

# Water Level & Flow Update for the Lower Nelson River

Weekly Update # 2 January 17, 2020

## Lower Nelson River (Split Lake to Hudson Bay)

**Water up and impoundment has not started at Keyeask (planned to begin early February).** Flows on the Nelson River are high as heavy Fall rainfall in the southern parts of the watershed flows north on its way to Hudson Bay - this will continue all winter.

Hydro system flows to Split Lake and the Lower Nelson River come from 2 sources – Lake Winnipeg (LW) outflows through Kelsey generating station (at 3130 cms or 110, 600 cfs) and Churchill River Diversion (CRD), 600 cfs through Notigi control structure (960 cms or 34,000 cfs)- see map. These combined flows (of 4,090 cms or 144,600 cfs) have been relatively constant since early December. The Nelson's flow downstream of Keyeask is 4,550 cms ( or 160,700 cfs) (measured at Limestone GS).

As of January 15, Lower Nelson River lake and forebay levels are:

- Split Lake 168.37 m (or 552.4 ft)
- Clark Lake 167.94 m (or 551.0 ft )
- Gull Lake 156.13 m (or 512.2 ft )
- Stephens Lake 140.42 m (or 460.7 ft)
- Long Spruce forebay 110.13 m (or 361.3 ft )
- Limestone forebay 84.97 m (or 278.8 ft)

Graphs of Split, Clark and Gull Lakes and Nelson River flow are available on the following pages.

This update is based on a combination of current and forecasted weather data from Environment and Climate Change Canada; recent and historic stream flow conditions based on both federal and Manitoba Hydro data.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

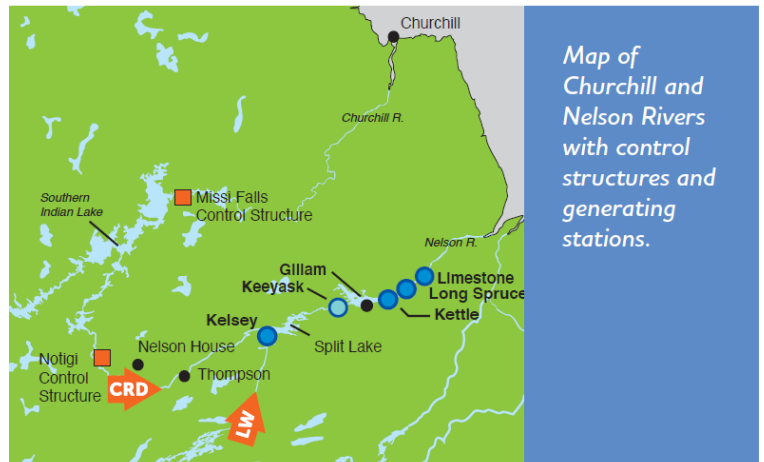
**Dale Hutchison**

Waterway Community Engagement

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More information on water level forecasts and current year actual outflows are on our website at:

[awbs://www.hydro.mb.ca/water\\_levels](http://awbs://www.hydro.mb.ca/water_levels)



Map of Churchill and Nelson Rivers with control structures and generating stations.

Changing ice conditions at Split Lake's outflow through Clark Lake can cause water levels to fluctuate quickly on

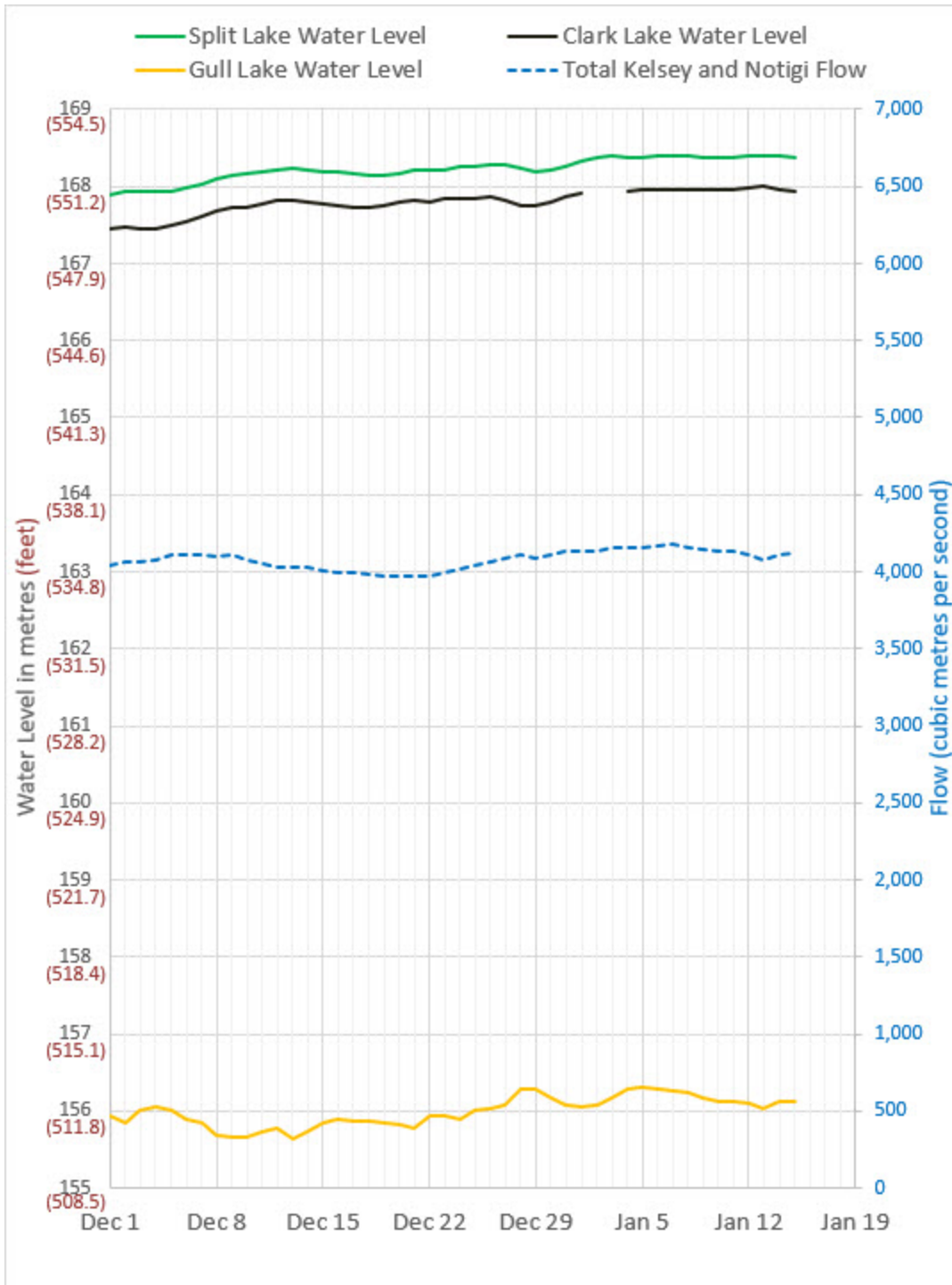
Split Lake as either ice forms and backs up water in the lake, or melts and releases more water downstream.

Since early December water levels on these lakes have fluctuated due to ice conditions by almost 1.5 feet, while hydro system operations have remained relatively constant.

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## Lower Nelson River Lake Levels and Flows to Split Lake (December 1 to present)



Note: The water gauge on Clark Lake was out of order for a three day period (Jan 2020). All values shown above are daily averages.

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## Stephens Lake Water Levels (December 1 to present)

