

RE-ELECT

**SHERRI
ROLLINS**

For City Councillor Fort Rouge – East Fort Garry

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First Nations governments on Treaty 1, 2, and 5 living near the shores of Lake Winnipeg have directly experienced the consequences of phosphorus pollution since the plant began operating in the 1930s. Engaging with Indigenous governments and Elders, we must work first from a place of acknowledging that water is sacred. With this as a central priority, I voted for the Council's approval of the updated design of the NEWPCC Interim Phosphorus Removal Capital Project on July 21, 2022.

As a protective Councillor, I continue to monitor the project on Finance Committee and Executive Policy Committee, asking hard questions on supply-chain issues and associated pandemic risks to the project. I plan to continue to monitor this project and ask questions to ensure NEWPCC Interim Phosphorus Removal Capital Project is completed and operational. I have already committed to negotiating for necessary funding for increased digester capacity this term and the budget to do it.

Winnipeg's low tax revenue has resulted in a structural deficit impacting investment in crucial infrastructure projects such as the NEWPCC, and projected growth in revenue will not cover future costs. The provincial government has downloaded responsibilities onto the city, further straining the city's resources and finances. Delays by the province in forwarding Winnipeg's Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) resulted in higher costs for the project and much frustration during the 2018-22 term.

I will commit within the next Council term to ensuring the NEWPCC Interim Phosphorus Removal Capital Project is completed and operational by August 31, 2023. Prioritizing the removal of phosphorus from the City's effluent flowing into Lake Winnipeg is essential to combat the ecological, social and economic effects, which includes upgrading Winnipeg's wastewater treatment facilities to stop the discharge of untreated or partially treated waste into the rivers.

Algae blooms on Lake Winnipeg pose a severe threat to biodiversity and the health and safety of aquatic and terrestrial species, including humans. Algae blooms are not just an environmental issue but a social and economic issue. Damage to the Lake caused by blue-green algae has adverse effects on the tourist and fishing industry, depleting revenue that such sectors bring to the province, city and other municipalities. Algae blooms result in the degradation of recreational activities enjoyed by families, residents and tourists in and around Lake Winnipeg. I am committed to protecting Lake Winnipeg through continued investment to improve infrastructure at the city's wastewater treatment plants.

Municipalities across North America have implemented policies and solutions to reduce phosphorus in wastewater, which has shown to be cost-efficient. I believe Winnipeg has a social and ecological responsibility to limit phosphorus pollution to protect Lake Winnipeg from further eutrophication; however, communities directly impacted by algae blooms must be consulted.