
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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May 31, 2004

Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection
Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

\$2 MILLION TO HELP LOCAL GOVERNMENT DROUGHT PLANNING

VICTORIA – The Province will provide local governments across B.C. with up to \$2 million in funding as part of the Provincial Drought Action Plan, Bill Barisoff, Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection and George Abbott, Minister Responsible for Land and Water BC, announced today.

The funding, along with a comprehensive handbook, *Dealing with Drought*, will be available to communities with stressed water supplies and those that need to complete water conservation or drought management plans, Barisoff said during an Open Cabinet presentation in Victoria today.

“The forecast suggests that we’re in for another hot and dry summer,” said Barisoff. “Last year a number of our communities experienced water shortages and we want to make sure they have the tools and the resources they need, this summer and beyond, if these conditions persist.”

“Our government is working in partnership with local governments to ensure a safe and clean supply of drinking water,” said George Abbott. “We’ve put an action plan in place to make sure that happens.”

As part of its Drought Action Plan, the Province is encouraging British Columbians to do what they can to help conserve water resources. The average British Columbian uses 490 litres of water per day, far higher than the national average of 340 litres, and there are a number of simple steps the public can take to assist with reducing water consumption.

The \$2 million in planning funds for communities is being provided as a result of a provincial survey of local water suppliers carried out last fall. The survey found that approximately 25 per cent of water supply systems were stressed last year and two thirds brought in water restrictions to ensure continued supply. Of those surveyed, 63 per cent had a viable water supply plan, 57 per cent had a water conservation plan and 23 per cent had a long-term drought management plan.

“The funding we’re providing is designed to ensure that as many communities as possible have prepared water management plans and are prepared for the summer ahead,” said Barisoff. “Supporting local governments is a fundamental part of our plan, given their key roles as water managers, their familiarity with community water supplies and their ability to put in place water restrictions.”

Land and Water BC Inc., the government corporation responsible for water allocation, will provide the funding and the handbook in mid-June. The handbook will include templates for a number of drought-related plans as well as model bylaws. LWBC will also be visiting with local councils and providing workshops on how to properly prepare for a potential water shortage.

Details on how to access the funding will be available at www.lwbc.bc.ca. For a list of useful water conservation tips, visit the government's web page at www.gov.bc.ca.

1 backgrounder(s) attached.

Media contact: Max Cleeveley
Communications Director
Ministry of Water, Land and Air
Protection
250 387-9973

Graham Currie
Communications Director
Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management
250 356-2862

Visit the province's Web site at www.gov.bc.ca for online information and services.



2004 DEALING WITH DROUGHT WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM

In the left-hand column, please check the workshop you plan to attend:

Attending (check)	City	Workshop Date	Registration Deadline	Location	Address
	Nanaimo	Sept. 15	Sept. 10	Best Western Dorchester	70 Church St.
	Kamloops	Sept. 21	Sept. 17	Univ. College of the Cariboo	900 McGill Rd. (in Grand Hall)
	Kelowna	Sept. 22	Sept. 17	Coast Capri Hotel	1171 Harvey Ave.
	Cranbrook	Sept. 28	Sept. 24	Town and Country Hotel	600 Cranbrook St.
	Prince George	Sept. 30	Sept. 27	Ramada	444 George St.
	Abbotsford	Oct. 1	Sept. 27	Inn at King's Crossing	1515 College Dr.

- No fees are required to attend the workshop.
- All workshops will run from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, with a one-hour lunch break at noon.
- Lunch and refreshments will be provided by LWBC.

Please complete and return this form by fax or email to:

Peter Rotheisler
Summit Environmental Consultants Ltd.
17A – 100 Kalamalka Lake Road - Vernon, B.C. V1T 7M3
Fax: (250) 545-3654 Email: pr@summit-environmental.com
Questions? Phone Peter at: (250) 545-3672

Name:	
Organization:	
Address: (include street, City and postal code)	
Telephone:	
Fax:	
Email:	
Please note any special meal requirements	



YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE 2004 DEALING WITH DROUGHT WORKSHOP

As part of the Drought Management Action Plan established in 2003 by the Deputy Ministers' Committee on Drought, the guidebook *Dealing with Drought: A Handbook for Water Suppliers in British Columbia* was developed. Land and Water British Columbia Inc. also established a \$2 million grant program to support municipal, regional district, and improvement district water suppliers with drought management and water supply planning.

Continuing to work to improve drought management and water supply planning across the province, LWBC now invites you to attend one of six workshops that will be held in various locations across BC in early fall 2004. Each workshop will provide an overview of drought science, planning, and management, and how to develop an overall drought management plan and other specific plans to prepare communities for dealing with drought. The workshop will also provide important information on the grant program, including eligible activities and details of the application process.

The workshops will be presented by Brian Guy, P.Geo. of Summit Environmental Consultants Ltd. and staff of the Provincial Drought Task Force.

It is suggested that you review the handbook and the grant application forms available on the LWBC website (www.lwbc.bc.ca) prior to attending a workshop. To register, please submit a [registration form](#) by e-mail or by fax.

DRAFT WORKSHOP AGENDA

7:45 am	Registration
8:30 am	Welcome and review of workshop objectives
8:45 am	Primer on drought - definition, reasons for drought, economic, social, and ecological implications, drought initiatives in B.C. and elsewhere, current drought situation in B.C., implications of future climate change
10:00 am	Refreshment Break
10:15 am	Review of Dealing with Drought: A Handbook for Water Suppliers in British Columbia - including a "how to" on completion of effective drought management and water conservation plans, as well as water supply/demand analyses and emergency plans
12:00	Lunch (provided by LWBC)
1:00 pm	Dealing with Drought (continued) - B.C. case studies and development of drought management teams
2:45 pm	Refreshment Break
3:00 pm	Overview of the Drought Planning Assistance Program - background, rationale, relationship with other funding programs, eligible activities
3:45 pm	How to Apply for a Grant - including worked examples
4:15 pm	Summary and wrap-up
4:30 pm	Workshop ends