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## LAKE MANITOBA AND LAKE ST. MARTIN OUTLET CHANNELS

On June 18, 2018, the governments of Canada and Manitoba announced an agreement to cost-share \$540 million in new flood management infrastructure for the Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin outlet channels.

Federal funding of \$247.5 million will be provided through the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund. Manitoba will provide matching funds in the amount of \$247.5 million, plus an additional \$45 million to help complete the project in a timely manner.

The project consists of building two diversion channels, approximately 23-kilometres-long: the Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel will run north from Watchorn Bay on Lake Manitoba to Birch Bay on Lake St. Martin; the Lake St. Martin Outlet Channel will run northeast from Lake St. Martin to Lake Winnipeg south of Willow Point. The project also involves building a number of bridges and water control structures, a 24-kilovolt distribution line and adjusting surrounding highway infrastructure.

During times of flooding and high water levels on Lake Manitoba, the new outlet channel will carry water directly from Lake Manitoba to Lake St. Martin. The Fairford River is the natural outlet to Lake St. Martin. The Lake St. Martin channel will move water directly to Lake Winnipeg. The Dauphin River is the natural outlet to Lake Winnipeg from Lake St. Martin.

Construction of the channels will significantly reduce the risk of flood damage for First Nations located along Lake St. Martin, complementing other regional flood protection infrastructure to ensure a more comprehensive water control network that enables the province to effectively manage flows from the Assiniboine River and Lake Manitoba watersheds spanning Manitoba, southeast Saskatchewan and northeast North Dakota. Together, the channels will allow Manitoba to regulate lake levels and provide flood protection to individuals, businesses, communities and farmland around Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin.

The new Lake Manitoba outlet channel is designed with a capacity of 7,500 cubic feet per second (cfs) and the Lake St. Martin channel will carry approximately 11,500 cfs at capacity. The current capacity of the Lake St. Martin Emergency Outlet Channel is approximately 4,000 cfs. The existing single Lake St. Martin emergency channel to

Lake Winnipeg will be available on an emergency basis during construction. After the permanent channels are completed, the existing emergency channel will be modified for environmental support purposes, which are still being defined and developed.

On Nov. 23, the province announced two engineering firms have been awarded the contracts for engineering design and construction oversight for the Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels project.

Hatch Ltd. was awarded the Lake Manitoba engineering design and construction oversight contract. The Lake Manitoba channel includes the flood protection channel, water control structure and preliminary design of two bridges. TREK Geotechnical Inc., Stantec Consulting Ltd. and Dillon Consulting Ltd. will assist.

KGS Group was awarded the Lake St. Martin engineering design and construction oversight contract. The Lake St. Martin channel includes the flood protection channel and water control structure. WSP Global Inc. and North/South Consultants Inc. will assist.