

# Coalition to Save Lake Winnipeg



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The Coalition to Save Lake Winnipeg Steering Committee is reaching out to our community of concerned citizens and south basin community associations to share increasing concerns for the future of Lake Winnipeg and ask for your help. The information included in this newsletter is a summary of threats to Lake Winnipeg, who is responsible to address these threats and how recent activity by stakeholders has increased the level of these threats. The impact of threats will affect safe water for communities and wildlife, recreational activities, businesses that benefit from visitors and residents and the survival of Lake Winnipeg.

Your voice and the voice of community groups is important to let elected officials know that we expect them follow through with limiting phosphorus concentration in the water. Chemical phosphorus reduction can happen now and have immediate effect. Combined sewer upgrades must be completed now without delay to prevent the massive spill that occurred in February 2024, in south Winnipeg. Enforcement of the Environment Act for violations of sewage discharge and overflow and agricultural and industrial practices that increase phosphorus load in water ways needs to happen. Enforce and support Riparian Management Practices now so sustainability is demonstrated by these actions.

More information regarding these concerns is included in the newsletter with links.

- ❖ **Email Tracy Schmidt Environment and Climate Change Minister expressing your concerns. *Lake Winnipeg Foundation* [CALL TO ACTION](#)**
- ❖ **Share this information on your social media.**
- ❖ **Share with your community association members, visitors and friends.**
- ❖ **Join your community association and participate in an environmental awareness discussion.**
- ❖ **ATTEND AN INFORMATION SESSION AND FUND-RAISING OPPORTUNITY. SEE BELOW**
- ❖ **Visit [Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners](#) to review newsletter information since January 2020,**

## **Risks to Lake Winnipeg's Health**

- **High phosphorus concentration in the water causing algal blooms resulting in eutrophication. How Eutrophication Works**

### **How does the phosphorus get into Lake Winnipeg?**

- **Sewage treatment plant discharge and sewage overflow from the City of Winnipeg.**
- **Violations of Riparian Management Practices Manitoba**
- **Agricultural and Industry practices (fertilizer, livestock waste, sewage treatment, destruction of wetlands) that increase the phosphorus load to water.**
- **Individual citizens practices such as, developing property that clears natural vegetation, using high phosphorus products or using outdated sewage and grey water systems.**
- **Weather events including floods and heavy rains increasing run off.**

***Lake Winnipeg has a vast watershed that includes 4 Provinces and 2 States. All waterways contribute to the sustainable health of Lake Winnipeg. Canadian Geographic Map of Lake Winnipeg Watershed***

## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE TO EFFECT CHANGE FOR THE HEALTH OF LAKE WINNIPEG? HOW CAN “THEY” HELP?

CITY OF WINNIPEG & ALL MUNICIPALITIES	PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT	FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	CONCERNED CITIZENS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure infrastructure, land development and agricultural practices do not exceed 1.0 mg/l phosphorus in accordance with <a href="#">The Water Protection Act</a></li> <li>• City of Winnipeg must implement a chemical phosphorus reduction approach for the North End Water Pollution Control Centre and remain on timeline for completion in 2030. <a href="#">WFP April 23 2024 City requests 2-year extension for NEWPCC</a></li> <li>• Complete repairs on Combined Sewer Infrastructure to prevent overflow into the Red and Assiniboine Rivers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To adhere to and enforce <a href="#">The Environment Act</a></li> <li>• To support municipalities by funding infrastructure improvements and development that comply with <a href="#">The Environment Act</a>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue funding support for research and infrastructure investment for municipalities and the province of Manitoba supports sustainable practice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use sustainable and best practice for water health. <a href="#">Lake Friendly Actions for Citizens</a></li> <li>• Advocate for the health of Lake Winnipeg by contacting elected officials.</li> </ul>

**It is imperative that Concerned Citizens inform elected officials AGAIN, that further delays that would impact the phosphorus emissions into Lake Winnipeg is not acceptable.**

**Contact: [Environment and Climate Change Minister Tracy Schmidt](#)**

The following links provide you with more information regarding the health of Lake Winnipeg:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lake Winnipeg Foundation</b></p> <p><a href="#">Call to Action</a>  <a href="#">News May 6 2024 Accelerate Phosphorus Compliance</a>  <a href="#">WFP April 25 2024 Alexis Kanu</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CITY OF WINNIPEG</b></p> <p><a href="#">WFP Extension to 2032 for NEWPCC requested</a>  <a href="#">City of Winnipeg Sewage Overflow 2024</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sewage Overflow</b></p> <p><a href="#">WFP December 7 2023</a>  <a href="#">WFG Leaky Pipes Feb 13 2024</a>  <a href="#">WFP Pump Installed Feb 22 2024</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>'Water is life': First Nations launch \$4-B suit over Lake Winnipeg pollution</b></p> <p><a href="#">First Nations 4-billion-dollar suit</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lake Friendly links for Sustainable Practices</b></p> <p><a href="#">We Must Act Now</a>  <a href="#">Actions for Municipalities</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Agriculture Win for Waterways</b></p> <p><a href="#">WPG A shifting tide sustaining wetland</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dates to Remember:</b></p> <p><b>Advocacy &amp; Action events</b> – opportunities to learn more about the issues – and how citizens can get involved in solutions</p> <p><b>June 15 @ 11:00 a.m. Status and Strategic Plan for Lake Winnipeg - Lake Winnipeg Foundation</b> sponsored by Silver Harbor Property Owners Association - Environmental Group, member of the Coalition to Save Lake Winnipeg, <a href="#">Arnes Community Hall</a></p> <p><b>July 31 evening: <a href="#">East Beaches Social Scene</a></b> Lake Winnipeg Foundation advocacy, action and participation.</p> <p><b>Lake Winnipeg Foundation Fundraising events</b> – opportunities to support (or participate in!) evidence-based advocacy for Lake Winnipeg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Friday, August 9:</b> Bike to the Beach</li> <li>• <b>Sunday, August 11:</b> Walk for Water Victoria Beach &amp; District</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>THANK YOU TO MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF COTTAGE OWNERS FOR POSTING CSLW NEWS</b></p> <p>The CSLW is a grassroots volunteer group from the South Basin of Lake Winnipeg established in 2019. The eight member CSLW volunteer standing committee continues to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote healthy and sustainable Lake Winnipeg that contributes to the social, environmental, and economic well-being of all.</li> <li>• Act as an advocate informing stakeholders and coordinating efforts to save, protect and maintain sustainable practices for Lake Winnipeg.</li> <li>• Engage with all levels of government on the health and sustainability of Lake Winnipeg.</li> <li>• Engage and inform individual citizens and communities about sustainable practices and the difference one person can make.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please share our information with your association members, friends and communities via social media or email. Visit <a href="#">MACO website</a> to view CSLW information.</i></p>	