
News Release

CANADA'S NEW GOVERNMENT AND THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA EACH CONTRIBUTE UP TO \$170.5 MILLION TO COMPLETE THE RED RIVER FLOODWAY EXPANSION

(Winnipeg, Manitoba – February 23, 2007) – The Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, and the Honourable Gary Doer, Premier of Manitoba, together with the Honourable Vic Toews, President of the Treasury Board, and the Honourable Ron Lemieux, Manitoba Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation have announced that Canada's New Government and the Province of Manitoba will make matching contributions of up to \$170.5 million to the Red River Floodway Expansion project.

“Our Government's investment in the Red River Floodway expansion recognizes that putting the right infrastructure in place will save lives and property in Winnipeg and the surrounding area,” stated Minister Cannon. “By funding this high-priority project, Canada's New Government is respecting its commitment to Manitobans made by the Prime Minister only months ago.”

“I want to thank the federal government for its commitment here today,” said Premier Doer. “This means we now have the full funding needed to complete the floodway expansion, which is currently underway. We are proud to be building on the vision of Duff Roblin by modernizing flood protection for Manitoba families and businesses.”

“The Red River Floodway expansion is crucial to the safety and security of Manitobans” said Minister Toews. “With the devastation of the 1997 flood still fresh in mind, there is no denying the necessity for increased flood protection. This partnership investment ensures that the Floodway provides that level of protection.”

Canada's New Government has fully delivered on its commitment to complete the expansion of the Red River Floodway. This funding will allow the project to proceed without delays and avoid any resulting cost increases. The governments of Canada and Manitoba are cost sharing the \$665 million expansion 50-50. This project will improve flood protection for the residents of Winnipeg, West St. Paul, and East St. Paul. The two governments had previously announced joint contributions totalling \$324 million toward this project.

“This is a historic day for Manitoba,” said Minister Lemieux. “The province and the federal government have been working hard to upgrade Manitoba’s flood works, both for Winnipeg and also for surrounding communities. We know how devastating a flood can be and today’s announcement means Manitobans will be better protected in the future.”

The Government of Canada's contribution comes from the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund, which supports large-scale projects of major national and regional significance, in areas that are vital to sustaining economic growth and supporting an enhanced quality of life for Canadians.

-30-

Contacts:

Natalie Sarafian
Office of Minister Cannon
(613) 991-0700

Cabinet Communications
Province of Manitoba
(204) 945-1494

Infrastructure Canada
Communications and Promotion
(613) 948-1148

BACKGROUND

The Red River Floodway Expansion Project 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 more than 450,000 Manitobans, over 140,000 homes, over 8,000 businesses and will prevent more than \$12 billion in damages to the provincial economy during a major flood.

As one of the largest public infrastructure projects in Manitoba's history, construction of the \$665 million expansion project was officially kicked off at a historic groundbreaking ceremony near Grande Pointe, Manitoba, on September 23, 2005. To date, the project is moving along on schedule. Over 10 million cubic metres of earth have been tendered with approximately 6.5 million cubic metres already being excavated. As a result, the level of flood protection has already been increased to from 1-in-90 year to 1-in-140 year flood level. By early this spring, it is anticipated that construction progress will result in a 1-in-300 year level of flood protection – equivalent to the largest flood in Manitoba history.

The project increases Winnipeg's flood protection from 1-in-90 year to 1-in-700 year by increasing the floodway's capacity from 60,000 cubic feet per (cfs) second to 140,000 cfs. The project involves the excavation of 21 million cubic metres of earth, the re-construction of 6 highway and rail bridges (including the national transportation routes for the Trans-Canada Highway and the CPR and CNR Main lines), improvements to the inlet control structure, construction of a redesigned floodway outlet, modifications to water, gas, hydro and other utilities and raising and extending the West Dike.

To date, work on nine major components has been undertaken:

- Excavation of the Floodway Embankment Gap east of Grande Pointe (completed);
- Excavation of 31 km of the Floodway Channel from the Inlet to the just south of the PTH 59 North Bridge (ongoing);
- Completion of the replacement and upgrade of the Trans-Canada #1 Highway Bridge (completed);
- Replacement and upgrade of the PTH 59 South Bridge (ongoing);
- Replacement of the CN Sprague Railway Bridge (ongoing);
- Replacement of the CN Redditt Railway Bridge (recently begun);
- Relocation of the City of Winnipeg Aqueduct (ongoing);
- Flood protection improvements to the West Dike (ongoing); and
- Various utility modifications along the floodway channel (ongoing).

Work that will be required to be undertaken includes improvements to Inlet Control Structure, additional channel excavation, replacement of the CPR Emerson and CPR Keewatin Railway Bridges, replacement of the Outlet Control Structure and improvements to the West Dike.

Currently approximately 200 people and over 50 companies are working on the project. Over the course of the project over 1000 people will be directly employed on the floodway project. As the project proceeds, initiatives related to recreation and economic development are being pursued.

Excavation of the floodway channel is scheduled to be completed by the spring of 2009 with associated bridge work completed in 2010.