FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Provincial Grant Secures Critical Flood Protection Infrastructure for Merritt

MERRITT, BC | JANUARY 30, 2025 – The City of Merritt has secured $4.85 million in provincial funding to construct the Voght Street Overland Water Pumping Station, a key component of its *Flood Mitigation Plan (2022).* The funding, provided through the **Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) – Disaster Risk Reduction** grant, marks a significant step forward in safeguarding the community from future flooding events.

The **Voght Street Pump Station** is a crucial piece of infrastructure that will help manage stormwater during extreme weather events. While dikes prevent river water from flooding into the city, they also create a barrier, preventing rain and stormwater from draining back into the river. This new pump station will ensure efficient water flow, reducing the risk of localized flooding.

"This funding is a critical step forward for Merritt as we continue to strengthen our community's resilience to disasters and adapt to a changing climate," says City of Merritt **Mayor Michael Goetz**. "The grant will allow us to invest in vital infrastructure, including the Voght Street Overland Water Pumping Station, which will safeguard residents, businesses, and a vital provincial transportation corridor. We are deeply grateful to the Province of British Columbia for supporting our efforts to create a safer, more sustainable future for our city."

The City of Merritt's *Flood Mitigation Plan* outlines a multi-phase approach to protecting the community from future disasters. However, many components remain unfunded. The approval of this grant represents a major milestone, as the Voght Street Pump Station previously had no secured funding source. Similar pump stations have been successfully integrated into flood mitigation systems in other communities, such as Grand Forks, demonstrating their effectiveness in protecting urban areas.

This City of Merritt pump station project will proceed once dike alignments are confirmed, and engineering work can begin. As a 100% provincially funded initiative, the **CEPF grant** will cover all costs, with 50% of the funding advanced upfront and the remainder paid as work progresses.

While this funding is a significant win, the City of Merritt's flood mitigation system remains incomplete. The city continues to seek additional funding sources, including the federal **Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF),** to advance its broader flood protection efforts. The City of Merritt's #MerrittSafe e-petition E-5135 campaign has rallied the community to advocate for federal funding. A key component of the campaign is an e-petition urging the federal government to address the funding gap and ensure the safety and resilience of the entire community. The community successfully procured over 661 signatures, enabling MP Dan Albas to present Merritt's plight to the House of Commons.

To stay updated on Merritt's flood mitigation efforts and support the City of Merritt's advocacy for additional funding, visit **flood.merritt.ca** and follow the conversation using **#MerrittSafe.**

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About the City of Merritt Flood Mitigation Plan:

The City of Merritt's Flood Mitigation Plan (FMP) continues to play a critical role in protecting the community from future flooding. This plan involves multiple projects designed to enhance flood resilience, restore natural habitats, and safeguard local infrastructure. The completion of the Middlesboro Bridge, and the Public Works Dike in 2024 showcases vital steps in these efforts, symbolizing recovery, resilience, and the ongoing commitment to a safer future.

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The City of Merritt's Flood Mitigation Team would like to acknowledge that we work, live and play on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Nlaka'pamux and Syilx people. We thank you for welcoming us to the territory and allowing us to carry out the work we are doing today.