

Questions for the Federal Parties

In the summer issue we published a call for questions to be put to the main parties in this fall's federal election. Here are our two questions, with the parties' responses published in alphabetical order according to party name. Each party was given a maximum word count of 225 words.



A FEDERAL ELECTION IS COMING!

1

As of publication of this issue, the exact date of the election has not been announced, **but it must be held by Oct. 21.**

2

What question would you like to put to the political parties?

3

Send your most important question to us by June 15 and we'll forward a selection of questions to the parties.

4

Then watch for our Autumn issue where we'll share their responses.

Send your question by email to editor@NEViews.ca or by Canada Post to **Niagara Escarpment Views, 50 Ann St., Georgetown ON L7G 2V2**

USE US TO GET TO THE PARTIES!

Question 1

As a print and online magazine that celebrates the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve the Niagara Escarpment, plus Manitoulin Island, we have readers & viewers who want to know: **What in your climate change policy will result in the protection of all of Canada's nature reserves?**

Conservative Party of Canada

Canada is home to some of the world's most beautiful parks and natural environments — which we must preserve and protect for our future generations to enjoy.

Conservatives have a proud legacy of managing Canada's natural environment and improving Canada's environmental performance. In fact, the founder of our party and Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, laid the groundwork for our national parks system and created the first three.

Andrew Scheer and Canada's Conservatives will continue to build on this legacy. This is why, we recently unveiled A Real Plan to Protect our Environment — the most comprehensive environmental platform ever unveiled by an opposition party. One of the key planks of this plan involves creating a cleaner and greener natural environment and protecting our air, land, water, and wildlife. As Prime Minister, Andrew Scheer will:

- Lead a science-based terrestrial and marine conservation assessment to identify the best opportunities for expanding our protected area network, including parks, marine protected areas, national wildlife areas and migratory bird sanctuaries.
- Identify high-value, low-conflict areas and initiate an expedited process to declare the area as protected.
- Work with Indigenous peoples to explore options for more active participation in the management of protected areas.
- Reinstate up-front consultations with communities and stakeholders before determining protected area boundaries.
- Ensure that protected area approval processes are reasonable, timely, and respectful of local communities.

Green Party of Canada

The protection of nature reserves is one of the most important parts of dealing with climate change. Maintaining habitat is key to protecting species, as the United Nations has declared there are a million species facing extinction. Also, natural infrastructure, like reserves, helps absorb carbon, and some help mitigate flooding. We will establish additional reserves, both on land and in our oceans with a goal of restoring the ecosystems we need to survive. At least 30% of our land and oceans should be protected, using the criteria set by the IUCN.

Liberal Party of Canada

During the last election, Canadians made a clear choice between the Conservative & NDP plan for austerity and cuts, and our plan to invest in the middle class, grow the economy, and protect a healthy environment for our kids and grandkids. Today, Canada's economy is one of the fastest growing in the G7, Canadians have created more than 1 million jobs since 2015, and it is no longer free to pollute anywhere in Canada. The Liberal government is taking action to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change across all sectors - from industry, to buildings, transportation and agriculture. This means using clean electricity to power our homes, workplaces, vehicles and industries, and using energy more efficiently. It also means more resilient infrastructure and ecosystems that can better withstand changes to the climate, and it means expanding protected areas and parks with a whole host of important new conservation measures. This includes \$500 million to create a new Nature Fund to protect species at risk, expand wildlife areas and sanctuaries, manage protected areas, implement the Species at Risk Act, and establish a coordinated network of conservation areas.

Andrew Scheer, like Stephen Harper before him, has no real plan to address the costs of climate change or to harness the opportunities of a clean economy. Justin Trudeau and the Liberal team are focused on protecting a clean environment and combatting climate change, while growing our economy.

Question 1 continued

New Democratic Party

Making sure that our lands and waters are protected is essential to making real progress on our climate change goals, and to safeguarding a good quality of life for all Canadians. New Democrats also plan to better protect Canadians from toxic substances in everyday products like cosmetics, through a strengthened Canadian Environmental Protection Act.

Conservation is a vital way to protect ecosystems and preserve biodiversity. New Democrats will protect 30% of our land, freshwater, and oceans by 2030 and back those protections with funding and enforcement. We'll also work with other levels of government to develop a system of urban national parks — and a national approach to tree-planting, using responsible reforestation to help lower our carbon footprint. It's time for strong action to protect species at risk in Canada. New Democrats will use all the tools available under the Species at Risk Act and ensure the implementation of recovery strategies to preserve biodiversity for generations to come. Canada's freshwater resources are critical for the health and well-being of our ecosystems, our communities and our local economies. A New Democrat government will implement a national freshwater strategy and work with the provinces and territories to protect our waterways under international agreements.

Question 2 **What is your party's position on replacing the 700,000 barrels of oil a day we import from Saudi Arabia with Canadian oil, and instead of exporting our product out of the country, we refine what we need, thereby avoiding potential ocean spills both inbound and outbound?**

Conservative Party of Canada

While some politicians may pretend that the world doesn't need oil and gas anymore, it's simply not true. Even the most conservative estimates forecast that global demand for oil and gas will continue to grow for years to come.

Canada has a choice to make — develop our own resources, create good-paying jobs across our country, and grow our economy, or have countries like Iran and Venezuela meet that demand and, in doing so, boost regimes that abuse human rights and take virtually no steps to protect the environment.

Justin Trudeau has made his choice. He continues to make it harder to extract Canadian resources and has done everything he can to get in the way of pipeline construction. Andrew Scheer and Canada's Conservatives will make a different choice.

Canada has more than enough oil — not only to displace imports from the aforementioned rogue states — but to put an end to all foreign imports once and for all.

We have a vision for an energy independent Canada by 2030 with an energy corridor stretching across our country.

Andrew Scheer and Canada's Conservatives will:

- Cancel the Trudeau Liberal carbon tax
- Establish clear timelines for pipeline approvals
- Eliminate foreign interference in the pipeline approvals process, and
- Invoke federal jurisdiction when necessary.

An energy independent Canada would be a Canada firing on all cylinders — across all sectors and regions.

Green Party of Canada

While our goal is to end the use of fossil fuels, there will have to be a transition period, and our goal is to minimize Canada's carbon footprint, by using local gas. We can use existing pipelines and rail lines with improved safety legislation. Refining it will create additional jobs. Exported oil sands crude is purchased at a lower price, but this will be a fair price. We will eliminate the use of polluting bunker fuel to import oil.

Liberal Party of Canada

The Liberal plan has always been clear: To develop the vital infrastructure that is critical to our ability to get Canadian resources to global markets, and to do this while protecting our environment, which includes safeguarding our oceans and combating climate change - and it's working. Our emissions are going down and our economy is booming.

And part of that plan includes protecting and making historic investments in Canada's coastline. Our coasts support traditional Indigenous and coastal community livelihoods, attract tourism, and enable the export and import of our goods overseas. They are home to an abundance of Canadian fisheries, and play a key role in strengthening the economy and growing our middle class. That is why the Liberal government launched the Oceans Protection Plan - which is the single-largest investment in Canadian history to protect our oceans (at \$1.5 billion).

While Andrew Scheer has no plan at all, our plan is supported by leading scientists and economists across Canada. We've made incredible progress together, and our plan is working for Canadians - but there's much more hard work to do. Across Canada, our children and grandchildren are counting on us to take action now on climate change. And that's exactly what we're doing.

New Democratic Party

Where oil and gas will continue to form a part of Canada's energy mix in the immediate future, we will continue to prioritize domestic upgrading and refining instead of shipping our raw resources and jobs to other countries. New Democrats believe that public funds are best spent supporting the transition to renewable energy, rather than on profitable oil and gas companies. We will fulfill Canada's G-20 commitment to eliminate these fossil fuel subsidies and redirect these funds to low carbon initiatives.

New Democrats believe in giving Canadians a stronger voice in energy decisions that impact their communities. We will overhaul the process for reviewing major projects to ensure adequate time for public consultation, and provide core funding to support Indigenous communities participating in these processes. We will ensure that proposed projects align with our emissions reduction targets, respect Indigenous rights and create good jobs here in Canada.

*From all of us at **Niagara Escarpment Views**, don't forget to use your right to vote!*