

Dear Mr Lombardo and Mr. DeMille,

Thank you for your letter regarding the Liberal Party of Canada's platform. Please find our responses to the OFAH/NHFC's election priorities below:

### **Promotion of Fishing, Hunting, and Trapping**

The Liberal Party recognizes the importance of fishing, hunting and trapping to communities across Canada. That is why we were proud to support the *National Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Heritage Day Act* in Parliament. We are committed to exploring new ways to elevate the status of National Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Heritage Day in Canada.

We will also explore new ways to increase the involvement of the conservation community in shaping government policy, including additional consultations with the hunting, angling, trapping, and conservation communities.

We agree with the OFAH and other NFHC partners on the importance of creating the next generation of conservationists. One of the best ways to encourage conservation leadership is by helping the next generation of Canadian kids experience Canada's natural beauty firsthand.

To give every Canadian child the chance to learn how to camp by the time they reach grade eight, we will move forward with expanding the successful Learn to Camp program. This will make it possible for 400,000 kids each year to learn basic camping skills. To make sure that our National Parks are accessible to all families no matter their economic circumstances, we will also move forward with giving 75,000 less privileged children and their families an up to four-night trip to one of Canada's national or provincial parks.

### **Firearms Policy**

The overwhelming majority of firearms owners are law-abiding and exceptionally responsible in their gun ownership, but we have heard concerns from many Canadians about the availability of those firearms developed for military use which have tragically been used in mass shootings outside of combat zones far too often. For more than four decades, police chiefs in Canada have been advocating for restrictions on assault weapons and we will ban those designed for military purpose. This will in no way impact the lawful activities of hunters or sport shooters who do not want nor need assault weapons to perform their tasks. We will continue to respect Canadian hunters, farmers and sport shooters, and will not bring back the long-gun registry.

A re-elected Liberal government will also better protect communities by preventing the thousands of firearms that are stolen each year by implementing measures learned from responsible firearm owners that will require every restricted and prohibited firearm to be stored in a safe or vault designed or modified to secure the weapon against theft.

We agree that CBSA and other law enforcement partners need to be properly resourced to counter firearms smuggling. That is why our Government has invested \$86 million to prevent cross-border smuggling of illegal firearms.

But, we also know that we cannot simply arrest ourselves out of this problem which is why we will also continue supporting local community groups to provide exit strategies for youth already involved in gang activity, and build on the \$7.5M commitment we made to divert youth from gangs earlier this year while addressing social and economic issues such as housing and employment to create opportunities for young Canadians.

OFAH and other members of the NFHC have played an important role in shaping our government's sensible approach to firearms policy, and we look forward to future collaboration.

### **Chronic Wasting Disease**

Under our government, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency has updated its national CWD program to better focus on disease prevention and risk management. We will continue to work with farmers, conservation organizations, and other impacted stakeholders to combat this disease.

### **Conservation Funding**

Canada has the longest coastline in the world, one-fifth of the world's fresh water, and vast and wild forests – but climate change puts them all at risk. It's more important than ever to protect the natural landscape we all know and love.

Our government is committed to conserving and protecting Canada's biodiversity, wildlife, and habitat. Following a decade of lost time under the Harper Conservatives, we've taken action to protect nature and the wildlife that depends on it. That is why we have invested a historic \$1.3 Billion in Budget 2018 to protect Canada's wildlife and wilderness. We are also doubling the amount of protected lands and oceans. Our goal is to protect 2.3 million km<sup>2</sup> by 2020. Since 2015, we have protected an additional 530,000 km<sup>2</sup> of our land and oceans – an area a little bigger than Spain. We will continue to work with provinces, territories, Indigenous communities and scientists to protect, sustain, and restore our species in their natural habitat.

Building upon this progress, a re-elected Liberal government will conserve and protect 25 per cent of Canada's lands and 25 percent of Canada's oceans by 2025, working towards 30 per cent in each by 2030.

### **Aquatic Invasive Species**

To keep Canada's oceans healthy, a re-elected Liberal government will move forward with more investments in marine science and fighting invasive species, and will work with coastal communities, Indigenous communities, and others to better protect fish stocks and marine

habitats from changes resulting from climate change. This will include introducing Canada's first-ever Aquaculture Act.

To ensure that Canada is better prepared to protect and manage our fresh water in a changing climate, we will also move forward with a new Canada Water Agency. The Agency will work together with the provinces and territories, Indigenous communities, local authorities, scientists, and others to find the best ways to keep our water safe, clean, and well-managed.

Once again, thank you for your letter.

Sincerely,

Team Trudeau