

MEDIA RELEASE

City of Williams Lake



For Immediate Release

May 20, 2020

450 Mart Street
Williams Lake, BC
V2G 1N3

River Valley remains closed as work continues to repair flood damage

The River Valley Trail remains closed to the public due to heavy construction equipment needed to repair roads, bridges and a ruptured sewer pipe damaged by recent flooding.

Contractors continue to work on fixing the road, stabilizing slopes and re-establishing at least 14 bridges that were damaged or made impassable as a result of the flooding that began on April 24.

The bridges are needed to access and re-bed or repair exposed or broken sections of the sanitary sewer line, which transports effluent from the City's Sewage Treatment Lagoons to the Fraser River. Due to displaced manholes or broken pipes, some of that effluent has been releasing into Williams Lake River instead.

"We're proceeding down the River Valley and trying to do the repairs bridge by bridge to the Fraser River," said Gary Muraca, Director of Municipal Services. "It's a really complex project. We need those bridges to get to those locations. The ultimate goal is for the treated effluent to go to the Fraser River."

The work is expected to take months to complete, as temporary bridges must be installed every time a bridge is repaired to bear the weight of the heavy equipment.

Meanwhile, a State of Local Emergency has been extended for the River Valley, along with an evacuation order for 11 industrial properties along Frizzi Road. The public is asked to avoid the area at this time.

"We're not going to put the public at risk with all the heavy equipment we're putting in there," Muraca said. "We appreciate everyone's patience at this time."

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