



## Seasonal Shift and Snowpack

As we shift into spring and the weather warms up, thinking about this year's snowpack becomes important. Snow accumulation is relevant because it determines risk of flooding and water availability for the dryer months.

The BC River Forecast Center reports that snowpack across the province is 89% of what is typically expected based on historical data (see March 2019 [Snow Survey and Water Supply Bulletin](#)). The Upper Columbia is 100% of normal, West Kootenay 90%, East Kootenay 88%, and Boundary 68%. No regions in the province have exceptionally high snowpack this year. The near normal snowpack is as expected because El Niño conditions are present, likely contributing to warmer conditions across the province.

Snowpack and conditions in the Columbia Basin-Boundary differ annually. Last year saw a trend in [La Niña](#) conditions, which resulted in colder, wetter weather contributing to significant precipitation in the form of spring snow. According

to the BC River Forecast Centre, 95% of snow accumulation usually occurs by April 1. However, the 2018 Boundary region snowpack in [April](#) was 149% of normal, increasing dramatically to 238% by [May](#). In May 2018, large accumulations of snow that accrued late in the season contributed to floods that occurred in the Grand Forks area.

While snowpack gives indication on the volume and timing of stream flow. Weather patterns, such as extreme temperatures or precipitation events, also play a critical role in determining if and when flooding will occur. Extreme weather patterns can cause floods even in areas with near normal snowpack and drought issues later in the year if the [snowpack melts too quickly](#). Snowpack, extreme weather events, and flooding can also all be used as indicators of climate change (see [Indicators of Climate Adaptation in the Columbia Basin](#)).

As we get closer to the spring freshet, the BC River Forecast Centre will continue to closely monitor the snowpack and how it will contribute to flood risk. Regular [Snow Survey and Water Supply Bulletins](#) will be published until June, and flood advisories and warnings will be issued as needed. This information is important for emergency preparedness around the region, especially as spring is quickly transitioning to warmer weather.

All of us at RDI wish you a wonderful spring!

The *State of the Basin* is a region-wide check-up on life in the Columbia Basin-Boundary Region. See our full *State of the Basin* report [here](#).

## **BC Tech Summit Reflections**

Selkirk College Applied Research and Innovation Centre representatives recently came back from attending the [BC Tech Summit](#) in Vancouver, where they contributed to the SMART Cities session, showed off [LiDAR](#) technology, and showcased Selkirk's research programs. The [Kootenay House](#) at the BC Tech Summit was well represented by innovative companies and organizations from the around the region and well attended by participants from all over the province.

## **Rural Service and Delivery Models Webinar**

The [Rural Policy Learning Commons](#) recently hosted a webinar

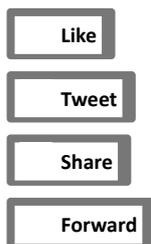
that explored innovative service and infrastructure delivery models for contemporary rural and small town places. See a recording of the webinar [here](#).



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