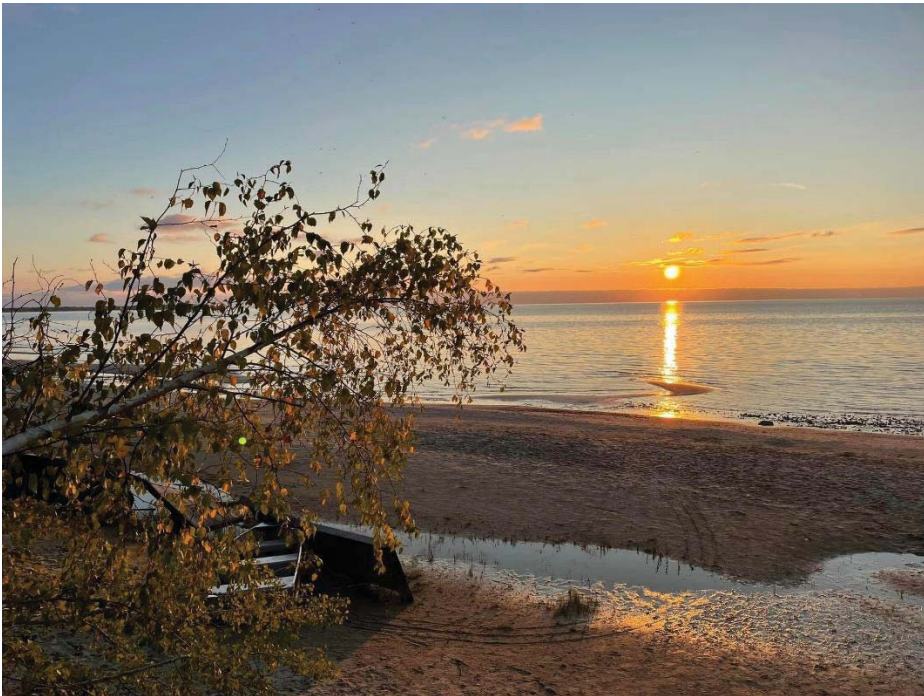


Coalition to Save Lake Winnipeg



cslakewinnipeg@gmail.com

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.

cslakewinnipeg@gmail.com

Please share this newsletter

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

September, 2023

Volume 5 Issue 3

Provincial Election, October 3, 2023

The CSLW requested response to the following questions from 3 of the Leaders of the Political parties running for election this October:

If Manitobans choose your party to form a government and thereby entrust the management of Lake Winnipeg's health into your care,

- 1. What would your government do to reverse the current trend toward eutrophication of the Lake?**
- 2. What steps would your party take to deal with Aquatic Invasive Species?**
- 3. How would your party protect marshes and wetlands across the province?**
- 4. Would a government under your party use the full force of the Acts, regulations, and authority available to the province to deal with organisations and/or individuals who discharge untreated or undertreated sewage into Manitoba's freshwater systems?**
- 5. What is your party's vision for the long-term sustainability of freshwater in Manitoba?**

The following responses were received:

Progressive Conservative Leader Heather Stefanson:

- 1. What would your government do to reverse the current trend toward eutrophication of the Lake?**

Excessive nutrient buildup in Lake Winnipeg can best be addressed with firm regulations and working with industry and municipalities to ensure that best practices are utilized. Combined with preservation of wetlands upstream of the lake, we can limit nutrients that flow in and allow natural processes to recover.

- 2. What steps would your party take to deal with Aquatic Invasive Species?**

Aquatic invasive species can be addressed with two prong policy of education and regulation. As even a single lapse in individual judgement can allow a species to cross into new waterways, we need to ensure that all are aware of the dangers presented when transferring watercraft between, and in other forms of cross contamination.

- 3. How would your party protect marshes and wetlands across the province?**

Environmental regulations and permitting are essential to the preservation of marshes and wetlands. In conjunction with our existing efforts to expand and safeguard the work of the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation. Additionally there are great efforts underway by groups such as Ducks Unlimited that we have supported and will continue to support.

- 4. Would a government under your party use the full force of the Acts, regulations, and authority available to the province to deal with organisations and/or individuals who discharge untreated or undertreated sewage into Manitoba's freshwater systems?**

The role of the Provincial government in this situation is to give organizations and especially municipalities the tools that they need to adopt best practices and abide by existing regulations. A great example of this is the work we have done with the City of Winnipeg and its water treatment plant. Rather than continuing to sign exemptions, we have compelled them to expediate upgrades, and have done it as a partner.

4. What is your party's vision for the long-term sustainability of freshwater in Manitoba?

Manitoba should be incredibly proud of the freshwater sources that we have. Not just for the environmental impact that such waterways have, but the human aspect as well. Sustainable usage of our freshwater, combined with regulations and enforcement will protect these treasures for the next generation to enjoy as we have.

New Democratic Party Leader Wab Kinew:

1. What would your government do to reverse the current trend toward eutrophication of the Lake?

For decades, eutrophication has been removing oxygen from Lake Winnipeg and creating toxic algae blooms that kill fish and harm humans. If we have the opportunity to form government, the Manitoba NDP will work with all levels of government, Indigenous governments, and other jurisdictions to tackle the problem. We need strong leadership at the provincial level to consult and coordinate with stakeholders, including the Coalition, watershed districts and others to get it done. We will properly resource the Manitoba Water Services Board and provide stable and predictable funding to municipalities to build and modernize waste-water treatment plants and improve surface-water protections. We are committed to the completion of the upgrades to Winnipeg's North End Sewage Treatment Plant. We will work with agricultural producers to help mitigate phosphorous runoff from farmlands. We also want to work with you and other partners to support scientific investigation of Lake Winnipeg and its watershed to bring the lake back to health and protect all of Manitoba's waterways for future generations.

2. What steps would your party take to deal with Aquatic Invasive Species?

Aquatic invasive species, such as zebra mussels, are dangerous and can foul water treatment facilities, damage beaches, harm our tourist industry and threaten fish stocks. We will increase resources for education and awareness campaigns to help stop the spread. We will increase funds for government departments devoted to researching and combatting the spread of these species and properly resource them with staff.

3. How would your party protect marshes and wetlands across the province?

The Manitoba NDP have signed on to The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) pledge to expand protected regions to include 30 per cent of the environment of Manitoba. This will include restoring wetlands that act as natural filters to protect the lake. This will build on existing legislative protections for our wetlands, which our government will respect and defend. We are also committed to protecting our marshes and wetlands in our province. We will work with producers and farmers to help

restore these important parts of our province and will take a science-based approach to the preservation of marshes and wetlands.

4. Would a government under your party use the full force of the Acts, regulations, and authority available to the province to deal with organisations and/or individuals who discharge untreated or undertreated sewage into Manitoba's freshwater systems?

Manitobans rightly expect government to properly enforce provincial rules designed to prevent our environment. We are committed to doing so.

5. What is your party's vision for the long-term sustainability of freshwater in Manitoba?

Climate change is the greatest challenge of our time. We see the consequences all around us, from floods, to wildfires, to droughts. We have a responsibility to act, to make life better for future generations and protect our natural spaces, wildlife and our water. The preservation of our freshwater is an important priority for the Manitoba NDP. For Lake Winnipeg, we will work with everyone on the lake – from the north to the south basin – to make sure your voices are heard as we bring the lake back to health. We will consult with stakeholders, as well as funding an ambitious infrastructure maintenance and improvement program, to preserve and enhance our precious freshwater resources. The new federal Canada Water Agency will be located in Winnipeg and presents the province with the opportunity to demonstrate leadership in water stewardship. We look forward to participating in federal work to modernize the Canada Water Act, and working in collaboration to bring forward Manitoba's vision.

Liberal Party Leader Dougald Lamont:

1. What would your government do to reverse the current trend toward eutrophication of the Lake?

Our 2023 Green Platform commits to multiple measures to reverse the current trend toward eutrophication of Lake Winnipeg. The single greatest source of phosphorous into Lake Winnipeg is the Red River, due to the City of Winnipeg – both a lack of water treatment as well as combined sewer overflows. At 5% , the North end Water Pollution Control Centre (NEWPCC) has been the single largest point source of phosphorus flowing into Lake Winnipeg. Although the province has set the phosphorus limit to 1.0 mg/L, the NEWPCC remains non-compliant. A Manitoba Liberal government will prioritize the NEWPCC biosolids facility project as a critical faculty upgrade. We have also committed to the creation of "floating wetlands" placed outside combined sewer overflow outlets to filter & clean water and capture phosphorous. These have proven effective in cleaning waterways in other jurisdictions. Lake Winnipeg and its tributaries accounts for a significant proportion of Manitoba's freshwater, along with diverse ecosystems and wildlife habitats. The Lake has been devastated by pollution, both from runoff and certainly from the City of Winnipeg. Successive NDP and PC governments have failed to take serious action to prevent nutrient loading which has increased dramatically in the last several decades, resulting in harmful blue-green algae blooms

exploding out of control and the presence of invasive aquatic species, especially zebra mussels.

We will further work with the Lake Winnipeg Foundation and water conservation districts and all stakeholders to address pollution hotspots and to develop small water control projects to enhance wetlands.

2. What steps would your party take to deal with Aquatic Invasive Species?

Previous governments have completely failed to have proper inspections, public awareness campaigns, and remediation efforts.

At the federal level, boat checkpoints are frequently utilized as a way to prevent the movement of AIS from one body of water to the next. We will empower Manitoba Conservation with similar tools to do the same.

3. How would your party protect marshes and wetlands across the province?

We have committed to creating a \$300-million annual green fund that will provide grants for the purpose of rewilding, expansion and growth of wetlands.

We are the only party to specifically commit to funds to support re-wilding and the creation and preservation of wilderness corridors. The effects of climate change have been devastating on our communities. Wildfires in northern Manitoba have raged out of control. Spring flooding has become more and more severe, and extreme weather events will continue to result in catastrophic losses for Manitobans across the province. It is well proven that when we repurpose our land back to its native landscape, we will begin to see not only positive effects on wildlife, but also a low-cost and highly effective process of natural carbon storage. Climate change and the erosion of our natural landscapes has created a pressing need to protect and preserve these areas which have been compromised by human activity. A Manitoba Liberal government will work with municipalities, First Nations, farmers, and other stakeholders to double the number of protected areas in Manitoba. We will work to create wilderness corridors and restore natural habitats – forests, wetlands, and grasslands to name a few.

4. Would a government under your party use the full force of the Acts, regulations, and authority available to the province to deal with organisations and/or individuals who discharge untreated or undertreated sewage into Manitoba's freshwater systems?

Yes. Manitoba generally follows a "polluter pays" principle, but these rules lack enforcement and the necessary teeth for the effective protection of our freshwater systems. We will strengthen current environmental legislation to protect our freshwater lakes and rivers and be more tough on polluters who callously disregard them.

5. What is your party's vision for the long-term sustainability of freshwater in Manitoba?

Manitobans depend on Lake Winnipeg and our water systems everyday. Whether Manitobans are taking in our beautiful beaches, sustaining their livelihoods through commercial fishing, or using drinking water aquifers, we need to take the protection of our waterways seriously to ensure they are available for the next generation.

Successive NDP and PC governments have failed to adequately protect Lake Winnipeg and its tributaries from significant harm. From failing to prevent out of control blue-green algae blooms, to the explosion of aquatic invasive species in our lakes, successive governments have not taken environmental issues seriously.

In fact, when asked about one of the most controversial issues facing fresh drinking water in our province today – the protection of the aquifer in south-eastern Manitoba from silica mining – the NDP's Lisa Naylor skirted the issue and failed to take a strong stance in protection of the region's drinking water.

Manitoba Liberals are the only party with a strong, long-term vision to protect freshwater in Manitoba. We have released our entire, fully costed platform which has a plan to create a \$300 million Green Fund so that all Manitobans can chip in to fight climate change, a plan to rewild Manitoba to restore wild spaces, protect our waterways, and clean up toxic sites across the province.

Every single one of these issues are interconnected to the protection of our waterways and we recognize that a whole of government approach is needed to restore Lake Winnipeg and protect our environment. In consultation with the Lake Winnipeg Foundation, we will work to reverse years of neglect to our lake.

Public Forum

The Health of Lake Winnipeg

Saturday, September 23, 2023

1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Gimli Recreation Centre

Gimli, Manitoba

45 Centennial Rd, Gimli, MB R0C 1B0

Presenters include

LAKE WINNIPEG FOUNDATION

CANADA WATER AGENCY

MANITOBA ECO-NETWORK

EASTERN INTERLAKE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

CITY OF SELKIRK WATER AND WASTE WATER

DR. EVA PIP

ALL ARE WELCOME TO THIS FREE EVENT

SPONSORED BY

THE SILVER HARBOUR ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

HBCA AND CSLW INFORMATION SESSION JUNE 2023

Community members who attended Hillside Beach Community Association's Nature's Calling were able to receive updated information about advocacy for the health of Lake Winnipeg from the Lake Winnipeg Foundation and concerns about Aquatic Invasive Species from the Provincial Biologist AIS.

Alexis Kanu, Executive Director for the Lake Winnipeg Foundation (LWF) shared the importance of continued advocacy from individuals for the health of Lake Winnipeg.

Winnipeg's largest sewage treatment plant, the North End Water Pollution Control Centre, continues to be non-compliant with the 1 mg/L phosphorus limit set out in its provincial operating licence. Excess phosphorus negatively impacts the health of Lake Winnipeg. This is the time for concerned citizens to engage the candidates in the upcoming provincial election to ask:

- When will phosphorus compliance be achieved?
- How much will it cost?
- Who is going to pay for it?

At the federal level, LWF is advocating for investment in evidence-based phosphorus reduction that achieves measurable results as part of renewed federal funding plan for Lake Winnipeg through the Freshwater Action Plan. Concerned citizens can engage with their Members of Parliament and Environment and Climate Change Minister Steven Guilbeault, thanking them for renewed funding, and reminding them of the importance of using this funding for greatest impact. Please visit <https://lakewinnipegfoundation.org> for more information, including advocacy language you can use in your message.

Candace Parks, Biologist Aquatic Invasive Species, Province of Manitoba, opened our eyes to concerns for Lake Winnipeg's health that goes beyond zebra mussels. Spiny waterflea is another aquatic invasive species that is in Lake Winnipeg. Candace provided our community with a "view" of the different stages of the zebra mussel and spiny water flea. The impact of these aquatic invasive species is devastating on the ecosystem of the lake. Candace shared there are other AIS not far from our area that pose risk to Lake Winnipeg.

What can we do? Clean, drain and dry

- If you use a motorized or non motorized watercraft (canoe, kayak, SUP, paddles etc.) or water related equipment (anchors, life jackets, fishing rods etc.) in Lake Winnipeg, **you must**, clean, drain and dry and go through an inspection station before going into another body of water. **IT IS THE LAW**
https://www.manitoba.ca/stopais/spread/watercraft_inspection.html
- Inspect your craft/toy/lifejacket/fishing rod etc. for plants and rough surfaces (could be a small zebra mussel). Use a towel to remove. Towel must completely dry. Discard at the boat launch or shoreline.
- Ensure there is no water in/on your water craft or water related equipment.

Candace provided us with an opportunity to "find" areas on watercraft/water related equipment where there were hidden facsimiles of "AIS." We inspected a motor boat, jet ski, kayak, paddles, water shoes, kids floating toys, paddles, SUP, and fishing rod.

Please visit <https://www.manitoba.ca/stopais/index.html> for more information. Take the time to read and learn and prevent being fined

Lake Winnipeg Foundation Advocacy

This spring's Federal budget 2023 commitment of \$650 million over 10 years for a national Freshwater Action Plan is significant – but it's just the beginning of a sustained effort to protect Lake Winnipeg.

The Lake Winnipeg Foundation's Spring & Summer 2023 newsletter includes a postcard that can be filled in and mailed – no postage required – to Canada's Environment and Climate Change Minister Steven Guilbeault, thanking him for this new funding commitment, and reminding him of the importance of evidence-based decision-making to ensure promised federal investment is used to generate measurable results.

The text of this postcard which is available on LWF's website is as follows:

Thank you for renewing federal funding for freshwater protection in Budget 2023. I am happy to see Lake Winnipeg included in the new 10-year, \$650-million Freshwater Action Plan.

This funding announcement is incredibly significant – but it's just the beginning of a sustained effort to protect Lake Winnipeg. Equally as important as the total dollar amount is the long-term impact this funding will generate.

I urge you to ensure that funding for Lake Winnipeg is directed to evidence-based phosphorus reduction that achieves measurable results. Support must also be provided to Indigenous knowledge carriers to enable their full participation in water governance.

Your name”

Consider customizing your message as much as possible; if you have a personal connection to Lake Winnipeg or have experienced algal blooms firsthand, make sure to mention it!

Letters can be mailed to The Honorable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ont., Canada, K1A, 0A6

Emails can be sent to [Environment and Climate Change Canada Minister Steven Guilbeault](#)

More Information from the Lake Winnipeg Foundation can be found at: [Lake Winnipeg Foundation](#) *Please consider see sending a Minister Guilbeault a message advocating for protection of Lake Winnipeg as the more citizens speak up, the greater impact we can have.*

The fight against zebra mussels

The accumulation of zebra mussels along the shores of Lake Winnipeg has been somewhat erratic this summer with buildups often dependent on the direction of winds. Cut feet and the inability to enter the lake without water shoes are

becoming common problems across our beaches. The Aquatic Invasive Species department of the provincial government has started an advisory forum to explore the problem in greater detail. The department's webpage includes information on the watercraft inspection program.

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/stopais/index.html>

An interesting invention from Wisconsin has been used to successfully crush the mussel shells <http://greatlakesecho.org/2012/05/07/beachmaker-crushes-zebra-mussel-leftovers/>

Unfortunately, many of our beaches are becoming unusable between the smell of rotting mussels and the sharpness of the shells. The picture below shows the accumulated shells at Grand Beach Provincial Park. As research continues, we hope that solutions to the zebra mussel problem will be found so that our beaches continue to be places where we can all continue to enjoy ourselves.



Grand Beach MB

Algae blooms on Lake Winnipeg

The reduction of phosphorus entering the lake via the Red River is a key factor in returning the lake to good health and upgrades to the city's North End Water

Pollution Control Centre are an important step in this direction. The largest blooms this summer have appeared in the north basin of the lake and drifted south only towards the end of August with blue green algae blooms appearing on many of our beaches. The Facebook page Lake Winnipeg Bloom finder is an excellent source to learn more about the blooms and their appearance on our beaches. This site is created and maintained by Dr. Paul Cooley of NextGen Environmental Research Inc. <https://nextgenenvironment.ca>



August 2023 Hillside Beach

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