



The City of Winnipeg is required to provide the province with an updated timeline for upgrades to the North End Water Pollution Control Centre (NEWPCC). This submission is due by July 31, 2019, and must include “interim implementation options to expediate phosphorus removal.” Reach out your city councillor with a letter or email and let them know you expect immediate action on this issue.

Key points:

- Excess phosphorus is causing potentially harmful algae blooms on Lake Winnipeg.
- The NEWPCC is the single largest point source of phosphorus to the lake, releasing an average of 600 kilograms of phosphorus every day. This greatly exceeds the phosphorus limits prescribed in the plant’s provincial operating licence.
- The city’s current construction plan continues to delay phosphorus removal until 2035.
- The Lake Winnipeg Foundation has proposed an interim retrofit to existing NEWPCC infrastructure that would reduce the plant’s phosphorus release by 70 per cent.
- This retrofit involves a simple adjustment to the timing and dose of ferric chloride, a chemical already in use at the NEWPCC.

Here’s an example of an effective letter you could send to your city councillor:

“I live in your ward and am reaching out today on an issue that matters deeply to me: an interim retrofit to the North End Water Pollution Control Centre (NEWPCC).

As a Winnipegger, I find it unacceptable to know that our city’s under-treated sewage pollution is the single largest point source of phosphorus to Lake Winnipeg. Excess phosphorus is causing potentially harmful algae blooms on Lake Winnipeg, the 10th largest freshwater lake in the world. I own a cottage on this beautiful lake and have seen firsthand the unsightly, potentially toxic algae blooms that plague its waters every summer. I expect civic leadership in protecting this exceptional natural resource. Action must be taken to reduce phosphorus loading.

I understand that a simple, cost-effective retrofit could be implemented at the NEWPCC to reduce its phosphorus load to Lake Winnipeg by 70 per cent. I also know the city’s current plans to upgrade this sewage treatment plant have delayed phosphorus removal until 2035, and that the provincial government has requested an updated timeline on the NEWPCC project.

As your constituent, I strongly urge you to deal with Winnipeg’s under-treated sewage problem and support the immediate implementation of an interim phosphorus-removal plan for the NEWPCC. Please reply to let me know where you stand on this issue.

*Sincerely,
Your name”*

Remember to customize your comment as much as possible, and aim to be clear and concise with your message.