
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

\$10 MILLION FROM PROVINCE FOR 40 FLOOD PROJECTS

VICTORIA – Forty flood protection projects in various communities across the province are now underway under the first phase of the 10-year, \$100-million British Columbia Flood Protection Program, Minister of Public Safety John Les announced today.

“This funding will help communities address existing flood concerns and adapt to the real and growing threat of increased flooding related to climate change,” said Les. “By doing this work now, we are taking proactive steps to prevent emergencies rather than just responding to them.”

Communities on Vancouver Island and from the Fraser Valley to the Bulkley Valley are benefiting from a wide variety of mitigation projects, including:

- new flood protection structures like a flood water debris trap on Buck Creek near Houston;
- improvements to existing infrastructure, such as adding large rocks to armour the bank of Toby Creek near Invermere;
- gravel and sediment removal projects on the Bear River near Stewart and the Kicking Horse River near Golden; and
- flood plain management planning, such as the flood risk-analysis study in Prince George.

Eligible costs under the multi-year program include design and engineering work, materials and labour. Program funding for 2007/08 is now fully allocated and projects are expected to be completed by March 31, 2008. A formal call for project applications for 2008/09 will go to local governments in the coming months.

“The Province and local governments have identified flood protection as a priority, and we are acting now to reduce the flood risk in our communities,” said Les. “This is a partnership program, and all levels of government involved will have a role in its success. To that end, we will continue to work to bring Ottawa on-board as a contributor to this program.”

The Province selected flood protection projects to fund in fiscal 2007/08 from two sources. In spring 2007, a call for urgent flood protection projects drew applications from local governments. After the spring flood event, local governments and provincial staff identified other urgent projects in areas with historic flooding issues or new, emerging flood threats.

All municipal governments, regional districts, diking districts and electoral areas may apply for funding under the British Columbia Flood Protection Program to build new flood protection works or improve existing ones. Ongoing management, operation and maintenance of new or existing flood protection works remain the responsibility of the local authority.

1 backgrounder(s) attached.

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