

Summary of the Meeting

On June 25-26, 2020, members of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on the Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project (the project) met via videoconference with representatives from the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) to offer perspectives on the project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Attendees were advised that feedback from the meeting would contribute to the drafting of Information Requests (IR), which the Agency was preparing to submit to Manitoba Infrastructure (MI). The IRs are intended to seek information to address information gaps and help inform the Environmental Assessment (EA) report, and the information presented for the Minister's consideration.

The Agency confirmed its commitment to consult with First Nations, the Manitoba Metis Federation, impacted communities, and others, to support an evidence-based process. The need for a clear understanding of the path forward was also acknowledged.

Throughout the two day meeting, presentations were provided by the Agency on the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA) 2012 process, and on the concerns heard regarding the project's potential effect on water, fish and fish habitat, land, potential cumulative effects and potential impacts to Indigenous peoples. Discussion ensued after each presentation. Detailed notes of participant's feedback has been compiled separately in a "Meeting Notes" document.

Key themes that emerged from the meeting's discussions included:

- Concerns around MI's limited consultation and engagement with Indigenous communities on the project, and the requirement to respect the constitutionally-protected rights of Indigenous people
- Pausing the EA process in order to address issues and concerns raised with respect to the EIS and the project as a whole
- The importance of including a fish ladder, at the Fairford Control Structure or otherwise
- Undertaking improved hydraulic modelling to better understand the impacts of flooding, including on the south basin of Lake St. Martin
- Seeking a greater understanding of baseline conditions and the project's mitigation measures
- Assurances needed that Indigenous monitoring programs will be in place, throughout and following the project
- Addressing the information gaps in the EIS, particularly in terms of trends analysis and alternative measures that could be taken
- Compensation required for communities and industries (e.g. fisheries, hunting, farmland) that will be impacted by the project
- Recognizing the complex interplay between social, physical and spiritual aspects of the project area, and how the project will impact social determinants of health.

The meeting concluded with appreciation extended to participants for their valued contributions. Comments and feedback captured throughout the meeting were gathered and would help inform the next rounds of IRs being submitted to MI. Participants welcomed further discussion, to assist the Agency with any clarifying details required to support the IRs being drafted. A follow up TAG meeting will be scheduled to discuss MI's responses.