



Fraser Basin Council

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Fraser Basin Council Announces New Partnership to Develop Flood Hazard Management Tools

Vancouver, BC: The Fraser Basin Council today announced a new partnership with the Province of British Columbia and local governments to develop a range of essential flood hazard management information tools and resources. These tools will assist local governments, provincial agencies, First Nations and others to better understand, plan for and mitigate potential flood hazards.

On May 13, 2003 the new *Flood Hazard Statutes Amendment Act* was introduced into the BC legislature. In conjunction with this initiative, the province has made \$1 million available for the development of integrated flood hazard management tools needed to assist with future floodplain planning, dike operations and maintenance, and emergency preparedness and response. This work will be facilitated by the Fraser Basin Council in collaboration with local and regional partners. The project includes:

- Completion of a detailed global positioning survey and preparation of maps of diking systems listed in the BC Diking Authority contact list.
- Completion of digital flood hazard reference maps, depicting information about known flood hazards and related flood protection guidelines for communities throughout BC.
- Development of floodplain mapping products for the floodplain of the lower Fraser River.

“Residents and communities throughout the province that are vulnerable to significant flood threats certainly welcome this initiative,” said Sylvia Pranger, Mayor of the District of Kent who recently joined the Fraser Basin Council Board of Directors, representing the Fraser Valley Regional District. “The products that the Council and its partners will produce will strengthen our capacity to better understand, plan for, prevent and mitigate the damages from the next great flood of the Fraser River and other rivers in BC.”

Since its inception in 1997, the Fraser Basin Council has worked collaboratively with all orders of government to address Fraser River flood hazards through a coordinated and integrated approach. The project announced today strongly supports the Council’s goals of protecting and advancing the sustainability of the Fraser Basin and other regions in the province. It also supports the Council’s goal of increasing knowledge and awareness for the purposes of improving decision-making with respect to flood hazard management.

For more information about the objectives, scope and benefits of these projects, see the project descriptions on the Council’s website. If you have questions, need further information, or wish to identify a local or regional contact for the project, please contact:

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The Fraser Basin Council is a non-profit society established in 1997 to bring people together to find solutions to long-standing issues and conflicts, and take advantage of opportunities in the Fraser River Basin. The mandate of the Council is to ensure that the decisions we make about the Basin today will protect and advance its economic, environmental and social sustainability into the future.