



## Release

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For Immediate Release

### **FLOODWAY AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES AND PUBLIC INFORMATION BOOTH AS PART OF FOURTH ROUND OF CONSULTATION**

#### **Public Encouraged to Learn about Project's Environment Impact Statement (EIS)**

**Winnipeg, Mb** – To provide more opportunity for the public to learn about the Red River Floodway expansion project and the project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the Manitoba Floodway Expansion Authority (MFEA) has announced additional outreach initiatives as part of its fourth round of public consultation.

“Since January, we have been listening and working with Manitobans to improve the floodway expansion project,” said Ernie Gilroy, CEO of MFEA. “The public's feedback and input has been invaluable and has helped to shape and improve this project. Our commitment is to facilitate an inclusive, innovative and informative public consultation process. The fourth round of public consultation is an excellent opportunity for the public to learn about these improvements and the project's EIS as we move forward on this historic project.”

The initiatives announced today include three public open houses in Lorette, East St. Paul and Winnipeg, as well as a Public Information Booth that will be established at the St. Norbert Farmers' Market, the Selkirk Towne Plaza and St. Vital Centre.

“These initiatives complement other components of the fourth round of public consultation which includes half-day seminars on the environmental impact statement for local municipalities, stakeholder groups and the project's technical advisory committee,” said the Honourable Reg Alcock, President of the Treasury Board and Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board, on behalf of the Honourable Stephen Owen, Minister of Western Economic Diversification and Minister of State (Sport). “Individual meetings with local First Nations and Métis organizations are also being planned, which is all part of our ongoing commitment to share information and provide Manitobans with the opportunity to provide feedback on this important project.”



“In 1997, the Red River Floodway came very close to reaching its capacity during the Flood of the Century,” said Steve Ashton, Manitoba Minister of Water Stewardship. “An expanded floodway will protect an additional 450,000 residents and thousands of local businesses, who would otherwise be at risk of flooding during a 1 in 700 year flood. The fourth round of consultation is another opportunity for the public to learn about the benefits of this critical flood protection project.” Ashton noted that it is estimated that the potential damages from a 1 in 700 year flood would be in excess of \$10 billion.

On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, after three separate rounds of consultations were completed, MFEA submitted an EIS to Manitoba Conservation for review. The EIS concluded *that the Project, after the implementation of mitigation measures outlined in the EIS, is expected to create no significant adverse effects on the biophysical or related socio-economic environments*. The fourth round of public consultation has been undertaken to update the public and provide information on the project’s EIS.

Since January, MFEA has undertaken an extensive public consultation process regarding the floodway expansion project. The process included consultation with municipal Councils, local citizen groups, interested Aboriginal communities, environmental non-government organizations and local residents in the RMs of Morris, Macdonald, Ritchot, Taché, Springfield, St. Clements, East St. Paul, St. Andrews and West St. Paul, in the Towns of Niverville and Morris, and in the cities of Selkirk and Winnipeg.

In the aftermath of the 1997 “flood of the century”, the Governments of Canada and Manitoba invested \$130 million in flood protection measures, including \$110 million for rural Manitoba communities. Over the past year, Canada and Manitoba have announced an additional \$240 million to begin work on the floodway expansion project. Canada has recognized the project as a national infrastructure priority.

“We want to invite Manitobans to learn more about one of largest infrastructure projects in Manitoba’s history,” said Gilroy.

The EIS can also be accessed at  
[www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/envapprovals/registries/redriverfloodway/index.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/envapprovals/registries/redriverfloodway/index.html)

For more information on the independent environmental assessment process, please visit [www.floodwayeia.com](http://www.floodwayeia.com). For more information on MFEA and the floodway expansion project, please visit [www.floodwayauthority.mb.ca](http://www.floodwayauthority.mb.ca) or contact:

Manitoba Floodway Expansion Authority  
200-155 Carlton Street, Winnipeg, MB R3C 3H8  
Toll free: 1-866-356-6355  
Winnipeg: 945-4900

Contact: Ronuk Modha  
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## **PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES**

### ***Learn About the Floodway Expansion's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)***

Since January 2004, the Manitoba Floodway Expansion Authority (MFEA) has been listening to Manitobans about the proposed Red River Floodway expansion project. These consultations have helped to shape and improve the floodway project. Last month, MFEA submitted an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to Manitoba Conservation for review. A fourth round of public consultations has been scheduled to provide an opportunity to help inform the public about the project's EIS.

MFEA representatives will be available at Public Information Booths at the following locations:

Saturday, September 18,	St. Norbert Farmers Market, 3514 Pembina Highway
Saturday, September 25,	Selkirk Towne Plaza, Selkirk, MB 366 Main Street
Sunday, September 26,	St. Vital Centre, Winnipeg, MB

In addition, Public Open Houses will take place at the following locations:

Monday, September 27 <sup>th</sup> 5:00pm to 8:00 pm	Lorette Parish Hall, 1282 Dawson Road, Lorette, MB
Wednesday, September 29 <sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm	Henderson Highway Legion Hall, 3600 Devries, East St. Paul, MB
Saturday, October 2 9:00 am to 4:00 pm	Engineering Building, University of Manitoba

For more information, please visit our website at [www.floodwayauthority.mb.ca](http://www.floodwayauthority.mb.ca) or contact us at

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