

# **COALITION TO SAVE LAKE WINNIPEG**

## **COMMUNITIES COMING TOGETHER TO ADVOCATE FOR POSITIVE PRACTICES TO RESTORE AND SUSTAIN THE HEALTH OF LAKE WINNIPEG**

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Update February, 2020

*This update is in response to questions, requests for information and important information that CSLW volunteers have gathered as our community continues to work towards a healthier Lake Winnipeg. Included in this update is a review of: phosphorus reduction from the NEWPCC, International Joint Commission Nutrient Reduction Red River Public hearing, and following Rural Municipality Council meetings for information regarding changes that impact Lake Winnipeg.*

### **North End Water Pollution Control Center Announcements**

At the end of January, 2020, the City of Winnipeg with the Province of Manitoba announced and presented the “North End Sewage Treatment Plant – Environment Act Licence 2684 RRR – Interim Phosphorous Reduction Plan and Nutrient Removal Implementation Plan” [NEWPCC 01/30/20 Document](#). Coalition to Save Lake Winnipeg Volunteers have reviewed the document, the media information and collaborated with concerned stakeholders. We hope the following summary supports our community’s appreciation of the relationship of the announcement and the impact on the health of Lake Winnipeg.

**The City of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba** have committed to transparency and accountability for the continued process to upgrade the NEWPCC and the Interim Phosphorous Reduction Plan. Monthly reports will be a matter of Public Record and available online for the Public. [Public Registry Link](#)

**The Advisory Committee**, including Lake Winnipeg Foundation, the International Institute of Sustainable Development and the Indigenous Water Collective, will have the opportunity for input quarterly for the Interim Phosphorus Reduction Plan.

**The Steering Committee**, comprised of technical professionals charged with the responsibility to direct and implement the project, is required to present an update for the timeline for both the Interim Phosphorous Reduction Plan and the Nutrient Removal Plan by **July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020**. Included in the plan is the opportunity to accelerate the timeline as well as identify considerations and risks that could delay the plan.

#### **Interim Phosphorous Reduction Plan information:**

- 3 options have been short listed for testing (page 3) All 3 include completion of South End Water Pollution Control Center upgrades as a prerequisite, which according to the “plan” is due for completion **in Quarter 3 of 2022**.
- Recommendations from the testing will be presented to the City and the Province in early **2021**. Review of the recommendations will be completed by **July, 2021**.
- According to the motion, [City of Winnipeg Motion Oct 8 2020](#),
  - implementation of the approved plan would be implemented within 14 months of that date or the **end of 2022**. The current plan put forward will not meet this goal.
  - Funding for the interim phosphorous reduction plan would be found within the **existing budget**.
  - Interim phosphorous reduction may not meet the goal of 1mg/l but be less than the current emissions of 3.5mg/l.

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### **North End Water Pollution Control Center Upgrade:**

Although there are contingent considerations for the interim phosphorus reduction based on the long-term upgrades of the NEWPCC, these are 2 separate funding and timeline projects.

- The full upgrade for the NEWPCC is expected to be complete by the **end of June, 2032**.
- 1.8 billion dollars is the total estimated cost of this project.
- NEWPCC is the facility that is responsible for the Biosolid Nutrient Removal for all 3 water pollution control centers for the City of Winnipeg along with other communities and industries.

Lake Winnipeg will most certainly face **at least** another year or two of no reduction in phosphorus load from the NEWPCC. We also recognize that there are risks for an increased phosphorus load from the ground run off from a wet fall and high snow levels south of the border. Lake Winnipeg will need our vigilance and voice this year and for its future.

### **Concerned Citizens can support by:**

- Following the monthly reports ([Public Registry Link](#)) on line and contacting their Councillors ([Winnipeg City Council Contacts](#)) and MLA's([MLA's Contact List](#)) encouraging acceleration of the process for Interim Phosphorus Reduction.
- Report visible algae blooms to Water Quality Management. ([Online Report Form](#))  
Tel: (204) 945-0002 Pass the important information about reporting for testing to others.
- Do a phosphorus home/cottage audit. Visit Lake Friendly Website for more information [Lake Friendly Information](#)

### **International Joint Commission**

#### **Proposed Nutrient Concentration and Loading Targets on the Red River**

On February 12, 2020 the International Joint Commission held a Public Hearing in Winnipeg to provide the opportunity for stakeholders and concerned citizens to comment on the Proposed Nutrient Concentration and Loading Targets on the Red River. [IJC Report](#)

The International Joint Commission (IJC) has representation from both Canada and the United States that work together to prevent and resolve issues that result with transboundary waterways. The IJC Red River Board provides non binding recommendations to each Federal Government to limit nutrient loading in the Red River resulting in algae blooms in Lake Winnipeg. Guiding principals for this process began in 1909 with the Boundary Waters Treaty.

*Coalition to Save Lake Winnipeg* volunteers attended the meeting. The report from the IJC addresses reduced nutrient loading of both phosphorus and nitrogen into the Red River. There was strong consensus from the Scientists, Indigenous Community Representatives and Concerned Citizens that the focus needs to be reduction of Phosphorus. The direct link between phosphorus load and harmful algal blooms was identified by the current research presented by the speakers. Focusing on phosphorus loading only in the Red River in the international waterways, will ensure funding and efforts have more impact on the health of Lake Winnipeg. Transcripts of the presentations are available here. [Public Comments](#)

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Lake Winnipeg Foundations Submission [LWF 02 2020](#)

The International Joint Commission will continue to receive public comments until February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Lake Winnipeg Foundation has provided a summary and key points for concerned citizens to consider and include in efforts to improve the health of Lake Winnipeg. [Summary and Key Points](#)

### **Concerned Citizens can support by:**

- Sending a submission to the International Joint Commission – Red River by February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
  - [Online Submission](#)
  - Ottawa Office
    - International Joint Commission  
Canadian Section  
234 Laurier Avenue West, 22nd Floor  
Ottawa ON K1P 6K6  
Canada
  - Sarah Lobrichon at [lobrichons@ottawa.ijc.org](mailto:lobrichons@ottawa.ijc.org),

### **Engaging with your Rural Municipality**

Manitoba's Rural Municipalities are all important governing bodies in the Lake Winnipeg watershed. Lake Winnipeg joins Manitoba's most northerly municipalities to become part of the Hudson Bay watershed. [AMM Map](#) Decisions made by Municipalities throughout Manitoba can impact the health of Lake Winnipeg. For many Municipalities the health of Lake Winnipeg also significantly impacts the health and prosperity of their Municipality.

Residents and property owners in Manitoba's Municipalities can support the health of Lake Winnipeg by maintaining engagement with their RM. Following the agendas and minutes on Rural Municipality websites can provide the opportunity for citizens to inquire and engage in decisions that impact the health of Lake Winnipeg. Attending meetings to observe discussions is a good way to show both support and concern for governance by Rural Municipal Councils.

### **Concerned Citizens can:**

- Follow their municipality agenda and minutes. Manitoba Municipal Contacts [Contact and Resource Information](#)