



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



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



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 shíshálh 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



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.

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%.

Health and Safety



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



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

Sincerely,

Your CLR Team

Construction Labour Relations Association of BC, 97 Sixth Street, New Westminster, BC V3L 5H8, Canada

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