

# **PREMIER SELINGER**

## **Speaking Notes**

### **Announcement with Indigenous and Boreal Leaders on Throne Speech Commitment to Land Use Planning**

**Wednesday, November 18, 2015**

**12:00 PM**

#### **Participants:**

**Stephen Kakfwi**, former Premier, Northwest Territories

**Valérie Courtois**, Director of Indigenous Leadership Initiative

**Mathew Jacobson**, Officer at Pew Charitable Trusts

**Chief Ron Evans**, Norway House Cree Nation

## **SPEAKING POINTS**

- Good afternoon, it is an honour to be here with Indigenous leaders to discuss our government's commitment to preserving one of the world's greatest natural treasures – the boreal forest.
- Manitoba's vast expanses of boreal forest are at the heart of the Canadian boreal – which is the world's largest remaining intact forest ecosystem.
- Over 80 per cent of Manitoba consists of boreal forest, abundant with rivers, lakes, wetlands and wildlife.
- The boreal acts as a natural carbon sink – offsetting more greenhouse gas emissions per acre than any other ecosystem.
- Which is why we often refer to this great forest as “the lungs of the earth”.

- I'm deeply proud of our government's work to preserve Manitoba's boreal forest.
- In consultation with Indigenous communities and other stakeholders, we are developing a Boreal strategy that will preserve and protect this global treasure for generations to come.
- **Today, I am pleased to announce that Indigenous Land Use Planning will be the cornerstone of Manitoba's policy to ensure a sustainable balance of development and conservation of the Boreal.**
- Indigenous peoples residing in the boreal forests have a proven track record, going back thousands of years, of stewarding the world's most important carbon banks.
- They are the reason these forests remain intact, and their knowledge will lead us into the future.

- **We are proud to support First Nations and Resource Management Board in developing land use plans that will help inform government, industry, and others First Nations, and guide sustainable economic development, environmental protection, and decision-making in the area.**
- **It is our intention to provide additional resources to communities for land use planning, and to adopt and implement those plans upon completion.**
- Our Boreal strategy will combine the strengths of traditional ecological knowledge, scientific research, integrated planning, data gathering and monitoring.

- While land use plans are underway, we are committed to taking immediate steps with First Nations to protect specific culturally and environmentally significant areas, or areas of special interest that First Nations wish to bring forward.
- And later this month I will be travelling along with Prime Minister Trudeau and other Premiers to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris.
- Many states and countries will be speaking of innovative new plans to stem the tide of climate change, reducing outputs of carbon, and protecting the vast carbon banks stored in the world's forests.
- I look forward to continued collaboration with all stakeholder groups on boreal conservation efforts that will protect this great treasure.