

# LAKE MANITOBA LAKE ST. MARTIN

## OUTLET CHANNELS PROJECT

**Newsletter – March 2022** Issue 16



**Doyle Pivniuk**, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

### **Message from Minister Pivniuk**

In 2018, our government announced an infrastructure plan to develop a permanent flood control management system in Manitoba's Interlake Region – the Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project. This historic project will reduce peak flood levels and provide enhanced flood protection to Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin.

The Province continues to engage and consult with Manitobans who are living within flood-affected areas to share information and receive feedback, which is essential to completing the environmental approvals and licensing process prior to beginning construction on the Outlet Channels Project.

Widespread flooding across much of southern Manitoba in 2011, the largest flood event on record, resulted in unprecedented inflows into Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin, overwhelming the capacity of existing waterways. The impact of larger flood events can be severe, disrupting lives and damaging homes and properties. These events can also require evacuations and cause economic disruption not limited to significant response and recovery costs. Construction of the Outlet Channels Project is a critical component of the water control network in Manitoba and will create improved and permanent flood protection for Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin, providing resiliency as our climate changes.

Our government is committed to ensuring Manitoba is prepared with long-term flood control measures. We value ongoing discussion with involved Indigenous groups and stakeholders regarding the project's impact, components, construction, operation and maintenance, and will remain engaged with these groups to continue sharing information and receiving feedback as the Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project progresses.

# LET'S TALK

Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure (MTI) 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 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 and upcoming meetings is included below:

<b>March 11</b> Peguis First Nation	Meeting to allow for continued discussion on consultation work plan activities.
<b>March 17</b> Dauphin River Northern Association of Community Councils	Meeting to allow for continued discussion on consultation work plan activities.
<b>March 24</b> RM of Grahamdale	Regularly scheduled monthly meetings to discuss project updates.
<b>March 24</b> Interlake Reserves Tribal Council	Regular bi-weekly meeting to discuss project and consultation updates.
<b>April 5</b> Peguis First Nation	Bi-weekly meetings to discuss project and consultation updates.
<b>April 7</b> Interlake Reserves Tribal Council	Bi-weekly meetings to discuss project and consultation updates.
<b>April 19</b> Peguis First Nation	Bi-weekly meetings to discuss project and consultation updates.
<b>April 21</b> Interlake Reserves Tribal Council	Bi-weekly meetings to discuss project and consultation updates.



Downstream view of Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel (conceptual drawing)

## 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 or association. You can also email [outletchannels@gov.mb.ca](mailto:outletchannels@gov.mb.ca) or visit [manitoba.ca/outletchannels](http://manitoba.ca/outletchannels).

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, mitigations, and proposed monitoring activities can be adapted to ensure that feedback received through this process is addressed.

## Indigenous Consultation

The Manitoba government is currently in Phase 2 of its four phase consultation and engagement process. Highlights this past month include:

- Sending out an invite, offering meetings to review Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) Information Requests feedback provided by communities.
- Planning a second meeting for Spring 2022 with Indigenous communities to provide updates on construction sequencing and contracting.
- Planning the second meeting for Spring 2022 with Indigenous communities and the RM of Grahamdale on the Environmental Advisory Committee.
- Sent out invitations to Indigenous communities with consultation work plans to meet and discuss a mutually agreeable path forward for completing outstanding activities.

As of March 4, 2022, the Manitoba government has communicated by letter (1,036), meetings (246), and emails/phone (4,460) with 39 Indigenous groups and communities about the Outlet Channels Project.

## IN YOUR AREA

### Access Road

- Construction of the Access Road is substantially complete. Minor construction activities will take place in Spring/Summer 2022. Work includes: 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 concerns about upcoming field work, please respond to the contact details indicated in Manitoba Transportation and 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](mailto:Jacqueline.Hickman@gov.mb.ca) with questions about the Outlet Channels Project.