



INCREASING FLOOD RISKS ALONG THE OTTAWA RIVER (Mattawa to the Montreal Region)

OTTAWA/GATINEAU, Tuesday April 22, 2025 — The Ottawa River Regulating Committee warns that levels and flows along the main stem of the Ottawa River are susceptible to increase and may exceed flood levels in some flood prone areas depending on weather. **Residents are advised to monitor the river conditions forecast on our website and to consult the flood-related information provided by their respective provincial authorities over the next few weeks. No additional press releases will be published by the Ottawa River Regulating Committee regarding spring flooding.** During the freshet period, the Regulating Committee continuously monitors conditions at all points along the river, uses weather forecasts to develop river conditions forecasts and takes actions to mitigate the amount of flooding.

River Conditions Forecast / Flooding Risk*: The freshet started around mid-March this year when warm temperatures, combined with rain, initiated the melting of snow across the Ottawa River basin. By early to mid-April, the snow cover had essentially disappeared from the southeastern part of the basin and along the valley portions of the Ottawa River and its tributaries. Elsewhere, spring runoff is increasing as normal daytime temperatures are conducive to the melting of the snow cover. Weather events over the next few weeks, in particular events bringing above normal temperatures and heavy rainfall, may lead to levels and flows exceeding flood levels in some locations.

How to Monitor River Conditions Forecasts: See the river conditions forecast message that is posted daily on the [Home](#) and [Current Conditions](#) webpages. **The message will provide more specific details as to what locations may experience flooding over the next few days.** The most recent messages remain available in the 'Latest News' section. Older messages can be found in the Archives section of 'Information and Documentation'.

Main stem of the Ottawa River: Link >> [Four-day forecast](#)

Forecast flows and levels over a four-day period are provided at key locations on the Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board website and updated daily. Wind and wave effects are not included. For more information on how the forecast conditions may impact you, please contact your local municipality.

Montreal Archipelago: Link >> [Archipelago Hydrological Forecasts](#)

The Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs of Québec provides observations and forecasts for the Montreal region on its website. The site contains data on the level of Lac des Deux Montagnes along with the discharge of the Ottawa River at Carillon, Rivière des Prairies and Mille Îles River.

How to Consult Flood-related Information from Provincial Authorities: The Regulating Committee works closely with provincial agencies responsible for issuing flood-related information. Please consult information provided over the next few weeks by your local responsible authority.

Ontario - Conservation Authorities and District Offices of the Ministry of Natural Resources issue local flood-related messages and information to municipalities, Indigenous communities and other key agencies involved in flood preparedness and response. Current flood-related messages can be viewed on-line on the individual conservation authority websites and on the provincial flood webpage: <https://www.ontario.ca/flooding>. Flood-related messages pertaining to the Ottawa River may be issued by the following groups: MNR Districts (North Bay, Pembroke, and Kemptville); Conservations authorities (North Bay-Mattawa, Mississippi Valley, Rideau Valley, and South Nation River).

Québec - The Ministère de la Sécurité publique through the Centre des opérations gouvernementales and the Regional Directorates of Sécurité civile collaborate with municipalities to protect residents. Monitoring of flood conditions can be viewed at <https://vigilance.geo.msp.gouv.qc.ca/carte>.

If you have a flood emergency, please contact your municipality.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Website: Current and forecast conditions on the Ottawa River along with conditions at the principal reservoirs in the system may be obtained by consulting our website. A general [four-day forecast](#) is also provided at key locations within the basin during the spring freshet period.

www.ottawariver.ca (English)

www.rivieredesoutaouais.ca/(French)

Telephone: You can call 1-888-621-0059 to hear a recorded message describing the river conditions forecast.

X / Twitter: Follow us to be notified when press releases are issued, when we begin daily updates of the River Conditions Forecast message or the four-day forecasts at reference locations on our website, or when news bulletins are posted on our website.

twitter.com/ORRPB(English)

twitter.com/CPRRO(French)

About the Ottawa River Regulating Committee: The group consists of the following agencies that are responsible for the collaborative flow management of the principal reservoirs within the Ottawa River watershed: Hydro-Québec, Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs du Québec, Ontario Power Generation, and Public Services and Procurement Canada. In Ontario, the Ministry of Natural Resources, as an associate member of the Regulating Committee, contributes important hydrometeorological information and plays a key role in disseminating information in Ontario.

Frequency of Press Releases: The Regulating Committee issues a press release when the spring freshet season is starting on the Ottawa River. It issues a second and last press release when it anticipates that river conditions on the main stem of the Ottawa River may exceed flood levels.

***Subject Area:** The focus of the “River Conditions / Flood Risk” report is on the main stem of the Ottawa River (from the Lake Timiskaming outlet down to the Montreal region). River conditions in tributaries of the Ottawa River, including the Abitibi-Timiskaming area, may differ.

For additional information, please communicate with the Ottawa River Regulation Secretariat using the ‘Contact us’ form on the website or leave a message at 819-303-5886 or 1-888-621-0059.

Ottawa River Regulating Committee