Winnipeg's aging wastewater infrastructure is putting Lake Winnipeg at risk

- Excessive amounts of phosphorus flowing into Lake Winnipeg are causing potentially toxic algae blooms.
- Winnipeg's North End Water Pollution Control Centre (NEWPCC) treats approximately 70 per cent of the city's wastewater.
- The NEWPCC is currently the fourth largest phosphorus polluter among all wastewater treatment facilities in Canada.
- **Online compliance reports show phosphorus concentration in NEWPCC effluent routinely exceeds the provincial licence limit – at times reported to be over five times higher.**
- The City of Winnipeg has committed to fully upgrading the NEWPCC. Experts estimate this upgrade will take 10 years or more to complete and cost an estimated $1.4 billion.
- Under its provincial operating licence, the city must reduce phosphorus in NEWPCC effluent to 1 milligram per litre (based on a 30-day rolling average) by Dec. 31, 2019.
- **Jurisdictions around Lake Erie are currently meeting the 1 mg/L phosphorus limit using a simple, cost-effective chemical addition to their wastewater treatment processes.**
- Some jurisdictions are now challenging themselves to meet new goals of 0.5 mg/L or less.
- An interim retrofit to the NEWPCC modelled on these methods could be applied quickly at low cost – protecting our water until permanent upgrades can be completed.

The City of Winnipeg must act NOW to meet the Dec. 31, 2019, phosphorus deadline.

Winnipeg's election is on Oct. 24. Ask your civic candidates if they support IMMEDIATE ACTION to improve sewage treatment.