

CLR-INFO

CLR Members,

We hope this message finds you well. We wanted to inform you that the circulation of our CLR-Info newsletter will take a temporary break throughout August. However, we are excited to announce that we will be returning with fresh content and valuable insights starting in September.

During this break, we will be enhancing our newsletter's content and design to provide you with an even better experience. We value your continued support and engagement with CLR-Info and are committed to delivering high-quality and relevant information to you.

If you have any news, updates, or suggestions that you would like to share for inclusion in our upcoming newsletters, please feel free to reach out to us at clrinfo@cra-bc.com. We always appreciate hearing from you and value your contributions to the community.

Thank you for your understanding and patience during this brief hiatus. We look forward to reconnecting with you in September and continuing to provide you with valuable industry insights and updates.

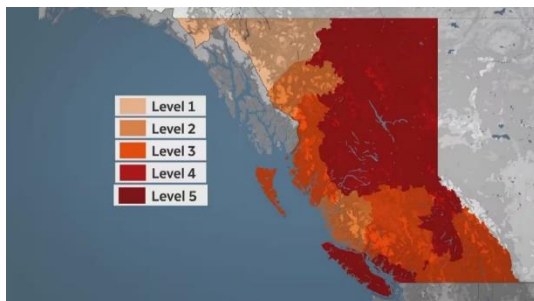
In the meantime, please enjoy a fresh bunch of news from the industry, before the CLR-Info is going on a summer break 😊

Sincerely,

Your CLR Team

Provincial News

B.C. Urges Water Conservation as Drought Conditions Worsen



British Columbia is experiencing worsening drought conditions, with several areas reaching Drought Level 5, the highest on the scale.

As a result, water conservation is being strongly encouraged. Government officials are monitoring the situation closely and working to balance water use with environmental needs. The activation of the BC Drought and Water Scarcity Response Plan is helping communities develop area-specific response plans.

The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness is providing support to communities, including the release of planning tools. If conservation measures prove insufficient, temporary protection orders may be issued.

A Water Scarcity Dashboard will soon be available to aid forecasting and decision-making. Drought's impacts can be far-reaching, emphasizing the importance of conserving water.

Learn more about droughts in B.C.:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/drought-flooding-dikes-dams/drought-information>

Read through the water conservation guide:

<https://www.obwb.ca/water-conservation-guide-for-bc-now-available/>

[Asia mission builds on StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan](#)



British Columbians will benefit from a stronger economy, educational relationships with international partners, and people-to-people ties, following an education mission to Southeast Asia by Selina Robinson, Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills.

The one-week mission included meetings in the Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam with governments, economic organizations and post-secondary institutions, with the goal of building mutually beneficial relations that support B.C.'s health-care system, micro-credential programs, trade and fair credential recognition for internationally trained professionals. Mutual credential recognition was focused on, as well as working in partnership to support solutions to global labour challenges.

The mission followed the launch of the StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan on May 2, 2023, a cross-government made-in-B.C. plan that works to make education and training more accessible, affordable, and responsive. The action plan is supported by a provincial investment of \$480 million over three years.

Learn More:

For more about StrongerBC: Future Ready Action Plan, visit: <https://strongerbc.gov.bc.ca/jobs-and-training>

For more about B.C.'s Trade Diversification Strategy, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/international-investment-and-trade/trade-diversification-strategy>

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

B.C. builds new opportunities for careers in skilled trades



More people will be able to access new and enhanced resources and programming to support entering the trades and to help complete their apprenticeships through a \$5-million provincial investment.

This investment supports six B.C. organizations specializing in attracting people into the skilled trades and supporting them during their pre-apprentice training and apprenticeships:

Aboriginal Community Career Employment Services Society (ACCESS), BC Centre for Women in the Trades (BCCWITT), Canadian Home Builders Association of BC (CHBA BC), Construction Foundation of BC (CFBC), SkillPlan, Skills Canada BC.

In B.C., there is a wide range of skilled trade occupations, with over 80 different occupations, more than half of which have Red Seal endorsements. Among the in-demand skilled trades occupations in the province are cooks, automotive service technicians, and electricians. Looking ahead, there are expected to be 83,000 job openings for tradespeople in the next 10 years. However, the number of apprentices completing their training currently averages just over 6,400 per year. To address gender and Indigenous representation in the trades, efforts are being made to increase diversity. While 50.6% of people between 15 and 65 in B.C. are women, only 10.1% of all apprentices in the province are women. Similarly, while 13.3% of people in the same age group are Indigenous, only 8.5% of apprentices in B.C. are Indigenous, with just 1.5% being Indigenous women.

The Canadian Apprenticeship Forum (CAF) Expands Advocacy Efforts to Include Underrepresented Communities



The Canadian Apprenticeship Forum (CAF) has announced the expansion of its women in the trades advocacy movement to encompass other underrepresented communities.

The decision to broaden the mandate was revealed at the CAF's Supporting Women in Trades Conference in June. The CAF aims to provide a collective voice for differently abled, gender-diverse, 2SLGBTQ+ individuals, Indigenous and racialized people working in the skilled trades.

This shift acknowledges the need for equitable opportunities and improved treatment for all underrepresented groups. The CAF's National Strategy to Support Women in the Trades is an ongoing program aimed at increasing female representation in apprenticeships, journeypersons, and supervisory roles by 2030.

Labour & Economy

Staff at lodge for LNG workers approve strike, potentially disrupting Kitimat project



Workers at the Cedar Valley Lodge in Kitimat, B.C., which provides accommodation for LNG Canada's gas facility, have voted in favor of strike action, posing a potential disruption to the construction of the project.

The unions representing lodge employees, employed by Sodexo, state that the workers are among the lowest compensated at the LNG Canada site and did not receive a wage increase that others received in 2022.

Unite Here Local 40, one of the unions, says that a strike would significantly impact the \$40-billion liquefied natural gas export facility project. While LNG Canada is not directly involved in the negotiations, the company expresses hope for a mutually satisfactory resolution between the unions and Sodexo.

B.C. port strike: Tentative agreement reached between union and employer



A tentative agreement has been reached in the B.C. port strike, according to the announcement made by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Canada.

While specific details of the agreement have not been disclosed, it is subject to ratification by both parties involved. The Union and the B.C. Maritime Employers Association had until Thursday morning to accept the terms recommended by a federal mediator.

The strike, which began on July 1 and involved approximately 7,400 workers, has caused significant disruptions to trade, with an estimated \$9.3 billion worth of trade impacted and a backlog of 63,000 shipping containers awaiting unloading.

While this development is positive, it will take time for normal cargo operations to resume fully and for the economy to recover.

Canada's Unemployment Rate Rises to Highest Level in Over a Year



Canada's unemployment rate in June rose to 5.4%, reaching its highest level in over a year.

transportation and warehousing.

Despite the addition of 60,000 jobs during the month, driven by gains in full-time work, the increase in the unemployment rate was attributed to more people actively searching for employment and the country's growing population. Job gains were observed in sectors such as wholesale and retail trade, manufacturing, health care and social assistance, and

Health & Safety

[WorkSafeBC: Rate Information Sessions](#)

B.C. employers are invited to learn about WorkSafeBC's preliminary assessment premium rates for 2024 and how they can reduce their premiums through a safer and healthier workplace and helping injured workers recover.

The virtual rate information sessions will include a presentation focused on the following topics, followed by a live Q&A period:

- The financial state of the workers' compensation system
- Rate and classification changes
- How you, as an employer, can influence your rates through improved health and safety practices

Register for one of the sessions:

- Thursday, July 27, 11:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Pacific time
- Thursday, July 27, 2:00–3:15 p.m. Pacific time
- Thursday, September 14, 10:00–11:15 a.m. Pacific time
- Thursday, September 14, 1:00–2:15 p.m. Pacific time

[WorkSafeBC reminds employers to protect indoor and outdoor workers from the risk of heat stress](#)



With temperatures on the rise across several regions of B.C., WorkSafeBC is reminding employers to be aware of heat-related risks to their workers — both indoors and outdoors — and to implement measures to keep workplaces safe.

WorkSafeBC notes that heat stress claims have been increasing in recent years. Between 2018 and 2020, WorkSafeBC had an average of 41 accepted claims per year from heat stress. The number of claims increased to 115 during the heat dome in 2021, and remained elevated in 2022, with a total of 81 claims

from heat stress.

Construction workers are traditionally among those most at risk of heat stress.

To prevent heat-stress injuries, WorkSafeBC requires employers to conduct a heat-stress assessment. Once done, employers must develop a heat stress exposure control plan. The plan should include training and safe work procedures.

WorkSafeBC encourages employers to engage their workers and joint health and safety committees in discussions to identify hazards related to heat and sun exposure and determine how to eliminate or reduce the risks. [Learn more.](#)

Industry News

[B.C. makes mass-timber investments for new demonstration projects](#)



The Government of British Columbia is providing more than \$4 million for 12 new mass-timber demonstration and research projects, which builds on B.C.'s global leadership in this area.

There are eight demonstration building projects and four research projects receiving funding from the third intake of the Mass Timber Demonstration Program (MTDP). Projects range from a new indoor aquatic centre in Golden to a mixed-use development featuring an 18-storey mass-timber tower in

Vancouver's Killarney neighbourhood. This will help further expand the use of mass timber in B.C.'s construction sector by providing designers and builders with real-world knowledge and experience they can learn from.

Learn more:

<https://www.masstimberbc.ca/funded-projects/>

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/business/construction-industry/bc_masstimber_action_plan_2022.pdf

Transportation & Infrastructure

[Highway 3 Bridges in East Kootenays to be Replaced for Improved Safety and Traffic Flow](#)



Work has commenced on the replacement of two bridges on Highway 3 in the East Kootenays region of B.C., aiming to enhance safety, and reliability, and accommodate the growing traffic volume.

The bridges, located near Jaffray, are being replaced with modern structures that will meet current standards and handle increased traffic demand.

Emil Anderson Construction was awarded a \$25.1 million contract for the project, with construction

underway and expected to be finished by 2025.

[Coquihalla repair work marks opening of fourth bridge](#)

Repair work on the Coquihalla highway in Hope, B.C., has reached a significant milestone with the opening of the fourth permanent bridge, marking the halfway point of the reconstruction project.

The new southbound Juliet Bridge, built to higher climate resiliency standards, opened on July 8, following the earlier openings of the northbound Bottletop Bridge and the southbound Jessica Bridge in June.

All bridges are designed with longer spans and pile footings to withstand high water levels and erosion, enhancing the highway's long-term resiliency to extreme weather. The project, led by KEA5 (a joint venture between Kiewit and Emil Anderson Construction), is expected to complete all six permanent bridge replacements by the end of 2023.

Slope stabilization work on Highway 4 moves toward full reopening



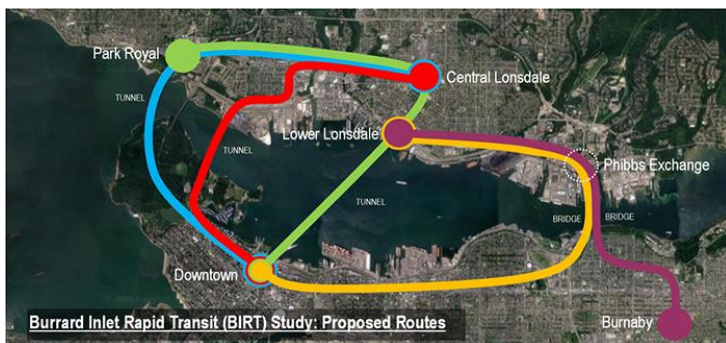
Beginning Monday, July 17, 2023, crews will undertake essential rock scaling on the hillside affected by wildfire along Highway 4 on Vancouver Island.

This work is critical in ensuring the long-term safety of the corridor.

A geotechnical assessment of the bluff has determined rock scaling is required before the highway can be safely reopened to two-way traffic at Cameron Lake Bluffs. This work will involve removing loose rocks above the highway. While this work is underway, the highway must be closed to keep crews and travellers safe from rockfall hazards.

Closures will be in place from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday to Friday until mid-August, with a two-hour opening to flush traffic daily between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. There will be no closures on weekends, including on the B.C. Day long weekend. Given the nature of this work, rock scaling must be completed during good weather and daylight hours.

Province planning study on future of Ironworkers Bridge



The Government of British Columbia is taking proactive measures by initiating a comprehensive study on the future of the Ironworkers Memorial Bridge and exploring the potential for high-capacity rapid transit across the Burrard Inlet to the North Shore.

With the bridge serving as a vital link for transportation, accommodating approximately 125,000 daily trips, the ministry emphasizes the importance of

planning for the long-term future of this crucial connection.

The study will involve input from various North Shore communities, and its findings could pave the way for the introduction of the first high-capacity rapid transit line connecting the North and South Shores, considering options such as new tunnels or bridges. TransLink is currently assessing the preferred technology and details for a dedicated transit crossing of Burrard Inlet, with a focus on socially and environmentally responsible travel solutions.