



# CITY OF QUESNEL NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

**March 28, 2007**

**City preparing for potential flooding**

---

**QUESNEL, B.C.** – The City of Quesnel provided a briefing to the media and Quesnel City Council today outlining the work being planned by staff to prepare for the eventuality of flooding in the City.

A number of initiatives have already been taken by staff including:

- Evaluating areas at risk of flooding.
- Evaluating any sewer or water system infrastructure that may be at risk.
- Working with emergency personnel, including representatives from the RCMP, Quesnel Volunteer Fire Department, Emergency Social Services and Provincial Emergency Program to ensure an efficient and expedient response plan is in place.

“I know our staff are going to do all they can to ensure we are fully prepared should we see flooding this spring,” said Mayor Nate Bello. “I encourage all residents and businesses to prepare for any eventuality and become more educated about what you can do to prepare yourself.”

“This is a team effort. Everybody needs to be prepared, not only the City, but individual residents as well,” said Ric Raynor the City’s Director of Emergency Services. “As a City, we’ll do everything we can to provide the information people need to be prepared.”

“If there is a need to evacuate residents to safer surroundings, our team will be ready to assist,” said Emergency Social Services Director Jeff Norburn. “We are also always looking for dedicated volunteers to help us provide for people affected by disaster.”

For more information about ESS or to volunteer, call 992-8206.

The public may access the following websites for information regarding emergency situations:

- [www.pep.bc.ca](http://www.pep.bc.ca)
- [www.getprepared.ca](http://www.getprepared.ca)
- [www.redcross.ca/cmslib/general/prepared2004812124725.pdf](http://www.redcross.ca/cmslib/general/prepared2004812124725.pdf)

The City will develop a special page on its website in the coming weeks devoted to emergency issues, with links to the above and other useful sites as well as basic emergency preparedness information.

-30-

This release is available at [www.city.quesnel.bc.ca](http://www.city.quesnel.bc.ca).

For further information, please contact:

Matt Wood, Communications Supervisor

Phone: (250) 991-7475

Fax: (250) 992-2206

E-mail: [mwood@city.quesnel.bc.ca](mailto:mwood@city.quesnel.bc.ca)



# CITY OF QUESNEL BACKGROUND

## **For Immediate Release**

**March 28, 2007**

## **City preparing for potential flooding**

---

The City of Quesnel provided a briefing to the media and Quesnel City Council today outlining the work done to date by staff to prepare for the eventuality of flooding in the City. A number of initiatives have already been taken by staff.

### Emergency Services

- Constant communication with Provincial Emergency Program
- Monitoring snow pack, water levels and flood risk.

### Public Works

- Evaluating elevations of dikes along the Fraser River
- Developing plans for:
  - Evacuation of the Public Works yard.
  - Flood-proofing of the two main sewer lift stations.
  - Mapping of sewer manholes that may need to be sealed off.
  - Shutting down wells 6 and 3 if necessary.
- Mapping all storm drain backflow prevention devices along the Fraser and Quesnel Rivers and Baker Creek.
  - Check, to ensure said devices are operational.
- Stockpile of sandbags – 20,000
- Secured sources of clay, large rock and sand for dikes and other needs.
- Updated list external suppliers of heavy equipment and picker trucks.

### RCMP

- Evacuation plans have been updated.
- Have attended planning meetings and training sessions with other responders and Provincial Emergency Program.
- Working with local governments to ensure a unified response to any emergency.

### Emergency Social Services

- Evaluating the areas that may be impacted by flooding and anticipating the number of people who may be affected if evacuations are required.
- Preparing volunteers to respond and set up a reception centre and provide emergency food, clothing, and lodging services if required to evacuees.

### GIS (Mapping)

- Mapping different scenarios using floodplain data, contours and elevation readings taken by Public Works along the floodplain area.
- Identifying and mapping key areas of vulnerability (creating several area maps).

-30-

This backgrounder is available at [www.city.quesnel.bc.ca](http://www.city.quesnel.bc.ca).

For further information, please contact:

Matt Wood, Communications Supervisor

Phone: (250) 991-7475

Fax: (250) 992-2206

E-mail: [mwood@city.quesnel.bc.ca](mailto:mwood@city.quesnel.bc.ca)