



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NFWB Responds to Efforts by Ontario Elected Official to Raise Public Awareness on Wastewater Infrastructure Improvement Needs**

*Sewer Overflows Occur Across Region;  
Water Board Investing in Treatment Plant Upgrades*

Niagara Falls, NY – The Niagara Falls Water Board has learned of an open letter penned by Wayne Gates, an elected Member of the Provincial Parliament of Ontario, Canada, to Ontario Environment Minister Rod Phillips. That letter calls for Canadian officials to urge further investment and upgrades at the Water Board’s wastewater treatment plant.

The Water Board wishes to reassure MPP Gates and our Canadian neighbors that it remains wholly committed to proper wastewater treatment and the distribution of the highest-quality drinking water consistent with public health laws and regulations, as well as the public enjoyment of natural resources, the protection of fish and wildlife, the economic development of the City of Niagara Falls and the general wellbeing of the surrounding area.

To that end, the Water Board is investing in better wastewater treatment – today and in the future – with support from the State of New York that includes a \$20 million investment in the first phase of upgrading the Water Board’s wastewater infrastructure. Specifically, the Water Board is planning over \$27 Million in near-term upgrades to its aging wastewater treatment plant, intended to improve water quality. It actively is studying additional ways to reduce wastewater overflows into the Niagara River, including evaluating converting its wastewater treatment plant from an outdated chemical/physical with carbon filtration treatment plant to one that utilizes biological treatment, the treatment technology that is employed by most modern plants treating similar waste streams.

MPP Gates’s letter helps to call attention to the sewer discharges that result from outdated wastewater collection and treatment systems around the Great Lakes, from communities in Ontario, New York, and beyond. The Water Board has taken decisive action to become a leader in clean water, having earlier this year launched a “Wastewater Investment Initiative” (WIN) awareness campaign intended to continue educating the public regarding infrastructure improvement needs at the Board’s wastewater treatment plant located in Niagara Falls, as well as other technology upgrade needs across the Great Lakes region.

As part of the WIN campaign, the Water Board has welcomed local, state, and federal leaders to become more involved in highlighting and advocating for infrastructure investment at aging wastewater facilities. It has been working to educate the community on immediate and long-term infrastructure demands, has issued a series of educational communications, and offered guided wastewater treatment facility tours for media and elected officials. MPP Gates’s letter adds one more voice to the growing chorus calling for further state/provincial and federal investment in wastewater infrastructure throughout the Great Lakes region.

For more information on the NFWB, visit [www.NFWB.org](http://www.NFWB.org).

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