



Williams Lake
FIRST NATION



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Work Ongoing to Clean-Up Spill in River Valley

Treated effluent from the City of Williams Lake's sanitary sewer lagoons in the River Valley is now flowing all the way to the Fraser River. After weeks of hard work, crews successfully hooked up the gravity-fed sanitary pipe to prevent the effluent from discharging into the Williams Lake River.

A helicopter inspection of the area's sewer system and manholes Tuesday confirmed the treated effluent has been effectively diverted to the Fraser River. The move comes more than two months after a sanitary sewer pipe was ruptured following high water flows on April 23. An independent contractor has been working since April 28 to collect water and soil samples for testing.

Emergency Operations Centre crews continue to develop a strategy to mitigate damage from the compromised sewer pipe, while also working on bolstering roads, bridges and unstable slopes damaged by the flood waters. Six out of 14 damaged bridges have been reinstated. The bridges are needed to access and re-bed or repair exposed sections of the sanitary sewer line. The 7th bridge across from the slope dubbed "The Ashtray" is projected to be reinstated later this week.

The work is expected to take months to complete and the public is asked to continue to avoid the area at this time. Updates will be provided weekly by the Unified Command at the Emergency Operations Centre, involving the City of Williams Lake (COWL), Williams Lake First Nation (WLFN), and B.C. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (MOE).

Meanwhile, the City of Williams Lake remains in a State of Local Emergency. Ten properties on Frizzi Road also remain under an evacuation order.