



Water Management

For the past number of years, regions across Manitoba have been hard hit with flooding and excess moisture that have created economic hardship on beef producers in the province. It is imperative that the Provincial Government make a budgetary commitment to responsible drainage and water management, such as the creation of new drains, maintenance of existing drains, and new long-term flood mitigation efforts.

The Manitoba Beef Producers strongly urges the Province to implement Manitoba Beef Producers recommendations on long-term flood mitigation to alleviate future flooding and excess moisture in Manitoba, and to avoid another 2011 flood.

A Holistic Approach

- Long-term flood mitigation and water management must be a holistic approach.
- When creating outflows or increasing water capacity, the province's entire water structure must be reviewed.
- This includes, but is not limited to the Portage Diversion, Shoal Lakes, Lake Manitoba, Lake Winnipeg, Lake Winnipegosis, Lake Dauphin, Lake St. Martin, Oak Lake, Souris River Basin, Assiniboine River Basin, and the Red River Valley.
- Impacts and unintended consequences must be considered before permanent structures or dikes are put into place (e.g., the impacts seen this year from the Portage Diversion).
- Lake outlets need to match inflows. Existing infrastructure and control structures do not allow for the appropriate upstream and downstream water level management. As a result, accumulated water takes a significant amount of time to recede, unnecessarily creating and preserving flood conditions.
- Outflows and Inflows must to be taken into account when opening and closing the Shellmouth Dam. There needs to be better operational timing, and notifying landowners when this takes place

Specific Example: Lake Manitoba

- Flood mitigation must permanently address the need for an outflow from Lake Manitoba into Lake Winnipeg
- Significant infrastructure investments in various watersheds are required, beginning with addressing inadequate outflow capacity at Fairford Dam

Specific Example: Shoal Lakes

- The Province must work towards the creation of an outlet relief to bring the Shoal Lakes back down to its natural level

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