



Nickel District Conservation Authority
401 – 199 rue Larch Street
Sudbury, ON P3E 5P9
705-674-5249
ConservationSudbury.ca

For Immediate Release

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Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety

SUDBURY – Conservation Sudbury is maintaining a **Water Safety** statement for the Greater Sudbury watersheds effective 3:00 PM today. This statement will remain in effect until 10:00 AM, March 29.

Over the next few days Northeastern Ontario is forecast to receive mixed precipitation (rain, freezing rain, snow) equivalent to 10 – 25 mm of rain. This will be combined with temperatures hovering around the freezing mark. The upper reaches of our watersheds still have a significant to moderate snowpack that has matured, making it less capable of absorbing rainfall. Rain will further melt the snowpack and this can result in localized ponding in low-lying areas. Water levels and flows in area watercourses are currently within the seasonal range. However, water levels can quickly increase due to rain and warming temperatures. Ice cover in rivers and streams may break up because of warmer temperatures and higher flows increasing the risk of ice jams.

Public safety is the number one priority, especially for children who may be attracted to the edge of creeks or rivers. The cold, fast-flowing water must be avoided. Stream banks will be very slippery and unsafe and must be avoided. Any open-water will continue to widen and these areas must also be avoided.

Developing conditions must be closely monitored by all residents especially those living in known low-lying, hazard areas where overland flooding could become an issue.

Conservation Sudbury remains in direct contact with the City of Greater Sudbury and all other partners as required. Conservation Sudbury staff continues with the monitoring of water levels; updates will be provided as required. For more information please visit ConservationSudbury.ca

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For More Information Contact:

Anoop Naik
Water Resources Specialist
705-674-5249 ext:205
Anoop.Naik@ConservationSudbury.ca

or

Carl Jorgensen
General Manager
705-674-5249 ext:203
Carl.Jorgensen@ConservationSudbury.ca

Conservation Sudbury issues five types of messages, depending on conditions:



Normal

No flood conditions to report.



Watershed Conditions Statement - Water Safety

High flows, unsafe banks, melting ice or other factors that could be dangerous for recreational users such as anglers, canoeists, hikers, children, pets, etc. Flooding is not expected.



Watershed Conditions Statement - Flood Outlook

Early notice of the potential for flooding based on weather forecasts calling for heavy rain, snow melt, high wind or other conditions that could lead to high runoff, cause ice jams, lakeshore flooding or erosion.



Flood Watch

Flooding is possible in specific watercourses or municipalities. Municipalities, emergency services and individual landowners in flood-prone areas should prepare.



Flood Warning

Flooding is imminent or already occurring in specific watercourses or municipalities