



Release

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NEW MODEL TO ASSIST IN ENGINEERING OF FLOODWAY OUTLET CONTROL STRUCTURE

Floodway Expansion Projects Builds on Manitoba Research and Engineering Expertise

Winnipeg, Manitoba – Steve Ashton, Manitoba Minister of Water Stewardship, and Raymond Simard, Member of Parliament for St. Boniface, on behalf of Reg Alcock, President of the Treasury Board and Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board, today unveiled a new, innovative scale model designed to test the hydraulic performance of the proposed design of an upgraded Floodway Outlet Control Structure at the Hydraulics Research and Testing Facility at the University of Manitoba.

“This project is an excellent example of how the benefits of the floodway expansion project flow to various sectors of our economy,” said Ashton. “In this case, the University of Manitoba is working with local engineering firms to provide analysis of the proposed outlet design. This initiative builds on local expertise and represents an innovative partnership between the academic, technology and business communities.”

“Increased flood protection for Winnipeg is a national infrastructure priority and the Government of Canada is pleased with the project’s progress and with the participation of the University of Manitoba,” said Simard, on behalf of Alcock. “This scale model helps illustrate flood impacts on a small scale, but it is also important to remember that the actual effects – economical, environmental, social – of another major flood in Winnipeg are much more difficult to measure and may have far more devastating consequences.”

“The scale model will be important for testing the hydraulic performance of the proposed design,” said Ernie Gilroy, CEO of the Manitoba Floodway Expansion Authority (MFEA). “It will help us to assess the impact of a new design on the expanded floodway and will help us to ensure that the structure meets its flood protection objectives. We are pleased to be able to work with the University of Manitoba and our engineers on this innovative project.”

As part of the Red River Floodway expansion project, the current capacity of the existing channel will increase from 1,700 cubic metres (60,000 cubic feet) of water per second to 4,000 cubic metres (140,000 cubic feet) per second. To ensure that the Floodway Outlet Control Structure can accommodate the increased discharge, an upgraded outlet structure is being designed.



The 1:50 scale model will test and assess the hydraulic performance of the proposed design. The testing will focus on velocities in the vicinity of the outlet structure as well as energy dissipation so as to mitigate any downstream erosion of an expanded floodway. The cost for the project is estimated at \$110,000 and will include construction of the model, housing the model, testing at the Civil Engineering Hydraulics Lab and further analysis by Acres Engineering Consultants.

“I felt very strongly that model testing of the proposed floodway outlet structure should be done in Manitoba and the Hydraulics Research & Testing Facility is well equipped to facilitate this task,” said Professor Jay Doering, Head of Civil Engineering at the University of Manitoba. “Partnering with local industry and government is both simulating and most welcome. Floodway expansion is yet another example of the world class engineering that occurs in this province. I am fortunate and proud to be associated with this project,” added Prof. Doering.

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 – more than one-third the total project cost. Canada has recognized the project as a national infrastructure priority.

Contact: Ronuk Modha,
Manitoba Floodway Expansion Authority
(204) 945-4178, (204) 945-4900 or 1-866-356-6355