

June 08, 2004

**PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS RECOMMENDATIONS OF  
INDEPENDENT FACILITATOR ON FLOODWAY EXPANSION PROJECT**

**Compromise Solution To Allow Project to Proceed: Ashton**

Water Stewardship Minister Steve Ashton announced today that the province has accepted the recommendations of independent facilitator Wally Fox-Decent who led discussions between stakeholders regarding the Red River Floodway expansion project.

"Mr. Fox-Decent's recommendations represent a compromise for all parties," said Ashton. "We are satisfied that these recommendations address the public interest and will help to ensure that we move ahead with this important project effectively and efficiently."

"Mr. Fox-Decent's framework will allow us to move ahead on the top priority which is to build the expanded floodway," said Ashton. "We look forward to working with all stakeholders as we proceed with this historic project. These recommendations will now be forwarded to the Manitoba Floodway Expansion Authority (MFEA) for implementation. I have asked that these recommendations contained in Mr. Fox-Decent's report be implemented in an expedient manner to advance the negotiations of a project labour management sub-agreement, in accordance with the recommendations. As well, I've requested that MFEA establish mechanisms for the industry to participate in a meaningful and constructive manner."

Ashton expressed his gratitude to Fox-Decent for acting as independent facilitator and assisting in the discussions between all parties. "I would like to thank Mr. Fox-Decent for his hard work and commitment to working with all the parties on this important project for Manitobans. His experience and guidance have been valuable assets in this process."