

# Flood Debris Management Secretariat

Following the November 2021 Atmospheric River Event (ARE) in British Columbia, the Province launched the Flood Debris Management Secretariat, and created a comprehensive debris removal program.

Engineering and risk assessments by Qualified Professional Engineers assessed over 700 sites, and through mobilizing task forces, removed over 16,000 metric tons of debris in less than a year.

To date, eight waterways and over 725 kms have been cleared.

In response to concerns about water quality, a multi-agency provincial taskforce was also formed. The water quality taskforce findings can be found on the Flood Water Quality Monitoring Task Force Hub.

The work to re-establish pre-flood conditions continues to be successful due to ongoing collaboration between the Province, First Nations, Qualified Professionals and community members.



## Vedder River and Canal Flood Recovery Project

### Why is this work needed?

The 2021 atmospheric river event (ARE) deposited 440,000 cubic meters of sediment in the Vedder River, creating a risk to public safety in the dike system and leaving Chilliwack, Abbotsford, and Yarrow communities at higher risk of flooding.

The work the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy is doing, in collaboration with Sumas First Nation, is a one-time effort specifically related to addressing the impacts from the ARE. During this project, teams have been collecting data that will improve environmental sustainability for future gravel removals. Sumas First Nation will also be completing a fish monitoring study which is intended to understand upstream mortality of adult salmon within the Sumas-Chilliwack River.

### Where is this work happening?

The Vedder River and Canal is a diked portion of the Chilliwack River, on the traditional lands of the Semá:th people and part of the larger Stó:lō Nation.

Eleven sediment bars located between the highway one crossing and the Vedder Crossing bridge have been identified for flood recovery work.

### How were sites assessed?

A Qualified Professional determined if an issue in the waterway was linked to the ARE and if it falls within the scope of the Flood Debris Management Secretariat.

The sites were assessed to determine if they created risks to health and safety, river capacity, cultural values, environmental values, or critical infrastructure.

### How long will this work take?

The project will happen between August and October 2024. Instream work will be completed by the end of the 2024 fish window.

### How is this work funded?

Funding for these works comes through transfers from the federal government under Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements in response to the 2021 ARE.

This project is estimated to cost \$13M.