

Sender: Gordon and Bernice Lawrie

Subject: Save Lake Winnipeg

Message:

I am responding to your request for public comment on proposed recommendations for nutrient pollution targets for the Red River.

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. We own a home on this beautiful lake and have seen firsthand over the past 55+ years the unsightly, potentially toxic algae blooms that plague its waters every summer.

Algae blooms are caused by an excess of phosphorus. The connection between phosphorus and algae growth has been demonstrated over five decades of research in freshwater lakes at the acclaimed International Institute for Sustainable Development – Experimental Lakes Area.

We do not support the IJC's proposed nitrogen objectives, since reducing nitrogen loading will have no impact in reducing algae blooms in Lake Winnipeg. To meaningfully address eutrophication and make effective use of limited resources, policy must be based on the best available science, and science tells us to focus on phosphorus.

Lake Winnipeg matters deeply to us. I expect the governments of Canada and the United States to work together in a constructive way on evidence-based actions that will lead to meaningful improvements to this exceptional natural resource.

Thank you
Gordon and Bernice Lawrie