

**May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**To the citizens of Manitoba:**

**Who live, work & raise your families in the area from Portage La Prairie to the forks at Winnipeg.**

**You have been well provided for by our Province when it comes to Flood Protection. The Portage Diversion was constructed in 1970 for the sole purpose of flood proofing your area. It has been used annually since it's' construction and has proven to work very well in order to achieve what it was intended to do.**

**Please reflect what your situation would have been in 2011 had the man-made flood structure west of Portage had not been built.**

**The citizens surrounding Lake Manitoba want for you to be protected. However it is extremely frustrating for us who have lost Farm Land, Business, Homes & Cottages to be denied the same protection as others like yourselves.**

**You have all heard of the Drain the Province dug during the winter of 2012. You may think this Drain takes water directly from Lake Manitoba. This is not true. This Drain only takes water directly from Lake St. Martin. There is no immediate capacity increase for out flow from Lake Manitoba. Therefore the Lake St. Martin Channel that was recently dug can never give emergency drainage for Lake Manitoba in the event of another situation like the 2011 flood.**

**When the Portage Diversion was dug in 1971, it was the First Phase for Flood Proofing YOUR AREA. The Second Phase was to construct an outlet to drain Lake Manitoba to prevent such flooding as that of 2011. IT NEVER HAPPENED.**

**Our area surrounding Lake Manitoba can only be protected when the water forced on us through the Portage Diversion can be removed as quickly as it comes in. This can be achieved by constructing an outlet channel with adequate volumes from WATCHORN BAY to BIRCH Creek on Lake St. Martin.**

**Once this is has done then the channel from Lake St. Martin to Lake Winnipeg will be of benefit to the Property Owners surrounding Lake Manitoba.**

**We are only asking to put the diverted water as fast as possible into Lake Winnipeg which then travels up the Nelson River to Hudson Bay where Mother Nature originally intended it to go.**

**We will only have equal flood protection when this is achieved. Remember the water that has destroyed us without its redirection would have destroyed everyone from Portage La Prairie east including the City of Winnipeg had it travelled its natural route.**

**Please support us. Tell our Government to correct what has been overlooked for more than forty years.**

**There are still many of us whose ability to make a living has been lost. Look to your hearts to demand that we be fairly compensated and flood protected.**

**We realize that everyone is demanding from the public purse. It looks as though that's what going on around Lake Manitoba. However we only want that which**

**has been unrightfully taken from us. Plus we need the flood protection promised us 40 years ago.**

**Jonas Johnson**

**Co-chairman of Lake Manitoba Flood Rehabilitation Committee**