

Manitoba PC Caucus



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Lagimodiere's bill for invasive species awareness to become law

Annual awareness week is in step with Manitoba government's efforts: Lagimodiere

A private member's bill moved by Alan Lagimodiere, MLA for Selkirk, to advance awareness of the dangers of invasive species passed third reading today. The Legislative Assembly's approval of Bill 212, the Invasive Species Awareness Week Act, has positioned it to receive Royal Assent and become law later this year.

"I'm pleased that the Legislative Assembly sees the importance of greater public awareness of the hazards posed by invasive species," said Lagimodiere. "The designation of a week every year to increase this awareness is in step with our Progressive Conservative government's efforts to stop the spread of invasive species that could harm our waterways and ecosystems."

When the bill is passed into law, the last full week of April every year will be designated as Invasive Species Awareness Week and Manitoba will become the first province or territory to enact this kind of legislation.

Lagimodiere noted Manitoba's environmental protection laws are some of the strongest in Canada, as the province steps up its fight against aquatic and terrestrial invasive species for the environment and the economy. Under our PC government, for example, the province is using more leaflets and signage for awareness of zebra mussels as well as watercraft wash stations. The keys to saving ecosystems from invasive species are prevention, detection and timely responses to identification.

The Invasive Species Awareness Week Act will continue our government's commitment to protecting Manitoba's environment for current and future generations.

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