

November 10, 2025

The Honourable Mike Moyes, MLA
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Room 344 Legislative Building
450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8
minecc@manitoba.ca

Dear Minister,

The Lake Winnipeg Foundation (LWF) thanks you for attending our Walk for Water event in Victoria Beach on July 13, 2025. LWF's community of members, volunteers and supporters appreciated the opportunity to share with you their concerns for the lake, and to hear about your priorities in fulfilling your ministerial mandate to "work with experts and scientists to protect Lake Winnipeg."

You mentioned the opportunity to engage Manitoba's newly appointed Clean Environment Commission (CEC) to examine the causes and impacts of freshwater eutrophication, and to identify effective policy solutions that will improve Lake Winnipeg's water quality. We agree whole-heartedly that [the expertise of the Commission's chair and 16 commissioners](#) should be put into service to address Lake Winnipeg's challenges.

To this end, the Lake Winnipeg Foundation asks that you direct the CEC to review the 2007 report "[Environmental Sustainability and Hog Production in Manitoba](#)," and provide an update on progress made toward the recommendations therein.

This 2007 report, reviewing the environmental regulation of hog production, was produced by the CEC at the request of Manitoba's then-minister of conservation. Over the course of a year, the commission held 20 public meetings, heard from 194 presenters, reviewed dozens of written submissions, and examined relevant research and reports.

Of 48 recommendations made in the 2007 report, 26 relate directly to the impacts of hog production on Manitoba's water quality. Chief among these was a call for a full review – within five years – of the phosphorus application provisions in provincial manure regulations. This comprehensive review was to encompass enforcement effectiveness and compliance, links between soil phosphorus and runoff into adjacent waterways, evaluation of regulatory thresholds, and assessment of management practices. The Commission noted at the time that "such a review will depend on the availability of a wide range of water quality data. The water monitoring efforts needed to acquire these data should commence immediately." Eighteen years later, no such review has been undertaken – leaving a significant gap in our understanding of the hog industry's impact on Lake Winnipeg's water quality.

In 2007, the Commission warned that “the regional imbalances that have developed between the application and removal of nutrients and the potential impact of these nutrients on water resources constitute the most serious environmental sustainability issues facing the industry.”

Almost two decades after this caution was issued, it is time for the CEC to re-examine the impacts of the hog industry on Manitoba’s water quality. The scope of this review should include:

- evaluating progress towards the implementation of recommendations made in 2007
- assessing the environmental effects of regulatory changes, including amendments to the Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation in 2017
- reviewing the effectiveness of current compliance and enforcement measures
- ensuring seasonal bans on manure spreading continue to achieve desired ecological outcomes under a changing climate
- quantifying the current contribution of manure-phosphorus to annual phosphorus loading to Lake Winnipeg; and
- ensuring manure application rates and crop removal rates are regionally balanced; and
- developing regional estimates of the availability of cropped land for manure spreading to determine a sustainable size for Manitoba’s hog production industry.

On behalf of LWF’s members, volunteers and supporters, we look forward to the work of the CEC to address these critical questions to guide effective water policy in Manitoba. The challenges facing Lake Winnipeg are urgent, demanding an evidence-based response that protects the lake’s health now and for future generations.

We urge you to initiate this review immediately, and we request confirmation of your commitment to do so.

Sincerely,



Alexis Kanu, PhD
Executive Director



Chelsea Lobson, MSc
Programs Director