

To prepare for the Oct. 19 federal election, we asked some politicians and parties the following question. These were the only responses we received. The Liberal Party of Canada and the Green Party of Canada did not respond to our invitation.

As I've said in the House of Commons, we are truly blessed to live so close to this UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve, the amazing Bruce Trail and Dundas Valley. It has been an honour to help secure federal funding and support for the Dundas EcoPark and Royal Botanical Gardens — both part of the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System.

Our government has launched a number of initiatives to protect and enhance our treasured natural spaces—including the expansion of Canada's First National Urban Park in the Rouge Valley, the National Conservation Plan, the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund and the Habitat Stewardship Program.

David Sweet, MP for Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale (2006 to present); Conservative Candidate, Flamborough-Glanbrook

Protection of environmentally sensitive land is a priority for our Conservative Government. From the creation of the Rouge National Park in the GTA to the 4,000 km² of ecologically sensitive private lands, we have taken positive action to protect Canada's landscape. To highlight a few of our accomplishments, we extended the Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area reserve, established the Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area, greatly expanded Nahanni National Park reserve and established three new National Wildlife Areas in Nunavut. The Conservative Government is committed to protecting our lands, water and wildlife for the benefit of all Canadians.

Mike Wallace, Conservative Candidate for Burlington

QUESTION: If we care about the protection of the Niagara Escarpment, which is a provincial matter despite its UNESCO designation as a World Biosphere Reserve, why should we vote for your party in the federal election?

New Democrats believe we have a duty to protect our environment for future generations. We must do more to care for unique natural spaces like the Niagara Escarpment. Unfortunately, Stephen Harper's Conservatives have systematically dismantled Canada's environmental protection laws and stripped protection from thousands of rivers, lakes, and streams under the Navigable Waters Protection Act — including throughout the Escarpment. An NDP government would restore legal protection for Canadian waterways to ensure that sensitive ecosystems are protected and that all industrial development proposals are subject to thorough and credible environmental assessments. Canadians can trust Thomas Mulcair to defend our natural heritage.

Federal New Democratic Party