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Submission to City Council Meeting July 21, 2022

Agenda item related to Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment (June 28, 2022) item 3: Request for budget revision for the North End Sewage Treatment Plant (NEWPCC) interim phosphorus removal capital project

and

Agenda item related to Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment (June 28, 2022) item 4: Procurement model recommendation and revised cost estimate for the North End Sewage Treatment Plant (NEWPCC) upgrade – biosolids facilities project.

The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) would like to express its **strong support of the budget revision to enable increased ferric dosing capacity for interim phosphorus** as an urgent issue related to the health of our fresh water and Lake Winnipeg in agenda item 3 related to the SPC on water and waste.

IISD also supports the new enhanced preliminary design for the NEWPCC Biosolids Facility in agenda item 4 related to the SPC on water and waste.

We're excited to see the leadership and commitment to our freshwater systems and future generations that brings us to this decision point. Over five decades of peer-reviewed research at our Experimental Lakes Area (IISD-ELA) facility on real lakes has proven unequivocally that phosphorus causes blue-green algal blooms in freshwater lakes. This research has informed policies and nutrient management approaches in Canada and globally.

We are excited to have been able to inform change right here on home turf—fulfilling a recommendation collectively put forward by the International Institute for Sustainable Development, the Lake Winnipeg Foundation and Lake Winnipeg Indigenous Collective. By approving the two highlighted agenda items, the City of Winnipeg will achieve phosphorus compliance at the NEWPCC much sooner and at much reduced cost than anticipated.

Approving these recommendations by City Council is demonstrating unprecedented leadership and foresight and will validate our long-term efforts towards evidence-based approaches to our precious freshwater management.

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IISD Experimental Lakes Area is the world's freshwater laboratory—the only place in the world where scientists can manipulate real lakes to understand what human activity does to fresh water.

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