



# Public Information Notice

Lake of the Woods Secretariat

September 23, 2019

## LARGE INCREASES IN LAKE OF THE WOODS OUTFLOW INTO WINNIPEG RIVER

**Highlights:** Extremely high flows into Lake of the Woods have developed over the past week. The Lake of the Woods Control Board (LWCB) has scheduled a series of large increases in outflow from Lake of the Woods into the Winnipeg River this week as a result. Winnipeg River water levels will rise rapidly in response.

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Following a relatively dry summer, rainfall over the past month has been much greater than normal across the Lake of the Woods-Rainy River watershed. This has resulted in fast rising lake levels and river flows the watershed. In some cases, the resulting flows are very high flow, approaching records for this time of year.

Outflow from Rainy Lake into Rainy River, which is regulated by the International Joint Commission, has more than tripled since early September and is close to the record for this time of year, set in 1992. This is five times the normal outflow rate for late September.

For the 30-day period August 23-Sep 21, total rainfall around the Lake of the Woods area is the second highest on record, the highest having occurred in 1941. Most of this rain fell in the past two weeks. This rainfall, together with the flow out of Rainy Lake, has rapidly increased the rate of flow into Lake of the Woods.

Two of the LWCB's aims in addressing this rise in flows are lowering the lake level before freeze-up by increasing flow into the Winnipeg River, and then reducing this outflow before freeze-up in late fall. These aims are to minimize ice damage to property following freeze-up. Beginning Monday, September 23, the LWCB has directed a series of daily, large increases in outflow from the dams in Kenora this week to slow the rate of rise of Lake of the Woods. Additional outflow increases will be directed as necessary to allow the lake level to decline for the remainder of the fall. The Winnipeg River level will rise rapidly in response to these flow changes.

The size of daily flow increases will be adjusted based on conditions and forecasts throughout the week. Please visit [www.lwcb.ca](http://www.lwcb.ca) for the latest water levels and flows see the LWCB's Notice Board for updates on planned flow adjustments:

LWCB Notice Board: [www.lwcb.ca/noticeboard.html](http://www.lwcb.ca/noticeboard.html)

Recorded message at 800-661-5922 ex. 1

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