

May 15, 2020

Hon. Brian Pallister
Premier of Manitoba
Room 204 Legislative Building
450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Dear Premier Pallister,

The Lake Winnipeg Foundation (LWF) is pleased to hear that water and sewage projects and municipal infrastructure priorities will be funded as part of your recent commitment to increase infrastructure investment by \$500 million through the Manitoba Restart Program.

Upgrades to Winnipeg's North End Water Pollution Control Centre (NEWPCC) must be a priority for provincial infrastructure spending. Currently non-compliant with its provincial operating licence, the NEWPCC is the largest point source of phosphorus to Lake Winnipeg, contributing to nuisance and toxic algal blooms on the great lake at the heart of our province.

Upgrades to the treatment plant are a recognized priority of both Winnipeg's City Council and its citizens. In particular, a new biosolids treatment facility at the plant is identified as the single most important infrastructure project in the *City of Winnipeg 2020 Infrastructure Plan*. While the limited capacity of the NEWPCC's current biosolids facility must be addressed to support growth and industrial development in Manitoba's capital, upgraded facilities will also provide a cost-cutting opportunity to meet the plant's provincial phosphorus limits.

Currently, lack of biosolids capacity at the NEWPCC is the primary barrier to implementation of phosphorus removal. Increasing this capacity through the construction of new facilities will enable chemically enhanced primary treatment (CEPT) to reduce phosphorus, meet provincial licence requirements and protect Lake Winnipeg.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented financial pressures for Manitoba's provincial and municipal governments. At Winnipeg's NEWPCC, a new biosolids facility – equipped with CEPT to reduce phosphorus loading – provides the unique opportunity to stimulate economic activity now, while also achieving significant cost savings for the future.

As we look ahead to another beautiful Manitoba summer in the land of 100,000 lakes, LWF urges your government to confirm immediate investments in NEWPCC biosolids facilities as a priority infrastructure project of the Manitoba Restart Program.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alexis Kanu". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alexis Kanu, PhD
Executive Director

CC: Hon. Sarah Guillemard, Minister of Conservation and Climate
Hon. Rochelle Squires, Minister of Municipal Relations