The background image shows a serene landscape with a calm lake in the foreground, a dense forest of evergreen trees along the shore, and a bright rainbow arching across a cloudy sky at sunset. The colors are warm and golden.

A Water Act for PEI

Making sure we get it right

Gary Schneider

Past member of the Round Table on Resource Land Use and Stewardship

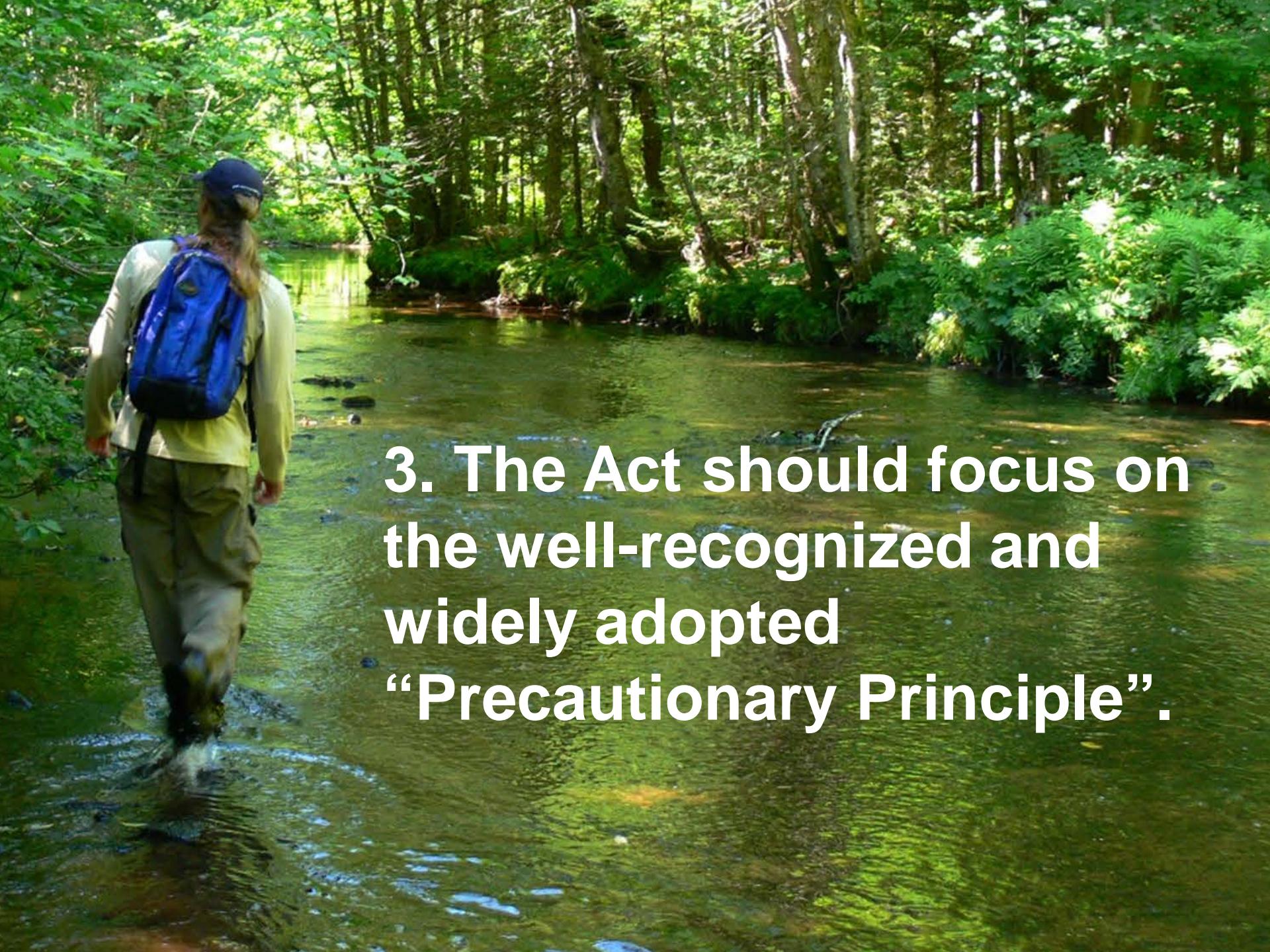
Co-chair, Environmental Coalition of Prince Edward Island

A photograph of a person from behind, wearing a blue backpack, a light green long-sleeved shirt, and olive-green cargo pants. They are walking through a shallow, clear stream with rocks at the bottom. The water reflects the surrounding dense green forest. The person is moving away from the camera towards a bright opening in the trees.

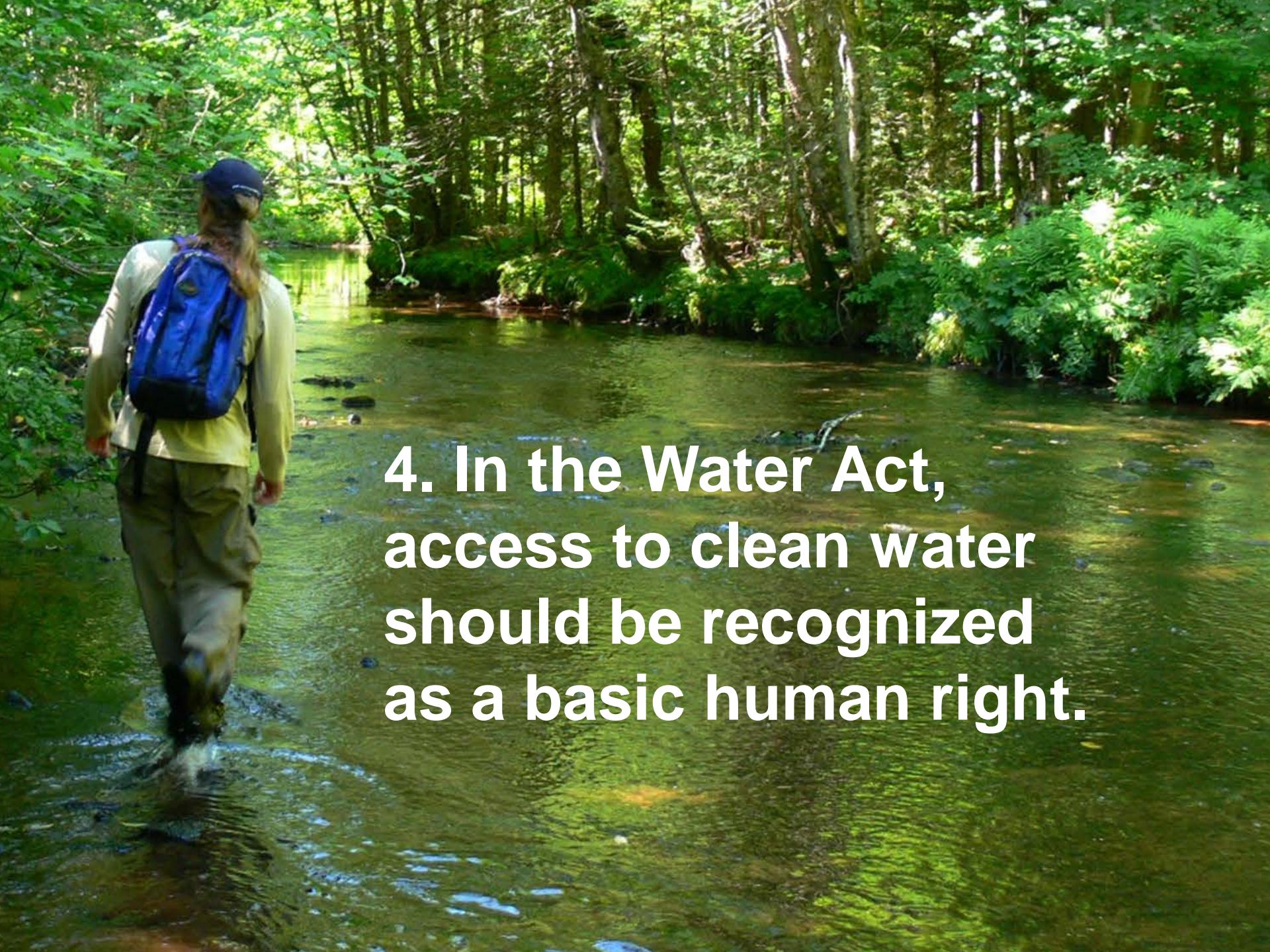
1. We must face up to the serious environmental problems in this province.

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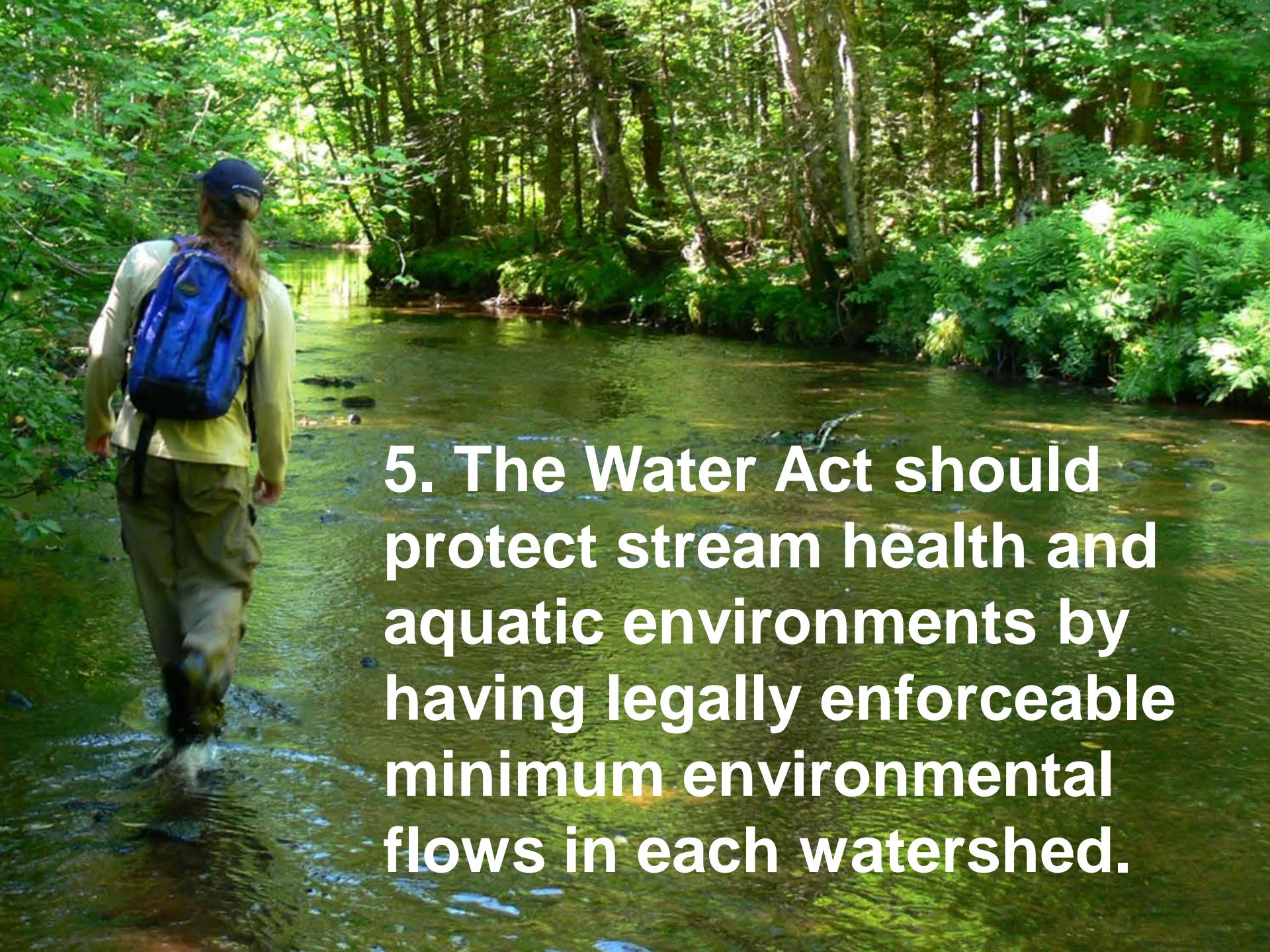
**2. We need boldness in
our leadership to act on
these issues.**

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**3. The Act should focus on
the well-recognized and
widely adopted
“Precautionary Principle”.**

A photograph of a person from behind, wearing a blue backpack, a light-colored long-sleeved shirt, and olive-green cargo pants. They are walking through a shallow, clear stream. The water is reflecting the surrounding dense green forest. The person is moving away from the camera towards the background.

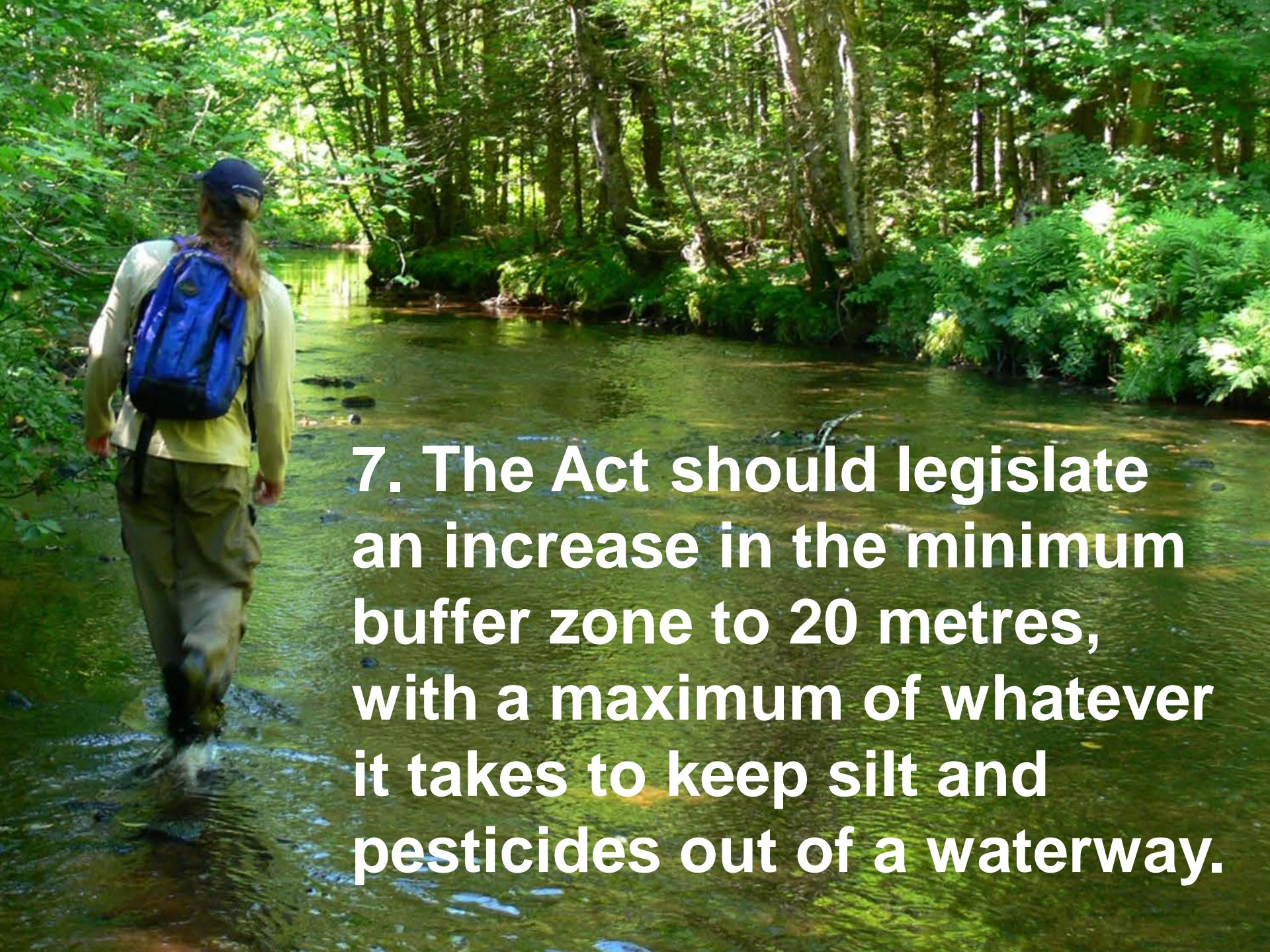
**4. In the Water Act,
access to clean water
should be recognized
as a basic human right.**

A photograph of a person from behind, wearing a blue backpack, a light-colored long-sleeved shirt, and olive-green cargo pants. They are walking through a shallow, clear stream that flows through a dense forest. The water reflects the surrounding greenery, and sunlight filters through the trees. The person is moving away from the camera towards a more densely wooded area.

5. The Water Act should protect stream health and aquatic environments by having legally enforceable minimum environmental flows in each watershed.

A photograph of a person from behind, wearing a blue backpack, a light-colored long-sleeved shirt, and olive-green pants. They are walking through a shallow, clear stream. The water reflects the surrounding dense green forest, which is filled with tall trees and lush undergrowth. The scene is bright and sunny.

**6. The Act should include
a “Prohibition on
introducing foreign matter
in streams”, a key
component to BC’s new
Water Sustainability Act.**

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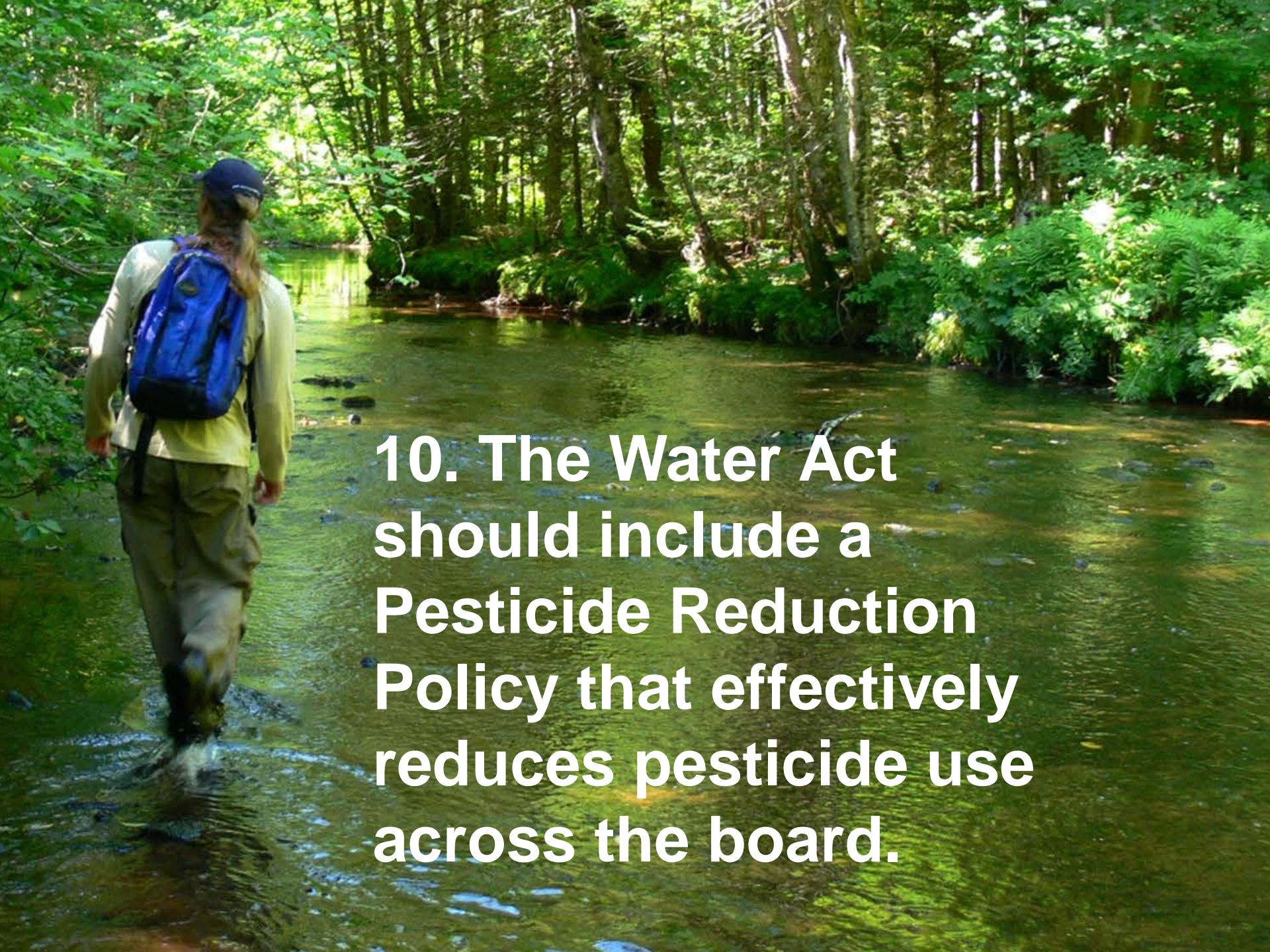
7. The Act should legislate an increase in the minimum buffer zone to 20 metres, with a maximum of whatever it takes to keep silt and pesticides out of a waterway.

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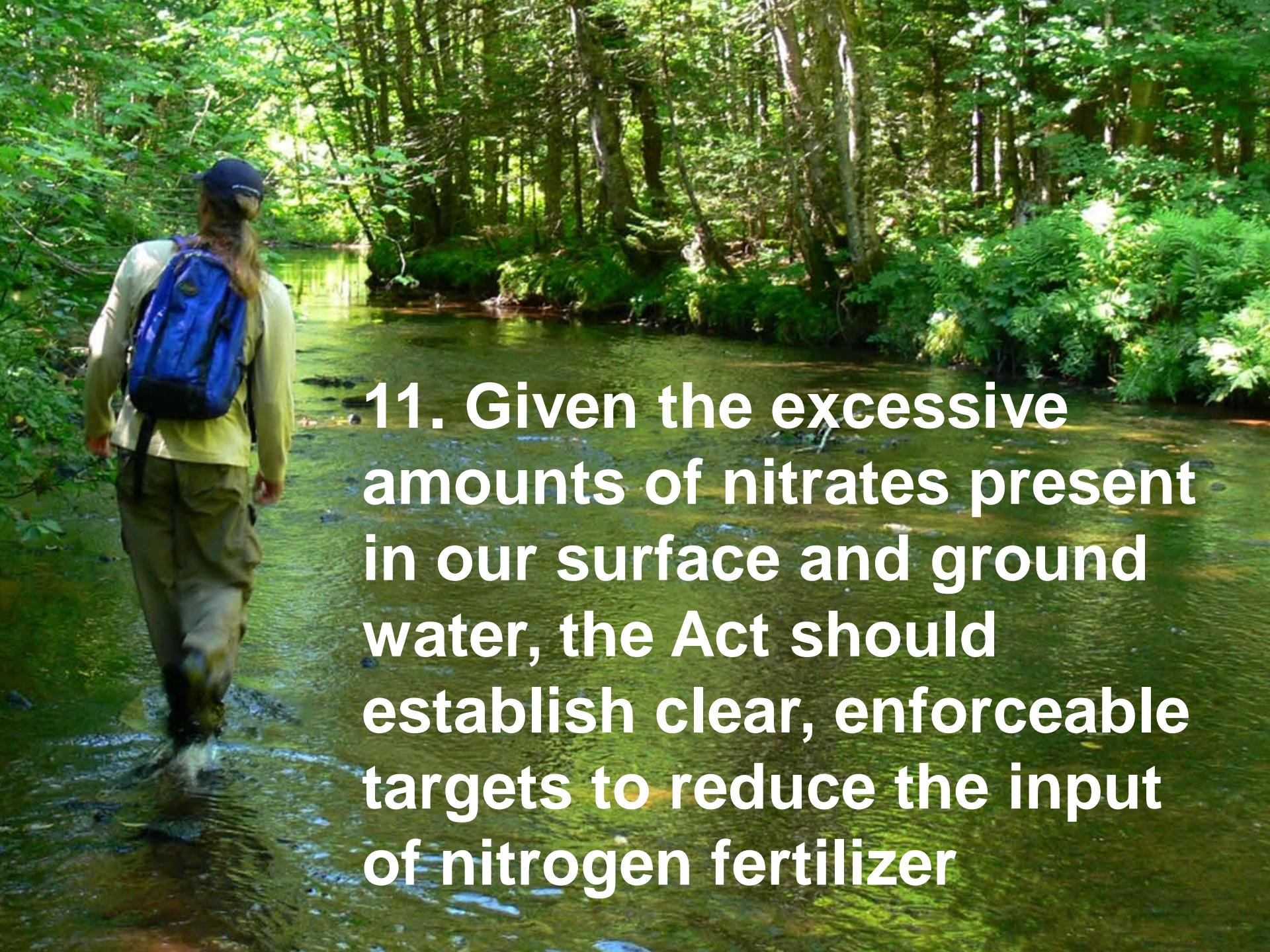
8. The Act should
remove all loopholes in
the mandatory three-
year crop rotation.

A photograph of a person from behind, wearing a blue backpack, a light green long-sleeved shirt, and olive-green cargo pants. They are walking through a shallow, clear stream with rocks at the bottom. The water reflects the surrounding dense green forest. The person is moving away from the camera towards a bright opening in the trees.

9. The previous two recommendations should be financially supported by the provincial government.

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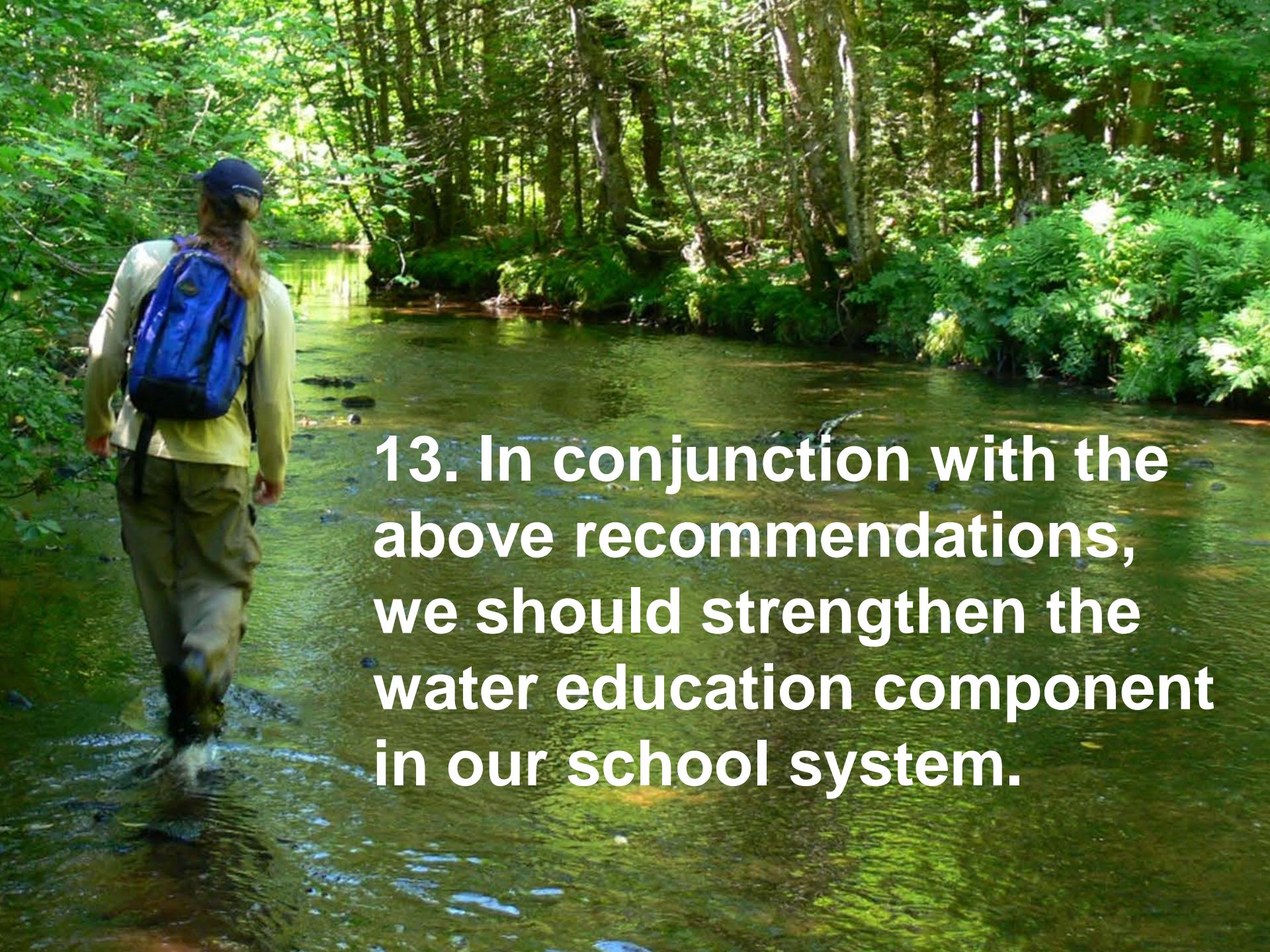
**10. The Water Act
should include a
Pesticide Reduction
Policy that effectively
reduces pesticide use
across the board.**

A photograph of a person from behind, wearing a blue backpack, a light-colored long-sleeved shirt, and dark pants, walking through a shallow, clear stream. The stream flows through a dense forest with tall, thin trees and lush green undergrowth. Sunlight filters through the canopy, creating dappled light on the water and the surrounding foliage.

11. Given the excessive amounts of nitrates present in our surface and ground water, the Act should establish clear, enforceable targets to reduce the input of nitrogen fertilizer

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12. The Act must clearly state that the province is responsible for monitoring and enforcement, not watershed groups.

A photograph of a person from behind, wearing a blue backpack, a light-colored long-sleeved shirt, and olive-green pants. They are walking through a shallow, clear stream. The water reflects the surrounding dense green forest. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating bright highlights on the water and the person's clothing.

13. In conjunction with the above recommendations, we should strengthen the water education component in our school system.









Finding the balance

