



CLR INFO: Thursday, February 26, 2026

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This week's CLR INFO covers B.C.'s Strategic Investment Fund and Budget 2026 capital re-pacing, federal workforce supports, housing and construction outlook updates, minimum wage changes, and mining project developments.

Industry News



RICS reports construction sentiment improved in Q4 2025, led by infrastructure, while residential activity remains weak and margin pressures persist.

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CMHC reports housing starts declined 15% in January 2026, with six-month trend falling for fourth consecutive month and no near-term turnaround expected.

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Infrastructure and Transportation



New stałəwasəm (Riverview) Bridge fully operational, marking milestone in regional transportation network as Pattullo demolition commences.

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Province approves Copper Mountain mine expansion, extending operations by 12 years and supporting approximately 800 jobs in southern B.C.

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B.C. Budget 2026 re-paces major capital projects, delaying long-term care facilities, hospital expansion and student housing amid fiscal pressures.

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Labour and Economy



Province introduces \$400-million B.C. Strategic Investment Fund, expanding financial tools to support major private-sector, defence and industrial projects aligned with B.C.'s Look West strategy.

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Government of Canada

Construction employment rose nationally in December 2025, marking six consecutive monthly gains, as job vacancies increased and B.C. recorded one of the highest vacancy rates in Canada (3.4%).

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General minimum wage rising from \$17.85 to \$18.25 on June 1, 2026, as part of B.C.'s legislated annual inflation-based adjustment framework.

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Tentative labour agreement reached with 26,000 B.C. community health workers following nearly a year without contract; ratification vote forthcoming.

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Canada's trade deficit narrowed to \$1.3B in December, though broader export demand remains weak amid ongoing U.S. trade uncertainty.

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Innovation and Technology



Drone reality capture adoption expands across construction sector, supporting site documentation, progress tracking and volumetric analysis.

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Health and Safety



William Laird Cronk appointed chair of WorkSafeBC board for three-year term, reinforcing focus on workplace injury prevention and compliance.

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Support and Funding



Visit the [CLR website](#) for a current list of funding resources and supports available to employers and apprentices.



Ottawa announces construction-focused Workforce Alliance and \$102.7M Worker Retention Grant to support upskilling.

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Sincerely,
Your CLR Team

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