



Watershed/Fisheries

- 1. There has been an inadequate federal investment in BC's fish resources, as evidenced by a large number of species recommended for SARA listing. What actions will you take to ensure the conservation of population and habitat take priority over commercial fishing and habitat degradation?***

For the first time ever, new provisions in the Fisheries Act will require rebuilding plans to keep our fish stocks healthy and sustainable and to have a plan to recover stocks in trouble. Our government is investing an initial \$107 million to implement these historic changes. The former Conservative government gutted the Fisheries Act in 2012 in an omnibus bill, and changes under Harper shifted the focus away from ecological, science-based values resulting in weakened protections for fish and fish habitats. The Conservatives' short-sighted cuts resulted in front-line operations and resources that directly protect fish habitat. We know it is no longer enough to prevent more habitat loss, we need to start reversing the damage left from years of inaction and oversight to bring back much of our important fish habitats across the country.

To keep Canada's oceans healthy, a re-elected Liberal government will move forward with more investments in marine science and fighting invasive species, and will work with coastal communities, Indigenous communities, and others to better protect fish stocks and marine habitats from changes resulting from climate change. This will include introducing Canada's first-ever Aquaculture Act.

To ensure that Canada is better prepared to protect and manage our fresh water in a changing climate, we will also 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.

- 2. How is the federal government going to implement strategies to ensure the abundance and diversity of salmon and other fish stocks?***

The Harper Conservatives made deep cuts to DFO's Habitat Management Program - jeopardizing the department's ability to recover wild Pacific salmon. Through the BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund, our Government has invested up to \$142 million to support BC's fish and seafood sector, and to ensure the sustainability of wild Pacific salmon and other BC fish stocks. The fund will support protection and restoration activities for priority wild fish stocks, including salmon, as well as projects that will ensure the fish and seafood sector in BC is positioned for long-term environmental and economic sustainability. Through the Coastal Restoration Fund our Government has also provided \$75 million over 5 years to support projects that help to restore coastal aquatic habitats. Since 2016, we have also hired almost 300 new science staff and invested over \$197 million in Budget 2016 to Fisheries and Oceans Canada's science program--the largest investment in aquatic science in over a generation. Our modernized

Fisheries Act will also increase enforcement capacity by increasing the number of front-line fishery officers and boots on the ground.

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3. *Bill C-68 Fisheries Act Amendments received Royal Assent in June 2019. Will you support the early implementation of the ecologically significant area provisions in the act?*

The new *Fisheries Act* includes clearer, stronger and easier rules to establish and manage Ecologically Significant Areas, to provide for more robust protections for sensitive, unique, or otherwise important fish habitats. This includes provisions to consider restoration priorities as part of decision-making, including within Ecologically Significant Areas. Our government is fully committed to the implementation of these crucial provisions.

4. *Do you support the rapid and orderly transition from open-net pen fisheries to land based farm systems for the fin-fish aquaculture industry?*

Our government continues to ensure responsible aquaculture. We have already announced a number of measures to further enhance aquaculture sustainability:

- A study on alternative technologies for aquaculture (including land and sea-based closed containment)
- Moving towards an area-based approach
- Creating a single comprehensive set of regulations – the General Aquaculture Regulations to bring more clarity to industry and Canadians.

We have also released for consultation:

- An interim Framework for Aquaculture Risk Management (FARM) and;
- an interim Framework on the Transfer of Live Fish.

In British Columbia, a re-elected Liberal government will work with the province to develop a responsible plan to transition from open net pen salmon farming in coastal waters to closed containment systems by 2025.

Our government is taking strong leadership on aquaculture to help ensure fish farming in Canada is both economically successful and environmentally sustainable.

5. *What plans do you have for a national watershed sustainability initiatives and what level of investment will you support?*

To keep Canada's oceans healthy, we will move forward with more investments in marine science and fighting invasive species, and will work with coastal communities, Indigenous communities, and others to better protect fish stocks and marine habitats from changes resulting from climate change. This will include introducing Canada's first-ever Aquaculture Act.

Our government is committed to conserving and protecting Canada's biodiversity, wildlife, and habitat. 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 are also doubling the amount of protected lands and oceans. Our goal is to protect 2.3 million km² by 2020. Since 2015, we have protected an additional 530,000 km² of our land and oceans – an area a little bigger than Spain. 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 per cent of Canada's lands and 25 per cent of Canada's oceans by 2025, working towards 30 per cent in each by 2030.



Landscape and Wildlife

- 1. Do you support the use of license and permit fees to support programs such as the migratory bird permit that supports the Wildlife Canada restoration program and other authorized programs?***

Yes. Currently, funds from the sale of migratory game bird hunting permits go to Wildlife Habitat Canada. Since 1984, over \$50 million has helped support over 1500 habitat conservation projects across Canada.

- 2. There is need for financial support for implementing SARA measures to protect wildlife that includes roundtables with Indigenous and non-Indigenous community participation. How would you improve the process and financial support for the implementation of caribou recovery in North Eastern British Columbia from an economic, social and environmental perspective?***

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.

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.

- 3. Although BCWF supports user pay (license, surcharges and fines) supporting conservation programs, we believe the level of funding is inadequate for fish and wildlife sustainability, particularly in the face of climate change. Everyone has an impact on wildlife through their carbon use. When will you use carbon tax money to support the ecological functioning and resilience of landscapes and watersheds nationally? Will you make this a priority, working with the provincial governments?**

Our government is committed to conserving and protecting Canada's biodiversity, wildlife, and habitat. 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 are also doubling the amount of protected lands and oceans. Our goal is to protect 2.3 million km² by 2020. Since 2015, we have protected an additional 530,000 km² of our land and oceans – an area a little bigger than Spain. We will continue to work with provinces, territories, Indigenous communities and scientists to protect, sustain, and restore our species in their natural habitat.

In addition, a re-elected Liberal Government will dedicate \$3 billion for natural solutions to climate change. This includes our commitment to plant 2 billion trees over the next decade and to support efforts to better conserve and restore forests, grasslands, agricultural lands, wetlands, and coastal areas.

- 4. The government has announced they will become involved in grizzly bear management. How will the federal government become involved in the management of grizzly bears in BC? Will you bring resources to adequately inventory grizzly populations, implement measures to protect habitat, and involve both indigenous and non-indigenous stakeholders? Will the same consultation techniques be applied that were used during the southern caribou protection decision which provided top-down direction using federal legislation with no resources or support for the implementation of difficult land use decisions?**

Based on a scientific recommendation by COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada), our government recently listed the western population of the Grizzly Bear as "special concern". This category is for species which may become threatened or endangered in the future, and requires the government to work closely with all stakeholders to develop a management plan that is reported on every five years. Resources from our historic nature investment will support this process.

- 5. Environmental Assessment processes must be able to deal with the remediation of legacy sites, such as Mount Polley. How will the federal government force immediate remediation for sites that have been polluted by both operating and defunded companies?**

For many of these cases the jurisdictional responsibility starts with the province. As we have demonstrated, our first approach is always to work with provinces. In cases where the federal government has jurisdiction, for example under *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* and the *Fisheries Act*, we proceed where appropriate with enforcement. To ensure the highest degree of environmental protection design standards thereby helping prevent future cases of environmental contamination, we have improved the Impact Assessment

process to very specifically require a detailed assessment of decommissioning and remediation for major projects.

- 6. A recent decision to create a national park reserve in the South Okanagan incorporated conservation lands which were purchased to protect wildlife habitat. How will the ecological integrity of these sensitive landscapes be protected from the development and commercialism that has occurred in national parks such as Banff? What are the mechanisms to ensure local stakeholder input into the national park reserve?**

On July 2nd, 2019, the Governments of Canada and British Columbia and the Syilx/Okanagan Nation signed a Memorandum of Understanding to formally work toward establishing a national park reserve in the South Okanagan-Similkameen. This is a significant step towards the establishment of a national park reserve in the South Okanagan-Similkameen. The goals of establishing a national park are to protect the diversity of vegetation and landscape features of representative ecosystems, maintain the ecological integrity of wildlife habitat and plant species, and provide opportunities for quality visitor experiences, such as recreational activities and the presentation of natural and cultural heritage. Moving forward, the Parties have agreed to support a consensus approach to decision making in the negotiation and the implementation of the national park reserve establishment agreement. The agreement will define the terms and conditions for the establishment, development, management and operation of a national park reserve. Parks Canada will work with the Syilx/Okanagan, the Government of British Columbia, communities, conservation groups, private businesses, ranchers, and tourism and municipal organizations to conserve and protect the natural and cultural heritage of this special place, and to see this national park reserve become a reality to enjoy and use for generations to come.



FIREARMS QUESTIONS

- 1. Bill C-71, an Act to Amend Certain Acts and Regulations in relation to firearms, received Royal Assent in June 2019. Do you support repealing Bill C-71?**

To keep communities safe, the Government of Canada is strengthening Canada's gun laws in a common-sense, focused and effective way. Bill C-71 prioritizes public safety and effective police work, while respecting law-abiding firearms owners.

- 2. If a person has passed all the RCMP required background checks do you agree they should be allowed to own and use handguns only at appropriate facilities?**

Gun crime in Canada is on the rise and a re-elected Liberal government will continue to respect Canadian hunters, farmers and sport shooters. We will not bring back the long-gun registry; however, we will work with the provinces and territories to give municipalities the ability to further restrict — or ban — handguns.

- 3. If a person has passed all the RCMP required background checks do you agree they should be allowed to own and use all types of semi-automatic rifles for hunting and or target shooting at approved gun ranges?**

We will continue to respect Canadian hunters, farmers and sport shooters, and will not bring back the long-gun registry. However, too many people have lost loved ones to gun violence. And too often, the culprit is military-style weapons designed to inflict mass human casualties — guns so dangerous that they have no place in Canada. A re-elected Liberal government will ban all military-style assault rifles, including the AR-15

- 4. Why is it necessary to have firearms licensees undergo background checks every five years when the Canadian Police Information Centre computers check you every day?**

Individuals may have significant changes in their lives over a five-year period outside of having committed a criminal offence that could impact owning a firearm, including mental health or other non-criminal factors. Moreover, CPIC does not check firearm owners every day. Although there are a number of criminal offences that trigger an automatic check for a firearm license when entered into CPIC, it does not cover all criminal code offences. To keep communities safe, our Government will continue to strengthen Canada's gun laws in a common-sense, focused and effective way.

- 5. Why is it necessary to revert to the paper issuance of permits to take restricted firearms to gun shows, gunsmiths, and the border if you are allowed to take your restricted firearms to All Approved Shooting Ranges at any time?**

To bolster community safety in relation to restricted and prohibited firearms (mostly handguns and assault weapons) specific authorization to transport (ATT) are to be obtained

when these firearms are moved through the community. For firearms such as shotguns and hunting rifles, the rules will not change. An ATT is also *not* required for transportation of restricted or prohibited firearms between the owner's residence and an approved shooting range, or between the retailer and the owner's home directly following the purchase of a firearm. This accounts for over 90 percent of all travel with restricted and prohibited weapons. The process for acquiring an ATT will be simple, there will be no fee, and they will be available electronically.