



Liberal Party of Canada

350 Albert, Suite 920
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Parti Libéral du Canada

350 rue Albert, Suite 920
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September 4 2015

Greg Farrant
Manager, Government Affairs & Policy
Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters
P.O. Box 2800, 4601 Guthrie Drive
Peterborough, ON K9J 8L5

Dear Mr. Farrant,

Enclosed, please find the Liberal Party of Canada's formal response to your questionnaire.

For more information on the Liberal Party of Canada's vision for Canada, please take a moment to review our policies online at RealChange.ca. This site provides details on a Liberal government's policies, goals, and priorities.

On behalf of our Leader, Justin Trudeau, and the entire Liberal team, thank you for writing to identify the major concerns of your membership.

We appreciate your interest in the Liberal Party of Canada's policies as they relate to the issues which affect you.

Sincerely,

Anna Gainey, President
Liberal Party of Canada


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Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters 2015 Federal Election Questionnaire

- 1) What is your party's position on fishing, hunting and trapping?

Fishing, hunting and trapping are heritage activities that provided the foundations on which our nation was originally established. The Liberal Party of Canada respects that these activities remain deeply rooted in Canadian culture, while also providing significant ecological, social, trade and economic benefits for Canadians. Eight-million Canadians trap, hunt or fish and the sector contributes nearly \$15-billion to the economy annually. Most importantly, when undertaken and managed in a manner based on science and ethical conservation, the sector provides thousands of sustainable jobs in every region of the country. These elements are essential to the future of our country and the Liberal Party is proud to support the sector.

- 2) If elected, will your government end all funding for the cervid (deer and elk) farm industry and commit to banning cervid farms, the primary vector for the spread of CWD, with compensation for the owners?

For too long, the Conservative government has ignored long-standing problems instead of trying to have the difficult discussions and find solutions. Further, they made decisions without the benefit of reliable data and, as a result, meaningful action on issues such as CWD has been deferred.

Sound science, not ideology, will drive Liberal policy, funding and programming decisions. This commitment to scientifically driven, evidenced-based policy will help ensure that diseases such as CWD are adequately studied and prevented. Sound science, not ideology, will drive our funding and programming in health and ecological research.

- 3) If you form the next government, will you commit to increasing the Canadian funding envelope for the GLFC Sea Lamprey Control Program to the same level provided by the U.S.?

As most OFAH members know, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC) is a joint Canada/U.S. regulatory body that was created in 1955 to assist with the conservation, and administration of certain projects, involving the Great Lakes. One of the specific initiatives outlined in the aforementioned convention was the control of sea lamprey. Under the terms of that agreement, the United States and Canada would be responsible to fund lamprey control efforts in the Great Lakes through a 69% - 31% cost sharing agreement. I am proud to say that, when the Liberals were last in government, we made dramatic improvements to Canada's contributions to the GLFC. For example, after increasing Canada's contribution to sea lamprey control to \$8.1 million, we designated the funding as "a base." This means the funding was permanent and did not have to be renegotiated each year. Sadly, despite the obvious economic benefits of effective invasive species control, the Conservatives have virtually ignored this area of spending since.

- 4) If you form the next government, will you work with the OFAH and other stakeholders across the country to explore ways to ensure that Canadians will have a continued access to our lakes, rivers and streams?

The Liberal Party of Canada was deeply disturbed that the Conservative government used omnibus legislation to gut the Navigable Waters Protection Act. By prioritizing development over access and protection, the Conservatives have seriously jeopardized Canadians' access to our treasured waterways.


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A Liberal Government will conduct a wholesale review of these changes, restore lost protections, and incorporate more modern safeguards. The protection of our freshwater resources will be an imperative. First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples will be included in the reshaping of federal environmental laws and policies to ensure respect of rights and to reflect Indigenous values in federal legislation and regulations.

5) If elected, will your government commit to supporting HAAP and work with the panel to protect, enhance and support the sustainable use of fish and wildlife across Canada?

A Liberal Government would work collaboratively with stakeholders and advisory panels such as HAAP to promote conservation, and would engage with their expertise in developing evidence based policy.

6) If you form the next government, will you work with the OFAH and other stakeholders to ensure sustainable fishing and hunting opportunities remain in Marine Protected Areas, and are enhanced in National Parks and National Wildlife Areas?

Canada has more coastline than any nation on Earth but only 1.3% of its marine and coastal areas are protected – placing Canada well behind most other countries when it comes to oceanic protections. This gap must be closed. A Liberal government will increase the amount of Canada's marine and coastal areas that are protected from 1.3 percent to 5 percent by 2017, and 10 percent by 2020. We will also reverse the \$40 million that Mr. Harper cut from the federal government's ocean science and monitoring programs. As with all efforts to protect natural habitat, a scientifically premised, well-managed and sound wildlife management strategy must be included. A Liberal Government will work with the provinces, territories, and stakeholder groups to ensure that Canadians continue to have access to sustainable fishing and hunting opportunities.

7) If you form the next government, will you continue funding for the RFCCP and create a dedicated program to support wildlife habitat enhancement in Canada?

A Liberal Government will rapidly develop a road map to meet Canada's international commitment to protect 17 percent of our land and inland waters by 2020. As a first step towards this goal, we will invest \$50 million per year to advance the development of Canada's parks system, as well as manage and expand National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

8) If elected, will you commit to ensuring stakeholders and the public have an opportunity to provide meaningful input into the discussions around land claims that affect them, and establish a funding envelope to allow non-Aboriginal groups and individuals to access funds to assist them in representing their interests during the claims process?

A Liberal Government will develop a Federal Reconciliation Framework that will include mechanisms to resolve grievances associated with existing historical treaties and modern land-claims agreements. The current process simply does not work. We will work with First Nations to re-design how Canada negotiates and fully implements modern treaties. This Framework will ensure that the land claim process is open, transparent, and takes into account the views of all stakeholders.



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9) If you form the next government, will you commit to not restoring a long-gun registry for non-restricted rifles and shotguns, and work with stakeholder groups representing law-abiding firearms owners to continue firearms reforms that recognize the legitimate ownership and use of legal firearms in Canada?

The Liberal Party of Canada will not bring back the long-gun registry. We believe that there are opportunities to reduce gun violence through better use of modern technologies and the regulatory and licensing system.

10) If elected, will your government provide a dedicated funding source for non-government organizations to acquire lands that will remain available for public use, particularly heritage activities?

A Liberal government will be open to engaging with stakeholders on ways in which the government can better recognize and promote heritage activities, and we look forward to engaging with OFAH on its ideas in government.

11) If you form the next government, will you commit to establishing a permanent and dedicated funding program to fight the threat posed by invasive species?

Liberals recognise the devastating effects of invasive species. Our long coastline, vast expanses of freshwater and busy inland shipping up the St. Lawrence Seaway puts Canada at high risk from Alien Invasive Species (AIS). Throughout the 1990s and 2000s the Liberal government worked with local, provincial, national, and international bodies to address the impacts of AIS and mitigate their spread.

A new Liberal government will continue the work it began in the 1990s. As we did before, we will work not only at the local level but also with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Maritime Organisation to ensure that effective steps are taken to avoid new species entering Canadian waters. A Liberal Government will work with all levels of government, as well as our American partners, to prevent the spread of invasive species, undertake science-based initiatives to better understand and manage water levels, and clean-up coastal contamination. We will renew our commitment to the protection of the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence River Basin, and the Lake Winnipeg Basin.

Further to this, a Liberal Government would be committed to the unmuzzing of government scientists. The ability of scientists to present their findings to the public, unfettered by the political concerns of the government of the day is essential to combating the threat invasive species pose to our ecosystem. To accomplish this, a Liberal Government will create a Chief Science Officer whose mandate would include ensuring that government science is freely available to the public, that scientists are able to speak freely about their work, and that scientific analyses are appropriately considered when the government makes decisions.