



ANNOUNCEMENT

2020 Freshet Update

Abbotsford, April 22, 2020 – As of April 1, 2020, snow pack in the overall Fraser River basin is approximately 116% of normal. The likely peak flow forecast for the Fraser River at Hope this freshet is 8,000 to 11,500 m³/s, though higher flows are possible with extreme weather.

Seasonal weather during the snow melt season is a critical factor in determining the size of the freshet, and whether or not flooding will occur. Intense or prolonged rainfall and extreme temperatures are important factors that can lead to larger freshets.

Seasonal weather forecasts indicate an increased likelihood of warmer than normal April to June temperatures for western BC, and cooler than normal temperatures for eastern BC. Midrange forecasts over the next month are favoring cooler than normal to near normal temperatures. Longer range temperature forecasts shift towards a high likelihood of above normal temperatures through BC over the May to July period.

Seepage pooling in the prairie near the dyke is quite common during freshet. To minimize the seepage pooling and/or a boil on your property, please avoid the following activities near the dykes, from **May to September**:

- the removal of trees or stumps;
- deep cultivation of fields; and
- digging holes with machines.

Further information is available from the following sources:

- To view the areas where seepage pools were found during previous freshet seasons, please visit www.abbotsford.ca/rldi or visit the Engineering Department at City Hall for a hardcopy.
- For more information on the snow survey and freshet season, please visit the [Province of BC River Forecast Centre](#) website.
- For real-time river level information at the Mission Bridge (Station 08MH024), please visit the [Government of Canada Water Office](#) website.
- To report water pooling on your property or to get information on the freshet season, please contact the City of Abbotsford Dyking, Drainage and Irrigation Division at 604-853-5485.

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