

The Red River Floodway Expansion Project

In 1950, Manitoba experienced a significant flood that forced the evacuation of thousands of homes, businesses, hospitals and schools and resulted in millions of dollars in damage. Manitoba began construction on the Red River Floodway in 1962 and it was completed in 1968 at a cost of \$63 million. Since its completion, the floodway has prevented \$8 billion in flood damage.

In 1997, after the "flood of the century" the floodway was stretched to its limit. In the aftermath, the International Joint Commission was charged with reviewing the situation and recommended that immediate action be taken on designing and implementing measures to protect the City of Winnipeg. As a result, both Canada and Manitoba have committed to the expansion of the Red River Floodway.

By improving flood protection to a 1-in-700-year level of protection, floodway expansion will protect more than 450,000 Manitobans, over 140,000 homes, over 8,000 businesses and prevent more than \$12 billion in damages to the provincial economy. In addition, the floodway expansion will also protect the environment.



The Manitoba Floodway Authority (MFA) has partnered with Manitoba Competitiveness, Training and Trade, Employment

Manitoba Division, to provide a Job Referral Service (JRS) that will register the names and qualifications of Manitobans who want to work on the project. While contractors will bring their current crews to the worksite, they can access the Job Referral Service to hire additional workers.

What the Floodway Expansion Involves

The construction on the floodway expansion project began in the summer of 2005 and is expected to take an estimated five years to complete. The expansion of the floodway involves:

- channel widening and earth moving
- improvements to the outlet and inlet structures
- expansion of the west dyke
- construction of highway and railway bridges
- protection of water quality

Types of Workers Required and Job Opportunities

To expand the floodway channel and improve existing structures, contractors hired for the project will need qualified skilled workers such as **labourers**, **heavy equipment operators** of skid steers, front end loaders, excavators, crawler tractors, backhoes, graders, compactors and scrapers and **drivers** of belly dump trucks, semi-trailers, fuel trucks, redi-mix trucks and tandem trucks. For structural work, skilled **tradespeople** such as mechanics, welders, concrete workers, carpenters and iron workers will be needed.

Contact an Employment Manitoba Centre or visit the Floodway Job Referral Service website at www.manitoba.ca/jobreferral.

- for a complete list of the job descriptions
- to learn what specific jobs are required
- how to apply for a job

Although there will be work year round, most construction activity will take place during the spring and summer months. It is important to remember that contractors will bring their existing workforce to the job sites and will only hire when they need additional workers.

Workforce Representation and Hiring

Like many occupation sectors, the construction industry is experiencing skills shortages and wants to build a pool of qualified workers for future projects. In an effort to attract more people, the MFA and unions involved in the project have set aside a number of new jobs for people from equity groups under-represented in the construction industry. Some of these positions will be for qualified individuals who are women, Aboriginals, representatives from minority groups, or persons with disabilities.

According to hiring requirements outlined in the collective agreement between the MFA and the Manitoba Building and Construction Trades Council, qualified applicants for these positions will be referred to the contractor in a rotational order that includes:

- Union workers
- JRS equity worker groups under-represented in the industry (women, Aboriginal, visible minorities, persons with disabilities)
- JRS workers who have not declared an equity status (non-equity)

Note:

Employment Manitoba only registers clients to be referred for the equity and non-equity groups while union members will be referred directly by the unions.

How to Register

If you want to be considered for work on the Red River Floodway Expansion Project, you can register with the Floodway Job Referral Service. There are several ways of registering:

- **In-person** - Contact Employment Manitoba for more information. Please phone 945-0575 in Winnipeg or toll-free 1-866-332-5077.
- **By mail** - Contact Employment Manitoba and ask for a registration package to be mailed to you.
- **By fax** - Contact Employment Manitoba and ask for a registration package to be faxed to you. Completed registration forms and copies of all required documentation can be faxed to any Employment Manitoba Centre.

Documents Needed to Register for Work

To register for work on the Red River Floodway Expansion Project you must provide the following:

- **Identification document** - this could be any government document that would show your name and address, such as a Manitoba Health card, etc. Information on gender or age is not required.
- **Social Insurance Card** - you must have a Social Insurance Number (SIN) to register for work. Applications can be found at www.servicecanada.gc.ca/en/sc/sin/index.shtml.
- **Education and Skills Information** - to increase your chances of referral for a job, you can also include other relevant documents like proof of skills and training. These could include education and trade diplomas, equipment training certificates, apprenticeship documents, etc.

If you register by mail, please include photocopies of these documents only. Do not send original personal identification documents in the mail.

Along with your personal documents, you must complete all applicable forms listed below. These are available from an Employment Manitoba Centre or can be printed from the Floodway Job Referral website www.manitoba.ca/jobreferral.

- **Registration Instruction Form**
- **Notice and Consent Form** (giving Employment Manitoba authorization to collect your personal information and how it will be used)
- **Registration for Work Form**
- **Employment History Form**
- **Voluntary Employment Equity Declaration Form**
- **Skills Profile/Job Description**

Other Registration Requirements

After you submit your registration for work on the Red River Floodway Expansion, you must contact Employment Manitoba and **renew your registration every six months**. This will confirm that you are still interested in being referred to a contractor for work.

The six-month renewal requirement is also a good time to update your original registration if you have acquired new skills or if you must show renewal of expired licences. You can also confirm your current contact number. When contractors want to hire new workers they will need them quickly. If they cannot reach you, the next person on the list will be considered.

Whether you register for the first time or renew your registration, Employment Manitoba will give you confirmation of your registration and a Renewal Reminder card indicating when you must renew your registration again. Employment Manitoba will not remind you to renew your registration. Registrations that are not renewed within six months will be considered inactive.

For More Information

In Winnipeg please call **945-0575**. For all other areas in Manitoba phone toll-free **1-866-332-5077** or visit the Floodway Job Referral Service website at www.manitoba.ca/jobreferral.

For updates on the project, visit the Manitoba Floodway Authority website at www.floodwayauthority.mb.ca.

