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# Release

For Immediate Release  
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## **HOLLOW WATER FIRST NATION TO BENEFIT FROM CONSTRUCTION OF ALL-SEASON ROAD**

### **\$7.75 Million Community Benefits Agreement to Deliver Jobs, Training and Economic Opportunities Related to Road Improvements**

Today, the East Side Road Authority (ESRA) and Hollow Water First Nation announced that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed that will lead to a formal Community Benefits Agreement related to the construction of an all-season road on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.

“Hollow Water First Nation has the experience, equipment and know-how to assist in the all-season road project,” said Eric Robinson, Minister Responsible for the East Side Road Authority. “This agreement builds on the community’s capacity to make road improvements to the existing Rice River Road and, in the process, will result in economic opportunities for local contractors and jobs and training opportunities for local residents. We look forward to working with the community as we improve transportation on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.”

“Our community is very pleased to be involved in the all-season road project,” said Chief Larry Barker. “This agreement provides jobs and training to local residents while also delivering economic benefits and spin-off opportunities for our community.”

“As we finalize the detailed design for the initial portion of the all-season road, this agreement provides an opportunity for Hollow Water First Nation to assist in the final design engineering requirements of the all-season road while also making improvements to the existing Rice River Road,” said Ernie Gilroy, CEO of ESRA. “We thank Chief and Council for their leadership and look forward to working with the community in the upcoming years.”

The CBA consists of the following:

- **Road Improvements to the Rice River Road** – Hollow Water First Nation will be responsible for road improvements, including crushing, hauling, spreading, and grading of gravel, to improve the existing Rice River Forestry Road between Hollow Water and Bloodvein First Nation.

- **Right-of-Way Clearing** – Hollow Water First Nation will be responsible for clearing portions of the existing Rice River Forestry Road as well as portions of the proposed right-of-way for the all-season road to Berens River First Nation to allow ESRA to undertake survey and geotechnical investigations for final design of the roadway alignment, along with site preparation and other pre-construction activities over the next year. The agreement also allows the First Nation to utilize all usable harvested material for community purposes; and
- **Training** - ESRA will establish construction training programs for approximately fifty training opportunities that will include basic and essential construction skills, labourer and heavy equipment operator training related to gravel crushing, right-of-way clearing and road construction.

Under the terms of the MOU, Hollow Water First Nation will be required to establish a separate corporate entity to undertake construction activities associated with the construction of the all-season road. To assist in project management and mentoring and to ensure appropriate oversight, ESRA will perform project and contract administration services for the new corporate entity and Hollow Water First Nation. The total value of the three-year agreement is estimated to a maximum of \$7,750,000.

To date, ESRA has also entered into an \$11.25 million CBA with Berens River First Nation, a \$7.75 million CBA with Bloodvein First Nation, and a \$2.25 million CBA with Wasagamack First Nation. ESRA is currently in discussions with other east side communities regarding future CBAs.

Pending federal and provincial environmental approvals and authorizations, construction of the all-season road is anticipated to begin in the fall of 2010. For more information on the East Side Transportation Initiative, please visit the [www.eastsideroadauthority.mb.ca](http://www.eastsideroadauthority.mb.ca) or contact (204) 945-4900 or toll free 1-866-356-6355.

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