Ralph McLean, Green Party, Churchill-Keewatinook Aski

1) Since 2008, the federal government has made dedicated financial investments for Lake Winnipeg. These investments have enabled phosphorus-reduction initiatives, as well as research and monitoring to improve water quality in Lake Winnipeg. The current federal funding commitment, Phase 3 of the Lake Winnipeg Basin Program, will end in March 2022.

Will you and your party renew the Lake Winnipeg Basin Program in Budget 2022? If not, please explain why you and your party aren't making this commitment.

Greens are NOT responsible to a party but to their constituents first and foremost. As a descendant of a long line of commercial fisherman on both sides of my family, I can tell you as a Green I would support this initiative. I would even go as far to say that we would renew the commitment to ensure that proper funding is in place, not just the budget allotment.

2) Too often, the scale of Lake Winnipeg's watershed serves as an excuse for inaction or as an explanation for ineffective efforts. In reality, efforts have simply lacked relevant evidence to ensure their success. The Lake Winnipeg Community-Based Monitoring Network (LWCBMN) is a collaborative, long-term monitoring program designed specifically to target phosphorus hotspots to ensure phosphorus-reduction projects funded by the federal government generate results.

Will you and your party commit to using LWCBMN data to target federal dollars to phosphorus hotspots? If not, please explain why you and your party aren't making this commitment.

Tackling issues such as phosphorus hotspots, zebra mussel infestations and scores of many other environmental issues would MOST definitely be a part of our commitment. Not only do we have to protect the environment, we have to support these kinds of initiatives because of thousands of commercial fishermen, their families and those they supply fish to depend on a clean, and sustainable livelihood. My mother's family is from South Indian Lake. Government inaction over decades destroyed the largest whitefish supplier from the north, so it would be my personal mission to fight for better protections of our shared resources. I'm all for recognizing and supporting any initiative where we have a clean and healthy Lake Winnipeg for generations to come. Whether you are a commercial fisherman, scientist, researcher, technician, etc...I'll be your ally. But that mean votes. If you don't vote Green, then I can't help.

3) Indigenous peoples have, over hundreds of generations, developed Indigenous Knowledge specific to Lake Winnipeg. As with written knowledge systems, rigorous and well-maintained processes are critical to generate, verify, and share Indigenous Knowledge. Knowledge holders' ceremonies and protocols require many years of practice and strict adherence to maintain the integrity of Indigenous Knowledge. Just as scientists require resources to gather and synthesize the data that inform policy and management, so too do knowledge holders. Yet there remains a severe lack of balance in supports provided to Indigenous systems of knowledge.

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? If not, please explain why you and your party aren't making this commitment.

Being Indigenous myself, Metis, with a mother that is Rocky Cree from South Indian Lake, I know that Indigenous Peoples were stewards of the land for 15000 years. It is actually Green Party policy to take the lead from Indigenous Peoples on how to be better stewards of the environment. I can't give you just one policy because just about every single policy cites it. But one part of it is here. https://www.greenparty.ca/en/platform/ecological-wisdom