

LAKE MANITOBA LAKE ST. MARTIN

OUTLET CHANNELS PROJECT

Indigenous Economic Development Fund Update

Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure began engaging with Indigenous Peoples regarding the proposed Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project in 2016. Information on the proposed project can be found here: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/mit/wms/lmbismoutlets/index.html>.

In October 2022, the Manitoba government announced a new \$15-million fund to support Indigenous economic development opportunities related to the proposed project.

Current Status - Engaging with Indigenous Communities

Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure is reaching out to Indigenous communities to identify representatives and seek opportunities to discuss their perspectives as we develop the fund's framework. Community input will contribute to the guidelines for reviewing proposals and making funding decisions.

This engagement is separate from the Section 35 consultations, environmental approvals, and other engagement activities on the overall proposed Outlet Channels Project.

COMMUNITY INPUT CAN HELP DECIDE

- Who will get funding
- How much funding will be given to each proposal
- How proposals will be evaluated
- Who will sit on the evaluation committee (although it will have representation from several provincial departments)

Details:

- The current value of \$15 million will be distributed as \$5 million per year over three years.
- The funds will be accessed via proposals and provided as grants.
- A committee comprised of representatives from several provincial departments will evaluate proposals.
- 39 groups qualify to submit proposals.
- 39 groups have the opportunity to tell us what they would like the fund to accomplish, even if they do not wish to apply themselves, including:
 - types of projects/proposals
 - how funding should be distributed
 - what should be considered when evaluating proposals
- The fund will support smaller-scale proposals as well as larger proposals.
- Some proposal types cannot be included due to accounting and legal processes, these include any proposal with costs related to:
 - meeting statutory obligations
 - supporting political activities
 - meeting obligations about the duty to consult or accommodate



THIS FUND IS:

- For Indigenous economic development related to the proposed Outlet Channels project.
- Intended to help communities unlock more value from the proposed project for themselves.
- Open to creative proposals to diversify Indigenous economies. For example, projects that might qualify could include:
 - increasing access to skilled labour employment and training opportunities
 - financing for opportunities that support local businesses to work on the proposed project as contractors or in other roles
 - other local economic development and diversification initiatives
- Intended to have a lasting positive impact for communities beyond the project construction.

THIS FUND IS NOT:

- Flood compensation.
- Flood protection funding.
- Compensation for any other potential effects of the project.
- Payment in exchange for community cooperation with the project.
 - If a community submits a proposal, it does not mean they consent to the proposed Outlet Channels project.
 - Submitting a proposal does not affect a community's rights related to environmental review/approvals, heritage sites, Section 35 consultation, or ongoing engagement on the overall proposed Outlet Channels project.
- A direct award contract commitment.

FURTHER INFORMATION

As we receive input from Indigenous communities and further develop information about proposal processes, evaluation, and timelines, we will make it available online at: www.gov.mb.ca/mit/wms/lmblsmoutlets/indigenous_economic_dev_fund/index.html

We will also provide copies of this information to identified community representatives to distribute according to their community needs.

If you have further questions, please direct them to OutletChannels@gov.mb.ca