



# THE COALITION TO SAVE LAKE WINNIPEG

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

## 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.

## **COALITION TO SAVE LAKE WINNIPEG**

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.

The CSLW works and will continue to work with a number of organizations to support positive advocacy for the health of Lake Winnipeg. CSLW is committed to share information with stakeholders regarding Provincial, City of Winnipeg and other Municipalities decisions that impact Lake Winnipeg in regards to phosphorus loading and the resulting toxic blue green algae. There continues to be significant factors that impact the health of Lake Winnipeg including:

- Preservation and renewal of Wetlands
- Agricultural Practices
- Invasive Species and
- North End Water Pollution Control Center violation of phosphorus discharge.

Thank you to all who wrote to the City Councilors and Provincial representatives expressing concern about Lake Winnipeg. These letters have impacted decision making at the city level and the Water and Waste Management Department.

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING?**

Following the ground swell of concerns a motion was put forward on October 3<sup>rd</sup> from the Standing Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank and Environment and will go to City Council for approval on Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Please see the revised motion at this link:

<http://clkapps.winnipeg.ca/dmis/ViewDoc.asp?DocId=18430&SectionId=&InitUrl>

This motion is a positive step for reducing the phosphorus loading from the NEWPCC that impacts Lake Winnipeg. Hopefully all City Councilors will support this motion and we will see forward movement from the City of Winnipeg. The 3 selected strategies for phosphorus reduction, including the timing of the chemical, ferrous chloride, (interim solution suggested by LWF and IISD) are due to begin four months from motion passing. That is, testing would begin no sooner than the end of February, 2020. The duration of the testing of each strategy is not defined in the motion. There is a possibility that the testing process could be extended and action on phosphorus reduction delayed.

The City of Winnipeg and the Waste and Water Department has, since 2003, been aware and made a commitment to the process of reduction of phosphorus from the NEWPCC. Please see the document prepared in 2003:

<https://www.winnipeg.ca/waterandwaste/pdfs/sewage/wastewaterTreatmentOverview2003.pdf>

16 years have passed since the City of Winnipeg made the commitment to Improve Waste Water Treatment. While the city has upgraded the West End and South End Water Pollution Control Center for treatment of the sewage, all of the “sludge” continues to and will continue to be transferred to the North End Water Pollution Control Center. The processing of the “sludge” at the NEWPCC is putting continued strain and an already overburdened infrastructure. The continued delay to address the issues of the NEWPCC has had a detrimental impact on the health of Lake Winnipeg.

The time frame for the implementation of interim measures is critical. This past summer we became acutely aware that Lake Winnipeg is in trouble and delays for measures to reduce phosphorus loading are no longer tolerable. Toxic blue green algal blooms were persistent on both sides of Lake Winnipeg. Risks associated with these toxic blooms are critically important for all stakeholders. Please read more in the following links:

<https://www.michiganradio.org/post/harmful-algal-blooms-showing-northern-michigan-lakes>

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/water/lakes-beaches-rivers/manitoba-beaches.html>

## WHAT'S NEXT? YOU CAN HELP

Citizen action through letter writing and/or contacting City Councilors and MLA's has made a difference and created an awareness amongst those we have elected resulting in steps forward for the health of Lake Winnipeg. Our continued advocacy for Lake Winnipeg is needed to keep moving forward.

It is critical that City Council pass the motion on October 24<sup>th</sup> that initiates testing of 3 strategies for phosphorus load reduction from the NEWPCC. It is also critical that Councilors define the timelines more clearly for the testing duration. We need the City of Winnipeg to meet the Environmental Protection Act as defined by the Province of Manitoba.

Your support is appreciated in continued letter writing and/or contacting your City Councilor and your MLA's. A sample letter is as follows:

***As constituents of your riding, we are closely following the decisions made by the City of Winnipeg regarding the environmental violations of the phosphorus emissions, as defined by the Province of Manitoba, from the North End Water Pollution Control Center. It has been brought to our attention that a recommendation was made by the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment on October 3, 2019, outlining a time frame for testing 3 strategies for reducing phosphorus emissions from the NEWPCC.***

***We hope that you will support this important motion and at the same time, request clarification for the duration of the testing procedures for each strategy. As your constituents, we are requesting that the public receive interim status reports.***

### Contact information for Winnipeg City Council

Letters to councillors can be sent to:

City Hall  
Council Building  
510 Main St.  
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1B9

| Ward                            | Councillor                                  | Email                       |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Charleswood - Tuxedo - Westwood | Coun. Kevin Klein                           | kklein@winnipeg.ca          |
| Daniel McIntyre                 | Coun. Cindy Gilroy                          | cgilroy@winnipeg.ca         |
| Elmwood-East Kildonan           | Coun. Jason Schreyer                        | jschreyer@winnipeg.ca       |
| Fort Rouge-East Fort Garry      | Coun. Sherri Rollins                        | srollins@winnipeg.ca        |
| Mynarski                        | Coun. Ross Eadie                            | readie@winnipeg.ca          |
| North Kildonan                  | Coun. Jeff Browaty                          | jbrowaty@winnipeg.ca        |
| Old Kildonan                    | Coun. Devi Sharma                           | devi@winnipeg.ca            |
| Point Douglas                   | Coun. Vivian Santos                         | vsantos@winnipeg.ca         |
| River Heights - Fort Garry      | Coun. John Orlikow                          | jarlikow@winnipeg.ca        |
| St. Boniface                    | Coun. Matt Allard                           | mattallard@winnipeg.ca      |
| St. James                       | Coun. Scott Gillingham                      | scottgillingham@winnipeg.ca |
| St. Norbert - Seine River       | Coun. Markus Chambers                       | markuschambers@winnipeg.ca  |
| St. Vital                       | Coun. Brian Mayes                           | BMayes@Winnipeg.ca          |
| Transcona                       | Coun. Shawn Nason                           | snason@winnipeg.ca          |
| Waverley West                   | Coun. Janice Lukes                          | jlukes@winnipeg.ca          |
| City of Winnipeg Mayor          | His Worship Brian Bowman, Mayor of Winnipeg | Mayor@winnipeg.ca           |

## ***Learn more about the challenges Lake Winnipeg is facing and what you can do to help.***

Coalition to Save Lake Winnipeg is inviting you to come and learn about the challenges facing the lake and what we can all do to improve its health. This summer the lake faced some of the largest toxic algae blooms it has ever experienced and many beaches are covered in zebra mussels. We have seen a steady decline in the health of the lake over the last few years. Lake Winnipeg is an invaluable resource and we do not want it to become a toxic graveyard. Presentations will be made by the Lake Winnipeg Foundation, The Lake Winnipeg Project, Ducks Unlimited and the Provincial Sustainable Development Department concerned with zebra mussels. These presentations will be followed by a discussion of the Coalition's goals and action plans.

We can complain about the state of the lake or take an active role to protect it for generations to come. Join us and make a difference.

**Coalition to Save Lake Winnipeg**

**Information Session**

**Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> 2019**

**12 p.m. - 2 p.m.**

**St. James Legion**

**1755 Portage Avenue**

**Guest Speakers**

**Dr. Alexis Kanu, Lake Winnipeg Foundation**

**Vicki Burns, Lake Winnipeg Project**

**Candace Parks, Sustainable Development**

**Pasqual Badiou, Ducks Unlimited**

**All Welcome**

For more information contact:

Gordon Campbell [grcampbell121@gmail.com](mailto:grcampbell121@gmail.com) or

David Curry [hdcurry@mymts.net](mailto:hdcurry@mymts.net)