



## Release

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For Immediate Release

### **TENDER ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF AN IMPROVED FLOODWAY OUTLET CONTROL STRUCTURE AT LOCKPORT**

#### **Important Structure of Floodway System to be Widened, Additional Erosion Control Measures To Be Incorporated**

The Manitoba Floodway Authority (MFA) has recently advertised a tender for work on the Floodway Outlet Control Structure near Lockport as part of the Red River Floodway Expansion Project.

“The Outlet Control Structure is a critical component of the overall floodway system and these improvements are a major investment in the province’s flood protection system,” said Ernie Gilroy, CEO of the MFA. “This investment ensures that the outlet structure has the capacity to accommodate the increased flow that will pass through the structure in the event of a 1-in-700 year flood.”

Today’s announcement will result in a new, wider outlet structure being constructed at the current location. The changes will mean that the outlet structure and the channel that discharges water from the floodway back into the Red River will be widened to approximately twice its existing size to accommodate flow during a 1-in-700 year flood. In addition, side walls will be constructed in the channel to prevent erosion and chute and baffle blocks will be constructed on the downstream end of the Outlet to further reduce the speed of water re-entering the Red River. Work on the Outlet will begin in the Fall, 2007.

“Over the course of our public consultation, residents who live close to the outlet structure and municipal officials expressed concern with the impact of erosion on the riverbank north of the Outlet,” said Gilroy. “As a result, and as a precautionary measure, the design of the new and improved Outlet will incorporate leading edge technology to help reduce water speed and the size of waves re-entering the Red River.” Gilroy noted that the improvements will help to ensure that the speed of water passing through the outlet remains largely unchanged from the pre-expansion condition.

The MFA also announced that a subsequent tender will be issued to incorporate rip rap and/or other erosion control measures for approximately 1.2 kilometres on the west bank of the Red River immediately north of the floodway outlet. This work is scheduled to be undertaken in the winter of 2008.

Earlier this month, the MFA announced that TPG Pritchard Machine, a division of Pritchard Engineering Co. Ltd., had been awarded a \$5.8 million contract to undertake mechanical, hydraulic and electrical upgrades of the Inlet Control Structure near St. Norbert. 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. The upgrade of the Inlet Control Structure will begin in May 2007.

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 structure work being completed in 2010.

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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