



Martin Shields

Member of Parliament
Bow River

STATEMENT

April 5, 2024
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement from Martin Shields, Member of Parliament for Bow River on the Threat of Aquatic Invasive Species to the Ecosystems and Economies of the Province of Alberta

Ottawa, ON – Martin Shields, Member of Parliament for Bow River released the following statement on threat of aquatic invasive species (AIS) to the ecosystems and economies of the Province of Alberta:

“I would like to acknowledge and thank the Government of Alberta for its recent announcement in taking action to protect Alberta’s aquatic ecosystems and economies from Zebra-Quagga Mussels (ZQM). Increasing watercraft inspection stations, adding dedicated inspectors, and creating an AIS taskforce are important steps in ensuring our province remains free of ZQM, as well as mitigating impacts of other AIS. However, it’s important to note there is more work to be done – and further action should be considered.”

“Over the past few weeks, I have been engaged with stakeholders, constituents, and colleagues alike to understand how MPs can contribute to the fight against AIS in Alberta. I met with both the Alberta Invasive Species Council and the Ontario Invasive Species Centre, the former providing a briefing with suggestions for all levels of government. I am pleased to see some of these suggestions implemented in Alberta’s announcement.”

“At the federal level, Conservatives are committed to keeping Alberta and western-waters ZQM free – and we will continue to pressure the Federal Government to take action to prevent impending disaster.”

“A letter concerning the growing threat of AIS signed by 44 Conservative MPs (22 from Alberta) has been addressed and sent to the Prime Minister directly. It calls to “prioritize resources and initiate urgent, immediate actions necessary to prevent permanent ecological and economic damages that will be inflicted if your government continues in its failure to provide the leadership required to protect our waters.””

“I, along with my Conservative team look forward to continuing engagement with provincial counterparts and stakeholders to ensure Alberta waters remain ZQM free.”

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