
Release

For Immediate Release
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\$2.25 MILLION COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH RED SUCKER LAKE FIRST NATION

Pilot Project to Assist in Determining Future All Season Road Route in Island Lake Region

Red Sucker Lake First Nation - Today, the East Side Road Authority (ESRA) and Red Sucker Lake First 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 construction of an all-season road.

"This agreement is the first step in improving road access to the community of Red Sucker Lake," said Premier Greg Selinger. "The agreement will also result in jobs and training opportunities for the local residents, which will help to ensure that the community is able to participate in the construction of the all-season road in the Island Lake region."

"Our community is very pleased to be signing this agreement with the East Side Road Authority," said Larry Knott, Chief of Red Sucker Lake First Nation. "This will allow us to generate jobs, training and economic opportunities for the people of our community. At the same time, although the need is still great, this initiative will allow us to partially address the need for training facilities in our community."

"This agreement builds capacity in the community by providing training and employment opportunities for local residents so that community members are prepared for construction opportunities related to the all-season road," said Ernie Gilroy, CEO of ESRA. "We thank the Chief and Council for their leadership and look forward to working with them."

Under the agreement, Red Sucker Lake First Nation will undertake exploratory work for a potential all-season road alignment between the community and the other Island Lake communities. 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.

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

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) setting out the basic principles of the CBA was signed by the parties on January 20, 2010. To date, ESRA has signed a Community Benefits Agreement with Berens River, Bloodvein and Wasagamack First Nations. Discussions are ongoing with other east side communities on future agreements.

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

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