
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

COMPENSATION APPROVED FOR FLOOD VICTIMS

VICTORIA – With a number of areas of the province still under flood watch, government is approving compensation for homeowners’ uninsurable damages under the Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) program, Solicitor General John Les announced today.

“British Columbians impacted by rising rivers have been under significant stress since the threat of flooding began,” Les said. “The good news is that we are now moving into the recovery phase and we want to do whatever we can to make sure accessing compensation is as easy as possible.”

Provincial recovery staff are now in the affected areas to help with DFA claims.

The DFA program helps eligible homeowners, residential tenants, farms, small businesses and charitable organizations when property is damaged by uninsurable disasters, including certain floods and mudslides. The program covers up to 80 per cent of an accepted claim over \$1,000, to a maximum of \$300,000. In 2005, the government raised the disaster funding assistance limit for homeowners from \$100,000 to \$300,000.

Unseasonably warm temperatures leading into the long weekend caused run-off from melting snow that quickly raised river water levels. The Slocan River near Passmore, the Kettle and Granby rivers near Grand Forks, and small creeks and rivers north of Castlegar were impacted, causing flooding in several area communities.

An evacuation order from the Regional District of Central Kootenay was rescinded early this afternoon for 53 homes in the Passmore area. Those homes are now on evacuation alert, bringing the total number of residences on evacuation alert to 166. An evacuation alert also stands in the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary for 40 homes in the Grand Forks area.

DFA claim forms and more information about the program are available at www.pep.bc.ca.

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