



The Wildlife Society
Manitoba Chapter



March 30th, 2017

Honourable Catherine Cox
Manitoba Sustainable Development
Room 314, Legislative Building
450 Broadway Ave, Winnipeg, MB
R3C 0V8

Dear Honourable Minister Cox,

The Wildlife Society Manitoba Chapter is Manitoba's oldest science-based wildlife management organization that represents approximately 150 wildlife professionals including scientists, professors, managers, biologists, educators, and planners. On behalf of our membership we are pleased to see the development of a comprehensive climate and green plan for the Province of Manitoba. Climate change has, and will continue to, significantly impact wildlife and wildlife habitats through land use changes responding to shifting climates. These impacts will be felt by stakeholders across the spectrum, from industry to the public, who appreciate and rely on the wildlife resource base that we strive to conserve.

A carefully considered plan involving mitigation, adaptation, and outreach is needed for Manitoba. As we discussed in our meeting last summer, we trust that wetland protection via regulations will be a key component of that strategy. Both climate change planning and wetland protection should include a combination of legislated regulations as well as incentives, and include all facets of human activities in Manitoba including industry, transportation and agriculture.

As an organization committed to conservation of wildlife, The Wildlife Society has developed a standing position statement on *Global Climate Change and Wildlife*. As Manitoba Sustainable Development moves forward with the development of a new climate plan, we would encourage you to review this document. Key recommendations of this policy can be summarized in three points:

- Actions to mitigate the accumulation of atmospheric greenhouse gases;
- Management considerations to increase the ability of wildlife and wildlife habitats to adapt to a changing climate; and
- Educate stakeholders by increasing climate change outreach activities

In closing, we would like to congratulate you on developing a new climate and green plan for Manitoba and encourage you to contact us if we can assist you in any way.

Sincerely,

The Wildlife Society
Manitoba Chapter