



## Issue #11 Lake Winnipeg Implementation Committee (LWIC)

Information current as of: February 2006

### Summary and Current Status:

The Lake Winnipeg Implementation Committee (LWIC) was formed May 2005 as a joint initiative of the Province of Manitoba and the Government of Canada with the purpose of identifying and advising on mechanisms of federal and provincial co-operation about Lake Winnipeg. The LWIC fulfilled its mandate with the November 2005 release of its report *Restoring the Health of Lake Winnipeg*, which makes 22 recommendations for governments to take joint action on restoring the health of Lake Winnipeg. A full technical companion report is also available.

### Elements:

The Lake Winnipeg Federal/Provincial Implementation Committee was co-chaired by T. Duguid for Canada, and Norm Brandson for Manitoba. Support for LWIC activity was from Western Economic Diversification, Indian and Northern Affairs and the Province of Manitoba.

### Mandate of the Lake Winnipeg Implementation Committee:

The LWIC mandate was to:

*"...co-ordinate a Canada/Manitoba framework agreement on scientific research and basin wide action plan to improve Lake Winnipeg water quality. This agreement will identify joint priorities and funding sources; it will also clarify respective roles and responsibilities for implementation of the plan."*

The LWIC report, *Restoring the Health of Lake Winnipeg*, is intended to build on the work already done by the Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board and the Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium.

The Lake Winnipeg Implementation Committee (LWIC) report, *Restoring the Health of Lake Winnipeg*, acknowledges efforts and actions to date, but emphasizes the need for federal-provincial coordination, substantive and dedicated resources and the need to address Lake Winnipeg science gaps. Specific and clear references to Aboriginal title, rights, and the need for Aboriginal peoples' involvement and input into the plan for Lake Winnipeg are explicitly noted in the report. It concludes that:

- science is lacking and funding for the science has been sporadic at best;

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- there is public support for action – Lake Winnipeg is a priority, and not just for those who live on the lake or use it; and
- attention to the lake has been lacking in the past and in the future, cooperative and coordinated action is needed.

Given the emphasis of the LWIC on collaboration, a number of organizations provided advice and input to the LWIC, including the Freshwater Institute (Department of Fisheries and Oceans), the Fraser River Basin Commission, the Manitoba Eco-Network Water Caucus, the Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium, the University of Manitoba, and the City of Winnipeg, among others. The LWIC also benefited from the expertise and advice of the 8-member LWIC Advisory Committee, whose membership included representation from the Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board, the Lake Winnipeg Watershed Action Council, Manitoba Conservation, the Red River Basin Commission, the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources, Delta Waterfowl, and the International Institute for Sustainable Development.

The first step to fulfilling the potential of the LWIC recommendations was taken in January 2006 with announcement of \$120 million federal dollars over ten years for Lake Winnipeg science, planning, and actions for the future health of Canada's sixth Great Lake. (LINK)

LWIC's 22 recommendations can be found on pages 37-40 of the LWIC report; they are also posted on ManitobaWildlands.org at [http://manitobawildlands.org/water\\_lakewpg.htm](http://manitobawildlands.org/water_lakewpg.htm)

Appendix 1, beginning on page 43 of the LWIC report, is draft language for an agreement – the 'Healthy Lake Winnipeg Agreement' – between Canada and Manitoba to restore Lake Winnipeg.

Appendix 2, beginning on page 49 of the LWIC report, outlines some of the considerations for the formula for funding the federal/provincial 'Healthy Lake Winnipeg Agreement' to the suggested level of \$40 million over five years – 2/3 t federal government and 1/3 provincial government.

Appendix 3, beginning on page 51 of the LWIC report, is a draft of the 'Healthy Lake Winnipeg Charter' – which is intended to serve as a basis for stakeholders to work together and co-ordinate their activities.

### **Key Publication(s) & Links:**

- *Restoring the Health of Lake Winnipeg* (November 2005)  
[http://www.redriverbasincommission.org/lakewpg\\_dec12.pdf](http://www.redriverbasincommission.org/lakewpg_dec12.pdf)

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