

District of Barriere
REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date: March 24, 2025	
To: Council	From: Department Heads
Re: Departmental Updates	

CORPORATE OFFICER:

General:

- Yard Waste Day – May 24, 2025 Registration is now open. Information can be found on the District website under ‘Notices’ and has been distributed to E-News subscribers and on the Fire Department’s social media pages. Staff will continue to promote the event over the spring.
- Notification from BC Ambulance has been received that the Minister of Health has approved the continued placement of the Juliet Car (2nd Ambulance) in Barriere until another review at the end of September 2025.
- Participated in a working group meeting with the Rec Committee planning the 2025 Block Party.



PUBLIC WORKS MANAGER:

Roads:

- 70% Load Restrictions are still in effect on local roads.
- Staff continue to do bulk sweeping around town – Teachers, McLean, and Greentree subdivisions recently completed. Commercial sweeper is booked for April.
- Ditches on Dixon Creek Road are scheduled to get cleaned out when weather permits.
- Winter roads maintenance contractor continues to patrol and maintain roads. Contract expires March 31st.

Parks:

- Staff are reducing brush pile accumulation from tree pruning and park cleanup by burning on good venting index days.
- Staff assisted volunteers with cleanup at the Community Garden.
- Quote has been received for women’s bathroom restoration at the Bandshell.

Environmental Services:

- Staff will be purchasing 6 used dumpsters from a Kamloops firm. Working out logistics for pick up and delivery.

Utilities:

- A water leak on Airfield Road was recently repaired by the homeowner, which reduced water consumption by 300 M3.

Facilities:

- Business Centre Unit #4 renovations are underway – framing & rough electrical wiring has been completed.

FIRE CHIEF:

Fire Department:

- Calls: Train derailment, fire burning complaints
- Many residents are contacting private and non-emergency numbers to report incidents, FD is using social media to try and educate the public on when and who to call
- Day training – March 15th, 2 structures burned
- Several practical evaluations were conducted throughout the week passing 12 members in several skillsets
- Bush Truck purchased from HUB Fire Engines, expected by June 1st
 - Will need to go to Kamloops Communications after the District receives it

FireSmart:

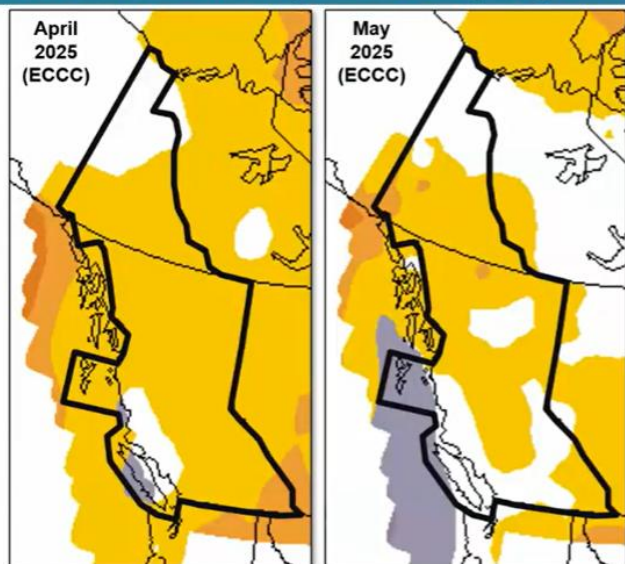
- Coroplast signs: One on the side of the Firehall, the other on the Fall Fair grounds and the 3rd will be at Fadear park
- Lunch-In at the Senior Center on March 15th, unfortunately it was a poor turn out
- Lunch-In scheduled for April 19th – Inviting all of Council to attend
- Yard Waste Days was posted
- Wildfire Preparedness Day Event, May 3rd

Weather:

- Attended the Spring 2025 Integrated Seasonal Climate Bulletin:
 - Overall, BC had a warm winter with temperature anomalies of up to 2degrees above normal
 - The current low provincial snowpack and potentially lingering drought conditions from previous seasons indicate elevated province-wide drought hazards
 - Provincial snowpack levels remain well below normal, although there are some variables among and within regions. Valley-bottom snow was much less than average and following the early March warm spell many valleys of the Interior are snow-free and drying and increasingly susceptible to burn
 - Drought conditions are less than 2024
 - Spring rains will play a critical role in setting the tone for 2025 wildfire season

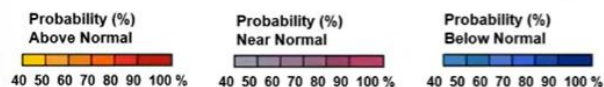
Below are some slides from the climate bulletin:

Seasonal Forecast: Temperature – Comparing other Foreign Models



Forecasts Produced on February 28

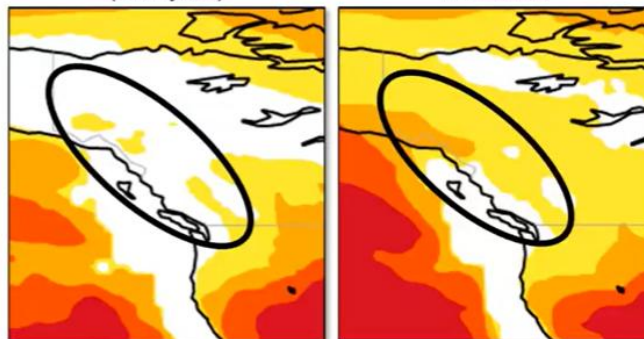
Forecasts Produced on February 28



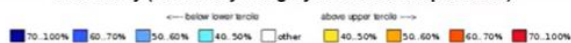
Multi-system Seasonal Forecast: ECMWF/Met Office/Meteo-France/CMCC/DWD/NCEP/JMA/ECCC

April 2025
(Multi-system)

May 2025
(Multi-system)



Probability (most likely category of surface temperatures)



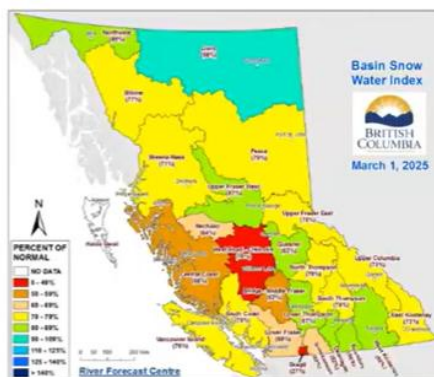
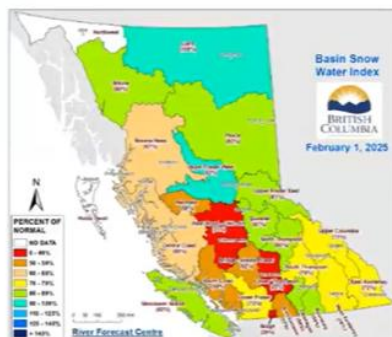
Source: Climate Change Service <https://climate.copernicus.eu/>
Forecasts Produced on March 1

- **Low to Moderate Certainty:**
April & May 2025 Temperature forecast still leans into a warmer than normal signal from the multi model averages

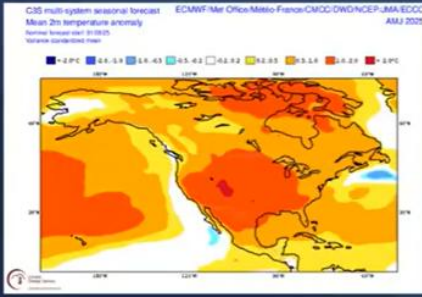


Snowpack

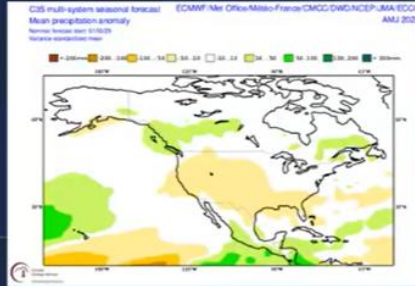
- March 1 provincial average 73% of normal
- Improvements for mountain ranges from recent storms
- ~80% of annual snow accumulation has typically occurred by March 1
- 1-2 months of accumulation remaining
- April 1 surveys are the benchmark for assessing seasonal outlook



Spring Seasonal Outlook



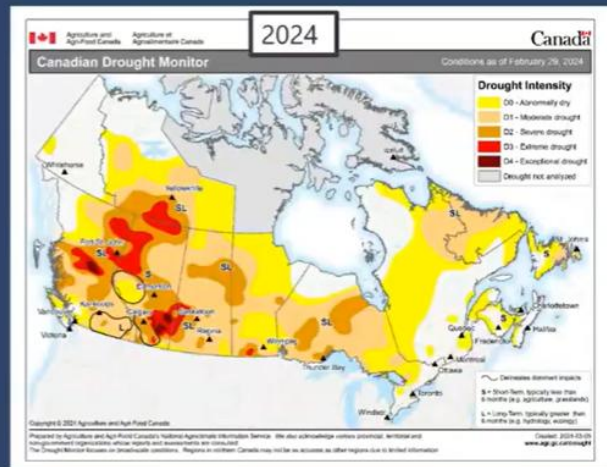
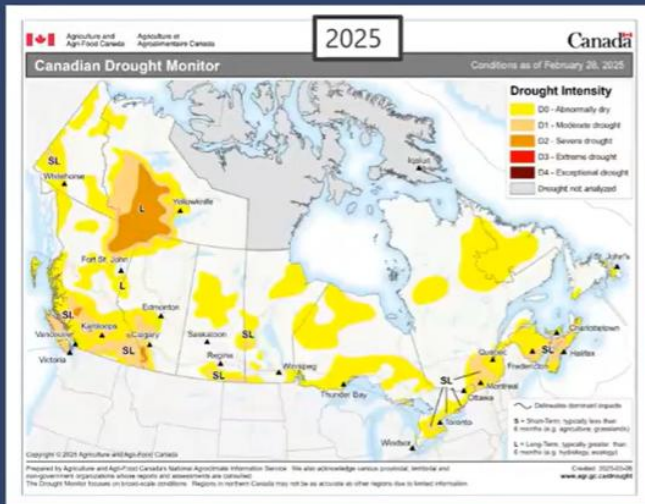
Temperature Outlook
Apr-May-June 2025



Precipitation Outlook
Apr-May-June 2025

- Long-term guidance favours warmer-than-normal temperatures into the spring.
- There is a weak signal for above normal precipitation over Coastal and through central BC.
- The BC Wildfire Service will provide the Spring Seasonal Outlook in April to help people in B.C. stay informed and be prepared for wildfire activity in 2025

Current drought conditions



CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:

Finance:

- The first budget 2025 workshop was held for Council on March 17, 2025, at 6pm.
- A second budget workshop was held Thursday March 20, 2025; at 5:30pm.
- The finance department has changed their process to submit CRA source deduction payments this month through the financial institution website. No further penalty charges are anticipated going forward.

Governance:

- Council Orientation workshop was held on March 12, 2025, at 6pm.
- Agreements / Contracts:
 - Trails Stewardship Agreement – complete
 - Community Hall Lease Agreement – awaiting feedback from Lions Club
- Policies / Bylaws:
 - Focus will be on further Asset Management policies and Financial policies next. Once the budget process is complete.

Administration:

- Attended conference call with Premier Eby, Housing Minister Ravi Kahlon (also leading a US tariff response team), and Minister of State for Local Governments and Rural Communities Brittany Anderson that was organized for municipalities to hear concerns on tariffs and the impacts that they may have on communities and regions.
- Attended a conference call with Mayor-elect Kerslake, Simpcw First Nations Councillor Ron Lampreau Jr., our Corporate Officer, and BCEHS. The call was to discuss concerns for our Juliet car resource and potential scenarios if funding was removed and the subsequent impacts to the region. A funding update was expected by March 15, 2025.
- Had a virtual introduction meeting with Glenn Foss, the interim CEO for Simpcw Resources Group

Wastewater Treatment Plant:

- Attended conference call with MoE to discuss next steps on the Project. Key Highlights:
 - RFP closing for Design phase March 18, 2025. Anticipating that the review is complete in 2 weeks time to award contract.
 - Province has our project in pre-application review mode right now and will wait for the outcome of the RFP before continuing.
 - Province will require Archeological Overview Assessment (AOA) from Simpcw FN to be finalized. The AOA was received later that day and has been submitted to our engineers.

**submitted for information*