



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

OTTAWA/GATINEAU, Monday April 13, 2026 — The Ottawa River Regulating Committee warns that water levels and flows along the main stem of the Ottawa River are expected 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 Ottawa River freshet began in early April as spring runoff increased from a combination of rainfall and snowmelt in the Ottawa Valley and southern sub-basins. Since the end of March, above-normal snowfall in the northern part of the basin has added to an already above-average snowpack. Colder-than-normal temperatures over the last few weeks have limited snowmelt, and the water content of the snow (or snow water equivalent) in the northern part of the basin now ranges from 200 to 250 mm, or 150 to 175% of normal.

Over the next five days, warmer temperatures are expected to cause rapid snowmelt in the southern part of the basin where snow remains (e.g. Petawawa River), as well as increased snowmelt in sub-basins north of the Ottawa River (e.g. Coulonge and Rouge rivers). Combined with forecast rainfall of 30 to 60 mm over the next few days across the basin, water levels and flows are expected to rise significantly and may exceed flood levels in many locations later this week.

Over the next few weeks, the risk of flooding will vary and will depend on weather, in particular events bringing above normal temperatures and heavy rainfall.

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.** Please note that 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 water 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.

x.com/ORRPB(English)

x.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 of 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 Forecast / Flooding 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 1-888-621-0059.

Ottawa River Regulating Committee