



CITY OF  
**CHILLIWACK**



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

Date

Reference: 645392

**Re: Mitigation planning for the Sumas River Watershed — public engagement beginning summer 2026**

Dear community member,

The Sumas Watershed has experienced seven major flooding events since 1948, and the devastating flooding in 2021 and 2025 highlighted the need for long-term planning to reduce flood risk and strengthen climate resilience across the region.

To support this work, two First Nations, two local governments, and the Province of British Columbia came together to develop a long-term approach to flood mitigation and ecosystem health in the Sumas Prairie. Together, the partners signed the Sumas River Watershed Flood Mitigation Planning Initiative on April 28, 2023.

The five partners involved in the initiative are the Province of B.C., Semá:th First Nation, Leq'á:mel First Nation, the City of Abbotsford, and the City of Chilliwack. The federal government has recently expressed their support for the initiative, recognizing the Sumas Prairie as a region of national importance and actively participating at all levels of the initiative.

The initial planning work being conducted is guided by hydraulic, flood risk and environmental studies, supported by Indigenous knowledge and technical expertise. This work is helping identify ways to reduce flood risk, improve ecosystem health, and strengthen resilience throughout the watershed.

To date, the Province has supported flood recovery and mitigation with approximately \$220M in funding and is now supporting the current planning stage with \$3.3M additional dollars.

Beginning next week, public engagement sessions will be hosted to share updates on the work completed to date and gather feedback from residents and community members.

More information about engagement opportunities will be shared by the partners.

Thank you for your interest and participation as this important work moves forward.

Kelly Greene  
Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Lana Popham  
Minister of Agriculture and Food

Randene Neill  
Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

Chief Dalton Silver  
Semá:th First Nation

Chief Stacey Goulding  
Leq'á:mel First Nation

Mayor Ross Siemens  
City of Abbotsford

Mayor Ken Popove  
City of Chilliwack