

To: Gord Mackintosh, Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship

As a cottage association we would like to share some of our concerns regarding recent alarming trends in government decisions both at the provincial and federal level

We like to believe that the province of Manitoba, under your leadership, can provide a reasonable and progressive approach to Environmental policies. We also like to believe that we share the same views on the following issues:

- The ELA work has to continue because without the continuous monitoring and modeling of potential future water quality, our understanding of climate change and various environmental problems will be not be at the level that it should be to make sound environmental policy decisions for future generations..This is a global issue and we can lead the way. Let us in Manitoba make every effort to keep this NW Ontario/Manitoba centre operational.
- The fisheries regulations, which have taken years to establish in a meaningful way, seems to weak on reasonable and desirable enforcement for violations of the regulations. We believe that Manitoba has the ability to bring forth a visionary fisheries standards. This will remove the necessity to come under the thumb of the feds while being recognized as a leader in the field.

As you know, we are also extremely concerned about the destruction of non renewable natural resources. We commend your department and your government for initiating the peat Mining Strategy. Stopping peat mining and the destruction of wetlands is one immediate area where Manitoba is able to send a clear message that we care about our land and water and that our government pays equal attention to valid requests from its citizens as they do for the lobbyist and the industry representative.

We like to believe that you share our views regarding the establishment of a water management strategy encompassing the whole Lake Winnipeg basin in partnership with all relevant stakeholders including other jurisdictions. We trust that you will be able to do so; thereby demonstrating Manitoba visionary leadership and we will support you in your effort.

- We believe that Manitoba must lead the way in these environmental issues. This is the way of the future and economic prosperity. A future which recognizes that our health and wellness are merely the reflections of what our environment will provide in its natural state.

We like to believe that the Manitoba government will make the right decisions for 'Us', the people who live here and for future generations. We offer our support and our assistance whenever you need us. We would welcome the opportunity to be an active and positive participant, sitting at the table with your government as we together lead the way towards a bright future.

At the end of the day we all want to make Manitobans proud by developing a visionary framework for a prosperous and sustainable future.

We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Mo Tipples.

On behalf of Save Our Lake, 'SOUL'
Grindstone Cottage Association GCOA

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