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FOCN45 CWWG 291300

SIGNIFICANT WEATHER DISCUSSION ISSUED BY THE PRAIRIE AND ARCTIC STORM
PREDICTION CENTRE OF ENVIRONMENT CANADA AT 7:00 AM CST THURSDAY
JANUARY 29 2015.

ALERTS AND STATEMENTS IN EFFECT... BLIZZARD WARNING FOR KUGLUKTUK
AND REPULSE BAY. WINTER STORM WATCH FOR THE SOUTHERN KIVALLIQ.
EXTREME COLD WARNING FOR THE SOUTHERN KIVALLIQ AS WELL AS POND INLET
AND REGIONS AROUND LAKE ATHABASCA.

DISCUSSION... BROAD UPPER RIDGE OVER BC/AB AND UPPER TROUGH OVER
NWRN ONTARIO. PLENTY OF LOW CLOUD ALONG WITH BITS OF LIGHT SNOW
PERSIST OVER MUCH OF THE PRAIRIES TODAY AS COLDER AIR WORKS ITS WAY
DOWN ASSOCIATED WITH AN ARCTIC HIGH PRESSURE RIDGE. THE ARCTIC FRONT
LIES FROM THE CYPRESS HILLS TO NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA AND A BAND
OF THICK FOG HAS FORMED ALONG AND NORTHEAST OF THE FRONT. MANY
REPORTS OF NEAR ZERO VISIBILITIES STRETCHING FROM CORONATION TO
GRANDE PRAIRIE. BEHIND THE FRONT IN CLEAR AREAS TEMPERATURES ARE
APPROACHING MINUS 40 SO ANY WIND THAT COMES UP IS CREATING EXTREME
COLD CONDITIONS NEAR LAKE ATHABASCA. A WEAK LOW IS FORECAST TO
DEVELOP IN THE ALBERTA PEACE COUNTRY THIS AFTERNOON AND TRACK
SOUTHEAST TO AROUND LAKE OF THE WOODS BY FRIDAY EVENING. 2 TO 4 CM
OF SNOW WILL ACCOMPANY THIS SYSTEM ONCE IT ENTERS SASKATCHEWAN, AND
IT WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A YET STRONGER ARCTIC RIDGE COMING DOWN FROM
THE MACKENZIE AS THE UPPER RIDGE STARTS TO RETROGRADE INTO THE
EASTERN PACIFIC.

IN THE ARCTIC, THERE IS AN UPPER LOW OVER NORTHERN HUDSON BAY WITH A
SURFACE REFLECTION NEAR CAPE DORSET. THERE IS ALSO A VERTICAL LOW
OVER VICTORIA ISLAND. THE LATTER FEATURE WILL SWING SOUTHEASTWARD
AND DUMBELL WITH ITS EASTERN COUNTERPART OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF
DAYS. AS THIS OCCURS, THE STRONG NORTHWESTERLY GRADIENT CURRENTLY
GIVING BLIZZARD CONDITIONS TO KUGLUKTUK WILL SPREAD SOUTHEASTWARD
AND GIVE BLIZZARD CONDITIONS TO THE SOUTHERN KIVALLIQ ON FRIDAY,

ALONG WITH PERSISTENT EXTREME WIND CHILLS. EXTREME WIND CHILL CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN OFF AND ON FOR SEVERAL DAYS AT POND INLET, AND THIS PATTERN WILL LIKELY CONTINUE.

OUTLOOK...POTENTIAL SYSTEM WILL AFFECT CENTRAL ALBERTA ON FRIDAY MOVING TO SOUTHERN SASKATCHEWAN BY SATURDAY. INITIAL FORECAST OF SNOWFALL AMOUNTS LOOKS TO BE IN THE 5-10 CM RANGE, HOWEVER MODELS ARE INDICATING THAT AREAS NEAR GRANDE PRAIRIE COULD SEE AMOUNTS APPROACHING 10 CENTIMETRES. AFTER THAT, COLD AIR WILL INVADE THE PRAIRIES.

END/MELSNESS/POWER

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