

News Release

FOR RELEASE
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Funding available to restore infrastructure and equipment for Northern Manitoba fishers and trappers

Thompson, MB – The Northern Producers Recovery Program will receive \$1.3 million from the Canada-Manitoba Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) to assist fishers and trappers along the Churchill and Grass River systems repair, replace, or enhance equipment and infrastructure damaged by high water levels and flooding in 2005.

The announcement was made today by the Honourable Steve Ashton, Minister of Water Stewardship, and the Honourable Carol Skelton, Minister of National Revenue and Minister of Western Economic Diversification.

"Fishing and trapping are important to the vitality of Northern Manitoba's economy. The highest water levels recorded in 35 years were reached in some locations last fall, creating significant damage to equipment and structures that are fundamental to the work of both northern fishers and trappers," said Ashton. "Today we are providing support to them as small businesses critical to the regions economic success."

"The Northern Producers Recovery Program responds directly to the economic needs of residents in northern and remote areas," said Minister Skelton. "Through our partnerships, we are diversifying regional economies and building strong and healthy communities."

The Northern Producers Recovery Program (NPRP) will help restore industry-based infrastructure for approximately 200 fishers and trappers in the region. As well, the commercial fishing and trapping industry provides viable employment opportunities for young northern residents.

The program will be administered by the Communities Economic Development Fund (CEDF), a Manitoba Crown Corporation with a mandate to encourage economic development in northern Manitoba and the fishing industry in the province with particular emphasis on the needs of small business enterprises and community development.

Application forms are available from CEDF and through local fish agencies and offices in several communities along the Churchill River and Grass River systems. The deadline for Category 1 applications (individual fishers and trappers) is August 31, 2006. Category 2 applications (community infrastructure) will be accepted until September 30, 2006. In all cases, the work must be completed by October 31, 2006.

Under the Canada-Manitoba Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), the governments of Canada and Manitoba are working together and in partnership with community stakeholders on two strategic priorities—building our economy and sustainable communities. These priorities strengthen the skills of Manitoba workers and promote economic growth and diversification in the province. For more information on this and other projects funded under EPA, visit: <http://www.epa.gov.mb.ca>.

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