

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Victoria Beach; Photo: Jeopie Wolfe

Lake Winnipeg Foundation
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LWF

**LAKE
WINNIPEG
FOUNDATION**

2021

BY THE NUMBERS

119

FLOW-METERED
SAMPLING SITES

monitored by the Lake Winnipeg
Community-Based Monitoring Network

156,110

DOLLARS

raised by community events

27

CITIZEN
SCIENTISTS

recruited to the Lake Winnipeg
Community-Based Monitoring Network

4

BOOKS

read by staff as part
of the reconciliation
reading club

25

PARTICIPANTS

in the Lake Winnipeg
Indigenous Collective's
virtual youth camp

1,078

PEOPLE

reached through webinars,
panel discussions and
classroom presentations

OUR VISION:

A **CLEAN, HEALTHY LAKE WINNIPEG** and **WATERSHED**,
now and for future generations.

OUR MISSION:

To **ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE** and **COORDINATE ACTION**
to improve the health of Lake Winnipeg.

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I am incredibly proud of the work of the LWF team in 2021. Our staff and board have demonstrated remarkable dedication and persistence, despite the ongoing challenges and uncertainty of the pandemic.

We've made huge strides in addressing the single largest source of phosphorus to Lake Winnipeg. Interim phosphorus reduction at Winnipeg's north end sewage treatment plant, first proposed by LWF in 2019, received both regulatory and funding approval in 2021, moving the facility one step closer to phosphorus compliance. Our work is not done, but we are buoyed by the knowledge that we can effect meaningful change when we move forward with common purpose and clear focus.

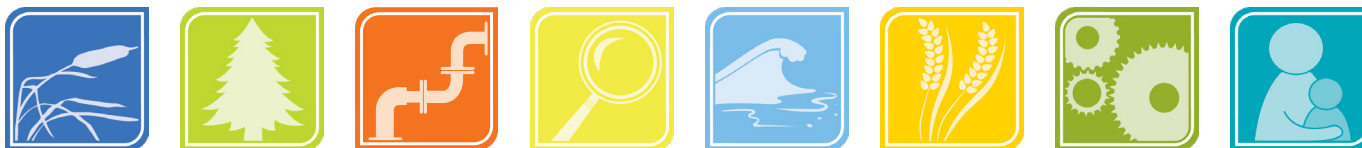
In 2021, the Lake Winnipeg Community-Based Monitoring Network completed its sixth field season. Working together, citizen scientists and watershed partners have collected critical data to reduce phosphorus pollution to Lake Winnipeg – information that would otherwise be lacking. We're proud to share our data with provincial and federal governments to complete [the data-to-impact cycle](#) of evidence-based decision-making.

Together with the Lake Winnipeg Indigenous Collective (LWIC), we also led a successful federal election campaign, [securing concrete commitments from elected Manitoba MPs](#) to: renew the Lake Winnipeg Basin Program in Budget 2022; invest federal funding in targeted phosphorus hotspots; and fund an Indigenous-led task force to ensure Indigenous knowledge is included in Lake Winnipeg policy and management.

Finally, 2021 was a year of internal learning and growth. LWF and LWIC staff together created a [reconciliation reading club](#), to better understand our treaty responsibilities as an environmental organization working in Indigenous territories. Our discussions have led us to reflect on the powerful and pervasive forces of racism and colonialism, both of which contribute – historically and presently – to the environmental challenges we are working to address.

In the coming year, we will be developing and launching a new five-year strategic plan, one that invests in our proven strengths and builds on our new learnings. I am excited about what lies ahead – and I'm proud to work alongside you to make our shared vision a reality.

- Alexis Kanu



LWF is committed to building the political will, partner capacity and public support needed to create meaningful change for Lake Winnipeg. Our flagship initiative, the Lake Winnipeg Health Plan, is a set of eight evidence-based actions to reduce phosphorus loading. By addressing the root causes of potentially harmful algal blooms, our plan provides a blueprint for cost-effective decision-making and long-term, adaptive freshwater management.

In 2021 we focused our efforts on the following actions:



Action 3: Setting the Standard for Wastewater Treatment

The water we use to flush our toilets ends up in Lake Winnipeg. It's our collective responsibility to ensure it's clean when it gets there.

Our advocacy efforts to reduce phosphorus pollution from Winnipeg's North End Water Pollution Control Centre (NEWPCC) are yielding results, bolstered by sustained public pressure from our members and supporters. The city's largest sewage treatment plant remains the single largest point source of phosphorus to Lake Winnipeg – and we intend to keep the pressure on until this facility is compliant with the phosphorus limit set out in its provincial operating licence.

In February, Winnipeg's city council approved \$10.5 million in capital funding for interim chemical phosphorus reduction at the plant – a project based in large part on a design proposed by LWF and our partners in 2019. The interim phosphorus removal-project received conditional regulatory approval in May from Manitoba's Environmental Approvals Branch.

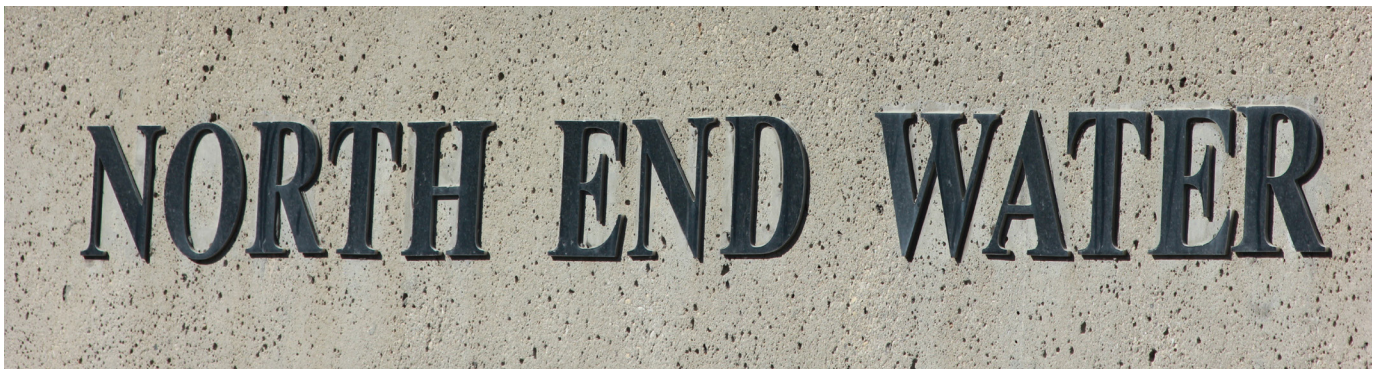
The city's Water and Waster department anticipates phosphorus levels in NEWPCC effluent will be reduced to 2.5 mg/L once the interim solution is operational. More action is still required to meet the 1 mg/L limit – and for this reason, much our 2021 Action 3 advocacy work focused on the opportunity to achieve phosphorus compliance through the design and construction of new biosolids facilities.

Biosolids are a byproduct of wastewater treatment and the current lack of biosolids capacity at NEWPCC has been identified as the primary barrier to using the interim solution to its full potential. In a [letter to Manitoba Premier Stefanson](#) and in a [presentation to Winnipeg's Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment](#), we stressed the need to proactively integrate the interim phosphorus-removal solution into the design and construction of new biosolids facilities – Phase 2 of an ongoing, multi-phase upgrade project at NEWPCC that aims to replace aging infrastructure.

In late November, a federal funding application from the City of Winnipeg for the Phase 2 biosolids project was finally submitted to Ottawa. This marked a step in the right direction, as the application had been stalled by the provincial government since 2019. However, as the year drew to a close, neither government had committed to integrating phosphorus compliance into the Phase 2 design.

Sewage continues to be one of our busiest advocacy files. Throughout 2021, we remained involved as an external stakeholder receiving quarterly updates from the City of Winnipeg's public service, while also speaking out in local media to keep Winnipeg's sewage situation in the spotlight – and on the political agenda. We encourage citizens to continue speaking up for Lake Winnipeg by calling for phosphorus compliance at NEWPCC.

We will continue to hold our government leaders and bureaucrats accountable for their environmental obligations to protect Lake Winnipeg.



Winnipeg's North End Water Pollution Control Centre; Photo: Marlo Campbell



Action 4: Monitoring Our Waterways

To take effective action to reduce phosphorus loading, we must understand how, when and from where phosphorus is reaching Lake Winnipeg.

The Lake Winnipeg Community-Based Monitoring Network (LWCBMN) mobilizes citizens to collect water samples across Manitoba in order to measure phosphorus concentration. With the help of watershed partners and the guidance of LWF science advisors, this long-term monitoring program is identifying phosphorus hotspots – localized areas that contribute higher amounts of phosphorus to waterways than other areas. Targeting action in hotspots will reduce the amount of phosphorus entering Manitoba's lakes and rivers, and improve the health of Lake Winnipeg.

After an unprecedented 2020 field season during which sampling protocols were adapted in response to COVID-19, LWF's programs team was happy to be able to safely return to using standard protocols and equipment in 2021. However, 2021 was anything but a normal year. The small amount of snowmelt in early spring and the extremely dry conditions throughout the summer resulted in some sites completely drying up, and fewer water samples being collected over the course of the field season. As LWCBMN's ongoing efforts are demonstrating, water flow from spring melt and summer precipitation drives phosphorus exports, and we therefore expect analyzed 2021 data to show relatively low phosphorus loading due the year's dry conditions.



The Lake Winnipeg Community-Based Monitoring Network (LWCBMN) mobilizes citizens to collect water samples across Manitoba in order to measure phosphorus concentration. In addition to collecting whole water samples during each site visit, LWCBMN volunteers also use syringes equipped with filters to collect filtered subsamples. Submitted photo

Network growth in 2021 was focused on two goals: volunteer recruitment and increasing the number of sampling locations equipped with Water Survey of Canada flow meters. Combining water-flow data and phosphorus-concentration data enables LWF to calculate the amount of phosphorus being exported off the landscape and into the waterways that flow into Lake Winnipeg.

We achieved both goals. Sampling was conducted at 119 flow-metered sites, which was an increase of 16 sites. We also recruited 27 new volunteer citizen scientists, ending the year with a total of 70 LWCBMN volunteer participants. We greatly appreciate their important contributions to freshwater solutions.

Throughout 2021, LWF worked with Canada Research Chair Dr. Nora Casson to develop a new lab partnership which will see LWCBMN samples analyzed at the University of Winnipeg. Outsourcing lab analysis through this new partnership will ensure quality standards remain high while also greatly increasing LWF's capacity for other important LWCBMN activities, including engaging with volunteers, building relationships with new partners, and promoting the use of citizen-generated data in Lake Winnipeg policy and management.

Another LWCBMN partnership – with University of Manitoba PhD student Braedon Humeniuk – expanded in scope in 2021. Initially planned as a two-year study that leveraged LWCBMN's existing volunteer capacity, equipment and protocols, the expanded research project examining possible sources and drivers of freshwater salinity will now continue for four years.



Shannon Creek near Morris, Man. Photo: Meghan Mills



University of Manitoba researcher Braedon Humeniuk is leveraging LWCBMN capacity for a four-year salinity study; Submitted photo



LWCBMN sampling sites equipped with Water Survey of Canada flow meters enable LWF to calculate the amount of phosphorus being exported off the landscape and into local waterways. Photo: Meghan Mills

Information-sharing is important – especially as the number of LWCBMN volunteers continues to increase. Water sampling is a relatively solitary activity, especially during a pandemic. In 2021, LWF took steps to better communicate with LWCBMN's citizen scientists to nurture these important relationships and ensure every volunteer felt connected to the larger, coordinated effort of the network.

This year saw the creation of [online protocol training videos](#) and the launch of Sampling Sights, an e-newsletter sent out monthly during the field season. Sampling Sights features profiles of volunteers and partners, stories and photographs from the field, and other updates on LWCBMN's ongoing work. This new communication tool has also allowed us to share examples of LWCBMN's impact, including how LWCBMN data is being used by partners across the watershed: from University of Winnipeg scientists researching soil amendments aimed at preventing phosphorus losses from agricultural fields, to the International Institute for Sustainable Development as part of modelling work that seeks to estimate the phosphorus-reduction potential of spatially targeted phosphorus beneficial management practices.

In June, LWF released a federal policy brief called [Realizing the Full Potential of Community-Based Monitoring](#). Submitted to Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), our brief highlighted ECCC's regional water programs – initiatives that are perfectly positioned to link community concerns and federal priorities. The brief emphasized the ways in which LWCBMN data can support regional decision-making and funding allocation, and urged any renewed federal program for Lake Winnipeg to explicitly recognize the value of LWCBMN data. This brief kickstarted discussions with federal staff from ECCC's Lake Winnipeg Basin Program that remain ongoing; our goal is to ensure LWCBMN data is used to guide the next iteration of ECCC's multi-year funding program for Lake Winnipeg.

In December, LWCBMN was one of three Canadian case studies featured in [a report released by the International Institute for Sustainable Development](#). This report makes a practical case for community-based monitoring in Canada as a proven, cost-effective and scientifically rigorous way to collect long-term water-quality data. Costs related to LWCBMN activities from 2016 and 2019 were compared with those of sampling programs run by a centralized government agency; the analysis found LWCBMN was able to generate data at a fraction of the price. The effectiveness of LWCBMN data collection was also highlighted.

Public interest in community-based monitoring and its value to freshwater management remains high. Throughout the year, LWF staff presented on the importance of citizen-generated data to Environment and Climate Change Canada, the Manitoba Association of Watersheds, as a keynote speaker at the Global Water Futures conference and to other stakeholders.

Continuity is key with long-term monitoring data, and we are grateful to LWCBMN citizen scientists and watershed partners for all their considerable efforts in 2021. The Lake Winnipeg Community-Based Monitoring Network would not be possible without the dedication of community volunteers and watershed professionals, the expertise of LWF science advisors, and the participation of co-op students and field assistants.



Downstream of Plum Drain, in the Pembina Valley; Photo: Meghan Mills



Action 6 - Promoting Agricultural Water Stewardship

Healthy farms and healthy lakes go hand in hand. We need to keep phosphorus on our fields – and out of our lake – by encouraging choices that are good for both our land and our water.

LWF's Agricultural Water Stewardship (AWS) program aims to evaluate phosphorus beneficial management practices (PBMPs) for their effectiveness in reducing phosphorus loading from rural landscapes in Manitoba, recognizing the unique climate and geography of our region.

In 2021, LWF worked in partnership with local watershed districts, landowners, government researchers and academics to collect water flow and phosphorus data to evaluate the site-specific performance of PBMPs in Manitoba's cold climate. Our goal is to support targeted adoption of evidence-based practices within regional phosphorus hotspots, where they will have the greatest impact on the health of downstream waters, including Lake Winnipeg.

In 2021, LWF monitored water flow and phosphorus at the inlet and outlet of two water-retention PBMP sites in south-central Manitoba, near the communities of Holland and Kaleida. Water samples and flow measurements were collected almost daily at these sites during the spring snowmelt, as well as in response to rain events during the summer and fall.

While both water-retention sites experienced low water volumes due to dry conditions, they were still visited over 80 times (with over 200 water samples collected). Frequent sampling is required at this high-resolution spatial scale to ensure the system is well understood under different hydrological conditions. In addition to in-person visits, the installation of automated equipment – purchased thanks to a transformative donation in 2020 – greatly increased our capacity to collect frequent samples, even when LWF staff were not physically present.

Despite lab access challenges due to the pandemic, LWF staff were able to analyze all AWS water samples by the end of the December, in preparation for data analysis conducted with the guidance of LWF's science advisors. Through this work, we will be able to assess the efficacy of these PBMPs in cold climates.



A small-scale retention pond near Kaleida, Man., monitored by LWF staff as part of 2021's AWS program. Photo: Julie DePauw



Action 8: Taking Responsibility

Clean fresh water is a precious resource. Our individual choices will be the legacy we leave our children. Let's engage as citizens and do what's needed so that we can all enjoy Lake Winnipeg.

We all play a role in protecting our shared waters. LWF provides education both in and out of the classroom, engages in community outreach, and offers information, advocacy tips and other support to citizen groups and community-led grassroots campaigns. Through this ongoing work, our goal is to inform, inspire and empower effective, citizen-led action.

Ongoing public health concerns meant much of our 2021 work remained virtual. We relied heavily on digital technologies and online networks to stay connected, and provide up-to-date information on freshwater challenges and solutions.

Over the course of the year LWF staff participated in panel discussions and webinars, and delivered classroom presentations – directly reaching almost 1,100 people, including watershed professionals, government representatives, students and youth groups, and cottage-owners.



A screen shot from one of LWF's classroom presentations; Photo: Paul Mutch

Education remained a focus area in 2021. LWF's Education Program Coordinator provided 19 virtual presentations to students from Grade 1 to Grade 10, and facilitated a unique pilot project started in 2020: a cross-watershed virtual exchange which brought together Grade 11 students from high schools in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Minot, North Dakota. Though a series of webinars, these students had the opportunity to learn from and engage with experts in limnology, agriculture, wetlands, Indigenous knowledge, government policy and community engagement.

LWF's impact on youth water stewardship efforts was demonstrated in May, when two of the Winnipeg students who had participated in the cross-watershed exchange won Manitoba's first-place prize in Caring For Our Watersheds, a curriculum-based education program operating across Western Canada that engages students in preserving and improving their local watersheds.

Education is for everyone – and there is much we can learn from each other. In January, LWF and the Lake Winnipeg Indigenous Collective (LWIC) collaboratively created a reconciliation reading club. Our goal is to equip ourselves with knowledge, terminology and perspectives that will help us integrate actions of reconciliation and antiracism within our professional work and in our personal lives.

As an environmental organization working in Indigenous territories, and as treaty people, LWF recognizes our obligation to actively practise reconciliation. Our reading club is a tangible action taken as part of an ongoing learning journey; an opportunity to engage with different perspectives, and have honest conversations about the impacts of colonialism and racism. As we read new books, we are [sharing our reflections on our website](#), in our newsletters and through our e-updates.

We are entering 2022 with renewed purpose as we prepare for another busy year of advocacy and action.

With the detailed design process for NEWPCC's new biosolids facilities soon to be underway, our work under Action 3 takes on an increased sense of urgency. The stakes for Lake Winnipeg are high: we cannot afford to miss out on the opportunity to achieve phosphorus compliance through the Phase 2 biosolids project. We will be strongly advocating the provincial government to amend NEWPCC's Environmental Act licence to ensure that the 1 mg/L phosphorus limit is met as soon as Phase 2 upgrades are complete. We will also continue to push the city to take action, and will use the 2022 civic election to remind Winnipeg's political leaders that citizens expect accelerated solutions, not additional delays.

LWCBMN's seventh field season began in spring 2022 with the addition of two new watershed district partners, new citizen scientists and new flow-metered sites. The program will be expanded to include additional sites in the Assiniboine River and Swan Lake watersheds, and in the Winnipeg River system. Network growth has been possible in part because of new staff capacity; Meghan Mills (previously LWF's co-op student) has joined LWF's team permanently as our Programs Coordinator. This new capacity will increase LWF's ability to engage with partners and volunteers, focus our efforts in phosphorus hotspots, and promote the use of LWCBMN data in management and policy decision-making processes.

Ongoing lab closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic have delayed lab analysis. In 2022, we look forward to seeing what data generated from the 2020 and 2021 field seasons will teach us about phosphorus trends across Manitoba.

Planning has begun for our upcoming summer events season. In addition to the return of several in-person and online events, we are hopeful that public health circumstances will allow us to pursue additional public education opportunities and connect with more communities around the lake's shores.

And finally, strategic planning started in 2021 will continue in 2022, as board and staff collaborate to identify new strategic priorities and objectives that will guide LWF's work for the next five years.



Chalet Beach; Photo: Jesse Vandehart



A MESSAGE FROM THE LAKE WINNIPEG INDIGENOUS COLLECTIVE'S DIRECTOR



Fisher Bay on Lake Winnipeg; Photo: Daniel Gladu Kanu

Indigenous knowledge comes from the land. This knowledge is carried from generation to generation through ceremony and teachings, but also experienced throughout the seasons by people who maintain a life on the land and water. Indigenous knowledge is never to be confused as simply stories; instead, it is a robust system of knowledge that has been rigorously developed and maintained over time despite the impacts of colonialism, both past and present. Its continued existence today is evidence of the resilience of Indigenous peoples. Around Lake Winnipeg, we are still fortunate to have many knowledge holders – and many youth excited to learn from their elders. Youth then bring those teachings with them on the land and throughout their lives.

This past year at the collective, we have dedicated much of our time to supporting and advocating for Indigenous knowledge holders. This was best demonstrated by directly supporting four knowledge holders working in their communities to teach and mentor youth, gather medicines, conduct ceremonies and advise us on water-protection initiatives.



LWIC's Rebecca Sinclair presents at a youth camp in Ochekwí Sipi (Fisher River) Cree Nation; Photo: Daniel Gladu Kanu

While we were unable to have a large gathering on the land in 2021, we did host 25 youth in a week-long virtual camp. We invited knowledge holders to speak with youth about our relationship with water. Each participant also received crafting supplies and water-testing kits, allowing us to all enjoy hands-on activities together. Youth participants shared many positive experiences about the camp – but it was the conversations with elders that stood out.

In the summer, we relaunched our website, lwic.org, with a fresh new look. The simplified and updated website features community profiles of First Nations around Lake Winnipeg, as well as our calls to action. We call on Indigenous peoples to acknowledge the sacredness of water, restore our traditional livelihoods, renew our collective responsibility and awaken our future leaders. You can also find our new podcast, Nipawitan/Niipowitamok – which translates into “stand up” from Nehiyawin and Anishinaabemowin. This podcast provides a deep dive into conversations we have at the collective with Indigenous leaders, youth and knowledge holders.

The Lake Winnipeg Indigenous Collective continued to advocate all levels of government, reminding them about the critical role of Indigenous knowledge in addressing gaps in scientific understanding that otherwise hamper good environmental decision-making. Processes such as fish habitat protection and impact assessments all require the best available information, yet Indigenous knowledge continues to be missing. We urge governments to develop meaningful relationships with knowledge holders from the beginning, so we can protect our shared lake together.

- Daniel Gladu Kanu



LWF's advocacy aims to influence policy, encourage evidence-based action and hold governments accountable. Our government advocacy submissions are shared on our website's "[Resources for Citizens](#)" page.

Locally, our 2021 efforts focused on pushing for phosphorus compliance at Winnipeg's North End Water Pollution Control Centre. In addition to meetings with provincial and civic politicians and department staff, we provided advocacy templates citizens could use to communicate with their elected officials, and leveraged media interest in sewage spills to keep this important issue in the public spotlight.

Federally, we partnered with the Lake Winnipeg Indigenous Collective to champion the recommendations presented in our joint discussion paper, [Five Things the Federal Government Must Do for Lake Winnipeg](#). This paper identifies specific, concrete actions to improve freshwater health that are achievable in less than five years.

Our June [policy brief to Environment and Climate Change Canada](#) highlighted how phosphorus data generated by the Lake Winnipeg Community-Based Monitoring Network (LWCBMN) can support regional decision-making and funding allocation.

September's federal election was an opportunity to remind candidates of the government's jurisdictional responsibility to Lake Winnipeg. [Our campaign secured commitments to:](#) renew funding for Lake Winnipeg as part of the 2022 federal budget; use LWCBMN data to target federal investment in phosphorus hotspots; provide financial support for long-term LWCBMN phosphorus data collection; and work with Indigenous peoples to ensure their knowledge is respected and included.

Additionally, the Liberal Party's election platform promised [a 10-year, \\$1 billion Freshwater Action Plan to "provide essential funding to protect and restore large lakes and river systems,"](#) including Lake Winnipeg – a commitment which was reiterated in the [December 2021 mandate letter](#) of the Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

In 2022, our advocacy will now focus on holding the government accountable for these commitments in order to achieve tangible results.

As individuals and as a group, citizens have great power to influence change. Thank you for speaking up for Lake Winnipeg.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF LWF'S SCIENCE ADVISORY COUNCIL



The Lake Winnipeg Foundation's Science Advisory Council (SAC) is a group of active and retired scientists with experience and expertise in the functioning of land and water ecosystems, from physical and chemical impacts and biological responses through to human management of the environment. All of us share LWF's concern for the health of Lake Winnipeg.

Although SAC members may occasionally proffer advice unasked, we more typically act in response to queries from the LWF staff. SAC members also serve as scientific advisors to LWF's Community-Based Monitoring and Agricultural Water Stewardship programs.

In 2021, we supported the foundation with scientific advice for a critique of the provincial government's proposed new Manitoba Water Strategy. We noted that the proposed strategy is silent on the need for both improved water-quality monitoring and more focused research into agricultural beneficial management practices to support evidence-based water-management decisions.

This January, several SAC members participated in an Environment and Climate Change Canada symposium, where we had the opportunity to comment on successes and shortcomings of the latest iteration of the federal government's Lake Winnipeg Basin Program. Two SAC members served as panelists in this symposium, helping to identify remaining gaps in in-lake and watershed science to guide progress towards improving the health of Lake Winnipeg. Among other things, we reinforced LWF's long-standing concern that the federal government needs to better focus its resources on phosphorus hotspots if it is to make a significant contribution towards reducing harmful algal blooms in Lake Winnipeg.

Because the SAC typically meets virtually, our work was not affected by COVID-19. We continue to contribute scientific underpinnings to LWF's advocacy for Lake Winnipeg. If you would like to learn a bit more about each of us, you can find [brief introductions on LWF's website](#).

- Dr. Greg McCullough



Clockwise from top left: LWF staffer Meghan helping out at Bike to the Beach (Photo: Chelsea Lobson); “Lucky stone” necklaces created by Johanna Brierley Jewellery Design for 2021’s JBJD + LWF Collection (Photo: Kiex Foto); Bike to the Beach cyclists rode 130 km to Victoria Beach in support of healthy water (Photo: South Basin Photoworks); The amazing volunteers whose efforts made Walk for Water VB & District a success (Photo: Susan Hall)

We are proud to be part of a passionate community of lake-lovers, and grateful to the many citizens who participate in our outreach initiatives, and support our grassroots fundraising efforts with their time, energy and donations.

Our second pandemic summer saw the much-welcomed return of Water for Water Victoria Beach & District, LWF’s signature family-friendly event in support of a healthy Lake Winnipeg. In an inspiring show of united community spirit, 130 citizens joined us on a sunny August Sunday for our COVID-adapted 2.5 km walk, which raised \$29,315.65. Another event back by popular demand in 2021 was the Bid for Lake Winnipeg online art auction, which showcased the work of lake-loving artists and makers – and raised \$3,653 in bids.

Following up on the exciting success of 2020’s founders’ ride, Bike to the Beach also returned in 2021. Fifty-three riders took on the 130 km cycling challenge and once again, their efforts inspired an outpouring of support. The 2021 ride raised an astounding \$123,141.01; setting a new record as the most-successful fundraising event in LWF’s history!



Dunnottar Pier; Photo: Jeope Wolfe

Freshwater stewardship can be demonstrated in many ways. Throughout the year, lake-lovers of all ages and from all walks of life channeled their interests and hobbies to support Lake Winnipeg: from a used book sale to a personal Walk for Water to a series of stand-up paddleboard races to [an animated video](#) created by Winnipeg radio celebrity Ace Burpee in honour of International Beaver Day!

A highlight of 2021 was LWF's collaboration with Johanna Brierley Jewellery Design. The JBJD + LWF Collection was available from May to December and featured 10 pieces created using "lucky stones" from the beaches of Lake Winnipeg, discovered and generously donated by local lake-lovers.

There is a place for everyone in freshwater solutions. In addition to raising vital funds to support our work throughout the year, community events are an opportunity to connect with long-time members (and meet new supporters), and share important information about ongoing programs and campaigns to protect Lake Winnipeg.

Thank you to the volunteers, participants, donors and sponsors for your contributions; together, we are improving the health of our waters, now and for future generations.

2021 Board of Directors

LWF's board of directors is comprised of well-informed people with diverse backgrounds and relevant experience who contribute to the strategic direction of the foundation, ensuring strong decision-making and effective oversight.

Board composition is reviewed annually to ensure the right calibre and scope of director expertise, allow for well-planned succession and provide for effective committee membership. Directors are elected for various terms to ensure continuity, and can be appointed by the board between annual general meetings.

Bryan Allison	Jodi Goerzen	Greg McCullough
Becky Cook	David Horne	Les McEwan
Gene Degen	Frank Indome	Jonathan Paterson
Kathryn Dompierre	Amanda Karst	Roger Ramsay
Florence Eastwood	Bruce Maclean	Selena Randall

Thank you to outgoing directors Jodi Goerzen and Roger Ramsay. We are grateful for the many contributions you both made during your years of service.

2021 Staff Team

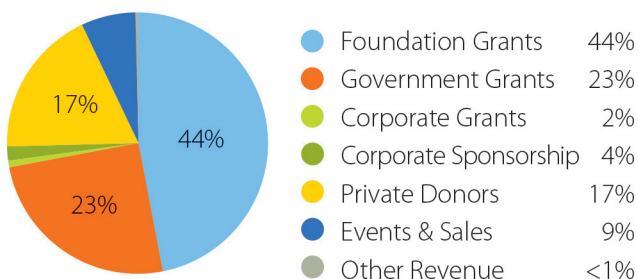
Marlo Campbell	Michelle Jordan	Meghan Mills
Julie DePauw	Carlie Kane	Rebecca Sinclair
Émilie Ferguson	Alexis Kanu	Madison Yogis
Daniel Gladu Kanu	Chelsea Lobson	

Thank you to outgoing staff members Julie DePauw, Émilie Ferguson, Carlie Kane and Rebecca Sinclair, and to 2021 field assistant Emily Davidson. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

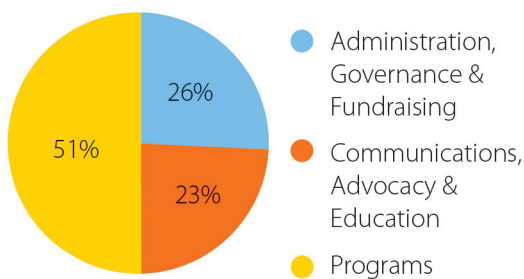
Science Advisory Council

Genevieve Ali	Brenda Hann	Greg McCullough
Pascal Badiou	Caleb Hasler	Selena Randall
Greg Brunksill	Robert Hecky	Michael Rennie
Nora Casson	Ray Hesslein	Alex Salki
Matthew Gale	Scott Higgins	Karen Scott
Gordon Goldsborough	Darshani Kumaragamage	Michael Stainton
Stephanie Guildford	Hedy Kling	Hank Venema
Geoffrey Gunn	Lyle Lockhart	

2021 INCOME



2021 EXPENSES



LWF accepts funding from a wide range of sources in the spirit of collaboration and in recognition that we all have a role to play in supporting evidence-based solutions.

Funders

2021 Revenue

Anonymous donor (c/o The Winnipeg Foundation)	\$30,000
Assiniboine Credit Union	\$2,000
Blennerhasset Family Foundation	\$250
CN	\$20,000
Conseil Économique et Coopératif de la Saskatchewan	\$7,064
ECO Canada	\$24,926
Employment and Social Development Canada	\$15,351
Environment and Climate Change Canada	\$106,547
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	\$9,130
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada	\$43,200
MakeWay	\$38,837
Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation	\$6,421
Manitoba Hydro	\$10,000
Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage	\$1,570
RBC Tech for Nature	\$194,470
Red River Cooperative	\$7,500
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation	\$8,000
The Thomas Sill Foundation	\$20,000
The Winnipeg Foundation	\$68,608
	\$613,874

LAKE WINNIPEG FOUNDATION INC.

Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

LAKE WINNIPEG FOUNDATION INC.
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For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

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INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the Board of Directors
LAKE WINNIPEG FOUNDATION INC.

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of LAKE WINNIPEG FOUNDATION INC., which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2021 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of LAKE WINNIPEG FOUNDATION INC. as at December 31, 2021 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with ASNPO, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

Ashern, MB 204.768.2346
Birtle, MB 204.842.5301
Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes, MB 204.248.2557
Steinbach, MB 204.326.6871

Stonewall, MB 204.467.5566
Winnipeg, MB (St. Boniface) 204.987.4875
Winnipeg, MB (St. Norbert) 204.269.7460

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Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Winnipeg, Manitoba
April 08, 2022

Talbot and Associates
Chartered Professional Accountants

Ashern, MB
Birtle, MB
Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes, MB
Steinbach, MB

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LAKE WINNIPEG FOUNDATION INC.
Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2021

	2021	2020
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash and short-term investments	\$ 579,558	\$ 593,495
Accounts receivable	19,932	36,188
Due from government agencies	3,346	3,515
Prepaid expenses	4,988	4,031
	<u>607,824</u>	<u>637,229</u>
TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 3)	<u>84,743</u>	<u>60,320</u>
	<u><u>\$ 692,567</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 697,549</u></u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 27,787	\$ 67,062
Wages payable	30,505	33,426
Deferred grant revenue	368,015	363,692
	<u>426,307</u>	<u>464,180</u>
DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS RELATED TO CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 4)	<u>44,366</u>	<u>46,643</u>
	<u>470,673</u>	<u>510,823</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>221,894</u>	<u>186,726</u>
	<u><u>\$ 692,567</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 697,549</u></u>

Approved on Behalf of the Board:

Signed in original _____,

_____,

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

LAKE WINNIPEG FOUNDATION INC.
Statement of Net Assets
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

	2021	2020
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 186,726	\$ 173,220
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	35,168	13,506
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 221,894	\$ 186,726

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

LAKE WINNIPEG FOUNDATION INC.
Statement of Operations
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

	2021	2020
REVENUE		
Grants	\$ 583,987	\$ 605,227
Events - Based Fundraising	159,870	88,039
Donations and memberships	130,209	123,462
Other revenue	11,264	5,183
Honorariums	2,750	2,637
Interest income	1,919	3,155
Government of Canada - Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy	-	8,892
	889,999	836,595
EXPENSES		
Amortization of tangible assets	20,374	10,287
Audit fees	4,539	4,044
Conference and travel	11,448	11,407
Consulting	2,419	3,909
External granting	-	10,643
Fundraising	35,717	24,625
Insurance	3,944	3,100
Meetings and conventions	3,229	2,957
Office expenses	26,354	26,776
Program expenses	159,017	152,401
Rent	32,472	30,012
Service charges	8,921	5,231
Telephone	2,023	2,861
Training expense	6,552	3,633
Wages and benefits	537,822	531,203
	854,831	823,089
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	\$ 35,168	\$ 13,506

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

LAKE WINNIPEG FOUNDATION INC.
Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

	2021	2020
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Excess of revenues over expenses for the year	\$ 35,168	\$ 13,506
Items not affecting cash:		
Amortization of tangible assets	20,374	10,287
Amortization of deferred contributions	(11,264)	(5,183)
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	16,256	(36,188)
Due from government agencies	167	714
Prepaid expenses	(957)	146
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(39,275)	53,902
Wages payable	(2,921)	8,962
Deferred grant revenue	4,323	171,861
	21,871	218,007
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Payments to acquire tangible capital assets	(44,794)	(55,171)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Contributions received	8,986	51,826
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH FLOW	(13,937)	214,662
CASH AND SHORT TERM INVESTMENTS - beginning of the year	593,495	378,833
CASH AND SHORT TERM INVESTMENTS - end of the year	\$ 579,558	\$ 593,495

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

LAKE WINNIPEG FOUNDATION INC.
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

1. PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

The Organization is a not-for-profit community service organization dedicated to providing support and encouragement for research and education regarding the biological health of the waters and shorelines of Lake Winnipeg, Canada. The Foundation is a registered charity under the Income Tax Act. Lake Winnipeg Foundation was incorporated on May 18, 2005 under the Canada Corporations Act.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a. Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the Organization have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

b. Cash and short-term investments

The Organization considers short-term investments purchased with a maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents. Because of the short-term maturity of these investments, their carrying amount approximates fair value.

c. Inventories

Inventory of promotional materials are not inventoried and are reported as an expense in the period they are purchased.

d. Tangible capital assets

Tangible capital assets are stated at cost less accumulated amortization. Amortization is provided using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives as follows:

Equipment	5 years
Website and software	5 years

The Organization regularly reviews its tangible capital assets to eliminate obsolete items.

The amortization of the tangible capital assets is calculated half of the above mentioned rates for the year of purchase and no amortization is recorded in the year of disposal.

2. Significant Accounting Policies

e. Revenue recognition

The Organization uses the deferral method of accounting for contributions under which restricted contributions related to expenses of future periods are deferred and recognized as revenue in the period in which the related expenses are incurred.

Restricted contributions for the purchase of tangible capital asset that will be amortized have been deferred and will be recognized as revenue on the same basis as the amortization expense related to the acquired tangible assets.

The Organization recognizes government funding, grants and donations in the period in which it is received unless it is otherwise stated by the funder.

The Organization recognizes fundraising in the period in which the activity occurs.

Interest revenue is recognized when it is earned.

f. Use of estimates

When preparing financial statements according to Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO), the Organization makes estimates and assumptions relating to:

- Reported amounts of revenue and expenses
- Reported amounts of assets and liabilities
- Disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities

Management's assumptions on a number of factors including historical experience, current events, actions that the company may undertake in the future, and other assumptions that management believes are reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results could differ from those estimates under different conditions and assumptions. Estimates when accounting for certain items such as useful lives of capital assets, impairment of long-lived assets, allowance for doubtful accounts, and provision for slow-moving inventories.

g. Financial instruments

The Organization initially measures its financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value. It subsequently measures all its financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost.

Financial assets subsequently measured at amortized cost include cash and accounts receivable. Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost include accounts payable, and accrued liabilities.

LAKE WINNIPEG FOUNDATION INC.
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

3. TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

			2021	2020
	Cost	Accum. Amort.	Net Book Value	Net Book Value
Website and software	\$ 26,767	\$ 2,677	\$ 24,090	\$ -
Equipment	106,319	45,666	60,653	60,320
	\$ 133,086	\$ 48,343	\$ 84,743	\$ 60,320

4. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS RELATED TO CAPITAL ASSETS

The deferred contributions related to capital assets are grants received specifically for the purchase of equipment. The grants are reported as deferred revenue and amortized and reported as revenue at the same rate the equipment is amortized.

	2021	2020
Opening balance	\$ 46,643	\$ -
Grant received	8,987	51,826
Less : reported to revenue	(11,264)	(5,183)
Ending balance	\$ 44,366	\$ 46,643

5. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Organization's financial instruments consist of cash and short-term investments, prepaid expenses, accounts payable and accrued liabilities, and due to government agencies. Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the organization is not exposed to significant currency or credit risks arising from these financial instruments. The fair value of these financial instruments approximate their carrying values.

Interest rate risk

The Organization is exposed to interest rate risk with respect to the investment in the Endowment fund. Changes in interest rates can affect the fair value of investments and the cash flows related to interest income.

LAKE WINNIPEG FOUNDATION INC.
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

6. CONTRIBUTED SERVICES

The Organization would not be able to carry out its activities without the services of the many volunteers who donate a considerable number of hours. Because of the difficulty in compiling these hours, contributed services are not recognized in the financial statements.

7. ENDOWMENT FUND

Lake Winnipeg Foundation Inc. has established a permanent endowment fund, administered by the Winnipeg Foundation. The Winnipeg Foundation receives all contributions to the endowment fund directly, and invests them in accordance with its own investment guidelines. Lake Winnipeg Foundation Inc. will receive distributions from the Winnipeg Foundation on an annual basis, as determined by the Winnipeg Foundation in accordance with the terms of the agreement. The market value of the fund at its most recent valuation at December 31, 2021 was \$188,642 (2020 - \$45,033).

	2021	2020
Contributed capital at the beginning of the year	\$ 42,848	\$ 40,414
The Winnipeg Foundation	15,000	-
Individual contributions	125,037	2,434
Capitalized income	1,819	-
Contributed capital at the end of the year	\$ 184,704	\$ 42,848

8. COVID-19

In March 2020, The World Health Organization declared a global pandemic due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The situation is constantly evolving, and the measures put in place have multiple impacts on local, provincial, national and global economics.

The overall effect (if any) of these events on the organization and its operations is too uncertain to be estimated at this time. The impacts will be accounted for when they are known and may be assessed.

Management expects individual donation revenues, event-based fundraising revenues, and other revenues to normalize now that Public health measures have been lifted, but are not able to reasonably forecast the amount of the change at this time.

Management is uncertain of the effects of these changes on its financial statements and believes that any disturbance may be temporary; however, there is uncertainty about the length and potential impact of the disturbance. Management agrees that they may require disclosure in the future financial statements but would not affect the amounts recognized in the December 31, 2021 financial statements.
