

October 2, 2008

RE: Questionnaire

Attached please find the response of Canada's New Democrats to your 2008 Election questionnaire. It is the policy of our party to respond on behalf of all New Democrat candidates.

To find out more, we encourage you to consult: www.ndp.ca

Thank you for your interest in the views of Canada's New Democrats on the critical issues facing Canadians.

We appreciate your efforts to help voters make an informed decision on voting day.

Sincerely,



Jack Layton
Leader of Canada's New Democrats

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative - Questionnaire

1. Will your government call on the U.S. to renegotiate with Canada a new Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement by 2010 to effectively address such key issues as climate change, invasive species, toxic chemicals, habitat protection, and others necessary to improve the health of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River?

Jack Layton and the New Democrats have committed to improving the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement to address such key issues as climate change, toxic chemicals and habitat protection. In addition, we intend to Implement the National Action Plan on Aquatic Invasive Species and ensure that acceptable treatment for ballast water is implemented and enforced.

2. How much new federal funding will your government allocate each year to support Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River protection programs and essential wastewater infrastructure?

Canada's New Democrats are committed to providing sufficient funding to adequately support Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River protection programs and essential wastewater infrastructure. We intend to Improve water quality monitoring and the enforcement of water quality standards by funding and implementing a National Water Strategy, including a comprehensive Water Quality Audit, in conjunction with provinces, territories and First Nations to ensure clean and safe water for all. As well as investing in a new municipal water and wastewater infrastructure, and establishing national standards to require a minimum of secondary treatment for all Canadian municipalities.

In our fully costed platform we have committed \$2.5 B for 2009-2010 for Environmental Re-investments which includes \$70 m specifically allocated for Water, Parks and Conservation. IN addition we have committed to creating a \$10 m Safe Water Fund to address is sues of emerging pollutants and help communities monitor water quality.

3. What support will your government offer municipalities to address climate change mitigation and adaptation for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River region?

Our team is committed to working with the provinces and territories to encourage research and develop strategies to minimize the effects of climate change on communities, vegetation and wildlife. Included in our plan are measures to deal with toxic industrial effluent by strengthening the enforcement of existing regulations. We will support provincial and municipal governments by providing national and international leadership to prevent build-up and counteract the harmful effects of marine debris. Toward this end we will provide the resources to ensure existing legislation regarding oily bilge water discharge and management will be effectively enforced.

To address the problem of blue-green algae the New Democrats' will enact the Blue-Green Algae Proliferation Prevention Act, which will include a ban on the supply and sale of phosphorus in dishwashing detergent as initiated by Manitoba's NDP Government, Provide compensation to agricultural landowners for expanding "buffer zones" along waterways in which they are prohibited from using harmful nutrients, Promote guidelines and best practices for home and cottage owners and for farmers.

4. Is your government willing to work with the municipal governments in Ontario and Quebec to develop and implement Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River agreements, programs and to set infrastructure funding priorities?

Jack Layton and the New Democrats are absolutely committed to working with provincial and municipal governments to develop and implement programs and agreements to set infrastructure funding priorities for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River.