

Rachel Notley. Fighting for you

Alberta Backcountry Hunters and Anglers,

Please find below responses to the questions you circulated on Monday, April 1. These answers are on behalf of all NDP candidates running in the election, on Rachel Notley's team.

Question 1: What will you and your party do to increase accessible land (public and leased land) for Alberta's hunters and anglers?

Answer 1: Rachel Notley grew up in rural northwest Alberta, she enjoys the outdoors and is a committed conservationist. She believes protecting lands for public use is a priority, and that our job is to turn over the land to the next generation of backcountry hikers, hunters, and anglers in a better state than when we inherited it.

A re-elected government under Rachel Notley would continue efforts already underway to expand public lands and create more space where hunters and anglers can enjoy the outdoors. Alberta is already blessed with some of the most precious public lands in the country, and we have a strong history of conservation. Rachel Notley wants to build on that proud legacy.

Question 2: What will you and your party do to improve the experience of Alberta's hunters and anglers?

Answer 2: Rachel Notley and her team are committed to improving the outdoor experience for all Albertans, and that means investing in our public parks infrastructure, and protecting our public lands, particularly in the backcountry. We will continue to make strategic investments in our public lands, and we will continue with our efforts to establish additional lands for public use. We believe that for the broader public to support our conservation goals, we need to invest in appropriate infrastructure (e.g. campsites, hiking trails) so that all Albertans can enjoy the outdoors. In the next term we commit to work with outdoor recreation groups, including the Alberta Backcountry Hunters and Anglers to upgrade and improve recreation infrastructure, including docks, trails, and staging areas.

Question 3: What will you and your party do to facilitate the conservation and restoration of fish and wildlife populations and habitat?

Answer 3: We are proud of our record on conservation, and protecting habitat. For example, we re-instated specified penalty amounts within public land use zones (PLUZ), public land recreation areas (PLRA), public land recreation trails (PLRT), which was an important first step towards stopping the destruction of our watersheds and natural habitat. We believe that relatively simple, concrete, measures like these can prevent damage to fish and wildlife habitat

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and encourage proper waste disposal within public lands. A re-elected government under the leadership of Rachel Notley will continue our efforts to improve conservation and restore habitat. We will offer multi-year funding to watershed councils and will develop a Clean Lakes strategy to protect Alberta's lakes. After the election, we would welcome a conservation with Alberta hunters and anglers about the next steps we could take to expand conversation efforts through policy or regulatory change.

Question 4: 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?

Answer 4: We believe that our public lands are a treasure and birthright of Albertans. We do not support the sale of public lands. We believe selling off public lands is short sighted and will only lead to the degradation of the lands and water we currently value.

Question 5: 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?

Question 5: We appreciate that increasingly, many Albertans are choosing to enjoy the outdoors with their off-highway vehicles (OHVs). We are committed to funding new staging areas for OHVs, and establishing designated trails for users. With appropriate infrastructure and enforcement in place, OHV users can make use of Alberta's public lands, without diminishing the integrity of our watersheds and natural habitat. By building up appropriate infrastructure on designated trails we hope to discourage activity in more vulnerable areas. We want to build a universally held tradition of conversation amongst all OHV users, campers, hikers, hunters and anglers.