

# LAKE MANITOBA LAKE ST. MARTIN

## OUTLET CHANNELS PROJECT

**Newsletter - August 2021** Issue 9

### LET'S TALK

Manitoba Infrastructure (MI) continues to meet with Manitobans living within the flood-affected areas around Lake Manitoba, and Lake St. Martin, including Indigenous groups and communities; the Rural Municipality of Grahamdale; and property owners around Lake Manitoba. This process of sharing information and receiving feedback is essential to completing the licensing process before construction of the Outlet Channels Project can begin, to protect lives and property from the potentially devastating impacts of future flood events. A highlight of recent and upcoming meetings is included below:



### Indigenous Consultation

The Manitoba government is currently in Phase 2 of its consultation and engagement process. To date, highlights include:

- MI is continuing to consult, engage and implement the remainder of consultation activities under work plans with Indigenous communities.
- MI met with Indigenous communities and groups to discuss heritage field investigations and the proposed mitigations for the Outlet Channels Project. MI has committed to continuing discussions with these groups and will be scheduling another session after receipt of feedback on the Heritage Resource Impact Assessment Report.
- MI will be initiating discussions in early September with Indigenous communities in the Project area and the R.M. of Grahamdale on the establishment of an Environmental Advisory Committee.
- Draft responses to information requests and engineering reports will be shared with Indigenous communities.
- As of August 16, 2021, the Manitoba government has communicated by letter (842), meetings (206), and emails/ phone (3,585) with 39 Indigenous groups and communities about the Outlet Channels Project.

<b>August 10, 11 and 17</b> Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) and Federal Review Team	Meetings to discuss Project information related to surface water, groundwater, fish and fish habitat, wetlands, wildlife, Indigenous Consultation and engagement.
<b>August 12</b> Multiple Indigenous Communities, IAAC, Heritage Resources Branch, and WSP	Virtual session to present and discuss the heritage field investigations, the proposed mitigations, next steps and answer questions related to The Heritage Resources Act.

### Upcoming Meetings

<b>September 9</b> Manitoba Heavy Construction Association	A second meeting is scheduled to further discuss the proposed construction sequencing and tendering strategy for the Outlet Channels Project.
<b>September 14</b> Winnipeg Construction Association	A second meeting is scheduled to further discuss the proposed construction sequencing and tendering strategy for the Outlet Channels Project.



## IN YOUR AREA

### Access Road

Preparation for Access Road construction started in August 2021 and construction is expected to continue until December 2021. This work includes hauling and placing of borrow material; installation of culverts; hauling and placing of traffic gravel; seeding of disturbed areas; and reclamation of borrow areas.

### Upcoming Six Weeks

#### Water Quality Data Collection:

- Field measurements and water samples from Lake Manitoba, Fairford River, Lake St. Martin, and in Watchorn Creek, Mercer Creek, Birch Creek watershed, Buffalo Creek, Dauphin River and Sturgeon Bay - tentative dates: August 30-mid October.
- Water quality data from cattle runoff operations along the Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel will also be collected.

#### Groundwater Monitoring:

- Water level readings from areas along the Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel right-of-way, Birch Creek and the Lake St. Martin Outlet Channel right-of-way - tentative timeline: September.

#### Fish and Fish Habitat:

- Investigations to document current fish communities in Lake St. Martin and Sturgeon Bay and to describe substrate conditions at several locations in Sturgeon Bay - tentative sampling dates: August 30-September 10, 2021.
- Investigations to further understand the timing of Lake Whitefish and other species in the Dauphin and Fairford River during fall spawning - tentative sampling timelines: September-October.

In the event that you have any concerns about upcoming field work, please respond to the contact details indicated in Manitoba Infrastructure's notification letters. Stakeholders in the Rural Municipality of Grahamdale can contact Jacqueline Hickman at **204-302-1870** or **Jacqueline.Hickman@gov.mb.ca** with questions about the Outlet Channels Project.



## We Want To Hear From You

Please share your comments on the potential effects of the project by participating in meetings, or by contacting your local project Community Coordinator, band office, government office, association or email [outletchannels@gov.mb.ca](mailto:outletchannels@gov.mb.ca) or the Outlet Channels Project [website](#).

The environmental assessment is both a planning and decision-making tool. This process is iterative and evolves as additional project information and community and stakeholder feedback is received. Project design, proposed mitigations, and proposed monitoring activities can be adapted to ensure that feedback received through this process is addressed.