

## **For Immediate Release**

**September 8, 2017**

### **Provincial Drought Level 4 for Kootenay Boundary**

The Provincial Government of British Columbia has issued a **Level 4 Drought** for the Kootenay Boundary region (the entire Kettle River Watershed) **as of today Friday, September 8, 2017**. With little to no precipitation, our recently overflowing rivers are now drying up.

The Granby River, Kettle and West Kettle River are all at or below critical low flow levels. These flow thresholds are the minimum necessary for the next generation of fish and other aquatic species to survive. So far, there isn't a fishing ban in effect but that may change with little to no rain in the forecast.

This drought season is showing more extremes, with water flow levels even lower than the 2015 Drought.

At Level 4, the Province asks that residents, municipalities, industry and farmers **use at least 50% less water than normal**.

Many people in the boundary obtain their water from the aquifers via their groundwater wells. This withdrawal also impacts the rivers since in this region the rivers are recharged by the aquifers later in the season.

**All residents of the Kettle River Watershed region, which spans from Big White to Christina Lake, are urged to conserve water.**

The City of Grand Forks will be implementing drought response measures on Monday September 11, which will include major cut backs on water use outdoors. Visit the City's webpage to see these restrictions.

The Kettle River Watershed Authority will have a booth at the Grand Forks Fall Fair this weekend Saturday and Sunday, next weekend at the Rock Creek Fall Fair and at the Harvest Festival on September 30 in Grand Forks. Come visit us and learn water saving tips and conservation techniques.