

Dear Standing Committee of the 5th Session, Thirty-Ninth Legislature
for Bill 46 Save Lake Winnipeg Act,

My name is Cheryl Kennedy Courcelles
I am from St Adolphe, Manitoba and I
would like to thank you for the
opportunity to speak to you regarding
Bill 46.

Water is sacred.

Water is life and without good clean
water, most life on this planet would die,
including you and me, our families, our
domestic animals, wildlife and
ecosystems.

Sadly and tragically, we the people have
sat back and allowed our cumulative
efforts of draining every drop of sitting
water off of our yards and communities,
out of the fields and wetlands, and into
our human made diversions, canals,

drains, and floodways sending it at horrific speeds to either destroy or to harmfully alter our precious sacred lakes.

In the heart of the continent, we have put ourselves into congested heart failure with our mega-sizing of unnatural drainage, topped up with our industrial farming and our outdated water and waste management practices.

The natural reacts to poisons and an over abundance of toxins just like you or I would, so it is no big surprise to see the slow tortuous death of our sacred lakes, but to sit back and do nothing about it is unbearable, even unthinkable for an educated and wealthy country, like Canada.

As a mother, I am pleased to see Bill 46 the Save Lake Winnipeg Act, it is a good

start and I support it.

I at least can feel as if we have taken the sick to see the Doctor and now we have a bit of game plan, some do's and don'ts, some restrictions and banning of our collective actions and future intentions. Is it enough, no, not really!

As a voice for our future generations, for our wildlife and ecosystems and for our sacred water energy, I would like to see this type of protection and regulation include Lake Manitoba, really most of our lakes, who as we are currently witnessing are also being destructively mega-sized with our artificial flooding to save Winnipeg and Lake Winnipeg and they are not immune to our industrialized farming or our lack of proper water and waste practices.

We are living in a very changing and exciting, yet stressful times, we have built these waterway systems for the past 50 years and it has taken a few wet years in a row to see what our actions have produced with 2009-2011 having been perfect examples of what a wet future has in store for us.

We have industries such as agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining and the general economy all butting heads with the energy sector, that is the fast moving mega dirty water being drained and stored in our sacred lakes and waterways for hydro production. Our families, communities, animals and ecosystems who live outside the floodway gates or beside waterways/diversions/lakes are being terrorized by this modern day human made tsunami of water, as we quickly

drain it to our congested lakes. Most of this water would have sat naturally on the landscape where the toxins would have been ingested by the land and ecosystems if our actions had not redirected it in the first place.

When we built, the railways and the highways, we had to buy out the stakeholders to realize such a grand feat and now that we are investing into hydro energy and our big cash cow is water hydro we certainly will have to buy out people to protect them, their families and animals as well as the long-term health of our lakes.

At the end of the day, we cannot kill our sacred water energy by trying to make a fast buck, for water is life and it is the free right for all on this planet that we have the duty and responsibility to

protect.

We are leaders in the heart of the continent and when we put our hearts, minds and spirits into it, there is no stopping the good we can do for our collective and sustainable future.

We say let us be tough on crime, well we now are forced into being tough on the environmental crimes too. We have no choice, our sacred blue green algae waters are begging for our help.

And the fear of our babies never getting the opportunities like we did to play in our amazing lakes, never being able to go fishing or enjoy a fish fry, never watching mama piping plover protect and raise her babies on the incredible white beaches of Grand Beach or Delta.

The fear of deadly toxic algae overtaking

our sacred lakes has finally stirred us into action, policy and regulations. None of this is one governments in the making, one industry, we all own it, we all consume, spend and utilize our goods and services, proud of our so called green energy, hydro. We all eat, drink, and flush the toilet, we all can make a difference and should feel compelled and passionate enough to clean up our acts for our future generations safety and sustainability.

Our babies are counting on us to do so!

I am thrilled to see us restoring wetlands is a huge way, this action will make one of the fastest differences that we can do as a society! As we put a little wild back into our lives, perhaps our sacred waters may once again sparkle like they did for me as I grew up on the amazing sand beaches of Delta or vacationed on the

world renowned beaches of Grand Beach. However, we have to move forward to protecting and restoring wetlands on private land as well.

We had asked for a full ban on hog production years ago already, I am happy to see it going forward now and it may have to be extended to other large industrial farmers who do not have adequate waste storage, treatment facilities, or spread acreages, such as the cattle, dairy, turkey, chicken and hen intensified operations especially those in the Red River and Assiniboine corridors and special management areas. If our future in hogs means we have to collectively build waste treatment centres to save our sacred water, then we shall do so. If, we are only consuming 7% of 9 million hogs and exporting the rest, then something has

to be done to protect our local resources to feed the world, only makes good common sense.

A permanent ban on peat moss production should also be put into place. As well as the banning of goods and services that we know to be extremely toxic to our lakes, like our pesticides, herbicides, detergents and so forth. The Eagles made a come back with the controlling of Deet, so there is hope in our collective actions for our sacred water.

Of course, we have to do all we can to upgrade our waste and water facilities ensuring they are state of the art and not the cause of future nightmares but once again are on the leading edge of doing what is right for our future generations. I look forward to future actions by the

Clean Environment Commission for assisting us in being better stewards for our sustainable healthy future for all.

All for One and One for all, water is our sacred life, please continue to help protect it and our healthy sustainable lucrative future, right here in the heart of the continent, the best place to live and raise a family!

I thank you for your time and attention on this important Save Lake Winnipeg Act, Bill 46.

Concerned Citizen,
Cheryl Kennedy Courcelles
St. Adolphe, Manitoba