

CLR-INFO

Weather Alert

Drivers should avoid travel with snow and freezing rain in the forecast



Drivers are asked to avoid travel unless absolutely necessary from tonight through Saturday afternoon, as Environment Canada is warning that snowfall, switching to freezing rain and rain, is expected to create adverse driving conditions throughout the south coast, including the Fraser Valley.

Beginning later tonight and through Friday morning, snow accumulations of 20 to 30 cm are expected. On Friday, the snow is expected to transition into ice pellets/freezing rain, which could lead to widespread ice on roadways and affect all vehicle travel.

For up-to-date information about road conditions, visit www.DriveBC.ca.

Highway 5 closed between Othello and Merritt

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure closed Highway 5 (Coquihalla Highway) between Othello, just east of Hope, and Merritt on Wednesday afternoon.

High arctic outflow winds are sweeping through the Coquihalla canyon blowing away sand applied for traction. This section of the Coquihalla will remain closed until the winds ease and the maintenance contractor can again establish traction on the highway surface.

Health & Safety

WorkSafeBC is reminding employers to update risk assessments as conditions change

As inclement winter weather continues to impact regions across the province, WorkSafeBC is reminding employers about their responsibility to protect workers from weather-related hazards. These hazards include extreme temperatures, wet and slippery walkways, and poor road conditions.

- **Cold stress:** Between 2017 and 2021, close to 100 claims were accepted by WorkSafeBC for injuries related to cold stress with 80% of those occurring during the winter months (November–March).

- **Slips, trips and falls:** Wet, snowy, and icy conditions can lead to slips, trips, and falls for workers in any sector. WorkSafeBC sees an approximate 11% increase in injuries caused by slips, trips and falls between November and March, many of them resulting in serious injuries, including fractures, sprains, and dislocations.
- **Motor vehicle incidents:** Winter weather and driving conditions can vary greatly across B.C., ranging from blizzard conditions and icy roads to heavy rain and wet roads. As a result, workers are 18% more likely to be injured in a motor vehicle incident during the winter.

WorkSafeBC Resources:

- [Cold stress](#)
- [Winter driving](#)
- [Shift into winter](#)
- [Slips, trips, and falls](#)

[B.C. COVID-19 trends stabilize](#)

The spread and severity of COVID-19 in B.C. has largely stabilized, according to partial data that the provincial government released today.

The province says that as of today there are 349 people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in B.C. hospitals. That is down from 374 one week ago.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

[Investing in tomorrow's leaders](#)



The Regional Representative Program Leadership Training is an initiative of the [BCCWITT](#) and [Skilled Trades BC](#).

The goal of the RRP Leadership Training is to increase the number of tradespeople from underrepresented groups (Indigenous, people of colour, 2SLGBTIAQ+, immigrants, people with disabilities, women) in leadership positions as both volunteers and staff within the skilled trades sector in British Columbia. Participants actively represent themselves, their trades, their regions, their identities, and their communities.

There are still spaces left in the upcoming 2SLGBTIAQ+ only cohort of RRP Leadership Training, taking place in Chilliwack in February. This fully funded program is a chance for participants to learn new skills, connect, and collaborate for a more equitable, inclusive, and just skilled trades sector.

Visit <https://bccwitt.ca/rrp-leadership-training/> to learn more and apply.

Transportation and Infrastructure

[The Coastal GasLink pipeline is 80% complete](#)



The Coastal GasLink pipeline is 80% complete and TC Energy expects construction to end this time next year.

As of December, 470 km of pipe has been installed on the 670-kilometre-long route, more than 6,000 workers have been on the ground, and more than \$1 billion has been awarded to local and Indigenous businesses, states a project update on the Coastal GasLink website.

Once completed, the project will pay \$21 million in annual property tax.

[Upgrades nearly complete on Highways 91 and 17](#)



Upgrades are nearly finished and all lanes are now open on Highway 91 at the Nordel Way interchange.

This marks the opening of the final interchange to full capacity for the \$260 million Highway 91/17 and Deltaport Way Upgrade Project, states a news release.

Minor construction work including asphalt repairs and paving on the River Road and Highway 17 interchange will continue through

spring 2023.

[Federal government invests in B.C. active transportation projects](#)



The Government of Canada is investing \$1.3 million to support 27 active transportation planning projects in British Columbia.

The funding will enable the City of Vancouver to produce a feasibility study for a 3.5-kilometre walking and cycling greenway connecting the Second Narrows Bridge with the Central Valley Greenway as well as a collaboration between TransLink, HUB Cycling and academics to complete a benchmarking analysis of the

Metro Vancouver bicycle network, including reviewing linkages with provincial health surveys, census data, ridership data, and collision and injury data.

Learn more:

[Backgrounder: Canada invests in active transportation projects across British Columbia](#)



Happy Holidays!

Ken McCormack | President & CEO