

1. What conservation issues are priorities for your party?

The Liberal Party understands the devastating effects the loss of biodiversity has on our ecosystems, both on land and in the oceans and waterways.

Our Liberal government has taken unprecedented actions to protect our wildlife, recovering lost biodiversity, and protecting our marine species. Through C-68, An Act to amend the Fisheries Act and other Acts in consequence, we have invested \$107 million to rebuild our stocks and strengthen our fishery management framework. We will continue to make investments to ensure for sustainable fisheries that many of our communities depend on. We have developed formal rebuilding plans for some stocks and have precautionary management measures in place for the remaining stocks to conserve and promote their growth and continue to use additional science to inform our decisions. This government also took leadership by supporting senate amendments to bill C-68 to include provisions to prohibit shark finning in Canada. This also includes a ban on the import and exports of sharkfins. Canada is the first country in the G20 to ban the shark fin trade. Along with over 50 other nations, Canada also supported the proposal put forward by Mexico to list the Shortfin Mako under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). We were pleased that this proposal passed. This government, in partnership with the environmental community, domestically and internationally, is stepping up and doing our part to ensure long term ocean sustainability.

These new actions are a clear example of our commitment to the conservation of our ocean environment.

We were pleased to be delivering on our promise to restore the protections for fish and fish habitat, and to strengthen the role of Indigenous peoples in project reviews, monitoring, and policy. The modernization of the *Fisheries Act* adds important safeguards for our fisheries, including measures to rebuild damaged fish stocks, and restore degraded habitat. Unlike the Conservative government who gutted the *Fisheries Act* in 2012 in an omnibus bill, our government is taking action to ensure that our fisheries and environment are protected for future generations to come.

With the longest coastline in the world, Canada's coastal communities rely on the fish and seafood industry as an integral contributor to local and regional economies. The Liberal Party will work with our partners to make this sector more innovative, productive and sustainable. On the West Coast we launched the historic BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund which will restore and protect our wild Pacific salmon, while creating more economic opportunities for BC. We also invested \$5M in funding to the Pacific Salmon Endowment Fund.

Moreover, we have taken steps to support conservation and promote rebuilding through the Salmon Enhancement Program and the Coastal Restoration Fund with investments totaling \$18 million to support 13 habitat restoration projects in BC.

Our government has taken swift action to protect our nature and wildlife that depends on it. We've set an ambitious target to double the amount of nature protected across the country and we are well on our way to meeting that goal. We have also backed that up with the single-largest investment to protect nature in Canadian history, which helps to protect and recover species at risk with a focus on priority places, species, and sectors to achieve lasting outcomes for multiple species. We have been investing \$1.3 billion over five years, including \$500 million to create a new Nature Fund to protect species at risk, expand wildlife areas and sanctuaries, manage protected areas, implement the Species at Risk Act, and establish a coordinated network of conservation areas.

We will continue to work with provinces, territories, Indigenous communities and scientists to protect, sustain, and restore our species in their natural habitat. Building upon this progress, a re-elected Liberal government will conserve and protect 25 percent of Canada's lands and 25 percent of Canada's oceans by 2025, working towards 30 percent in each by 2030.

It is essential that we continue to rely on sound scientific advice to inform our conservation measures and that we work in partnership with Indigenous groups and communities whose livelihoods are dependent on the sustainability of these stocks and species. By working together with conservation groups, scientists and industry we are confident that we can enhance our fisheries and wildlife while taking into consideration the important economic factors.

2. What commitments would your government make to conservation funding?

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Following a decade of lost time under the Harper Conservatives, we've taken action to protect nature. That is why we have invested a historic \$1.3 Billion in Budget 2018 to protect Canada's wildlife and wilderness.

We will continue to make investments for our nature and wildlife and reach ambitious goals while taking into account the potential economic impacts this may have on relevant industries.

3. What steps would your government take to maintain the tradition of hunting and fishing on public lands and waters throughout Canada?

Protecting wild Pacific salmon stocks is a priority for our government, that is why we are taking urgent action to ensure that they are sustainable for generations to come and the communities who depend on them. We sympathize with the hard workers and their families whose livelihood depends on this industry. It has been a particularly challenging year for them as well.

We are also doubling the amount of nature we're protecting. We know we need to focus on conservation efforts in order to make sure fishing and hunting remain sustainable for future generations.

4. What strategies and land management practices would your government pursue to address the impacts of climate change on fish and wildlife populations, habitat conditions, and water resources?

Canadians know climate change is real; we are witnessing important impacts that are directly affecting Canadians and our coastal communities. Protecting Canada's ocean ecosystems is a priority for our government and we are ensuring that our fisheries are healthy, and are harvested sustainably. Approximately 72,000 Canadians make their living directly from fishing and fishing-related activities. That is why we are working to secure the future of our fisheries through sustainable and responsible science-based fisheries management. This is why our department continues to research and study climate change

related phenomena such as ocean acidification and low oxygen levels and their impacts on our fisheries and aquatic ecosystems. Understanding our ocean ecosystems in a changing world is now more important than ever for improving management and conservation measures.

The Fisheries and Aquaculture Clean Technology Adoption Program provides \$20 million over four years to help businesses enhance the environmental sustainability of our fisheries and aquaculture sectors. Investments like these in clean technology will help businesses across the country, adopt greener practices, while ensuring they remain competitive in the global trade market.

Canada championed international efforts to reduce plastic pollution by spearheading the development of the Ocean Plastics Charter at the G7 leaders' summit. And, in November 2018, federal, provincial and territorial environment ministers agreed to a Canada wide Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste to guide actions in order to keep plastics in our economy and out of landfills and the environment. Canada has also committed to invest more than \$100 million to reduce plastic waste in Canada and in developing countries. We have taken a number of actions on ending plastic pollution already, including:

- Keeping plastic pollution out of our oceans and waters, including by banning plastic microbeads from cosmetics and other products beginning in 2018.
- Reducing plastic waste from government operations and eliminating unnecessary single-use plastics within the federal government.
- Putting federal government suppliers on notice that we will be working with suppliers who are committed to the zero plastic waste vision
- Investing \$100 million to support developing countries to develop and implement sound waste management systems and prevent plastic waste from entering the environment
- Launching an Oceans Plastics Charter at the G7, calling on national governments to set standards for increasing the reuse and recycling of plastics
- Introducing the first ever national zero plastic waste strategy with Provinces and Territories

We have also put a price on pollution which will lead to a healthier environment. It is the most efficient way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and stimulate investments in clean innovation.

We committed to conserve at least 17% of terrestrial and freshwater areas, and 10% of marine and coastal areas by 2020. We exceeded our marine conservation target by achieving close to 14% in August 2019. And in Budget 2018, we announced \$1.3 billion over five years to support Canada's biodiversity and protect species at risk. We have been investing \$1.3 billion over five years, including \$500 million to create a new Nature Fund to protect species at risk, expand wildlife areas and sanctuaries, manage protected areas, implement the Species at Risk Act, and establish a coordinated network of conservation areas.

We will keep Canada's fresh water safe and clean, even in a changing climate. No resource is more important to people than fresh, clean water – our lives and livelihoods depend on it. At the same time, the serious and damaging effects of climate change – from storms and floods to wildfires and droughts – threaten our ability to properly manage this precious resource.

To ensure that Canada is better prepared to protect and manage our fresh water in a changing climate, we will move forward with a new Canada Water Agency. The Agency will work together with the provinces and territories, Indigenous communities, local authorities, scientists, and others to find the best ways to keep our water safe, clean, and well-managed.

We are also working with Indigenous Peoples to design, develop, and deliver Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas, which highlight Indigenous rights, roles and responsibilities, conserve culture, land and waters, and steward habitat and species at risk, in ways that are consistent with natural and Indigenous laws. Through the Indigenous Guardians Pilot Program, the Government of Canada provides support for Indigenous peoples exercising their rights and responsibilities to the land, water, and ice of their traditional territories through on-the-ground, community based Stewardship initiatives.

Through the EcoAction Community Funding Program, the Government invested over \$4.3 million in 2018/19 to support 58 community based projects that protect, rehabilitate or enhance the natural environment.

5. What steps would your government take to address the threat that chronic wasting disease (CWD) poses to wild cervid populations (e.g. deer, elk, moose)?

The control and management of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a shared responsibility between federal, provincial and territorial governments and industry. The CFIA manages a national CWD program for farmed cervids, with a focus on disease prevention and risk management. The management of other issues pertaining to farmed cervids comes under provincial and territorial jurisdiction as does the management of all wild large game animals. The CFIA adheres to Health Canada's precautionary approach to potential risks of exposure to prions by preventing animals known to be infected by CWD from entering the marketplace.

CWD testing and surveillance activities are also shared responsibility between federal, provincial and territorial governments, with testing primarily being conducted by provincial and territorial laboratories. Negative CWD tests must be communicated to the federal and provincial abattoirs prior to the release of the meat for human consumption. CFIA has also been focused on the education of hunters and the general public alongside its provincial and territorial counterparts including publishing information on CFIA's website about CWD, including testing options for hunters, precautions and measures to prevent the spread of CWD. The Public Health Agency of Canada is responsible for national surveillance of all human prion disease in Canada. This system is very sensitive and meets or exceeds international standards for surveillance of these diseases.

PHAC's Prion Diseases Program provides quality surveillance, improves our understanding of human prion diseases, conducts targeted research to develop and validate advanced diagnostic testing methods and advances knowledge in prion disease biology. At this time, there is no direct scientific evidence to suggest that CWD may be transmitted to humans. However, Health Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada and the CFIA will continue to monitor the evidence carefully. Health Canada continues to maintain a precautionary approach with respect to CWD, that is in agreement with the World Health Organization's recommendation that "No tissue that is likely to contain the bovine spongiform encephalopathy agent, nor part or product of any animal which had shown signs of a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy should enter the (human or animal) food chain". As part of the precautionary approach, it is recommended that any tissues from a known CWD-infected animal not be eaten and that precautions be taken when handling cervid carcasses from areas where CWD is known to be present. Federal, provincial and territorial measures are in place to reduce human exposure to products contaminated by CWD by preventing known infected animals from entering the food supply. Health Canada, PHAC and CFIA will continue to review the evidence, policies and procedures to implement appropriate protections for the health and safety of Canadians.

6. The recovery of species at risk (e.g. caribou) are subject to competing social and economic pressures. How would your government balance these competing priorities to ensure the successful recovery of threatened populations?

Conservation of terrestrial species like caribou is primarily the responsibility of provinces and territories. However, over the past year alone, we have taken concrete steps to protect the critical habitat of boreal caribou by:

- negotiating historic agreements with Saskatchewan, Labrador, NWT, Alberta and Yukon, collaboratively with local First Nations, for caribou habitat protection and range planning provincial and territorial lands
- issuing the first-ever order for the protection of boreal caribou on federal lands;
- published three progress reports regarding the protection and recovery of boreal caribou across Canada.

The latest progress report published at the end of June demonstrates that provinces and territories have made progress on protection plans and on the ground recovery efforts. Our government will continue to work closely with provincial and territorial governments, Indigenous peoples and other stakeholders on a path forward.

7. Maintaining intact wilderness areas is beneficial to fish and wildlife populations and provides opportunities for backcountry users to reconnect with the solitude of the wilds. What commitments will your government make to the protection of wildlife habitat, biodiversity and sensitive ecosystems?

We have been investing \$1.3 billion over five years, including \$500 million to create a new Nature Fund to protect species at risk, expand wildlife areas and sanctuaries, manage protected areas, implement the Species at Risk Act, and establish a coordinated network of conservation areas.

We will continue to work with provinces, territories, Indigenous communities and scientists to protect, sustain, and restore our species in their natural habitat. Building upon this progress, a re-elected Liberal government will conserve and protect 25 percent of Canada's lands and 25 percent of Canada's oceans by 2025, working towards 30 percent in each by 2030.