



Thursday, January 15, 2026
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This week's CLR INFO highlights new federal and provincial investments in housing and critical minerals, workforce changes as major infrastructure projects near completion, and shifting labour market conditions across B.C. Updates also cover upcoming labour negotiations, evolving trade opportunities, advancements in jobsite technology, and developments in health, safety, and skills training.

Infrastructure and Transportation



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Canada announces funding for 77 homes in Victoria with over \$50 million committed by federal, provincial, municipal, and community partners to deliver new affordable housing for seniors and families.



Site C employment continues to decline as project nears completion with BC Hydro reporting 958 workers on site in November, reflecting ongoing workforce reductions as remaining construction milestones are finalized.

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Labour and Economy



Canada's unemployment rate rises to 6.8% in December as labour force growth outpaced job gains despite the addition of 8,200 positions, with construction among sectors posting employment increases.

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Metro Vancouver home sales hit lowest level in over two decades in 2025 as higher inventory and economic uncertainty kept buyers on the sidelines, easing prices across detached, condo, and townhouse markets.

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Multiple B.C. labour negotiations could lead to strike activity in 2026 as transit workers, teachers, health-care staff, and paramedics enter bargaining, raising the potential for service disruptions across the province.

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B.C. and Canada sign wood construction agreement with China as a new five-year MOU aims to expand market access for B.C. lumber and promote modern wood and mass timber construction amid ongoing U.S. trade pressures.

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Health and Safety



Industry calls for national harmonization of trades safety training to reduce duplication, improve worker mobility, and maintain consistent safety standards across provinces.

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B.C. ends decriminalization pilot program as the province confirms it will not seek renewal of the federal exemption, shifting focus toward expanded mental-health and addictions treatment, recovery services, and targeted enforcement against drug trafficking.

Technology and Innovation



Humanoid robots begin entering job sites through early pilot projects as “physical AI” applications tested in hospitals and warehouses signal potential future use in construction for high-risk, labour-intensive tasks.

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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

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