



2021-02-17

Dear David Patriquin,

Thank you for contacting me about the issue of protected land targets. Our NDP Caucus supports the targets set by the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People-- 25% protection of lands and waters by 2025, and 30% protection by 2030.

Unfortunately, the Liberal government has been treating the 13% protected areas target as a cap, even though it was set almost a decade ago. As a result, there are still 152 areas on the 2013 Parks and Protected Areas Plan that await official protection. The NDP would move to extend legal protection to those areas immediately, including Owls Head which was secretly delisted by the Liberal government in 2019.

The recovery from COVID-19 will require large investments, and the NDP sees this as a key moment in history to shift toward a green economy. Investment in land acquisition for protected areas and related work in conservation is not only a critical strategy for slowing biodiversity loss and mitigating climate change-- it makes sense economically.

Conservation has a high return on investment and can advance social justice through Indigenous leadership and addressing environmental racism. It can revitalize rural communities through good jobs and savings for municipalities who are increasingly burdened with climate-related costs such as flooding and fires.

The shift toward a green economy requires vision and a willingness to invest in our future. This is what the NDP will be offering in the next election and I encourage you to check back with us for more details when we have finalized our platform.

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Leader, NS NDP



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