



Manitoba's election is slated for Sept. 10, 2019. Engage with candidates when they knock on your door – or, reach out to them directly with a letter or an email.

### Key points:

- Wetlands play a vital role in protecting Lake Winnipeg's water quality, filtering phosphorus out of runoff before it reaches the streams and rivers that ultimately drain into the lake.
- Manitoba's wetlands continue to be drained and destroyed at a rate of 3.6 hectares a day.
- In 2018, the guiding principle of no net loss of wetland benefits was enshrined in provincial legislation.
- Proposed regulation governing water drainage will impact wetlands across Manitoba. As presented, the Water Rights Regulation does not adhere to the principle of no net loss of wetland benefits was – and in fact, is likely to accelerate wetland destruction.

### Here's an example of an effective letter you could send to provincial election candidates:

*"As a voting resident of the riding in which you are running for office, I am writing to urge you to support an issue that is very close to my heart, and will strongly influence my vote in the upcoming provincial election: the health of Lake Winnipeg.*

*Lake Winnipeg is the 10th largest freshwater lake in the world. This lake defines Manitoba's geography, shapes our cultures, supports our biodiversity and drives our economy. I own a cottage on this beautiful lake and have seen firsthand the unsightly, potentially toxic, algae blooms that plague its waters every summer. Algae blooms are caused by an excess of phosphorus. I expect provincial leadership in protecting this exceptional natural resource. Action must be taken to reduce phosphorus loading.*

*Healthy wetlands help protect Lake Winnipeg's water quality by filtering phosphorus out of runoff before it reaches the streams and rivers that ultimately drain into the lake. Current Manitoba legislation commits to protecting Manitoba's threatened wetlands by adopting the guiding principle of no net loss of wetland benefits. This is a sensible and effective approach to water management. However, I understand that proposed regulation governing water drainage does not adhere to the principle of no net loss of wetland benefits– and in fact, is likely to accelerate wetland destruction.*

***Do you support the legislated principle of "no net loss of wetland benefits"? Will you commit to amending regulation to protect wetlands?***

*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.**