

City of Abbotsford

Atmospheric River
Impacts and Recovery



Emergency
ManagementBC

Flood Impacts

In November 2021, the Fraser Valley received more than 500 millimetres of rain, resulting in local rivers overflowing. The Nooksack River in Washington State flooded into the Sumas River and towards a dike at the Fraser River, resulting in extreme flooding into the Sumas Prairie and the City of Abbotsford.



Sumas Prairie after the floods

Several sections of dikes failed, resulting in the evacuation of 1,100 properties and over 3,300 people. Flooding across farmland resulted in significant loss of crops and livestock. It also forced the closure of Highway 1 and the Sumas border crossing, impacting cross-border traffic and trade.

Recovery Funding

- Through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs (MUNI), the City of Abbotsford was provided \$6.85 million to complete flood recovery activities.
- \$1 million of the \$6.85 million is supporting the business case, planning and feasibility studies for a new water well field. This work is underway.
- MUNI also provided \$61.9 million to the City of Abbotsford to build a new water well and water-treatment system to ensure a reliable, resilient water service for more than 165,000 people in response to growing climate-related threats.
- Abbotsford has received Disaster Financial Assistance approval for several infrastructure repair projects including dikes, roads, control units, insurance deductibles, engineering and assessment fees and water distributors. Many of these projects are underway.

- For farmers, the Canada-BC Flood Recovery Program for Food Security has provided funding for individualized support for animal feed; shelter, fencing and returning land to agricultural production. Ministry of Agriculture staff continue to assist farmers with their applications.



Flooded farm in Abbotsford

Additional Recovery Efforts

- Abbotsford is proceeding with repairs and moving heavy equipment to the site of Sumas River Dike to begin construction.
- The City of Abbotsford has commissioned an analysis on costs, benefits, and risks of a new pump station.
- Discussions continue between the City of Abbotsford and Semá:th on shared visions for their flood strategy and mitigation options that work best for both communities. The Province looks forward to supporting them in their work moving forward.
- Work with Washington State on mitigation of future flooding on the Nooksack has involved Indigenous, local, and provincial/state governments on both sides of the border and are all actively engaged in advancing collaborative work to coordinate planning and mitigation efforts.
- Norrish Creek Road repairs to protect the water main supplying water to Abbotsford and Mission are now underway.



Sumas River Dike Repairs