

# **COALITION TO SAVE LAKE WINNIPEG**

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

**October 26, 2019**

## ***Important Update***

### ***Positive Motion by the City of Winnipeg***

On October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019 the City Councillors of Winnipeg unanimously approved a motion that directs the Waste and Water Management Department to commence testing of alternate methods for reducing phosphorus load emissions from the North End Water Pollution Control Center within 4 months. The motion also defines 3 interim solutions that are to be included in the testing, but not limited to, as recommended by the AECOM Report June 18, 2019. One of the interim solutions includes the recommended ferric chloride timing change by Lake Winnipeg Foundation and the International Institute of Sustainable Development.

Following the review of the testing procedures (date undefined), the recommended interim solution for phosphorus reduction is to be implemented within 14 months of that review. All costs associated with this updated direction must be found within the existing budget.

***The unanimous approval by City Council for initiating the testing of interim solutions to reduce phosphorus emissions from the NEWPCC within 4 months (February, 2020?) is an important positive step in the forward movement for the health of Lake Winnipeg.***

***Letters from concerned individuals and stakeholders since the summer of 2019 have been a critically important contributor for the most recent positive steps. City Councillors on the Standing Committee became actively engaged in the process of inquiry which has in turn made some concrete steps and increased awareness for all elected Councillors.***

### ***When will the NEWPCC meet the guidelines of 1mg/L of phosphorus emissions limit?***

Commencing “approximately” in February 2020 the testing of interim solutions **to reduce** the phosphate will begin. There is no timeline definition for the testing, reporting of the testing review date included in the motion nor does the motion indicate the reduction must meet the Environmental Protection guidelines. However, the Notice of Alteration from the City of Winnipeg (July 31, 2019) is requesting a 2-year extension, December 31 2021 to meet the 1mg/L Provincial requirements. The absence of timelines continues to be a concern.

Please note that at the time of sharing this information there has been no indication regarding the Provincial response to the Notice of Alteration. The timeline for meeting the requirements for the Province of Manitoba Licencing for phosphorus emissions continues to be December 31, 2019. The original licence provided by the Province of Manitoba was issued in 2014 with requirements to meet the 1mg/L phosphorus emissions by December, 2019. Over the past 5 years the City has continued the process that began 15 years ago, for a 3-project upgrade plan for the NEWPCC:

1. Power supply and Headworks Facilities- underway and ongoing
2. Biosolids Facilities: pending
3. Nutrient Removal Facilities: pending

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*The Province of Manitoba is in the position to recommend efficient, expedited methods and strategies for the testing, implementation and concurrent upgrading of the NEWPCC in order to meet the 1 mg/L phosphorus emissions as required by the Environment Act. The Provincial Government of Manitoba is also in the position to work with the City of Winnipeg and support with collaborated Provincial and Federal Funding making this critical and essential emission reduction happen.*

Water Protection Act Province of Manitoba: Section 2 addresses the NEWPCC. Dated 2014 <https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/ccsm/w065e.php>

### ***What is Next? How you can help.***

It is essential that the Provincial Government take responsibility for ensuring the City of Winnipeg efficiently and effectively meets the recommended guidelines within a timeline that begins to mitigate the significant deterioration of the health of Lake Winnipeg. The Province of Manitoba is responsible for regulating all practices that impact the health of Lake Winnipeg, including wetland protection, agricultural practices and water management. Support from constituents and all stakeholders through sharing concerns and requesting their commitment for monitoring, collaborating financially with all levels of government and advocating for best environmental practices is needed. A sample letter may be:

Dear Minister of Conservation and Climate: Honorable Sarah Guillemard,  
[sarah.guillemard@leg.gov.mb.ca](mailto:sarah.guillemard@leg.gov.mb.ca)

Minister of Municipal Affairs: Honorable Rochelle Squires, [minmr@leg.gov.mb.ca](mailto:minmr@leg.gov.mb.ca)  
(MLA for your region)

Lake Winnipeg's health is in crisis. Continued nutrient loading from the NEWPCC has not met Provincial Environment guidelines and continues to be the largest single point contributor for phosphorus. This phosphorus results in increased toxic blue green algae blooms which negatively impacts all who live and enjoy the Lake.

The Provincial Government has received a Notice of Alteration, as requested by the Province, regarding extending the Environmental Licence for the NEWPCC. Since you received the Notice of Alteration dated July 31, 2019, stakeholders from around Lake Winnipeg have engaged with the City Councillors sharing the significance of the continual delays. In turn, on September 24<sup>th</sup> the Councillors unanimously approved a motion directing Water and Waste Management to begin testing in 4 months alternate methods to reduce phosphorus emissions.

We ask the Province of Manitoba to support the health of Lake Winnipeg by:

- Requesting timeline clarification for the testing duration and to provide publication regarding testing results at regular intervals.
- Request that the interim solution be operational as soon as possible and no later than December 31, 2021.
- Support the City of Winnipeg with funding, both Provincial and request Federal support, to concurrently upgrade the NEWPCC and expedite the necessary full capacity digester function.

Link to MLA's Contact Information: [https://www.gov.mb.ca/legislature/members/mla\\_list\\_alphabetical.html](https://www.gov.mb.ca/legislature/members/mla_list_alphabetical.html)

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