

APPLICATION OF THE METROPOLITAN CORPORATION
OF GREATER WINNIPEG TO THE INTERNATIONAL
JOINT COMMISSION SEEKING APPROVAL FOR THE
METROPOLITAN CORPORATION TO DIVERT ADDITIONAL
WATERS FROM THE LAKE OF THE WOODS AND SHOAL
LAKE FOR SANITARY AND DOMESTIC PURPOSES.

TO:

THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA.

FOR TRANSMITTAL TO:

THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION,
OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA.

THE METROPOLITAN CORPORATION OF GREATER WINNIPEG does hereby make formal application to the International Joint Commission for permission to divert an additional two hundred million gallons of water per day from the Lake of the Woods and Shoal Lake for sanitary and domestic purposes. The intake for such diversion to be located at Indian Bay, in Shoal Lake and within the Province of Manitoba:

The applicant, The Metropolitan Corporation of Greater Winnipeg, respectfully submits:

1. The Metropolitan Corporation of Greater Winnipeg is a Corporation incorporated in 1960 by special act of the Manitoba Legislature. It is charged with the responsibility, inter alia, of ensuring the supply of sufficient water for sanitary and domestic purposes to all municipalities situate within its boundary.
2. The Corporation is the successor of the Greater Winnipeg Water District and has all of the powers previously vested in

that District and in particular, those set forth under Section 6 of the Greater Winnipeg Water District Act, which Section provides:

"6 (1) The objects of the Corporation shall be the supplying of water from any permanent source whether within or without the province, for the use of the inhabitants of the district and others for all purposes.

(2) The Corporation may extend its operations and exercise its powers, with said object, outside the limits of the province, and subject to its obtaining any legal rights that may be required therefor from Her Majesty in right of Canada or in right of any other province, or from the Parliament of Canada or the Legislature of any other province or from any other proper legal authority."

3. The area of jurisdiction of The Metropolitan Corporation of Greater Winnipeg is defined in its incorporating statute by boundaries and is, in essence, an urban area of one hundred and seventy square miles with a population of in excess of one-half million people. In addition to the provision of a water supply, the Corporation is responsible for the provision of equalized assessment, overall planning, operation of a major street system, a transit system, pollution control facilities, major municipal parks, and civil defence. Enclosed herewith are two copies of the Applicant's Annual Report for 1967 which details the Corporation's responsibilities to the citizens of Metropolitan Winnipeg and as well, the scope of its operations.

4. In 1913, the Corporation's predecessor, the Greater Winnipeg Water District, applied to the International Joint

Commission for permission to divert one hundred million gallons of water per day from the Lake of the Woods and Shoal Lake for sanitary and domestic purposes. On January 14th, 1914, that diversion was authorized.

5. Since the authorization of the International Joint Commission, dated January 14th, 1914, Metropolitan Winnipeg has continued to expand and now finds that an additional water supply will be required in the foreseeable future and that it is highly desirable from a water quality and economic point of view that the additional needs of Metropolitan Winnipeg be obtained from Shoal Lake; accordingly, this application is made to the International Joint Commission for authority to divert an additional two hundred million gallons of water per day. Enclosed herewith are two copies of "The Water Supply Study Report", which has been prepared by the Corporation, and which it is submitted clearly show the need for an additional supply of water being available to the citizens of Metropolitan Winnipeg, and as well, the desirability of the source being Shoal Lake.

6. The applicant is advised that since the levels of the Lake of the Woods were set by the International Joint Commission in 1934 to be maintained at 1056 to 1061 above geodetic datum, the Lake has always tended towards the highest permissible level.

7. During the course of the 1913 Hearing the evidence presented to the International Joint Commission satisfied the then Commissioners that the diversion of one hundred million gallons per day would not significantly affect levels of the lakes and the applicant submits that such has been borne out by experience.

The applicant further submits that if the additional diversion is authorized, it will not have any significant effect on lake levels.

8. On April 2nd, 1968, the Chairman of Council of The Metropolitan Corporation of Greater Winnipeg wrote to The Honourable Walter C. Weir, Premier of Manitoba, seeking Provincial authority for this diversion as jurisdiction over the water is now vested in the Province of Manitoba. Attached hereto is a copy of the Chairman of Council's letter.


9. On July 18th, 1968, The Honourable Harry J. Enns, Acting Minister of Highways, wrote to the Chairman of Council advising that the Water Control and Conservation Branch of the Province of Manitoba would have no objection to issuing a license to The Metropolitan Corporation of Greater Winnipeg for the withdrawal of this water for municipal use. Attached hereto is a copy of the letter from The Honourable Acting Minister of Highways.

10. The applicant, The Metropolitan Corporation of Greater Winnipeg, hereby respectfully requests that this application receive the earliest consideration of the International Joint Commission.

DATED this 27th day of September, A.D. 1968.

THE METROPOLITAN CORPORATION OF
GREATER WINNIPEG


Chairman


Executive Director

(SEAL)