

(DRAFT Follow-up to 2022 Correspondence between the Mayor and the Government of Alberta)

Date, 2023

Minister of Environment and Protected Areas
Office of the Minister

Dear Minister of Environment and Protected Areas,

I am following up on Deputy Minister Yee's letter (dated June 7, 2022) in response to my letter (dated May 20, 2022), in which I expressed the City of Calgary's support for the Province's exploratory process regarding the Bow River Reservoir Options Study, and requested an update on the availability of new provincial flood hazard maps for the Calgary area.

Since the 2013 floods, the City of Calgary has undertaken significant effort to reduce Calgary's flood risk, protecting Calgarians and preventing future catastrophic damage to homes, businesses, and vital infrastructure. Calgary's flood damage exposure has been reduced by approximately 55 per cent to date. By 2025, when the Springbank Offstream Reservoir is fully operational, exposure will be reduced by approximately 70 per cent. This would not have been possible without your government's commitment to the safety and resiliency of Calgarians and significant investment in flood mitigation.

Once the Springbank Reservoir is complete, most of Calgary's remaining flood damage exposure will be on the Bow River. Your exploration of options to build additional flood mitigation and drought storage capacity on the Bow River, through the Bow River Reservoir Options Study, is critical to long-term watershed resilience. A new reservoir on the Bow River will contribute greatly to ensuring a secure water supply to support long-term regional growth while managing flood damage and drought risks in a changing climate. The City remains supportive of the Province's exploratory process and commitment, and would like to express our continued interest in the advancement of the evaluation of a new upstream Bow River Reservoir.

In addition to the resilience provided by flood mitigation infrastructure, making careful decisions about land use planning and development regulations in the floodplain is a fundamental part of Calgary's approach to building flood and climate resilience. Updated flood hazard maps are key to this process and essential to implementing our Flood Resilience Strategy. In 2022, The City reviewed the draft mapping and understands the implications of the update and the two new classifications; however, there have been continued delays in the release of the new Flood Hazard Area maps. The City would appreciate the timely release of updated maps, which will provide clarity for future development and reduce the introduction of additional risks to flood hazard areas.

Calgary is more resilient to flooding than we were in 2013. Your government's continued leadership is vital to our ability to protect Calgarians and manage significant climate risks. Again, I sincerely

appreciate the results our partnership has yielded so far and look forward to working with you to further Alberta's water security, flood mitigation, and climate resilience.

Sincerely,

Jyoti Gondek
Mayor
City of Calgary

enclosed: 2022-06-07 – Response from DM Bev Yee Flood Map
2022.05.22 City of Calgary Flood Mitigation

cc: Deputy Minister, Environment and Protected Areas
Assistant Deputy Minister, Resource Stewardship Division
Executive Director, Water Infrastructure and Operations Branch
Executive Director, Environmental Knowledge and Prediction Branch
Calgary City Council
David Duckworth, City Manager