

ELBOW RIVER MITIGATION

- 1) Are you supportive of building upstream flood mitigation infrastructure for the Elbow River? If yes, what is your understanding of the infrastructure projects for the Elbow River and their current status? As an elected MP, how will you support the completion of these projects?

As a Calgary Centre resident I have been following the discussion concerning the Elbow River flood mitigation options and am clearly in support of flood mitigation projects. In spite of some reservations concerning the lack of protection it offers for communities upstream of Calgary, the Springbank off-stream diversion and storage site has emerged as the top priority because it is a cost-effective project and could be completed way ahead of the Glenmore Reservoir Diversion Tunnel and without the environmental concerns posed by the McLean Creek dry dam, the other two options under consideration. The Springbank off-stream diversion and storage site was the project approved by the previous Prentice government and endorsed by Mayor Nenshi in Calgary and hopefully it will secure capital funding from the current Provincial NDP government once the latter completes its necessary studies. As an elected MP, I will press the Federal NDP to contribute its share and work jointly together with its Municipal and Provincial partners to ensure a speedy implementation of any agreed-upon projects.

- 2) Do you believe that more than one upstream mitigation infrastructure project is needed for the Elbow River? If so, which ones? If not, why not?

I do believe that for extra protection more than one upstream mitigation infrastructure project will be required. While concerns have been expressed about the high costs of the Glenmore Reservoir Diversion Tunnel and the environmental challenges posed by the McLean Creek dry dam, one of these two options should also be pursued once it is decided which would be the most effective solution to further enhance flood protection to exposed communities. This, together with the continuous enforcement of riverbanks and the building of dikes and berms in Calgary, as well as the planned raise of the Glenmore Dam should further enhance protection in the city.

BOW RIVER MITIGATION

- 1) Are you supportive of leveraging existing infrastructure along the Bow River system for flood mitigation? If yes, what is your understanding of how the existing infrastructure can be leveraged and the current status of such an endeavor? As an MP, what do you intend to do to support a timely agreement to be put into place to utilize existing infrastructure along the Bow River system for flood mitigation?

Leveraging existing infrastructure along the Bow River system is one option to be considered. I view favourably the operational changes to lower the Ghost Reservoir seasonally, a plan agreed upon by the Province of Alberta and TransAlta, but do not think that this alone would be enough. TransAlta, which owns the dams along the Bow River system, and the Province of Alberta may have to do more than that; they would most likely have to negotiate a long-term watershed agreement regarding the management of upstream reservoirs. As an MP, I will encourage the implementation of an integrated watershed management plan.

- 2) Do you believe that additional upstream mitigation measures need to be pursued for the Bow River? If so, what additional measures should be considered? If not, why not?

Additional upstream mitigation measures may be required as part of a comprehensive and integrated watershed management plan. We need to properly address flood mitigation along the Bow River not just by handling upstream reservoirs but also by taking measures to maximize water storage and retention in natural areas such as wetlands and forests.