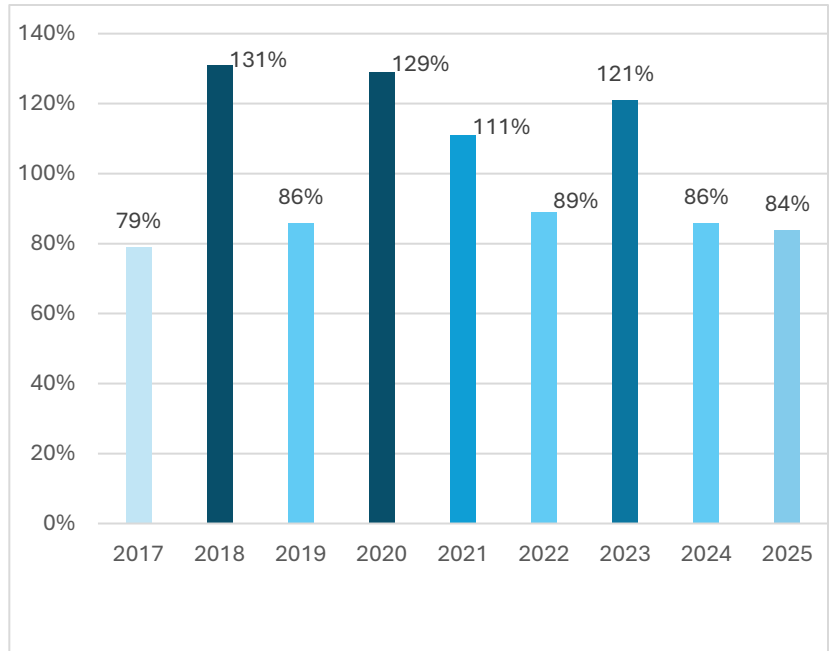


**Weather Update**

***Snowpack in the Okanagan is Low***

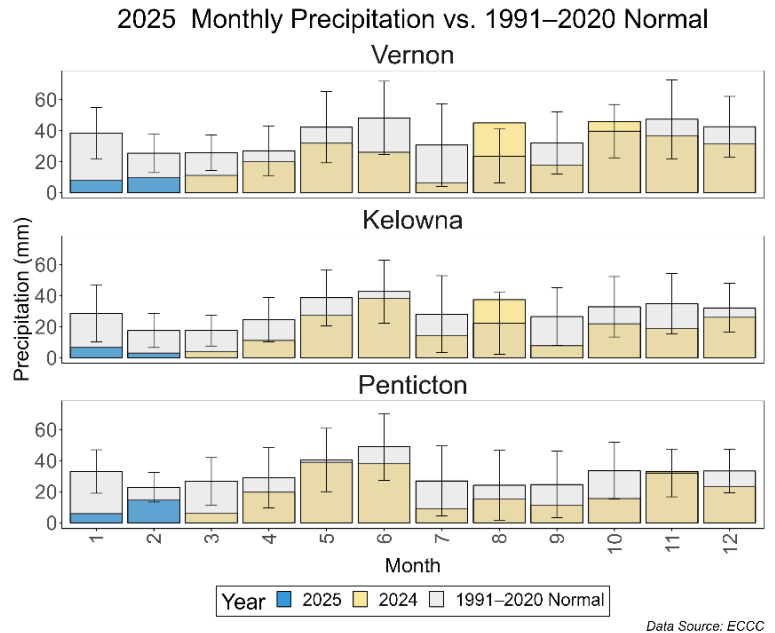
According to the Provincial Snow Supply Bulletin on February 12, the provincial snowpack was 72% of normal, and the Okanagan was **84%**. This put the Okanagan snowpack at its **lowest on February 1 since 2017, when an abnormally low mid-season snowpack preceded the flood of the century** (Figure 2)<sup>3</sup>. The current snowpack levels in the Okanagan are shown in Figure 4. All are low and have spent time at or below last year's values.



**Figure 2** Comparison of February 1 snow index over the last 9 years in the Okanagan. Graph from the February Snow Supply Bulletin.

***Precipitation was Low***

Precipitation in January was low across the Okanagan. As of February 23, total precipitation was slightly higher than in January for most cities but was still very low (Figure 3). This marks four months in a row with below-normal precipitation in Vernon, three months for Penticton, and six months for Kelowna.

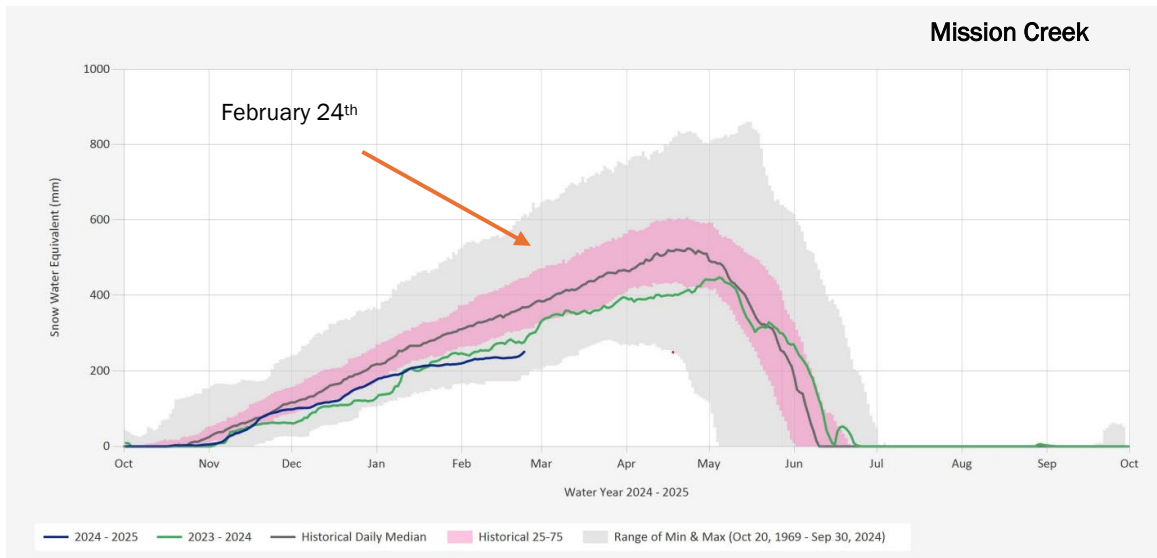
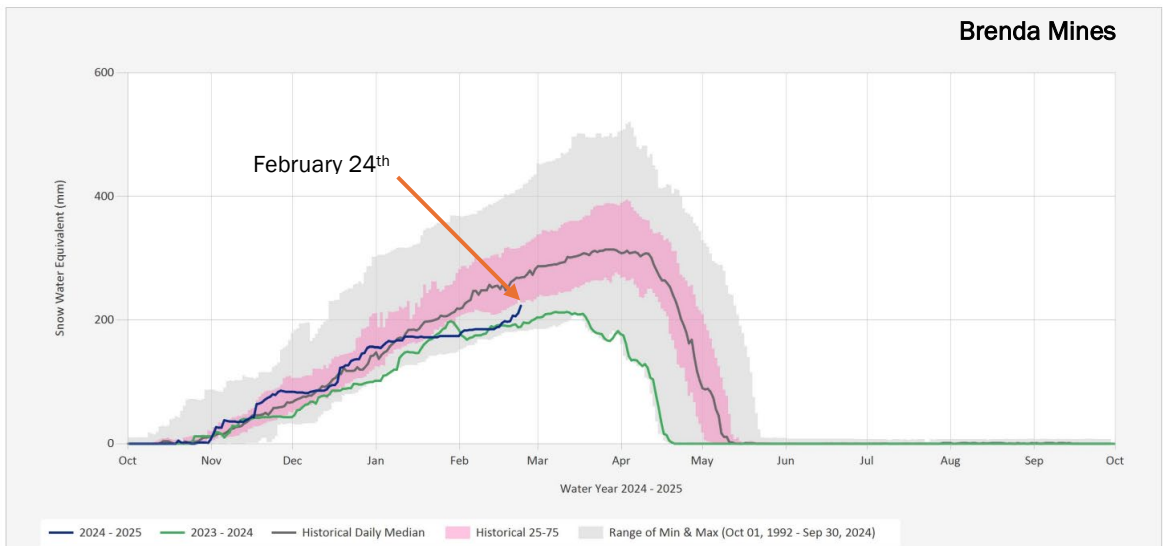
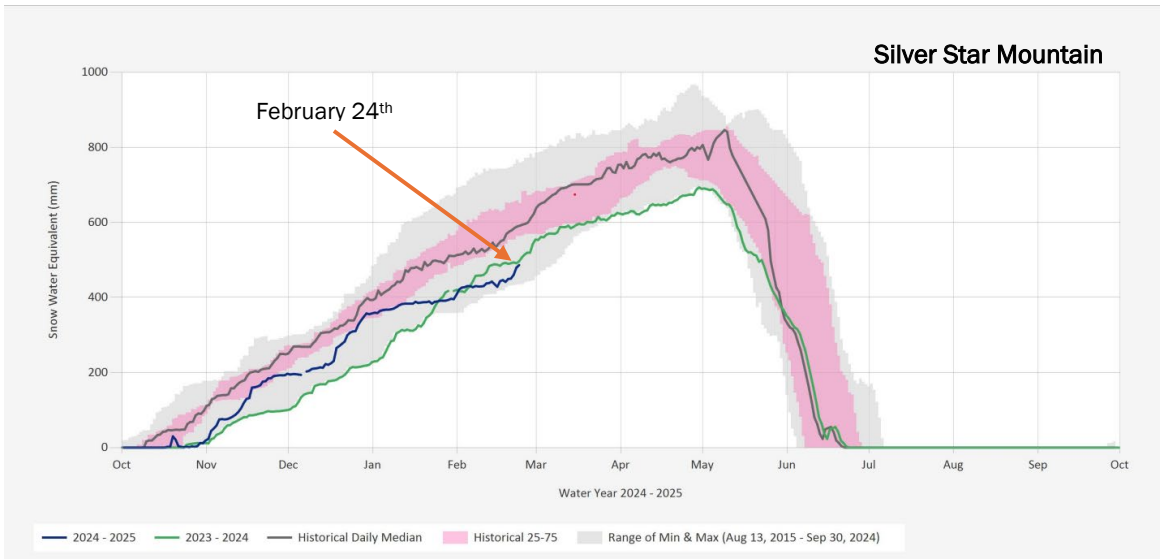


**Figure 3** Monthly Precipitation in the Okanagan as of February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Compared to 1991 to 2020 range. Data retrieved from Environment and Climate Change Canada

<sup>2</sup> February 1, 2025, Snow Bulletin: [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/air-land-water/water/river-forecast/2025\\_feb1.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/air-land-water/water/river-forecast/2025_feb1.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> B.C. Water Data Portal

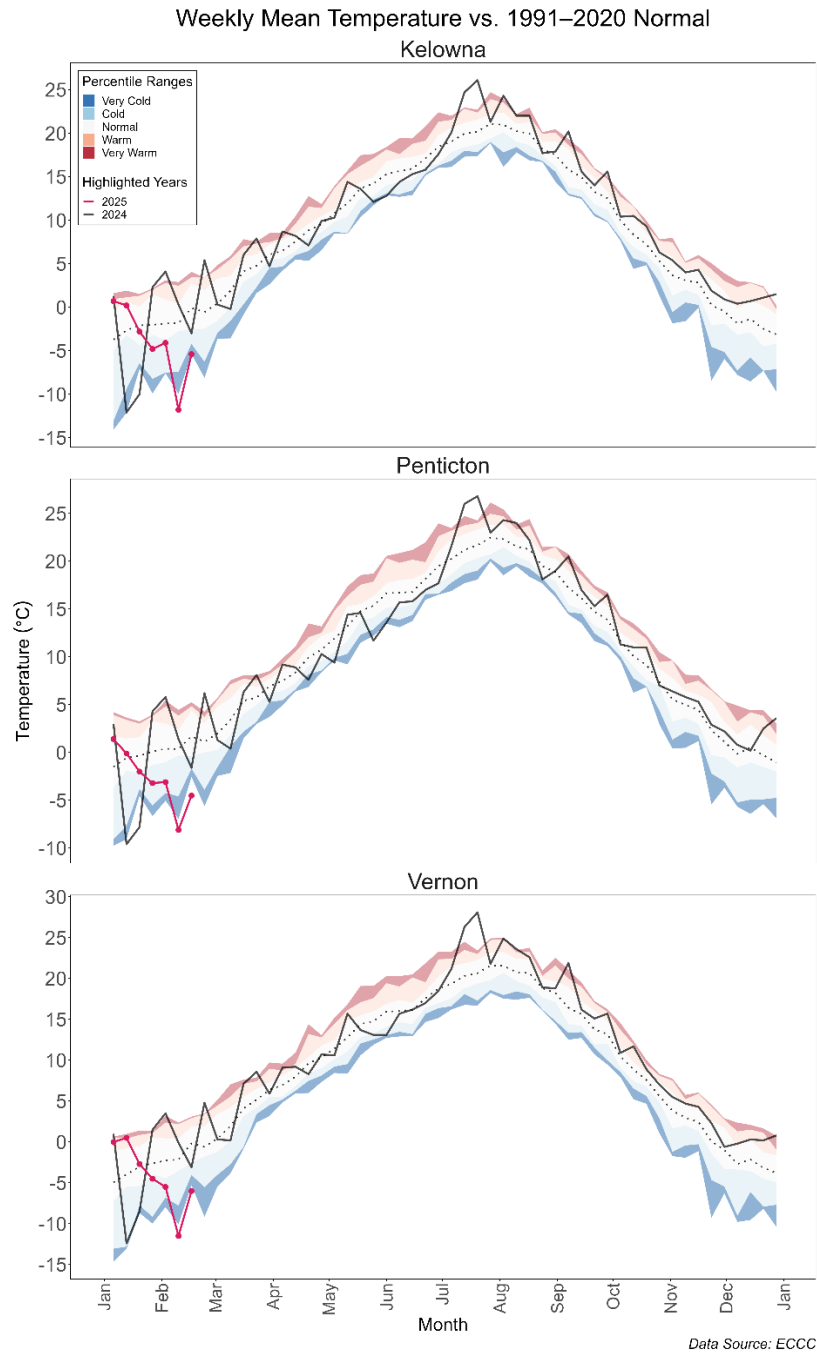
<https://governmentofbc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=c15768bf73494f5da04b1aac6793bd2e>



**Figure 4** Weekly Snowpack Accumulation Across the Okanagan as of February 24. Data from the Province of B.C.

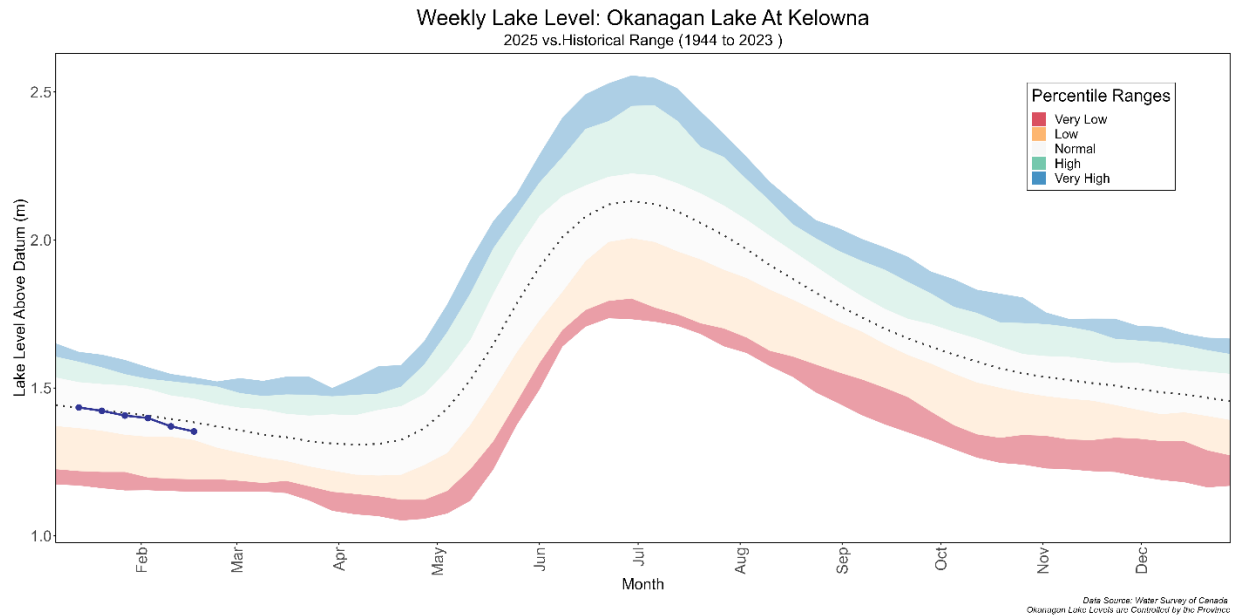
### Cool Temperatures in the Okanagan

Temperatures across the Okanagan were cool throughout early February, with the week of the 10-16<sup>th</sup> averaging -11.8°C in Kelowna, -11.5°C in Vernon, and -8.5°C in Penticton. These were among the coldest temperatures seen in the last 30 years for that week. As of February 23, temperatures had started warming again but the weekly temperature was still in the very cold range.



**Figure 5** Weekly Average Temperature Across the Okanagan as of February 23 compared to 2024 and 1991 to 2020 range. Data retrieved from Environment and Climate Change Canada.

## Okanagan Lake Levels are Normal

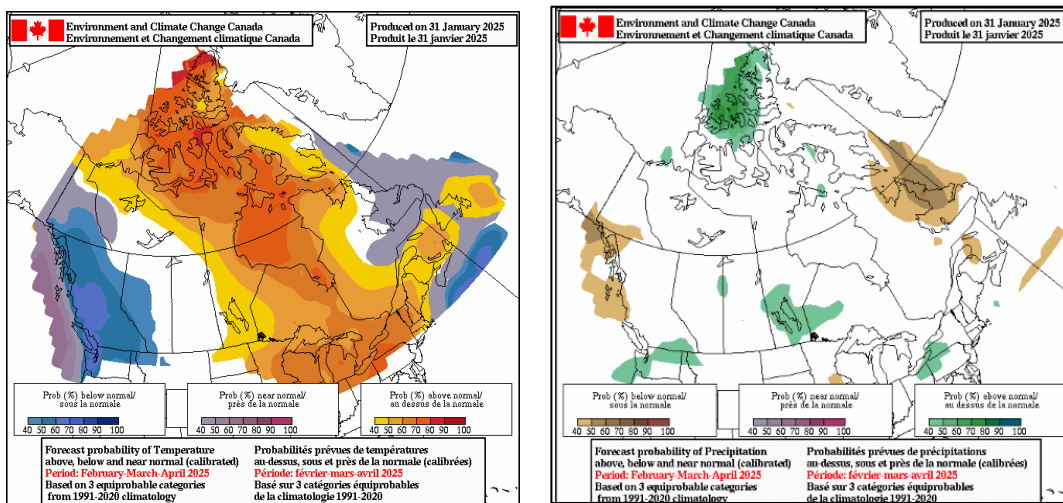


**Figure 6** Weekly lake levels for Okanagan Lake at Kelowna compared to the 1944 – 2023 range. Data is retrieved from the Water Survey of Canada.

As of February 24, Okanagan Lake levels were below the mean but within the normal range (Figure 5), managed by the operator of the Okanagan Dam in Penticton.

### Forecast

As of January 31, the ECCC Seasonal Forecast<sup>4</sup> projected cool conditions for the next 3 months. The ECCC shows slightly wet conditions for projected precipitation in the Okanagan region. Seasonal forecasting is highly challenging, so disagreement between models or variations from projections is not uncommon.



**Figure 7** Three-Month Seasonal Temperature Forecast from ECCC (Feb-April).

<sup>4</sup> ECCC 3-Month Seasonal Forecast: [https://weather.gc.ca/saisons/prob\\_e.html](https://weather.gc.ca/saisons/prob_e.html)

## NOAA Update

Over the last month, OBWB staff have been monitoring the changes occurring at the U.S. *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration* (NOAA). NOAA is a world leader in weather forecasting and climate sciences whose data has long been the gold standard internationally. However, since the presidential inauguration in January, the Government of the United States has made rapid and significant changes to many of its agencies including NOAA. Changes included significant funding and staffing cuts, and policy changes. Due to the rapid and unstructured nature of the changes the extent and implications are not yet clear. However, themes of the changes include a shift away from research and reducing communication and cooperation with international partners. Furthermore, changes to webpages have seemed to de-emphasise previous language around climate change and make public data harder to access. Staff will continue to monitor changes and provide updates as necessary. <sup>5678</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> The Guardian (04.02.2025) Scientists brace 'for the worst' as Trump purges climate mentions from websites  
<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/feb/04/trump-climate-change-federal-websites>

<sup>6</sup> The Guardian (05.02.2025)

Doge staffers enter NOAA headquarters and incite reports of cuts and threats

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/feb/04/doge-noaa-headquarters>

<sup>7</sup> New York Times (10.02.2025) How Could the Weather Service Change Under Trump?

[https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/08/weather/national-weather-service-cuts-trump.html?unlocked\\_article\\_code=1.vk4.hg4Q.HjSkx\\_4bE9ve&smid=url-share](https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/08/weather/national-weather-service-cuts-trump.html?unlocked_article_code=1.vk4.hg4Q.HjSkx_4bE9ve&smid=url-share)

<sup>8</sup> CBC (18.02.2025) Scientists at U.S. weather forecasting agency ordered to get clearance before talking to Canadian counterparts

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/science/trump-american-scientists-international-engagements-1.7461238>