



Release

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For Immediate Release

FLOOD SIMULATION PROJECT AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC ON-LINE

Simulation Demonstrates Impact of 700 Year Flood With Existing & Expanded Floodway

Winnipeg, MB – The Manitoba Floodway Authority (MFA) today announced that the first phase of its flood simulation project is now available for viewing by the general public on-line at www.floodwayauthority.mb.ca. The new media presentation uses advanced technology to simulate various Red River flood scenarios and helps to inform the public about the benefits of the Red River Floodway Expansion project.

“This is an innovative project designed to enhance the public’s understanding of the floodway project,” said Ernie Gilroy, CEO of MFA. “As we build on the first phase, we anticipate applying this technology to assist in project design and construction, demonstrate project components, as well as examining the potential for its application for emergency preparedness.”

The first phase of the flood simulation project demonstrates the impact of a 1-in-700 year flood with the existing floodway on Winnipeg versus the impact of the same flood with an expanded floodway. The simulation, based on sophisticated computer software, demonstrates that the impact of a flood of this size would result in approximately two-thirds of Winnipeg being impacted by basement and overland flooding. With an expanded floodway, the amount of flooding within Winnipeg would be dramatically reduced to isolated locations along the Red River.

Gilroy noted that a flood simulation project was one of the main recommendations of MFA’s “*Recreation and Economic Development Opportunities Report*” released earlier this year.

The flood simulator was first unveiled during the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission’s public hearing process earlier this year. It was completed with the expertise and technology of the Canadian Hydraulics Centre of the National Research Council.

By more than doubling the capacity of the existing floodway, the expansion is designed to provide a 1-in-700 year level of flood protection and protect more than 450,000 Manitobans, more than 140,000 homes, more than 8,000 businesses, and prevent more than \$12 billion in damages to the provincial economy.

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.

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