
Release

For Immediate Release
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\$2.25 MILLION COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH MANTO SIPI CREE NATION

Chief and Council Renew Agreement with East Side Road Authority

Today, the East Side Road Authority (ESRA) and Manto Sipi Cree Nation announced the signing of a \$2.25 million Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) that will provide jobs, training and economic opportunities for local residents in preparation for the construction of an all-season road on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.

“As one of the largest projects in Manitoba’s history, the construction of an all-season road provides an enormous opportunity to benefit the people of the east side of Lake Winnipeg,” said Eric Robinson, Minister responsible for the ESRA. “This agreement ensures that the residents of Manto Sipi Cree Nation participate in the project and benefit from jobs, training and economic development opportunities related to the project.”

“Our community has been waiting a long time for an all-season road link,” said Michael Yellowback, Chief of Manto Sipi Cree Nation. “We look forward to working with ESRA and the Government of Manitoba to ensure that our First Nation citizens of Manto Sipi benefit from the jobs and training that will come with the project.”

“With the signing of this agreement, Manto Sipi Cree Nation is now in a position to undertake pre-construction work for the all-season road project,” said Daryl Harvey, Acting CEO of ESRA. “This will involve training for local residents to undertake exploratory clearing and right-of-way clearing. We look forward to working with the Chief and Council and community members to move the project forward.”

Last June, ESRA signed a CBA with the community and subsequently, a new Chief and Council were elected and requested an opportunity to re-sign the CBA. As with the previous agreement, Manto Sipi Cree Nation will undertake exploratory clearing and clearing of access roads to assist in determining the viability and potential alignment for a future all-season road. The agreement also allows the First Nation to utilize all usable harvested material for community purposes. In addition, the agreement also establishes a construction training program that will provide training opportunities for basic and essential construction skills and skilled labourer or heavy equipment operator training related to gravel crushing, right-of-way clearing and road construction for up to thirty training positions.

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Under the terms of the agreement, Manto Sipi Cree Nation will be required to establish a separate corporate entity to undertake the pilot project and related activities. ESRA will perform project and contract administration services for the community in order to assist the First Nation in project management, mentoring and ensuring appropriate oversight. The total value of the three-year agreement, including the training provided by ESRA, is estimated to a maximum of \$2,250,000.

To date, ESRA has signed Community Benefits Agreements with Berens River, Bloodvein, Hollow Water, Wasagamack, Red Sucker Lake, Garden Hill, St. Theresa Point, Bunibonabee, Poplar River, Little Grand Rapids and Pauingassi First Nations.

For more information on the East Side Transportation Initiative, please visit the ESRA website at www.eastsideroadauthority.mb.ca or contact (204) 945-4900 or toll-free 1-866-356-6355.

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