

James Bezan, Conservative Party, Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman

James Bezan, Conservative candidate in Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman issued the following statement on the importance of Lake Winnipeg's health and the current algae blooms:

"The annual recurrence of algae blooms on Lake Winnipeg and Lake Manitoba are devastating to the local environment, tourism, commercial fishing industry and economy. It is impacting our health and wellbeing. And this year's blooms seem to be worse than ever.

"The Lake Winnipeg Foundation (LWF) identified years ago that excess phosphorous causes potentially toxic algae blooms in Lake Winnipeg. In order to ensure the Lake's health can be maintained, phosphorous levels must be reduced, and the biggest impact would come from ending the practice of dumping raw municipal sewage into our waterways.

"I am disappointed that no action was taken in the six years of Trudeau's Liberal government despite repeated advocacy by the LWF, Lake Winnipeg Indigenous Collective (LWIC), South Basin Mayors and Reeves, commercial fishers, and more.

"Canada's Conservatives are committed to working with provinces and municipalities to end the dumping of raw sewage into our waterways. We will also continue funding to preserve the health of the entire Lake Winnipeg basin.

"Our lakes support commercial fishing families, boost tourism and drive the economic opportunity in lakeside communities. I have been proud to work with so many advocates and proponents over my years as an MP who are passionate about protecting Lake Winnipeg and Lake Manitoba.

"We must secure the future of Lakes Winnipeg and Manitoba by investing in protecting our watershed and putting an end to the dumping of raw sewage into our waterways by municipalities."