

Water and Waste

A Small Investment Today For An Affordable, Healthy Tomorrow

Is there an increase in my utility bill?

Your bill is made up of charges for three services - water, sewer and a quarterly charge.

Effective January 1, 1999:

- the sewer charge is **decreasing**
- the quarterly charge **remains the same** for the third year in a row.
- there is an **increase** in the water charge

For a typical residential customer (a family of four), with a quarterly bill of \$120.25 in 1998, the increase in the combined annual cost for water and sewer services is approximately .31 per week or \$16.00 per year. This represents a 3.3% increase. Smaller households (2 adults) with quarterly bills of \$92.29 can expect an increase of about .23 per week or \$11.84 per year. This represents a 3.1% increase.

The combined water and sewer rate increase is the **lowest in ten years!**

Why is the water charge increasing?

To ensure a safe, reliable and affordable water supply for today and the future.

The increase is necessary to :

Pay off current debt incurred in the past to improve and maintain the existing water supply system.

Our 79 year old water system delivers an average of 250 million litres of water from Shoal Lake to 178,000 homes and businesses each day. Over the years, our enormous and complex water delivery system had to be expanded and improved.

Save money to pay for improvements critical to the future of our water supply.

To avoid incurring new debt, we have established reserve funds to offset the costs of essential

improvement projects. Of every dollar you pay for water service, .25 goes into the Aqueduct Rehabilitation and Water Treatment Plant Reserves.

We have completed half of a 10 year program to rehabilitate the Shoal Lake Aqueduct. The Aqueduct is a large enclosed pipe., 155 kilometers long, that transports water from Shoal Lake to Winnipeg. If we had borrowed money to finance this work, the price would have been \$105 million including interest charges - nearly double the actual \$53 million cost of the project.

A proposal has been developed to construct a water treatment plant after the turn of the century. Water quality standards are becoming more rigorous as scientists learn more about the links between drinking water and health. We are committed to meeting these standards and ensuring a safe, high quality water supply. The estimated cost of this water treatment plant is \$200 million. By accumulating funds in the Water Treatment Plant Reserve today, we will reduce the overall cost of the plant in the future. Over the long term, all Winnipeg residents, their children and grandchildren will benefit.

Will the increases to my utility bill end soon?

Good news on the horizon!

The total cost of water and sewer services is expected to increase 3.6% in 2000 and 1.6% in 2001. Beginning in 2002, total rate increases should fall below the rate of inflation.

What can we do to reduce our water and sewer bill?

Everyone should lend a hand to conserve and protect our water supply!

Winnipeg residents are using 15% less water than in 1990. You can save money and conserve our valuable water supply by using less water. Call our Water Conservation Team at 986-7283 for tips on water conservation or to purchase an easy-to-install Deluxe Home Water Conservation Kit for only \$14.80.

Who can I call for more information on water and sewer services?

Please call our Customer Service Centre at 986-5858, Monday through Friday between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm (excluding holidays).
