

Federal Candidate Questions:

- 1) How would you maintain and increase Canadians' priority access to fish, wildlife and wild spaces?
- 2) Do you support re-establishing the long gun registry or increasing the regulation of firearms or shooting sports?
- 3) How would you ensure financial compensation for fish and wildlife habitat to offset impacts from non-renewable resource extraction (i.e. pipelines)?
- 4) How would you increase science based management of natural resources and the ability of scientists to independently communicate their results?
- 5) How would you increase the capacity of Environment Canada and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to manage fish, wildlife and their habitats in terms of legislation, organization and budget?
- 6) Do you support using all federal hunting and fishing licence fees and a national levy on hunting, fishing and outdoor equipment to be directed for firearms education, and fish, wildlife and habitat conservation?
- 7) British Columbia's recreational fishery is worth as much to the provincial economy as commercial fishing, aquaculture and fish processing combined, according to a 2013 report from BC Stats. The report estimates overall B.C. fisheries and aquaculture sector revenue at \$2.2 billion for 2011, including \$936 million contribution from recreational angling. In order to support recreational fisheries in BC would you and your party increase the allocation of halibut to recreational fisheries from the current 15% to 20% of total allowable annual harvest, based on the economic and social benefits the tidal water fisheries provides to coastal communities?
- 8) Caribou have been undergoing drastic declines across Canada over the past several decades. As an example, the George River caribou herd in northern Quebec had dropped from about 800,000 in the 1960's to 14,000 at present. Populations of Woodland caribou in western Canada are also declining at an alarming rate. In the past, the federal government has waited until a species has declined to the point where it was designated as "endangered" or "threatened" before taking any action, but by then only heroic and extremely costly measures are possible. In the last decade, instead of stepping up to this challenge, government has instead closed ecological research institutions, eliminated programs and repeatedly reduced the staff and budget of Environment Canada
Will your party commit \$10 to 20 million dollars to restore the research and monitoring capacity in Environment Canada to support a meaningful longterm program for the investigation, research and restoration of caribou habitat before this iconic Canadian species disappears?
- 9) Moose populations have similarly undergone less drastic but equally alarming declines. The localized declines of moose point to a similar need to take decisive action before costly and extreme conservation measures are necessary to preserve these populations. In the absence of meaningful provincial programs, the federal government should demonstrate foresight and leadership by initiating a National Moose Strategy, backed up by dollars and staff, to identify

those measures that must be taken to slow or recover moose population declines. While this species is largely a provincial responsibility at present, it will rapidly become a federal “species at risk” without some significant intervention. Will your party commit to such an initiative? A key component of this must be an analysis of the extent of the impact of the sustenance harvest by First Nations and temporary restrictions on this activity if shown to be excessive. Now is the time to do something before the only option left is to close every season. How will your party address this situation?

- 10) At the present time, intervenors in the environmental assessment process can only make comment on the technical aspects of a specific project after the developer has identified the “need” for the project and chosen the location, size etc. Very often the presence of any project, no matter how well conceived, may result in negative impacts on species such as grizzlies, caribou, moose, etc. that do not tolerate disturbance. Will your party commit to modify the current Environmental Assessment process to allow meaningful comment on the justification for, and location of, resource projects and whether they are compatible with protection of biodiversity in that area.?
- 11) It has been over two years since the completion of the Cohen Commission on the decline of sockeye salmon stocks. In British Columbia we have heard very little about the implementation of the 75 recommendations made by Justice Cohen. How will your party implement the major recommendations of this report and will you commit the necessary funding for a five to ten year period to allow meaningful progress to be made to salmon management?
- 12) The federal government has promoted resource development at an unparalleled scale, but it has not shown itself to be a strong champion of protecting biodiversity affected by such development. Accordingly, much development has been stalled by opposition from First Nations, environmental groups and the public. How will your party provide balance to this process in terms of process and evidence based decision making?
- 13) Many groups are concerned that the creation of parks and protected areas in the past has resulted in a fragmented landscape that provides no possibility for exchange and migration of species between such areas, especially for large ungulates and predators. The federal government could generate much good will by taking the leadership on a national program to link up various parks and protected areas by establishing “connectivity corridors” that would allow animals to travel among areas. These would not need to be given legal park status as long as they protect those landscape characteristics that would allow animals to travel between and among areas. What initiatives would your party propose other than establishing national parks?