

# Coalition to Save Lake Winnipeg



Ice Fishing Village Gimli

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## 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](#)

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## Manitoba's Water Management Strategy

On November 8, 2022 the Provincial Government of Manitoba released a framework for the Manitoba Water Management Strategy and encouraged the public to engage in the [WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY](#). The public can provide written comments to the government until April 1, 2023.

“A water strategy action plan is being developed during winter 2022/23 through further engagement with Indigenous Peoples, the public, and stakeholders. The water strategy action plan will be a focused guide to specific actions, initiatives, and investments directed at implementing the Water Management Strategy.

Manitoba is currently seeking input to inform for the first water strategy action plan. To take part in the survey and Ideas Board, visit: [Province Water Strategy](#). The deadline for participation is March 15, 2023. In addition to participating in the engagement through EngageMB, Manitobans can also submit written submissions to [waterstrategy@gov.mb.ca](mailto:waterstrategy@gov.mb.ca) until April 1, 2023.” [Province of Manitoba Environment Parks and Climate](#)

Members of the Coalition to Save Lake Winnipeg participated in a discussion with allied organizations reviewing the content of the document and the described strategic planning including defined challenges, measurement process and outcome goals. Thank you to Glen Koroluk, Manitoba Eco-Network, for facilitating the discussion. Participants of this discussion expressed the need for the Province of Manitoba to revise the Water Management strategy to better:

- Include the northern areas and consultation with Indigenous communities.
- Ensure federal water strategies are included in provincial plan.
- Define identified problems, (all domains including agriculture, international waters, nutrient loading, violations of EPA, etc.). Methods for resolution and assessment of outcomes are required to ensure the process is meaningful for long term water preservation.
- Recognize the biodiversity that supports healthy waterways and the need for their preservation/protection.

***The CSLW encourages concerned citizens to review the Province of Manitoba Water Strategy and complete the survey before March 15<sup>th</sup> or provide a written submission by April 1<sup>st</sup>.***

### ***Aquatic Invasive Species are a Year-Round Concern***

Zebra Mussels and the Spiny Waterflea are highly adaptable and survive in the winter waters of lakes and rivers. [Nature Conservancy Canada](#) and [Government Manitoba AIS](#). All equipment used during ice fishing season is under the same regulations of **Clean, Drain and Dry**, as for other seasons of the year. Decontamination of water-related equipment is subject to fines. [Government of Manitoba Fines for AIS Violations](#).

Please review the Winter Season Checklist for preventing the spread of AIS [Winter Checklist](#)  
[Government MB AIS spread prevention](#)

Lake Winnipeg's ecosystem is being negatively impacted by the zebra mussels and the spiny waterflea. Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist, Candace Parks, Government of Manitoba has indicated that the main priorities for Lake Winnipeg would be to:

1. Contain zebra mussels and spiny waterflea to the lake.
2. Prevent new AIS from invading the lake. (Example, Prussian Carp, Silver Carp, Eurasian watermilfoil, and quagga mussels.)

For your reference:



[Prussian Carp](#)



[Quagga Mussels](#)



[Silver Carp](#)



[Eurasian Watermilfoil](#)

***Please Clean, Drain and Dry all water related equipment and watercraft when you are leaving Lake Winnipeg or entering Lake Winnipeg after visiting another water body.***

Information signs from Aquatic Invasive Species, Government Manitoba, are available for communities. Community support is needed to pick up in Winnipeg and install. If you need more information please contact Candace Parks at [AIS@gov.mb.ca](mailto:AIS@gov.mb.ca) or phone at 204 945-7787.

## Update from the Lake Winnipeg Foundation

- 1. Advocacy opportunity – now till March 15, 2023:** The Lake Winnipeg Foundation (LWF) is encouraging citizens to participate in the provincial online Water Action Plan Survey to let Manitoba’s government know that community-based monitoring improves water decision-making.

LWF is prioritizing three objectives as high priority, to encourage Manitoba’s government to use Lake Winnipeg Community-Based Monitoring Network data to improve water management:

- Reduce excess nutrient loading to Manitoba’s waterways (Survey Question 12; Focus Area #7)
- Ensure that monitoring programs support water management decision-making (Survey Question 15; Focus Area #10)
- Support engagement and participation of local organizations in water initiatives, including community-based monitoring and citizen science (Survey Question 16; Focus Area #11)

However, we have some significant concerns about the recently released Water Management Strategy. We will be highlighting these concerns in a government submission to be shared publicly soon.

More information [on this issue is available on LWF’s website](#).

## 2. On the horizon: Federal Budget 2023

The upcoming federal budget is an important one. Last year, we were surprised when Budget 2022 failed to deliver on promised funding for a new Freshwater Action Plan. In response, LWF and our supporters rallied together: spending much of the summer and fall advocating for renewed federal funding for Lake Winnipeg as part of Budget 2023.

More specifically, we called for multi-year investment in the Lake Winnipeg Basin Program – a program that for years has supported regional phosphorus-reduction projects and created opportunities for the meaningful inclusion of Indigenous knowledge in water governance.

We expect Canada’s government to follow through on its promises and fulfil its environmental responsibilities, and will be watching Budget 2023 closely to see if our elected officials have listened to our voices.

Read more [our reaction to last year’s federal budget](#) on LWF’s website.

## Continued Update from Lake Winnipeg Foundation

### 3. On the horizon: Continued advocacy for phosphorus compliance at Winnipeg's north end sewage treatment plant

Winnipeg's new mayor and council will soon be making important decision on improving sewage treatment to protect Lake Winnipeg.

Released last summer, an updated design for the North End Water Pollution Control Centre (NEWPCC) Phase 2 Biosolids Facilities Project will increase biosolids digester capacity, enabling the city to achieve long-overdue phosphorus compliance with the NEWPCC's provincial licence requirements upon project completion.

Reducing the city's phosphorus load helps protect Lake Winnipeg, since excess phosphorus drives the growth of algal blooms. Working in concert with an interim phosphorus-reduction solution that is projected to be up and running by August 2023, increased digester capacity will effectively treat the sludge produced when phosphorus is removed from the plant's liquid waste stream by a chemical called ferric chloride.

Recently confirmed multi-government funding for the biosolids project was based on 2019 estimates, which did not include the cost to increase biosolids digester capacity. That cost – currently estimated at \$130 million – was referred to Winnipeg's 2024-27 multi-year budget process.

It remains unclear when the multi-year budget process will begin. We are paying close attention, however, and when it does, we will be pushing city council to approve this necessary funding, a critical next step towards phosphorus compliance.

[Read our sewage update on p. 4 of our latest newsletter.](#)

Read LWF's [phosphorus compliance report online](#).

***The Coalition to Save Lake Winnipeg is looking forward to facilitating local information sessions for concerned citizens in 2023. We are working to coordinate Lake Winnipeg and Boreal Forest Scientists and Specialists and the many Lake Winnipeg Community Associations to provide opportunities for information sharing. Please contact [cslakewinnipeg@gmail.com](mailto:cslakewinnipeg@gmail.com) if you are interested in sharing information or are a community association that is interested in hosting an event for your area.***

**Please forward this newsletter to your membership and post on your Facebook page or on your website. Thank you!**