

## Flood Recovery Information for Waterfront Landowners

- Waterfront landowners are entitled to protect their property from flood damage through the planned construction of erosion protection works. All erosion protection works (i.e., riprap, retaining wall) must occur on their own property; that is, above the natural boundary or normal high water mark of the adjacent lake or stream.
- Landowners are not entitled to construct erosion protection works on crown land fronting their property, including filled areas that extend beyond the property below the natural boundary. Such works can destroy fish habitat, interfere with public access along the foreshore, and modify shoreline processes, such as patterns of sediment transport and deposition.
- If construction of erosion protection works involves ancillary works below the natural boundary (e.g., equipment access), landowners must first obtain authorization under the *Water Sustainability Act* (WSA).
- If landowners constructed flood protection works below the natural boundary during a flood event without authorization, they must immediately notify Regional Water Section. The landowner may be required to take measures to remediate the site, which may require authorization under the WSA.
- Where a local government has constructed flood protection works during a flood event on private property, it is the responsibility of that local government to notify a Habitat Officer and take measures to remediate the site, if required.
- All post-flood recovery works that require making changes in and about a lake or stream (e.g., debris removal, erosion protection, dredging, beach creation) require authorization under the WSA.
- Unauthorized structures (e.g., fences, retaining walls) and fill located below the present natural boundary are illegal and will not be allowed to be constructed or re-established. Public access to the foreshore must be maintained.
- Information on how to obtain authorization under the WSA (i.e., apply for a [Change Approval or submit Notification of instream work](#)) is available through [FrontCounter BC](#)

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