

# Coalition to Save Lake Winnipeg



Pelicans are Home

Rod Birch



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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](#)

May, 2023

Volume 5 Issue 2



Since the CSLW newsletter in early March, 2023, press releases by the City of Winnipeg and the Provincial Government of Manitoba as well as the Government of Canada have put forward “new initiatives” that impact Lake Winnipeg.

The April 20, 2023 announcement by Minister Klein and Councillor Mayes regarding the establishment of the “Provincial-Municipal Task Force to Advance Wastewater Infrastructure Projects to Protect Lake Winnipeg” acknowledges the need for governments to work collaboratively. [April 20 2023 Provincial News Release](#)

The March 2023 budget announcements by the Government of Canada regarding the Freshwater Action Plan and the Canada Water Agency acknowledges the need for national participation and leadership to preserve healthy water. [ECCC Government of Canada Protecting our Freshwater](#)

Concerned citizens acknowledge that “political commitment” has been made by all three levels of government that will impact proactive strategies for the health of Lake Winnipeg. However, currently, there is no mandate nor action timeline for the implementation of the Provincial-Municipal Task Force, Freshwater Action Plan, or the Canada Water Agency.

***The Coalition to Save Lake Winnipeg encourages concerned citizens to reach out to our elected officials and voice the expectations that we as constituents have for positive process, targeted funding, and critical timelines for the health of Lake Winnipeg.***

### **Provincial-Municipal Task Force Announcement**

On April 20, 2023 the province and city announced the establishment of a Joint Task Force to advance wastewater infrastructure projects. Minister Kevin Klein (Minister of Environment and Climate, MB) is the Chair of the Task Force and Councillor Brian Mayes (Chair - Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment) is the Vice-Chair. To date, the full mandate, membership, and priorities of the Task Force have not been fully elucidated. The press release and accompanying press conference indicate there is hope that a fully collaborative approach between the two levels of government will address the many delays plaguing the upgrades to the North End Water Pollution Control Centre (NEWPCC).

[Province of Manitoba News Release April 20 2023](#)

Of further interest, the results of the Interim Phosphorous Removal Strategy involving the use of ferric chloride has proven extremely effective at the South End Water Pollution Control Centre. As of March 2023, the plant is now releasing effluent with an average phosphorus concentration of 0.13 mg/L, approximately 1/10<sup>th</sup> its legal limit. The wastewater treatment compliance reports can be found here:

[Wastewater Compliance Reports](#)

Additionally, the Experimental Lakes Research project has determined that phosphorous, and not nitrogen, is the main contributor to eutrophication and algal blooms in freshwater lakes.

These findings raise logical questions for the Joint Task Force, and perhaps it can be encouraged to address them.

- 1) Will the province continue to pursue the expensive “biological nutrient removal system” now that the chemical removal strategy (ferric chloride) has proven to be so successful in our own back yard?
- 2) Is the significant investment in a biological nutrient removal system even appropriate now that science has identified that phosphorous and not nitrogen is the main source of the problem?
- 3) Is the province willing to alter the licensing requirements to remove the requirement for biological nutrient removal in favour of effective and economical chemical phosphorus removal?
- 4) Can the savings realized by the shift expressed in Q3 be applied towards other needed upgrades to the digester to process sludge from all three PCCs?

We know that one letter received from a constituent is counted as the voice of 1000 constituents. Should you wish to make your opinion known to the Joint Task Force, your letter is powerful. You can submit your questions / feedback to the Task Force through Minister Klein ([minecp@leg.gov.mb.ca](mailto:minecp@leg.gov.mb.ca)) and Councillor Mayes ([bmayeres@winnipeg.ca](mailto:bmayeres@winnipeg.ca)) with copies to Mark Wasyliw, Critic for Environment and Climate Change ([Mark.Wasyliw@mbleg.ca](mailto:Mark.Wasyliw@mbleg.ca)) as well as your MLA.

With a provincial election scheduled for October, we encourage you to put these questions to the MLA candidates in your riding as well. Similarly, you may want to alert your city councillor to the opportunity to save significant taxpayer money by supporting the broad scale implementation of the proven ferric chloride nutrient removal system.

[Find your MLA here](#)

[Find your City Councillor here](#)

### **Canada’s Freshwater Action Plan and Canadian Water Agency**

The Canadian Government announced in the Budget March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 a \$650 million commitment over 10 years, for the Freshwater Action Plan. This investment is designated for monitoring, assessment, and restoration work within eight Canadian watersheds including Lake Winnipeg. How much of the total \$650 million will be allocated to regional efforts to protect Lake Winnipeg remains unknown at this time. The March 28<sup>th</sup> 2023 Budget also designated an \$85.1-million-dollar investment over five years in the Canada Water Agency with its headquarters to be in Winnipeg.

[Government of Canada Protecting our Freshwater Budget 2023](#)

The financial commitment and the development of multi-year support by the federal government offers optimism for Lake Winnipeg advocates. Since the 2011 publication of [State of Lake Winnipeg 1999-2007](#), advocates have continued to raise the identified threats to Lake Winnipeg with local, provincial and federal governments. Proactive advocacy for Lake Winnipeg in 2023 has increased considerations that include rapid changes in climate and necessary accountability for all to engage fully and support Indigenous rightsholders and knowledge keepers in water governance.

The Lake Winnipeg Basin Program, has supported funding for research in the Lake Winnipeg watershed. [Lake Winnipeg Basin Program Federal Government](#) This targeted funding has provided local research including, wetlands, river bank retention, LiDAR (light detection and ranging) used for targeting riparian and wetland nutrient reduction (phosphorus) and much more since April, 2007. This specifically directed funding has supported the evidence-based research and data needed to effect positive actions for decision makers. [Lake Winnipeg Foundation Budget 2023](#)

The Canada Water Agency, announced in the March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 budget an investment of 85.1 million dollars over 5 years, will be headquartered in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The commitment is designed for a new entity within the Federal Government. The mandate for this new entity is not expected until the end of 2023. [Canada Water Agency Stakeholder Engagement Report 2021](#) A well established process is in place with the Lake Winnipeg Basin Program. The impact of the new Canada Water Agency must maintain the funding and focus for already instituted and not distract from the important local efforts. Increased consistency in water science, water assessment and management are positive in addition to the continued funding and focus for the Lake Winnipeg Basin Program. [VP IISD Matt McCandless CBC](#) Concerned Citizens can advocate for the preservation of funding and focus on Lake Winnipeg within the newly announced Canada Water Agency.

Concerned citizens may ask [Steven Guilbeault](#), Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada

1. Will the federal government continue to provide targeted funding for locally focused Lake Winnipeg Basin Program?
2. What is the timeline for the proposed Canada Water Agency implementation?
3. What is the mandate of the Canada Water Agency?

You are encouraged to copy your inquiries to:

[Gerard Deltell](#) Opposition Critic for Environment and Climate Change

[Find your member of Parliament here](#)

[Terry Duquid](#) **Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada**

## **Upcoming Community Events**

Engaging for the Health of Lake Winnipeg

**Charlie Wall Park**

**Hillside Beach**

**10:30 a.m., Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>**

Bring lawn chair and reusable coffee/water container

**Hillside Beach Community Association**

**hosts**

### **Nature's Calling**

**Guest Speakers:**

**Alexis Kanu, PhD, and Marlo Campbell from Lake Winnipeg Foundation**

**Information and Demonstration**

**Candace Parks, Aquatic Invasive Species, Province of Manitoba**

**Everyone is welcome to attend.**

### **Bike to the Beach**

**Victoria Beach, Manitoba**

**August 11, 2023**

Visit Lake Winnipeg Foundation Website for more information

### **West Lake Winnipeg Information Sessions**

Please stay tuned for more information

***More Information for Concerned Citizens from Allied Organizations***

**[Visit Manitoba EcoNetwork](#)**

**[Visit Lake Friendly](#)**

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