



MANITOBA ECO-NETWORK

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June 15 2021

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada
via email: ec.ministre-minister.ec@canada.ca

Mr. Terry Duguid
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of ECCC
via email: Terry.Duguid@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Wilkinson and Mr. Duguid,

Since 1988, Manitoba Eco-Network (MbEN), a non-profit charitable organization, has promoted positive environmental action by supporting people and groups in our community. MbEN's programming focuses on policy advocacy, engagement in consultation processes and developing capacity building tools that benefit the environmental non-profit sector and our member groups.

Working to secure the health of our waters is a priority for us because healthy watersheds support healthy communities, ecosystems, and economies. If our water is in trouble, so are we. Climate change, urban and agricultural development, and resource extraction are putting our waters at risk. Water supply is becoming increasingly erratic, droughts and floods are becoming more common across the country, and water quality in many areas is rapidly deteriorating, impacting our drinking water and places of recreation. To address these issues and prevent a water crisis, we need strong and appropriate leadership from many governments, including the federal government.

Earlier this year, we [co-hosted a public forum](#), which focused on the regional needs of a well planned Canada Water Agency. We also joined 50 other organizations to send recommendations on what an agency could and should be. [The submission](#) detailed five cross-cutting foundational pillars that we believe need to be mainstreamed in every aspect of the Canada Water Agency's development, structure, and operations.

We were pleased that the Government of Canada reaffirmed its commitment to establish the Canada Water Agency through Budget 2021, which allocated \$17.4M to this work and that Environment and Climate Change Canada is engaging with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit on the development of the Canada Water Agency by prioritizing nation-to-nation, government-to-government and Inuit-Crown partnerships in this process.

However, we are concerned about the lack of information available on the status of the Canada Water Agency's development and the risk that the agency may not get off the ground due to a potential federal election this fall.

The establishment of the Canada Water Agency is an urgent priority for the Manitoba Eco-Network, and we want you and our local Members of Parliament, cc'd on this correspondence, to know that we fully support your efforts to establish this important institution as soon as possible. We are also committed to work with you and your department to ensure the Canada Water Agency is established without delay. Please let us know how we can help ensure the Agency becomes a reality. Taking this critical first step will help ensure Canada's waters are healthy, sustainable, and resilient to climate change for current and future generations.

Sincerely yours,

Glen Koroluk

Executive Director

cc,

Manitoba MPs