



PRESS RELEASE

2019 SPRING FRESHET: THE MUNICIPALITY OF PONTIAC IS MAINTAINING PREVENTIVE EVACUATIONS

Gatineau, April 30 2019. — The Municipality of Pontiac, along with its various partners including the MRC des Collines-de-l'Outaouais' Public Safety Department (Police), the Quebec Ministry of Public Security, the Canadian Armed Forces, gave an update on the 2019 spring freshet. This update came after the visit of the MNA for Papineau and Minister responsible for the Outaouais region, Mr. Mathieu Lacombe.

Report as of today :

- The Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board is anticipating that the **water will rise** 17 cm by end of day tomorrow. These are record heights in the Municipality of Pontiac.
- The Municipality of Pontiac **maintains emergency measures** and all notices of evacuation on its territory.
- More than **170,000 sand bags** were distributed.
(In 2017, 45 000 bags were distributed.)
- Due to the forecasted meteorological conditions and in order to ensure the safety of residents and volunteers, the Municipality of Pontiac is **suspending the delivery of filled sand bags**. Supplies are available at the Luskville Community Centre.
- 92 residents were evacuated in the Quyon Sector. This brings the **total number of evacuees** in the Municipality to nearly **275 individuals**.
- The water pumping station and the water supply system are kept under close surveillance. All are **fully functional and operational**. In the Quyon area, 352 residences are connected to the water supply system and 237 residences are connected to the sewer system.
- School closures: Saint-Marie and Onslow elementary schools will be **closed** until May 3rd, inclusively.
- The Luskville Community Centre will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Preventive measures :

- In order to protect our water and sewer infrastructures, the Municipality of Pontiac is asking citizens of Quyon to **reduce the amount of wastewater** discharged by reducing their use of showers, baths, dishwashers, etc.
- Given the increasing water pressure on dykes and other retaining devices, citizens are asked to be particularly vigilant.
- The residents are also asked to be vigilant on the municipal road network.

- The Municipality strongly encourages the affected residents to follow instructions given by local authorities of first responders.
- Residents are encouraged to have a 72-hour emergency kit on hand :

<https://www.securitepublique.gouv.qc.ca/securite-civile/se-prepareraux-sinistres/plan-familial-1/trousse-urgence.html>

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