
MEDIA RELEASE

Office of the Municipal Emergency Coordinator
1100 Patricia Boulevard, Prince George, BC V2L 3V9

January 10, 2008
10:30 a.m.

More Flood Protection Work For River Road

The City of Prince George announced this morning that it will undertake more temporary flood protection work on River Road. Crews will begin constructing immediately the *Temporary Raised Roadway Extension* on River Road between Winton Global and the Cameron Street Overpass. This second section of temporary raised roadway will connect with the first section that runs between Winton Global and Lakeland Mills. The Winton Global-Lakeland road was raised earlier this week after it was breached during the major ice shift and water surge on Saturday evening that resulted in new flooding on both sides of the Nechako River along River Road and Pulp Mill Road.

The *Temporary Raised Roadway Extension* along the west end of River Road will act as temporary diking, and will be eight metres wide and raised to .6 metres above the 200-year flood level. It will accommodate all types of vehicle and truck traffic. Access to businesses in this area will be by means of ramps connecting the raised roadway with driveways and parking lots. The ramps will be designed so that in the event of another major ice shift and water surge, city crews will be able to block the ramps so that water does not breach the roadway.

This work will begin immediately and is expected to be complete late tomorrow or Saturday.

The *Temporary Raised Roadway Extension* project is part of the response and further preparation of temporary flood prevention works that the city has been undertaking in several areas along the Nechako River. Twice since the ice jam and flood situation began December 11, water has breached the riverbanks and temporary diking in the River Road area to a point above the 200 Year flood level. The *Temporary Raised Roadway Extension* project is being undertaken as a preventative measure to protect against potential flooding in the River Road area, CN Yard and downtown Prince George. This area of the city is built on a floodplain, and the city has determined that because of the ice shift and water surge incidents that have occurred over the past few weeks, every precaution needs to be considered to prevent further flooding and protect the safety of residents and people who work in this area of the City. The City must also protect public infrastructure and property.

A secondary access road has now been completed in the River Road area to allow access to businesses. CN has kindly allowed temporary use of roads on its property from an entrance at the east end of River Road. The City thanks CN for providing this temporary road access as it provides another evacuation route in the event of another flood incident.

The City of Prince George continues to encourage residents to stay well back of the banks of the Nechako River as the river continues to shift and change without warning, resulting in high water and new flooding in specific areas. Daily photos and information are posted on the city website at www.city.pg.bc.ca.