



Walt Judas, CEO



TOURISM
INDUSTRY
ASSOCIATION OF

BC



The Federal Election – Oct. 21



MEMORANDUM

TO: All Candidates Running for Elected Office
FROM: The Canadian People
SUBJECT: CAMPAIGN REFORM

You are no longer allowed to talk about your opponent in any way, form or fashion. You are only allowed to tell us why **YOU** are right for this position and **NOT** why your opponent is not. Tell us, in detail, why we should vote for **YOU** - and then let US make up our own minds.

ELECTION DAY

Vote for your leader!

New Federal Tourism Strategy

- *Boost tourism sector spending by 25% to \$128b by 2025*
- *Create 54,000 jobs; investments in rural communities*
- *Disperse visitors to rural communities and within all 4 seasons*
- *Tourism Industry – 7th Economic Strategy Table*
- *Canadian Experiences Fund*



The Federal Election

Transportation & Access

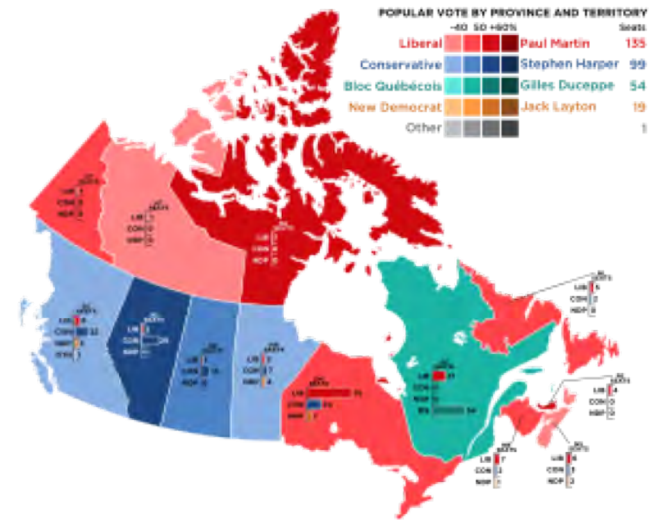
1. *Is your government willing to streamline the visa application process for low-risk countries?*
2. *How will your government help the Province develop its transportation infrastructure (e.g. airports, highways, ferries) to ensure safe, cost-efficient and convenient access to all regions, and to help meet the growing expectations and demand of residents, visitors and tourism operators?*



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Marketing

- *Will your government commit to raising Destination Canada's funding levels to \$135 million annually in order for Canada to remain competitive, and to continue driving economic results?*



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Taxation

1. *Will your government consider re-classifying campgrounds as active businesses so they can qualify for the small business tax deduction?*
2. *Would your government consider removing GST on tourism products sold in Canada & abroad to international visitors?*
3. *Would your government consider modernizing tax laws to collect GST and other requisite taxes (e.g. corporate income tax) from vacation rental platforms and homeowners that offer short-term vacation rentals to visitors?*



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Labour & Immigration

1. *Would your government consider industry's labour need as the main determiner to access all immigration streams, regardless of skill level?*
2. *Would your government consider a 'seasonal tourism workers program' to address the need for employees in the tourism sector?*



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Species at Risk

1. *What will your government do to ensure that adventure tourism businesses (and communities reliant on adventure tourism) can continue to thrive in the context of mountain caribou recovery?*
2. *What will your government do to ensure that adventure tourism businesses are directly involved in bringing innovative recovery solutions to the table?*



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Fishing

1. *How will your government improve the consultation process to include the recreational fishing community in decisions concerning conservation?*
2. *How will your government address the urgency regarding habitat protection, restoration, improved stock assessment and predator control concerns?*
3. *Do you believe that to protect wild salmon stocks we must move toward a closed containment approach for salmon farming?*



TIME TO STOP SCAPEGOATING THE SPORTFISHING

The public fishery is the single largest economic driver of all BC fisheries, yet harvests less than 15 per cent of halibut and 10 per cent of salmon coast-wide. It is estimated that the public fishery accounts for less than four per cent of all fish harvested in B.C.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans [Fisheries and Oceans Canada] has put forward a proposal, that will see sport-fishing for Chinook salmon closed on the east and west side of Vancouver Island from April 1 to July 31, 2019. After having reduced limits for most of last season on chinook salmon down from two a day to one a day for sport fishers.

These closures are being taken to address concern the early-timed returning Fraser River chinook salmon 4.2 and 5.2, these particular chinook spend two years in fresh water before entering the ocean. Now it is key to take action on protecting these stocks of chinook, but mass closures are not the answer and will do little to address the problem.

There are many diverse stocks of chinook and some are doing very well and angling opportunities for these salmon should still be allowed to take place. These closures will cripple the sport-fishing industry and be very costly to the B.C. economy,

with little to no benefit to improving chinook salmon numbers.

Brian Riddell of the Pacific Salmon Foundation has said we have cut the recreational sport-fishing exploitation on chinook by approximately 75 per cent, since the 80s and suggests cutting the rec sector any more is not the answer to bringing back Fraser chinook stocks of concern.

The DFO's own Creel Survey, Avid Angler DNA data, and other sources from within DFO, show that the recreational fishery does not catch these stocks of concern. They make up less than .5 per cent of the saltwater recreational catch.

The answer is that we need to see real action taken to improve all chinook salmon numbers. DFO should recognize the importance of healthy forage fish populations, such as herring. Commercial herring fisheries should be substantially reduced, which is not happening with openings starting this March.

Fisheries for stocks such as pink and chum salmon in commercial openings should be done in while recognizing the importance that these fish make in contributions of nutrients to the streams, they return to spawn in and the benefit to other salmon stocks such as chinook. Habitat degradation has to stop and recognition in the importance



of protecting and growing fish habitat is key for better in river success of spawning and out smolt migration.

Hatcheries also need to play a role in rivers that have lost much of their habitat and have low natural reproduction. We need to see reduced predation by Pinnipeds, such as seals and sea lions, whose population has exploded in recent years in BC waters. They consume large numbers of salmon smolts, as they migrate out to the ocean.

They specifically target larger smolts such as the 2-year-old early Fraser River chinook, rather than smaller ones. It's time to look at harvesting pinnipeds to reduce numbers. In the U.S. they're already having a harvest of 900 sea lions to help save chinook salmon.

There is a group with a proposal before DFO right now for Pinniped harvest. Lastly,

DFO needs to pay attention to the impacts of salmon farming, which sees the threat of the PRV virus on wild chinook stocks, as evidenced in the recent study done by the Pacific Salmon Foundation in conjunction with the Strategic Salmon Health Initiative.

Using sport-fishing as a scapegoat to appear to be taking action to save early Fraser chinook is not the answer. It hurts the B.C. economy and will not result in more Chinook salmon returning to spawn. The federal government needs to get serious, about taking meaningful measures to improve chinook salmon numbers!

Dave Brown
Whistler

Take action now!

Write or email your local MP and the fisheries minister Jonathan Wilkson min@dfo-mpo-gc.ca

Realizing Tourism's Potential

*Fishing is to
British Columbia
what Mickey
Mouse is to
Disneyland*



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Brian Niska – Skeena Spey Riverside Wilderness & Lodge



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John Wells – Hindsight Fishing



The Solutions

- If it's better for the fish, make those decisions without prioritizing one sector over the other
- Give more notice on closures & restrictions
- Consult angling community
- Allow catch & release regime to maintain access
- More investment in research and science

