

Release

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For Immediate Release

FLOODWAY AUTHORITY ESTABLISHES TOLL-FREE PHONE ACCESS FOR RURAL RESIDENTS

Winnipeg, Manitoba – Manitoba Floodway Expansion Authority (MFEA) today announced the establishment of permanent, toll-free telephone access for rural Manitoba residents in the Red River Basin.

The toll free telephone number is **1-866-356-6355**. Residents and stakeholders are invited use the service to obtain general information, including:

- Upcoming public meetings
- Expressions of Interest for recreation & economic opportunities
- Project description
- Environmental assessment process

Last week, MFEA announced plans for the next stage of extensive and inclusive public consultations associated with the Red River Floodway Expansion.

MFEA CEO, Ernie Gilroy said, “It is important that rural residents have an equal opportunity to participate in this dialogue. We want to invite Manitobans to have their say on the project, share their ideas and help shape the future of their communities for generations to come.”

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

Following 1997’s “flood of the century”, Canada and Manitoba invested \$130 million in flood protection measures - \$110 million for rural residents of the Red River Basin.

More information about the independent environmental impact assessment is available at www.floodwayeia.com.

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