



MEDIA RELEASE | June 19, 2025

Construction Deadline Extended for Okanagan Lake Dam East Salmon Passage

snpintktn (Penticton): Construction on the Okanagan Lake Dam near Riverside Drive has been delayed due to unexpected challenges. Originally set to conclude by the end of June, the removal of historic dam materials from 1928, including creosote-treated timbers and buried concrete slabs, has resulted in a two-week extension for the construction project. As a result, the eastern dike access, Penticton Rose Gardens, and the northern portion of the Loco Landing parking lot will remain closed to public access until mid-July.

Our crew is working diligently to stay as close to the original timeline as possible but currently we anticipate project completion by mid-July. Updated signage and notifications will be provided as work progresses.

Please note Loco Landing remains open to the public, along with the walking and biking detour path established on the western side of the channel. We thank the public and local businesses for their patience and support during construction. In particular, we extend our sincere appreciation to Loco Landing for their collaboration and understanding. The park remains open and vibrant, and additional parking will become available as construction winds down.

The Okanagan Lake Dam East Salmon Passage will restore upstream access for migrating salmon, reconnecting them to their historical and ancestral spawning grounds in Okanagan Lake for the first time in decades.

For the Sylx Okanagan people, this project represents more than just infrastructure. It is a cultural reconnection to *tmix^w* (all living things) and *tmx^wulax^w* (the land) — a reflection of deep responsibilities and relationships. Salmon, or *ntytyix*, are sacred to the Sylx people. They are considered relatives, not resources, and their return marks a powerful act of environmental and cultural healing. Wildlife and shoreline vegetation continue to thrive around the project site, with regular sightings of *c'ris* (kingfishers), *sʕanix^w* (muskrats), *stunx* (beavers), *pəq'lqin* (bald eagles), *c'ix^wc'əx^w* (ospreys), and *sk^wʕas* (great blue herons), reflecting the resilience of the ecosystem and the importance of this work.

The project team is also preparing for a fall planting phase to restore native shoreline vegetation. Community members will be invited to participate in the planting of Indigenous trees and shrubs.

Soon, the public will be able to witness salmon making their return journey home through Sylx territory — a vision long held and now close to becoming reality.

For More Information Contact:

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NOTICE OF TEMPORARY ROAD DETOURS CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS

(March to Mid-July)



Construction Site Map

OKANAGAN LAKE DAM EAST SALMON PASSAGE PROJECT

The Okanagan Nation Alliance would like to advise residents that there will be detours and temporary closures to river access by Okanagan Dam as we work to create fish passage into Okanagan Lake. Drivers and pedestrians are reminded to please use caution and follow signage.

CAUTION - CONSTRUCTION WORKS

**FOR YOUR SAFETY: PLEASE OBEY TEMPORARY
PEDESTRIAN/CYCLIST DETOURS AND RELOCATED RIVER ACCESS,
KEEP DOGS ON A LEASH AT ALL TIMES**

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