



Lake Simcoe Watch Questionnaire for 2025 Provincial Election Candidates

In 2009, the Government of Ontario released its [Lake Simcoe Protection Plan](#) (LSPP), which called for Lake Simcoe's phosphorus pollution to be reduced by 50% to 44 tonnes per year to prevent [toxic blue-green algae blooms](#) and excessive weed growth and to protect the lake's cold water fishery (e.g., lake trout, white fish).

Despite the fact that the LSPP was released 16 years ago, the Government of Ontario has still not developed a plan or a budget to achieve its 44 tonne target. As a result, Lake Simcoe's phosphorus pollution has gone up by [25% between 2015 and 2020 relative to its 2009 level](#). We are going in the wrong direction.

In April 2022, Ontario's former Minister of the Environment, David Piccini, and Caroline Mulrone announced that the proposed [Holland Marsh Phosphorus Pollution Reduction Plant](#) was fully funded and will be built. According to Minister Piccini, this project will be the single largest initiative in Ontario's history to reduce Lake Simcoe's phosphorus pollution.

Unfortunately, the Government of Ontario has still not announced when shovels will go in the ground to build this important project. The Government has also not announced when this new plant will be in operation.

In 2023 and 2024, seven Lake Simcoe municipalities (Orillia, Oro-Medonte, Ramara, Brock, Georgina, East Gwillimbury and Bradford West Gwillimbury) plus the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation requested the Government of Ontario to develop and implement a plan to reduce Lake Simcoe's phosphorus pollution to 44 tonnes per year by 2030.

For more information see our report: [Cleaning-Up Lake Simcoe](#).

Question: Should the Government of Ontario develop and implement a plan to reduce Lake Simcoe's phosphorus pollution to 44 tonnes per year by 2035?

Yes



Additional Comments:

The Ontario NDP has long called for stronger action to restore and protect Lake Simcoe’s health. We believe Ontario must urgently develop and fully fund a comprehensive plan to reduce phosphorus pollution in Lake Simcoe.

Water is life. We have a responsibility as stewards to protect Lake Simcoe and all the lands and waters that sustain us. We must honour our relationship with water and ensure that future generations can thrive alongside a healthy Lake Simcoe.

Lake Simcoe is vital for our environment, economy, and communities. Excessive phosphorus pollution poses a severe threat to the lake’s health, leading to algae blooms, weed growth, and endangering cold-water fish species like lake trout and whitefish. This threatens not only our environment but also the cultural and economic well-being of those who rely on the lake.

The Ontario NDP has put forward motions and consistently advocated for action on Lake Simcoe. I am committed to fighting for the health of Lake Simcoe. We must ensure that the necessary investments are made to meet the 44-tonne phosphorus reduction target, that there is accountability for hitting those targets, and that we protect this vital watershed for generations to come.

Signed by:

Name: Tracey Lapham

Signature: _____

Riding: Barrie—Springwater—Oro-Medonte

Political Party: Ontario NDP

Date: February 13, 2025

Please send your response to Jack Gibbons by **Thursday , February 13, 2025**. Thank you.

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