



Thursday, January 29, 2025
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This week's CLR INFO highlights key developments in housing, critical minerals, a new industry-led critical risks framework, and other issues shaping B.C.'s construction sector.

Industry News



Vancouver City Council approves temporary fee and policy changes aimed at restarting stalled residential construction projects in Vancouver.

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University of Victoria advances mass-timber 'living lab' campus project using real-time building data to support engineering research and climate goals.

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Growing concern among Broadway businesses as a four-month closure tied to the Broadway Subway Project raises fears of reduced sales, access challenges, and long-term impacts similar to past transit construction disruptions.

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Infrastructure and Transportation



B.C. speeds up mineral exploration permitting by introducing fixed permitting timelines, supported by \$3

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million in new funding to accelerate approvals following a record year for the sector.

Western and northern regions align on critical minerals strategy as provinces and territories sign an MOU to accelerate development, strengthen supply chains, and boost Canada's global position in critical minerals.

B.C. approves Eskay Creek mine under first Declaration Act Section 7 agreement following joint provincial-Tahltan consent to reopen the project and advance reconciliation-led resource development.

Labour and Economy



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Civil servants navigating job trades and buyouts amid planned federal public service cuts.



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Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives examines B.C.'s housing downturn and outlines what falling prices, rental trends, and stalled projects could mean next.



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Bank of Canada flags rising uncertainty linked to concerns over U.S. Federal Reserve independence.



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Canadian Construction Safety Council releases critical risks framework identifying 13 high-risk activities and introducing safe start checks to help prevent serious injuries and fatalities in the construction sector.



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B.C. expands youth mental-health and addiction supports as Foundry services extend to five communities, backed by \$1.7 million in provincial funding to improve access for young people aged 12–24 and their families.

Support and Funding



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

Sincerely,

Your CLR Team

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