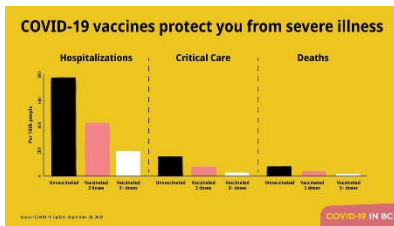


## CLR-INFO

### CLR Members,

## Provincial News

### Province prepares for fall respiratory viruses, encourages people to get vaccinated



People are encouraged to get vaccinated against COVID-19 and influenza for the most effective protection in the fall.

The COVID-19 fall booster program started early in September and will be joined by the annual influenza vaccine campaign in October.

#### **Learn More:**

For more information about the fall outlook for respiratory viruses, visit: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/briefings>

For more information about COVID-19 booster doses, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/booster>

### Drought, water scarcity conditions affect B.C.

Drought and water scarcity continues to affect the west coast, south coast and northeastern areas of B.C. that have experienced little to no rainfall over the past five weeks with continued dry weather in the forecast.

Areas under Drought Level 4 include the Fort Nelson basin, the Sunshine Coast basin, Lower Mainland basin, and the east and west Vancouver Island basins. At Drought Level 4, conditions are extremely dry and adverse effects to socio-economic or ecosystem values are likely.

#### **Learn More:**

Learn about general water conservation tips: [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/air-land-water/water/water-planning/water\\_conservation\\_tips\\_brochure.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/air-land-water/water/water-planning/water_conservation_tips_brochure.pdf)

To view drought levels in your area and throughout the province, visit the Drought Portal for maps and tables: <https://governmentofbc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=838d533d8062411c820eef50b08f7ebc>

## Federal News

### [Government of Canada to make announcement on advancements in mRNA vaccine technology at the University of British Columbia](#)

On Monday, October 3, Harjit S. Sajjan, federal Minister of International Development and Minister responsible for the Pacific Economic Development Agency of Canada, will announce funding for projects at the University of British Columbia to advance mRNA vaccine research and build a home-grown pipeline for responding to new and emerging COVID-19 variants.

The event will feature remarks from the Minister and a question and answer session with the media.

### [Government of Canada launches a new resource toolkit in support of the 50 – 30 Challenge](#)

September 29, François-Philippe Champagne, federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, launched the [What Works Toolkit](#), an extensive online resource designed for Canadian organizations looking to adopt better equity and diversity practices. The toolkit was created in partnership with KPMG in Canada and is hosted online by the Diversity Institute, one of the five [Ecosystem Partners](#) that support the [50 – 30 Challenge](#).

The What Works Toolkit provides tangible actions, best practices and strategic workplace approaches based on existing evidence for the recruitment, mentoring, promotion and retention of diverse staff. It also includes activities and initiatives on anti-racism and anti-harassment and provides examples of successful diversity plans that can be replicated to help organizations reach their diversity goals.

#### **Associated links**

[The 50 – 30 Challenge: Your Diversity Advantage](#)

[The 50 – 30 Challenge: Participating organizations](#)

[Minister Champagne announces new measures to help companies meet their diversity and inclusion targets](#)

## Industry News

### [Application for B.C. mentorship program opens](#)

The Building Builders program, the province-wide mentorship program serving B.C.'s construction industry, is open for applications.

The program created and managed by the BC Construction Association (BCCA) will connect under and un-employed workers with experienced mentors across all disciplines in the construction industry.

The program is intended to fill an important gap in an academic-leaning culture that often does not adequately encourage skilled trades as a career path. The average age of an apprentice in B.C. is 27, and BCCA hopes that the program will help first-year apprentices get started earlier and stay in the system by providing personalized, ongoing career guidance.

Building Builders is funded to run for three years, and support 300 mentees through a 12-month mentorship period. Mentees will receive Site Ready safety training, and mentees and mentor companies will receive culture training through the Builders Code. **Learn more:** [www.buildingbuilders.ca](http://www.buildingbuilders.ca)

## CAF grooms new class of visible women leaders



Class is in session for the first entrants into the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum’s (CAF) National Leadership Program for Women in Skilled Trades.

Eighteen tradeswomen are the first participants in the program developed in partnership with the Office to Advance Women Apprentices. The workers are either fourth-year apprentices or journeypersons looking to progress into leadership positions.

CAF director of research and programs Emily Arrowsmith noted the program serves not only as a leadership development platform but also as a recruitment strategy.

The first cohort will study from September to December. However, the program uptake was so strong that a second cohort has been added, with the extra program to be held next February to May.

**Learn more:** [National Leadership Development Program \(caf-fca.org\)](https://caf-fca.org)

## Industry shares insight on Canada’s Green Buildings Strategy



With buildings representing almost 40% of global greenhouse gas emissions, not to mention the environmental impact of heavy industry, the Canadian construction sector is keen to engage with Natural Resources Canada on the [Canada Green Buildings Strategy](#).

The Green Buildings Strategy is looking for ways Canada can deliver on its net-zero by 2050 targets by building net-zero and climate-resilient buildings from the start; accelerating deep, climate-resilient, building retrofits; and transforming space and water heating.

Detailed [recommendations](#) were sent by the Canadian Construction Association (CCA) to Natural Resources Canada focused on developing a buy clean policy, mandating change, enabling investment decisions, growing Canada’s advantage in building practices, technology and building materials, and training and incentivizing the future workforce.

**Learn more:** [CCA-Green-Building-Strategy-Submission.pdf \(cca-acc.com\)](https://cca-acc.com)

# Transportation and Infrastructure

## King George Hub opens, expanding Surrey’s new downtown



King George Hub has officially opened after almost a decade of work to create Surrey’s first comprehensive transit-oriented development just as the adjoining Skytrain station transforms from a terminus to a connecting station for the upcoming Surrey Langley Skytrain extension.

The hub currently has 738 condo units and 371 rental homes completed along with 350,000 square feet of office space and 130,000 square feet of retail space. The project’s fourth phase is currently under construction and will add an additional 886 condos, 30,000 square feet of office and retail space and is expected to be complete in 2025. The fifth phase begins in 2023 with an additional 400 rental homes.

## [New Abbotsford water system to ensure resiliency](#)



The B.C. government is providing \$62 million to the City of Abbotsford to build a new well and water-treatment system to ensure reliable, resilient water service for more than 165,000 people in response to growing climate-related threats.

The current water source is vulnerable to climate-related events, such as floods or wildfires, and was compromised during the November 2021 floods, which caused 85% of Abbotsford’s water supply to be offline.

The project includes the installation of approximately 12 new wells, the construction of a water-treatment plant, and a pump station to tie into the existing regional system to bring the new water source to the community.

## [B.C. invests in Pacific high speed rail study](#)



The Government of British Columbia is investing \$300,000 in a feasibility study focused on high-speed rail service connecting Seattle, Portland and Vancouver.

The next phase of the Ultra High Ground Transportation Project, led by the Washington State Department of Transportation in partnership with B.C., Oregon and other regional and local agencies, is intended to address roles, responsibilities and future funding requirements for the project and development of a regional public outreach and engagement strategy.

Previous phases of the study indicated benefits to high-speed rail include stronger trade ties between B.C., Oregon and Washington State, economic activity equaling as much as \$355 billion within the region and a reduction of as much as six million tonnes of greenhouse gas in the first 40 years of operations, the release stated, along with \$42 billion in estimated construction costs with revenue expected to cover project costs by 2055.

## [Squamish Nation housing project breaks ground](#)

The federal government is providing a \$1.4-billion loan to the Squamish First Nation to build 3,000 homes on traditional lands in Vancouver’s Kitsilano neighbourhood.

The project is the largest economic partnership between a First Nation and the federal government, and the largest loan from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) in Canadian history.

In total, the Señákw development project will create 6,000 homes when complete. The Government of Canada has committed to financing the first two of the four phases. The on-reserve residential and commercial development will be built at the head of Vancouver’s False Creek, land that was returned to the nation by the courts in 2003.



Stay safe,

Ken McCormack | President & CEO



BC CONSTRUCTION  
EMPLOYERS  
BUILDING  
RELATIONSHIPS

CONSTRUCTION LABOUR RELATIONS ASSOCIATION OF BC

97 Sixth Street,  
New Westminster, BC V3L 5H8

**O** 604-524-4911

**F** 604-524-3925 **C** 604-968-4911

**E** [kenm@clra-bc.com](mailto:kenm@clra-bc.com) **W** [www.clra-bc.com](http://www.clra-bc.com)