



CLR INFO: Thursday, October 15, 2026

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This week's CLR INFO covers provincial and municipal elections, construction and economic developments, infrastructure investment, workforce training and funding opportunities, and workplace safety updates.

Industry News



Two elections in eight days: B.C. elects mayors and councils October 17 and MLAs October 24. Provincial advance voting runs October 16 to 21.

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B.C. leaders face off in televised debate: Party leaders discussed tax cuts, the \$13.8-billion deficit and infrastructure commitments during the October 14 debate.

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B.C. parties outline economic priorities: Proposals on the campaign trail include a new shipyard, faster project approvals, tax relief and industrial development strategies.

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Union labour study highlights productivity: New research reports that union labour was 17% more productive and reduced project costs by an average of 7% in the projects studied.

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Infrastructure and Transportation



Five First Nations gain economic interest in Coastal GasLink: TC Energy has closed a deal giving five B.C. First Nations a share in the pipeline's returns. A second Indigenous investment deal is expected this quarter.

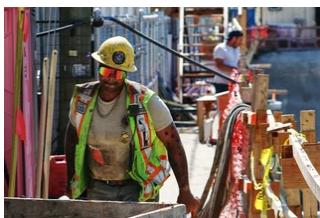
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Allenby Road closure extended: The closure on Allenby Road in Duncan, between Boys Road and Miller Road, now runs until spring 2027.

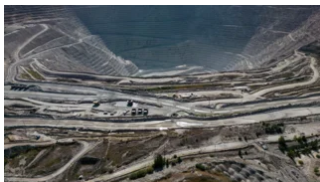
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Labour and Economy



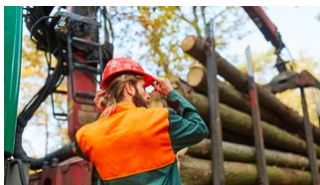
B.C. construction sheds 9,800 jobs in September: Construction made up nearly half of B.C.'s 20,200 lost jobs, partly due to a weak housing market. Nationally, Canada lost 68,000 jobs and unemployment rose to 6.5%.

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Provinces push for bigger mining tax credit: Several provinces and territories are calling on Ottawa to expand federal mining tax incentives to attract investment.

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U.S. softwood lumber levies ease to nearly 35%: Combined U.S. duties and tariffs on Canadian lumber dropped from 45% to almost 35%, but remain a heavy burden on B.C. producers.

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Health and Safety



Respiratory protection rules changing November 6: WorkSafeBC is updating respirator fit-testing and seal terminology. Core safety requirements remain unchanged.

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Ergonomics Day is October 22: WorkSafeBC is highlighting the importance of workplace ergonomics in reducing musculoskeletal injuries and improving worker safety.

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Technology and Innovation



Federal heat pump rebates coming in 2027: Ottawa plans rebates of up to \$10,000 for eligible households, a boost for residential retrofits and HVAC trades.

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Saint-Gobain completes Xypex acquisition: The deal for the B.C.-based concrete waterproofing maker closed October 1, adding to Saint-Gobain's lineup of technologies that make concrete last longer.

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Events



Save the Date: CLR's 58th AGM & Conference. Pencil in September 2027. We're heading to Spirit Ridge Resort in Osoyoos for industry insight and Okanagan networking.

[Add to calendar](#)

Support and Funding



Looking for grants or training support? Visit the [CLR website](#) for current funding opportunities and resources available to employers and apprentices.



Government
of Canada

Ottawa invests \$430M in union apprenticeship training: The five-year fund covers training facilities, equipment and innovation. Applications are open now, with the first deadlines on November 12.

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SkilledTradesBC funds trades pathways for underrepresented groups: Women, Indigenous people and other underrepresented groups can access pre-apprenticeship training, coaching and job placements through partners like BCCWITT and STEP.

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New B.C. initiative connects projects with apprentices: Fusion Rise's Project-to-Career program connects construction and renovation projects with emerging tradespeople.

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Sincerely,

Your CLR Team

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