



MANITOBA COMMITS \$72.5 MILLION TO ALL-SEASON ROAD PROJECT

Island Lake Communities to Benefit from Community Benefits Agreements

The Manitoba government recently announced plans to invest \$72.5 million to build an all-season road on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.

With a provincial investment now totalling \$93 million, the funds will support the ongoing work of the East Side Road Authority (ESRA). The authority is responsible for building and maintaining an all-season road as part of the East Side Transportation Initiative.

"In a little over one year, a significant amount of work has been undertaken on the all-season road project," said

Ernie Gilroy, CEO of the ESRA. "This announcement will help to ensure that, pending environmental approval, we are in a position to begin construction later this year."

As plans and preparations for road construction continue, ESRA is also working with First Nation communities to undertake pre-construction activities. In March, Gilroy joined Premier Selinger and Deputy Premier Eric Robinson in visiting Red Sucker Lake and St. Theresa Point First Nations to sign the latest of a series of Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs).

These three-year agreements, valued at \$2.25 million, are designed to generate jobs, training and economic opportunities for local communities related to pre-construction activities such as gravel crushing, right-of-way clearing and access route exploratory clearing in the Island Lake to Norway House region.

"These agreements will help us to ensure that local people benefit from the project through jobs, training and mentoring, and community enterprises and capacity building," said Gilroy. "At the same time, the CBAs benefit the project by allowing the communities to undertake pre-construction activities as we plan for the construction of the all-season road."

To date, ESRA has entered into CBAs with Berens River, Bloodvein, Wasagamack, St. Theresa Point, and Red Sucker Lake First Nations. Discussions are currently underway for future CBAs with Garden Hill, Hollow Water and other First Nation communities.

For more information, please contact the East Side Road Authority at 204-945-4900 or toll free 1-866-356-6355 or visit www.eastsideroadauthority.mb.ca.



On March 16, 2010, Premier Greg Selinger (second from the left) and Deputy Premier Eric Robinson (first on the left) witness the signing of a \$2.25 Community Benefits Agreement by Chief David McDougall of St. Theresa Point First Nation (second from the right) and Ernie Gilroy, CEO of the East Side Road Authority (far right).