

Release

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For Immediate Release

FLOODWAY AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES STAKEHOLDER MEETING TO DISCUSS FRAMEWORK OF PROJECT LABOUR AGREEMENT

Winnipeg, MB – The Manitoba Floodway Expansion Authority (MFEA) today announced plans to host a stakeholder meeting to help shape the framework of a project labour agreement for the floodway project. The meeting is part of MFEA's ongoing public consultation process announced earlier this month.

MFEA CEO, Ernie Gilroy said, "Managing one single labour agreement that guarantees labour peace and cost certainty for the life of the project is a better deal for taxpayers than juggling dozens of varied labour agreements and the risk of uncertainty. We look forward to consulting key stakeholders regarding a framework for an agreement that achieves our objectives on behalf of taxpayers."

The day-long stakeholder session will take place Monday, April 12th at the Winnipeg Convention Centre. The meeting will be facilitated by Prof. Wally Fox-Decent and focus on three key framework elements:

- size of contracts to be let for floodway work
- employment equity and job training
- working conditions

An invitation list will be finalized in the coming days. Participants will be contacted directly. The meeting will be a private session. Media opportunities will be arranged.

Mr. Gilroy concluded, "It is our goal to get the new floodway built before the next big flood hits. In addition to providing increased security for residents, the project will create thousands of local jobs, protect the environment and give residents an opportunity to help shape the future of their communities."

Over the last year, the Government of Canada and Province of Manitoba have announced \$240 million to begin work on the floodway expansion project – more than one-third the total costs. Canada has recognized the project as a national priority.

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Following 1997's "flood of the century", Canada and Manitoba invested \$130 million in flood protection measures - \$110 million for rural residents in the Red River Valley.