

# LAKE MANITOBA LAKE ST. MARTIN

## OUTLET CHANNELS PROJECT

### Newsletter - December 2021 Issue 13

December marks the one year anniversary of the Manitoba Outlet Channels Project newsletter! We would love to hear your ideas for future issues and topics you would like to learn more about. Submit your ideas to [outletchannels@gov.mb.ca](mailto:outletchannels@gov.mb.ca).

## LET'S TALK

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:

<b>December 9</b> RM of Grahamdale	Regularly scheduled monthly meetings to discuss project updates.
<b>December 9</b> Interlake Reserves Tribal Council	Regularly scheduled meetings to discuss project updates, ongoing and upcoming activities and consultation planning.
<b>December 17</b> Manitoba Heavy Construction Association	A third meeting is scheduled to further discuss the proposed construction sequencing and tendering strategy for the Outlet Channels Project.
<b>December 20</b> Winnipeg Construction Association	Meeting to discuss the proposed construction sequencing and tendering strategy.
<b>December 22</b> Peguis First Nation	Meeting to allow for continued discussion on the Environmental Impact Statement questions posed by Peguis First Nation at their 2020 community meetings.

## Indigenous Consultation

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

- MI has extended the deadline for feedback on the draft responses to the Impact Assessment Agency's information requests, public information requests and associated engineering reports to December 23, 2021.
- As of December 10, 2021, the Manitoba government has communicated by letter (983), meetings (227), and emails/ phone (4,225) with 39 Indigenous groups and communities about the Outlet Channels Project.

## Operation of the Outlet Channels

Now that the detailed design work on the Outlet Channels Project is nearing completion, MI has developed an animated video and a detailed information sheet to explain how the outlet channels will operate during a range of water levels.

The Outlet Channels Project is an infrastructure project designed to reduce peak flood levels and provide flood protection to communities, agricultural producers and recreational users along Lake Manitoba, Lake St. Martin and the Dauphin River, without noticeably affecting water levels on Lake Winnipeg.

The control structures for the Outlet Channels Project are being designed with control gates that will be operated in a staged manner to reduce potential erosion and avoid rapid changes in water levels and flows within the channels. (see figures 1 and 2 on the next page for conceptual drawings).

During a flood event, flows in the channels will increase as water levels on Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin rise. The Outlet Channels are designed to accommodate a repeat of the 2011 Flood of Record, without exceeding erosion thresholds.

The Outlet Channels Project is not expected to have any recognizable effect on Lake Winnipeg or further downstream.



Figure 1: Downstream view of Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel (conceptual drawing)



Figure 2: Downstream view of Lake St. Martin Outlet Channel (conceptual drawing)

## IN YOUR AREA

### Access Road

- Construction on the Access Road started in September 2021 and is expected to continue until early in the New Year. 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.

### Geotechnical Investigations

- An investigation at the Lake St. Martin Outlet Channel water control structure to gather information that will help finalize detailed design. The investigation was originally scheduled for December but will now occur in early January.

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.



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

## For More Information

The following resources are available on the Outlet Channels Project website to explain how the project will operate:

- [Operations information sheet](#)
- [Operations video](#)
- [Proposed Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Operating Guidelines](#) (draft as of August 19, 2021)
- [Project Components information sheet](#)