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Sentinelles Petitcodiac Riverkeeper Press Release

## Candidates commit to river restoration

8 Liberals and 7 NDP respond to survey

With ten days left to Provincial Election Day, political parties and candidates from all ridings located along the Petitcodiac River are lining up to give their support for the timely restoration of the endangered river.

Seven out of seven NDP candidates and eight out of nine Liberal candidates (15 in total out of 25 candidates) responded to the survey and all support the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which calls on the Province to open the causeway to restore the fisheries, the tidal bore and the river ecosystem. None of the Conservative candidates answered the survey. The party, however, did send its response committing to the EIA process and to selecting the best option when it will be fully complete. Conservatives also pledge to “work with all partners to establish funding” for the project.

The Liberal position on the Petitcodiac River was unveiled yesterday in Moncton during the launch of the party’s electoral platform (Charter for Change). It commits to the restoration of the Petitcodiac River by selecting one of the four options in the EIA in a timely manner. The NDP’s policy on the river was also reiterated in clear terms: “all of our candidates along the river and everywhere in the province are in favour of making sure the Petitcodiac River is restored as soon as possible.”

“The results of the survey are encouraging”, says Daniel LeBlanc, who is retiring at the end of the month as Petitcodiac Riverkeeper. “Many of the candidates who provided comments are very concerned about the river and want immediate action to take place”. This includes leading voices on the river issue such as Mike Murphy, but also liberal candidate and former Environment Minister Gene Devereux who expresses his frustration with the little amount of progress he’s observed since he was last in charge of the file in 1999.

The detailed answers to the survey are now online at the Riverkeeper website: [www.petitcodiac.org](http://www.petitcodiac.org).