

## Joleen Kaminski

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**From:** CLRInfo  
**Sent:** April 23, 2021 11:43 AM  
**To:** Ken McCormack  
**Cc:** Maria Sushkova  
**Subject:** COVID-19 | April 23 | IMPORTANT UPDATE

**Importance:** High

### [CLR Members,](#)

This morning, the Province announced travel restrictions that limit non-essential travel in B.C. Please read the official information below.

### [Province introduces travel restrictions to curb spread of COVID-19](#)

On the advice of Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.'s provincial health officer (PHO), Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, has issued a new order using the extraordinary powers of the Emergency Program Act to prohibit non-essential travel between **three regional zones** in the province, using health authority boundaries. The regional zones are:

1. Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley (Fraser Health and Coastal Health regions);
2. Vancouver Island (Island Health region); and
3. Northern/Interior (Interior Health and Northern Health regions).

This order will be in effect from April 23 through May 25, 2021, (after the May long weekend), and applies to non-essential travel. There are circumstances where travel is essential and permissible, such as attending school or work, the commercial transportation of goods, returning to a principal residence, accessing child care, obtaining health care or assisting someone to receive health care. (A full list follows in a backgrounder.)

To help ensure this travel restriction is effective, the Province is also working with:

- The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure – on highway signage and increasing signage along the border with Alberta;
- BC Ferries – to restrict non-essential vehicle passage, deter non-essential bookings and limit sailings;
- tourism and accommodation industry association leaders – to strongly encourage all operators/businesses to support the order by declining new bookings from outside their regional zones and cancelling existing bookings from outside their regional zones;
- BC Parks – to inform the public about restrictions and refund bookings where necessary; and
- police departments – on establishing enforcement measures in the coming days.

The Province will work with police to establish periodic road checks at key travel corridors, such as near ferry terminals and on highway corridors that connect different regions of the province.

If compliance measures are deemed necessary by police, fines can be handed out. At the discretion of police, a contravention of this Emergency Program Act travel order may be subject to a \$575 fine.

Effective immediately, these measures are enacted under the provincial state of emergency, using the extraordinary powers of the Emergency Program Act. The act allows the minister to implement all procedures the minister considers necessary to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency, including controlling or prohibiting travel to or from any area of British Columbia.

## Learn More:

For more information about current COVID-19 travel restrictions, visit: [www.gov.bc.ca/covidtravel](http://www.gov.bc.ca/covidtravel)

## Backgrounder:

### Facts about limits on non-essential travel in B.C.

This order applies to non-essential travel. It does not apply to:

- carrying out a work-related purpose, including volunteer work;
- moving to a different principal residence or assisting a person to move for that purpose;
- commercially transporting goods;
- receiving health-care services or social services or assisting someone to receive those services;
- attending court;
- complying with a court order;
- spending parenting time with a minor child;
- accessing child care;
- attending classes or receiving training at a post-secondary institution or school;
- responding to an emergency or a critical incident, including incidents that involve search and rescue operations;
- providing care or assistance to a person who requires care or assistance because of:
  - a psychological, behavioural or health condition; or
  - a physical, cognitive or mental impairment.
- visiting by an essential visitor as provided in the guidance of the Ministry of Health set out in a document titled Ministry of Health - Overview of Visitors in Long-Term Care and Seniors' Assisted Living that was in effect on April 1, 2021;
- attending a funeral service;
- travelling under the authority of a variance of an order issued by the provincial health officer under the Public Health Act if the variance was made before this section comes into force;
- travelling by residents of the local health areas of Bella Coola Valley or Central Coast to Port Hardy to obtain essential goods and supplies;
- travelling by residents of the local health area of Hope to Chilliwack to obtain essential goods and supplies;
- travelling by residents of the Nisga'a Health Authority region into the Northern-Interior Health Authority region; and/or
- returning to one's own principal residence.

Stay safe.

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

Construction Labour Relations Association (CLRA) of BC  
97 – Sixth Street, New Westminster, BC V3L 5H8



O 604-524-4911

C 604-968-4911 | F 604-524-3925

E [kenm@clra-bc.com](mailto:kenm@clra-bc.com) | W [www.clra-bc.com](http://www.clra-bc.com)

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