

## Joleen Kaminski

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**From:** CLRInfo  
**Sent:** December 10, 2021 11:31 AM  
**To:** Ken McCormack  
**Cc:** Maria Sushkova  
**Subject:** CLR INFO - Dec 10

**Importance:** High



### [CLR Members,](#)

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



## Weather Alert

### [Prepare for strong winter storm heading for B.C.](#)

A strong winter storm is forecast to affect many parts of B.C. from Friday through to Sunday.

Heavy rain on the coast, snow in parts of the Interior and mountain passes and high winds across much of the province may pose further challenges in areas recovering from November's storms.

In particular, the Province is urging commercial and essential vehicle drivers along Highway 3 to prepare and be diligent if Environment and Climate Change Canada issues weather alerts. The current forecast calls for severe winter weather arriving Friday, Dec. 10, lasting until Sunday, Dec. 12. [Learn more](#)

## Response to floods and mudslides

### [Highway 1 fully reopened between Abbotsford, Hope](#)

The eastbound lanes of Highway 1 are open in the Bridal Falls area, fully reopening the highway with two lanes in each direction between Abbotsford and Hope.

Two lanes of separated traffic in each direction provide better traffic flow and connectivity between the Lower Mainland to Highway 3 and the Interior. Drivers can expect slow traffic with reduced speed limits. For updates, check: [www.DriveBC.ca](http://www.DriveBC.ca)

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

Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) eligibility has been expanded for people affected by flooding and landslides from Nov. 14 to Dec. 2, 2021, and now includes British Columbians in the northwest, southwest, central, and southeast areas of the province and on Vancouver Island.

This assistance includes all Indigenous communities, electoral areas and municipalities within those geographic boundaries.

DFA is available to homeowners, residential tenants, business owners, farm owners, 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. [Learn more](#)

## COVID Corner

### [Provincial Update](#)



As of Thursday, Dec. 9, 2021, 85.9% (4,281,608) of eligible people five and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 82.1% (4,094,539) have received their second dose.

In addition, 91.4% (4,237,016) of eligible people 12 and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, 88.3% (4,094,508) received their second dose and 12% (542,409) have received a third dose.

Also, 91.8% (3,970,376) of all eligible adults in B.C. have received their first dose, 88.8% (3,842,689) received their second dose and 13% (541,702) have received a third dose. B.C. is reporting 341 new cases of COVID-19, for a total of 221,576 cases in the province. [Learn more](#)

### [B.C. to start providing COVID-19 booster shots for people aged 65+ this week](#)

By the end of this week, people aged 65 years and up will start receiving a notification to book a booster appointment, as long as it's been at least six months since their second vaccine dose.

Last Friday, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), said it "strongly" recommends that people 50 years old and up get a booster shot, and that booster shots of an mRNA vaccine be offered to adults aged 18 to 49 at least six months after their second dose. The committee's announcement came after the federal government requested that it quickly provide directives on booster use as the Omicron variant spreads across the world.

British Columbians who are immunocompromised or work in health care have mostly received invites to book their booster appointment already. [Learn more](#)

### [Government of Canada signs agreements for COVID-19 oral antiviral treatments](#)

Dec 3, Filomena Tassi, federal minister of Public Services and Procurement, announced that the Government of Canada has signed agreements with Merck and Pfizer for access to their COVID-19 oral antiviral treatments.

The agreement with Merck provides Canada with 500,000 courses of its COVID-19 oral antiviral treatment, molnupiravir, with options for up to 500,000 more, pending Health Canada authorization.

The agreement with Pfizer provides Canada with an initial quantity of 1 million courses of its COVID-19 oral antiviral treatment, pending Health Canada authorization. Pfizer submitted a rolling submission for authorization to Health Canada earlier this week.

Health Canada is prioritizing the review of all COVID-19 vaccines and drugs. Deliveries of these treatments are expected to start following Health Canada authorization of the treatments. [Learn more](#)

## **Labour & Economy**

### [Economy expected to show continued strength, flood recovery poses challenges](#)

British Columbia's economic growth is expected to outpace Canada's in 2021 and 2022, according to projections from the Economic Forecast Council (EFC).

However, yet-to-be-determined economic impacts from recent flooding and extreme weather may affect future forecasts.

In the Province's Second Quarterly Report, which does not yet incorporate impacts from the recent extreme weather and flooding, B.C. projected a revised deficit of \$1.7 billion for the 2021-22 fiscal year, which is a significant improvement from the deficits previously estimated in Budget 2021 and the First Quarterly Report.

Environmental, social and governance are three main categories often discussed when evaluating sustainability performance, risk mitigation planning and societal well-being. [Learn more](#)

### [Six reappointments made to WorkSafeBC board](#)



Six directors have been reappointed to WorkSafeBC's governance board.

Effective Dec. 1, 2021:

- Baltej Dhillon, professional in the area of law or law enforcement, is reappointed as a director for a term ending Dec. 1, 2023
- Andrea Laurie, worker representative, is reappointed as a director for a term ending Dec. 1, 2023
- Lee Loftus, public interest representative, is reappointed as a director for a term ending Dec. 1, 2023
- Katherine Teschke, public interest representative, is reappointed as a director for a term ending Dec. 1, 2023, and
- Rebecca Packer, professional providing healthcare or rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities, is reappointed as a director for a term ending Dec. 1, 2023

Effective Dec. 31, 2021:

- Donald Smith, actuary, is reappointed as a director for a term ending Dec. 31, 2024.

Information on WorkSafeBC's board of directors can be found here: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/who-we-are/leadership/board-directors>

### **New chair appointed to Workers' Compensation Appeal Tribunal**

A new chair has been appointed to lead the organization that workers or employers can access if they want to appeal a decision from WorkSafeBC. Maria Luningning Alcuítas is appointed as a member and chair of the Workers' Compensation Appeal Tribunal for a term ending Dec. 31, 2024.

The tribunal operates independent of government and is the final level of appeal in the province's workers' compensation system. It has authority to decide appeals about specific types of work-related matters outlined in sections 288 and 289 of the Workers Compensation Act.

More information on the Workers' Compensation Appeal Tribunal can be found at: <https://www.wcat.bc.ca/home/about/>

## **Industry News**

### **Feds give \$4.1M to B.C. port to ease supply chain**

The Government of Canada is contributing up to \$4.1 million to the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority under the National Trade Corridors Fund to provide relief in the aftermath of the floods in British Columbia.

The initiative, led by the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, will help ease supply chain constraints and bottlenecks in the Lower Mainland. It will address current supply chain disruptions, which have created delays and service challenges at the port's container facilities, by delivering additional container storage capacity, through the preparation of an undeveloped 40-acre parcel land within the Fraser Richmond Industrial Lands for the handling and storage of empty containers. [Learn more](#)

## **Public Safety**

### **B.C. experiences record loss of life due to drug toxicity**

An increasingly toxic and volatile illicit drug supply has claimed at least 201 lives in October and 1,782 lives in the first 10 months of 2021, according to the latest preliminary data released by the BC Coroners Service. Key preliminary findings are below:

- 71% of those who have died as a result of suspected drug toxicity in 2021 were aged between 30 and 59, and 79% were male.
- The number of illicit drug toxicity deaths in October 2021 equate to about 6.5 deaths per day.

- Illicit drug toxicity deaths in B.C. rank second only to cancer in terms of years of life lost.
- The median age of those who died as a result of illicit drug toxicity in 2020 was 43.
- Analysis shows no indication that prescribed safe supply is contributing to illicit drug deaths.

**Learn More:** [Illicit drug overdose death report \(Data to Oct. 31, 2021\)](#)



Ken McCormack | President & CEO



**HOLIDAY HOURS**  
The CLR offices will be closed from  
12 PM, Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and  
Reopen at 8 AM on Tuesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
**Phone messages will be monitored during the closure.**

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