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From: CLRInfo
Sent: July 23, 2021 8:27 AM
To: Ken McCormack
Cc: Maria Sushkova
Subject: COVID-19 and Wildfire Situation Update - July 23

Importance: High

[CLR Members,](#)

Please find the recent updates on the COVID-19 and Wildfire situation.

[Provincial state of emergency declared](#)

The B.C. government is declaring a provincial state of emergency to support the provincewide response to the ongoing wildfire situation.

Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, made the declaration on July 20, based upon the recommendation from the BC Wildfire Service and Emergency Management BC. The declaration came in effect on July 21.

The state of emergency is initially in effect for 14 days once issued and may be extended or rescinded as necessary. The state of emergency applies to the whole province and ensures federal, provincial and local resources can be delivered in a co-ordinated response to protect the public, which remains the provincial government's top priority.

“Public safety is always our first priority, and as wildfire activity is expected to increase, this is a progressive step in our wildfire response to make sure British Columbia has access to extraordinary powers under the Emergency Program Act,” Farnworth said. “In a briefing last night, I received word that we’ll be facing a few days of very difficult weather in the Interior. This declaration will address the potential of a mass evacuation scenario and provide our government with the means to secure the accommodation spaces necessary to house our citizens, if necessary.”

As of July 20, there were 299 wildfires burning in B.C., with 40 evacuation orders affecting approximately 5,724 people (2,862 properties), in addition to 69 evacuation alerts impacting approximately 32,076 people (16,038 properties). The extended weather forecast calls for continued hot and dry conditions, with heightened wind activity in the Interior and southeastern B.C.

More than 3,180 firefighters and resource staff are currently actively engaged in fighting fires in all fire regions in the province. This includes 1,080 contractors and 135 out-of-province resources.

The federal government has responded to and accepted British Columbia’s request for firefighting assistance. In the coming days, federal personnel and resources will be arriving in B.C. to assist with wildfire efforts.

The state of emergency gives agencies, such as the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, Emergency Management BC, the fire commissioner and the RCMP, the authority to take every action necessary to fight the wildfires and protect people and communities.

Quick Facts:

- Declarations of provincial states of emergency may be issued by the minister responsible under the Emergency Program Act.
- The provincial government can extend the period of a declaration made by the minister responsible for further periods of time.

Learn More:

For information on evacuation orders and alerts, visit Emergency Info BC: <https://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca/>

Keep up to date on the provincial wildfire situation: www.bcwildfire.ca

B.C. COVID-19 pandemic update

As of Thursday, July 22, 80.2% (3,717,929) of eligible people 12 and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 56.9% (2,636,377) have received their second dose. In addition, 81.2% (3,512,977) of all eligible adults in B.C. have received their first dose and 60.2% (2,605,052) have received their second dose.

B.C. is reporting 89 new cases of COVID-19, for a total of 148,730 cases in the province. There are currently 781 active cases of COVID-19 in the province, and 146,178 people who tested positive have recovered.

Since December 2020, the Province has administered 6,361,627 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines.

Learn More:

Detailed data is posted daily on the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) dashboard: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data> or: www.bccdc.ca

To register to be immunized or to learn about getting your second dose, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated.html> or: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/dose-2>

To learn about BC's Restart plan, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restart>

For recent modelling, visit: http://news.gov.bc.ca/files/6-28_PHO_presentation.pdf

For information on breakthrough cases, see the BCCDC weekly data summary: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data#summary>

For the provincial health officer's orders and guidance, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

For guidance on restrictions, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/restrictions>

Government of Canada announces easing of border measures for fully vaccinated travellers

On September 7, 2021, provided that the domestic epidemiologic situation remains favourable, the Government intends to open Canada's borders to any fully vaccinated travellers who have completed the full course of vaccination with a Government of Canada-accepted vaccine at least 14 days prior to entering Canada and who meet specific entry requirements.

As a first step, starting August 9, 2021, Canada plans to begin allowing entry to American citizens and permanent residents, who are currently residing in the United States, and have been fully vaccinated at least 14 days prior to entering Canada for non-essential travel.

Subject to limited exceptions, all travellers must use ArriveCAN (app or web portal) to submit their travel information. If they are eligible to enter Canada and meet specific criteria, fully vaccinated travellers will not have to quarantine upon arrival in Canada.

To further support these new measures, Transport Canada is expanding the scope of the existing Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) that currently directs scheduled international commercial passenger flights into four Canadian Airports: Montréal-Trudeau International Airport, Toronto Pearson International Airport, Calgary International Airport, and Vancouver International Airport.

Effective August 9, 2021, international flights carrying passengers will be permitted to land at the following five **additional** Canadian airports:

- Halifax Stanfield International Airport;
- Québec City Jean Lesage International Airport;

- Ottawa Macdonald–Cartier International Airport;
- Winnipeg James Armstrong Richardson International Airport; and
- Edmonton International Airport.

These airports, in cooperation with the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Canada Border Services Agency and Transport Canada, are working to implement the measures necessary to safely welcome international passengers as soon as possible after August 9, as conditions dictate.

All travellers, regardless of vaccination status, will still require a pre-entry COVID-19 molecular test result. However effective August 9, the Government of Canada is adjusting its post-arrival testing strategy for fully vaccinated travellers. Using a new border testing surveillance program at airports and land border crossings, fully vaccinated travellers will not need a post-arrival test unless they have been randomly selected to complete a Day 1 COVID-19 molecular test. There are no changes to the mandatory testing requirements for unvaccinated travellers.

Finally, with the advent of increased vaccination rates in Canada, declining COVID-19 cases and reduced pressure on health care capacity, the three-night government authorized hotel stay requirement will be eliminated for all travellers arriving by air as of 12:01 A.M. EDT on August 9. Fully vaccinated travellers who meet the requirements will be exempt from quarantine; however, all travellers must still provide a quarantine plan and be prepared to quarantine, in case it is determined at the border that they do not meet the necessary requirements.

[WorkSafeBC: Communicable disease prevention: A guide for employers](#)

The guide provides information for employers to develop a communicable disease plan. An effective plan includes general measures to reduce the risk of communicable disease and additional measures for when there is an elevated risk of communicable disease. It is not meant for employers who have an existing exposure control plan related to communicable disease, such as health care employers.

Visit [B.C.'s four-step restart](#) for more information. Additional [communicable disease resources](#) are available.

The guide can be found at WorkSafeBC website: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/books-guides/communicable-disease-prevention-guide-employers?lang=en>.

[Federal government delivers \\$5 billion in pandemic support to provinces and territories for vaccines and health care](#)

July 14, Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, announced the payment of \$5 billion to the provinces and territories, distributed equally per capita, to further support vaccination campaigns and ensure health care systems remain resilient and responsive.

As [first announced](#) on March 25, 2021, the Government of Canada is providing \$4 billion through a one-time top-up to the Canada Health Transfer to help address the extreme pressures that COVID-19 has put on health care systems. This funding will help provinces and territories address immediate health system pressures, including clearing the backlog of medical procedures, patient care, and access to primary care, put on hold due to the pandemic.

In addition, the Government of Canada is providing \$1 billion to support vaccine rollout campaigns across the country. The funding supports a variety of vaccine-related costs, such as recruiting and training immunizers, establishing mass vaccination clinics, setting up mobile vaccination units, engaging Indigenous communities to advance vaccine rollout, and reaching vulnerable populations through community-based vaccination efforts.

Please consult the [backgrounder](#) for the full breakdown of how this funding is being disbursed to each province and territory.

[Canada announces new contribution to global vaccination efforts and launch of matching fund with UNICEF Canada](#)

July 12, Karina Gould, Minister of International Development, and Anita Anand, Minister of Public Services and Procurement, announced that the Government of Canada will donate an additional 17.7 million doses of the

AstraZeneca vaccine, procured by Canada with an advance purchase agreement, to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX).

The doses will be managed by the newly-funded COVAX Dose Sharing mechanism that is serving as the platform to share doses via COVAX.

The Ministers also announced that the Government of Canada will match, dollar for dollar, donations made by individual Canadians to UNICEF Canada's COVID-19 vaccination fundraising campaign, up to a maximum of \$10 million.

The matching fund campaign, called "Give A Vax," will run to September 6, 2021. Canadians who want to donate to UNICEF Canada's fundraising campaign can do so by going to www.unicef.ca/giveavax or by texting VACCINES to 45678 to donate \$10.

Since the start of this crisis, the Government of Canada has committed more than \$2.5 billion to support the global response to COVID-19.

[Federal support behind B.C. biotech for oral COVID-19 vaccine](#)

July 22, Burnaby-based Symvivo Corporation announced the National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC IRAP) is designating \$4.6 million to support the clinical advancement of the company's vaccine candidate known as bacTRL-Spike.

Symvivo previously received \$2.8 million in IRAP funding last fall for the room-temperature stable vaccine candidate. Unlike the vaccines presently used in the ongoing vaccination campaign, the Symvivo vaccine candidate comes in capsule form. That means medical professionals would not need to administer the vaccine, opening the possibility for people to take the vaccine on their own.

This is not the only B.C. biotech pursuing a homegrown vaccine. Last fall, Ottawa designated \$18 million for Vancouver-based Precision Nanosystems Inc. (PNI) to pursue its own COVID-19 vaccine, which is expected to enter Phase 1 of clinical trials shortly.

PNI specializes in a class of vaccines known as self-amplifying RNA vaccines. These have the potential to create more potent vaccines as they amplify the signal, allowing PNI to manufacture more doses for less volume. Its new 40,000-square-foot facility, expected to be completed in March 2023, would be able to produce up to 240 million of those self-amplifying RNA vaccine doses.

[Investment in building construction down 1.9% – May 2021](#)

According to the national report by Statscan, investment in building construction slowed down slightly in May, decreasing 1.9% to \$19.4 billion. This was the first drop in seven months. Residential construction investment was down for the first time since April 2020, while non-residential construction increased slightly.

Residential construction in Canada was down 2.7% in May, bringing total investment to \$14.8 billion, with declines in both single and multi-unit construction. Investment in **single-family homes** was down 2.7% to \$8.3 billion, with Quebec and Ontario posting the largest declines. Despite the decrease this month, single-unit investment remained about 60.0% above pre-Covid levels.

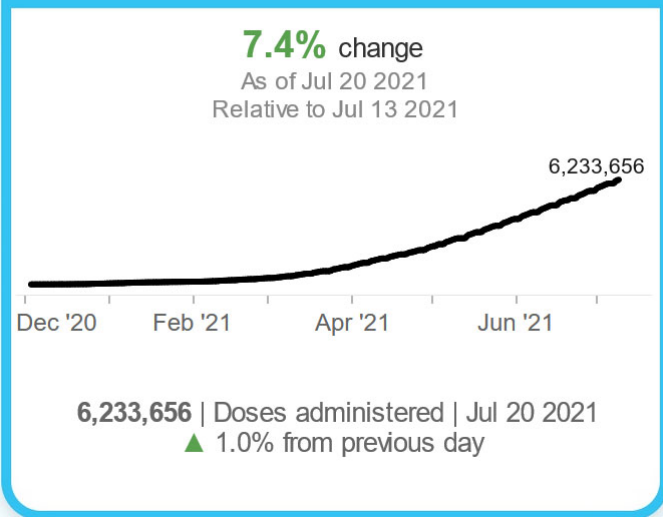
In the meantime, **non-residential investment** increased 0.6% to \$4.7 billion nationally in May.

Investment in **commercial construction** increased 0.8% to \$2.6 billion. **Institutional investment** continued to grow for the seventh consecutive month, up 1.2% to \$1.2 billion.

Seven provinces saw declines in **industrial construction**, which decreased 0.7% to \$837 million nationally in May.

[Immunization dashboard](#)

Vaccination in BC is growing steadily



Stay safe.

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

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