



## Release

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For Immediate Release

### **FLOODWAY BRIDGE FULLY OPENED TO TRAFFIC**

#### **Both North and Southbound Structures of the PTH 59 South Bridge Completed**

The Manitoba Floodway Authority (MFA) has announced that all four lanes of the PTH 59 South Bridge were opened to traffic this past weekend. The new bridge is 4 metres (13 feet) higher and 50 metres (164 feet) longer than the previous bridge and has been designed to accommodate a 1-in-700 year flood event.

“The opening of the PTH 59 South Bridge demonstrates the significant progress that has been made on the floodway expansion project,” said Vic Toews, President of Treasury Board. “The Government of Canada is pleased to support this critically important project that delivers flood protection for residents of Winnipeg while improving transportation links to surrounding communities.”

“The PTH 59 South Bridge is now at the 1-in-700 year flood level and will be able to withstand a major flood,” said Ron Lemieux, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. “The bridge is an important transportation link for the residents in the area and we are pleased to see the project completed on time and on budget. This bridge is just one of the many transportation infrastructure projects that Manitoba is investing in.”

The PTH 59 South Bridge project involved the replacement of the two existing northbound and southbound structures that cross the floodway, including related roadworks and channel excavation. In addition, Prairie Grove Road was relocated higher along the bank, ensuring that the road remains above the flood water level for longer periods during flooding periods. In addition to the PTH 59 South Bridge, the floodway project also included the replacement of the Trans-Canada #1 Highway East Bridge, which was completed and opened to traffic in the fall of 2006.

“Today marks a major milestone for the floodway expansion project,” said Ernie Gilroy, CEO of the MFA. “Last fall, the Trans-Canada #1 Highway East Bridge, which is a national transportation link, was completed on a priority basis and opened to traffic and today another key transportation link has been upgraded to meet the 1-in-700 year flood level.”

The Red River Floodway Expansion Project will divert more water around Winnipeg during major floods by more than doubling the capacity of the floodway channel from 60,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) (1,700 cubic metres per second (m<sup>3</sup>/s) to 140,000 cfs (.4,000 cubic metres per second (m<sup>3</sup>/s). 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 prevent more than \$12 billion in damages to the provincial economy.

In the spring of 2007, the expansion project increased the level of flood protection provided from 1-in-90 to 1-in-300, providing flood protection for an additional 150,000 Winnipeg residents. To date, over 1000 workers and 50 companies have participated in the construction of the project.

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