



Highway 97 Rock Slide – OC alerts page updates

Updated: 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has announced that a bypass using Callan Road alongside Hwy. 97 north of Summerland will be open at 5 a.m. Monday morning, providing a 900-metre two-lane detour around the rock slide that has closed the highway since Feb. 2. The detour eliminates the need of the much longer detours through Aspen Grove, Princeton and Keremeos, and using the forest service road to the east of Penticton. Classes affected by the highway closure are expected to return to normal Monday at Okanagan College's campuses.

Updated: 1:46 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has announced an alternate route on the west side of Okanagan Lake, using the Trout Creek Forest Service Road between Peachland and Summerland, is now available to people travelling around the Highway 97 closure near Callan Road.

This route will accommodate light vehicles (five tons or less). Using this option to travel between the local communities between Summerland and Peachland will be approximately 45 minutes faster than using the 201 Forest Service Road. More information is available in the [media release](#) issued by the Ministry.

Updated: 8 a.m. Friday, Feb. 8

Kelowna Transit Alert - Bus 8

Due to a serious accident on HWY 97, the 97 and #8 heading North and South are being detoured on to John Hindle drive. All stops for the # 8 on Acland and Edwards, and the 97 stop going North past Edwards will be closed for a minimum of 3 hours

For more information regarding this advisory, please BC Transit's advisory details [page](#).

Updated: 4:40 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7

Provincial officials are reporting that they are working to develop a shorter detour route to bypass the Hwy. 97 closure. The bypass would involve Callan Road, which runs below the slide area. Reports indicate it may take four or five days before that detour opens.

SHUTTLE SERVICE SURVEY - In the interim, Okanagan College is seeking to gauge demand to assess whether a shuttle service between our campuses in Penticton and Kelowna would be feasible. Please click [here](#) if you're a student or staff member affected by the road closure and if shuttle service would be of interest to you.

The survey will take a few minutes to complete but will guide us in decisions regarding feasibility of such a service during the highway closure. Continue to monitor this webpage, DriveBC.ca and - if you are a student - watch Moodle regarding classes.

Updated: 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure officials are advising media that the closure of Highway 97 north of Summerland may persist for several more days.

Our plans are to ensure classes continue as scheduled on the Penticton and Kelowna campuses, although that may involve changes to delivery methods.

We encourage students to consider using alternative routes to attend classes as scheduled at the two campuses. Those detour routes as identified by DriveBC are identified [here](#). If circumstances related to the road closure prevent attendance, please contact your instructor or professor.

An email message will be sent to all Okanagan College students today asking them – if they have been affected by the road closure – to provide information regarding the extent of that impact. The information provided will help us to develop mitigation strategies.

We will continue to update this page as the situation warrants.

Updated: 5:40 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6

Highway 97 north of Summerland remains closed in both directions this morning and the next DriveBC update is scheduled for noon today. A media report featuring the regional director for the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure suggests there is a possibility for the road to reopen partially sometime during the day, although slope stability is still an issue.

Students affected by the closure should connect with faculty where possible with regard to class schedules. Staff, faculty and instructors should communicate with their supervisors with regard to class and service continuity. Okanagan College will be investigating transit options for employees and students. In the interim, we would advise checking [drivebc.ca](#) for updates offered there. Okanagan College will update this page as changes to the situation warrant.

Updated: 3:48 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 5

There are indications that Hwy. 97 north of Summerland may reopen Wednesday, although that information has not been indicated on the DriveBC or Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure websites. Okanagan College will continue to monitor those sites and other sources of information and will update this page by 6 a.m. Wednesday morning. If the road is open at that point, classes in the campuses will proceed as planned. Students affected by the closure should connect with faculty where possible with regard to class schedules. Staff, faculty and instructors should communicate with their supervisors with regard to class and service continuity. In the event the closure persists, Okanagan College is investigating transit options for employees and students. In the interim, we would advise checking drivebc.ca for updates offered there.

Updated: 8 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 5

Day four of the closure of Highway 97 north of Summerland. We continue to monitor information shared by DriveBC and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure regarding the situation. The next update is scheduled for noon today. Various departments, Deans and support services at Okanagan College are monitoring class issues and addressing - where possible - the disruption caused by the road closure.

Updated: 2:03 p.m. Monday, Feb. 4

The latest information from DriveBC gives no indication of when Highway 97 may reopen, although there are reports that blasting to achieve slope stabilization may occur today. The next update from DriveBC is expected later this afternoon. We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates here as warranted. We are collecting information on students, instructors, staff and classes that are being affected and, where possible, working on mitigating the effect of the road closure.

Updated: 5:10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 4

Highway 97 north of Summerland remains closed in both directions and DriveBC will next report on the situation at noon today. This will affect those students and staff who commute between Penticton and Kelowna. Messages were emailed to staff and students regarding the situation Sunday. Instructors and staff who are unable to attend their assigned campus should contact their supervisor to discuss the situation. Okanagan College will be monitoring the situation to determine next steps should the closure persist beyond today. Find the latest DriveBC alerts [here](#).

Updated: 4:35 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 3

According to the latest update (4 p.m.) from DriveBC, the highway remains closed and there is no more information about when it may open. The next update from DriveBC is expected to come at noon on Monday. We will post more information/instructions for Okanagan College students and staff who may be affected by 6 a.m. on Monday. Find the latest DriveBC alerts [here](#).

Updated: 12:40 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 3

The highway remains closed while rockscalers and officials continue their assessment of the situation.

DriveBC indicates that the next update will occur at 4 p.m. We will update this page as new information comes in (estimated 4:30 p.m.)

Updated: 10:20 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 3

Okanagan College is monitoring the closure of Highway 97 between Summerland and Peachland. Notice will be published on this page and communicated to students and staff later today if there are implications for classes or services.