

**Fiscal Relationship and Resource Equity**

All of the MKO First Nations responding to the survey identified establishing a new fiscal relationship with the federal and provincial governments as a key priority. MKO First Nations view the water, energy, mineral and resources of the traditional territories of the MKO First Nation as foundational to the provincial economy. A cornerstone of the new fiscal relationship would include means to equitably share with First Nations the benefits and wealth of water, energy and resource development.

The Manitoba Liberal Party agrees in principle with this statement. On the matter of resources, or “gifts from creator” we believe that any plans going forward in partnership must consider environmental stewardship and sustainability, respect for cultural, archaeological and traditional knowledge and collaborative engagement in the planning and implementation framework for projects.

1) Question: If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba, how will your Government implement resource equity initiatives and a sharing of provincial resource revenues and taxes with First Nations?

The MLP will commit to a dialogue and collaborative process to explore the renewed relationship to build economy in First Nations and improve the quality of life. Best practices already exist on the ways of effective networking and joint planning and the MLP will draw on this wisdom and experience in carrying out partnerships.

The MLP will explore full training initiatives at the heart of every agreement so that all employment that arises from these employs First Nation members, and not just the entry-level jobs. Mining is not the optimal environmentally sound choice for our people: Until the education flows and actual agreements honored, the people may not engage. We believe that there are numerous other means of creating economic independence.

2) make direct investments in infrastructure in First Nations communities?

The MLP does not believe in perpetuating the offloading and complacency that has gone on over the past few decades under both PC and NDP governments. We are not afraid to invest in processes and partnerships to improve the quality of life

The MLP if elected will rebate back the PST increase of 1% to municipalities and First Nation communities alike, on a per capita basis. This is to be earmarked for investments in pipes to pavement to infrastructure.

We realize the East Side Road Authority’s mandate is a vital component of economic development for our remote communities. We will honor the commitments that enable these roads, and we will ensure the agreements have not been imposed. If so, we will ensure that these agreements are what the individual First Nations want. We will work as a true partnership in building these roads. We also want our current resources to work smarter and better for our people; we want to be proactive in our combat with health issues challenges rather than reactive.

3) make the sales tax exemption for Treaty First Nation citizens universally applicable at the point of sale, such as the practice in Ontario, instead of Manitoba's approach to require a "point of delivery" on reserve?

The MLP will work with all stakeholders to create pathways to ensure that Treaty people are treated fairly in regards to the sales tax exemption.

### Education

The MKO First Nations identified education as a key priority area for their First Nation.

The MLP agree Education is a priority and that there should be more balance between the current knowledge system and traditional knowledge systems, particularly on reserve. In the spirit of reconciliation, we believe we must create a safe and nurturing learning environment for our children and youth; this can occur with adaptation within the curriculum that instills pride in identity and culture.

If elected, the MLP will work collaboratively with the First Nations to ensure that schools are well equipped to handle the exponential growth our reserves face.

1) The MLP is committed to education and recognizes the need to work with the Federal Liberal Party to establish a working committee to establish education models that meet the needs of First Nation communities. The growth of these communities requires strategic long term planning so schools are expanded/upgraded in real time to the needs of the children attending.

2) The MLP is aware of the success of Aboriginal Headstart Programs and will work with the Federal Government to establish working committees to develop curriculum for the retention of culture and the nurturing of your indigenous minds.

3) The MLP is committed to developing curriculum at the college and university levels to deliver culturally relevant approaches to delivery models for education programs. These programs should be offered to all educational institutions for the education of all future generations.

Yes, we intend to create a partnership with the education authority's to collaborate and detail a plan of action to enact TRC's recommendations: education for reconciliation #62 and #63.

### Child and Family Matters

The MKO First Nations identify the reform of the Child and Family Services system as a central priority and objective. In particular, it is the objective of the MKO First Nations to restore the authority of First Nations over all matters relating to First Nation children and families and to ensure that Customary practices for the care, well-being and protection of children and families are applied.

Question: If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba, how will your Government:

1) take steps to restore the authority of First Nations over all matters relating to First Nation children and families?

MLP recognizes the principles already outlined in the CFS Act and CFS Authorities Act, including the federal and provincial arrangements existing to date, such as those that created the agencies. The MLP

will continue to work towards institutional development with First Nations to explore the new relationship for child and family matters, recognizing the authorities that have already been established.

2) ensure that Customary practices for the well-being and protection of First Nation children and families will be applied?

The mechanisms for such customary practice already exist within the current legal and regulatory framework. However, the MLP recognizes that more leadership may be required by a government to facilitate standards and practices more aligned with First Nation customs and traditions; if this includes opening up the CFS Act or CFS Authorities Act for strategic amendments, we are open to this. The MLP commits to engaging with related First Nation parties, through the appointed representatives of the First Nations, to articulate what a more appropriate system of care and support would look like for First Nation children, youth, elders and families.

3) immediately stop the “claw-back” by the province of the Children’s Special Allowance paid by Canada for children in care and permit Child and Family caring agencies to apply the CSA to the needs of children in care?

The matter of the CSA clawback was contentious as it was done without consultation with the First Nations or CFS Agencies; that it was a retroactive clawback made it even more unacceptable. The MLP commits to exploring the matter further with the experts, including looking at how the resources are being handled in other jurisdictions to determine a best practice. The MLP will base its fiscal policy with respect to CFS on the principles of balance, fairness and long term needs of the children according to their life continuum.

### **Women and Gender Equality in the Workforce**

The MKO First Nations identify support for Indigenous women and achieving gender equality in education, training and the workforce as a high priority.

Question: If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba, how will your Government, in partnership with MKO and the MKO First Nations:

1) ensure that no person fleeing domestic violence is without a place of safety by ensuring Manitoba has a network of shelters and transition houses?

The MLP will consult and engage the support systems that currently exist to determine the needs of persons at risk, whether domestic, intimate partner, and other forms of family violence. The MLP will also look at the barriers to safety in First Nation communities, such as transportation, police response, capital needs including the physical spaces such as shelters and transition homes. A network exists, prior knowledge exists, models of care and practice exist; the MLP will build on this.

2) support entities and facilities which will provide access to leadership mentoring, training, employment supports and advocacy programs for Indigenous women?

The MLP commits to creating a framework based on gender equality and protection from discrimination for women as well as the LGBTQ community. Within the framework will emerge the appropriate methods and interventions to be applied, with the cost factors. The MLP believes in basing decisions on

sound evidence and best practices and will not use information to deter action or deny service but will approach each need matter in the spirit of action and partnership.

3) in partnership with the MKO First Nations, develop and deliver measures that are intended to enhance the inclusion of Indigenous women in the workforce as a priority, with the overall objective being gender equality for the employment of Indigenous peoples in the workforce?

Yes, the MLP will explore the gaps for women in the economy, market and systems and strive to assure balance, representation and inclusiveness in future economic development that respects needs and realities for women and their families.

### **Housing**

Addressing the critical housing crisis represented by the shortfall in basic housing needs of several thousand units is a key priority area of the MKO First Nations.

Question: If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba, how will your Government:

1) facilitate access by First Nations to timber resources nearby First Nation communities in order to use “local lumber” supplies to construct new housing and address the critical housing shortage in First Nation communities?

The MLP will work with First Nations to determine the scope of needs and range of options available to address immediate and short term needs to abate the housing crisis. The MLP will also explore the optimal models of response by a Government in partnership with First Nations on matters such as materials, supply, construction or prefabrication, financing and management of its housing programs and entities.

If there are legislative, regulatory gaps or barriers to carrying out with innovative and responsive models of home building, the MLP commits to exploring how to problem solve with First Nations.

The Manitoba Liberal Party will begin to address the housing crisis on northern Manitoba First Nations. We recognize this is federal jurisdiction and welcome the federal government to the table, but are prepared to start without them. We will begin by investing an additional \$15 million yearly to start to improve this dire situation. We realize this initial investment will not be enough and as more resources become available we will invest more. We cannot accept third-world conditions in Manitoba.

2) work with First Nation communities to enhance fire protection capabilities, including related to forest fires?

The MLP recognizes the significant gaps in First Nation communities about proper fire protection capabilities and agrees that it is unacceptable. In order to assure the protection and security of First Nation citizens, it is imperative that both the federal and provincial governments resolve any jurisdictional disputes surrounding emergencies in First Nations. One option is to entrench an incident command structure in every First Nation to respond appropriately and timely and to have this First Nation system be mentored by other municipal, provincial, federal or other systems until capacity is developed. Emergency response through incident command was necessary during the H1N1 crisis and will be resurrected to apply to all emergencies, including fires, natural disasters and pandemics. The MLP will endeavor to establish an appropriate authority, preferably collaborative and/or jointly

administered, with First Nations. All options are worth exploring and the MLP believes this gap needs to be filled.

### **Water and Waste Water Treatment, Infrastructure and Retrofits**

The MKO First Nations identified addressing inadequate water and wastewater infrastructure and the crisis of inadequate access to clean water is having a major impact on housing and the overall health and wellbeing in communities.

The MLP will work with First Nations to explore water shed management to protect pristine water bodies and source waters; this can be done collaboratively with the Academic Institutions, federal and provincial governments. The MLP will look at the related federal and provincial legislation that addresses resources, fish and wildlife habitat, endangered species and encourage protection of Manitoba's water sheds.

Question: If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba, how will your Government make direct investments in infrastructure in First Nations communities, such as:

- 1) retrofitting homes to access piped water and wastewater services?

The MLP will explore other models used around the country in our jurisdictions that involved non-federal investments into First Nation systems and determine with First Nations what is most appropriate. The MLP agrees with the Centre for Human Rights Research project and objective of "clean, running water for all".

- 2) enhance the protection of source water quality?

The MLP will explore the current regulatory framework for freshwater and waterways, including the source water for community consumption, and the related system gaps, strengths and needs.

### **Health**

The MKO First Nations identified health care as a key priority area. The MKO First Nations focused on the need better access to medical services that included the building of nursing stations and access to local doctors and nurses in the community, as well as the effective integration of health services.

Question: If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba, how will your Government:

- 1) construct additional health facilities in and nearby First Nation communities such as dialysis centres?

The MLP believes in drawing from best practices and fields of evidence, such as empirical evidence through findings of collaborative research with First Nations. Academic and traditional knowledge exists to guide and facilitate the provision of acute, primary and public health services. The MLP will work with First Nations to determine what the priority capital needs are and assure that the dependent infrastructure needs are part of the planning and design (ie: water, wastewater and sewage needs in facilities). The MLP will explore partnerships with First Nations and other parties to expedite the facility needs in communities with highest incident rates of chronic disease, for example in areas with the highest rates of disease (50% and downward). Screening and diagnostics is critical on the matter kidney

disease therefore the related matters need to be defined including health and human resources, accommodation for professionals and local education/training where home-hemodialysis is an option.

2) work with First Nation health authorities to ensure that provincial health services are effectively and seamlessly integrated with federal and First Nation health services?

The MLP will consult with First Nations on the preferred model for public administration, delivery and research and facilitate the development of First Nation health systems according to established protocols between the jurisdictions, such as through a Memorandum of Understanding. The MLP does not wish to dictate to each First Nation which model of health service is preferred, including models of integration, collaboration or autonomous; this must be defined through a joint process but drawing in prior knowledge gained through past practices and projects.

3) apply Jordan's Principle in the delivery of health services to First Nation citizens and patients with critical needs?

The MLP have already worked diligently to represent the children and families by tabling Bill 203, <https://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/39-3/pdf/b203.pdf> . It is important to note that the NDP government voted against this Private Members Bill and opted for a bureaucratic/administrative model of engagement which still has not resulted in clarity and certainty of care for First Nations disabled children since 2007, and since the issue emerged in 1993. The MLP will strive for clarity and certainty and will work with First Nations to define the most appropriate legislative plan as its first order of business if elected to government.

### **Inherent Rights, Inter- governmental Relations, Governance**

The MKO First Nations identified several inter-related issues and concerns related to the recognition and exercise of inherent rights, intergovernmental relations and governance.

The MLP recognizes the importance of existing agreements and would work to achieve objectives articulated in implementation plans.

Question: If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba, how will your Government:

1) fully honour, respect and protect the Treaties and the Treaty relationship?

The MLP recognizes and respects the Treaty rights of Treaty First Nations as well as the Aboriginal rights of those without Treaty. The MLP will respect the case law and current legislative framework however will work to expedite processes of engagement where more certainty and clarity is necessary.

2) honour and operationalize the Crown's Duty to Consult

The MLP will honour the principle of consultation with First Nations in the exercise of its government duties and will operationalize its duty through definition of the Duty to Consult policy collaboratively with First Nations, including revisiting the current policies to determine their appropriateness and effectiveness.

3) fully implement all modern-day Treaties and Agreements which include the province of Manitoba or Manitoba Hydro, including the Northern Flood Agreement and the Manitoba Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement?

The MLP will take a conciliatory approach with respect to the existing Framework Agreements. Recognizing that current authorities exist in law with respect to Manitoba Hydro as a Crown Corporation, the MLP can commit to exploring the concerns and related problem solving models to address the concerns.

With respect to Treaty Land Entitlement, the MLP recognize the time that has lapsed since the signing of the TLE, nearly two decades, and commits to doing what it can, including in partnership with our Federal Liberal counterparts, to expedite the conversion of land selections to Treaty/Reserve Land. This recognizes the enormous opportunity available to the people of Manitoba for resource sharing, economic and human resource development.

4) endorse and apply the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent?

Yes. We stand in agreement with our Federal Liberal partners on a new reconciliation framework that adopts these important principles set out by the international community. The MLP supports the UNDRIP and believes in full, prior and informed consent.

### **Clean Energy and Protection of Water, Land, and Food Sovereignty**

The MKO First Nations identified the key priority to protect water, lands and resources to support environmental and resources sustainability and to protect and ensure the exercise of inherent rights and Treaty rights to hunt and fish and to food sovereignty.

The MLP will explore alternative sources of energy and help the North diversify its economy. There are many opportunities to diversify Manitoba's economy without jeopardizing the environment – ecotourism, non-timber forest products, arts heritage and cultural opportunities. We believe sustainability aims to achieve a balance between social, environmental and the economic aspects of community.

The right to clean drinking water is a human right and the MLP will explore measures to protect the pristine water sources of the province to the best of our ability. The best approach to do this is Manitobans and First Nations deciding together how to shape the future of Province's land and water resources; this makes sense to our Party.

The MLP is aware that First Nations in Manitoba have been engaged in Indigenous Land Use Planning. These First Nations serve as best practices had to push the Manitoba government to understand the importance of fulfilling longer term planning outlined in these settlement agreements. Good meaningful planning, provides "CERTAINTY" for all stakeholders and any outside investment opportunity into the North. A volatile or uncertain investment climate is not going to help anyone in the resource sector, and the certainty in Land Use Planning provides this.

The MLP believe in "consent-based consultation and accommodation" and partnership opportunities.

The MLP will work collaboratively with our federal counterparts to ensure Stephen Harper's New Navigation Protection Act serves our interests for generations to come.

## **High Cost of Living**

The MKO First Nations specifically indicated that the high cost of living needed to be immediately addressed, although high costs of transportation of goods and services were frequently identified throughout.

- 1) engage in the construction of all-weather roads to remote First Nations?

We realize the East Side Road Authority's mandate is a vital component of economic development for our remote communities. We will honour the commitments that enable these roads, and we will ensure the agreements have not been imposed onto, if so, we will ensure that these agreements are what the individual First Nations want. We will work as a true partnership in building these roads.

- 2) implement measures to reduce the cost of milk and nutritious foods to account for elevated costs resulting from remoteness?

The Manitoba Liberal Party pledge to tackle nutrition issues destroying northern communities. We will do this through an investment in subsidies for healthy food options like milk, fresh fruit and vegetables. We will also establish and fund nutrition counselors in the communities to ensure that healthy eating and cooking habits are enhanced through education. We believe our investment will be returned in lower healthcare costs and better quality of life for our citizens.

- 3) promote enhanced food-security measures through support of local gardening projects, greenhouses and community freezers?

Yes, we will learn from the current initiatives undertaken by past governments yet improve these programs to implement gardening, nurseries and also to start hobby farms on ALL communities rather than the select few that exist.

## **Power Smart, Manitoba Hydro Rates and Uniform Energy Cost**

The MKO First Nations identified the need to significantly reduce energy costs through the universal availability and effective delivery of Demand- Side Management programs, rate mitigation and bill reduction measures as a key priority.

Question: If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba, what steps will your Government to:

- 1) ensure that Power Smart and energy conservation programs are universally available and effectively delivered to every residential and business customer of Manitoba Hydro in the MKO First Nations?

The MLP has learned that Power Smart is not available in most northern First Nations. The MLP will make available options to the power smart program on reserve by exploring options with First Nation to explore loans within the local First Nations governments to implement the program. The MLP agrees access to this program should be equally available to all Manitobans.

- 2) evolve the concept of "uniform electricity rates" to "uniform electricity costs" by requiring Manitoba Hydro to create an "equivalent to natural gas rate" to be applied to the electric heating loads of northern residential electricity customers who cannot switch to natural gas?

The MLP will explore the matter of costs of utilities further to determine the most appropriate rates in consideration of the extreme circumstances in different parts of the province.

3) ensure that the costs of Manitoba Hydro's social and environmental mitigation programs are removed from the costs that are billed to First Nation electricity customers who are adversely affected by Manitoba Hydro projects?

The MLP are open to exploring the matter of costs of mitigation, billings through consultation with First Nation governments and customers.

### **Employment and Economic Development**

The MKO First Nations identified the need to improve access to local employment and the support of community owned and operated economic development ventures as a means to reduce dependency on social assistance and government sourced funds.

Question: If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba, how will your Government:

1) revise provincial employment and procurement policies to require that a preference be given to qualified Northern and Aboriginal job candidates and Aboriginal businesses in all provincial government and Manitoba Hydro projects tenders?

The MLP will strive to encourage work with established businesses in the north and in First Nations who have relationships with corporations and small business and the local human resource pool already.

On procurement, the MLP will focus on the retention of Aboriginal employees once hired.

Yes, the MLP believes that capacity building and procurement in Northern and Indigenous candidates is a crucial element of economic independence. It should be legally mandated that hirees are filled first by the Northern and Indigenous candidates no matter what type of job, especially if it is in any locale of a First Nation, whether settled by TLE or not. These residents are typically the first to feel any negative effects and so must be compensated wholly and accordingly.

2) monitor and ensure that provincial commitments to train, employ and contract First Nation citizens and businesses, in particular through Aboriginal and Northern employment and contracting preference provisions, are fully delivered?

MLP will work with First Nation governments to build on best practices in projects that have worked to employ youth and First Nation citizens, such as the MKO/ANA summer student commuter program and the East Side Road Authority.

Yes, as stated previously, we will ensure that full training initiatives are at the heart of every agreement so that all employment that arises from these is filled by our own memberships. That is, even well before any work is contracted or awarded, the capacity must exist first.

3) ensure that the objective of all provincial Aboriginal and Northern employment and procurement and training policies includes gender equality?

Yes, because it's 2016. The MLP supports the principle of gender equality and to encourage more opportunities under-represented populations.

## **Policing**

The MKO First Nations identified policing and public safety as key priority areas. The province of Manitoba is responsible for “the administration of justice”, including in First Nation communities, in accordance with Section 92(14) of the British North America Act, 1867.

Question: If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba, what steps will your Government take to:

1) take immediate steps to establish an RCMP detachment in each remote First Nation community to promote public safety and address long response times?

The MLP will work with the Federal Liberal party to ensure all communities in Manitoba have policing to meet their needs for a safe and secure community.

2) immediately proclaim into law section 80 of the Police Services Act to provide a provincial power to appoint local Band Constables as Special Constables and peace officers?

The MLP will work with the RCMP, Bands and MKO to enhance the policing services in the Province. To do this all those delivering this service require the proper training and authority to be effective.

3) construct modern and safe holding cells in remote First Nation communities to temporarily detain individuals when required, as recommended by provincial Inquests?

The MLP will work with the RCMP and Federal Liberals to study and assess that all communities have holding facilities to properly detain those under detention and ensure their safety and the safety of those handling the person under care and control.

4) immediately initiate work with MKO and the MKO First Nations to establish an MKO Regional Police Force similar to the Dakota-Ojibway Police Service and the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service in northern Ontario?

The MLP will work with MKO to conduct a feasibility study of the effectiveness of having their own police force

## **Resources for Youth and Child Care**

The MKO First Nations identified the importance of improving resources and opportunities for youth and increasing access to local childcare services as a key priority.

Question: If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba, what steps will your Government take to:

1) work with the MKO First Nations to establish an effective integrated suicide prevention and response program that reflects a youth-focused emphasis?

The MLP will engage in culturally appropriate models of practice, within its Mental Health Framework, which includes drawing on the expertise of trained and effective practitioners. The MLP recognizes the hard work and devotion of all those who have dedicated so much in a complacent and vacant mental health system in First Nations; the gaps in service and lack of funding is unacceptable and the work accomplished in this area is commendable. In the existing practice of mental wellness the MLP will draw

on culture and best practices for effective intervention for crisis response, as well as for trauma informed, and sustainable service.

2) establish more resources for youth and day care facilities for First Nation citizens both on and off-reserve?

The MLP recognizes the gaps that exist in both facilities and spaces/beds for children and youth as well as the disparity in wages for workers servicing our most vulnerable. The MLP commits to ensuring fairness and equity in the distribution of resources around the province. The MLP will also explore an appropriate regulatory/licensing framework for on-reserve facilities.

3) honour the commitments set out in Agreements with First Nations affected by Manitoba Hydro projects to construct alternative recreational facilities?

The MLP will work with MB Hydro to determine the status of agreements with First Nations, including defining the gaps. Respecting the authorities of Crown Corporations is integral while at the same time keeping an open mind to adaptation, modernization and fairness.

### **Roads**

The MKO First Nations identified the need to build roads including an all- weather road and reviewing the relationship with East Side Road Authority.

Question: If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba, what steps will your Government immediately take to:

1) ensure that the East Side Road Authority will work in an effective partnership with the East Side First Nations to ensure the maximum value of ESRA projects is retained locally, including as part of the tendering and management of contracts?

Yes, it is a situation to be addressed immediately as we have already witnessed a FN community that was fully capable yet still underbid; this is unacceptable and again demonstrates yet another failure of the previous government.

2) complete the upgrade and paving of Provincial Highway 391 from Thompson to Lynn Lake and complete the upgrade and paving of Provincial Highway 280 from Thompson to Gillam?

The MLP will strive to assure the roads in the north, including PH 280 are to a standard that assures more safety, as a priority. Ultimately paving is the optimal output and the MLP recognize this. The overall project must be costed out and from there, partnerships explored with MB Hydro, First Nations and other interested parties. The MLP hope to use major road and highway projects as training and skills development projects for youth.

3) construct an overland road connecting PR 280 to York Landing and War Lake?

This is broken promise of the NDP and the MLP will work to restore trust in a government that is accountable, innovative and that delivers.

## **Airstrips**

The MKO First Nations identified the need for either repairing or the building of an airstrip to reduce costs for the transportation of goods and services in addition to servicing the medical needs of community members.

Question: If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba, what steps will your Government take to extend airstrips and upgrade airports in remote First Nations to ensure that scheduled and charter flights and aircraft can safely land with a full load of passengers and cargo?

The MLP will work with our Federal Liberal partners who are currently in government to maximize on the 2016 federal budget including the infrastructure commitments. The MLP have committed to dispersing 1% of the PST to municipalities and First Nations to determine their own needs, priorities and investments.

We intend to honour any commitments by the previous governments and intend for all remote communities to be equipped with an airstrip capable of hauling both people and cargo. We also will examine the current issues that some airports face in regards to their licences and work to resolve the challenges.

## **Connectivity and Telecommunications**

The MKO First Nations identified the need to improve communications and Internet connectivity as a key priority.

The MLP agrees and recognizes that investments must occur to improve the existing infrastructure for wireless and cellular connectivity. The MLP recognizes that there are multiple gains for all parties by facilitating inclusion through any means necessary in economy, marketing, labour, public service and human connection, to name only a few.

Question: If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba, what steps will your Government take to:

- 1) address inadequate wireless or cellular telephone services in many remote First Nation communities

The MLP will draw from the findings of the recent CRTC review of connectivity in the north and advocate on the recommendations, including the findings of the study conducted by the PILC in the MKO submission.

- 2) partner with First Nations to address significantly inadequate broadband Internet capacity?

The MLP will continue to update the CRTC as a regulator in how the connectivity in the north issue is being handled and will advocate to ensure that the infrastructure is provided, such as through fibre optic cable to the communities, as soon as possible. The MLP will work with First Nation partners who have demonstrated capacity and knowledge in how the infrastructure plan is developed and implemented.

- 3) immediately address the connectivity-related impacts on health-, emergency-, and child and family services-related communications.

The MLP is aware of the inequities and the failures of systems to address needs and assure access to services and that connectivity is a tool and resource; it not merely a cost. The MLP will advocate and work with First Nation to respect their aspirations for ownership, such as through those outlined in the OCAP principles and work towards a culturally appropriate information management framework.

### **Climate Change Adaptation**

The MKO First Nations identified the need to address climate change and development and implementation of climate change adaptation strategies, particularly regarding changes in winter roads, ice conditions, the increasing frequency, variability and severity of weather, flooding and forest fires as a key priority.

The MLP would participate in Indigenous Land Use & Resource Management planning and determine the area of protected area(s) that First Nations wish to protect in their respective Traditional Territories – any measures for climate change is a good measure.

The MLP believe every community is unique, but we need to discuss broader protected area targets in collaboration with First Nations in the development and implementation of an overall Provincial Boreal Forest Plan. The boreal forest is one of the largest in tact sources of oxygen for climate change and First Nations should have first say in how we shape the future of the Boreal Forest. This could also explore the idea of carbon counting for wetlands/peatlands if First Nations see this any opportunity in this. We also believe in taking proactive measures to fish, bird and wildlife studies, rather than taking a reactive approach to resource scarcity.

The MLP believe we could grow the “Environment Industry” to create more training, education and employment opportunities, while giving it equality with any other industry in Manitoba. There would be no one better to do it with than First Nations, because they are stewards of the land.

The MLP will work with the Federal Minister to ensure that all actions taken by them have had consultation with First Nation community including representation on all committee work on carbon capture and climate change.

The MLP will commit to work on strategic planning group that includes MKO to plan and prepare First Nation communities for the effects of climate change and its direct effects that cause natural disasters. It is important to build infrastructure that will withstand these disasters and to have the equipment and training to build capacity to fight and withstand the effects. To be able to action effective and efficient plans of reunification to community in a time line that considers the people who are displaced.

### **National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls**

The MKO First Nations have collectively and consistently called for and strongly support the immediate conduct of a National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls as an “overarching” priority.

The federal Liberal Government have consulted nationally on the matter of MMIW, and have initiated a process to begin the National Inquiry. The MLP commits to work within the framework that has been started nationally to seek views on design and scope of the Inquiry.

Question: If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba, what steps will your Government take to fully support the conduct of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls?

We will coordinate efforts at all levels and work with various stakeholders involved (ie: Justice, Status of Women, Family Services), to ensure that First Nation people, particularly the families of the victims, are involved in the Inquiry through a shared concern.