



COALITION TO SAVE LAKE WINNIPEG

NOVEMBER 30,
2019

INFORMATION
SESSION

SUMMARY AND
LINKS

December 10,
2019

**COALITION TO SAVE LAKE WINNIPEG
VISION
MISSION STATEMENT
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The CSLW vision/mission statements and goals and objectives are a dynamic document that will grow and change with the progress of advocacy for Lake Winnipeg's health.

Vision Statement

- A healthy and sustainable Lake Winnipeg that contributes to the social, environmental and economic well-being of all.

Mission Statement

- To act as an advocate informing stakeholders and coordinating efforts to save, protect and maintain positive sustainable practices for Lake Winnipeg.

GOAL 1: Participate with all levels of government on the health and sustainability of Lake Winnipeg to enforce compliance with legislation under The Environment Act on issues including:

OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS
A. Bringing about change to the City of Winnipeg's (C of W) sewage treatment processes to comply with legislation under The Environment Act so they become an example for others to follow.	Letter writing campaign to C of W officials. Attending Council sessions on the subject. Information sessions on the Science behind the concern with C of W North End Plant.
B. Advocating for the cessation of the destruction of wetlands with municipalities around the South Basin and all provincial municipalities that are in the Lake Winnipeg watershed. Advocate for the restoration of wetlands through environmentally acceptable practices.	Letter writing to Municipal officials around the South Basin to introduce or enforce legislation on wetland protection and restoration.
C. Advocating for sustainable watershed protection through Beneficial Management Practices by the agriculture sector of Manitoba.	Increase information sharing and engage with agricultural resources for advocacy.

GOAL 2: Engage and Inform individual citizens and communities about sustainable practices and the difference one person can make.

	OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS
	a. Enhancing awareness on sewage treatment and septic field requirements.	Hosting information sessions
	b. Promoting vegetation in lakeside communities and areas.	Local initiatives through property owners' associations and community groups.
	a. Working with Lakeside communities on drainage and ditch maintenance plans.	Challenging Municipal governments on local practices.

The Coalition to Save Lake Winnipeg (CSLW) is a collaboration of communities in the South Basin of Lake Winnipeg. The CSLW includes individual citizens, Cottage Associations from the east and west sides of Lake Winnipeg, Rural Municipality representatives and the Manitoba Cottagers Association. All stakeholders who have interest in the health of Lake Winnipeg are welcome to join the Coalition to Save Lake Winnipeg.

If you would like to join our committee or if you have information to share with our communities please email us at cslakewpg@gmail.com

NEWS SINCE NOVEMBER 30TH, 2019

The Province of Manitoba has refused the request from the City of Winnipeg to extend their license to exceed phosphorus emissions from the North End Water Pollution Control Center. The Province has a timeline FEBRUARY 1, 2020 to develop a plan for implementation. This is a much different outlook for emissions reduction timeline than was expected following the City of Winnipeg's Notice of Alteration to the Province. Both the Lake Winnipeg Foundation and the IISD will work collaboratively with Indigenous groups, the City of Winnipeg and the Province. Results from the development planning will be shared with the public.

Thank you to all who have supported these initial efforts to move in a positive direction for the health of Lake Winnipeg by letter writing, communicating with neighbours, elected officials and supporting others who have stepped forward.

We will keep you updated as we continue to participate in the advocacy for the Health of Lake Winnipeg. Happy to share that we have a positive step forward. One of many more steps.

https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries/1071.1/2019-12-05_noa_response.pdf

**COALITION TO SAVE LAKE WINNIPEG
INFORMATION SESSION REVIEW
NOVEMBER 30, 2019**

Approximately 150 people joined the Coalition to Save Lake Winnipeg Information session at the St. James Legion on November 30th, 2019. Thank you to all participants for their input, support and engaging discussion.

The following is a summary of the meeting and includes references and updates related to the information shared.

Lake Winnipeg Foundation – Dr. Alexis Kanu

Lake Winnipeg Foundation has an 8-point Health Plan for the restoration and sustainability for Lake Winnipeg. Dr. Kanu presented the following key points regarding one dimension of the health plan: **Setting the Standard for Waste Water Management.**

- North End Water Pollution Control Center (NEWPCC) is the 4th largest phosphorus emitting treatment plant in Canada. This facility does not meet the licensing requirements for the Environment Act.
- The City of Winnipeg has requested the Province extend their license without achieving the environmental standard. The time frame presented is undefined for commencing testing procedures, testing duration and implementation.
- Lake Winnipeg Foundation and the International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD) presented an interim solution to the City of Winnipeg which would immediately reduce the phosphorus emissions by adding ferric chloride at an earlier stage of processing the sewage. This has been rejected as an immediate solution by the City of Winnipeg.
- The NEWPCC represents approximately 6% of the phosphorus load (600 kg daily) to Lake Winnipeg.

Resources:

LWF Power Point:



ALEXIS LWF -
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Template for Letter to MLA's

<https://www.lakewinnipegfoundation.org/news/opportunity-action-provincial-regulators-ensure-winnipeg-addresses>

Lake Winnipeg Foundation Newsletter can be found at the following link

<https://www.lakewinnipegfoundation.org/newsletter>

Hog Watch Manitoba – Vicki Burns

- From 1990 until 2019 Hog production has increased from 2 million hogs to an expected 10 million hogs.
- Hog Watch is calling for the phase-out, over the next decade, of all **liquid manure systems**. In the interim all liquid manure operations should immediately take the following steps:
 1. have groundwater monitoring wells installed
 2. treat the liquid waste through environmentally acceptable processes to kill off unwanted pathogens
 3. phase out the use of sub-therapeutic antibiotics

Research needs to occur in relation to the phosphorus load from the run off from fields that are fertilized with hog manure.

<https://hogwatchmanitoba.ca/>

Risks of Blue Green Algae Blooms:

Threats to human health are becoming increasingly evident from Blue Green Algae Blooms in other regions.

<https://savelakewinnipeg.org/2019/08/03/illnesses-caused-by-blue-green-algae-to-be-tracked-in-florida-should-we-do-this-in-manitoba/>

<https://savelakewinnipeg.org/2016/12/12/bmaa-blue-green-algae-and-risk-to-canadianshealth-canadas-response/>

North Basin research in 2013 predicts increasing risks to the production of toxic algae blooms in Lake Winnipeg.

<https://thewalrus.ca/anger-and-indifference-on-lake-winnipeg/>

<https://savelakewinnipeg.org/tag/lake-winnipeg-foundation/>

HOPE: In 1972, Lake Constance, whose shores are shared by 3 countries, Germany, Switzerland and Austria, was dying. Today Lake Constance is a healthy biodiverse body of water because of the coordination and commitment of citizens and governments to work to restore its health through active best practices for agriculture, reduction of phosphorus emissions and environmental protection.

<https://www.interlakespectator.com/news/local-news/fighting-to-save-lake-winnipeg>

Power Point from HOG Watch Vicki Burns



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Lake Winnipeg Pres

Hog Watch Website link for more information: <https://hogwatchmanitoba.ca/>

Ducks Unlimited – Pascal Badiou

- Over half a million wetlands (Prairie potholes) in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba which are part of Lake Winnipeg's watershed have been destroyed since the 1940's to increase agricultural yields.
- Drained wetlands lock the phosphorus in the soil which makes the phosphorus available in the spring with the water run-off.
- The areas where wetlands existed have changed them from important filters for healthy water systems to hotspots for phosphorus loading.
- Wetland protection and renewal of healthy natural vegetation on the shores is essential for phosphorus load reduction for all waterways including Lake Winnipeg.
- 15 acres of wetlands in southwest Manitoba are lost each day.

Power Point Presentation – Pascal Badiou



Badiou_Lake Wpg
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For more information on Prairie Potholes <https://www.ducks.ca/places/prairie-pothole-region/>

Visit the Ducks Unlimited website for more information
<https://www.ducks.ca/places/manitoba/>

Coalition to Save Lake Winnipeg – Lynnette Froese

Zebra Mussels

- Lake Winnipeg is part of the Central Control Zone for Manitoba where decontamination measures must be practiced to mitigate the spread of invasive species including zebra mussels year round . Drain, Clean and Dry guidelines are found here for Summer: https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/pubs/invasive-species/ais_summer_checklist.pdf
Guidelines for Winterhttps://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/pubs/invasive-species/ais_winter_checklist.pdf
- The Province of Manitoba does not have a recommended means for the safe disposal of zebra mussels. Fines can be levied for disposal of or moving zebra mussels from the immediate shoreline area.
- In 2019 only 4 Provincial Parks had access to equipment to clean zebra mussels from the beach area. In other beach areas volunteers can move and bury zebra mussels but not dispose of them away from the beach area. Municipalities are working to determine how effective zebra mussel management can be achieved.

Blue Green Algae

- **Algae Bloom testing occurs when a bloom has been reported.** It is incumbent on anyone who is concerned or observes a bloom to report it so that the algae bloom will be tested. There is no schedule for algae bloom testing by the Provincial Government unless algae blooms are reported or observed during testing. Reporting is accessed at the following link: https://forms.gov.mb.ca/algae_report/index.html Manitoba's Water Quality Management Section, in conjunction with Manitoba Health. Telephone reports to **(204) 945-0002**
- Blue green algae residue on the beaches is not tested. This residue should be considered "unsafe" for children and pets.
- There are **19 sites** tested and reported on Lake Winnipeg weekly from the beginning of June until the end of August for **E. Coli counts**. 200 E. Coli count per 100 ml or lower is acceptable for recreational water use. Above this, a yellow advisory is posted at the beaches warning swimmers and the warning will remain posted for the rest of the season.
A link to weekly beach reports:
https://gov.mb.ca/sd/waterstewardship/quality/beach_table.html

Participant Discussions:

- The Association of Manitoba Municipalities adopted a resolution at their annual convention in November, 2019 requesting that the Provincial Government declare a "State of Aquatic Emergency" and to take action to save Lake Winnipeg. 95% of the delegates voted in favor of the resolution.
- Mayor Lynn Greenburg of Gimli recommended that petitions include the Federal Government as the Provincial Government alone can not fund the resources for efforts to save Lake Winnipeg.
- Mayor Larry Johannson of Selkirk spoke of the 36-million-dollar state of the art Waste water treatment plant that is under construction with funding support from the Federal, Provincial and the city of Selkirk. This regional plant is designed to support Selkirk, St. Andrews and St. Clements. However, St. Andrews water waste continues to go to the Winnipeg North End Water Pollution Control Center contributing to the high phosphorus emissions. Mayor Johannson recommended that all St. Andrews residents write or call their MLA asking for their Waste Water to be redirected to Selkirk.
- Pat McCallum, a representative from Aspen Park in Gimli with 192 condominiums, as well as the Administrative Coordinator of BASIC (Bifrost Agricultural Sustainability Initiative Coop) a group of about 200 farmers in the Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton shared the following:
 - BASIC's goals include improving agricultural drainage to prevent water sitting on fields for long periods of time, destroying crops and allowing the water to leach chemicals (producing a "nutrient tea") which can then run-off into Lake Winnipeg.
 - BASIC also assists on improving erosion control, researching crops that are weather resistant and works to preserve the area's natural habitat. A link to more information https://www.basic-bifrostriverton.com/about_us
- Fred Veldink proposed a resolution that was signed by 109 participants. "WE REQUEST THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA REQUIRES THE CITY OF WINNIPEG TO IMPLEMENT THE FERRIC CHLORIDE SYSTEM TO REMOVE PHOSPHOROUS FROM THE WASTE WATER FROM THE NORTH END TREATMENT PLANT AND THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION MEET SPECIFIC DEADLINES."

The Interlake Express article about the Coalition to Save Lake Winnipeg November 30th meeting can be found at: <http://www.expressweeklynews.ca/> pages 4, 9 and 16.

MACO

Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners reaches cottage owners throughout all of Manitoba. MACO has graciously offered to provide website space for Coalition to Save Lake Winnipeg to post information. Thank you MACO. Two of the Directors on the MACO Board are also on the CLSW Steering Committee. Our voice for the health of Lake Winnipeg and those who enjoy the shores will resonate for all Manitobans who enjoy the vast waterways in our Province. [MACO](#)

Thank you to all who attended the CSLW initial information session.

In the meantime, some CSLW committee members will be meeting with MLA's and others meeting with the Water Stewardship and Water Quality Office.

The Steering Committee will be meeting on January 11th, 2020.

THANK YOU TO SILVER HARBOUR AND LESTER BEACH FOR PROVIDING THE FUNDING NEEDED TO SUPPORT OUR NOVEMBER 30TH INFORMATION SESSION!