

Report to Council

To: Waterworks Committee
From: Administration – Operations
File #: DOP-CC-15
Date: February 24, 2020
Re: WPCF Upgrading Status

For Information

For over ten years, the City of Portage la Prairie has been preparing for the upgrading of the Water Pollution Control Facility which will result in phosphorus and nitrogen being removed from the City's wastewater prior to discharge into the Assiniboine River. Currently, these nutrients eventually flow into Lake Winnipeg and they promote the development of blue-green algae blooms which deplete oxygen in the lake necessary for other life such as fish, and which also release toxic chemicals.

On August 2, 2019, the Federal Government announced the approval of the City's application for funding of the Water Pollution Control Facility upgrading as a Public-Private Partnership arrangement; also known as a Design, Build, Finance, Operate, and Maintain project. On February 18, 2020, the Premier of Manitoba announced the Province's commitment to the project. The City has not yet signed a tri-partite funding agreement with the Federal and Provincial governments, but the agreement is being developed. To demonstrate its commitment, the City is proceeding with the project in advance of this agreement being formally ratified.

A Request for Proposals for engineering services to lead the upgrading project was issued in late January and will close February 28. Solicitations for other Project Advisors including Financial and Legal Advisors will be issued in March.