



Thursday, February 12, 2026

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This week's CLR INFO covers expanded BCIT trades training, updated housing forecasts, provincial fiscal developments and construction labour market trends.

## Industry News

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**Construction begins on three new BCIT trades and technology training facilities**, expanding capacity for carpentry, mass timber and marine/steel fabrication programs

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## Infrastructure and Transportation

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**The DASH program enters its next phase**, leveraging digital review and prefabrication to reduce approval timelines and speed up housing projects.

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Government  
of Canada

**Statistics Canada reports total building permit values rose 6.8% in December**, led by multi-unit residential and institutional projects.

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**Seventeen relocated and modernized homes open for shishálh Nation**, demonstrating adaptive reuse and local construction partnerships.

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**Housing starts expected to slow through 2028**, with weaker construction activity forecast for British Columbia and Ontario markets.

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## Labour and Economy

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**An \$11.2 billion provincial deficit is projected for the current fiscal year**, with approximately 2,000 public sector positions reduced to date. Further administrative reductions are expected in the 2026 budget.

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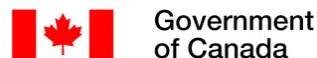
**February rental data shows apartment asking rents declining across B.C.**, including notable year-over-year decreases in Vancouver, New Westminster and Kelowna.

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**B.C. added 13,000 construction jobs year over year**; unemployment sat at 6.1%, with average wages among the highest in Canada.

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**B.C.'s labour market was stable in January**, contrasting with Ontario job losses, as national unemployment eased to 6.5%.

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## Health and Safety

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**FireSmart funding nearly depleted, leaving communities uncertain about wildfire prevention** as demand rises and the program shifts to a competitive model.

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## Support and Funding

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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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