

## CLR INFO

### CLR Members,

Please take our brief [membership survey](#). Your input directly influences our initiatives and operations. As a bonus, you'll have a chance to win a **\$500 Amazon Gift Card**. Submit your feedback by **March 28th**.

We're also thrilled to announce our [next Speaker Series event](#) on British Columbia's economic outlook before the provincial election. Join us on **March 27th** to hear from Ken Peacock, Senior Vice President and Chief Economist at the Business Council of British Columbia. [Register here](#) to attend, or if you're unable to join live register to receive a recording link post-event.

## Industry News



### Housing Expansion: 870 Affordable Units Set for Vancouver Island

The province is set to deliver 870 new affordable housing units on Vancouver Island, in collaboration with local non-profit organizations. These units are designed for seniors, families, and Indigenous communities, aiming to alleviate the pressing housing demands in the area.

[Read more](#)

## Provincial News



## BC Regulator Halts Mandatory RNG Hookups, Sparks Energy Debate

The BC Utilities Commission rejected FortisBC's proposal for mandatory renewable natural gas (RNG) hookups for new buildings, citing "undue price discrimination" and concerns about the fairness and feasibility of the plan. The decision reflects broader discussions about the role of RNG in achieving greenhouse gas reduction targets and the need for more sustainable energy solutions.

[Read more](#)

## Labour and Economy



### Non-Res Capital Spending on the Rise into 2025

The latest survey by Statistics Canada shows a promising increase in non-residential capital and repair expenditures, with a significant upward revision for 2023 led by the mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction sectors. This positive trend is expected to continue into 2024 and 2025, supported by rising corporate profits and investor confidence, marking a gradual improvement in the outlook for non-residential capital spending.

[Read more](#)



### Federal Minimum Wage Hike to \$17.30

The federal minimum wage in Canada is set to increase to \$17.30 per hour on April 1, up from \$16.65, in response to the rise in the annual average consumer price index for 2023. This adjustment, affecting approximately 30,000 employees in the federally regulated private sector, is part of an annual review based on Canada's consumer price index.

[Read more](#)

## Infrastructure and Transportation



### **Investing in Northwest BC: A \$250 Million Boost for Critical Infrastructure**

The Government of British Columbia has announced a new funding agreement allocating \$250 million over five years to 21 local governments in the northwest region through the Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance. This funding aims to support infrastructure construction and the renewal or replacement of capital assets for core public services, such as roads, water, and sewer systems.

[Read more](#)

## Health and Safety



### **Strengthening BC's Flood Defenses: A New Era of Preparedness**

The province is launching a comprehensive flood strategy to enhance preparedness, investing approximately \$39 million in over 50 local disaster risk reduction projects. This initiative, led by the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, aims to bolster community defenses against flooding and other climate-induced extreme weather events, in collaboration with local governments and First Nations.

[Read more](#)

## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion



### **F.A.S.T. Unveils Tailored Women's High-Vis Safety Wear**

F.A.S.T. is launching a dedicated line of women's high-visibility safety clothing, responding to the



demand for better-fitting personal protection equipment in the construction and safety industry. The new line, developed with input from the fashion industry, includes a variety of garments tailored for the physical and functional requirements of women in these fields.

[Read more](#)

## Support and Funding



For a list of current support and resources visit the CLR website.

[Explore Resources](#)



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