

April 8, 2019

## **Alberta Backcountry Hunters & Anglers**

2019 Provincial Election Survey Responses

### **What will you and your party do to increase accessible land (public and leased land) for Alberta's hunters and anglers?**

A United Conservative government recognizes that recreation, economic use, and conservation can and should support each other through the introduction of our Common-Sense Conservation Plan.

Further, we would review Alberta Environment and Parks legislation to modernize it for the 21st century and improve data collection on environmental outcomes relating to parks and public lands to ensure these lands meet the needs of Albertans in the 21st century in an environmentally sustainable way.

Throughout this process, we will welcome the engagement of all groups that enjoy Alberta's wilderness, including the Alberta Backcountry Hunters & Anglers. Unlike the current government, our goal is to encourage responsible recreation and harvesting in Alberta's beautiful and diverse natural habitats.

### **What will you and your party do to improve the experience of Alberta's hunters and anglers?**

A United Conservative government would engage stakeholder groups, including the Alberta Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, to ensure that all Albertans seeking to enjoy Alberta's wilderness aren't just consulted but partnered with. We believe that genuine consultation is something that has been lacking from Alberta Environment and Parks.

### **What will you and your party do to facilitate the conservation and restoration of fish and wildlife populations and habitat?**

A United Conservative government is committed to facilitating the conservation and restoration of fish and wildlife populations and habitat. We would protect creeks and

streams on the Eastern Slopes by adding \$1 million in funding (tripling provincial funding from \$531,000) to the Alberta Riparian Habitat Protection Society's "Cows and Fish" Program, while seeking matching funds from the private sector.

A United Conservative government would also increase funding by 50% (\$5 million) to the Alberta Land Trust Grant Program that conserves ecologically important areas, and preserve other program and policy priorities.

**Public lands are an invaluable resource in Alberta, providing opportunity for recreation, industrial and forestry use, and habitat for fish and wildlife. Once sold, this resource is lost to Alberta's public. Do you or your party support the sale of public lands? If so, what restrictions or conditions would you put upon the sale to maintain fish and wildlife habitat and public access?**

A United Conservative government would, as a general principle, seek to consult on land sales with appropriate stakeholders. We would consult with First Nations, municipalities and other relevant stakeholders.

**Increasing pressure from off-highway vehicles (OHVs) and a proliferation of undesignated OHV trails on public lands negatively impacts fish and wildlife habitat and the recreational experience of other users. What steps would your government take to manage OHV activity on Alberta's public lands?**

A United Conservative government would pursue a number of initiatives to balance environmental sustainability with responsible OHV-use in Alberta:

- Introduce an *Alberta Trails Act* to increase awareness about and encourage the sustainable use of trails, enhance trails and trail experiences, and protect trails for future generations;
- Apply a mandatory \$30 trail permit fee to Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV) and camping trailers to pay for restoring and creating OHV trails and preventing damage in Alberta's great outdoors, and to hire additional enforcement officers;
- Implement a balanced back country land use plan to ensure all Albertans can enjoy public lands and appreciate the wilderness; and

- Improve data collection on environmental outcomes relating to parks and public lands to ensure these lands meet the needs of Albertans in the 21st century in an environmentally sustainable way.