



## Release

For Immediate Release  
March 30, 2005

### **NO DISRUPTION TO SPRINGHILL SKI SEASON DURING FLOODWAY CONSTRUCTION**

#### **Priorities For Use of Excavated Earth Outlined, Including Opportunity For Springhill Winter Sports Park: Gilroy**

**Winnipeg, MB** – The Manitoba Floodway Authority (MFA) today confirmed that there will be no disruption to the ski season at Springhill Winter Sports Park during floodway construction over the next five years. MFA also indicated that it is prepared to consider whether excavated earth from the floodway project may support potential enhancements to snowboard and ski runs at Springhill.

“Springhill is a recreation and tourism destination for thousands of skiers and snowboarders each season,” said Reg Alcock, President of the Treasury Board and Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. “We are pleased that the Authority will be adjusting its construction schedule to meet the needs of the ski facility as Springhill examines potential opportunities for enhancements.”

“In addition to improving flood protection, the expansion project provides an opportunity to support recreation and economic development opportunities along the floodway,” said Steve Ashton, Minister of Water Stewardship. “As an existing commercial operation on the floodway, the Authority is committed to ensuring that the facility is not negatively impacted. This is good news for Springhill and the skiers and snowboarders who enjoy the facilities.”

Originally, plans for the excavation of the floodway channel had the potential to disrupt the operations of the Springhill facility. However, MFA has reviewed its engineering plans and adjusted its construction plan to ensure that the facility’s ski operations will not be required to relocate or close during the expansion project.

In addition, MFA is prepared to consider the compatibility of the placement of earth from the excavation of the floodway channel with Springhill’s future plans for its ski and snowboard runs. “Floodway expansion will result in a significant amount of excavated earth and some of it may have the potential to enhance the ski and snowboard runs at Springhill,” said Ernie Gilroy, CEO of MFA. “Once Springhill has identified their future plans, we look forward to determining whether earth from the floodway project can support their plans.”

“We are very pleased that floodway construction will not negatively impact the use of Springhill for our clients,” said Trevor Pajak, Assistant Manager at Springhill. “We believe that the expansion project and the excavated earth resulting from the project provide opportunities to enhance our facilities for the benefit of our user groups. We are very excited about our future plans for the park and we look forward to working with the Floodway Authority as we examine our potential future options.”

Gilroy also outlined priorities for the re-use of excavated earth associated with the floodway expansion project including:

- Provincial highway construction
- Recreation – including Springhill Winter Park
- Rural Municipalities
- Private individuals

Gilroy noted that one of the main recommendations of the Recreation and Economic Development Opportunities Report released in January was the initiation of a process that will allow Manitobans to access the excavated earth from the floodway channel. Gilroy said that more details related to the re-use of excavated earth will be released once the project’s construction schedule is complete. Floodway expansion will result in the excavation of approximately 27 million cubic yards of earth along the 48 km of the floodway channel.

“The re-use of excavated earth was identified as a top priority for Manitobans,” said Gilroy. “In addition to local and regional infrastructure priorities, the re-use of excavated earth may help to support the development of additional recreation opportunities in the region. These priorities will add even more value to one of the largest infrastructure projects in Manitoba’s history.”

Once completed, the Red River Floodway expansion project will protect 450,000 residents, 140,000 homes, over 8,000 businesses and prevent over \$12 billion in flood losses during a 1 in 700 year flood event. Canada and Manitoba have confirmed their commitment to complete the floodway expansion project. Canada has identified the project as a national infrastructure priority. Pending environmental approvals, construction is scheduled to begin this summer and is anticipated to be completed in 2009.

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