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Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to respond to your questionnaire. Please see our responses below.

Provision of Public Goods

- 1. Do you and your party support compensating producers for the costs they incur in the provision of public goods, which benefit the province as a whole?**
- 2. If elected, will you work with the Manitoba Beef Producers to help ensure that public good programs are designed in cooperation with the industry and delivered by producers?**
- 3. Do you support returning the responsibility for delivery of the Verified Beef Program to producers?**

The NDP supports the work of Manitoba's cattle industry to maintain and build on its reputation for producing safe, quality beef. That is why we have pursued initiatives aimed at promoting premises identification, which helps track the location of animals in case of disease, public health related emergency or other emergencies affecting animals. We have funded this program with \$500,000. We have also been working with the federal government and producers on initiatives aimed at supporting food safety and biosecurity, including helping bring producers and veterinarians together to review on-farm food safety and biosecurity. We look forward to continuing to work with the beef industry to ensure the effectiveness of this important tool.

Water Management

- 4. Do you commit to a holistic approach to investments in water management infrastructure to ensure that the flood of 2011 is not repeated?**
- 5. What specific investments in water management infrastructure will your party make if you form government?**
- 6. What lakes and watersheds will be included in your party's infrastructure investment plans if you form government?**

After every major flood in our province's history, we have taken a serious look at how to prevent similar floods in the future. Greg Selinger and the NDP are making the necessary long-term investments to prevent damage and give peace of mind to Manitoba families and communities, and developing a long-term plan for surface water management.

We are committed to meeting with stakeholders to develop a surface-water management strategy which could include such things as incentives for landowners to retain wetlands and store water, drainage and infrastructure planning, wetland restoration, and shoreline and riparian area protection.

We recognize that wetlands play a crucial role in flood mitigation. We have provided support to land-owners and producers to protect and restore wetlands, including through our Riparian Tax Credit that provides a financial incentive for land-owners to keep riverbanks natural and create healthy riparian corridors.

Strong Science Based Regulations

- 7. Do you, as an individual candidate, support basing environmental and health legislation and regulations on strong, peer reviewed, science?**
- 8. Will you commit to effective consultation with the Manitoba Beef Producers prior to your Party enacting any new legislation or regulations that will impact the economic viability of the beef sector?**

Ensuring the quality of our water is everyone's responsibility. The balanced approach that the NDP has taken requires all Manitobans to do their part – producers, city dwellers and municipalities. We know that Manitobans expect their government to take action to protect the environment as well as protecting human health. We are committed to working with the best possible information to that end, in consultation with the public and with affected stakeholders.

Manitoba Cattle Enhancement Council

- 9. Do you and your party support eliminating the per head check-off collected on sales of Manitoba cattle that is currently going to the Manitoba Cattle Enhancement Council (MCEC)?**

We are committed to maintaining a voluntary check-off as we believe this holds the potential of improving and expanding existing slaughter facilities and building new slaughter capacity. The NDP firmly believes in the importance of value-added processing to the rural Manitoba economy. Every single dollar raised from the \$2 per head refundable levy will be used to address the urgent need for increased slaughter capacity.

Animal Health

- 10. If elected, will you work with the Manitoba Beef Producers to ensure that Beef Producers are compensated for the full cost incurred when they are required to test their herds as part of the TB eradication program in the area surrounding Riding Mountain National Park?**
- 11. Will you and your party support the appointment of a TB Coordinator, reporting to Ministers, who will be given the responsibility for the eradication of TB in the Riding Mountain National Park ecosystem?**
- 12. Do you support Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Initiatives taking over management of the TB eradication programs (under the *Animal Disease Act*)?**

Bovine TB is a serious issue which could have a significant economic impact on our cattle industry. We are committed to working with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Parks Canada and stakeholders with the ultimate goal of eradication of bovine TB in Riding Mountain.

The province invests over \$150,000 each year towards bovine tuberculosis management efforts such as surveillance of deer and elk. Since 1998 over 2,750 elk and 5,500 deer have been tested for TB. These efforts have paid off and in 2006, Manitoba regained official Tuberculosis-free status. We have also been extending the mustering fee program, which helps cover the cost of gathering animals for TB testing for those producers that are affected by increased TB surveillance.

Business Risk Management

- 13. If elected will you commit to working with the Manitoba Beef Producers to ensure that disaster assistance programs are modernized to meet the needs of today's beef producer?**
- 14. Do you and your party support giving beef producers access to an insurance program, much like the current crop insurance programs available to gains and oilseed producers?**

We are happy to have been working closely with cattle producers to develop a range of livestock insurance programs to support producers. We look forward to continuing to work with your organization on programming which meets the needs of Manitoba producers.

Environmental Initiatives

- 15. Do you and your Party commit to ensuring that all environmental legislation, regulations and policy are based on strong, peer reviewed science?**
- 16. Do you and your Party commit to ensuring that all of Manitoba's beef producers have equitable access to funding for environmental initiatives?**
- 17. Do you and your party commit to full and effective consultations with Manitoba Beef Producers before the initiation of any new environmental policy, regulation or legislation?**
- 18. Will you commit to working with Manitoba Beef Producers to ensure that producers retain control for the delivery of environmental stewardship programs?**

Manitoba farmers have been environmental stewards for generations. They care deeply for the land and for our water and we know they want to do more to protect our natural resources.

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We know that Manitobans expect their government to take action to protect the environment as well as protecting human health. We are committed to working with the best possible information to that end, in consultation with the public and with affected stakeholders.

Herd Protection Initiatives

- 19. If elected, will you commit to working with the Manitoba Beef Producers to ensure that the Province of Manitoba developed adequate measure to protect our herds from problem predators?**
- 20. Do you and your party support compensating producers for 100% of predation losses?**

We understand that predators are a fact of nature. Producers who do everything they can to safeguard the products, crops and livestock that provide for them and their families deserve compensation for

losses that are beyond their control. That's why we are committed to phasing in 100% coverage in 2012-13 for financial losses due to wildlife damage.

Crown Land Management

- 21. Do you and your party support the principle of "consent" before the public accesses Crown Land?**
- 22. If elected will you commit to working with the Manitoba Beef Producers to reduce the red tape for producers who wish to purchase the Crown Land they currently lease?**

We will continue to work with stakeholders on policies regarding informed access to Crown Land. And we are always interested in tangible ways to reduce the administrative burden felt by producers in their dealings with government programs.