

Manitoba News Release

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**LAKE WINNIPEG STEWARDSHIP BOARD RECEIVES EXPANDED
MANDATE:
MELNICK**

The renewed membership and expanded terms of reference for the Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board were announced today by Water Stewardship Minister Christine Melnick.

"The Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board's final report lays out a clear blueprint for action and confirms that our government has been moving in the right direction," said Melnick. "The report notes the province has already taken action on 84 per cent or 113 of the report's 135 recommendations and I am confident the board's expanded mandate will further enhance protection of Lake Winnipeg."

The board will take on additional responsibilities to provide advice to government on the health of Lake Winnipeg and its basins. The main mandate of the Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board will now be to co-ordinate development of a basin-wide watershed management plan in co-operation with regional watershed authorities led by local conservation districts.

While the board will continue to identify and assist in implementing actions to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus to pre-1970s levels, its mandate will be expanded to provide advice to government on other measures needed to restore health to Lake Winnipeg, such as the identification of pollutants entering the lake. It will be additionally tasked with examining issues impacting the management and ecological sustainability of the lake's fisheries.

The renewed terms of reference will also mandate the board to prepare periodic 'state of the lake' reports, through contact with lake users, communities, scientists and others. These reports will be presented to the government and will include information on the status of government action in implementing the board's recommendations and the status of progress toward reaching nutrient reduction targets.

"I'm very pleased Bill Barlow will continue in his role as chair of the Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board," Melnick said. "I look forward to working with all of the members of the board and I am confident it will continue to provide reasoned, valuable advice to Manitobans towards sustaining and improving the health of the Lake Winnipeg."

The minister noted the Lake Manitoba Stewardship Board will be announced next week.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

LAKE WINNIPEG STEWARDSHIP BOARD MEMBERS

- **Board chair Bill Barlow** currently serves as a councillor with the Rural Municipality of Gimli and a member of the Manitoba Municipal Board.
- **Sam Murdock, vice-chair**, is chief of staff for the Southern Chiefs Organization, a commercial fisher and former chief of the Fisher River First Nation. He also serves as a director on the board for the Lake Winnipeg Advisory Committee and president of the Fisher River McBeth Fisheries.
- **Rachel Boone** is a project manager and consultant with KBM Forestry Consultants.
- **Garry Brown** farms near Dugald. He was a long-time councillor for the Rural Municipality of Springfield and a former chair of the Cooks Creek Conservation District.
- **Heidi Cook** has been involved with the First Nations Water Protection Council, was employed by the Southern Chiefs Organization and has recently been employed to serve the chief and council of the Grand Rapids First Nation.
- **Don Flaten** is a soil scientist specializing in nutrient management at the faculty of agricultural and food sciences, University of Manitoba.
- **Robert T. Kristjanson** has been a commercial fisher on Lake Winnipeg for over 50 years.
- **Al Kristofferson** is director of the Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium.
- **Chris Pawley** served three terms as a member of Selkirk's city council. He is also a member of the Red River Basin Commission – North Chapter.
- **Edward Schreyer**, former premier of Manitoba and former governor general of Canada, has also held the position of high commissioner to Australia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.
- **Bev Smith** is a former councillor for Brokenhead Ojibway Nation. Her commitment to the protection and sustainability of Lake Winnipeg is based on her historical and spiritual connection to the land and the lake, through her family and her community.
- **Norman Stagg** is a commercial fisher on Lake Winnipeg and a former chief of the Dauphin River First Nation. He is currently an economic development officer for Dauphin River First Nation.
- **Nick Szoke** is senior engineer and branch head of waste-water planning for the Water and Waste Department, City of Winnipeg.
- **Dwight Williamson** is director of the Water Science and Management Branch, Manitoba Water Stewardship

- **Halina Zbigniewicz** is manager, Water Resource Development and Engineering Department, Manitoba Hydro.
- Other members to be named include representatives from:
 - **Keystone Agricultural Producers executive,**
 - **Association of Manitoba Municipalities,**
 - **Northern Association of Community Councils, and**
 - **the Government of Canada.**