

April 22, 2016

SLRD WORK TO ADDRESS FRESHET FLOOD RISK ON ANDERSON LAKE UNDER WAY
In-stream works in Seton River to improve flows out of Anderson Lake set to commence

Pemberton, BC – The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District, supported by BC Water Stewardship and Emergency Management BC, has initiated a response plan to the current freshet flood risk on Anderson Lake.

Freshet rise on Anderson Lake was triggered last week by a spate of unseasonably hot weather. The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) Emergency Program has been aware that damaging freshet flooding was a possibility in communities around the Lake (Seton Portage, D'Arcy, Tsal'alh, and N'Quatqua) as pre-existing high water conditions, caused by the September 20, 2015 debris flow at Seton Portage, have compromised Anderson Lake's ability to absorb the typical spring run-off. The Lake level had risen by approximately one metre as a result of this debris flow, and remains elevated.

Anticipating issues for the communities around the Anderson Lake watershed, the SLRD initiated freshet response planning several weeks ago in cooperation with the Tsal'alh and N'Quatqua communities, and with BC Water Stewardship and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO).

Given the condition of imminent threat to communities around Anderson Lake, the SLRD has now been empowered to respond to the freshet under an Emergency Management BC response task number and associated task funding.

The SLRD, supported by BC Water Stewardship and Emergency Management BC, will be conducting limited in-stream works in the Seton River channel to increase the water flow from Anderson Lake to Seton Lake. Details and arrangements are being finalized over the next several days, and the SLRD is optimistic that the required flood response activities will be completed by the end of next week.

Residents with questions or concerns should contact Ryan Wainwright, SLRD Emergency Program Manager at 604-698-6442 or rwainwright@slrd.bc.ca.

For more information, please contact:

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