

Update on groundwater



This report is prepared for you by the water management teams within the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) and the Ministry of Environment and Parks (ENV).

In the December 2025 issue:

- Groundwater Wells and Aquifer (GWELLS) application – 2025 review of well record submissions
- WLRS updates
- Provincial Government Groundwater Program regional update
- Provincial Groundwater Observation Well Network update
- Registering as a GWELLS user to submit well records online
- Groundwater staff contact list

Report non-compliance:

- Have you noticed a well that does not meet the construction standards of the Groundwater Protection Regulation?
- Know of someone who is drilling a well or installing a well pump without being registered?

RAPP
Report All
Poachers and
Polluters

24 Hr Hotline:
1-877-952-RAPP
Cellular Dial #7277
(On Telus Network)

GWELLS Well Record Submissions

Jan. 01 - Nov. 17, 2025

■ Number of Well Records by Company

* Some 2025 paper well records are yet to be entered; Driller/Company info missing or companies with fewer than 5 records are not displayed



WLRS updates

B.C.–Yukon Groundwater Symposium rescheduled

The B.C. Groundwater Symposium has been rescheduled to December 11. This year the symposium will be co-hosted in partnership with Yukon territory and will feature a session dedicated to groundwater science and monitoring projects in the Yukon. There will also be a special presentation in memoriam of Dr. Andarge Baye, P.Ge., to honour the contributions he made to the Provincial Groundwater Program during his years of service. Register for the event at: [Joint B.C.–Yukon Symposium](#)

New Groundwater Science and Monitoring Compendium published

The Compendium of Provincial Groundwater Science and Monitoring Projects: 2024–25 has been published and can be accessed through the [Water Science Series](#). The Compendium is a compilation of short summaries highlighting the various groundwater science and monitoring projects undertaken by the B.C. government over the past year.

Release of the provincial Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment

The B.C. government recently released a B.C. Disaster and Climate Risk and

Resilience Assessment (DCRRA) and B.C. Hazard Insights Tool on its website here:

<https://climatereadybc.gov.bc.ca/pages/dcrra>. More than 200 subject matter experts and organizations including First Nations and Indigenous organizations, academic and technical institutions, local governments, non-governmental organizations and community groups collaborated with the B.C. government to prepare key information on different hazards and how they could impact our province.

The assessment provides foundational information on six key natural hazards in B.C.: riverine flood, coastal flood, extreme heat, **drought and water scarcity**, wildfire, and earthquake. It highlights how these hazards are influenced by climate change and how they affect what we value, including the natural environment, built environment, economy, governance, health and well-being, and society, cultures and relationality. The report and the new B.C. Hazard Insights Tool aim to deepen understanding of the hazards we face in the province and their disproportionate impacts on certain groups, supporting more effective disaster mitigation across all levels of government. Together, the materials can be used by First Nations, the B.C. government, local governments, infrastructure owners, health authorities and others to develop emergency management plans and invest in projects that reduce risks.

Provincial Groundwater Program Regional update – North Natural Resource Area

Provincial Groundwater Observation Well Network (PGOWN)

The number of PGOWN wells in the North Area is nearing its maximum capacity, constrained by current staffing levels and budget limitations. To ensure continued effectiveness, we are reviewing existing observation wells to assess whether they still align with our monitoring objectives. To expand coverage, one new well (OW 523, near Wonowon, monitoring aquifer 932) was included into the network. Two new wells have been proposed and are awaiting approval in the Vanderhoof area, aimed at enhancing water level monitoring in bedrock aquifers. These wells are currently undergoing the land use permitting process.

Beyond the official PGOWN network, one observation well in Atlin is jointly operated by the governments of British Columbia and Yukon, with all field operations managed by the Yukon government. Additionally, we are



actively evaluating 30 monitoring wells previously constructed under the BCER/UBC Energy and Environment Research Initiative (EERI) in the Northeast to determine their suitability for integration into the PGOWN network.



OW523, a non-telemetry station where data is recorded by Solinst loggers (WLRs, 2025).

Groundwater science studies

In groundwater science, we continue to advance our understanding of groundwater–surface water interactions across multiple spatial scale. Our manuscript

titled “A 3-D numerical model using a high-resolution digital elevation model to assess the cumulative effects of aquifer and river interaction” has been accepted for publication in Hydrogeology Journal. This project, funded by the Groundwater Science Program, focuses on quantifying groundwater contributions to Stoney Creek in the Vanderhoof area. At a much finer scale, we completed a localized project at Kenneth Creek, west of Purden Lake, aimed at directly measuring groundwater inflow to the creek. The site was strategically selected to leverage existing hydrometric data collected by the Ministry of Forests research program. The fieldwork phase is now complete, and the project has entered the data processing stage.



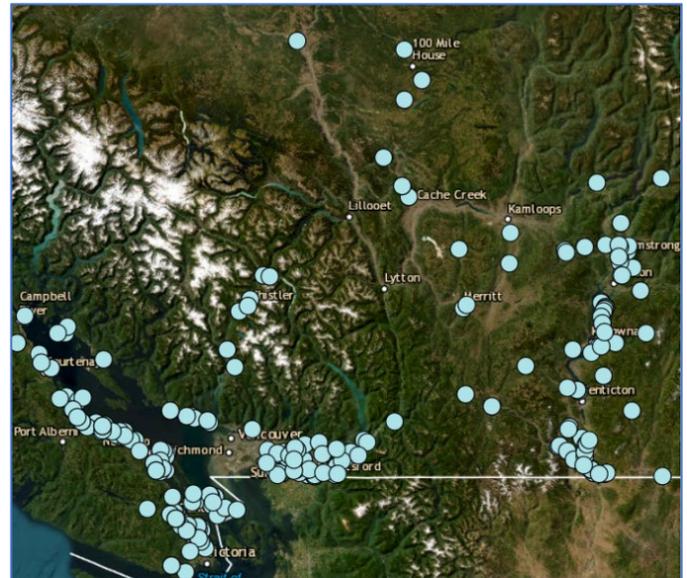
Measurement instrument of the Kenneth Creek groundwater-surface water interaction project (WLRs, 2025).

Collectively, these projects in the North Area are designed to deepen our understanding of water exchange mechanisms, particularly during the driest period of the year.

Provincial Groundwater Observation Well Network update

Below is a brief summary of the current extent of the PGOWN:

- 239 active observation wells
- Over 180 aquifers are currently monitored
- 153 active stations (64%) have telemetry for ‘live’ data via our Interactive Map and Real-Time Water Data portal
- Our oldest active stations have been collecting data since 1962
- The largest number of observation wells can be found on the east side of Vancouver Island / Gulf Islands, the Lower Mainland and the Okanagan Valley



Real-time Water Data portal showing PGOWN site locations (ENV, 2025).

This year we are decommissioning three closed PGOWN stations in Barkerville, Langley and Maple Ridge. In addition, as we try to focus our resources on higher priority monitoring sites to ensure we can continue to generate high-quality data, we will be identifying other stations to potentially close in the years ahead (for example, active stations in the same aquifer with redundant data).

At the same time, given the age of the network, we are undergoing significant work to identify ageing observation wells for rehabilitation or replacement. Therefore, network expansion is likely to slow, although new monitoring areas may yet be added as lower priority stations are taken offline.

Do you have questions about the PGOWN?

Contact GroundWater@gov.bc.ca.

Registering as a GWELLS user to submit well records online

Get access in three easy steps:

1. Visit the GWELLS [BCeID registration page](#) to obtain either a Basic BCeID account or Business BCeID account. (Note, if you already have a Basic or Business BCeID account, you do not need to create a new one to access GWELLS)
2. After obtaining your BCeID, go to GWELLS and select the login button (top right of the application screen).
3. Once you have logged in, email gwells@gov.bc.ca to request access for your BCeID user account.

Once access has been granted, you will be able to enter and submit groundwater well reports through GWELLS.

Contact information of groundwater staff with statutory authority

Office		Name	Statutory Designation	Phone	Email
West Coast	Nanaimo	Jessica Doyle, P. Geo.	Assistant Water Manager	778-693-3035	Jessica.Doyle@gov.bc.ca
		Nicole Fulcher	Officer	250-739-8339	Nicole.Fulcher@gov.bc.ca
		Colin McKenzie, P. Geo.	Officer	250-331-4455	Colin.McKenzie@gov.bc.ca
South Coast	Surrey	Michele Lepitre, P. Geo.	Assistant Water Manager	778-572-2168	Michele.Lepitre@gov.bc.ca
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South Area	Penticton	John Pogson, P. Geo.	Assistant Water Manager	778-622-6876	John.Pogson@gov.bc.ca
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		Laura Maclaren	Officer	778-476-9008	Laura.Maclaren@gov.bc.ca
	Vernon	David Thomson, P. Geo.	Assistant Water Manager	778-943-6924	David.Thomson@gov.bc.ca
	Kamloops	Melissa Wade, P. Geo.	Assistant Water Manager	778-362-4714	Melissa.Wade@gov.bc.ca
		Laurie Lyons	Officer	250-312-7262	Laurie.Lyons@gov.bc.ca
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North Area	Prince George	Jun Yin, P. Geo.	Assistant Water Manager	778-693-3015	Jun.Yin@gov.bc.ca
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Victoria	Amy Sloma, P. Eng.	Deputy Comptroller	778-698-4866	Amy.Sloma@gov.bc.ca	
	Qihong Su	Officer (Sr. Groundwater Data Specialist)	778-693-2768	Qihong.Su@gov.bc.ca	
	Alexander Roudenko	Officer (Groundwater Data Specialist)	250-387-3944	Alexander.Roudenko@gov.bc.ca	

For general enquiries, contact GroundWater@gov.bc.ca.



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