

**Build Nova Scotia  
Williams Lake Dam Replacement Project.  
Q&A – June 30, 2026**

**Q: How low will the water level be in the summer of 2026?**

**A:** As part of this project, Build Nova Scotia's contractor will lower the lake's water level beginning in June to allow for construction of the dam. This is a common approach for marine repair. Once the coffer dam is in place, the lake level will be 1.54 meters lower the current lake level.

Current Lake Level - 17.79m. Lowered Level - 16.25m. Difference - 1.54m (5' 1")

**Q: Is there a target date for completion? If they finish by the end of September, the lake will fill up in time for freeze up. If not then lake levels may remain low all Winter.**

**A.** Work on the dam will continue until end Sept 2026 with a possible extension if required. Landscaping will occur in the fall of 2026 and possibly spring 2027. Once the dam is in place and the cofferdam and diversion pipe are removed, the lake will begin to fill from natural rainwater. Its level will depend on how much rain we get in the fall.

**Q: What is public access to SWP trail from parking lot while construction goes on.**

**A.** The trail will be closed for the duration of the construction as directed by HRM

**Q: Will the parking lot be closed to the public or just the trail or just around the construction site?**

**A.** Most of the parking lot, the trail and the construction site will be closed. .

**Q: Will there be an access to the lake at the end of the trail from the parking lot? Will the lookout to the lake at the end of the trail remain?**

**A.** See Drawing below.

**Q: Is there a plan for signage/plaque which tells the history of the dam?**

**A.** There are no plans for such a plaque. If HRM or the Nature Conservatory or the WLCC we can assist them in installing it.

**Q: There are several small 'beach' areas cleared on the shoreline of lake near the dam. Will we be able to use them this summer? In the future? When will you know and share what amenities will be at the new dam for swimming, fishing, skating, and non-motorized boat launch?**

A. There are no amenities built into the new dam for swimming, fishing, skating boat launch. Canadian Dam Safety standards required the area around the dam to be cordoned off from the public. Unlike the old dam where one could walk over its entire length and enter the water on the upstream side of the dam, the new dam will not allow for this to meet safety requirements.

**Q: What is the timing for the landscaping work when construction is completed?**

A. Landscaping will begin once the dam has been built and will be completed in fall 2026 and spring 2027.

**Q: Will there be blasting?**

A: Blasting will not be required

**Q: Will there be rock-breaking equipment used (thinking here of noise levels - sound carries over water).**

A: Yes. While there are no mitigation measures to reduce the noise, this activity is expected to take just a few weeks.

**Q: Will water quality be impacted by construction debris and materials?**

A: The water quality of the lake will not be impacted. The work will be done in accordance with detailed environmental regulations that are required when working in or near water. Measures include silt booms that will be installed around the site.

