

COALITION TO SAVE LAKE WINNIPEG

COMMUNITIES COMING TOGETHER TO ADVOCATE FOR POSITIVE PRACTICES TO
RESTORE AND SUSTAIN THE HEALTH OF LAKE WINNIPEG

cslakewinnipeg@gmail.com

Honourable Scott Fielding

Minister of Finance

Room 103 Legislative Building 450 Broadway Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Your Honour,

I am writing you regarding the government's commitment to the health of Lake Winnipeg.

As regulator, the provincial government has the responsibility of ensuring the City of Winnipeg addresses the North End Water Pollution Control Centre (NEWPCC) impact on Lake Winnipeg. Other green initiatives, including wetland protection and restoration, are also important measures to support the health of the lake. Yet, there is no mention of Lake Winnipeg in the proposed budget at all.

This is deeply concerning to me and all of those that are affected. Winnipeg's under-treated sewage is the single largest point source of phosphorus to Lake Winnipeg. Yes, there are other sources of phosphorus in Lake Winnipeg but the NEWPCC is largest single source of phosphorus. The lake is sick and it needs our help.

I urge you to make the health of Lake Winnipeg a priority in the 2020 budget.

I am the President of the Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners (MACO). MACO serves as an umbrella organization for local Cottage Owner Associations in Manitoba. There are 44 member associations with over 2600 paid members in the local associations. Most of these Associations are located in the RM of Alexander and Lac du Bonnet. As you know both of these municipalities sponsored a motion calling for action at the recent Association of Manitoba Municipalities in November.

There are also many cottagers in Associations and non-associations located along the east and west shores of Lake Winnipeg from Grindstone to Victoria Beach. These cottagers have long have been concerned about the issue of blue-green algae on Lake Winnipeg. The science has been well known and proposals have been made for about 15 years but there does not seem to be the political will to do something with many excuses being made. For the good of Manitoba and Lake Winnipeg, we must address the issues at Winnipeg's North End Water Pollution Control Centre. There are many visitors that come here for summer visits. If the algae blooms on Lake Winnipeg are the best we can show of Manitoba we have serious problems. The time for talking is over. The time for action is now.

Please reply to let me know where you stand on this issue.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gus Wruck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

Gus Wruck, President, Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners

Cc: Wayne Ewasko MLA for Lac du Bonnet

Hon. Sarah Guillemard, Fort Richmond

Alan Lagimodiere MLA for Selkirk