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FOCN45 CWWG 051200

SIGNIFICANT WEATHER DISCUSSION ISSUED BY THE PRAIRIE AND ARCTIC STORM PREDICTION CENTRE OF ENVIRONMENT CANADA AT 7:00 AM CDT SUNDAY APRIL 5 2015.

ALERTS IN EFFECT...SNOWFALL WARNING FOR SOUTHWESTERN ALBERTA FOOTHILLS INTO MOUNTAIN PARKS. SNOWFALL WARNING FOR CYPRESS HILLS REGION IN SW SK THIS MORNING.

SYNOPTIC OVERVIEW...UPPER PATTERN OVER PRAIRIES DOMINATED BY NW FLOW ALOFT BETWEEN LARGE ARCTIC VORTEX OVER NRN QUEBEC AND UPPER RIDGE OVER ROCKIES. DEEP UPPER LOW SPINNING OVER ERN PACIFIC WEST OF VANCOUVER ISLAND. AT THE SURFACE, 992 MB LOW OVER ERN HUDSON BAY IS PIVOTING SWD IN RESPONSE TO ARCTIC VORTEX. MEANWHILE QUASISTATIONARY FRONTAL ZONE EXTENDS FROM SW AB INTO DAKOTAS ALONG TIGHT BAROCLINIC ZONE NEAR AND SOUTH OF INTERNATIONAL BORDER. ARCTIC SURFACE RIDGE EXTENDING FROM NT INTO SRN MB.

DISCUSSION...

PRAIRIES...PRECIPITATION DEVELOPED PRETTY MUCH ON SCHEDULE LAST EVENING WITH RAIN SHOWERS QUICKLY CHANGING TO SNOW ACROSS SRN AB INTO SW SK. SNOW HAS BECOME QUITE HEAVY OVER THE CYPRESS HILLS AREA WITH 16 CM OF NEW SNOW REPORTED IN CYPRESS HILLS PARK AS OF 09Z AND SNOWFALL RATES OF 2 TO 4 CM/HR AT TIMES. THE HEAVIEST BAND IS FAIRLY NARROW AND MAINLY CONFINED OVER THE HIGHER ELEVATIONS BUT ENOUGH OF THE REGION IS BEING AFFECTED BY MODERATE TO HEAVY SNOW TO WARRANT A SNOWFALL WARNING. SNOW SHOULD TAPER OFF THIS MORNING AS SHORT WAVE PULLS EAST WITH TOTAL AMOUNTS OF 20-25 CM POSSIBLE OVER CYPRESS HILLS PARK AND 10-20 CM ELSEWHERE EXCEPT 5 CM OR LESS NEAR THE US BORDER. ANOTHER PACIFIC IMPULSE COMING INTO MONTANA MONDAY WILL BRING ANOTHER ROUND OF SNOW ACROSS SRN AB AND MONTANA THAT MAY CLIP SW SK AGAIN. ALTHOUGH FOR SK IT APPEARS THIS NEXT BATCH SHOULD STAY MAINLY SOUTH OF INTERNATIONAL BORDER. OVER EXTREME SWRN AB AMOUNTS OF 5 TO 15 CM ARE LIKELY FOR TONIGHT. MANITOBA SHOULD BE DRY AND COLD THIS FORECAST PERIOD.

ARCTIC...STRONG NORTHWEST WINDS OVER THE KIVALLIQ CONTINUE ON THE BACKSIDE OF THE HUDSON BAY LOW. ESPECIALLY OVER CORAL HARBOUR AND REPULSE BAY WITH NLY WINDS OF 40G60 KM/H TODAY GIVING REDUCED VISIBILITY IN BLOWING SNOW. NOT SURE HOW BAD VISIBILITY IS AT REPULSE SINCE THERE ARE NO OBS OR WEBCAMS AVAILABLE THERE, BUT SUSPECT THINGS COULD BE FAIRLY POOR GIVEN WINDS. WINDS WILL CONTINUE GUSTY MUCH OF TODAY BEFORE EASING SOMEWHAT TONIGHT INTO MONDAY. GUSTY WINDS MAY ALSO GIVE POOR VISIBILITIES AT TIMES IN RANKIN AND ARVIAT SIMILAR TO PAST DAY OR TWO. ALTHOUGH WINDS ARE NOT QUITE AS STRONG TODAY AT THOSE LOCATIONS WHICH SHOULD MINIMIZE GROUND

BLIZZARD POTENTIAL.

END/PAOLA/ROMBOUGH

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