



Ducks Unlimited Canada
Conserving Canada's Wetlands

Active by nature.

Dear Editor,

Last summer, the Manitoba Water Council hosted 22 open houses in 11 communities across the province to seek Manitobans' perspectives on wetlands. Manitobans responded with over 450 submitted questionnaires, 27 written submissions and over 50 formal verbal presentations. On World Wetlands Day (February 2), the Manitoba Water Council released their "What We Heard" document.

"The resounding message we heard was that if significant action is not taken, wetlands will continue to be lost. Many Manitobans feel that a comprehensive, government-wide framework is needed to address the many issues facing wetlands. This framework should provide a blueprint for consistent decision-making, and provide protection to wetlands that are currently threatened and also provide the vision and strategy needed to protect wetlands from current and future threats."

- Manitoba Water Council, January 2011.

The full text of the Council's report can be found on their website (www.manitobawatercouncil.ca) and is well worth the read. Manitobans are clearly concerned about wetland loss. The task now is to find ways to protect what wetlands remain while compensating wetland landowners for the environmental benefits they are providing society. This all begins with a comprehensive wetland policy for Manitoba.

This fall, we are heading into an election and Manitobans have an opportunity to keep wetlands on the political agenda. Federal and provincial elections are a great opportunity to discuss the future of Manitoba's wetlands and environmental priorities with all prospective candidates and parties. It's time to let them know they need to make wetland conservation, and by extension, our quality of life, a higher political priority.

Yours in conservation,

Bob Grant
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Ducks Unlimited Canada