

MEJC QUESTIONNAIRE SENT TO ALL PARTIES

Dear Candidate,

The MEJC would like to know your position on two areas of particular interest to our supporters. We've made a list of questions for you on climate change, and on the Energy East pipeline. The questions are easily answered with a yes or a no.

Please answer all the questions with only a yes or no, and return the completed questionnaire by March 15.

We will mark unanswered questions as "refused to answer." If you would like to answer, but do not have sufficient knowledge, please indicate that you don't know about the issue.

If you would like to offer a more comprehensive response, please let us know when you return your answers to this questionnaire, and we will send a targeted, in depth series of questions.

For your convenience, we have included here several links to important information on the topics of climate change and on the Energy East pipeline.

Thank you,

MEJC



MEJC PROVINCIAL ELECTION REPORT CARD

MANITOBA PARTIES' POSITIONS ON CLIMATE AND ENERGY POLICY

Parties are listed from lowest to highest ranking according to the results of the MEJC questionnaire, with ties listed alphabetically.

	CLIMATE Carbon Budget and Inventory		Fossil Fuel Regulation	ENERGY EAST Energy East Water			Energy East Enviro Assessment	Energy East Position	TOTAL
PC <small>(refused to answer)</small>	Rank: 4	Rank: 4	Rank: 4	Rank: 4	Rank: 4	Rank: 4	Rank: 4	Rank: 5	
Manitoba	0% Rank: 3	0% Rank: 3	25% Rank: 2	33% Rank: 3	0% Rank: 3	13% Rank: 4			
NDP	83% Rank: 2	0% Rank: 3	25% Rank: 2	67% Rank: 2	0% Rank: 3	42% Rank: 3			
Liberal	83% Rank: 2	50% Rank: 2	100% Rank: 1	67% Rank: 2	50% Rank: 2	71% Rank 2			
Communist	100% Rank: 1	100% Rank: 1	100% Rank: 1	100% Rank: 1	100% Rank: 1	100% Rank: 1			
Green	100% Rank: 1	100% Rank: 1	100% Rank: 1	100% Rank: 1	100% Rank: 1	100% Rank: 1			

noenergyeastmb.org/report-card

info@noenergyeastmb.org

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS-PARTIES LISTED ALPHABETICALLY

(Further comment and clarification from some of the parties found on the pages following.)

CLIMATE

1. Will you make sure that Manitoba has a public carbon budget that is applied to all projects? Communist: YES | Green: YES | Liberal: YES | Manitoba: NO | NDP: YES | PC: REFUSED TO ANSWER
2. Will you make sure that Manitoba also keeps a carbon inventory and makes sure it is updated based on whether we are retaining or using up carbon in Manitoba? Communist: YES | Green: YES | Liberal: YES | Manitoba: NO | NDP: YES | PC: REFUSED TO ANSWER
3. Will you make sure that a carbon budget and carbon inventory are part of the environmental review for all projects in the province? Communist: YES | Green: YES | Liberal: YES | Manitoba: NO | NDP: YES | PC: REFUSED TO ANSWER
4. Will you work with other Premiers and national leaders to establish a national climate plan that represents Canada's fair share of emission reductions to ensure that global temperature rise does not exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius? Communist: YES | Green: YES | Liberal: YES | Manitoba: NO | NDP: YES | PC: REFUSED TO ANSWER
5. Do you agree that scientific evidence suggests that at least 80% of proven reserves of fossil fuels in Canada must be kept in the ground? Communist: YES | Green: YES | Liberal: NO | Manitoba: NO | NDP: QUALIFIED YES | PC: REFUSED TO ANSWER
6. Will you put a provincial price-per-tonne on carbon? Communist: YES | Green: YES | Liberal: YES | Manitoba: NO | NDP: QUALIFIED NO | PC: REFUSED TO ANSWER
7. Do you support a moratorium on new exploration for fossil fuel reserves? Communist: YES | Green: YES | Liberal: NO | Manitoba: NO | NDP: QUALIFIED NO | PC: REFUSED TO ANSWER
8. Do you support removing current tax-holidays from new oil wells in Manitoba? Communist: YES | Green: YES | Liberal: NO | Manitoba: NO | NDP: QUALIFIED NO | PC: REFUSED TO ANSWER
9. Will you sign a National energy strategy which makes Canada carbon neutral by

2050? Communist: YES | Green: YES | Liberal: YES | Manitoba: NO |
NDP: QUALIFIED NO | PC: REFUSED TO ANSWER

10. Will you develop a plan to remove fossil fuels from Manitoba Hydro's business plan and products by 2030? Communist: YES | Green: YES | Liberal: YES | Manitoba: NO |
NDP: QUALIFIED NO | PC: REFUSED TO ANSWER

ENERGY EAST

1. Are you aware that the safety of the Winnipeg water supply is threatened by ongoing undetected leaks or a catastrophic rupture in the Energy East pipeline where it runs parallel to the aqueduct? Communist: YES | Green: YES | Liberal: YES | Manitoba: NO |
NDP: YES | PC: REFUSED TO ANSWER
2. Will you make sure that environmental studies are conducted by Manitoba regarding the risks identified in the intervenor documents filed by the Manitoba government and in the MEJC reports? Communist: YES | Green: YES | Liberal: YES | Manitoba: YES if warranted |
NDP: QUALIFIED YES | PC: REFUSED TO ANSWER
[See: [The Energy East Pipeline: Avenues for Government Action Outside the Broken NEB Process](#) and [Potential Impacts to Winnipeg of the Energy East Pipeline](#)]
3. Will you send a request to the Clean Environment Commission to review the Energy East project? Communist: YES | Green: YES | Liberal: YES | Manitoba: NO |
NDP: CAN'T ANSWER | PC: REFUSED TO ANSWER
4. Will you also send a request to the PUB asking it to review the risks to waterways, water sources, and the economics of the project within Manitoba? Communist: YES | Green: YES | Liberal: YES | Manitoba: NO |
NDP: CAN'T ANSWER | PC: REFUSED TO ANSWER
5. Will you make sure Energy East goes through hearings run by the Government of Manitoba and open to the public? Communist: YES | Green: YES | Liberal: YES |
Manitoba: YES if warranted | NDP: CAN'T ANSWER | PC: REFUSED TO ANSWER
6. Has your party read the Ontario Energy Board's report, [Giving Voice to Ontarians on Energy East](#), recommending against Energy East due to little benefit to Ontarians on Energy East? Communist: YES | Green: YES | Liberal: NO | Manitoba: NO | NDP: YES |
PC: REFUSED TO ANSWER
7. Has your party read the recent decision by the Quebec government to [seek an injunction](#) against TransCanada until the pipeline goes through Quebec's environmental reviews? Communist: YES | Green: YES | Liberal: YES | Manitoba: NO | NDP: YES | PC: REFUSED TO ANSWER

8. Do you know that because of the high sulphur content in bitumen, highly corrosive and toxic Hydrogen Sulphide (H₂S) will form in the pipeline? Communist: YES | Green: YES | Liberal: NO | Manitoba: Perhaps. | NDP: YES | PC: REFUSED TO ANSWER
9. In North Dakota, Enbridge has taken the step of severely limiting sulphur in pipelines as a way to protect workers. Will you insist that all high-sulphur oil products such as diluted bitumen are banned from pipelines, including Energy East? Communist: YES | Green: YES | Liberal: YES | Manitoba: NO | NDP: CAN'T ANSWER | PC: REFUSED TO ANSWER
10. If you do not recommend rejecting Energy East, will you recommend a reroute of the Energy East Pipeline to the National Energy Board to:
- protect Winnipeg's water supply? Communist: YES | Green: YES | Liberal: YES | Manitoba: YES | NDP: CAN'T ANSWER | PC: REFUSED TO ANSWER
 - protect all other water supplies in Manitoba? Communist: YES | Green: YES | Liberal: YES | Manitoba: NO | NDP: CAN'T ANSWER | PC: REFUSED TO ANSWER
 - keep the dilbit line away from natural gas lines? Communist: YES | Green: YES | Liberal: YES | Manitoba: NO | NDP: CAN'T ANSWER | PC: REFUSED TO ANSWER
11. Will you recommend rejecting Energy East to the National Energy Board?
Communist: YES | Green: YES | Liberal: NO | Manitoba: NO | NDP: CAN'T ANSWER | PC: REFUSED TO ANSWER
12. Will you recommend rejecting Energy East to the Federal Cabinet? Communist: YES | Green: YES | Liberal: NO | Manitoba: NO | NDP: CAN'T ANSWER | PC: REFUSED TO ANSWER

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS-PARTIES LISTED ALPHABETICALLY

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMUNIST PARTY

Our responses to your questions are all “yes,” but you would have to agree that the linked article about Energy East on Quebec’s decision to seek an injunction constitutes reading the decision itself (I think that’s what you intended). Otherwise, I can’t find the actual decision on the internet. If you do not agree, then we have not read the actual decision.

I will add that it is a Communist Party plank to nationalize Manitoba’s oil and gas industry, we would forbid Hydro from signing any deal with pipeline companies to use new energy coming on stream for pipelines, and we would obviously not renew any existing contracts.

Our over-arching policy based on sound science is to keep carbon in the ground by means of converting existing oil patch jobs to more the most sustainable forms of energy with no loss in pay to workers and to reduce our energy footprint. This is the best policy for the working class as a whole.

RESPONSE FROM MEJC

The clarity and brevity of the CPCM Party’s response are indicative of their outstanding commitment to climate change prevention. We are pleased to see that the party is also committed to building a just transition that will support workers as the oil industry fades and sustainable energy becomes the norm.



COMMENTS FROM THE GREEN PARTY

The Green Party of Manitoba has proposed a \$50.00 per tonne carbon tax, which would generate \$500 million a year, including \$166 million to be invested in the transition to a carbon-free economy. This will provide funding for a range of initiatives designed to make it easier for citizens to shift to greener practices. Some of our plans include zero-emission buses, airships for freight to northern communities, flood reduction, sustainable farming practices, retrofit programs, and renewable energy.

In addition, \$274 million a year of that \$500 million will go to reducing Manitoba’s bottom personal income tax bracket from 10.8% to 9.5%, thereby helping to offset any increased cost of goods and services due to the carbon tax. Another \$60 million a year will go to reducing the Health and Education Levy (‘payroll tax’) on small businesses.

A carbon tax has also worked in other places like BC and Sweden, I also believe it is a fair and clear tax every Manitoban can understand.

I support the Quebec injunction to have Transcanada follow Quebec environmental law. This shouldn't be as controversial as it has become in the media. We need to force Transcanada to follow environmental law in Manitoba as well.

There is no universe where the GPM would ever accept the Energy East pipeline. Even if the pipeline doesn't leak (which it will), the expansion of the tar sands is unacceptable and the burning of the product downstream is also a nail in the coffin for our climate.

There is certainly room for compromise on other issues, but not this one.

RESPONSE FROM MEJC

The clarity and brevity of the Green Party's response are indicative of their outstanding commitment to climate change prevention. We are pleased to see that the party has a well-developed and credible economic plan for Manitoba's transition from oil dependency.



COMMENTS FROM THE LIBERAL PARTY

We feel we must move in a green direction, but must do it gradually to ensure the economy doesn't slump during transition.

As far as a mechanism we prefer to work with the federal government and other premiers to ensure we are all on the same page. It Just makes sense to be consistent in our approach.

RESPONSE FROM MEJC

We are pleased that the Liberal Party of Manitoba has committed to protecting all Manitoba's water supplies by recommending a reroute of the Energy East pipeline. However, we are deeply concerned that the Liberal Party of Manitoba does not believe the scientific evidence, recognized by governments and scientists around the world, which confirms the need to leave 80% of proven fossil fuel reserves in the ground.

We are concerned that the provincial Liberal Party would, if elected, act in accordance with constraints imposed by the oil lobby and the oil friendly federal Liberal Party rather than in accordance with Manitobans' best interests.



COMMENTS FROM THE MANITOBA PARTY

Nature's carbon cycle or budget overwhelms that of Man's. Whatever costly attempts are made at controlling ours will have negligible effects on the atmosphere and planet. So why even bother.

Secondly, I find the idea that Man can so greatly affect the planet's natural climate absurd. One volcanic eruption certainly proves that.

Man-made global warming is a fraud. The moon receives the same amount of sunlight per square foot as the earth, yet the surface of the moon, devoid of an atmosphere suffers temperature extremes are far greater than those on earth, possessed of an atmosphere. Why is that? Its the reasoning as if one were to compare temperatures for territory adjacent to a large body of water and one distant. More humidity, the less extreme the temperatures. So more atmosphere and less extremity.

The best carbon capture we have is taking trees grown to maturity and using them to build houses and make paper.

On the pipeline, I would prefer a million barrels of oil transferred by the proven safety of a pipeline than having it traverse thousands of miles of ocean waters.

The candidate represents the interests of their riding members. There is no line to bow to. Each speaks for himself or herself. We let the science decide the issue at hand. Quite it in whatever way you please. I shall caution you that those are my personal opinions. Our candidate in Fort Rouge may have a different opinion. And if you canvass the candidates you would find quite a variety of answers. In our party one is free to speak their mind.

RESPONSE FROM MEJC

While we support the idea that each candidate and elected official has the right to express positions that do not align perfectly with a party's policy, and to represent citizens whether or not they agree with the position of the elected party in the constituency, we are concerned when a party has no position and no policy on important issues.

The Manitoba Party's expressed disregard for science renders them incapable of performing the duties of elected representatives for Manitobans.



COMMENTS FROM THE NDP PARTY

Manitobans need to know that there is a lot at risk in this election. Brian Pallister and the conservatives would implement reckless cuts that would harm our environment. He was part of Harper's conservative team that ignored and neglected environment stewardship. We are the only party that can ensure that our environment is protected for future generations.

[NOTE: The NDP provided extensive answers to our questions. We have included all these answers here in the comments section.]

CLIMATE

1. The NDP government has set aggressive targets for greenhouse gas reduction. We are working hard with partners and the new federal government do help us all meet this global challenge. We will continue to require applications for an environmental assessment to include evaluations for climate change impact. The Law Society of Manitoba recently provided recommendations on updating the environment act, and certainly any further recommendations will be explored.
2. There will continue to be a carbon inventory for use in Manitoba. Manitoba uses figures from the national carbon inventory prepared by Environment Canada. The federal department prepares an annual report on carbon emissions for Canada to submit to the United Nations as part of its National obligations as a signatory to the UN framework convention on climate change. Our climate plan was launched in December and we are working with our stakeholders on improvements that increase government ability to make gains in this area. We have also partnered with the IISD to do carbon inventories of our peatlands and wetlands
3. We also brought forward important new legislation to manage surface water. The legislation included an important provision to ensure there is a new no net loss of wetlands policy in place regarding all development. The NDP recognizes that are boreal peatlands are carbon-rich and incredibly critical in our ecosystem offering multiple benefits. Brian Pallister and his conservative team blocked this important legislation from passing but we are committed to ensuring it is passed into law if re- elected
4. The Manitoba NDP is committed to ensure our plan includes aggressive targets for greenhouse gas reduction. We will continue to be a willing partner with the federal government for National Action.
5. The Manitoba NDP believed that the province needs to be fossil-fuel-free within our children's lifetime, and have established our targets with that in mind.
6. The Manitoba NDP government brought in Manitoba's first coal tax, decommissioned the Selkirk coal plant, and banned petroleum coke used for heating. Manitoba is at the table currently with the federal government on exactly this issue. Manitoba has announced its plan to implement cap-and-trade for heavy emitters. We look forward to hearing more from our federal Partners on this important initiative.
7. As mentioned the Manitoba NDP believes that the province needs to be fossil-fuel-free within our children's lifetime and have established our targets with that in mind.

8. The Manitoba NDP believes that oil wells need to meet the best environment standards in Canada
9. Manitoba's NDP government has recently established aggressive targets for greenhouse gas reductions. Now is the time to work on actions that will help Canada do its part as a part of the international community. The NDP believes that Manitoba needs to be at the table with provinces and the federal government to ensure we rise to the occasion
10. The Manitoba NDP government's climate change plan commits the government to developing an inventory of internal greenhouse gas emissions by 2018 and develop a comprehensive policy by 2020 for carbon neutral government. A re-elected NDP government will work aggressively to achieve this important goal.

ENERGY EAST

1. The Manitoba NDP believes that water is our most precious resource and steps must be taken to ensure it is protected. Consequently, we have delivered a submission to the National Energy Board to protect the interests of Manitobans. Going forward the Manitoba NDP will continue to call for protections on safe routing in regards to water, a national discussion on clean energy solutions and to ensure indigenous voices are part of this important issue.
2. The Manitoba NDP believe that government must coordinate and gather evidence in its presentation of any risks identified on evidence to the National Energy Board.
3. The Manitoba NDP supports a full thorough national review at this pipeline project and will continue to review when where and how Manitoba can take action to ensure our environment is protected, particularly our water, and that indigenous communities are consulted.
4. The Manitoba NDP believes that this project should not be subsidized by Manitobans.
5. The Manitoba NDP would continue to consider this as the NEB process continues.
6. The Manitoba NDP will continue to dialogue and collaborate with provinces on this issue and on clean green energy solutions for Canada.
7. The Manitoba NDP will continue to dialogue and collaborate with provinces on this issue and on clean green Energy solutions for Canada.
8. The Manitoba NDP believes that these are the kinds of questions that should be addressed in a public review supported by scientific evidence at the end NEB.
9. The Manitoba NDP believes that these are the kinds of questions that should be addressed in a public review supported by scientific evidence at the NEB.
10. The Manitoba NDP believe that the National Energy Board needs to evaluate any and all risks to Manitobans and the environment and the Board needs to weigh the evidence in the evaluation of the application that ultimately protects our water as the priority. We support calls to ensure routing alternatives that protect water

11. We believe Manitoba's submission to the National Energy Board needs to be taken seriously and will defend Manitoba's interest for a strong environment and clean water.
12. We believe that Manitoba's submission to the National Energy Board needs to be taken seriously and will defend Manitoba's interest to a strong environment and clean water with our federal counterparts.

RESPONSE FROM MEJC

We believe that answering a yes/no question only requires one word, and we are concerned that the additional spun and wordy talking points are used to obscure the few direct answers offered. We believe that our political representatives must be willing to always give voters clear answers, and to stand up to pressure from industry and other levels of government. We are still open to receiving clear, direct commitments to action from the NDP.



COMMENTS FROM THE PC PARTY

None.

RESPONSE FROM MEJC

Answering a yes/no question only requires one word and very little time unless the respondent is unwilling to commit to a position. The PC party refused to answer important questions about one of the top three concerns raised by their constituents. The PC's also refused to respond to our follow up requests for answers. If the PC party isn't able to make the minimal effort to respond to a survey made on behalf of Manitoba voters during an election, that's a worrying indicator that they will be equally uninterested in answering to voters if they form government. MEJC sees the attitude of the PC Party of Manitoba as an indicator that the PC Party's interest in voters' concerns is limited to their own single overriding concern: getting elected.