### Manitoba

#### Floodway Authority

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# TWO CONSORTIUM OF MANITOBA ENGINEERING FIRMS TO BE AWARDED CONTRACT FOR FLOODWAY EXPANSION PROJECT

# <u>First Nations Engineering Firm to Partner To Provide</u> <u>Engineering Expertise on Historic Project</u>

**Winnipeg, MB** – The Manitoba Floodway Authority (MFA) announced today that two consortiums of Manitoba engineering firms will be named the successful bidders to perform the engineering work on the final design of the Red River Floodway expansion project. Today's announcement represents an investment of approximately \$27 million in flood protection for Manitoba.

Manitoba Minister of Water Stewardship, Steve Ashton, and Reg Alcock, President of the Treasury Board and Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board made the announcement today at the Sheraton Winnipeg Hotel.

"Today's announcement is very good news for the successful firms, the Manitoba economy and the floodway expansion project," said Ashton. "Manitoba is blessed with a world-class engineering community and we are very pleased that these firms have joined together to build on the expertise and experience of each firm. This is an excellent example of how a made-in-Manitoba solution is benefiting the floodway project."

"By partnering together on this historic project, Manitobans can rest assured that the most experienced and technically capable engineering firms are working to protect the environment and the economy from Red River floods," said Alcock. "The Government of Canada applauds all of the successful firms in partnering on this critical national infrastructure project. Today's announcement ensures that the expanded floodway will be a made-in-Manitoba innovation that will have a long-lasting benefit for future generations."

The successful consortiums are:

- KGS Group/Acres/SNC Lavalin/ UMA/ Wardrop/Earth Tech/ Barnes & Duncan/ First Canadian Engineers will be awarded the *Main Floodway Channel*, *Structures and West Dyke* design contract which will include:
  - Widening of the existing channel to a design capacity of a 1 in a 700 year flood.
  - o Modifications to 8 drainage structures.
  - o Relocation to the City of Winnipeg's Aqueduct
  - o Improvements to the Floodway Inlet Control Structure.
  - o Expansion of the Outlet Structure and discharge channel into the Red River, including erosion protection downstream of the outlet structure.
  - Extension and raising of the West Dyke.
  - Potential mitigation works to minimize impacts to groundwater resources, socio-economic and biophysical impacts.





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**Duncan/First Canadian Engineers** who will be awarded the *Bridges and Transportation works* design contract which will include:

- o Replacement of 6 highway bridge crossings and 1 railway bridge over the Floodway.
- o Rehabilitation of 5 railway bridge crossings over the Floodway.
- o Associated roadworks with the highway bridge crossings.
- o Associated trackage with the railway bridge crossings.
- o Temporary detour structures for the railway bridges.
- o Channel excavation within 200 meters of the bridges.

"We are pleased with the work that has already been undertaken by some of these firms as part of the predesign process," said Ernie Gilroy, CEO of MFA. "All of the firms have offices in Manitoba and some are also affiliated with national engineering firms. We are fortunate that they have chosen to work together on this historic project. Today's announcement is a significant next step as we move forward on the planned start of construction this summer."

Ashton noted First Canadian Engineers, an engineering firm operated by Tribal Councils Investment Group of Manitoba Ltd. and representing fifty-five Manitoba First Nation communities, is a partner with both consortiums working on both parcels. "Under the terms of the contract, the Floodway Authority will ensure that Aboriginal people have a meaningful role on a variety of aspects of the engineering process."

In July, the MFA issued a Request for Qualification (RFQ) for engineering work on three components – the Floodway Channel, the Inlet Control Structure/West Dike and the bridges and transportation – of the floodway expansion project. The RFQ was posted on the MERX tendering system for forty days. Submissions were reviewed by technical experts from the MFA, Manitoba Water Stewardship and Manitoba Transportation and Government Services. After reviewing all of the submissions, MFA combined the Inlet Control Structure/West Dike parcel together with the Floodway Channel component to provide greater efficiencies on the project.

The Red River Floodway expansion project will divert more water around Winnipeg during major floods by more than doubling the capacity of the floodway channel. By improving flood protection to 1 in 700 year level of protection, floodway expansion will protect more than 450,000 Manitobans, over 140,000 homes, over 8,000 businesses and prevent more than \$12 billion in damages to the provincial economy. Canada and Manitoba have confirmed their commitment to complete the expanded floodway at an estimated cost of \$665 million.

Pending environmental approval, construction of the \$665 million floodway expansion project will begin in the summer of 2005.

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