

**Sender:** John Fefchak  
**Subject:** Joint Commission- Public Input

**Message:**

## **For Sarah & Frank. -International Joint Commission Invites Public Input on Red River.**

I have reviewed some of the previous studies that had been carried out on Lake Winnipeg during the past several years, namely by Environment Canada, Manitoba Water Stewardship and Manitoba Conservation.

Although these studies are not recent, the findings that I arrived at, reveal a situation that should not be ignored or taken lightly, for it discloses that Manitoba's Red River system, although six times smaller in area and length, than the US portion of its' Red River, contributes nearly six times more phosphorus, per linear kilometer, than the southern portion of the Red River area in the United States. The phosphorus load from the Red River entering Manitoba calculated and averaged over a 14 year period (1994-2007 ) was

2,798 tonnes per year. The combined phosphorus load of the entire Red River system taken at the Forks at Winnipeg was calculated and averaged at 5,380 tonnes per year.

*(US phosphorus portions vary from one study to another, from a high of 60%, to a low of 43%... averaging at 52%).*

It is discouraging that our present regime of government in Manitoba has chosen to put aside such studies. They cancelled the previous hog barn moratorium. Then disregarded the 2007 Clean Environment Commission report, that cost taxpayers \$730,000.00. Those recommendations were previously acted upon, and initially placed the moratorium on the hog Industry within the Red River basin area. The studies reveal that this particular area accounts for 48% of the RedRiver phosphorus pollution to Lake Winnipeg.

Often referred to as hog alley, it is the core of hog production. It's little wonder that the contribution of phosphorus would be extremely high. The Clean Environment Commission map of 2007 displays the distribution and density of the factory hog barns. It was readily identified as a 'hot spot" area.

As a former director of Manitoba HogWatch and one of the many advocates attempting to preserve our Manitoba water sources and restore Lake Winnipeg to a state of health and recovery, I submit that our government must re-evaluate their economic priorities of industry agriculture and initiate whatever needed action is necessary to resolve the phosphorus situation that has been pointed out in the scientific facts that have been provided.

The consequences are everlasting. There is no place for complacency when water needs protection. Lake Winnipeg cannot be replaced!

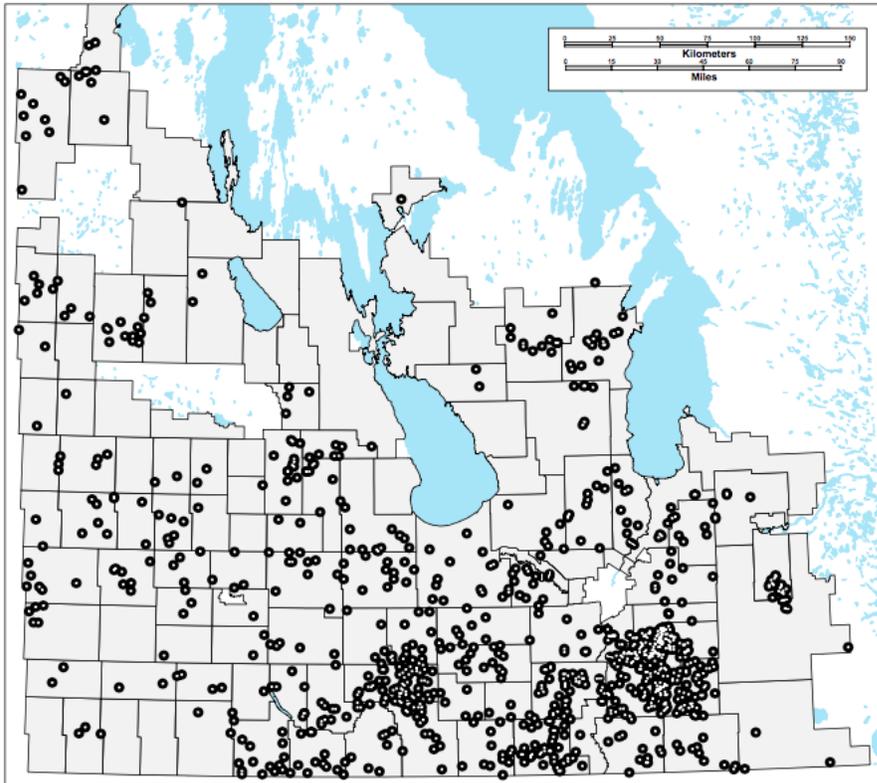
Rather than continually making references to the vast watershed that ultimately feeds and contributes pollution to Lake Winnipeg, the province of Manitoba must set and show the example of doing "their

part" to substantially reduce and eliminate phosphorus, within our borders, at the home front; which by itself, has been scientifically calculated at 35% for agriculture.

Your Truly,  
John Fefchak.  
Virden, MB.  
1 Feb. 2020

*Manitoba Clean Environment Commission*

**Map 5.2: Distribution of Manitoba hog operations.**



*Source: Manitoba Pork Council.*