

## CONSERVATIVE PARTY ELECTION PLATFORM

The Conservative Party released its full election platform in August.

### EXCERPTS

Here are excerpts from the Conservative platform [Conservative Party of Canada – Secure the Future](#)

#### ***Fisheries (pages 36-37)***

##### *Conservation and Community*

Canada's fishing communities feel beset by crisis. Many critical stocks are in trouble, new conflicts are arising, and many whose livelihoods are made on the water are feeling ignored and excluded. Resource users, whether Indigenous or non-Indigenous, commercial, or recreational, are feeling frustrated. They want to leave well-managed, sustainable fisheries to future generations, yet they are now more divided than ever and fearful for their future. There is no reason for this. What is needed now is unity in a common purpose: restoring and maintaining healthy stocks that support commercial, recreational, and cultural fisheries. A Conservative government will restore calm and confidence to Canada's fisheries sector by respecting the importance of all resource users and putting conservation first. To do this, we will:

- Prioritize stock assessments, stock recovery planning and enforcement of science-based catch limits because these have been shown to be the most important predictors of well-managed fisheries. We will also ensure that stock recovery plans incorporate climate change risks.
- Strengthen the role of advisory bodies in fisheries management to enhance cooperation between resource users and ensure that commercial, recreational, and cultural fishers can all have confidence in management decisions.
- Work collaboratively with Indigenous rights-holders and commercial harvesters to develop management plans which fulfill the rights recognized in the Marshall decisions, protect the sustainability of our fisheries, and ensure that coastal communities can continue to thrive.
- Improve the Marine Protected Area (MPA) designation processes by:
  - Ensuring that MPAs are focused on contributing to the sustainability of critical stocks;
  - Restoring meaningful public consultation to the MPA process; and
  - Exploring the feasibility of new models, such as dynamic MPAs, that will improve climate change resiliency.
- Work with stakeholders, First Nations, and regional jurisdictions to implement ecosystem-based fisheries management, including control of abundant predator populations which impact commercial and SARA-listed species.

- Update and strengthen DFO's national aquatic invasive species program and ensure that the Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations are being implemented.
- Address illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, seafood fraud and ghost gear.
- Restore community-based conservation initiatives like the Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program, provide more support for hatcheries, and support public conservation education initiatives.
- Create a Canadian Seafood Development Agency to advance the sustainable growth of the sector
  - The Agency will be responsible for developing a long-term strategy and sustainable growth plan in partnership with the provinces.
- Work with governments and communities in Nunatsiavut, Nunavut, Nunavik, and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region to develop community-based marine fisheries, which will help create employment and fight local and regional food insecurity.
  - For communities across Inuit Nunangat, oceans are an essential lifeline and source of food.

#### Small Craft Harbours

Coastal communities rely on the Small Craft Harbours Program to maintain more than 10,000 commercial wharves in Canada. While they are found in all parts of the country, they are especially central to communities in Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick. Although these wharves are vital pieces of community infrastructure that support jobs and economic opportunity, there has been no increase in permanent funding for years.

A Conservative government will provide sustainable funding for small craft harbours by doubling annual funding.

#### Pacific Salmon Strategy

The iconic Pacific salmon species are part of the fabric of life for communities throughout British Columbia and are an essential part of BC's marine and freshwater ecosystems. While some stocks are robust, many are under threat. This has consequences for Indigenous peoples, coastal communities, and commercial and recreational fishers, as well as to the health of BC's rivers and streams and to endangered populations like the Southern Resident Killer Whales.

Building on the commitments already outlined above, we will develop a Pacific Salmon Strategy focused on making measurable progress toward restoring at-risk stocks. This will include:

- Enforcing a strict timeline for the completion of stock assessments;
- Prioritizing funding for community-led habitat restoration or other projects that support at-risk stocks;

- Ensuring the Salmonid Enhancement Program is sufficiently resourced to support at-risk stocks;
- Increasing support for and engagement with Indigenous- and community-led hatchery and enhancement projects;
- Implementing mass-marking programs at BC fish hatcheries and allowing mark-selective harvest of salmon in BC's sport fishery, protecting sensitive fish populations while maintaining the health of BC's public fishery;
- Creating a pinniped management plan that will address threats to at-risk stocks in a balanced way; and
- Identifying the likelihood of future threats due to climate change.

### Aquaculture

The Conservative Party supports the sustainable development and growth of Canada's world-leading aquaculture sector due to its ability to provide a solid economic base in coastal communities, create stable, long-term employment, and contribute to Canadian food security while succeeding as a leading Canadian export to global markets.

Internationally, aquaculture is widely seen as an essential source of protein and a key component of improving global food security. Many shellfish and finfish species are grown throughout Canada, and many First Nations have pursued aquaculture as a business that can support their communities and provide meaningful work for their members.

However, we also understand that salmon farming on Canada's West Coast has been controversial and that local communities are confused and torn by conflicting studies and claims. Further, we know that decisions made here could have ripple effects on the East Coast as well.

Conservatives will not take an ideological position on this issue. We want the aquaculture industry to succeed, but it is a simple fact that this sector can only grow as long as Canadians can have confidence in our ability to protect wild salmon. Therefore, any decisions related to salmon aquaculture must be based on robust science, guided by conservation, and be respectful of the communities and families that rely on these jobs.

To accomplish this, a Conservative government will:

- Maintain the decision to remove salmon farms from the Discovery Islands, but model the transition after the process that has been undertaken in the Broughton Archipelago to be more respectful of local First Nations, communities, and workers;
- Assign responsibility for the management and sustainable growth of the sector to a department other than DFO so that DFO can be solely focused on enforcement;
- Create a modern Aquaculture Act that can help restore public confidence;

- Ensure the roles of DFO and the CFIA are clearly defined in the National Aquatic Animal Health Program and adequately resourced;
- Strengthen monitoring requirements for salmon farms;
- Develop, in consultation with industry, First Nations, communities and other stakeholders, a comprehensive Salmon Aquaculture Management Strategy that addresses both the risks and opportunities of this sector; and
- Develop a tax incentive program for the development and adoption of technologies that reduce contact between wild and farmed salmon.

***Conservation (page 38)***

[the following is in the context of terrestrial so it is not clear if this represents a 25% target for marine conservation.]

To conserve lands in all parts of Canada, including the southern working landscape, Conservatives will:

- **Reach the target** of protecting 17% of Canada's land and water and work towards 25% with a focus on:
  - Using remote sensing to identify conservation gaps in the southern working landscape and gather data that can be used to determine the potential for lands to provide ecosystem services;
  - Putting in place other effective area-based conservation measures in the southern working landscape;
  - Working with Indigenous communities to expand the creation of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs) managed and stewarded by Indigenous Guardians; and
  - Continuing to develop parks and protected areas in all parts of Canada.

## NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP) ELECTION PLATFORM

The NDP released its full election platform in August.

### EXCERPTS

Here are excerpts from the [New Democratic Party: Ready for Better](#)

[The NDP platform is available only online in HTML format. The excerpts below were found searching for “fisheries” and “oceans”.]

#### *Building Canadian industries and supporting good jobs*

New Democrats are committed to a vision of strong coastal communities, sustainable fisheries and thriving marine and freshwater ecosystems. With the right choices today, we can protect our fisheries and the jobs they provide for generations to come – and make Canada a global leader in ocean and freshwater sustainability.

In order to protect wild salmon on the Pacific coast, our approach will be focused on conserving, protecting, and restoring critical habitat. We will fully implement the recommendations of the Cohen Commission and work with the province of British Columbia and First Nations to support the transition to land-based closed-containment systems.

On the Atlantic coast, New Democrats will ensure that resource allocations in the fishery are guided by the principles of adjacency, historic dependence and sustainability, while also respecting Indigenous rights.

When it comes to sustainability, New Democrats recognize that the wellbeing of our communities is reliant upon the health of our marine and freshwater ecosystems. That’s why we will invest in habitat restoration and the rebuilding of fish stocks, as well as in strengthening our response to oil spills and derelict vessels to better protect our coasts.

#### *Protecting our land and water*

We are committed to pursuing a Nature agenda, anchored by our commitment to safeguarding ecosystems and biodiversity by protecting 30% of our land, freshwater and oceans by 2030. We will expand urban national parks and restore urban biodiversity, and ensure the Species at Risk Act is enforced. We will launch a 10-year nature plan to reverse species loss and we would curb the import and domestic trade of wild animals. We will further protect our oceans and our freshwater, by reducing emissions from shipping and fishing, expanding marine protected areas, reducing key threats to ocean ecosystems and implementing a national freshwater strategy. And we will support Indigenous-led nature conservation and land-use and climate planning, including by growing the Indigenous Guardians Program and working hand-in-hand to advance the protection and restoration of wild Pacific salmon populations on the west coast.

## LIBERAL PARTY ELECTION PLATFORM

The Liberal Party released its election platform on September 1, 2021.

### EXCERPTS

Here are excerpts from the [Liberal Platform](#). Here is a link directly to the [pdf version](#).

#### *Strengthening Canada's Blue Economy (page 50)*

A re-elected Liberal government will: Continue working with business, academic institutions, provincial and territorial governments, and leading not-for-profits, including in freshwater economies like the Great Lakes, to ensure Canada is positioned to succeed in the fast-growing global sector of the blue economy.

#### *Clean and Healthy Oceans (page 50)*

Oceans are an important part of our culture and a lot of us rely on healthy oceans and clean coastlines. That's why we launched the Oceans Protection Plan in 2016, which has put in place world-leading shipping safety; strengthened protections for our coasts and marine life, including endangered whales, and opened and reopened Coast Guard stations, to keep people safe.

A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Renew and expand the Coastal Restoration fund so that we can restore aquatic habitats.
- Make new investments in areas like tidal wetlands, seagrass meadows, and riparian habitats that have a high potential to absorb and store carbon.
- Modernize the *Oceans Act* to explicitly consider climate change impacts on marine ecosystems and species in regional ocean management with measurable progress indicators tied to management objectives.
- Expand the Ghost Gear Program to continue to clean up our oceans and coasts from lost and abandoned fishing gear and oceans plastics that endanger sea life, impact fish stocks, and pollute the ocean.
- Invest \$50 million over the next 5 years to support community shoreline and oceans plastic cleanup.
- Create a national, interdisciplinary working group around climate-resilient ocean conservation planning.
- Expand climate vulnerability work to better inform marine conservation planning and management.
- Continue to protect key marine species, including the Southern Resident Killer Whale, the North Atlantic Right Whale, and the St. Lawrence Estuary Beluga.

- Advance the historic \$647 million Pacific Salmon Strategy launched in June and make new investments to conserve and restore Wild Atlantic Salmon.

*More National Parks and Marine Conservation Areas (page 49)*

To protect and conserve nature across the country, the Liberal government made the two single-largest investments in nature conservation in Canadian history— \$1.3 billion in Budget 2018 and \$3.3 billion in Budget 2021—which will allow us to protect a quarter of our lands and marine areas by 2025.

A re-elected Liberal government will build on this progress and continue to protect more nature by:

- Establishing 10 new national parks and 10 new national marine conservation areas (NMCAs) in the next 5 years—doubling the size of the existing national parks and NMCA system in Canada.
- Working with Indigenous communities on co-management agreements of these national parks and NMCAs.
- Continuing to work with partners to ensure Canada meets its goals to conserve 25% of our lands and waters by 2025 and 30% of each by 2030.
- Working to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030 in Canada and achieving a full recovery for nature by 2050. This includes championing this goal internationally to ensure that the world protects the intact nature required to reverse the biodiversity collapse and protect our climate.

*Indigenous-Led Nature Conservation (page 49)*

Indigenous peoples have stewarded these lands and waters since time immemorial. That's why we launched the Indigenous Guardians pilot in 2017, and helped establish Canada's first-ever Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area [IPCAs].

A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Work with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis partners to support new Indigenous Guardians programs and establish new Indigenous Guardians Networks.
- Support Indigenous communities to build capacity to establish more IPCAs.

*Trade that Works for Everyone (page 68)*

Canada is a trading nation and trade has an important part to play in our plan for a robust economic recovery. Under our leadership, Canada became the only G7 country to have free trade agreements with all other G7 countries.

A re-elected Liberal government will:

- Establish a new federal hub to help Canadian businesses and entrepreneurs take full advantage of the opportunities created by CUSMA, CETA, CPTPP, and other trade agreements.
- Launch a new comprehensive Asia-Pacific strategy to deepen diplomatic, economic, and defence partnerships in the region, including by negotiating new bilateral trade agreements, expanding FIPAs, and building stronger economic linkages.
- Reinforce economic cooperation in our hemisphere, including by continuing trade negotiations with the Pacific Alliance and pursuing bilateral trade agreements with key partners.
- Develop a strategy for economic cooperation across Africa, including support for the African Continental Free Trade Agreement, facilitation of increased infrastructure investment, and expanding partnerships in research and innovation.