

A Flood Recovery Progress Report for The Province

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Actions taken</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Actions needed</u>
Lake Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Lake St Martin completed for greater winter water flow - Channel Big Buffalo Lake to Lake Winnipeg - unused - Lake Manitoba Channel to Lake St. Martin – no action - Dredging Fairford River inlet – no action 	D	<p>Establish a regulated water level for Lake Manitoba long term. But in the short term reduce Lake Manitoba level to 810 and keep it there for 24 months to provide an opportunity for shoreline rejuvenation and remediation of areas along the shore. Complete work – follow the advice from commissioned study to equalize inflows and outflows of the Lake by dredging Fairford inlet, completing Lake Manitoba Channel and other steps as needed.</p>
Compensation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Temporary Accommodation Program - adequate year one + Comprehensive recovery program - Implementation of recovery initiatives poor - Confusing lines of communication - Slow progress in recovery - Unfair caps for seasonal owners - Compensation for loss of and destruction of land absent - 	C-	<p>Establish in the Premier’s office an oversight office to get all departmental actions coordinated and end the rampant confusion over actions of different departments and programs</p> <p>Remove penalty for seasonal owners</p> <p>Accelerate recovery</p> <p>Consider regional “one stop” office in hot spots with all relevant departments present</p> <p>Government reps need to put commitments in writing to avoid constant changes</p>
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People still do not know what the long range plan is for Lake Manitoba - initial communication ads promising what appeared to be full compensation were misleading - Information on the internet inadequate and often not up-to-date - Verbal communications often changing - Lack of written communication in many instances - Demolitions done in some instances without notifying Homeowners - Front-line people were constantly changed 	D	<p>Provide immediately a vision for the future of Lake Manitoba</p> <p>Have a single communications approach rather than MASC and Water Stewardship separately</p> <p>Provide written communication to homeowners instead of relying on verbal communication</p> <p>Ensure homeowners are notified before demolition not after</p> <p>Ensure consistent, knowledgeable staff</p> <p>Maintain an up-to-date web site for flood recovery to provide overall information and then links to individual programs. Information needed is thorough, clear and includes vital information about level to which homes need to be protected.</p> <p>Ensure full itemization of expenditures which are reimbursed with cheques</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inadequate formal communication on steps to take and on the process - Twin Beach web site better for information than the Government's web site - cheques provided for reimbursement without adequate or complete itemization - Information about critical incidents not happening adequately + willingness of managers to meet and correct program information 		
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - concerns over contamination, toxins etc and yet no clear plan to test issues of water quality around Lake Manitoba this spring and issues reports - Mould issues in homes being dismissed when dealing with recovery and restoration of homes. 	D	Ensure an adequate program for testing of water quality and for environmental toxins and mould is in place for the spring and summer for Lake Manitoba Include mould assessment on homes and fund full reimbursement of mould related cleanup expenses
Property Tax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + 2011 compensation to RMs and reductions to owners fair and equitable – recognized limited property use - 2012 owners taxed on unusable land - 2012 St Laurent property tax increases on non-flood affected properties is exorbitant 	C-	Adopt 2011 Property Tax Relief principles until restoration is complete RMs need to be viable
Water Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Review process announced - Proven measures for retaining water and balancing retention and drainage not followed in Assiniboine Basin - New Channels do little for Lake Manitoba level - Lack of clear long term policy discourages timely recovery 	D	Lead effort to develop Western Protocol for Water Management Develop comprehensive plan to manage drainage and wetlands which balances water retention and drainage and provides for no net decrease in wetlands Portage Diversion management must be part of announced review of Lake MB levels

Summary:

Progress for recovery has been impeded by a lack of a clear vision for the future of Lake Manitoba and poor coordination of programs. Property owners look for leadership in establishing a lake level that will give them confidence to rebuild. Owners are concerned that without Provincial support to Municipalities that they may lose our communities. Such support needs to recognize a severely reduced property tax base and collateral damage from the flood on local business. How the government manages the recovery will dictate how quickly we regain confidence in a future at Lake Manitoba. Legislators, managers and line workers need to all be fully engaged. Lack of information, inconsistent program criteria and ever-changing staff give the impression of a crisis management style that has led to chaos and confusion in the months since the flood. Our report card to date gives the government an overall D grade. A much better effort by the government is badly needed.