
News Release

RED RIVER FLOODWAY EXPANSION PROJECT DELIVERS 1-IN-300 YEAR LEVEL OF FLOOD PROTECTION

Floodway Capable of Withstanding Flood Level Equivalent to 1826 Flood of Record

WINNIPEG, April 5, 2007 – Ten years after the 1997 Flood of the Century, Premier of Manitoba, Gary Doer, and Member of Parliament for Winnipeg South, Rod Bruinooge, on behalf of the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, today announced that the Red River Floodway Expansion Project has delivered a 1-in-300 year level of flood protection, which is equivalent to the 1826 flood - the largest flood in Manitoba history.

“Since construction on the expansion project began, crews have been working to increase the capacity of the channel,” said Premier Gary Doer. “Today, we are marking a major milestone for the floodway project by announcing that the floodway can now withstand a 1-in-300 year level flood – equivalent to the largest flood in Manitoba’s history – the flood of 1826. Over the upcoming weeks, the Manitoba Floodway Authority will be tendering additional work that will bring us closer to our final objective of providing a 1-in-700 year level of flood protection.”

“The Manitoba Red River floodway expansion project is critical to the long-term protection of Winnipeg and the surrounding municipalities,” said Member of Parliament for Winnipeg South, Rod Bruinooge. “The devastating flood only ten years ago serves to underscore the importance of having the right infrastructure in place, and Canada’s New Government is delivering on our commitment to get the project done.”

Also as part of today’s announcement, the Manitoba Floodway Authority (MFA) announced that TPG Pritchard Machine, a division of Pritchard Engineering Co. Ltd., has been awarded a \$5.8 million contract to undertake mechanical, hydraulic and electrical upgrades of the Inlet Control Structure. The Pritchard Group is a Manitoba company incorporated in 1923 and has worked on a number of major projects throughout North America including the restoration of the Golden Boy at the Manitoba Legislature. Earlier this year, TPG Pritchard Machine was awarded a related contract worth approximately \$700,000 to supply two new hydraulic cylinders for upgrades to the Inlet Structure Gates. The upgrade of the Inlet Control Structure will begin in May 2007.

Earlier today and in preparation for the upcoming summer construction season on the floodway project, the MFA unveiled its upcoming Construction Tender Plan that identified six channel excavation contracts as well as tenders for the Outlet Control Structure, the CPR Keewatin Railway Bridge and the CPR Emerson Railway Bridge. In April, the MFA is planning to tender approximately \$150 million in construction tenders on the expansion project.

Construction on the Red River Floodway Expansion Project was officially kicked off on September 23, 2005 and since that time, the floodway's capacity has been increased from 1-in-90 year to 1-in-300 year flood level. To date, approximately 31 kms, or approximately 64 per cent of the floodway channel, is under excavation with approximately 8,000,000 cubic metres of earth have been moved. To date over 1000 people have worked on the floodway project. Channel excavation work is scheduled to be completed in 2009 with associated bridge and related work being completed in 2010.

Today's announcement was made beside the Trans-Canada Highway East Bridge which has been built to the 1-in-700 year flood level and incorporates acceleration and deceleration lanes to improve traffic safety.

The Red River Floodway Expansion Project will provide significant flood protection for the residents of Winnipeg, West St. Paul and East St. Paul. It will divert more water around Winnipeg during major floods by more than doubling the capacity of the existing floodway channel. By improving flood protection to 1-in-700 year level of protection, floodway expansion will protect hundreds of thousands of people, homes and businesses, and will prevent more than \$12 billion in damages to the provincial economy during a major flood. Funding for this project is being shared equally by the Government of Canada and the Province of Manitoba to a total of \$665 million.

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