



LAKE SIMCOE WATCH

Lake Simcoe Watch Questions for York-Simcoe 2018 Federal By-Election Candidates

Lake Simcoe Water Quality and Cold Water Fishery

According to the *Lake Simcoe Protection Plan*, to improve the water quality of Lake Simcoe (e.g., reduction of weeds and algae blooms) and to protect our cold water fishery (e.g., lake trout and whitefish) Lake Simcoe's annual phosphorus loading must be reduced by 50% to 44 tonnes per year.

Streams that are affected by runoff (e.g., fertilizers, manure) from urban, rural and agricultural areas are responsible for more than half of Lake Simcoe's phosphorus loadings. Dust from construction sites, pits and quarries and agricultural lands is another major source of phosphorus.

Woodlands and wetlands help to regulate water quality by filtering out contaminants and absorbing excess nutrients before they reach the Lake. The loss of woodlands, wetlands and natural shorelines has led to increased phosphorus loadings into Lake Simcoe.

Unfortunately, the Government of Ontario's phosphorus reduction strategy does not include a specific plan for how to actually lower Lake Simcoe's phosphorus loadings to 44 tonnes per year.

(For more information please see: www.ontario.ca/page/lake-simcoe-phosphorus-reduction-strategy.)

Question #1: Should the Government of Canada provide funding to the ~~Government of Ontario~~, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and/or municipalities in the Lake Simcoe watershed to assist with the development and implementation of a plan to reduce Lake Simcoe's phosphorus loadings to 44 tonnes per year by 2026?

Answer: Yes No Undecided

Additional Comments:

Without a clear commitment from the Ontario government I would be hesitant to hand federal funds directly to them - especially without a plan in place.



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Lake Simcoe's Forests, Wetlands and Meadows

According to the *Lake Simcoe Protection Plan*, at least 40% of Lake Simcoe's watershed area should consist of *high-quality* forests, wetlands and meadows.

Currently, approximately 39% of Lake Simcoe's watershed consists of natural cover. Unfortunately, much of this land is highly fragmented and therefore does not provide *high quality* habitat and migration corridors for animals, birds and plants.

Question #2: Should the Government of Canada provide funding to the Government of Ontario, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and/or municipalities in the Lake Simcoe watershed to assist with the development and implementation of a plan to ensure that by 2026, at least 40% of Lake Simcoe's watershed consists of *high-quality connected* forests, wetlands and meadows?

Answer: Yes _____ No _____ Undecided

Additional Comments:

Although I support the expanded expansion of high quality
connected forests, wetlands & meadows, I must
first gain a better understanding of how that plan
can be implemented. I will spend more time familiarize
myself with this issue.

Jessa McLean

Print Name

Jessa McLean

Signature

Jan. 19. 2019.

Date

Please return by Monday, January 21, 2019 to Jack Gibbons at Jack@LakeSimcoeWatch.ca

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