

LAKE MANITOBA LAKE ST. MARTIN

OUTLET CHANNELS PROJECT

Progress Report - Spring 2022 Update

MESSAGE FROM SHANE WASS, Director of Indigenous Consultation

I am very pleased to take on the role of director for the newly created branch of Indigenous Consultation. This new branch will provide a great opportunity for Indigenous communities and Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure to build respectful and meaningful relationships together. I believe we can listen to the concerns and try to better understand issues that Indigenous communities face so the department can learn and adapt to achieve our mutual goals.

I started with the Province in 2008 as an engineering assistant in the Engineering and Operations Division. In this role I worked as a surveyor, asphalt/concrete inspector, roadway construction inspector, and lab technician. This experience led me to the Winter Road Program where I started as an inspector in 2010, and then, until most recently, I was the Southern Winter Road Project manager.

My time with the Winter Road Program allowed me to explore the northern and remote areas of Manitoba. I gained a lot of insight into the importance and necessity of winter roads for these communities. Through the construction and maintenance of winter roads, the Winter Road Program provides an essential lifeline for communities, enabling them to connect to anywhere in the province by land. I was very proud to deliver and to be a part of a safe, reliable winter road network for all of Manitoba.

My past experience with the province has given me the opportunity to contribute to our shared journey of reconciliation. I am looking forward to expanding upon this, continuing to build relationships and reaching beyond the scope of individual projects or initiatives.



Shane Wass, Director of Indigenous Consultation

We would like to acknowledge that the Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project is located on Treaty 2 Territory that was negotiated and entered into in 1871 at Manitoba House, and on the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabe, Dakota, Cree and on the national homeland of the

Red River Métis. We respect and honour Treaty 2 and the agreements that were made on these lands we share and remain committed to strengthening our relationships with Indigenous communities in the spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

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 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 meetings:

April 5, 19 Peguis First Nation	Bi-weekly meetings to discuss project and consultation updates
April 7, 21 Interlake Reserves Tribal Council	Bi-weekly meetings to discuss project and consultation updates
May 5 Berens River First Nation	Meeting to reintroduce the project, hear initial concerns, and discuss next steps
May 9 Manitoba Metis Federation	Meeting with Manitoba executive leadership to discuss consultation and project updates
May 10 Environmental Advisory Committee	Second meeting to develop Terms of Reference and discuss various project topics
May 11 Pinaymootang First Nation	Meeting with Manitoba executive leadership to discuss consultation and project updates
May 12 Little Saskatchewan First Nation	Meeting to discuss consultation and project updates
May 12 Lake St. Martin First Nation	Meeting with Manitoba executive leadership to discuss consultation and project updates
May 25 Berens River First Nation	Meeting with Manitoba executive leadership to discuss consultation and project updates

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 or visit 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 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.

Highlights this past month include:

- Scheduling meetings to review Impact Assessment Agency of Canada Information Requests feedback provided by communities.
- Meeting held on May 10, 2022 with several Indigenous communities, the Rural Municipality of Grahamdale and MTI to discuss a draft Terms of Reference for a proposed Environmental Advisory Committee.
- Participation by Indigenous monitors in ongoing environmental field work activities associated with project planning and design.
- Meetings held with Manitoba executive leadership to discuss consultation and project updates. As of May 25, 2022 meetings have been held with Lake St. Martin First Nation, Pinaymootang First Nation, the Manitoba Metis Federation, and Berens River First Nation.

As of May 20, 2022, the consultation and engagement process has included total of 252 meetings with 39 Indigenous groups (First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs Communities, and Indigenous organizations), as well as 1,110 letters and 5,011 emails or telephone calls.

IN YOUR AREA

Access Road

Construction of the Access Road was substantially completed in March 2022. 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.

Additional repairs to the Access Road will be required to be completed during the summer months due to damage sustained during spring flooding.

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 with questions about the Outlet Channels Project

Upcoming Field Work in May

The survey and sample collection activities below will begin in the Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin project areas. These activities will characterize existing conditions, monitor for changes and plan for any potential impacts that the project might have. These include:

- Early spring wildlife surveys – early May
- Sampling of surface water quality of agricultural spring