

Flood Watch

Dryden-Fort Frances-Atikokan District

Friday, May 01, 2026
12:00hrs

The Ministry of Natural Resources – Dryden-Fort Frances-Atikokan District is advising area residents that a Flood Watch is in effect in the District until Tuesday, May 05, 2026 at 17:00.

The Seine River watershed is currently at bank full. The ministry is closely monitoring the weather and developing watershed conditions. Further updates will be issued as appropriate.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Description of Weather System

Rapid spring snowmelt combined with recent heavy rainfall has resulted in significantly elevated runoff across the Dryden-Fort Frances-Atikokan District.

Description of Current Conditions

Inflows into the following waterbodies, rivers and associated tributaries are high to extremely high, and are expected to continue to rise as upstream runoff moves downstream over the coming days to weeks:

- Atikokan River
- Seine River and associated chain of lakes
- Turtle River
- Little Turtle Lake

Localized flooding may not be limited to these areas and is expected to continue where frozen ground has a lessened ability to absorb the rainfall and snowmelt.

Frozen and saturated soils resulting from record winter snow accumulation, combined with recent rainfall, have significantly reduced the landscape's ability to absorb additional

moisture. Flooding of low-lying areas is currently being observed throughout the Dryden-Fort Frances-Atikokan District.

Conditions currently being observed include:

- Elevated river flows and rapidly rising lake levels
- Fast-moving, cold water with fluctuating stages
- Flooding of low-lying and flood-prone areas, particularly in eastern headwater regions
- Ongoing minor flooding in upstream tributaries, with downstream rises expected as water continues to route through the basin

These hydrologic conditions are developing during the seasonally expected spring freshet, increasing overall flood risk, even though lake levels generally remain within regulated rule curves at this time.

DEFINITIONS

- **WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT – WATER SAFETY:** indicates that high flows, melting ice or other factors could be dangerous for such users as boaters, anglers and swimmers but flooding is not expected.
- **WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT – FLOOD OUTLOOK:** gives early notice of the potential for flooding based on weather forecasts calling for heavy rain, snow melt, high winds or other conditions
- **SHORELINE CONDITIONS STATEMENT – WATER SAFETY:** indicates that **along the Great Lakes shorelines high water**, melting ice or other factors could be dangerous but flooding is not expected.
- **SHORELINE CONDITIONS STATEMENT – FLOOD OUTLOOK:** gives early notice of the potential for flooding **along the Great Lakes shorelines** based on weather and lake conditions, and water safety information.
- **FLOOD WATCH:** potential for flooding exists within specific watercourses and municipalities
- **FLOOD WARNING:** flooding is imminent or occurring within specific watercourses and municipalities.

LEARN MORE

- Surface Water Monitoring Centre public webpage www.ontario.ca/page/surface-water-monitoring-centre

- Environment Canada bulletins: www.weather.gc.ca
- A close watch on local conditions and weather forecasts from Environment Canada is recommended.

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