



Acknowledging 10 years since the 2013 flood

Background

In June 2013, Calgary experienced its largest flood since 1932. One Calgarian's life was lost and there was as much as \$6 billion in financial losses and property damage across southern Alberta. Heavy rainfall on the melting snowpack in the Rocky Mountains combined with steep, rocky terrain caused rapid and intense flooding in southern-Alberta watersheds. The City issued a flood warning, activated the Municipal Emergency Plan, declared a state of local emergency and gave an evacuation notice for communities at risk. About 80,000 people were evacuated over the course of the flood. The City of Calgary helped coordinate recovery efforts for the Calgary community and The Corporation, and this flood event was a catalyst for the development of a resilience focus for the future of this city.

Administration's approach for marking the significant milestone

Commemorating 10 years since the 2013 flood in Calgary poses a challenge of duality for Administration. It is a sombre occasion for many Calgarians, especially those who were affected the most, some of whom continue to experience lasting impacts from the flood. It also presents an opportunity to acknowledge our City's overall resiliency and the significant progress we've made over the past decade in reducing our flood risk.

As the 10-year anniversary approaches, Administration will mark this important milestone through respectful and relevant acknowledgements woven into existing public campaigns and initiatives. Three themes have emerged, each aligning well with the timing of an existing City of Calgary initiative.

Themes

Calgary's flood resilience since 2013 (led by Climate & Environment)

- The City has prioritized investments and projects to increase our flood resilience.
 - It is estimated that Calgary's flood risk has been reduced by approximately 55 per cent since 2013.
 - Calgary's flood risk will be reduced by 70 per cent once Springbank Reservoir is operational in 2025.
 - There's still work to do to decrease our City's flood risk.
- The City continues to promote awareness of flood risk in Calgary.
 - Every spring, we actively monitor the rivers for flooding. We continuously improve our flood forecasting to provide Calgarians with the earliest possible warning.
 - Our flood emergency response measures are updated annually, ensuring we're ready to respond.
 - Annual awareness campaigns encourage citizens to take action to be prepared and stay informed.

Focus on this theme will coincide with the Annual Flood Resilience Update to Community Development Committee (April 27).

Leadership in times of crisis (led by Emergency Management & Community Safety)

- Calgary Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) is a leader in managing crisis.
 - CEMA's involvement in the community is an essential part of increasing Calgary's resiliency.
- The Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) is a critical City asset that can quickly mobilize when a crisis arises.
 - The EOC ensures The City and agency members can continue operations during emergencies and business disruptions by delivering business continuity services to increase operational resiliency.

Focus on this theme will coincide with Emergency Preparedness Week (May 7-13).

A look back at 2013 (led by Planning & Development Service supported by Employee Communications)

- The 2013 flood was a devastating for many Calgarians
 - We recognize the flood impacted our communities the people of Calgary, and our employees; some of whom continue to bear the consequences and trauma of the event.
- Our City demonstrated resilience throughout the recovery.
 - City crews mobilized to repair significantly damaged infrastructure quickly to limit further impacts to scheduled events such as the Stampede and Folkfest.
 - The City's Recovery Operations Centre was set up to support the delivery of community recovery and mitigation efforts as well as oversee the flood recovery efforts for City infrastructure. Recovery operations were supported by numerous services across The City for eight years.
 - The City of Calgary leveraged the learnings of the flood event and worked with the Calgary community and partners to envision a *Resilient Calgary* strategy. This future focused strategy work has helped our organization to anticipate stresses and shocks, build our readiness, conduct planning work and strengthen our ability to withstand disruptions.
 - Calgary City Council has furthered this future focus readiness with its *Resilient Calgary: Council's Strategic Direction 2023-26* where Council reflects our city's ability to come together, support each other, learn from our experience and use our shared journey to set new goals. Council has identified that its decisions are guided by economic, social and climate resilience.

Focus on this theme will align with Neighbour Day. This annual event demonstrates Calgarians' pride in strong neighbourhoods that are important to the health and well-being of our whole city. Ten years after the flood, Neighbour Day provides Calgarians an opportunity to celebrate our community spirit and kindness.