

Coalition to Save Lake Winnipeg



VISION

A HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE LAKE WINNIPEG THAT CONTRIBUTES TO THE SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF ALL.

TO ACT AS AN ADVOCATE INFORMING STAKEHOLDERS AND COORDINATING EFFORTS TO SAVE, PROTECT AND MAINTAIN POSITIVE, SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES FOR LAKE WINNIPEG.

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Links available at
[Manitoba Cottage Owners Association](#)

February, 2021

Volume 3 Issue 1

The health of Lake Winnipeg continues to face the significant challenges that can be rooted in complex intergovernmental relationships and the discrepancies of awareness of the impact of personal, commercial and industrial acts on the immediate and large geographical watershed. Recovery through sustainable practices based on scientific research will require all stakeholders to take responsible actions to ensure that definitive steps begin and continue for the health of Lake Winnipeg.

The Coalition to Save Lake Winnipeg shares with our community the following updated and time sensitive information.

- [Express Weekly News Feb 4 2021](#) pg. 12 and 16 “**Province’s proposed regulation on nutrient targets for Lake Winnipeg misses the mark**”
- **City of Winnipeg** Standing Policy Committee meeting **February 9, 2021** 9:30 a.m. [Feb 9 Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste Meeting](#). **Important new information will be presented and is online in the agenda.**
- “Thirsty for a Canada Water Agency”, regional water experts will discuss the merits of creating a Canada Water Agency, what that means for Manitobans. This virtual event will take place on **February 12, 2021 at 12:00pm CST**. Register [here](#) and find the discussion paper at [PlaceSpeak](#).
- The Lake Winnipeg Indigenous Collective and the Lake Winnipeg Foundation have outlined 5 distinct points for the Federal Government. For more information [5 things Federal Government must do for Lake Winnipeg](#)
- [Prairies Freshwater Forum: February 18, 2021](#) approximately 10:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. CT Full event details, including a draft agenda for the Regional Freshwater Forums, are available [Creating Canada Water Agency](#)
- City of Winnipeg Council Meeting where recommendations from Standing Policy Committee Water and Waste meeting will be presented [City of Winnipeg Council Meeting Feb 25 2021](#)
- **Minister Blaine Pederson’s** Ministry of Agriculture and Resource Development request for public input is found in the [News Release Consultation](#). Public can register and provide input until **February 26, 2021** [Register here](#)

In the past months there have been statements and indications from Federal, Provincial and Municipal Governments, including the City of Winnipeg, acknowledging commitment for actions and measures that will positively impact the health of Lake Winnipeg. Each level of Governments’ commitment to an action, whether funding, regulations or enforcement, depends on or impacts another level of governments response to align themselves positively to the action. Leadership through positive consultation and working together for sustainable actions is required by all levels of Governments for the health of Lake Winnipeg.

Individual citizen advocacy and support for the health and sustainability of Lake Winnipeg continues to be an essential driving force behind the forward movement for our elected officials in all levels of Government. The Coalition to Save Lake Winnipeg is committed to sharing information and resources for concerned citizens to individually engage their elected officials expressing concerns. Contact information to write or telephone your elected officials can be found here: [Federal Members of Parliament Manitoba](#), [Manitoba Legislature Representatives](#) [City of Winnipeg Councillors](#)

More information and links to resources are included in the following summary.

Federal Government of Canada

The Lake Winnipeg Indigenous Collective and the Lake Winnipeg Foundation have outlined 5 distinct points for the Federal Government to address:

1. Recognize phosphorus as the cause of blue-green algal blooms on Lake Winnipeg.
2. Use evidence to guarantee impact from every federal government dollar spent to reduce phosphorus loading to Lake Winnipeg.
3. Support Indigenous peoples in reclaiming and restoring their relationship with water.
4. Increase enforcement of evidence-based policy and practices for freshwater health.
5. Fulfill jurisdictional responsibilities through concrete action and strengthened accountability.

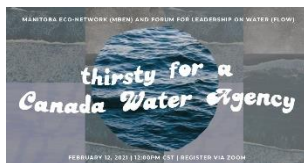
Please visit this link [5 things Federal Government must do for Lake Winnipeg](#) where you will find more information and calls to action.

Government of Canada is advancing efforts to develop a new Canada Water Agency to work together with the provinces, territories, Indigenous peoples, local authorities, scientists and others to find the best ways to keep our water safe, clean and well-managed. Engagements efforts are now underway.

Registration for the Regional Freshwater Forums is now open!

A series of six [Regional Freshwater Forums](#) will be held across the country to engage stakeholders and the interested public on region-specific freshwater issues and provide an opportunity for participants to discuss their thoughts on opportunities to improve freshwater management through the creation of a Canada Water Agency.

Each forum will be a half-day virtual event. Join a panel of regional experts, practitioners and knowledge holders in a discussion of regional freshwater issues and participate in breakout sessions for more in-depth dialogue on the discussion questions and opportunities outlined in the Discussion Paper "[Toward the Creation of a Canada Water Agency.](#)"



The Manitoba Eco-Network and the Forum for Leadership on Water (FLOW) are hosting an event to engage organizations and individuals on the federal government's plan to create a new water agency in Canada!

Titled "Thirsty for a Canada Water Agency", regional water experts will discuss the merits of creating a Canada Water Agency, what that means for Manitobans, and how you can get further engaged in the federal consultation process.

This virtual event will take place on February 12, 2021 at 12:00pm CST. If you're interested in attending, please register [here](#) and familiarize yourself with [PlaceSpeak](#), where you'll find the discussion paper on creating a Canada Water Agency.

[Prairies Freshwater Forum](#): February 18, approximately 10:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. CT

Full event details, including a draft agenda for the Regional Freshwater Forums, are available at: www.placespeak.com/CanadaWaterAgency. Any questions related to the event, feel free to email Calvin at calvin@mbeconetwork.org.

Province of Manitoba

The following response was received on January 12, 2021 from the office of Municipal Relations, Director Nick Kulyk to CSLW letters to the Honorable Derek Johnson, Honorable Rochelle Squires and Premier Pallister.

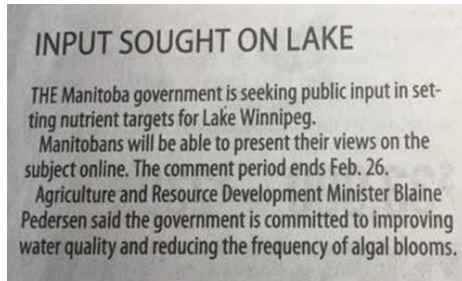
“Thank you for your letters to the Minister of Municipal Relations, Honourable Derek Johnson and his predecessor, Honourable Rochelle Squires regarding your organization’s request for action relating to the City of Winnipeg and Lake Winnipeg, and for your recent correspondence to The Honourable Brian Pallister, Premier of Manitoba.

The Government of Manitoba shares your concerns regarding the health of Lake Winnipeg, and in particular the need to address nutrient loading from phosphorus emissions to improve water quality. Wastewater from the City of Winnipeg is one source of excess nutrients to Lake Winnipeg.

Manitoba has been actively working with the City of Winnipeg to review options to reduce nutrients from the North End Water Pollution Control Centre (NEWPCC) to meet the licensing and other requirements of the provincial Environment Act and Water Protection Act. Efforts to ensure the City meets provincial standards continues to be top priority for Manitoba. Specifically, the departments of Conservation and Climate and Municipal Relations continue to work directly with the City of Winnipeg to clarify the scope of upgrades required to bring the NEWPCC into compliance, as well as a schedule to do so. Updated information can be found on the City of Winnipeg website at: <https://winnipeg.ca/waterandwaste/sewage/wstp/NorthEndUpgrade.stm>.

In addition, to date, the Government of Manitoba has allocated \$182.6 million out of a total commitment of \$268 million for the City of Winnipeg to complete upgrades to the NEWPCC. This funding commitment completely covers Manitoba's commitment towards the first and second phases of this project, which includes upgrades to the Headworks Facilities and the Biosolids Facilities. Committed provincial funds are conditional on federal approval of both projects under the Manitoba-Canada Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program Bilateral Agreement. The Government of Manitoba has also indicated to the City of Winnipeg that future year funding under the provincial Strategic Infrastructure basket could be used as a source to cover Manitoba's remaining commitments towards future phases of this critical project.”

Province of Manitoba Invites Public Input
January 1, 2021 – February 26, 2021
Agriculture and Resource Development
Minister Blaine Pederson



Winnipeg Free Press January 2nd, 2021

More information regarding the Ministry of Agriculture and Resource Development request for public input is found in the [News Release Consultation](#).

“Nutrient Targets to Provide Benchmarks for Measuring Progress: Pedersen

“Lake Winnipeg is one of Manitoba’s greatest treasures, and the Manitoba government remains committed to improving water quality and reducing the frequency and severity of algal blooms,” said Pedersen. “The proposed nutrient targets will provide important guidance for nutrient reduction activities and establish benchmarks for measuring progress.”

The Sustainable Watershed Act, which received royal assent in 2018, enabled the development of nutrient targets for Lake Winnipeg and its tributaries. The Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan called for the development and implementation of targets for nutrient reduction including for the Lake Winnipeg watershed. The Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan also committed to innovative approaches such as water quality trading that would depend on the establishment of nutrient targets.

The minister noted that establishing and implementing nutrient objectives and targets is expected to help Manitoba’s collective nutrient reduction efforts by helping guide future nutrient reduction activities, implementing best practices, identifying priorities and tracking progress over time.

The development of nutrient targets is a proactive approach to water management and will also improve the co-ordination of watershed activities, enhance watershed plan development and implementation and make it easier for partners to allocate financial resources where they will provide the most benefit to the watershed, he added.

To learn more about the proposed nutrient targets regulation and to provide comments, visit the Manitoba Regulatory Consultation Portal at <https://reg.gov.mb.ca>. Comments are invited through Feb. 26, 2021

The Express Weekly News published an article on February 4, 2021 that emphasizes that current targets for nutrient restrictions is not sufficient to support the health and sustainability of Lake Winnipeg. [Express Weekly News Feb 4 2021](#) pg. 12 and 16. This call to action from a local commercial fisher expresses the need for citizens who are concerned about the eutrophication of Lake Winnipeg and the need for the Province to respond positively to this crisis.

City of Winnipeg

The City of Winnipeg North End Water Pollution Control Center continues to exceed the target of 1mg/l of phosphorus emissions into the Red River. The interim licence provision by the Province of Manitoba requires modeling and testing of interim phosphorus removal to be completed by the third quarter of 2021 after the recommendation and approval of the interim phosphorus removal method approved. [North End Sewage Treatment Plant EAL](#).

On February 9, 2021 the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment Regular Meeting will meet. The report to the committee for discussion is available at [New Capital Project for Chemical Interim Phosphorus Removal for NEWPCC](#). The following is noted:

- Interim phosphorus removal to reduce phosphorus emissions levels between 8% and 23% by 2023 will require an additional capital investment \$10.5 million and annual operating cost of \$2.2 million. ***This additional request for funding dollars will not meet the EAL target of 1mg/l and the deadline date has been extended in this report. The source for this funding request is from the Environment Project Reserve.***
- The North End Water Pollution Control Center provides biosolids treatment for all 3 water treatment plants in the City of Winnipeg as well as communities that have service sharing agreements with the City of Winnipeg. The infrastructure of the NEWPCC biosolids treatment capacity for reliable operation is limited to 5-9 years and impacts the future development in the City of Winnipeg. [Standing Policy Committee Meeting on Water and Waste Nov 9 2020](#) The impact of the SEWPCC upgrade completion (4th quarter of 2021), is expected to produce increased phosphorus sludge to be processed at the NEWPCC and this may impact the capacity timeline of the biosolids treatment facility.
- In January, 2020 the City of Winnipeg approved \$15,233,000.00 from the Biosolids Treatment project to procure engineering services. In December, 2020 this was reported not to have commenced due to the requirement of the Province to review a P3 (Public Private Partnerships) partnership for procurement. This report was not completed as discussed at the January, 2021 Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste meeting. [Standing Committee on Water and Waste December 1 2020](#)

The Standing Committee meeting is available to view live and to review at [Feb 9 Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste Meeting](#). The recommendations of this committee meeting will proceed to the City of Winnipeg Council Meeting on February 25, 2021. [City of Winnipeg Council Meeting Feb 25 2021](#)

Concerned citizens may be interested in viewing the discussions that occur during the February 9, 2021 Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste meeting.