

Leadership Award

Doug McNeil, P.Eng., M.Eng.



On June 26, 2009, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation Ron Lemieux announced the appointment of Doug McNeil as Deputy Minister of Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation effective June 29, 2009. In 2011, as Deputy Minister, Doug led the Province's response to the 1 in 300 year flood of the Assiniboine River including development of the 100 Million Dollar flood relief channel from Lake St. Martin to Lake Winnipeg. These works were conceived, designed and constructed in an unprecedented six month timeframe under Doug's leadership and vision.

Prior to being appointed Deputy Minister, Doug spent the previous six years with the Manitoba Floodway Authority as Vice-President of Engineering and Construction, and Vice-President of Hydraulics. He played a major role in the environmental approval process and was the Floodway Authority's chief spokesperson at the Clean Environment Commission Hearings. He was responsible for all aspects of design and construction of the Floodway, including the West Dyke, the hydraulic structures (Inlet Control Structure, the Outlet Structure and other drainage structures) and the bridges, associated highways and railways. Doug was instrumental in completing greater than 90% of the Red River Floodway Expansion Project.

As vice-president of engineering and construction, and vice-president of hydraulics from 2003 to 2009 for the Manitoba Floodway Authority (MFA), Doug McNeil's contributions resulted in the MFA receiving a number of distinguished awards.

The Floodway Expansion Project was initiated after the 1997 Red River Flood which resulted in water levels in Winnipeg that took the existing flood control system, including the primary line of defence, gate control structures, flood pumping stations and the floodway channel itself to their absolute limits. The original floodway capacity was designed to accommodate a 1-in-160 year flood. Following the 1997 flood, however, the existing capacity was estimated to be closer to a 1-in-100 year event.

Work began on the 665 Million Dollar expansion in 2005 following the various engineering studies and environmental approvals that were required prior to starting actual construction. Doug was instrumental in providing the necessary leadership and vision for this project to proceed. The capacity of the expanded floodway was increased from 1,700 cms (60,000 cfs) to 4,000 cms (140,000 cfs) or approximately equal to 1-in-700 year flood event. It is expected to prevent more than 12 Billion Dollars in damages if another 1-in-700 year event were to hit the City of Winnipeg without the expanded floodway.

Prior to joining the Manitoba Floodway Authority, Doug spent 20 years with the City of Winnipeg in the Water and Waste Department in various engineering positions that covered water, wastewater, land drainage and flood protection disciplines. As senior engineer in his latter years at the City, Doug led the land drainage and flood protection planning branch and this responsibility prepared him for a lead role in fighting first the 1996 flood (which had a magnitude similar to the 1979 flood) and then the "Flood of the Century" in 1997. Following these flood experiences, Doug took a one

year secondment opportunity with the City of Winnipeg CAO Secretariat as project coordinator on the Winnipeg Development Agreement. On his return to the Water and Waste Department he managed the Federal/Provincial cost-shared flood proofing projects in the City. Doug also served on technical advisory committees of the early studies related to Floodway Expansion as the City of Winnipeg's representative.

Doug McNeil is also currently the President of the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC), a national association with a mission to promote the provision of safe, secure, efficient, effective and environmentally and financially sustainable transportation services in support of Canada's social and economic goals.

Doug's body of work, leadership, and commitment to the profession is truly impressive, particularly during a time when the engineering profession, as a whole, is being challenged and questioned by those who do not appreciate the leadership, vision and skill required to accomplish these great engineering works.

In recognition of his outstanding leadership and scientific knowledge applied to benefit Manitobans and the nation, the Association is pleased to present the Leadership Award to Mr. Doug McNeil.
