
Release

For Immediate Release
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\$2.25 MILLION COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH ST. THERESA POINT FIRST NATION

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

St. Theresa Point First Nation - Today, the East Side Road Authority (ESRA) and St. Theresa Point 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.

“Ensuring that the Island Lake communities participate in the development of the all-season road is the key focus of the Community Benefits Agreement,” said Premier Greg Selinger. “The agreement provides jobs, training and economic opportunities for the residents of St. Theresa Point while assisting the East Side Road Authority in determining the future potential all-season road alignment in the region.”

“Our community has waited a long time for an all-season road that will benefit our residents,” said David McDougall, Chief of St. Theresa Point First Nation. “We look forward to working with the East Side Road Authority to deliver jobs and training opportunities for our people as this project moves forward.”

“We thank the Chief and Council for their hard work and leadership in making this agreement a reality,” said Ernie Gilroy, CEO of ESRA. “We will now roll up our sleeves and work with the community to move forward with identifying the future alignment of the all-season road.”

Previously, a potential right-of-way between St. Theresa Point and Wasagamack First Nation was identified. Under the CBA, the viability of using this right-of-way as the alignment for an all-season road will be explored. Also, the rough “pioneer” road that exists within the right-of-way will be improved, allowing for better access for the design consultants to determine the alignment for a future all-season road. 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, St. Theresa Point First Nation will be required to establish a separate corporate entity to undertake the pilot project and related activities. To assist St. Theresa Point in project management, to ensure appropriate oversight, and to provide mentoring, ESRA will perform project and contract administration services for St. Theresa Point. 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 in January, 2010. To date, ESRA has signed a Community Benefits Agreement with Berens River, Bloodvein, Wasagamack and Red Sucker Lake 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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Contact:

Matt Williamson
Cabinet Communications
Government of Manitoba
(204) 945-1494

Chief David McDougall
St. Theresa Point First Nation
(204) 462-2106

Ronuk Modha
East Side Road Authority
(204) 945-4178 / 793-3969 (cell)