



# City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 1, 2017 #17-26

For further information, contact:  
Patrick Cullen at 604-467-7301  
[pcullen@mapleridge.ca](mailto:pcullen@mapleridge.ca)

## Fraser River Update

**Maple Ridge, BC:** The BC River Forecast Centre has issued a High Streamflow Advisory for the Fraser River. The advisory includes areas of the main stem river from the Fraser Canyon downstream to the ocean.

River levels have been rising in response to hot temperatures and rapid snowmelt in the Fraser River basin. Runoff from hot temperatures over the weekend and early this week are expected to lead to additional rapid rises along the lower Fraser River from Wednesday to Saturday of this week.

Flows at the Fraser River at Hope (Water Survey of Canada gauge 08MF005) are expected to reach 9500-10,000 cubic metres per second (m<sup>3</sup>/s) by Friday and into Saturday. This is between a two-year and five-year return period flow and below flow levels that were observed in 2007 (11,200 m<sup>3</sup>/s) and 2012 (11,900 m<sup>3</sup>/s). Low-lying areas on the river side of flood protection infrastructure have previously been impacted by flows at the Fraser River at Hope in the 9,000 m<sup>3</sup>/s to 10,000 m<sup>3</sup>/s range.

Water levels at the Fraser River at Mission (WSC 08MF024) are forecasted to reach 5.9-6.05m over the Sunday to Tuesday period. Complete water level forecasts from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Flood Safety Section for various locations along the Lower Fraser River can be found on the River Forecast Centre website: [bcrcfc.env.gov.bc.ca/freshet/index.htm](http://bcrcfc.env.gov.bc.ca/freshet/index.htm). Local impacts of these water levels are dependent on flood protection infrastructure and other measures put in place by local authorities. Local governments along the Lower Fraser River may provide additional information to potentially impacted residents.

After reaching peak levels this weekend, flows are expected to recede slowly next week. The River Forecast Centre will continue to monitor river levels and will update the advisory as conditions warrant.

The City of Maple Ridge has already begun regular dyke inspections as the water levels have been rising. Once the water levels reach six metres at the Mission gauge, daily dyke inspections will occur until water levels recede as predicted.

“As the BC River Forecast centre noted, the Fraser River has not been at this level for a few years, so a lot of debris that gathered on the shoreline has been picked up and is sweeping down toward the ocean. The combination of the high flow rate and debris poses a risk for citizens who use the river for recreation,” said Patrick Cullen, Emergency Program Coordinator for the City of Maple Ridge. “People who use the river for recreational boating or paddling need to exercise great caution. Citizens who walk or hike along the river should also be careful, especially with off leash pets, as the river currents quickly overcome even experienced swimmers.”

The City will share additional updates as they become available. For more information on this media release please contact Patrick Cullen, Emergency Program Coordinator at [pcullen@mapleridge.ca](mailto:pcullen@mapleridge.ca) or by phone at 604-467-7301.