

## CLR-INFO

### [CLR Members,](#)

Please find the latest updates on the current situation in the province.

## Provincial News

### [British Columbians urged to prepare for the spring flood season](#)



PreparedBC

People in B.C. are urged to take steps to prepare for spring floods to protect their families and property.

A warming trend this week is increasing temperatures to the highest level of the season with the possibility of a moderate to heavy rainfall forecast for the weekend.

The risk of spring flooding is elevated across B.C., particularly in parts of the Interior and the North, due to a significant delay of snowmelt from cooler-than-normal conditions in April and May. Current modeling indicates the risk that flood conditions may emerge over the weekend within watersheds through the Interior and northwest of B.C. British Columbians are urged to follow all directions of local authorities and take steps to prepare for the possibility of flooding.

#### **Learn More:**

Flood Preparedness Guide: [www.preparedbc.ca/floods](http://www.preparedbc.ca/floods)

For information on evacuation alerts and orders, visit: [www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca](http://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca)

### [B.C. minimum wage increased on June 1 for the lowest-paid workers](#)

As of June 1, 2022, B.C.'s lowest-paid workers got a pay boost as the minimum wage increased from \$15.20 to \$15.65 per hour, which is the highest in the country. A 2.8% increase also applied to the live-in camp leader and live-in home-support worker's minimum daily wages and the resident caretaker minimum monthly wage. For more information, visit the Employment Standards Branch [website](#).

## [British Columbians invited to share 2023 budget priorities](#)

People in B.C. are asked to share their ideas and priorities as government plans Budget 2023, by completing the survey, sending in written comments, or presenting to the committee.

The Budget 2023 consultation, including the online survey, is open. The deadline to receive all submissions is Friday, June 24, 2022, at 3 p.m. (PST).

Public input will be included in the committee's report to the legislative assembly, which will be released in August 2022.

### **Learn More:**

2023 budget consultation paper: [www.gov.bc.ca/budgetconsultations](http://www.gov.bc.ca/budgetconsultations)

For more information on how to participate in the consultation process, visit: <https://bcleg.ca/FGSbudget> or email: [financecommittee@leg.bc.ca](mailto:financecommittee@leg.bc.ca)

## [European trade mission concludes, significant agreements signed](#)



Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation, and B.C. delegates concluded a trade mission to Europe, highlighted by signing two agreements with European countries to create opportunities and jobs for British Columbians.

The 10-day trip included the signing of two agreements. The first was signed with the Netherlands on May 24, 2022, and centred around co-operation and resource sharing in agritech to support food security in B.C. and better position the province to trade and supply food globally. The second agreement was signed with Finland on May 31, 2022, and focused on both regions working together to further

develop the mass timber sector and forest bioeconomy.

The tour began in the Netherlands on May 22, continued to the United Kingdom on May 25, Ireland on May 27, Germany on May 30 and finished in Finland on June 1.

## **Industry and Infrastructure**

### [Construction begins on redeveloped Burnaby Hospital](#)



The redevelopment of Burnaby Hospital is expected to cost more than \$1.3 billion, making it among the province's largest healthcare investments. It will add two new patient-care towers with new units and operating rooms, resulting in 399 beds on the campus, a bigger emergency department and a new cancer treatment centre.

The redevelopment begins with a new six-storey Keith and Betty Beedie Pavilion with 83 beds in primarily single-patient rooms with a private bathroom. The pavilion will include a maternity unit, a neonatal intensive care unit and a

medical in-patient unit with negative pressure rooms and outbreak zones to isolate infectious diseases. For a video of the new hospital, visit: [www.fraserhealth.ca/bhvideo](http://www.fraserhealth.ca/bhvideo)

### [Broadway subway project progresses with the arrival of final tunnel-boring machine parts](#)

All the component parts for the tunnel-boring machines that will dig the twin tunnels for the Broadway subway project have arrived in the province from Germany. The parts are being transported to the site of the future Great Northern Way-Emily Carr Station, where they will be assembled in preparation for launch.

Once assembled, the two six-metre-wide machines will be launched separately from the Great Northern Way-Emily Carr Station and tunnel to their removal point at Cypress Street, just east of the future Arbutus Station.

The 5.7-kilometre extension to the Millennium Line is due to open in 2025. [Learn more](#)

### [Burnaby approves 40-acre Willingdon Lands project](#)



Burnaby city council approved the redevelopment of the Willingdon Lands on May 31, the largest First Nations-led real estate project in the city.

The land, located at 3405 Willingdon Avenue, is owned by the Musqueam Indian Band and Tsleil-Waututh Nation, who will develop the property with Aquilini Development Group. The site will accommodate more than 5,200 residential units, including 20%

rental and 300-plus non-market units.

Almost 4 million square feet of residential land is planned. Along with that, a 450,000 sq ft film studio will serve as the commercial anchor of the redevelopment and is estimated to create more than 3,000 jobs.

## **Mental Health & Substance Use**

### [Health Canada announces \\$11.78 million in funding to help support people who use substances in British Columbia](#)

To help support the response to the overdose crisis and address harms related to substance use and the toxic illegal drug supply, over the last two years, the Government of Canada has dedicated over \$182 million to Health Canada's [Substance Use and Addictions Program \(SUAP\)](#), and recently proposed another \$100 million through Budget 2022. \$11.78 million in funding has been granted to 14 innovative community-led projects in British Columbia.

With this funding, these projects will help to improve health outcomes for people who are at risk of experiencing substance-related harms and overdose by scaling up prevention, harm reduction and treatment efforts across B.C.

## [B.C. receives an exemption to decriminalize possession of some illegal drugs for personal use](#)



The federal Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health announced the granting of a three-year exemption under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) to remove criminal penalties for people who possess a small amount of certain illicit substances for personal use.

This exemption will be in effect from Jan. 31, 2023, to Jan. 31, 2026, throughout British Columbia. The Province will work with a broad range of partners to implement this policy change, including the federal government, health authorities, law enforcement, people with lived and living experience, Indigenous partners and community organizations to establish the public health and public safety indicators in order to monitor and evaluate the outcomes of this exemption in real-time. [Learn more](#)



Stay safe,

Ken McCormack | President & CEO



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