordination and management – and it requires an evidence-based response. Containment is key and culling herds where necessary in event of an outbreak. We are prepared to collaborate with stakeholders to develop regulations on the transportation of potentially diseased meat as well as to examine controls on game ranches in the province.

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?

We know Manitoba's fisheries have been thrown into disarray and disorganization these past several years. We know stability, certainty and science ought to be the guiding principles on which fisheries management is based. We also know the health of our lakes must be supported through measures to reduce nutrient loads and decrease other sources of pollution. We are committed to working with all stakeholders, groups, co-operatives and communities that make use of our lakes and fisheries in order to ensure decisions regarding fisheries and lake certification is based on consensus, cooperation and science.

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?

We know hunting and fishing is enjoyed by many Manitobans and it is important to do so safely and respectfully. Proper education, awareness and training is key. Safely engaging in these activities is one way to see and experience our beautiful province. We support efforts to provide hunting safety and fishing education. We commit to working cooperatively and collaboratively with the Manitoba Wildlife Federation to ensure you can fulfill your mandate with all stakeholder groups to ensure hunting and angling is practiced safely and responsibly in our province.