



# Release

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For Immediate Release

## FLOODWAY AUTHORITY TO INVITE LOCAL RESIDENTS TO APPLY TO PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC LIAISON COMMITTEE

### Committee Expanded to Respond to Requests from Rural Municipalities

The Manitoba Floodway Authority (MFA) is inviting interested residents from city of Winnipeg and the Red River Valley to apply to participate in a Public Liaison Committee (PLC) that will be established to provide information and facilitate community input into the Red River Floodway Expansion Project. As part of today's announcement, MFA also confirmed that the PLC is being expanded to include all nine rural municipalities located in the vicinity of the floodway.

"We are pleased that the Manitoba Floodway Authority has expanded the framework of the Public Liaison Committee to meet the request of a number of the municipalities," said the Honourable Vic Toews, Minister Responsible for Treasury Board and Member of Parliament for Provencher, on behalf of the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities. "This is a good example of how the Manitoba Floodway Authority is responding to the public and we encourage local residents to take this opportunity to participate."

"The PLC will have an important role to play in the months and years ahead as the floodway expansion project proceeds," said Ron Lemieux, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. "We would encourage any interested resident to consider submitting an application to sit on the committee and, in the process, contribute to this historic project."

In February, the public will be invited to volunteer for four public positions on the PLC through advertisements in local newspapers.

The purpose of the PLC is to provide an opportunity for community input and information sharing between the community, citizen representatives and the MFA on the floodway project's construction and environmental protection initiatives. The committee will consist of 19 members including:

- Public Citizens – 4 members
- Rural Municipal Representatives – 9 members
- City of Selkirk – 1 member
- City of Winnipeg – 1 member
- Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs – 1 member
- Manitoba Métis Federation – 1 member
- Manitoba Floodway Authority – 2 members

The PLC will have the ability to establish sub-committees to review specific matters as required, which are not being reviewed by other committees. It will be led by Co-Chairs, including one representative from the MFA and one chosen by a majority vote of the Committee.

In addition to the PLC, the MFA will establish a Groundwater Peer Review Team, which will include arms-length and independent persons with technical expertise to evaluate and provide their advice to the MFA regarding groundwater protection. The team will consist of 4 hydrogeology experts with expertise in monitoring, modeling, design and mitigation planning, and will also include a health risk expert. Final appointments to the Groundwater Peer Review Team will be made in consultation with federal and provincial regulators in the upcoming weeks.

“As the project gears up for what is likely to be its busiest construction season, both of these bodies will have an important role to play in the months and years ahead,” said Ernie Gilroy, CEO of the MFA. “The PLC will facilitate community input and help to ensure that the concerns of rural, urban, regional, bilingual and Aboriginal interests are represented while the Groundwater Peer Review Team will ensure that decisions regarding groundwater protection are based on and supported by the expertise of independent, third party technical experts.”

The PLC and Groundwater Peer Review Team are part of MFA’s ongoing commitment to public consultation which also includes individual meetings with local municipalities, construction industry representatives, and the Aboriginal community along with open houses, public information displays, public awareness advertising, a project website and a toll-free telephone line.

The Red River Floodway Expansion Project will divert more water around Winnipeg during major floods by more than doubling the capacity of the floodway channel. Once completed the project will protect more than 450,000 Manitobans, over 140,000 homes, over 8,000 businesses and could prevent more than \$12 billion in damages to the provincial economy.

For more information on the floodway expansion project, please visit [www.floodwayauthority.mb.ca](http://www.floodwayauthority.mb.ca) or contact the MFA at 945-4900 or toll free at 1-866-356-6355.

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