

# Water Level & Flow Update for the Lower Nelson River

Weekly Update # 18 May 8 2020

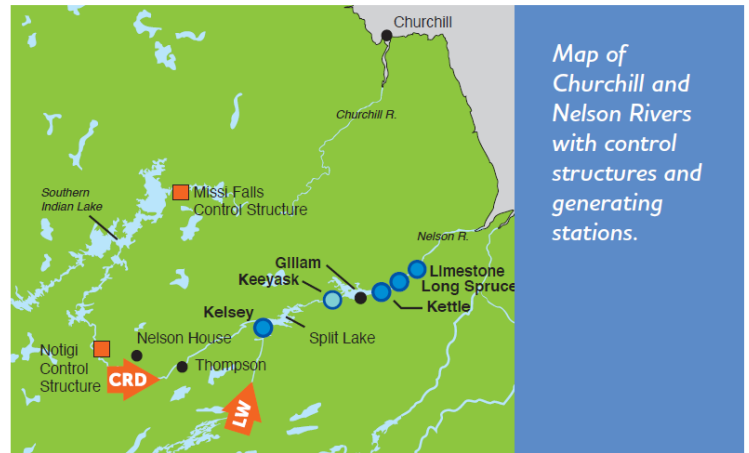
## Lower Nelson River (Split Lake to Hudson Bay)

**Watering up activities started at Keeyask on February 26, 2020. Impoundment activities have now been delayed to the fall of 2020.**

Flows on the Nelson River are high as heavy fall rainfall and now the spring melt in the southern parts of the watershed flows north on its way to Hudson Bay. Hydro system flows to Split Lake and the Lower Nelson River come from 2 sources – Lake Winnipeg (LW) outflows through Kelsey generating station (at 3240 cubic metres per second (cms) or 114,400 cubic feet per second (cfs) and Churchill River Diversion (CRD) through Notigi control structure (790 cms or 27,900 cfs). These combined flows of 4030 cms (or 142,300 cfs) have been relatively constant early December. The Nelson's flow downstream of Keeyask is 4080 cms (or 144,100 cfs) (measured at Limestone). (See Map)

Graphs of Split, Clark, Gull and Stephens Lakes and Nelson River flow are available on the following pages. Note Stephens Lake was lowered and then brought back up due to a transmission outage.

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 about 2.5 feet, while hydro system operations have remained relatively constant.



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

As of May 6 Lower Nelson River lake and forebay levels are:

- Split Lake 167.79 m (or 550.5 ft)
- Clark Lake 167.28m (or 548.8 ft)
- Gull Lake 156.48m (or 513.4 ft)
- Stephens Lake 141.06m (or 462.8 ft)
- Long Spruce forebay 110.08 m (or 361.2 ft)
- Limestone forebay 85.11 m (or 279.2 ft)

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 @ (204) 360-3505 or [WCE@hydro.mb.ca](mailto:WCE@hydro.mb.ca).

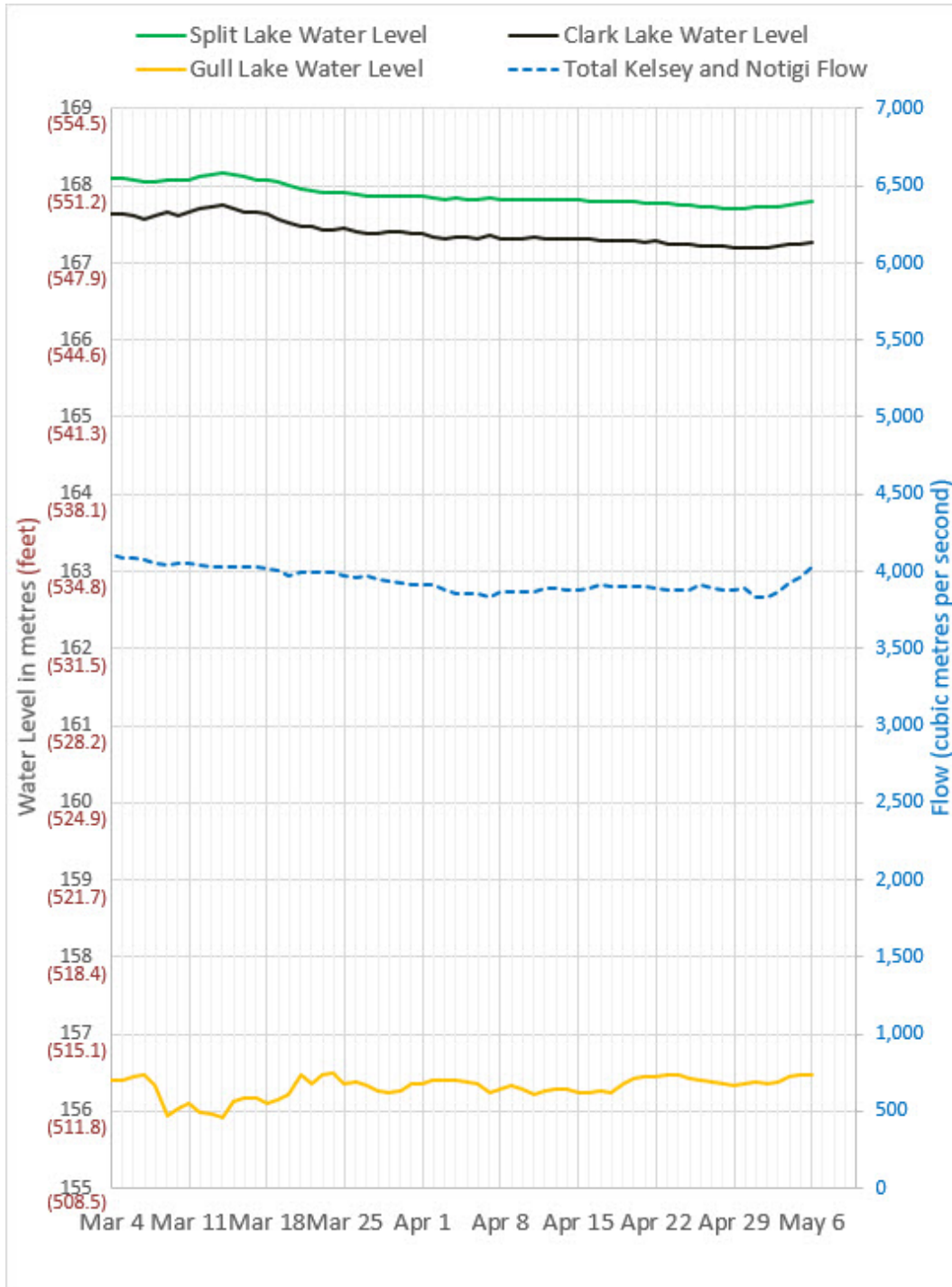
More information on water level forecasts and current year actual outflows are on our website at:

<https://www.hydro.mb.ca/waterlevels/>

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## Lower Nelson River Lake Levels and Flows to Split Lake (March 4 to present)



Note: All values shown above are daily averages.

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## Stephens Lake Water Levels (March 4 to present)

