

LAKE MANITOBA LAKE ST. MARTIN

OUTLET CHANNELS PROJECT

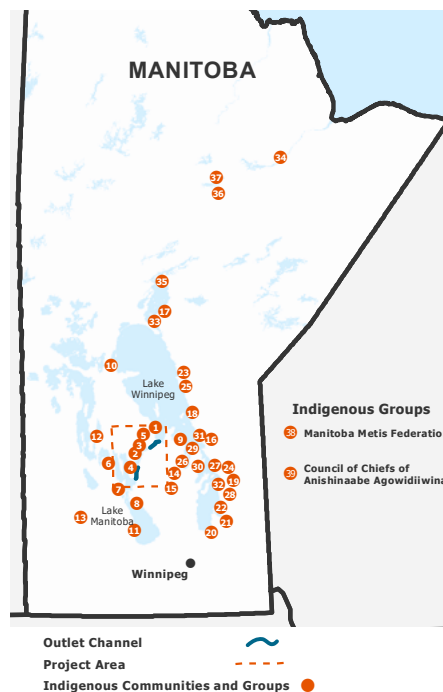
Newsletter - July 2022 Issue 19

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS FOR SUCCESS

In May and June, Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure (MTI) executive leadership met with a number of communities and Indigenous groups in the Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project area. Russ Andrushuk (Assistant Deputy Minister of Engineering and Technical Services), Kristine Seier (Assistant Deputy Minister of Corporate Services), Cynthia Ritchie (Assistant Deputy Minister of Infrastructure, Capital Projects), and Amna Mackin (Director of Major Projects), made several trips to the Interlake, Headingley, and Winnipeg, to speak with First Nations and Northern Affairs Communities leaders. These communities and Indigenous groups included: Fisher River Cree Nation, Interlake Reserves Tribal Council, Dauphin River Northern Affairs Community, Peguis First Nation, Lake St. Martin First Nation, Pinaymootang First Nation, Berens River First Nation, and the Manitoba Métis Federation.

The discussions allowed community leaders to hear about the most recent project updates and plans for ongoing engagement directly from key members of MTI's executive leadership team. As well, MTI executive leadership welcomed the opportunity to meet in person to hear feedback directly from communities on how this historic project will impact them. MTI is committed to building long-term relationships through ongoing dialogue and collaboration.

On June 30, 2022, MTI submitted a supplemental information package, including updated Environmental Management Plans and additional information for the Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC). After this submission, and in a letter dated July 4, 2022, IAAC indicated that information provided to IAAC by MTI in May and June of 2022 was sufficient in allowing IAAC to proceed with its technical review of the project, marking a significant milestone. MTI is optimistic that the federal environmental assessment process will reach its successful conclusion so that project construction can commence shortly thereafter. However, it does not mark the end of the engagement and consultation work. The project team continues to work to address all specific concerns communities have raised and to facilitate ongoing dialogue with communities and Indigenous groups.



- LAKE ST. MARTIN COMMUNITIES:**
 1. Dauphin River First Nation
 2. Lake St. Martin First Nation
 3. Little Saskatchewan First Nation
 4. Pinaymootang First Nation
 5. Dauphin River NAC
- LAKE MANITOBA COMMUNITIES:**
 6. O-Chi-Chak-Ko-Sipi First Nation
 7. Ebb and Flow First Nation
 8. Lake Manitoba First Nation
 9. Kinonjoshstegon First Nation
 10. Misipawistic Cree Nation
 11. Sandy Bay First Nation
 12. Skownan First Nation
 13. Kesseekoowenin Ojibway First Nation
- LAKE WINNIPEG COMMUNITIES:**
 14. Fisher River Cree Nation
 15. Peguis First Nation
 16. Bloodvein First Nation
 17. Norway House Cree Nation
 18. Berens River First Nation
 19. Hollow Water First Nation
 20. Brokenhead Ojibway Nation
 21. Sagkeeng First Nation
 22. Black River First Nation
 23. Poplar River First Nation
- NORTHERN AFFAIRS COMMUNITIES**
 24. Aghaming NAC
 25. Berens River NAC
 26. Fisher Bay NAC
 27. Loon Straits NAC
 28. Manigotagan NAC
 29. Matheson Island NAC
 30. Pine Dock NAC
 31. Princess Harbour NAC
 32. Seymourville NAC
 33. Norway House NAC
- NELSON RIVER COMMUNITIES:**
 34. Fox Lake Cree Nation
 35. Pimickamak Okimawin (Cross Lake Band of Indians)
 36. York Factory Cree Nation
 37. Tataskweyak Cree Nation
- OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:**
 38. Council of Chiefs of Anishinaabe Agowidiwinan (First Nations in Treaty 2 Territory)
 39. Manitoba Métis Federation

Manitoba Indigenous Communities and Organizations

Both the project team and MTI executive leadership know that it is only through collaboration that the project can achieve success and provide needed flood protection benefits. "Travelling to the communities and meeting directly with their representatives, especially Chiefs and councils, was an excellent opportunity to gain perspective on the impact MTI's largest project since the Winnipeg floodway will have on local communities," said Cynthia Ritchie.

Technical review meetings will offer communities and Indigenous groups a platform to discuss Information Request responses and update Environmental Management Plans submitted by MTI to IAAC. These meetings will occur in July and into August. The Honourable Doyle Pwiniuk, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, will also be meeting with communities and Indigenous groups in August, and written responses to the community-specific concerns are expected to be provided at the end of summer 2022.

LET'S TALK

Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure 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 (RM) 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 Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project. Once constructed, this project will protect lives and property from the potentially devastating impacts of future flood events.

A highlight of recent meetings:

<p>July 25 Manitoba Métis Federation</p>	<p>Meeting to discuss information request responses and updated environmental management plans submitted to IAAC.</p>
<p>July 26 Interlake Reserves Tribal Council</p>	<p>Meeting to discuss information request responses and updated environmental management plans submitted to IAAC.</p>
<p>July 28 RM of Grahamdale</p>	<p>Regularly scheduled monthly meetings to discuss project updates.</p>

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Please share your thoughts on the project. This may include voicing support, as well as concerns on the potential effects of the project by participating in meetings, or by contacting your local project Community Coordinator, band office, government office or association. You can also email outletchannels@gov.mb.ca or visit manitoba.ca/outletchannels.

The environmental assessment is both a planning and decision-making tool. This process involves communication, improvement, and re-communication. It evolves as additional project information and community and stakeholder feedback is received. Project design, mitigations, and proposed monitoring activities can be adapted to ensure that feedback received through this process is addressed. To learn more about the regulatory review of the project, or to provide commentary to federal and provincial regulators, please visit the provincial and federal Public Registries:

- Manitoba Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch – Public Registry:
 - <https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries/59661stmartin/index.html>
- Canadian Impact Assessment Registry:
 - <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80148>

INDIGENOUS CONSULTATION

The Manitoba government is currently in phase two of its four-phase consultation and engagement process. This phase includes planning and implementing community-specific consultation processes and activities with each Indigenous community. As of July 22, 2022, the consultation and engagement process has included a total of 257 meetings with all 39 Indigenous groups (First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs Communities, and Indigenous organizations), as well as 1,110 letters and 5,073 emails or telephone calls.



257 meetings

39
Indigenous groups



1,110 letters

5,073 emails
or telephone calls



IN YOUR AREA

Access Road

Construction of the Access Road was substantially completed in March 2022. However, the road was damaged by flooding this spring and access is currently limited. Repairs and some additional construction activities will take place this summer. Construction activities will include: repair of the failed culverts due to flood, trimming (fixing of the embankment side slopes), revegetation, cleanups, decommissioning of the borrow pits (source of road building materials), and correcting any surrounding deficiencies due to winter construction. In the event that you have any feedback about upcoming fieldwork, please respond to the contact details indicated in Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure's notification letters. Stakeholders in the RM of Grahamdale can contact Jacqueline Hickman at **204-302-1870** or **Jacqueline.Hickman@gov.mb.ca** with questions about the Outlet Channels Project.