

# Release

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For immediate Release

## **FLOODWAY AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES SERIES OF OPEN HOUSES AS PART OF ONGOING PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS**

**Winnipeg, Mb** – The Manitoba Floodway Expansion Authority (MFEA) today announced a series of open houses will be conducted over the coming month. The series of public meetings is part of the ongoing public consultation process announced by MFEA in March.

MFEA CEO, Ernie Gilroy said, "We have made a commitment to an inclusive, innovative and informative public consultation process. We want to invite Manitobans to have their say on one of largest infrastructure projects in Manitoba's history and help shape the future of their own communities for generations to come."

The open houses will take place from 5:00pm – 9:00pm at each of the following dates and locations:

- |   |  |   |                     |
|---|--|---|---------------------|
| > | Oakbank Baptist Church                 | - | Monday, April 19    |
| > | East Selkirk Recreation Centre         | - | Tuesday, April 20   |
| > | St. Norbert, Howden Community Centre   | - | Wednesday, April 21 |
| > | Morris Convention Centre               | - | Monday, April 26    |
| > | Winnipeg, St. Norbert Community Centre | - | Thursday, April 29  |
| > | Winnipeg, Vince Leah Recreation Centre | - | Monday, May 3       |

These public meetings complement other elements of the public consultation process announced by MFEA. These elements include:

- Presentations to local municipal councils including Ricot, West St. Paul, Winnipeg, St. Clements, Selkirk, St. Andrews, McDonald, Springfield, Morris, Tache, Niverville and East St. Paul.
- Stakeholder roundtables with relevant special interest groups including Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, Coalition for Flood Protection, Keystone Agricultural Producers, Manitoba Chamber of Commerce, North Ritcot Action Committee, Red River Valley Group, Red River Basin Commission, Manitoba Business Council, Manitoba Heavy Construction Association, Manitoba Building Trades Council and others.

Mr. Gilroy said, "The expansion of the Red River Floodway will dramatically improve the quality of life for Manitobans. It will make residents more secure, protect the environment, create jobs & economic growth and establish a model for community involvement. We look forward to hearing from Manitobans in the months ahead."

The current round of public consultation is focusing on a number of key project elements, including: compensation, water levels, recreation & economic opportunities, mitigation, floodway operating rules and summer operation.

MFEA will report outcomes of the next stage of public consultation to its project partners and the ongoing independent environmental assessment process. The report will be made public at the conclusion of the MFEA consultation period and highlight next steps.

Over the last year, the Government of Canada and Province of Manitoba have announced \$240 million to begin work on the Red River Floodway expansion – more than one-third the total cost. Canada has recognized the project as a national priority. Since 1997's "flood of the

century", Canada and Manitoba invested an additional \$100 million in rural flood protection measures.

For more information on the independent environmental assessment process, contact [www.floodwayeia.com](http://www.floodwayeia.com).