



CLR INFO: Friday, September 18, 2026

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This week's CLR INFO covers the Province's pause of the PST expansion to professional services, major infrastructure investment, B.C.'s economic outlook, skilled-trades training and Canada-U.S. trade developments.

Industry News



Effective October 1, Province pauses PST expansion to professional services: The proposed expansion was announced as part of Budget 2026 and would have applied PST to a range of professional services used by construction employers.

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B.C. adopts year-round Pacific Time: B.C. will use PCT as its year-round time-zone designation, with clocks no longer falling back in November.

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Government
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Canada introduces Productivity Mega Deduction: The federal government is proposing permanent immediate expensing for a broader range of business investments, including machinery and equipment, with the construction sector's marginal effective tax rate expected to fall from 18.3% to 13%.

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Infrastructure and Transportation



Greater Victoria rail project receives federal support: The Government of Canada is providing funding through the Build Communities Strong Fund to support a rail project in Greater Victoria.

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Ksi Lisims LNG secures new international agreement: The proposed \$30-billion B.C. LNG project has signed its third international offtake agreement of 2026.

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\$12.9B forecast in capital spending: Provincial spending will support hospitals, schools, transportation and housing, with eight major capital projects added since Budget 2026.

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B.C. school construction continues: Twenty-three new and improved schools are opening, with dozens more projects starting construction this fall, including five in Langley.

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Metro Vancouver's first net-zero-emission school opens: École Snokomish Elementary in Surrey is an all-electric school expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 89% over 15 years.

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Labour and Economy



Provincial economy forecast to grow 1.4%: LNG development and strong trade prospects with Asia are expected to support B.C.'s economy in 2026, despite housing and affordability pressures.

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B.C. expands skilled-trades training: VCC and BCIT are adding nearly 500 new training seats as part of B.C.'s plan to add 5,000 skilled-trades seats in 2026-27.

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Canada highlights major investment-ready projects: The federal government has identified 167 projects worth approximately \$327 billion to attract investment across sectors including energy, infrastructure and critical minerals.

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U.S. tariffs shift on Canadian goods: New 50% tariffs have taken effect on select Canadian products, while tariffs on some goods, including cement, have been removed.

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Steelworkers call for renewed Canada-U.S. trade talks: Steelworkers are calling on both governments to resume negotiations as 50% tariffs on steel continue to affect manufacturing and construction supply chains.

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Events



NCLRA Conference: Registration is now open for two days of industry updates, networking and labour relations discussions in Québec City, October 15-16.

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Support and Funding



Looking for grants or training support? Visit the [CLR website](#) for current funding opportunities and resources available to employers and apprentices.

Sincerely,
Your CLR Team

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