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From: CLRInfo
Sent: November 19, 2021 8:39 AM
To: Ken McCormack
Cc: Maria Sushkova
Subject: CLR INFO - Nov 19

Importance: High

[CLR Members,](#)

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

Provincial Updates

[Provincial state of emergency declared](#)

The B.C. government is declaring a provincial state of emergency to mitigate impacts on transportation networks and movement of essential goods and supplies, and to support the provincewide response and recovery from the widespread damage caused by severe flooding and landslides in British Columbia.

Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, made the declaration on Nov. 17, 2021, based on the recommendation from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and Emergency Management BC. The declaration took effect immediately.

The state of emergency is initially in effect for 14 days and may be extended or rescinded as necessary. The state of emergency applies to the whole province and ensures federal, provincial and local resources can be delivered in a co-ordinated response to protect the public.

There are approximately 17,775 people evacuated due to impacts from the flooding, with 5,918 properties on Evacuation Order, and 3,632 properties on Evacuation Alert. The federal government has responded to and accepted British Columbia's requests for assistance. In the coming days, additional federal personnel and resources will be arriving in B.C. to assist.

Learn More:

For information on evacuation orders and alerts, visit Emergency Info BC: <https://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca/>

For the latest information on roads and travel, visit: www.drivebc.ca

[Financial assistance available for people affected by flooding](#)

Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) is now available for eligible British Columbians in southwest, central and southeast areas of the province and Vancouver Island who were affected by flooding and landslides from Nov. 14-16, 2021. This assistance includes all Indigenous communities, electoral areas and municipalities within the geographic boundaries of these areas.

DFA is available to homeowners, residential tenants, business owners, local governments, Indigenous communities, farmers and charitable organizations that were unable to obtain insurance to cover disaster-related losses. By regulation, DFA is unable to compensate for losses for which insurance was reasonably and readily available. Applications for the DFA event must be submitted to Emergency Management BC (EMBC) by Feb. 12, 2022.

British Columbians can access the DFA application online: <http://www.gov.bc.ca/disasterfinancialassistance>

Learn More:

Information, eligibility criteria, categories and applications can be found calling toll free 1 888 257-4777 or visiting: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-management/preparedbc/evacuee-guidance/disaster-financial-assistance>

B.C. COVID-19 pandemic update

As of Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021, 90.8% (4,207,832) of eligible people 12 and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 87% (4,030,851) have received their second dose.

In addition, 91.2% (3,944,285) of all eligible adults in B.C. have received their first dose and 87.5% (3,785,454) have received their second dose.

B.C. is reporting 468 new cases of COVID-19, including five epi-linked cases, for a total of 214,150 cases in the province.

There are 3,345 active cases of COVID-19 in the province, and 208,284 people who tested positive have recovered. Of the active cases, 355 individuals are currently in hospital and 110 are in intensive care. The remaining people are recovering at home in self-isolation.

Federal Updates

Health Canada authorizes the use of the Moderna Spikevax COVID-19 vaccine as a booster shot

Health Canada has [authorized](#) the use of the Moderna Spikevax COVID-19 vaccine as a booster shot.

A COVID-19 booster shot is an extra dose of the vaccine given after completion of the primary vaccine series. The booster shot is designed to help people maintain their protection against COVID-19 over time.

Health Canada received Moderna's submission to approve a booster on October 6, 2021. After a review of the evidence, Health Canada has determined that the Spikevax COVID-19 vaccine booster shot meets the Department's safety, efficacy and quality requirements.

The booster is authorized for adults 18 years of age and older, to be used at least six months after an individual has completed their primary vaccine series. The Spikevax COVID-19 booster is a half dose of the regular vaccine (50 mcg).

For information on authorized vaccines and treatments in Canada, visit the [COVID-19 vaccines and treatments](#) portal.

Health Canada receives submission from Moderna to authorize the use of the Spikevax COVID-19 vaccine in children 6 to 11 years of age

Nov 16, Health Canada received a [submission](#) from Moderna seeking authorization for the use of its Spikevax COVID-19 vaccine in children 6 to 11 years of age.

Health Canada will only authorize the use of Spikevax in children if its independent and thorough scientific review of the data in the submission shows that the benefits of the vaccine outweigh the risks in this age group. The assessment will include a detailed review of clinical trial results, as well as other evolving data and information about the health impacts of COVID-19 and variants of concern on children in Canada.

This is the second submission Health Canada has received for the use of a COVID-19 vaccine in this younger age group. On October 18, 2021, Health Canada received a submission for the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine in children aged 5 to 11 years of age. The submission is currently under review.

Studies with the Moderna Spikevax vaccine are ongoing in children less than 6 years of age, and other manufacturers are also testing their vaccines in children of various age ranges. Health Canada expects to receive data for different age groups for review in the coming months.

Business & Economy

Commission to recommend protections for forestry workers

The B.C. Government has appointed an industrial inquiry commission (IIC) to recommend ways to protect workers when contract tendering and the transfer of cutting and timber-harvesting rights fall outside of section 35 of the Labour Relations Code. Section 35 ensures that the collective bargaining rights of employees are protected when a business or part of it is sold, leased, transferred or otherwise disposed of.

Forming the IIC builds on the recommendations government received from the 2018 independent review of the Labour Relations Code, which identified forestry industry successorship protections as an area that needed further consultation, study and analysis.

Strengthening successorship protections aligns with the broader collaborative work happening across government on forestry. The commission will use the review's recommendations as a starting point for its research. Its findings will help guide future labour relations decision-making on union successorship issues in the forestry sector.

Learn More:

To see the terms of reference, visit: https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/IIC_TermsOfReference.pdf

To read the report, Recommendations for Amendments to the Labour Relations Code, visit: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/121/2018/10/Labour-Relations-Code-Review-Panel-Report-1.pdf>

To read Modernizing Forest Policy in B.C.: Setting the Intention and Leading the Forest Sector, visit: www.gov.bc.ca/modernforestpolicy

Province releases royalty review discussion paper, kicks off consultation

The Province is seeking public input on the design of a new oil and gas royalty system. British Columbians can have their say through the EngageBC web portal.

The Province has released a new discussion paper that provides background information and outlines three proposed options for a renewed system. The public can answer questions and provide feedback through written submissions on the site.

The release of the discussion paper follows the Independent Assessment of the current royalty system, which was made public on Oct. 7, 2021. Public consultation through the EngageBC web portal will be open from Nov. 10 to Dec. 10, 2021. The findings of the consultation will be made available in a What We Heard report and the outcomes of the royalty review will be released in the new year.

Learn More:

Take part in the engagement here: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/royaltyreview>

To read the independent assessment, visit: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/716/2021/11/BC-Royalty-Review-with-Errata-OCT29.pdf>

Province helps equip students for success with new tech, trades tools

Students throughout B.C. will gain the hands-on skills they need, thanks to new technology and trades equipment upgrades at 20 post-secondary institutions.

Public post-secondary institutions can replace obsolete equipment and acquire up-to-date technology. Each institution is receiving \$150,000 to buy equipment for trades and technology programs, with government funding totalling \$3 million. Institutions selected equipment to fit the programs they offer, from air compressors for welding, robotics kits for engineering and studio camera kits for animation, to dough sheeters and mixers for pastry arts.

Tech and trades jobs are in high demand in British Columbia. According to the 2019 Labour Market Outlook, in the trades, approximately 73,000 job openings are expected in the 10-year period from 2019-29 in occupations such as millwrighting, carpentry, construction and heavy-duty machinery.



Stay safe.

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

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