



Kingdom of the Netherlands



MEDIA RELEASE  
March 27, 2013

## **Prairie Flood Management and Mitigation Seminar**

Flooding can disrupt both people's lives and livelihood, destroy crops and property as well as devastate entire communities. The spring of 2013 may be another challenging year for the prairies; high moisture tables, near record snowfall and cooler than normal temperatures make for uncertain spring water level conditions. Communities are watching and preparing.

The Consulate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in collaboration with the City of Yorkton is hosting the *Prairie Flood Management and Mitigation Seminar* in Yorkton on March 27, 2013. Ten speakers from the Netherlands, Saskatchewan and Manitoba will bring insight, experiences, and information on water management issues including large scale flooding and protection measures, drainage, storm water and wetland management, technologies, and governance.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands has a long history of dealing with flood and water management. The disastrous 1953 flood in the Netherlands resulted in 175,000 hectares flooded and a cost of €450 million. Following the flood, the Dutch government formed the "*Delta Works*", a series of construction projects considered to be one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World. Today, some 10 million Dutch people, out of a total population of 16.7 million, live behind dykes to protect against flooding.

Representatives from two Dutch companies will be presenting at the Seminar. George Peters Project Director Advisory Group Design & Realization for River Deltas & Coasts, is with Royal Haskoning DHV, considered one of the top 10 independent companies in the world, and one with 225 years of experience in water management. Mr. Peters will discuss the Dutch experience in water management and governance. John van Pol, Managing Director of INCAS3, will speak about sensor technology use in water management applications. INCA3 is a company renowned for their experience in using sensor technologies for a variety of applications, including water. INCAS3 has already established a partnership with the Petroleum Technology Research Centre in Regina to form PI International, to work on carbon capture and sequestration and enhanced oil recovery.

Judie Dyck, Honorary Consul for the Netherlands in Saskatchewan, says "this seminar will provide about 100 registrants the opportunity to network and examine water management issues from both the Dutch experience and the experiences on the prairies. Dutch companies are working globally in water management and they have tremendous experience and knowledge which I believe can be applicable for the prairies including the City of Yorkton. We are pleased to work with the City of Yorkton, a community known for environmental leadership."

“The Dutch have a long history of experience in flood management and mitigation, and were part of the wave of agricultural immigrants to Canada in the last century,” said Yorkton Mayor Bob Maloney. “ We are very pleased to partner with the Kingdom of the Netherlands on this seminar and look forward to learning from their experiences, sharing ours, and to continuing cooperation in the future.”

For more information:

**Consulate of the Netherlands Saskatoon**, Honorary Consul Judie Dyck: 306-221-6954 or: [judiedyck@shaw.ca](mailto:judiedyck@shaw.ca)  
**Communications Manager, City of Yorkton**, Roy Lanaway: 306-621-2510 or: [rlanaway@yorkton.ca](mailto:rlanaway@yorkton.ca)

**For more information on flood management in the Netherlands in general:** [van-ez@minbuza.nl](mailto:van-ez@minbuza.nl)