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Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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[CLR Members,](#)

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

Response to floods and mudslides

[Province prioritizes fuel for essential vehicles, introduces travel restrictions](#)

To help keep people safe and re-establish the movement of critical goods and services following severe flooding and landslides, the Province is taking temporary measures to ensure fuel (gas and diesel) is prioritized for essential vehicles, while keeping it available to people in B.C. Measures to restrict non-essential travel to and from impacted areas have also been introduced.

Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, has issued two new orders using the extraordinary powers of the Emergency Program Act. The first brings in a temporary order to ensure fuel remains available for essential vehicles in affected areas of the province. Under this order, essential vehicles have unrestricted access to fuel as required, while non-essential vehicles, including the general public, are limited to 30 litres per trip to the gas station.



The second order prohibits non-essential travel along severely affected highways. It applies to non-essential travel along specific sections of highways between the Lower Mainland and Interior of British Columbia. These measures are enacted under the provincial state of emergency, using the extraordinary powers of the Emergency Program Act. [Learn more...](#)

[Highway 1 reopened through the Fraser Valley](#)

Highway 1 reopened through the Fraser Valley between Chilliwack and Abbotsford on Thursday, Nov. 25, following cleanup, repairs and geotechnical assessments of the highway and its structures.

Although it is not subject to the essential travel order, people are asked to stay off Highway 1 through Abbotsford unless necessary. Commercial vehicles over 63,500 kilograms are prohibited from travelling on Highway 1 between Abbotsford and Chilliwack at this time.

Repairs to Highway 1 at the Sumas River Bridge were completed on Nov. 24, after the westbound approach failed during the heavy rain events. Additional repairs along the highway corridor will be ongoing throughout the coming weeks.

Environment and Climate Change Canada has special weather statements in effect for Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley, Squamish to Whistler and the Sunshine Coast from now into next week. Flood conditions may arise in the areas



over the period of these storms. The River Forecast Centre has issued high streamflow advisories for all regions of the Coast.

[Learn more...](#)

B.C. flooding evacuees to get additional financial support

The Province is teaming up with the Canadian Red Cross to provide additional financial assistance to help people meet the immediate needs associated with being evacuated due to flooding.

Financial assistance will be provided by the Red Cross to people whose primary residences have been placed on evacuation orders due to the flooding and extreme weather event that occurred Nov. 14-16, 2021. Eligible households will receive \$2,000. [Read more...](#)

WorkSafeBC reminding employers to prepare for emergencies, including evacuation and rescue

In response to recent severe weather events, which caused flooding, evacuations, power outages, and road closures, WorkSafeBC is reminding employers of their obligations to be prepared for emergencies, including planning for evacuation, rescue, and re-entry, when safe to do so.

Under the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation — specifically sections [4.13 through 4.16](#) and [Part 32](#) on emergency preparedness, response, evacuation, and rescue — all employers are expected to plan, prepare, and train their employees for all emergencies.

WorkSafeBC has the following resource available for employers:

- Emergency Response Planning: [12 Tips for an Effective Emergency Response Plan](#).

Pandemic Updates

Safe, effective COVID-19 pediatric vaccine available for children aged 5-11

On Nov. 19, 2021, after a thorough review, Health Canada approved the Pfizer vaccine for children 5 to 11. This vaccine uses a lower dose (10 micrograms), at one-third of the dose formulated for older children and adults, which will provide effective protection tailored to children's immune systems. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) advises that children receive a two-dose series of the vaccine with an interval of eight weeks or more between the first and second dose.

[Read more...](#)

Government of Canada announces adjustments to Canada's border measures

Nov. 19, the Government of Canada announced the adjustments to Canada's border measures.

Effective November 30, 2021, fully vaccinated individuals with right of entry to Canada who depart and re-enter the country within 72 hours of leaving Canada will not have to present a pre-entry molecular test. This exemption is only for trips originating in Canada taken by fully vaccinated Canadian citizens, permanent residents or individuals registered under the Indian Act, who depart and re-enter by land or by air and can demonstrate that they have been away from Canada for less than 72 hours. This exemption extends to accompanying children under 12, and individuals with medical contraindications to vaccination. Also effective November 30, 2021, Canada will expand the list of COVID-19 vaccines that travellers can receive to be considered fully vaccinated for the purpose of travel to Canada. The list will include Sinopharm, Sinovac and COVAXIN, matching the World Health Organization Emergency Use Listing. [Learn more...](#)

Government introduces legislation to create jobs and implement targeted COVID-19 support

Nov. 24, Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, introduced Bill C-2 in Parliament to implement the recently announced measures. This bill would:

- Extend the Canada Recovery Hiring Program until May 7, 2022, for eligible employers with current revenue losses above 10% and increase the subsidy rate to 50%.
- Deliver targeted support to businesses still facing significant pandemic-related challenges. Support would be available through three streams: **Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program, Hardest-Hit Business Recovery Program and Local Lockdown Program**.
- Extend the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit and the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit until May 7, 2022, and increase the maximum duration of benefits by 2 weeks. This would extend the caregiving benefit from 42 to 44 weeks and the sickness benefit from 4 to 6 weeks.
- Establish the **Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit** which would provide \$300 a week in income support to eligible workers who are directly impacted by a COVID-19-related public health lockdown in their region up until May 7, 2022. Eligible workers would be able to apply to receive this support retroactively from October 24, 2021.

B.C. continues progress on economic recovery in second quarter

Quick Facts:

- The Second Quarterly Report provides a general view of the Province's financials up to the end of September 2021 and does not factor in the effects of recent events, including flooding, infrastructure damage and emergency response.
- The second quarter outlook for 2021-22 forecasts a deficit of \$1.7 billion.
- Revenues have risen to \$68.2 billion and expenses have remained stable at \$68.9 billion for the 2021-22 fiscal year.
- Pandemic and recovery contingencies are \$3.25 billion, while the forecast allowance is unchanged at \$1 billion.
- For 2021-22, the taxpayer-supported debt-to-GDP ratio is projected to improve to 18.2%, and the taxpayer-supported debt-to-revenue ratio is forecast to improve to 95.0%.

[Learn more...](#)

Industry News

Apprentices bring value from classroom to job site

British Columbians and employers will learn the economic value of apprenticeships, thanks to a study funded by the B.C. government and the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum - Forum Canadien sur l'Apprentissage (CAF-FCA).

In 2006 and 2009, CAF-FCA conducted two national studies to calculate the economic return on training investment for employers who hired apprentices. In 2006, using a cost-benefit model, CAF-FCA found that for every dollar spent on apprenticeship training, an employer receives an average benefit of \$1.38. When the study was repeated in 2009, the return had increased to \$1.47.

While the net benefit to employers when hiring apprentices differs by trade, the results showed that in the majority of trades there is a positive return for those employers that invest in apprenticeship training, and the net benefit increases in each year of the apprenticeship.

To develop up-to-date data regarding the value of apprenticeship training to employers in B.C., CAF-FCA will update and replicate their 2009 study across 21 skilled trades. The research is expected to take 20 months, with estimated completion in July 2023. [Learn more...](#)

December 2021 public hearing on proposed changes to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation

WorkSafeBC will be holding a public hearing for proposed amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation. The virtual public hearing will be streamed live on **December 8, 2021**, in two sessions. The first will be from **11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** and the second from **3 to 5 p.m.**

The virtual hearing will cover proposed changes to the following parts of the OHS Regulation:

- [Part 3, Rights and Responsibilities — Reassignment of refused work](#)
- [Parts 1, 16, and 28, Housekeeping Amendments](#)

To learn more about the proposed regulatory amendments and on how to provide your feedback, [visit](#).



Stay safe.

Ken McCormack | President & CEO



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