

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

THE MANITOBA FLOODWAY AUTHORITY

After the 1950 flood, which forced the evacuation of over 100,000 residents of Winnipeg and resulted in over \$125 million in damages, or approximately \$1 billion in today's figures, the Premier of the day, Duff Roblin, sparked the idea of constructing a diversion channel around Winnipeg that could be used during extreme flood emergencies. In 1959, Roblin, then leader of a minority government, put his political career on the line by making the floodway a key issue during a provincial election campaign. That year Roblin won the election and received a mandate to build the floodway. Construction of the original floodway began in October 1962, and finished in March 1968 at a cost of \$63 million. At the time, the project was the second largest earthmoving project in the world after the Panama Canal. Since its construction the floodway has been operated over 28 times and has prevented over \$30 million in damages.

In 1997, the 'Flood of the Century' came close to breaching the floodway's capacity, threatening the protection of the City of Winnipeg. In its aftermath, it was determined that under flow conditions similar to 1997, the risk of failure of Winnipeg's flood protection would be high and measures to protect Winnipeg were recommended. Subsequently, the Governments of Canada and Manitoba chose the expansion of the floodway as the most cost-effective way to protect Winnipeg.

In March 2004, the Province of Manitoba introduced the historic Floodway Authority Act which established the Manitoba Floodway Authority (MFA), a separate, independent, publicly accountable, provincial agency, to manage the expansion of the Red River Floodway.

As one of the largest public infrastructure projects in Manitoba's history, the \$665 million expansion project is a very complex project involving the excavation of the floodway channel, the expansion of the Outlet Control Structure, improvements to the Inlet Control Structure, the replacement of eight highway and railway bridges, the expansion of the West Dike and various utility modifications.

As the floodway is Winnipeg's main line of protection against spring flooding, the MFA had to ensure that the floodway could be used between April 1 and June 15 every year during construction. In an effort to ensure that the project remained on schedule, the MFA developed a number of innovative strategies to address specific challenges. For example, to address labour shortages, a floodway training initiative was established to encourage the participation of designated employment equity groups. An Aboriginal Set-Aside Initiative was developed to tap into the Aboriginal construction industry creating employment and business opportunities for the Aboriginal community. To date, approximately \$55 million has been invested into the set-aside.

Since 2003, Mr. Ernie Gilroy, the Chief Executive Officer of the MFA, has been overseeing the floodway project. He, along with a small Executive group, lead a diverse team of project managers, safety officers, environmental inspectors and financial and administrative staff to oversee the work of dozens of contractors working on the project. To date, over 150 contractors (including prime and sub-contractors) and over 3000 people have worked on the project.

In the spring of 2009, the project achieved 1-in-700 year flood protection and today, the project is nearing completion.

The Association is pleased to recognize the Manitoba Floodway Authority for its excellent work and feels it is a worthy recipient of the Certificate of Engineering Achievement.