



# The Green Party of Manitoba

“Quality of life? – We can do better!”

Office of the Premier  
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba  
450 Broadway Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3C 0V8

March 9, 2009

Attn: Premier Gary Doer

Re: Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Proposal: Protection of Fisher Bay Area Reserve

The Green Party of Manitoba (GPM), on behalf of all Manitobans, submits this letter in support of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society's (CPAWS) efforts to protect the Fisher Bay Area permanently through the establishment of the Ochiwasahow Provincial Park. The GPM also supports the proposed expansion of the protected area to ensure that the ecosystems in the area remain intact and are able to thrive. Furthermore, the GPM feels that the Manitoba government's historical lacklustre protection of our ecosystems is placing us well behind more proactive provinces like Ontario. A Green Party government will do better.

Fisher Bay is home to the Fisher Bay Cree Nation, who have a demonstrated commitment to the preservation of this region as the locus of their economy and of their cultural roots. The protection of this area will guarantee their hunting and fishing rights, which are entrenched in the Canadian Constitution.

Fisher Bay is also an enormously valuable area: here we find rare species of plants and animals, old-growth forests, and vibrant and healthy ecosystems. The establishment of a Provincial Park in this area will ensure that Fisher Bay will be unadulterated by the demands of the mining and logging industries which are so taxing on the environment.

The GPM congratulates the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society for their initiative, and urges the Department of Conservation and the Provincial Government to take meaningful action on this proposal. The establishment of the Ochiwasahow Provincial Park is crucial in order to preserve the unfettered and pristine wilderness, and will work towards improving the health of Lake Winnipeg. The GPM reminds the Provincial Government that our economy and the environment are inextricably linked, and that the preservation and protection of natural areas such as the Fisher Bay area- and indeed all of Manitoba's woodlands- are especially important in times of economic uncertainty, such as those which Manitoba is currently witnessing. With regards to ecological responsibility, it is time that Manitoba be the vanguard among other Canadian provinces.

Respectfully,

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Cc: Conservation Minister Stan Struthers, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society