

Response from Brandon Kirby, Libertarian Party candidate, Fredericton Riding

Hello all,

Here are my answers to some terrific questions:

- 1. What will you do to protect wetlands, mature forests, and coastal habitats, which are essential to protecting our communities from flooding, ice storms, sea level rise and other adverse effects of climate change and rising carbon emissions?**

Libertarians believe in legal reforms. Rather than a corporation being permitted to cause ecological catastrophes, having the decision-makers cut themselves a huge bonus, quitting the company, and leaving them with severe liabilities to the point where they can declare bankruptcy, we believe in individual responsibility.

Our primary reform is to eliminate public good legislation that allows for companies allowances in environmental degradation without financial penalty. This tort reform is desperately needed.

For the penalties that are imposed, rather than companies facing consequences, it is our party's belief that incorporation allows for too many protections of individual decision-makers. Similarly to health and safety reforms that took place in response to a mining collapse in Nova Scotia, rather than companies being held liable individuals can now be held criminally responsible. We believe in these legal reforms to cause not only polluting companies to pay for environmental degradation in the absence of public good protections, but also, individual decision-makers to be held personally responsible.

Conservation

Protecting, restoring, and managing land and ocean to flourish reduces the risks and impacts from extreme climatic events, curbs species and biodiversity decline, and promotes healthy communities for Canadians. The Government of Canada has committed to our largest nature conservation target in Canadian history; however, without investments in funding to manage and steward these protected areas we will not reach these targets or effectively conserve nature for the long-term. In New Brunswick, with one of the country's lowest protected area rate at 4.7 per cent, providing additional support to ensure the Province of New Brunswick reaches its current goal of 10 per cent protection, as well as removing any barriers to establishing and stewarding new protected land and ocean is vital.

The protection of marine areas provides a number of benefits to Canadians, including contributing to a healthy environment through conserving and protecting marine species and contributing to economic well being by supporting sustainable industries, local economies and coastal communities.

- 2. What will you do to ensure the federal government achieves its commitment to protect 25 percent of land by 2025 and 30 percent by 2030?**

Libertarians believe in legal reforms to punish people who pollute our land, air, and water to the point where it becomes detrimental to our flourishing. We don't commit to targets

that are gleefully ignored by the governments that make them and by subsequent governments; we commit to punishing ecological devastation.

My underlying concern is that governments make targets to assuage environmentally conscious voters as little more than virtue signalling, but the substance of the concerns go unaddressed. The underlying substance is eliminating public good legislation that protects polluters in the first place from judicial challenges, not commitments without consequences for failure.

3. What will you do to ensure the federal government achieves its commitment to protect 25 percent of oceans by 2025 and 30 percent by 2030?

Plastic producers receive these same protections. Rather than those who use very little plastics, and recycle those they do use, plastic producers and consumers share absorb the cost of plastic cleanups in our oceans. The current paradigm needs to be reversed. The current paradigm is one where the government collects massive tax revenue and spends it on plastic cleanups in the oceans and landfills. We must leave aside the ethical ramifications of forcing those who do not use plastic to pay for plastic cleanup. There are incentives within this specific sphere to internalize the external costs of pollution to mitigate slothful plastic usage.

4. How will you support environmental organizations to help you achieve Canada's commitments to land and ocean protection?

We believe the volunteer hours should be a tax write-off just as charitable contributions are.

Private land protection

Within New Brunswick, a large portion of the land is privately owned. Privately protected land can increase connectivity between habitats allowing species to travel for food, shelter and reproduction. When combined with Protected Areas, private lands are critical for expanding the landscape that is managed for ecosystem resilience especially under climate change.

Engagement with and uptake of private land management programs focused on conservation are important to promote shared responsibility and shared solutions for land protection at the local level.

5. What will you do to empower and incentivize New Brunswick landowners to become involved in advocating and managing for conservation and protected areas as a part of community climate response?

Through tort reforms for failures to complete due diligence on impacts to the environment – landowners must be held accountable for their impact on those around them.

Indigenous Engagement

The Government of Canada must take a leadership role in implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and in empowering Indigenous Nations to develop Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs). IPCAs balance conservation and Indigenous rights and can play a role in both the path to reconciliation and the Canada Pathway to Target 1, which include the development of IPCA's in the goal to conserve 17 percent of Canada's lands and freshwater by 2023. It is vital to promote Indigenous leadership in conservation, including decision-making and ongoing stewardship of protected areas and in determining new conservation goals and activities. The Indigenous Circle of Experts (ICE) encourages the civil society sector to support capacity building and partnership with Indigenous governments and organizations for the planning, implementing, and managing of IPCAs and broader conservation efforts. The Government of Canada must take an active role in removing barriers in the shared path of developing and managing of IPCAs and partnered conservation efforts.

We need to ensure Indigenous Nations receive the support to establish their proposed IPCA projects, and we need support in the development of meaningful relationships and partnerships between Indigenous Nations and environmental organizations.

6. What will you do to further the Canada Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, particularly the empowerment of Indigenous Nations in environmental conservation?

We know, scientifically, how to eliminate poverty. We saw the economic reforms in India, in China, and we can measure infant mortalities, starvation, dehydration, rates of spread of malaria, even architecture that can withstand natural disasters, and they all point to success with their reforms. Meanwhile, we saw the opposite of these capitalist measures in Venezuela and Nicaragua and saw catastrophic failures.

Too many within academia and the public sector are advocating for the policies that inculcate poverty rather than economic self-sufficiency. Thankfully there are members of the community like Chief Michael Lebourdais and Chief Willie Sellars that are using capitalism to enrich their communities, and it's paying off. They said no to failed policies, and now their bands are net economic contributors.

They demand consultation for things such as economic development of their communities while simultaneously upholding environmental protections. Consultation is not a rhetorical buzzword for them, as it has become with so many government bureaucrats. It's a matter of success or failure of their communities and their health and they've managed to transcend the current rhetoric and turn it into a positive for their communities in terms of health and the economy.

7. What will you do to invest in Indigenous-led land-use planning in New Brunswick, including the establishment of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas and their stewardship by

Indigenous Guardians, Indigenous-led efforts to restore and steward species-at-risk and habitat, and recognize and respect Indigenous knowledge in all aspects of nature conservation?

Consultation has to be elevated above that which is a rhetorical device, meant for the purpose of career-advancement, vote-grabbing, and virtue signalling, into a legitimate practice. Consider the most catastrophic failure in economic development – diamond mining in Sierra Leone. This has led to wars and human trafficking. Elsewhere it led to the development of health care and education within communities that were properly consulted. The differentiating factor was consultation such that local communities knew how it benefited their communities. Consultation is the distinction between phenomenal success and indescribable failure. Indigenous consultation with economic development develops both economies and protects the environment.