



Room 200, 155 Carlton Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3H8  
Phone: (204) 945-4900  
Toll-Free: 1-866-356-6355  
Fax: (204) 948-2462

---

# Release

For Immediate Release  
October 14, 2009

## **\$7.75 MILLION AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE JOBS, TRAINING AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES TO BLOODVEIN FIRST NATION RESIDENTS**

### **Phil Fontaine and Elijah Harper to Act as Special Advisors on All-Season Road**

Today, the East Side Road Authority, Inc. (ESRA) and Bloodvein First Nation announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish a Community Benefits Agreement that will deliver jobs, training and economic development opportunities for the First Nation community on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.

“Our government is committed to constructing an all-season road on the east side of Lake Winnipeg that will improve the lives of the residents in the region,” said Ron Lemieux, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. “This agreement ensures that as work on the road proceeds, residents from the Bloodvein First Nation benefit from the project.”

“The construction of an all-season road has been a long-standing aspiration for the people of Bloodvein First Nation,” said Chief Frank Young. “This agreement ensures that our residents will receive jobs, training and economic opportunities while providing us an opportunity to have a hand in building the all-season road.”

“Over the last number of months, we have had the opportunity to forge a good working relationship with the Chief and Council from Bloodvein,” said Ernie Gilroy, CEO of ESRA. “With today’s announcement, we will be able to take the next step in delivering tangible benefits for the people of the community. We look forward to working with the community as we improve transportation on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.”

On June 24, 2009, ERSA announced the signing of the first Community Benefits Agreement with Berens River First Nation. Today’s agreement with Bloodvein First Nation is based on the previous agreement and consists of the following:

- **Training** - ESRA will establish a construction training program in 2009 and 2010 consisting of labourer and heavy equipment operator training associated with gravel crushing, right-of-way clearing and road construction;
- **Gravel Crushing** – Bloodvein First Nation will crush and stockpile aggregate material at the current market price plus a capacity building allowance of 25 per cent over the next three years for construction of the all-season road; and
- **Right-of-Way Clearing** – Bloodvein First Nation will clear a portion of the proposed right-of-way for the all-season road 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.

Under the terms of the MOU, Bloodvein 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 Bloodvein First Nation. The total value of the agreement is estimated to a maximum of \$7,750,000.

ESRA also announced today that Phil Fontaine, former Chief of Sagkeeng First Nation, former Grand Chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) and former National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), and Elijah Harper, former Chief of Red Sucker Lake First Nation, MLA for Rupertsland and MP for Churchill, have been hired to provide advice and to liaise with First Nation communities regarding the all-season road. Fontaine and Harper have been hired under one year consulting contracts and will be paid \$7,000 and \$5,000 a month, respectively.

“Both Phil Fontaine and Elijah Harper are from the east side of Lake Winnipeg, have proven track records, and recognize that the people of the east side have been waiting decades for an all-season road,” said Gilroy. “We are very pleased that both of these First Nation leaders have agreed to work with us and the east side communities to make this dream a reality.”

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 945-4900 or toll free 1-866-356-6355.