

# Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Agenda



Okanagan Basin

WATER BOARD

**DATE:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025

**TIME:** 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**PLACE:** Capri Hotel, located at 1171 Harvey Ave,  
Kelowna, BC V1Y 6E8.

## 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

### 1.1 Acknowledgement of First Nations Traditional Territory

*We acknowledge that we work on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded tm̓x̓wúlaʔx̓w (land) of the syilx (Okanagan) people who have resided here since time immemorial. We honour and respect this land and the siwl̓k (water) which flows through the valley and connects us all.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

## 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

## 4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

### 4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 1, 2025 held online.

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## 5. BOARD CHAIR REMARKS

## 6. DELEGATION

## 7. STAFF REPORTS

### 7.1 Executive Director Report

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### 7.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

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### 7.3 Sole-Source Contract Approval – Okanagan Nation Alliance

P. 13

***Recommended motion: THAT the OBWB Board approve awarding a sole-source contract to the Okanagan Nation Alliance for \$344,080 to deliver hydrometric station operation and maintenance services for the 2025-26 fiscal year.***

### 7.4 Communications Manager Report

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### 7.5 Water Science Specialist Report

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## 8. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

## 9. CORRESPONDENCE

### 9.1 Information Bulletin from the Ministry of Attorney General, dated April 29, 2025. The bulletin describes the introduction of miscellaneous statutes amendment act, 2025. If passed by the legislature, the amendments include changes to the Wildlife Act to enact pull the plug requirements and mandatory stops at open watercraft inspection stations, targeted for the 2025 summer boating season.

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### 9.2 Letter from Columbia Shuswap Regional District Board Chair Natalya Melnychuk to the province to Honourable Randene Neill, M.P. Minister of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship in support of the Okanagan Basin Water Board's Calls to Action - Preventing Invasive Mussels in BC. Dated April 4, 2025.

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**10. NEXT MEETING**

- 10.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be on Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at 10 a.m. at the Regional District Of Okanagan-similkameen office, 101 Martin St. Penticton, BC, V2A 5J9.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

*\* **NOTE:** Meetings of the Okanagan Basin Water Board are open to the public, and only closed for in-camera sessions as set out in the B.C. Community Charter. From time-to-time, the board will be holding its meeting online. If you are interested in attending an online meeting, please contact [communications@obwb.ca](mailto:communications@obwb.ca) for further details.*

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD  
HELD April 1, 2025, AT THE OFFICES OF THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF THE NORTH OKANAGAN,  
9848 ABERDEEN RD., COLDSTREAM, B.C.**

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**PRESENT**

Chair Blair Ireland	Regional District Central Okanagan
Vice Chair Doug Holmes	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Victor Cumming	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Bob Fleming	Regional District North Okanagan
Alt-Director Kevin Kraft	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Wayne Carson	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Sue McKortoff	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Subrina Monteith	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Jeremy Fyke	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council (OWSC)
Director Bob Hrasko	Water Supply Association of B.C

**REGRETS**

Director Tim Lezard	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Director Charlie Hodge	Regional District Central Okanagan

**STAFF**

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
James Littley	Chief Operating Officer
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director
Carolina Restrepo-Tamayo	Office and Grants Manager
Carmen Weld	Communications Manager
Sandra Schira	Water Science Specialist
Amanda Burnett	Communications Coordinator

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Ireland called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

He respectfully acknowledged that we work on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded tm̓xʷúlaʔxʷ (land) of the syilx (Okanagan) people who have resided here since time immemorial. We honour and respect this land and the siw̓łk (water) which flows through the valley and connects us all.

**2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

- 2.1 Chair Ireland, as a late item, introduced a motion to direct staff to draft a letter from the OBWB to the B.C. Ministers on the value of water to the economy in the Okanagan.

***“THAT staff be directed to draft a letter from the OBWB to B.C. Ministers on the value of water to the economy in the Okanagan.”***

**CARRIED**

- 2.2 James Littley submitted a late memorandum titled Executive Director Appointment. This was submitted as item 6.1.1.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*“THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 1, 2025, be approved.”*

**CARRIED**

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of March 4, 2025, held online.

*“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board on March 4, 2025, held online, be approved.”*

**CARRIED**

**5. DELEGATION**

5.1 There were no delegations at this meeting.

**6. STAFF REPORTS**

6.1 Executive Director Report – Dr. Anna Warwick Sears

Dr. Sears reminded the board that she is now on leave from her position as the Executive Director of the OBWB. She told the Board that she will continue to work closely with Chief Operating Officer, James Littlely and incoming Executive Director Melissa Tesche on the transition

*“THAT the Executive Director’s report, dated March 26, 2025, be received.”*

**CARRIED**

6.2 Chief Operating Officer - James Littlely

Mr. Littlely provided the Board with an update on the OBWB’s milfoil control program. Mr. Littlely informed the Board that the ongoing low water conditions in the Okanagan are affecting milfoil control operations this winter. De-rooting is now complete in Okanagan and Wood Lakes, however Osoyoos Lake levels have been too low to launch the machine there this season. With increased precipitation expected, it may be possible to launch before April 1, putting operations a few weeks behind schedule in Osoyoos. Mr. Littlely has directed operators to prioritize public beach areas, as per board policy, while areas adjacent to public property may not receive treatment this winter. Drought conditions are also affecting operations in Kalamalka Lake, as de-rooting causes short-term turbidity spikes at Greater Vernon Water’s (GVW) Kalamalka Lake intake. Kalamalka Lake drains during freshet, and most of the turbidity is carried away from the intake and toward Vernon Creek; however, with the current low flows in Vernon Creek, the turbidity is moving toward the intake. The OBWB is coordinating closely with GVW to do as much milfoil control as possible without affecting drinking water quality.

Mr. Littlely also provided Board Directors with updates to various aspects of the OBWB’s ongoing efforts to prevent the spread of invasive mussels. On March 21, the OBWB submitted feedback to the BC Wildlife Act Review as they work to amend the Act to enable future regulations requiring all watercraft entering the province to be inspected before launching in B.C. waters. This step will help prevent invasive mussels, whirling disease, and other aquatic invasives and pathogens. The aim is to create robust legislation to stop boats from launching and to establish quarantine protocols, drawing from examples of other jurisdictions.

Alberta has improved its invasive mussel defense program, by committing \$18.2 million over five years to enhance prevention efforts. This is equivalent to \$3.64 million per year. The funding will support inspection stations, two mussel-sniffing dog teams, and a pilot tank decontamination project. B.C.’s Invasive Mussel Defence Program funding remains the same, despite OBWB calls

to increase funding to the program.

Mr. Littley reported that he has been working with UBCO 4th-year engineering students on a modular drive-through watercraft decontamination tank design, with a final report detailing components, costs, and maintenance; the project will be showcased at the KF Centre for Excellence on April 9.

***“THAT the Chief Operating Officer’s report, dated March 25, 2025, be received.”***  
**CARRIED**

### 6.3 Water Stewardship Director’s Report – Dr. Nelson Jatel

Dr. Jatel provided the Board with a summary of the latest Okanagan Water Stewardship Council (OWSC) meeting. At the March 13 OWSC meeting, UBCO student Zailie Hoff, co-supervised by Dr. Jatel and UBCO professor Dr. Craig Nichol, presented her research on the connection between groundwater and surface water in Mission Creek. Her study of 12 wells along the creek confirmed that groundwater and surface water are directly connected—meaning that well pumping near the creek can lower creek water levels. She found that excessive summer pumping can significantly reduce environmental flows, affecting fish habitats, ecosystems, and community water supplies. James Littley also presented on invasive species prevention, highlighting back-casting analysis that several thousand of boats may have entered British Columbia without undergoing mandatory inspection, posing a serious risk to local waterways.

Melissa Tesche entered the Board meeting at 10:23 a.m.

Dr. Jeremy Fyke informed the Board that his two-year term as official Chair of the OWSC and OWSC appointee to the OBWB is concluding, making this his final meeting in the roles. OBWB Directors expressed their thanks and appreciation to Dr. Fyke for his leadership and contributions during his term. A new Chair will be elected at the next OWSC meeting, scheduled for Thursday, April 10, 2025, at the Kelowna Coast Capri Hotel.

Dr. Jatel previewed the upcoming speaker for the April 10 OWSC meeting; Deborah Curran, Executive Director of the Environmental Law Centre and Hakai Professor in Environmental Law and Sustainability at the University of Victoria. Curran will address the Council on how Canadian legal systems can better support community-led watershed governance. Her presentation will explore how legislative reforms could strengthen ecological resilience, with a focus on the co-existence of Indigenous and settler legal traditions in protecting water.

In response to concerns from Okanagan local governments about the increasing presence of cyanobacteria in drinking water sources—at times of year when it was not previously observed—Dr. Jatel is leading a collaborative effort with local governments and First Nations to apply for a grant from Environment and Climate Change Canada. The initiative aims to improve understanding of cyanobacteria in Okanagan lakes, where significant uncertainty still exists. The OBWB, in partnership with the City of Kelowna and Westbank First Nation Utilities & Public Works, is leading efforts to address harmful algal blooms (HABs), which threaten drinking water quality, wildlife, and recreational activities. The project will be incorporated into the OBWB’s Water Quality Program and will deliver a shared monitoring database, integration of satellite and sensor data with laboratory analysis, emergency response plans, treatment method guidelines, and a specialized training program. Supported by more than 40 experts and local water professionals, the project is designed to benefit not only the Okanagan but potentially other regions facing similar challenges.

An economic analysis and cost-benefit assessment of irrigation water use in the Okanagan, led by Dr. Alberto Ceccacci and Dr. John Janmaat, is currently underway. The study aims to better understand the economic impacts of irrigation on local governments and the regional economy. Through a survey of the agricultural community, local and senior governments, and several water professionals, the project is identifying practical opportunities to improve irrigation practices and

enhance overall water use efficiency. The findings will help guide future water management policies and strategies in the region.

The 13<sup>th</sup>-Annual Okanagan Water Supply Webinar will take place on Friday, April 11, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., hosted by Dr. Jatel via Zoom. The webinar will provide important updates on reservoir levels, snowpack conditions, groundwater trends, and seasonal weather forecasts to support informed water management decisions. The session is open to local governments, farmers, businesses, and the public.

***“THAT the Water Stewardship Director’s report, dated March 24, 2025, be received.”***  
***CARRIED.***

#### 6.1.1 Executive Director Appointment – James Littlely

##### **OATH OF OFFICE**

***“THAT effective April 21, 2025, the appointment of Anna Warwick Sears as the Executive Director be rescinded;***

***“AND THAT effective April 22, 2025, Melissa Tesche be appointed as Executive Director to assume the powers, duties and functions under section 235 (Chief Administrative Officer) and Section 237 (Financial Administration) under the Local Government Act.”***  
***CARRIED***

In accordance with the Local Government Act Section 238, and the Local Government Oath of Office Regulation, Water Board Directors and staff witnessed the formal swearing-in of Melissa Tesche as the new Executive Director of the Okanagan Basin Water Board. The Oath of Office was administered by the exiting Executive Director, Dr. Anna Warwick Sears. Ms. Tesche’s appointment will take effect April 22, 2025.

The signed Oath of Office document will be retained on file with the Office Manager.

Also witnessed was the formal swearing-in of James Littlely as the new OBWB Chief Operating Officer of the Okanagan Basin Water Board – Appointed in March 2025. The newly appointed Executive Director Melissa Tesche administered the Oath of Office.

The signed Oath of Office document will be retained on file with the Office Manager.

#### 6.4 Water Science Specialist Report – Sandra Schira

Ms. Schira provided the Board with a monthly update on weather. Okanagan snowpack numbers as of March 1 for the Okanagan were 82 per cent of normal, holding steady since February and consistent with the rest of the province. Rainfall in March was above normal, and as of March 24, there had been a small increase, with each station showing varying measurements. The region is coming out of a light La Niña and is currently experiencing neutral weather conditions. The precipitation outlook does not show a clear trend in either direction.

Ms. Schira answered a question from the Board regarding the apparent missing water in Short’s Creek near Fintry in the Central Okanagan. She explained that while she is not sure of the exact cause of low water levels in that specific creek, different types of drought might mean that the water is recharging in one area but not another.

Dr. Jatel spoke about a new hydrometric station, the first in the country led by First Nations, with a new transmission mode on Shorts Creek. Survey Canada hydrometric stations are on GHOST (Globally Harmonized Dataset of Surface Atmospheric Composition Measurements).

Ms. Schira presented the Board with preliminary findings from the nearly completed 2024 Water Rates Survey, a follow-up to a similar survey from 2017. The 2024 Water Rates Survey aims to provide an understanding of the metering practices and pricing structures for residential and agricultural water across the valley. Early findings indicate that every utility is different in balancing current use with ongoing and future demand and costs, and in budgeting for current operational costs and planning for future capital replacement. Since 2017, almost all water providers have shifted to metering their residential customers and have typically moved to some form of consumption-based pricing. The most common form of residential water pricing is a flat base fee plus a charge per cubic meter (m<sup>3</sup>) of consumption. Some providers increase the per-m<sup>3</sup> charge with consumption, while others use a flat rate. No communities have a specific drought pricing policy but use the consumption rate to encourage water conservation. Agricultural metering is more varied, with only five suppliers metering 100 per cent of farming customers. Pricing also varies, but the most common form is a per-acre allocation rate, charged annually, with an overconsumption rate for customers exceeding their allotment. The most common billing rate is quarterly, though this varies by location.

***"THAT the Water Science Specialist's report, dated March 26, 2025, be received."***  
***CARRIED.***

#### 6.5 Communications Manager Report – Carmen Weld

Ms. Weld sought feedback from the Board Directors on the various public outreach brands; Make Water Work, Don't Move a Mussel, and Okanagan WaterWise, as well as the branding of the Okanagan Basin Water Board. She recommended to consolidate messaging from Okanagan WaterWise under the Okanagan Basin Water Board branding to provide a more cohesive branding strategy. Directors provided feedback to staff, who will move forward with changes in the coming months.

Directors also received a summarized report of earned media featuring the Okanagan Basin Water Board and its outreach programs between March and April 2025.

***"THAT the Communications Manager's report, dated March 24, 2025, be received."***  
***CARRIED.***

#### 7. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.1 There was no new and unfinished business at this meeting.

#### 8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Letter from OBWB Chair Blair Ireland to the province to provide input on the proposed amendments to the Wildlife Act, dated March 21, 2025.

8.2 Email reply to the OBWB letter regarding changes to the Wildlife Act from Lori Halls, Deputy Minister to the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, dated March 26, 2025.

***"THAT the OBWB receives the communications as outlined above."***  
***CARRIED***

#### 9. IN-CAMERA

The Board entered an in-camera session (under sec. 90(1)(a) and 90(2)(b) of the Community Charter) at 12:25 p.m.

***"THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board enter into an in-camera session."***  
***CARRIED.***



The board exited the in-camera session at 12:32 p.m. to rise and report.

**9A. RISE AND REPORT FROM IN-CAMERA**

***"THAT the OBWB approve the 2025 grant funding as presented; AND THAT the OBWB rise and report the 2025 grant funding as approved."***

**CARRIED**

**10. NEXT MEETING**

10.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be an abbreviated meeting on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 10 a.m. at the Coast Capri Hotel, 1171 Harvey Ave, Kelowna, followed by a joint Board-Okanagan Water Stewardship Council meeting.

**NOTE:** Meetings of the Okanagan Basin Water Board are open to the public and only closed for in-camera sessions as set out in the B.C. Community Charter. From time-to-time, the board will be holding its meeting online. If you are interested in attending an online meeting, please contact [communications@obwb.ca](mailto:communications@obwb.ca) for further details.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

***"THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 1, 2025, be adjourned at 12:35 p.m."***

**CARRIED**

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director





## MEMORANDUM

To: OBWB Directors  
From: Melissa Tesche and James Littley  
Date: April 29, 2025  
Subject: Executive Report

Okanagan Basin Water Board Regular meeting May 6, 2025 Agenda No: 7.1
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### Joint Board/Council Meeting

The OBWB's regular meeting will be shorter than normal this month to give more time for the annual joint meeting of the OBWB and the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council. Staff reports will be brief to allow more time for the joint meeting, and the board will receive full reports at the June 3 meeting.

### New Water Quality Projects Manager

I'm pleased to share that the OBWB has hired Christina White as the Water Quality Project Manager. Ms. White is a Registered Professional Biologist with a Bachelor of Science Degree specializing in Freshwater Biology. She has spent the last 12 years as an aquatic biologist and project manager for an environmental consulting firm. Her work has included project managing foreshore assessments, creek restoration projects, and work on lake outfalls, among others.

The Water Quality Project Manager position is a new position at the OBWB. The portfolio will include planning and permitting work for the watermilfoil program, managing invasive mussel prevention initiatives, supporting water quality research and restoration projects, and providing policy analysis on key water quality issues. Having a Qualified Environmental Professional in this position will allow the OBWB to complete more work in-house and adds another important dimension to the OBWB's skill and knowledge base. We welcome Ms. White to the team, and we look forward to her advancing important water quality work.

### Annual Audit and Fiscal Year End

We are working with the finance department on our fiscal year-end as the OBWB audit will begin shortly. We anticipate that the draft financial statements will be prepared and distributed prior to our regular June meeting for the board to review and approve. Our auditors from BDO will be at the June meeting to present the financial statements and answer any questions.

### **Province Proposes Amendments to the Wildlife Act to Toughen Invasive Mussel Protections**

In positive news, the provincial Attorney General introduced the miscellaneous statutes amendment act, 2025, to the legislative assembly on April 29 (Correspondence 9.1). The amendments proposed under the Wildlife Act would “enact pull the plug requirements and mandatory stops at open watercraft inspection stations, targeted for the 2025 summer boating season. In addition, the amendments will enable mandatory inspections for watercraft entering B.C. from another jurisdiction prior to launch. This authority will be brought into force through regulations following further analysis and engagement.”

## MEMORANDUM

To: OBWB Directors  
From: Nelson Jatel  
Date: April 29, 2025  
Subject: **Water Stewardship Director's Report**

Okanagan Basin Water Board Regular meeting May 6, 2025 Agenda No: 7.2
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### **Okanagan Water Stewardship Council (OWSC) – a technical advisory body to the OBWB**

#### Meeting Summary – April 10, 2025

At the most recent Okanagan Water Stewardship Council (OWSC) meeting, we welcomed Deborah Curran, Executive Director of the Environmental Law Centre and Hakai Professor in Environmental Law and Sustainability at the University of Victoria. A recognized national expert in freshwater governance and integrated watershed law, Ms. Curran provided an insightful presentation on how Canadian legal systems can better support community-led watershed governance. She emphasized opportunities for legislative reform that enhance ecological resilience and highlighted how Indigenous and settler legal traditions can co-exist to protect water as a shared responsibility. Her presentation contributed meaningfully to ongoing regional discussions about governance innovation in the Okanagan watershed.

#### May Council Meeting Preview

The upcoming Special Joint Board-Council Meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council (OWSC), scheduled for May 6, will place a strong focus on enhancing collaboration and clear communication between Council and the OBWB Board. A central feature of the meeting will be the Council Committee Chairs' presentations.

Each committee—Agriculture Water Supply & Demand (Denise Neilsen & Bruce Naka), Building Ethical Space for Water Stewardship (Sheena Spencer), Policy (Scott Smith & Marta Green), and Water Quality/Health (Nelson Jatel)—will provide an update on their current activities, progress, and emerging priorities. These presentations are intended to strengthen the Board's understanding of Council-led initiatives and support strategic alignment heading into the 2025–2029 planning cycle. The session will provide a foundation for the roundtable discussion on regional water challenges and will help guide the afternoon's strategic pre-planning conversation.

#### Project Updates

##### Okanagan Algae Monitoring Network – Blue-Green Algae Project

The Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB), in collaboration with the City of Kelowna and Westbank First Nation, has supported a major funding application to Environment and Climate Change Canada's EcoAction Stream 2 Program. The project, titled "Collaborative Monitoring and Early-Warning System for Harmful Algal Blooms", addresses the increasing frequency and severity of harmful cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) blooms in Okanagan Lake.

- The initiative aims to: establish a coordinated, region-wide monitoring network for algae and cyanobacteria;

- develop predictive modeling tools that integrate real-time pigment sensors, satellite imagery, and taxonomic analyses;
- create an early-warning system and response dashboard to support drinking water utilities and protect public health;
- provide training and contingency planning for water suppliers on the detection and treatment of harmful algal blooms (HABs); and,
- strengthen collaboration among local governments, Indigenous communities, and utilities.

Key deliverables will include:

- a shared algae and cyanobacteria data hub;
- predictive models for bloom forecasting at drinking water intake depths;
- treatment effectiveness tables for different water treatment technologies; and,
- a training module for water utility operators to improve early detection and response.

The project will run from September 2025 to August 2027, with an anticipated budget of approximately \$180,000, half of which is requested from EcoAction. OBWB is contributing \$30,000 cash and significant in-kind support for coordination and data management.

The proposed system is designed to be scalable and transferable, offering long-term benefits for water utilities across Canada facing similar climate-driven water quality threats



## MEMORANDUM

To: OBWB Directors  
From: Nelson Jatel, Water Stewardship Director  
Date: April 28, 2025  
Subject: **Sole-Source Contract Approval – Okanagan Nation Alliance (Hydrometric Program 2025-26)**

Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Regular meeting  
Date  
Agenda No: 7.3

### Purpose

To seek Board approval for a sole-source contract with the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) to operate and maintain hydrometric stations under the OBWB Hydrometric Information Network Program for 2025-26.

### Background

In 2020, the Board approved the Hydrometric Information Network Program Terms of Reference, establishing a coordinated, basin-wide approach to hydrometric monitoring. The Okanagan Nation Alliance has provided operational support since program inception, ensuring high-quality, real-time, and manual streamflow data for water management, fisheries protection, infrastructure design, and climate adaptation.

The ONA is the preferred service provider due to their demonstrated technical capacity, cost-effectiveness, regional knowledge, and alignment with OBWB's Indigenous partnership objectives. For comparison, to transition the Okanagan Hydrometric Program to full federal management would increase annual costs by approximately 40%.

The 2025-26 contract scope includes maintenance and operation of 23 real-time and three manual stations across the Okanagan Basin, with a total value of \$344,080 that is fully allocated within the approved Water Management Program budget.

### Recommendation

**THAT the OBWB Board approve awarding a sole-source contract to the Okanagan Nation Alliance for \$344,080 to deliver hydrometric station operation and maintenance services for the 2025-26 fiscal year.**

## Appendix A. Stations included in 2025-26 ONA Contract

The proposed 2025-26 contract covers the operation and maintenance of the following stations:

Station Name	Type
Deep Creek	Real-time
Shingle @ Dam	Real-time
Equesis	Real-time
Vaseux @ Hwy 97	Real-time
Naswhito	Real-time
Shuttleworth @ Maple	Real-time
Shorts	Real-time
Shingle @ Gabriel	Manual
Mission Creek	Real-time
Vaseux @ Canyon	Manual
Upper Vernon (relocated)	Real-time
Shuttleworth (above diversions)	Manual
Powers Creek	Real-time
Naramata Creek	Real-time
McLean Creek	Real-time
Ewer Creek	Real-time
Irish Creek	Real-time
Naswhito @ Jealous Fruit	Real-time
Equesis @ Six Mile Creek	Real-time
McDougall Creek	Real-time
Peachland Creek	Real-time
Trepanier Creek	Real-time
Whiteman (rebuild pending due to washout) --	

NOTE: Contract includes the installation and maintenance of nine new manual stations on Mission Creek as part of the ONA-OBWB commitment to study the surface-groundwater interactions.





Okanagan Basin  
WATER BOARD

Active Hydrometric Stations  
in the Okanagan

Station Operators

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Black Mountain Irrigation District | Glenmore Ellison Improvement District   |
| City of Kelowna                    | Lower Nipit Improvement District        |
| City of Penticton                  | Okanagan Nation Alliance                |
| City of West Kelowna               | Okanagan Basin Water Board              |
| District of Lake Country           | Regional District of North Okanagan     |
| District of Summerland             | Regional District of the South Okanagan |
| District of Peachland              | US Geological Survey                    |
| Province of BC                     | Water Survey of Canada                  |

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Watershed with Active OBWB / ONA Station | Watershed with Active WSC Station |
| Manually Operated Station                | Real-Time Station                 |
| Water Level Measurement (periodic)       |                                   |
| E-12 Watershed Label*                    | Watershed Boundary                |
|  | Canada / US border                |

- Active is defined as a hydrometric station that is currently in operation as of the date this map was produced.  
- Station Number IDs as provided by the WSC, the OBWB, or assigned.  
- All available metadata is provided in a supporting database and specific details about map production is provided by Associated (2021)  
- Watershed labelling consistent with the Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Project (Summit 2010)

Date: July 2024

N



0 5 10 15 20 25  
Kilometers



## MEMORANDUM

To: OBWB Directors  
From: Carmen Weld  
Date: April 29, 2025  
Subject: Communications Manager Report

Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Regular meeting  
May 6, 2025  
Agenda No: 7.4

### Make Water Work and Don't Move a Mussel 2025 Launch

We are getting ready to kick off our 2025 Make Water Work and Don't Move a Mussel campaigns.

We're excited to share that FireSmart™ is partnering with us on this year's Make Water Work Campaign with strong messaging about making water work smarter and planting FireSmart™.

Thoughtful landscaping choices can play a big role in both water efficiency and wildfire preparedness. Planting FireSmart™ vegetation not only helps reduce wildfire risk but can also be more drought-tolerant, aligning perfectly with the Make Water Work campaign's goals of using water wisely.



The MWW kick-off event is at 11 a.m. on May 21, 2025, at the City of Armstrong's beautiful xeriscape garden. We hope to see you there!

This year's Don't Move a Mussel campaign will have clear messaging about the most important factor in preventing mussels – stopping at inspection stations. We will also be launching an easy-to-follow **Responsible Recreation Checklist** that clearly lays out the top five things water enthusiasts should do to protect our lakes and the entire Okanagan basin. Clear, concise, and actionable steps are always easier for people to adopt.



MWW and DMM billboards will be placed up and down the valley and you can expect a strong digital, print and social campaign this year, starting late May.

We are continuing our strong and effective relationships with both the Okanagan Xeriscape Association and the Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society to be our boots-on-the-ground partners in delivering key education pieces including this year's message.

Their on-the-ground presence and expertise are invaluable for delivering key educational messages directly to the community. They can really bring the information to life and answer questions firsthand.

### **Media Tracking**

Please find monthly media tracking below, listing articles from March 24 to April 28, 2025, in reverse chronological order.

Date	Source	Headline	Link
<b>April 26, 2025</b>	The Similkameen Spotlight	Let's protect and enjoy our lovely Okanagan lakes	<a href="https://www.similkameenspotlight.com/opinion/lets-protect-and-enjoy-our-lovely-okanagan-lakes-7958298">https://www.similkameenspotlight.com/opinion/lets-protect-and-enjoy-our-lovely-okanagan-lakes-7958298</a>
<b>April 26, 2025</b>	Revelstoke Times Review	Let's protect and enjoy our lovely Okanagan lakes	<a href="https://www.revelstokereview.com/opinion/lets-protect-and-enjoy-our-lovely-okanagan-lakes-7958298">https://www.revelstokereview.com/opinion/lets-protect-and-enjoy-our-lovely-okanagan-lakes-7958298</a>

<b>April 26, 2025</b>	West K News	Let's protect and enjoy our lovely Okanagan lakes	<a href="https://www.westknews.com/opinion/lets-protect-and-enjoy-our-lovely-okanagan-lakes-7958298">https://www.westknews.com/opinion/lets-protect-and-enjoy-our-lovely-okanagan-lakes-7958298</a>
<b>April 26, 2025</b>	Penticton Western News	Let's protect and enjoy our lovely Okanagan lakes	<a href="https://www.pentictonwesternnews.com/opinion/lets-protect-and-enjoy-our-lovely-okanagan-lakes-7958298">https://www.pentictonwesternnews.com/opinion/lets-protect-and-enjoy-our-lovely-okanagan-lakes-7958298</a>
<b>April 26, 2025</b>	Kelowna Capital News	Let's protect and enjoy our lovely Okanagan lakes	<a href="https://www.kelownacapnews.com/opinion/lets-protect-and-enjoy-our-lovely-okanagan-lakes-7958298">https://www.kelownacapnews.com/opinion/lets-protect-and-enjoy-our-lovely-okanagan-lakes-7958298</a>
<b>April 26, 2025</b>	Keremeos Review	Let's protect and enjoy our lovely Okanagan lakes	<a href="https://www.keremeosreview.com/opinion/lets-protect-and-enjoy-our-lovely-okanagan-lakes-7958298">https://www.keremeosreview.com/opinion/lets-protect-and-enjoy-our-lovely-okanagan-lakes-7958298</a>
<b>April 26, 2025</b>	Salmon Arm Observer	Let's protect and enjoy our lovely Okanagan lakes	<a href="https://www.saobserver.net/opinion/lets-protect-and-enjoy-our-lovely-okanagan-lakes-7958298">https://www.saobserver.net/opinion/lets-protect-and-enjoy-our-lovely-okanagan-lakes-7958298</a>
<b>April 26, 2025</b>	Eagle Valley News	Let's protect and enjoy our lovely Okanagan lakes	<a href="https://www.eaglevalleynews.com/opinion/lets-protect-and-enjoy-our-lovely-okanagan-lakes-7958298">https://www.eaglevalleynews.com/opinion/lets-protect-and-enjoy-our-lovely-okanagan-lakes-7958298</a>
<b>April 26, 2025</b>	The Vernon Morning Star	Let's protect and enjoy our lovely Okanagan lakes	<a href="https://www.vernonmorningstar.com/opinion/lets-protect-and-enjoy-our-lovely-okanagan-lakes-7958298">https://www.vernonmorningstar.com/opinion/lets-protect-and-enjoy-our-lovely-okanagan-lakes-7958298</a>
<b>April 26, 2025</b>	Lake Country Calendar	Let's protect and enjoy our lovely Okanagan lakes	<a href="https://www.lakecountrycalendar.com/opinion/lets-protect-and-enjoy-our-lovely-okanagan-lakes-7958298">https://www.lakecountrycalendar.com/opinion/lets-protect-and-enjoy-our-lovely-okanagan-lakes-7958298</a>
<b>April 26, 2025</b>	Summerland Review	Let's protect and enjoy our lovely Okanagan lakes	<a href="https://www.summerlandreview.com/opinion/lets-protect-and-enjoy-our-lovely-okanagan-lakes-7958298">https://www.summerlandreview.com/opinion/lets-protect-and-enjoy-our-lovely-okanagan-lakes-7958298</a>
<b>April 25, 2025</b>	The Williams Lake Tribune	Province provides info on lake harvester, Williams Lake health	<a href="https://www.wltribune.com/local-news/province-provides-info-on-lake-harvester-williams-lake-health-7965363">https://www.wltribune.com/local-news/province-provides-info-on-lake-harvester-williams-lake-health-7965363</a>
<b>April 25, 2025</b>	Eagle Valley News	Summerland orchardist named executive director of BC Fruit Growers' Association	<a href="https://www.eaglevalleynews.com/local-news/summerland-orchardist-named-executive-director-of-bc-fruit-growers-association-7967243">https://www.eaglevalleynews.com/local-news/summerland-orchardist-named-executive-director-of-bc-fruit-growers-association-7967243</a>
<b>April 25, 2025</b>	Salmon Arm Observer	Summerland orchardist named executive director of BC Fruit Growers' Association	<a href="https://www.saobserver.net/local-news/summerland-orchardist-named-executive-director-of-bc-fruit-growers-association-7967243">https://www.saobserver.net/local-news/summerland-orchardist-named-executive-director-of-bc-fruit-growers-association-7967243</a>
<b>April 25, 2025</b>	Penticton Western News	Summerland orchardist named executive director of BC Fruit Growers' Association	<a href="https://www.pentictonwesternnews.com/local-news/summerland-orchardist-named-executive-director-of-bc-fruit-growers-association-7967243">https://www.pentictonwesternnews.com/local-news/summerland-orchardist-named-executive-director-of-bc-fruit-growers-association-7967243</a>
<b>April 25, 2025</b>	The Similkameen Spotlight	Summerland orchardist named executive director of BC Fruit Growers' Association	<a href="https://www.similkameenspotlight.com/local-news/summerland-orchardist-named-executive-">https://www.similkameenspotlight.com/local-news/summerland-orchardist-named-executive-</a>



			<a href="#">director-of-bc-fruit-growers-association-7967243</a>
<b>April 25, 2025</b>	West K News	Summerland orchardist named executive director of BC Fruit Growers' Association	<a href="https://www.westknews.com/local-news/summerland-orchardist-named-executive-director-of-bc-fruit-growers-association-7967243">https://www.westknews.com/local-news/summerland-orchardist-named-executive-director-of-bc-fruit-growers-association-7967243</a>
<b>April 25, 2025</b>	Keremeos Review	Summerland orchardist named executive director of BC Fruit Growers' Association	<a href="https://www.keremeosreview.com/local-news/summerland-orchardist-named-executive-director-of-bc-fruit-growers-association-7967243">https://www.keremeosreview.com/local-news/summerland-orchardist-named-executive-director-of-bc-fruit-growers-association-7967243</a>
<b>April 25, 2025</b>	Summerland Review	Summerland orchardist named executive director of BC Fruit Growers' Association	<a href="https://www.summerlandreview.com/local-news/summerland-orchardist-named-executive-director-of-bc-fruit-growers-association-7967243">https://www.summerlandreview.com/local-news/summerland-orchardist-named-executive-director-of-bc-fruit-growers-association-7967243</a>
<b>April 25, 2025</b>	Lake Country Calendar	Summerland orchardist named executive director of BC Fruit Growers' Association	<a href="https://www.lakecountrycalendar.com/local-news/summerland-orchardist-named-executive-director-of-bc-fruit-growers-association-7967243">https://www.lakecountrycalendar.com/local-news/summerland-orchardist-named-executive-director-of-bc-fruit-growers-association-7967243</a>
<b>April 25, 2025</b>	Fruit and Vegetable Magazine	News Associations Just the Good News Orchardist takes on executive director role for BC Fruit Growers' Association	<a href="https://www.fruitandveggie.com/orchardist-takes-on-executive-director-role-for-bc-fruit-growers-association/">https://www.fruitandveggie.com/orchardist-takes-on-executive-director-role-for-bc-fruit-growers-association/</a>
<b>April 25, 2025</b>	Kelowna Capital News	Summerland orchardist named executive director of BC Fruit Growers' Association	<a href="https://www.kelownacapnews.com/local-news/summerland-orchardist-named-executive-director-of-bc-fruit-growers-association-7967243">https://www.kelownacapnews.com/local-news/summerland-orchardist-named-executive-director-of-bc-fruit-growers-association-7967243</a>
<b>April 25, 2025</b>	The Vernon Morning Star	Summerland orchardist named executive director of BC Fruit Growers' Association	<a href="https://www.vernonmorningstar.com/local-news/summerland-orchardist-named-executive-director-of-bc-fruit-growers-association-7967243">https://www.vernonmorningstar.com/local-news/summerland-orchardist-named-executive-director-of-bc-fruit-growers-association-7967243</a>
<b>April 24, 2025</b>	Revelstoke Times Review	Summerland orchardist named executive director of BC Fruit Growers' Association	<a href="https://www.revelstokereview.com/local-news/summerland-orchardist-named-executive-director-of-bc-fruit-growers-association-7967243">https://www.revelstokereview.com/local-news/summerland-orchardist-named-executive-director-of-bc-fruit-growers-association-7967243</a>
<b>April 24, 2025</b>	Castanet	Summerland orchardist named new executive director of BC Fruit Growers' Association	<a href="https://www.castanet.net/news/Penticton/546531/Summerland-orchardist-named-new-executive-director-of-BC-Fruit-Growers-Association#546531">https://www.castanet.net/news/Penticton/546531/Summerland-orchardist-named-new-executive-director-of-BC-Fruit-Growers-Association#546531</a>
<b>April 24, 2025</b>	The Grower	Adrian Arts joins BCFGAs executive director	<a href="https://thegrower.org/news/adrian-arts-joins-bcfga-executive-director">https://thegrower.org/news/adrian-arts-joins-bcfga-executive-director</a>
<b>April 24, 2025</b>	The Penticton Herald	Letters to the Editor (16): Wednesday, April 16, 2025	<a href="https://www.pentictonherald.ca/opinion/article_69f0d8f5-54dd-4dea-b38e-187b87fb5ce2.html">https://www.pentictonherald.ca/opinion/article_69f0d8f5-54dd-4dea-b38e-187b87fb5ce2.html</a>

<b>April 24, 2025</b>	The Daily Courier	Letters to the Editor (16): Wednesday, April 16, 2025	<a href="https://www.kelownadailycourier.ca/opinion/article_f4d5db14-cf3b-493f-937c-9d0c0997bbd8.html">https://www.kelownadailycourier.ca/opinion/article_f4d5db14-cf3b-493f-937c-9d0c0997bbd8.html</a>
<b>April 23, 2025</b>	Castanet	Drought-defying beauty: Three red perennials for the water-wise garden	<a href="https://www.castanet.net/news/Gardening-with-nature/546062/Drought-defying-beauty-Three-red-perennials-for-the-water-wise-garden#546062">https://www.castanet.net/news/Gardening-with-nature/546062/Drought-defying-beauty-Three-red-perennials-for-the-water-wise-garden#546062</a>
<b>April 23, 2025</b>	Castanet Kamloops	Drought-defying beauty: Three red perennials for the water-wise garden	<a href="https://www.castanetkamloops.net/edition/news-story-546062-1152-.htm">https://www.castanetkamloops.net/edition/news-story-546062-1152-.htm</a>
<b>April 23, 2025</b>	Castanet	Province waits on federal election before supporting Peachland sewer upgrades	<a href="https://www.castanet.net/news/Peachland/546076/Province-waits-on-federal-election-before-supporting-Peachland-sewer-upgrades#546076">https://www.castanet.net/news/Peachland/546076/Province-waits-on-federal-election-before-supporting-Peachland-sewer-upgrades#546076</a>
<b>April 23, 2025</b>	Penticton Herald (Print Edition)	Accomplishments of Liberal MP	Print Edition
<b>April 23, 2025</b>	Kelowna Daily Courier (Print Edition)	Accomplishments of Liberal MP	Print Edition
<b>April 21, 2025</b>	The Municipal Information Network	OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD 19 Years Strong: OBWB Invests \$350,000 to Protect Okanagan's Precious Water	<a href="https://municipalinfonet.com/article/municipal/category/environment/18/1136517/okanagan-basin-water-boardapril-22-2025-19-years-strong-obwb-invests-350-000-to-protect-okanagan-s-precious-water.html">https://municipalinfonet.com/article/municipal/category/environment/18/1136517/okanagan-basin-water-boardapril-22-2025-19-years-strong-obwb-invests-350-000-to-protect-okanagan-s-precious-water.html</a>
<b>April 20, 2025</b>	Philanthropy News Digest	\$350K invested by Okanagan Basin Water Board	<a href="https://philanthropynewsdigest.org/news/other-sources/article/?id=16052746&amp;title=\$350K-invested-by-Okanagan-Basin-Water-Board">https://philanthropynewsdigest.org/news/other-sources/article/?id=16052746&amp;title=\$350K-invested-by-Okanagan-Basin-Water-Board</a>
<b>April 20, 2025</b>	Salmon Arm Observer	\$350K invested by Okanagan Basin Water Board	<a href="https://www.saobserver.net/local-news/350k-invested-by-okanagan-basin-water-board-7955747">https://www.saobserver.net/local-news/350k-invested-by-okanagan-basin-water-board-7955747</a>
<b>April 20, 2025</b>	Penticton Western News	\$350K invested by Okanagan Basin Water Board	<a href="https://www.pentictonwesternnews.com/local-news/350k-invested-by-okanagan-basin-water-board-7955747">https://www.pentictonwesternnews.com/local-news/350k-invested-by-okanagan-basin-water-board-7955747</a>
<b>April 20, 2025</b>	West K News	\$350K invested by Okanagan Basin Water Board	<a href="https://www.westknews.com/local-news/350k-invested-by-okanagan-basin-water-board-7955747">https://www.westknews.com/local-news/350k-invested-by-okanagan-basin-water-board-7955747</a>
<b>April 20, 2025</b>	Keremeos Review	\$350K invested by Okanagan Basin Water Board	<a href="https://www.keremeosreview.com/local-news/350k-invested-by-okanagan-basin-water-board-7955747">https://www.keremeosreview.com/local-news/350k-invested-by-okanagan-basin-water-board-7955747</a>
<b>April 20, 2025</b>	Eagle Valley News	\$350K invested by Okanagan Basin Water Board	<a href="https://www.eaglevalleynews.com/local-news/350k-invested-by-okanagan-basin-water-board-7955747">https://www.eaglevalleynews.com/local-news/350k-invested-by-okanagan-basin-water-board-7955747</a>

<b>April 20, 2025</b>	The Similkameen Spotlight	\$350K invested by Okanagan Basin Water Board	<a href="https://www.similkameenspotlight.com/local-news/350k-invested-by-okanagan-basin-water-board-7955747">https://www.similkameenspotlight.com/local-news/350k-invested-by-okanagan-basin-water-board-7955747</a>
<b>April 20, 2025</b>	Summerland Review	\$350K invested by Okanagan Basin Water Board	<a href="https://www.summerlandreview.com/local-news/350k-invested-by-okanagan-basin-water-board-7955747">https://www.summerlandreview.com/local-news/350k-invested-by-okanagan-basin-water-board-7955747</a>
<b>April 20, 2025</b>	Lake Country Calendar	\$350K invested by Okanagan Basin Water Board	<a href="https://www.lakecountrycalendar.com/local-news/350k-invested-by-okanagan-basin-water-board-7955747">https://www.lakecountrycalendar.com/local-news/350k-invested-by-okanagan-basin-water-board-7955747</a>
<b>April 20, 2025</b>	newz9.com	Okanagan Basin Water Board Invests \$350K: Discover How This Funding Will Impact Our Communities!	<a href="https://newz9.com/okanagan-basin-water-board-invests-350k-discover-how-this-funding-will-impact-our-communities/">https://newz9.com/okanagan-basin-water-board-invests-350k-discover-how-this-funding-will-impact-our-communities/</a>
<b>April 20, 2025</b>	Kelowna Capital News	\$350K invested by Okanagan Basin Water Board	<a href="https://www.kelownacapnews.com/local-news/350k-invested-by-okanagan-basin-water-board-7955747">https://www.kelownacapnews.com/local-news/350k-invested-by-okanagan-basin-water-board-7955747</a>
<b>April 20, 2025</b>	The Vernon Morning Star	\$350K invested by Okanagan Basin Water Board	<a href="https://www.vernonmorningstar.com/local-news/350k-invested-by-okanagan-basin-water-board-7955747">https://www.vernonmorningstar.com/local-news/350k-invested-by-okanagan-basin-water-board-7955747</a>
<b>April 19, 2025</b>	Revelstoke Times Review	\$350K invested by Okanagan Basin Water Board	<a href="https://www.revelstokereview.com/local-news/350k-invested-by-okanagan-basin-water-board-7955747">https://www.revelstokereview.com/local-news/350k-invested-by-okanagan-basin-water-board-7955747</a>
<b>April 19, 2025</b>	Castanet	Okanagan Basin Water Board handed out \$350k in grant funding for local water projects	<a href="https://www.castanet.net/news/Kelowna/545398/Okanagan-Basin-Water-Board-handed-out-350k-in-grant-funding-for-local-water-projects#545398">https://www.castanet.net/news/Kelowna/545398/Okanagan-Basin-Water-Board-handed-out-350k-in-grant-funding-for-local-water-projects#545398</a>
<b>April 18, 2025</b>	Castanet	RDNO gets grant money to improve Vernon area park	<a href="https://www.castanet.net/news/Vernon/545011/RDNO-gets-grant-money-to-improve-Vernon-area-park#545011">https://www.castanet.net/news/Vernon/545011/RDNO-gets-grant-money-to-improve-Vernon-area-park#545011</a>
<b>April 18, 2025</b>	MyKootenayNow	Vernon-Lake Country-Monashee Liberals Candidate Anna Warwick Sears	<a href="https://www.mykootenaynow.com/62282/news/kootenay-news/vernon-lake-country-monashee-liberals-candidate-anna-warwick-sears/">https://www.mykootenaynow.com/62282/news/kootenay-news/vernon-lake-country-monashee-liberals-candidate-anna-warwick-sears/</a>
<b>April 18, 2025</b>	CHNV-FM	Vernon-Lake Country-Monashee Liberals Candidate Anna Warwick Sears	<a href="https://www.mynelsonnow.com/69693/news/kootenay-news/vernon-lake-country-monashee-liberals-candidate-anna-warwick-sears/">https://www.mynelsonnow.com/69693/news/kootenay-news/vernon-lake-country-monashee-liberals-candidate-anna-warwick-sears/</a>
<b>April 17, 2025</b>	KelownaNow	\$350K awarded to 15 water conservation projects in the Okanagan	<a href="https://www.kelownanow.com/watercooler/news/news/Okanagan/350K-awarded-to-15-water-conservation-projects-in-the-Okanagan/">https://www.kelownanow.com/watercooler/news/news/Okanagan/350K-awarded-to-15-water-conservation-projects-in-the-Okanagan/</a>

<b>April 17, 2025</b>	VernonNow	\$350K awarded to 15 water conservation projects in the Okanagan	<a href="https://www.vernonnow.com/watercooler/news/news/Okanagan/350K-awarded-to-15-water-conservation-projects-in-the-Okanagan/">https://www.vernonnow.com/watercooler/news/news/Okanagan/350K-awarded-to-15-water-conservation-projects-in-the-Okanagan/</a>
<b>April 16, 2025</b>	Vernon Matters	Grants going to support snc��ma��qtn Agricultural Park projects	<a href="https://vernonmatters.ca/2025/04/16/grants-going-to-support-snc��c9%99cma��qtn-agricultural-park-projects/">https://vernonmatters.ca/2025/04/16/grants-going-to-support-snc��c9%99cma��qtn-agricultural-park-projects/</a>
<b>April 12, 2025</b>	Penticton Western News	Water briefs: Curtailing impact of Okanagan lakes algae blooms	<a href="https://www.pentictonwesternnews.com/home/water-briefs-curtailing-impact-of-okanagan-lakes-algae-blooms-7939704">https://www.pentictonwesternnews.com/home/water-briefs-curtailing-impact-of-okanagan-lakes-algae-blooms-7939704</a>
<b>April 12, 2025</b>	Eagle Valley News	Water briefs: Curtailing impact of Okanagan lakes algae blooms	<a href="https://www.eaglevalleynews.com/local-news/water-briefs-curtailing-impact-of-okanagan-lakes-algae-blooms-7939704">https://www.eaglevalleynews.com/local-news/water-briefs-curtailing-impact-of-okanagan-lakes-algae-blooms-7939704</a>
<b>April 12, 2025</b>	Keremeos Review	Water briefs: Curtailing impact of Okanagan lakes algae blooms	<a href="https://www.keremeosreview.com/local-news/water-briefs-curtailing-impact-of-okanagan-lakes-algae-blooms-7939704">https://www.keremeosreview.com/local-news/water-briefs-curtailing-impact-of-okanagan-lakes-algae-blooms-7939704</a>
<b>April 12, 2025</b>	Salmon Arm Observer	Water briefs: Curtailing impact of Okanagan lakes algae blooms	<a href="https://www.saobserver.net/local-news/water-briefs-curtailing-impact-of-okanagan-lakes-algae-blooms-7939704">https://www.saobserver.net/local-news/water-briefs-curtailing-impact-of-okanagan-lakes-algae-blooms-7939704</a>
<b>April 12, 2025</b>	West K News	Water briefs: Curtailing impact of Okanagan lakes algae blooms	<a href="https://www.westknews.com/home/water-briefs-curtailing-impact-of-okanagan-lakes-algae-blooms-7939704">https://www.westknews.com/home/water-briefs-curtailing-impact-of-okanagan-lakes-algae-blooms-7939704</a>
<b>April 12, 2025</b>	The Similkameen Spotlight	Water briefs: Curtailing impact of Okanagan lakes algae blooms	<a href="https://www.similkameenspotlight.com/local-news/water-briefs-curtailing-impact-of-okanagan-lakes-algae-blooms-7939704">https://www.similkameenspotlight.com/local-news/water-briefs-curtailing-impact-of-okanagan-lakes-algae-blooms-7939704</a>
<b>April 12, 2025</b>	Summerland Review	Water briefs: Curtailing impact of Okanagan lakes algae blooms	<a href="https://www.summerlandreview.com/local-news/water-briefs-curtailing-impact-of-okanagan-lakes-algae-blooms-7939704">https://www.summerlandreview.com/local-news/water-briefs-curtailing-impact-of-okanagan-lakes-algae-blooms-7939704</a>
<b>April 12, 2025</b>	Lake Country Calendar	Water briefs: Curtailing impact of Okanagan lakes algae blooms	<a href="https://www.lakecountrycalendar.com/home/water-briefs-curtailing-impact-of-okanagan-lakes-algae-blooms-7939704">https://www.lakecountrycalendar.com/home/water-briefs-curtailing-impact-of-okanagan-lakes-algae-blooms-7939704</a>
<b>April 12, 2025</b>	newz9.com	Combatting Okanagan Lakes Algae Blooms: Essential Water Briefs for a Healthier Future	<a href="https://newz9.com/combating-okanagan-lakes-algae-blooms-essential-water-briefs-for-a-healthier-future/">https://newz9.com/combating-okanagan-lakes-algae-blooms-essential-water-briefs-for-a-healthier-future/</a>
<b>April 12, 2025</b>	The Vernon Morning Star	Water briefs: Curtailing impact of Okanagan lakes algae blooms	<a href="https://www.vernonmorningstar.com/home/water-briefs-curtailing-impact-of-okanagan-lakes-algae-blooms-7939704">https://www.vernonmorningstar.com/home/water-briefs-curtailing-impact-of-okanagan-lakes-algae-blooms-7939704</a>



<b>April 12, 2025</b>	Kelowna Capital News	Water briefs: Curtailing impact of Okanagan lakes algae blooms	<a href="https://www.kelownacapnews.com/local-news/water-briefs-curtailing-impact-of-okanagan-lakes-algae-blooms-7939704">https://www.kelownacapnews.com/local-news/water-briefs-curtailing-impact-of-okanagan-lakes-algae-blooms-7939704</a>
<b>April 11, 2025</b>	Revelstoke Times Review	Water briefs: Curtailing impact of Okanagan lakes algae blooms	<a href="https://www.revelstokereview.com/local-news/water-briefs-curtailing-impact-of-okanagan-lakes-algae-blooms-7939704">https://www.revelstokereview.com/local-news/water-briefs-curtailing-impact-of-okanagan-lakes-algae-blooms-7939704</a>
<b>April 9, 2025</b>	Castanet Kamloops	Plants that thrive in the shadows: Conquering the challenges of dry shade gardening	<a href="https://www.castanetkamloops.net/edition/news-story-543347-1152-.htm">https://www.castanetkamloops.net/edition/news-story-543347-1152-.htm</a>
<b>April 9, 2025</b>	Castanet	Plants that thrive in the shadows: Conquering the challenges of dry shade gardening	<a href="https://www.castanet.net/news/Gardening-with-nature/543347/Plants-that-thrive-in-the-shadows-Conquering-the-challenges-of-dry-shade-gardening#543347">https://www.castanet.net/news/Gardening-with-nature/543347/Plants-that-thrive-in-the-shadows-Conquering-the-challenges-of-dry-shade-gardening#543347</a>
<b>April 2, 2025</b>	The Municipal Information Network	OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD Incoming Executive Director and COO take Oath of Office for OBWB	<a href="https://municipalinfonet.com/article/municipal/category/appointments/62/1133838/incoming-executive-director-and-coo-take-oath-of-office-for-obwb.html">https://municipalinfonet.com/article/municipal/category/appointments/62/1133838/incoming-executive-director-and-coo-take-oath-of-office-for-obwb.html</a>
<b>April 2, 2025</b>	KelownaNow	Straight From DeHart - April 2, 2025	<a href="https://www.kelownanow.com/columns/maxine_dehart/news/Straight_from_DeHart/Straight_From_DeHart_April_2_2025/">https://www.kelownanow.com/columns/maxine_dehart/news/Straight_from_DeHart/Straight_From_DeHart_April_2_2025/</a>
<b>April 1, 2025</b>	Salmon Arm Observer	Okanagan water board taps into new executive director	<a href="https://www.saobserver.net/local-news/okanagan-water-board-taps-into-new-executive-director-7918207">https://www.saobserver.net/local-news/okanagan-water-board-taps-into-new-executive-director-7918207</a>
<b>April 1, 2025</b>	Penticton Western News	Okanagan water board taps into new executive director	<a href="https://www.pentictonwesternnews.com/local-news/okanagan-water-board-taps-into-new-executive-director-7918207">https://www.pentictonwesternnews.com/local-news/okanagan-water-board-taps-into-new-executive-director-7918207</a>
<b>April 1, 2025</b>	The Similkameen Spotlight	Okanagan water board taps into new executive director	<a href="https://www.similkameenspotlight.com/local-news/okanagan-water-board-taps-into-new-executive-director-7918207">https://www.similkameenspotlight.com/local-news/okanagan-water-board-taps-into-new-executive-director-7918207</a>
<b>April 1, 2025</b>	Keremeos Review	Okanagan water board taps into new executive director	<a href="https://www.keremeosreview.com/local-news/okanagan-water-board-taps-into-new-executive-director-7918207">https://www.keremeosreview.com/local-news/okanagan-water-board-taps-into-new-executive-director-7918207</a>
<b>April 1, 2025</b>	West K News	Okanagan water board taps into new executive director	<a href="https://www.westknews.com/local-news/okanagan-water-board-taps-into-new-executive-director-7918207">https://www.westknews.com/local-news/okanagan-water-board-taps-into-new-executive-director-7918207</a>
<b>April 1, 2025</b>	Eagle Valley News	Okanagan water board taps into new executive director	<a href="https://www.eaglevalleynews.com/local-news/okanagan-water-board-taps-into-new-executive-director-7918207">https://www.eaglevalleynews.com/local-news/okanagan-water-board-taps-into-new-executive-director-7918207</a>

			<a href="#">taps-into-new-executive-director-7918207</a>
<b>April 1, 2025</b>	Eagle Valley News	Columbia-Shuswap directors appreciate Alberta's effort on invasive mussels	<a href="https://www.eaglevalleynews.com/local-news/columbia-shuswap-directors-appreciate-albertas-effort-on-invasive-mussels-7917111">https://www.eaglevalleynews.com/local-news/columbia-shuswap-directors-appreciate-albertas-effort-on-invasive-mussels-7917111</a>
<b>April 1, 2025</b>	Lake Country Calendar	Okanagan water board taps into new executive director	<a href="https://www.lakecountrycalendar.com/local-news/okanagan-water-board-taps-into-new-executive-director-7918207">https://www.lakecountrycalendar.com/local-news/okanagan-water-board-taps-into-new-executive-director-7918207</a>
<b>April 1, 2025</b>	Summerland Review	Okanagan water board taps into new executive director	<a href="https://www.summerlandreview.com/local-news/okanagan-water-board-taps-into-new-executive-director-7918207">https://www.summerlandreview.com/local-news/okanagan-water-board-taps-into-new-executive-director-7918207</a>
<b>April 1, 2025</b>	Salmon Arm Observer	Columbia-Shuswap directors appreciate Alberta's effort on invasive mussels	<a href="https://www.saobserver.net/local-news/columbia-shuswap-directors-appreciate-albertas-effort-on-invasive-mussels-7917111">https://www.saobserver.net/local-news/columbia-shuswap-directors-appreciate-albertas-effort-on-invasive-mussels-7917111</a>
<b>April 1, 2025</b>	Kelowna Capital News	Okanagan water board taps into new executive director	<a href="https://www.kelownacapnews.com/local-news/okanagan-water-board-taps-into-new-executive-director-7918207">https://www.kelownacapnews.com/local-news/okanagan-water-board-taps-into-new-executive-director-7918207</a>
<b>April 1, 2025</b>	The Vernon Morning Star	Okanagan water board taps into new executive director	<a href="https://www.vernonmorningstar.com/local-news/okanagan-water-board-taps-into-new-executive-director-7918207">https://www.vernonmorningstar.com/local-news/okanagan-water-board-taps-into-new-executive-director-7918207</a>
<b>March 31, 2025</b>	Revelstoke Times Review	Okanagan water board taps into new executive director	<a href="https://www.revelstokereview.com/local-news/okanagan-water-board-taps-into-new-executive-director-7918207">https://www.revelstokereview.com/local-news/okanagan-water-board-taps-into-new-executive-director-7918207</a>
<b>March 30, 2025</b>	Castanet	Invasive milfoil cleanup delayed in Osoyoos Lake due to low water levels	<a href="https://www.castanet.net/news/Oliver-Osoyoos/541324/Invasive-milfoil-cleanup-delayed-in-Osoyoos-Lake-due-to-low-water-levels#541324">https://www.castanet.net/news/Oliver-Osoyoos/541324/Invasive-milfoil-cleanup-delayed-in-Osoyoos-Lake-due-to-low-water-levels#541324</a>
<b>March 28, 2025</b>	Vernon Matters	Former Water Board exec becomes local Liberal election candidate	<a href="https://vernonmatters.ca/2025/03/28/former-water-board-exec-becomes-local-liberal-election-candidate/">https://vernonmatters.ca/2025/03/28/former-water-board-exec-becomes-local-liberal-election-candidate/</a>
<b>March 27, 2025</b>	Lake Country Calendar	Water board exec named Liberal candidate for Vernon-Lake Country-Monashee	<a href="https://www.lakecountrycalendar.com/local-news/water-board-exec-named-liberal-candidate-for-vernon-lake-country-monashee-7908664">https://www.lakecountrycalendar.com/local-news/water-board-exec-named-liberal-candidate-for-vernon-lake-country-monashee-7908664</a>
<b>March 27, 2025</b>	Business Examiner	THOMPSON OKANAGAN MOVERS & SHAKERS MARCH 27, 2025	<a href="https://businessexaminer.ca/thompson-okanagan-articles/item/thompson-okanagan-movers-shakers-march-27-2025/">https://businessexaminer.ca/thompson-okanagan-articles/item/thompson-okanagan-movers-shakers-march-27-2025/</a>

<b>March 27, 2025</b>	Castanet	Ballot taking shape for Vernon-Lake Country-Monashee riding	<a href="https://www.castanet.net/news/Vernon/540776/Ballot-taking-shape-for-Vernon-Lake-Country-Monashee-riding#540776">https://www.castanet.net/news/Vernon/540776/Ballot-taking-shape-for-Vernon-Lake-Country-Monashee-riding#540776</a>
<b>March 27, 2025</b>	Kelowna Capital News	Water board exec named Liberal candidate for Vernon-Lake Country-Monashee	<a href="https://www.kelownacapnews.com/local-news/water-board-exec-named-liberal-candidate-for-vernon-lake-country-monashee-7908664">https://www.kelownacapnews.com/local-news/water-board-exec-named-liberal-candidate-for-vernon-lake-country-monashee-7908664</a>
<b>March 27, 2025</b>	Arrow Lakes News	Water board exec named Liberal candidate for Vernon-Lake Country-Monashee	<a href="https://www.arrowlakesnews.com/local-news/water-board-exec-named-liberal-candidate-for-vernon-lake-country-monashee-7908664">https://www.arrowlakesnews.com/local-news/water-board-exec-named-liberal-candidate-for-vernon-lake-country-monashee-7908664</a>
<b>March 27, 2025</b>	The Vernon Morning Star	Water board exec named Liberal candidate for Vernon-Lake Country-Monashee	<a href="https://www.vernonmorningstar.com/local-news/water-board-exec-named-liberal-candidate-for-vernon-lake-country-monashee-7908664">https://www.vernonmorningstar.com/local-news/water-board-exec-named-liberal-candidate-for-vernon-lake-country-monashee-7908664</a>
<b>March 26, 2025</b>	Castanet	Anna Warwick Sears acclaimed as Liberal candidate in Vernon-Lake Country-Monashee	<a href="https://www.castanet.net/news/Vernon/540880/Anna-Warwick-Sears-acclaimed-as-Liberal-candidate-in-Vernon-Lake-Country-Monashee#540880">https://www.castanet.net/news/Vernon/540880/Anna-Warwick-Sears-acclaimed-as-Liberal-candidate-in-Vernon-Lake-Country-Monashee#540880</a>
<b>March 26, 2025</b>	Country Life in BC	Lucas returns to BCFGA	<a href="https://www.countrylifeinbc.com/lucas-returns-to-bcfga/">https://www.countrylifeinbc.com/lucas-returns-to-bcfga/</a>
<b>March 26, 2025</b>	Castanet Kamloops	Welcome to spring and a new gardening season	<a href="https://www.castanetkamloops.net/edition/news-story-540599-1152-.htm">https://www.castanetkamloops.net/edition/news-story-540599-1152-.htm</a>
<b>March 26, 2025</b>	KCRA-TV	Rancho Seco Lake restricts watercraft over invasive golden mussels	<a href="https://www.kcra.com/article/rancho-seco-lake-watercraft-restrictions-golden-mussels/64299074">https://www.kcra.com/article/rancho-seco-lake-watercraft-restrictions-golden-mussels/64299074</a>
<b>March 26, 2025</b>	Castanet	Welcome to spring and a new gardening season	<a href="https://www.castanet.net/news/Gardening-with-nature/540599/Welcome-to-spring-and-a-new-gardening-season#540599">https://www.castanet.net/news/Gardening-with-nature/540599/Welcome-to-spring-and-a-new-gardening-season#540599</a>



## MEMORANDUM

To: OBWB Directors  
From: Sandra Schira, Water Science Specialist  
Date: April 30, 2025  
Subject: Weather Update

Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Regular meeting  
May 6, 2025  
Agenda No: 7.5

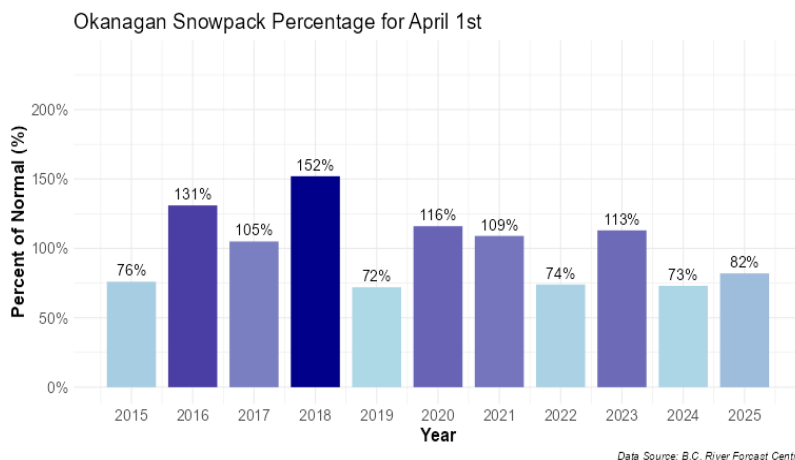
### Weather Update

Melt is underway at lower elevations. In April, precipitation was within normal ranges, and temperatures were steady but shifted cooler. Most streams are beginning their freshet and will see peak flows in the next two months. Okanagan Lake is high in part due to high precipitation in March. Long-term forecasts indicate hotter and drier conditions for the next three months. The summer's outlook will partly depend on how early and quickly the snow melts.

### *Snowpack Slightly Below Normal as Melt Begins.*

On April 1 the province was at 79% of normal, and the Okanagan was at 82% (Figure 1)<sup>1</sup>. The Okanagan has been steady around 83% of normal for the last few months.

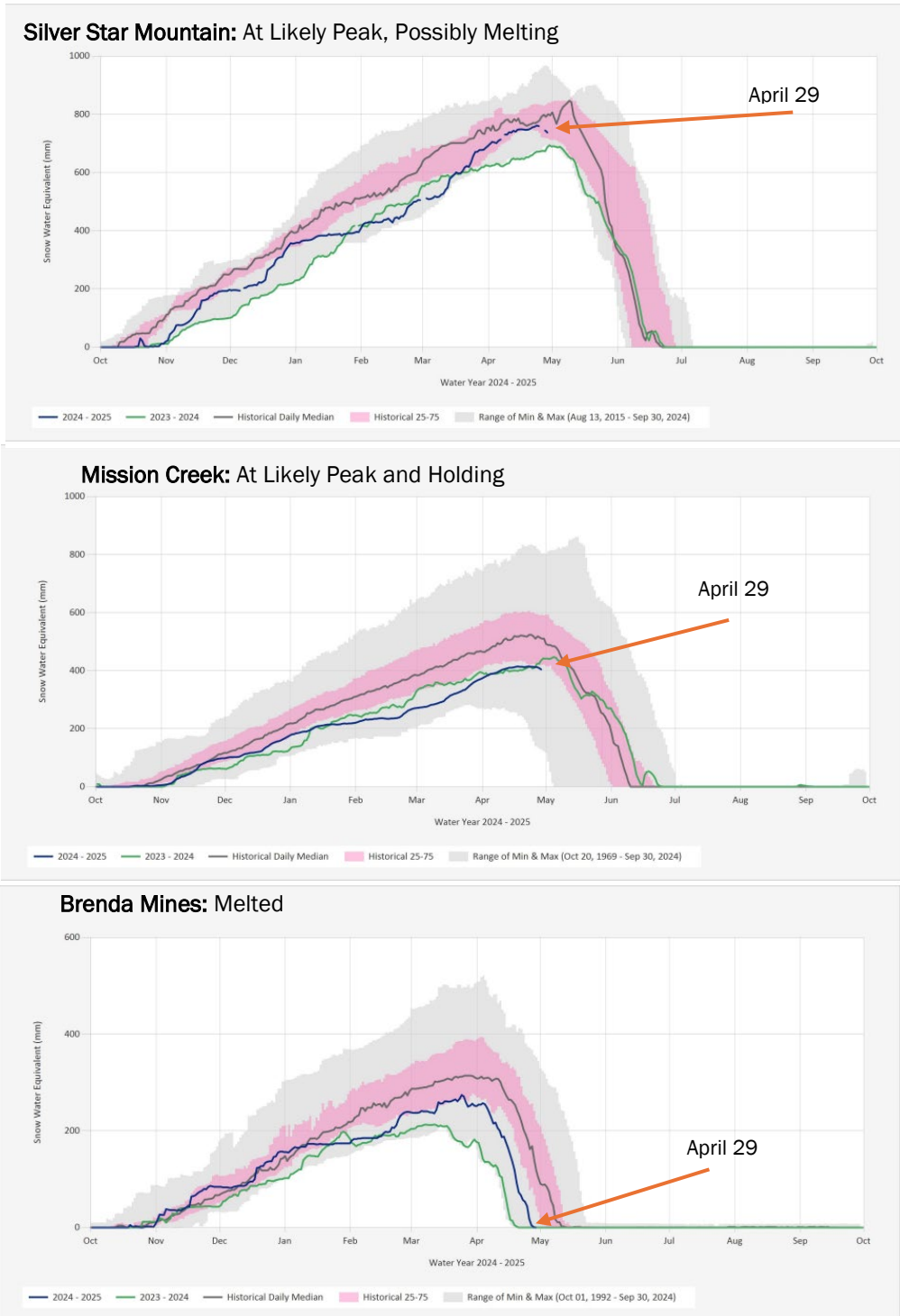
As of the end of April, Silver Star and Mission Creek were at their likely peak, and for both, the melt typically will start in mid to late May. Brenda Mines is snow free, which is several weeks ahead of normal but not as early as last year's record-breaking melt<sup>2</sup>.



**Figure 1** Comparison of April 1 snow index over the last ten years in the Okanagan. Graph from the February Snow Supply

<sup>1</sup> Province of B.C. Snow Conditions April 1. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/drought-flooding-dikes-dams/river-forecast-centre/snow-survey-water-supply-bulletin> Accessed 24.04.2025

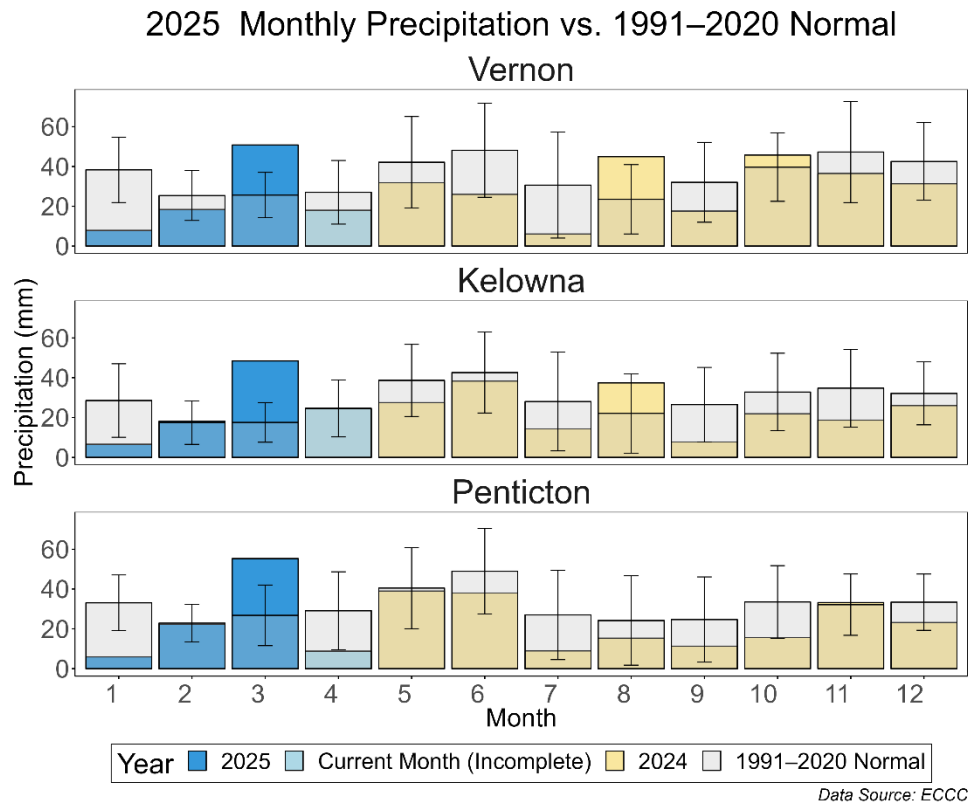
<sup>2</sup> B.C. River Forecast Centre Snow Station Data  
<https://governmentofbc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=c15768bf73494f5da04b1aac6793bd2e> Accessed 29.04.2025



**Figure 4** Weekly Snowpack Accumulation Across the Okanagan as of April 29. Data from the Province of B.C.<sup>2</sup>.

### *Precipitation Lower than March but Normal*

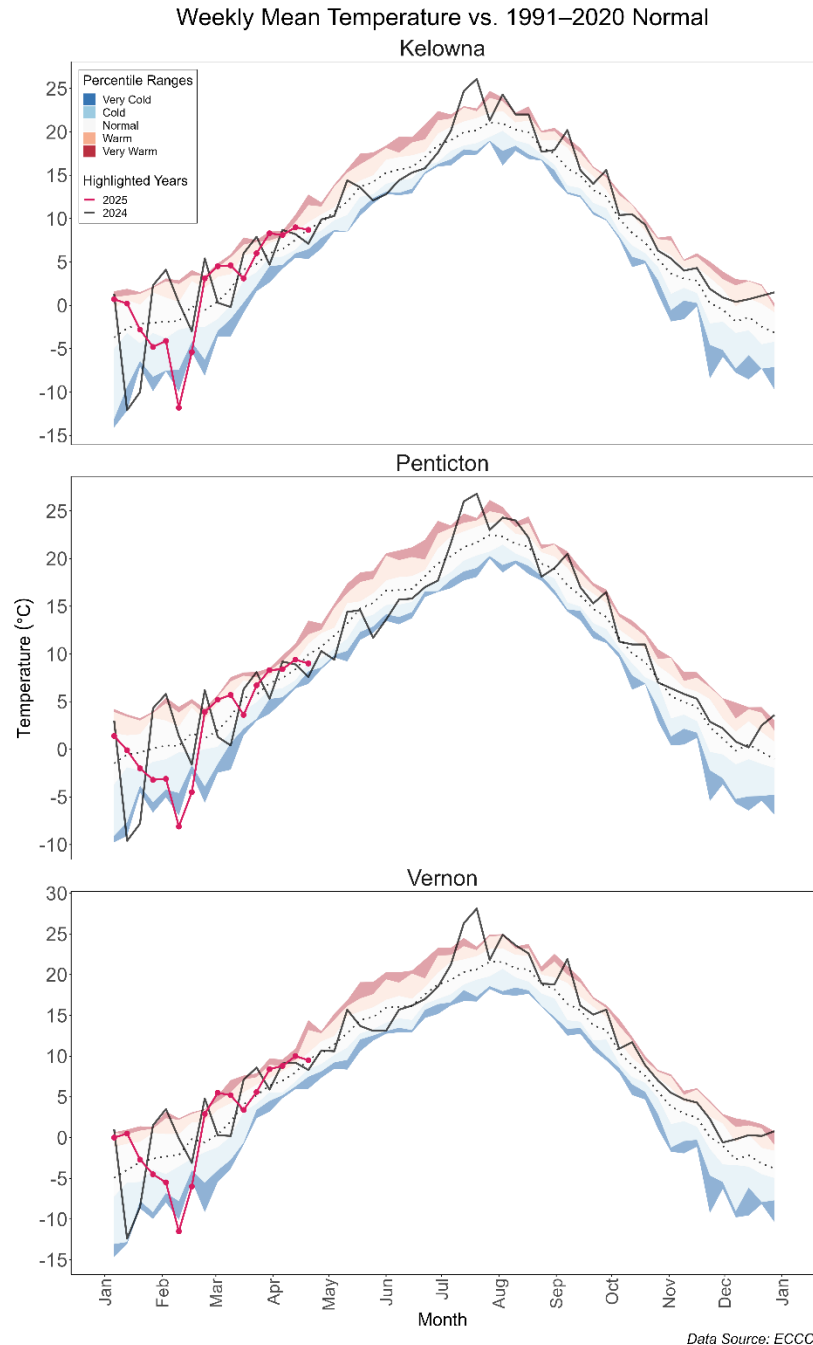
After a wet March, April was more variable (Figure 5). All stations are within normal variability. What precipitation fell has not translated to increases in snowpack, so it has likely gone to the soil/groundwater, surface water, or into the reservoirs. It was still slightly drier than normal in the Okanagan. After multiple dry years, it will take consistent precipitation to fully pull the Okanagan out of drought. We will have to wait until after the freshet to understand better what the summer could hold.



**Figure 5** Monthly Precipitation in the Okanagan as of April 29. Compared to 1991 to 2020 range. Data retrieved from Environment and Climate Change Canada

### *Temperatures Steady and Shifting Cooler*

The end of March to the beginning of April saw warmer-than-normal conditions, but nothing extreme. In mid-April, the weather shifted to cooler conditions (Figure 6). Overall, temperatures have remained fairly consistent in April with no sudden shifts.

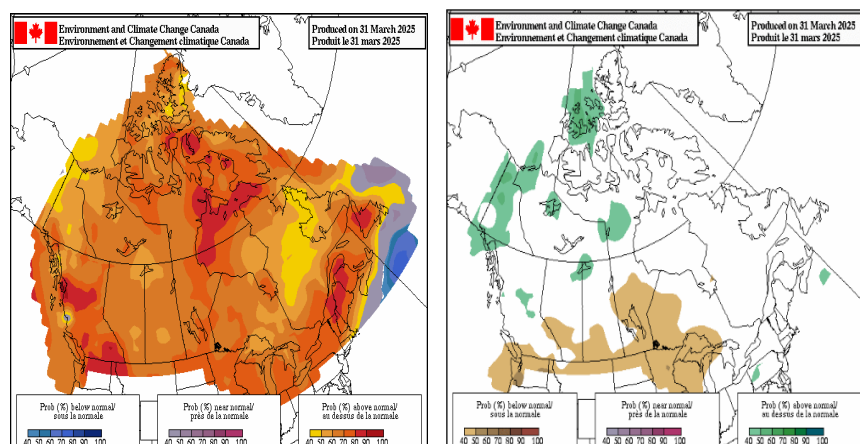


**Figure 6** Weekly Average Temperature Across the Okanagan as of April 29 compared to 2024 and 1991 to 2020 range. Data retrieved from Environment and Climate Change Canada.



### ***Seasonal forecasts Predict Warm and Dry Conditions***

Long-term forecasts from ECCC<sup>3</sup> show a high likelihood for warmer and drier than normal conditions between April and June (Figure 7). Seasonal forecasting is highly challenging, so disagreement between models or variations from projections is not uncommon. Seasonal forecasts are, therefore, used to provide a sense of likely future conditions but should not be taken as 100% certain.

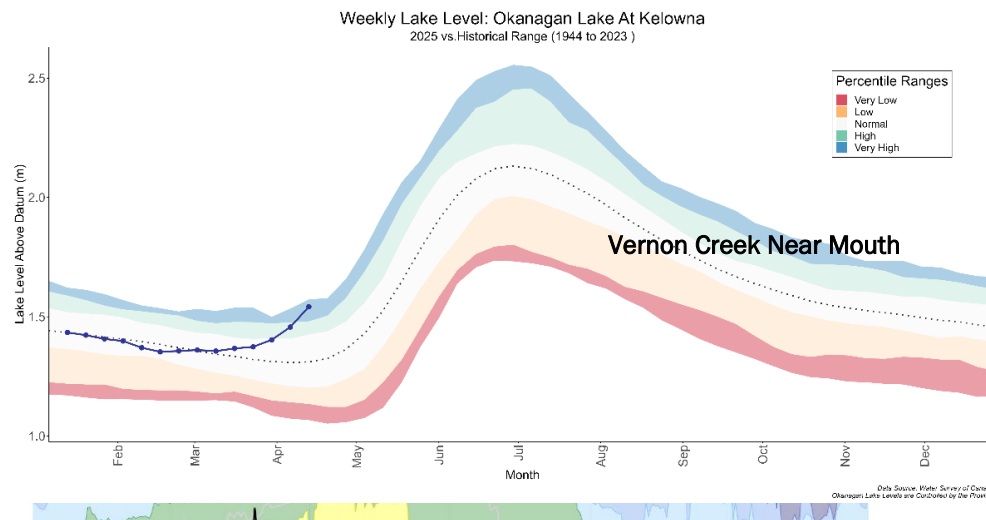


**Figure 7** Three-Month Seasonal Forecast from ECCC (April-June).

### ***Okanagan Lake and Streams Entering Freshet.***

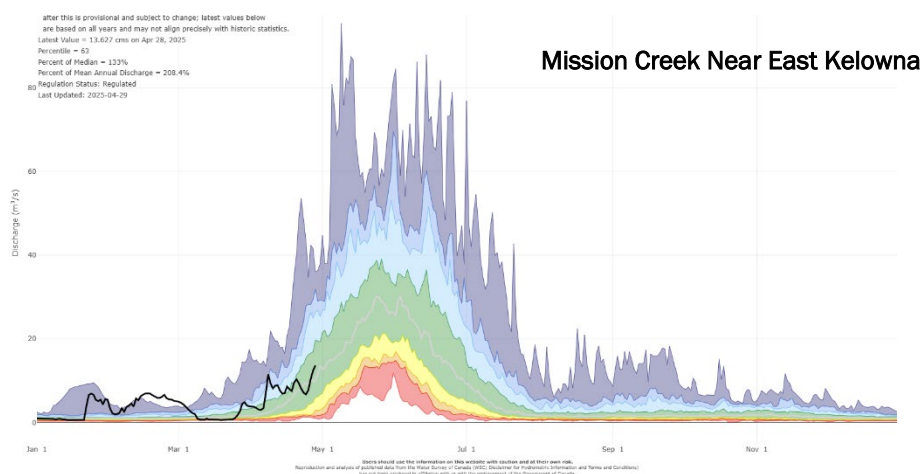
Okanagan Lake levels near Kelowna increased in April and are very high for this time of year and are more typical for late-May. This indicates the possibility of an earlier than normal start to the freshet for Okanagan Lake. At this time, the Province has not issued any flood warnings. The early increase is likely the result of high precipitation in March, warm conditions, and dam operations to help mitigate possible summer drought conditions. The Province controls and operates Okanagan Lake levels under the Okanagan Lake Regulation System.

<sup>3</sup> Environment and Climate Change Canada Seasonal Forecasts.  
[https://weather.gc.ca/saisons/image\\_e.html?img=s123pfe1p\\_cal&bc=prob](https://weather.gc.ca/saisons/image_e.html?img=s123pfe1p_cal&bc=prob) Accessed 24.04.2025

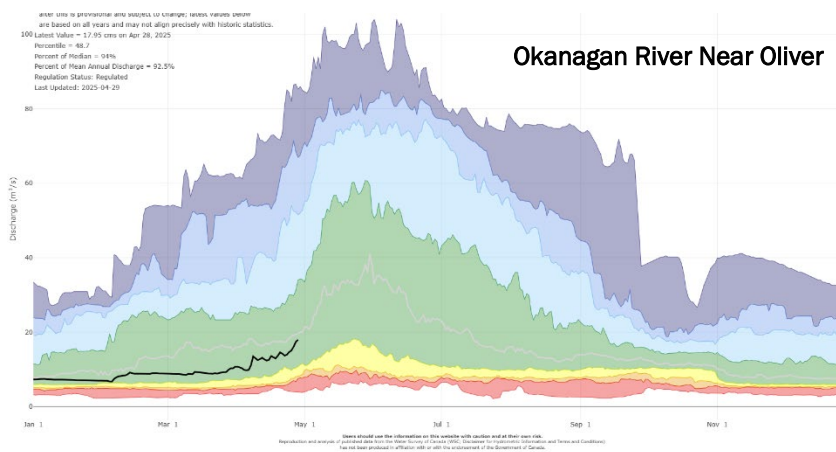


**Figure 8** Weekly Lake levels for Okanagan Lake at Kelowna as of April 24 compared to the 1944 – 2023 range. Data is retrieved from the Water Survey of Canada

next two months, depending on the location. Most streams are currently flowing within normal conditions for this time of year, which is a considerable improvement on this time last year.



4 B.C. River Forecast Centre Hydrographs Source [https://bcrfc.env.gov.bc.ca/Real-time\\_Data/RFC\\_Conditions\\_Map.html](https://bcrfc.env.gov.bc.ca/Real-time_Data/RFC_Conditions_Map.html)  
Accessed 29.04.2025



**Figure 9** Daily streamflow ( $\text{m}^3/\text{s}$ ) for Creeks across the Okanagan compared to their historical ranges<sup>4</sup>. Data is current as of April 29.

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## INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release

Ministry of Attorney General

2025AG0020-000342

April 29, 2025

### **Introduction of miscellaneous statutes amendment act, 2025**

VICTORIA – Government introduced the miscellaneous statutes amendment act, 2025, to the legislative assembly on Tuesday, April 29, 2025.

If passed by the legislature, the amendments will affect the following provincial statutes:

#### **Wildfire Act:**

Amendments to the Wildfire Act are proposed to change the limitation period for orders the minister can make against parties who started or contributed to the spread of a wildfire or who contravened the act or wildfire regulation. The amendments will provide more time for an alleged party to understand the evidence against them and a meaningful opportunity to respond. They will also provide additional time for investigations and calculating costs and damages, and for decision-makers to assess the facts before making a determination order (e.g., for parties to pay government's fire-control costs, the value of damaged or destroyed Crown resources or an administrative penalty).

The amendments will align the limitation period with those in other natural resource statutes, such as the Forest and Range Practices Act.

#### **Local Government Act and An Act to Incorporate the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District:**

Amendments are proposed to temporarily extend instream protections for development charges from 12 to 24 months for Metro Vancouver Regional District and its Greater Boards (Greater Vancouver Water District and Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District) for developers that have submitted completed applications prior to March 22, 2024. This is applied retroactively so that the homebuilders who have met the application date above will continue to have access to the lower rates of development charges for an additional year until March 22, 2026.

#### **Housing Supply Act:**

Amendments to the Housing Supply Act are proposed to ensure consistency of provincial authority to undertake compliance measures with the City of Vancouver, conforming with all other prescribed municipalities subject to a housing target order.

#### **Local Government Act – Elections amendments:**

Amendments to the Local Government Act, Local Elections Campaign Financing Act, School Act and Vancouver Charter are proposed to clarify for local election officials and others the rules

concerning elections administration and address barriers to participation by electors and candidates in local elections.

Local elections include elections for municipal councils, regional district electoral areas, boards of education, specified parks boards, local community commissions and the Islands Trust.

**Local Government Act – Service Establishment Bylaw exemptions:**

An amendment to the Local Government Act is proposed to add an exception to regional district service establishment rules to allow regional districts to establish the service of designating fire inspectors and investigators as required under the new Fire Safety Act.

**Local Government Act and Vancouver Charter (clauses 45, 46, 65 and 66):**

Amendments are proposed to provide clarity that instream protections extend to site-specific density benefit provisions, and exempt any site-specific density benefits bylaw passed prior to April 25, 2024, from having to comply with the new density benefit bylaw provisions.

**Vancouver Charter – City of Vancouver Regulatory Authorities:**

Amendments are proposed to clarify that the City of Vancouver can regulate in areas also governed by the Province in the same manner as other municipalities under the Community Charter.

**Professional Governance Act:**

Amendments are being proposed to clarify a regulation-making power under the Professional Governance Act. The goal is to clarify that the cabinet can make regulations related to job titles.

The act already provides regulation-making power to specify which professional titles are reserved for use by certain professionals. This change would provide clear authority to specify which job titles are not reserved exclusively for certain professionals. A regulation made under this clarified power would ensure that professional regulatory bodies cannot prevent people from using certain job titles set out in the regulation.

**Wildlife Act:**

Amendments are proposed under the Wildlife Act to enact pull the plug requirements and mandatory stops at open watercraft inspection stations, targeted for the 2025 summer boating season. In addition, the amendments will enable mandatory inspections for watercraft entering B.C. from another jurisdiction prior to launch. This authority will be brought into force through regulations following further analysis and engagement.

The transport of watercraft between waterbodies is the primary high-risk pathway for spreading aquatic invasive species, such as zebra and quagga mussels, and whirling disease. The most effective preventive measure is for boaters to clean, drain and dry all watercraft and equipment after each use, and to pull the plug on all watercrafts being transported between waterbodies. Many other jurisdictions have similar measures in place, including Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

**Learn More:**

For more information about B.C. legislation, visit: <https://strongerbc.gov.bc.ca/Legislation>

**Contact:**

Ministry of Attorney General  
Media Relations  
250 415-0474

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Connect with the Province of B.C. at: [news.gov.bc.ca/connect](https://news.gov.bc.ca/connect)



# COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT

555 Harbourfront Drive NE, PO Box 978, Salmon Arm, BC V1E 4P1  
T: 250-832-8194 | F: 250-832-3375 | TF: 1-888-248-2773 | [www.csrld.bc.ca](http://www.csrld.bc.ca)

April 4, 2025

Sent by email: [WLRS.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:WLRS.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

The Honourable Randene Neill, M.P.  
Minister of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship  
PO Box 9012 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8M 9L6

Dear Minister:

## **Re: Support Letter for the Okanagan Basin Water Board's Calls to Action - Preventing Invasive Mussels in BC**

On behalf of the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) Board of Directors, I am writing to express our ongoing concern regarding a critical issue frequently discussed by our Board: the prevention of invasive mussels. The District of Sicamous and Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) recently renewed their focus on advocating for sustained funding and enhanced inter-provincial cooperation to protect our freshwater ecosystems from invasive aquatic species, particularly invasive mussels.

The CSRD Board strongly supports the OBWB in their urgent call for action, urging the government to provide immediate and sustained long-term funding for the BC Invasive Mussel Defence Program (IMDP). This funding is essential to support and bolster efforts aimed at preventing invasive mussels from entering and damaging BC's freshwater ecosystems. Given the persistent threat posed by these mussels, an ongoing commitment to engagement and financial support from the Province is crucial for next year and beyond.

The Board recognizes that the spread of invasive mussels in BC would have devastating and irreversible consequences for the province's economy. Prevention remains the most effective and cost-effective strategy. To reiterate, the key points of urgent action outlined by the OBWB, and strongly endorsed by the CSRD Board, are as follows:

- Immediate funding for IMDP
- Mandatory inspections for all watercraft
- Federal action
- Western Canada invasive mussel-free zone
- Align penalties across provinces
- Create clear policy to limit chemical use as a "Rapid Response"

The threat of invasive mussels moving westward and southward toward BC's waters is an imminent concern, demanding interprovincial collaboration and close coordination with border services. Accelerating preventative measures is essential and non-negotiable to address this significant risk. The consequences of an invasion would be catastrophic, with severe and costly impacts on ecosystems, fisheries, drinking water, the tourism industry, and local infrastructure. As emphasized by the District of Sicamous, prevention is our best defence.

#### ELECTORAL AREAS

A GOLDEN-COLUMBIA  
B REVELSTOKE-COLUMBIA

C EAGLE BAY-WHITE LAKE-TAPPEN  
D FALKLAND-SALMON VALLEY

E SICAMOUS-MALAKWA  
F NORTH SHUSWAP-SEYMOUR ARM  
G BLIND BAY-SORRENTO-NOTCH HILL

#### MUNICIPALITIES

GOLDEN  
REVELSTOKE

SALMON ARM  
SICAMOUS

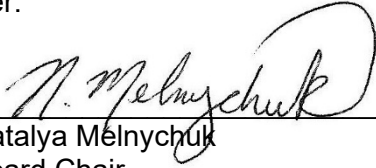


We urgently request your Ministry's collaborative and continued leadership in protecting and safeguarding the water resources in our region and invest in funding to support continued efforts in protecting BC's waters from invasive mussels.

Yours truly,

**COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT**

Per:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Melnychuk', is written over a horizontal line.

Natalya Melnychuk  
Board Chair

Enclosure: District of Sicamous Letter (February 28, 2025)

cc: David Williams, M.L.A. (Salmon Arm-Shuswap)  
Mel Arnold, M.P. (North Okanagan-Shuswap)  
District of Sicamous  
Sicamous & District Chamber of Commerce  
Okanagan Basin Water Board

**District of Sicamous**

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February 28, 2025

The Honourable Randene Neill, M.P.  
Minister of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship  
WLRS.Minister@gov.bc.ca

*DELIVERED VIA EMAIL*

**Re: Support Letter for the Okanagan Basin Water Board's 2025 Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Calls to Action**

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Dear Minister Randene Neill,

On behalf of the District of Sicamous council, I am writing to express support for the Okanagan Basin Water Board's (OBWB) 2025 Prevention Calls to Action regarding aquatic invasive species. As a community surrounded by Shuswap and Mara Lakes, we recognize the devastating ecological and economic risks these species pose. Prevention is our best defense, and immediate action is needed.

We support OBWB's call for stable funding for the Invasive Mussel Defence Program, mandatory watercraft inspections and stronger interprovincial cooperation. We also support OBWB's call for federal engagement, increased penalties for non-compliance and policies that prioritize prevention over ineffective chemical response measures. Without these measures, our lakes – and the tourism, recreation and drinking water systems they support – remain at risk. Investing in prevention now will save millions in future mitigation costs.

We urge you to prioritize these initiatives and work with local governments, Indigenous partners, and neighbouring provinces to keep B.C.'s waters mussel-free.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We urge your government to take decisive action to protect B.C.'s freshwater resources and prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. We look forward to your response and your leadership on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colleen Anderson", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Colleen Anderson, Mayor  
**DISTRICT OF SICAMOUS**

**cc.** David Williams, M.L.A. (Salmon Arm-Shuswap)  
Mel Arnold, M.P. (North Okanagan-Shuswap)  
Columbia Shuswap Regional District Board  
Sicamous & District Chamber of Commerce  
Okanagan Basin Water Board  
**Encl:** Okanagan Basin Water Board Letter (February 5, 2025)

Honourable Randene Neill  
B.C. Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship  
PO Box 9012 Stn Prov. Govt.  
Victoria, BC V8M 9L6  
WLRs.Minister@gov.bc.ca

February 05, 2025

**Re: Funding and inter-provincial cooperation to prevent invasive mussels**

Dear Minister Neill,

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship. The Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) looks forward to working with you on water-related issues in our region, which includes 12 municipalities, three regional districts, five First Nations, and over 350,000 people.

One of the most urgent issues we face across the province is preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species, particularly invasive mussels. The B.C. Invasive Mussel Defence Program (IMDP) has been underfunded and understaffed for years, despite being critical to protecting B.C.'s economy and freshwater ecosystems. Without this program, invasive mussels would cause significant damage to ecosystems, fisheries, and drinking water systems, costing the province hundreds of millions annually.

We are especially concerned about the discovery of golden mussels in California, which can survive in calcium-poor waters, posing a new risk to all regions of B.C. The threat has never been greater, but the preventative actions remain the same: a fully funded, resourced IMDP and mandatory inspections for all watercraft entering the province.

**Urgent Actions Needed:**

**1. Immediate Funding for IMDP – \$5.5 million**

Since the program's launch in 2015, IMDP funding has not kept pace with inflation. Between 2019-2023, the budget was reduced by 25% (when accounting for inflation), leading to a 60% drop in watercraft inspections. With invasive mussels now detected in neighboring Idaho, we urge you to allocate at least \$5.5 million to the IMDP in 2025 to restore inspections and enhance prevention efforts.

**2. Mandatory Inspections for All Watercraft**

Currently, only boats passing an open IMDP station are required to be inspected, leaving many watercraft uninspected. We propose making inspections mandatory for all watercraft entering B.C., which could be implemented through public-private partnerships with marinas. This would help fund the program, reduce enforcement costs, and encourage responsible boating culture. Legislation to support this could include:

- **Wildlife Act (RSBC 1996, c. 488)** – Governs the protection of ecosystems and invasive species.
- **Invasive Species Regulation (under the Wildlife Act)** – Addresses the control of invasive species.
- **Water Sustainability Act (SBC 2014, c. 15)** – Protects water resources and could include regulations for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention.
- **Public Health Act (RSBC 2008, c. 28)** – Addresses public health risks related to AIS.
- **Drinking Water Protection Act (SBC 2001, c. 9)** – Could regulate inspections near vulnerable drinking water sources.

We are available to help with detailed proposals for the implementation of mandatory inspections.

### **3. Federal Action**

We urge you to call on the federal government for resources to support IMDP. Federal funding has been limited to detection, not prevention. As we've seen in Lake Winnipeg and other regions, once invasive species are detected, it's already too late. The federal government must prioritize prevention to halt the spread of invasive mussels before they enter B.C.

### **4. Western Canada Invasive Mussel-Free Zone**

We recommend creating a "Western Canada Invasive Mussel-Free Zone," including B.C., Alberta, and potentially Saskatchewan. This would enable consistent inspections, common policies, and penalties across provincial borders. Alberta's recently created AIS Task Force – chaired by MLA Grant Hunter, released a recommendations report in December 2024 which outlines specific actions and timelines for implementing a watercraft sticker program and mandatory inspections for all watercraft entering Alberta from the east and south. We recommend B.C. create a similar, politically led task force to work with Alberta to align and coordinate efforts.

### **5. Align Penalties Across Provinces**

We urge B.C. to match Alberta's high fines for non-compliance. The larger watercraft that pose the highest risk of transporting invasive mussels should be subject to higher fines. Alberta's fines, such as \$4,200 for failing to stop at an inspection station, set an important precedent for effective deterrence.

### **6. Create Clear Policy to Limit Chemical Use as a "Rapid Response"**

Many jurisdictions including B.C. and Alberta are calling for the registration of additional chemical options for responding to new mussel detections. While it is important to have tools available, case after case shows these chemicals fail to eradicate mussels, cost millions to use, damage the ecosystem and kill other non-target species including salmonids and other fish. Rapid response chemicals should never be used as a PR cover for inadequate and underfunded prevention efforts.

### **Public Support**

In March 2024, OBWB convened the Okanagan-Interior Invasive Mussel Working Group, attended by more than 100 people representing 58 local governments, First Nations, marinas and yacht clubs, businesses, tourism associations, chambers of commerce, invasive species and conservation groups and other organizations. This level of participation shows the seriousness of the issue, and that you have the public support, local political support, and social licence to protect provincial waters from this significant threat.

OBWB will continue to provide advice and support within our mandate, and we look forward to increased collaboration and continued leadership from the government on this vital issue.



Blair Ireland, Chair  
Okanagan Basin Water Board



CC:

- Okanagan MLAs: Donegal Wilson, Kristina Loewen, Tara Armstrong, Gavin Dew, Amelia Boulton, David Williams, Harwinder Sandhu, Macklin McCall
- Okanagan Nation Alliance, Chiefs Executive Council and Natural Resources Council
- Okanagan Indian Band
- Westbank First Nation
- Penticton Indian Band
- Osoyoos Indian Band
- Lower Similkameen Indian Band
- Okanagan Local Government Chairs and Mayors
- Okanagan MPs: Mel Arnold, Tracy Gray, Dan Albas, Richard Cannings
- Pacific NorthWest Economic Region: Matt Morrison, Chief Executive Officer
- BC Wildlife Federation, Jesse Zeman, Executive Director
- Invasive Species Council of B.C.: Gail Wallin, Executive Director
- Okanagan Chambers of Commerce
- Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association
- Union of BC Municipalities
- Shuswap Watershed Council
- Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society
- Okanagan-Interior Invasive Mussel Working Group members