

# Manitoba

Floodway Authority



## Release

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### **International Engineering Association Recognizes The Red River Floodway As One Of The World's Engineering Marvels**

#### **Floodway Authority Presented with Commemorative Tapestry**

Winnipeg, MB - Today, the International Association of Macro Engineering Societies (IAMES) has recognized the Red River Floodway as one of the world's engineering marvels by presenting a commemorative tapestry to the Manitoba Floodway Authority, the agency responsible for expanding the floodway.

“The Red River Floodway is an engineering marvel that has provided protection and security for the residents of Winnipeg on many occasions since its construction in 1968,” said Gary Solar, Director and General Secretary of IAMES. “The original floodway far exceeded everyone's expectations and the current expansion will build on this legacy, ensuring that Winnipeg is protected long into the future. We congratulate former premier Duff Roblin for his foresight in initiating the project and to Premier Gary Doer who launched the expansion and established the Manitoba Floodway Authority who has moved forward with this historic and critically important project.”

IAMES, which is based in Boston at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), studies macro-engineering projects around the world and has monitored the construction of the original floodway. The organization consists of the representation engineering societies from across the globe including the Association Espanola de Macroingenieria (Spain), Institute Louis Armand (France), Japan Macroengineers Society (Japan), Peace Engineering Council (Japan), The American Society for Macro-Engineering (United States) and the Major Projects Association (England).

“This recognition is a tribute to all of those who did work on the construction of the original floodway and to all those that are currently working to expand it,” said Ernie Gilroy CEO of the Manitoba Floodway Authority. “We have a great team of engineers, contractors, construction workers and staff who are committed to improving Winnipeg's flood protection.”

The commemorative tapestry was created by a noted French artist, Madame Richard-Rossignol, and illustrates the major engineering achievements which have shaped the world from Biblical times to present including The Red River Floodway, Pont du Gard, Dutch Polders, the Concord, Corinth Canal, Space Power, Channel Tunnel, Lighthouse of Alexandria, Montgolfiere, Artificial Islands, Atlantic Tunnel, Three Gorges Dam, Eiffel Tower, Man on the Moon, Stonehenge, and Hadrian's Wall.

The original floodway was constructed between 1963 and 1968 at a cost of \$63 million. Since that time, the floodway has been used over twenty times and has prevented over \$10 billion in flood damages. Currently, the Governments of Canada and Manitoba are moving forward with the \$665 million Red River Floodway Expansion Project. Once completed, the project will provide a 1-in-700 year level of flood protection and is estimated to prevent over \$12 billion in flood damage.

Canada 

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IAMES also presented copies of “Building the World”, an encyclopedia of the Great Engineering Projects in history, authored by Dr. Frank Davidson, president emeritus of IAMES and Dr. Kathleen Lusk Brooke, Director of the Center for the Study of Success in Boston. IAMES has earlier honored Duff Roblin for his initiative of the floodway project at MIT in Boston and the National Assembly of France in Paris.

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