

CLR-INFO

CLR Members,

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

Provincial Update

Province launches review of pandemic response



The Province is launching an independent review and public consultation on government's operational response to the COVID-19 pandemic to better inform preparations and responses to future emergencies.

Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, has appointed an independent project team to conduct a review of the B.C. public sector's response to COVID-19 since March 2020.

The project team includes three long-time, former senior leaders of the BC Public Service: Bob de Faye; Dan Perrin; and Chris Trumpy.

Until April 20, people in British Columbia can provide written feedback about how they, or their business or organization, has been affected by government's operational measures and communication throughout the pandemic.

A report with a comprehensive summary of the findings is expected by fall.

Learn More:

To view the terms of reference for the review, visit:

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/121/2022/03/COVID-19LessonsLearnedTOR-FINAL09MAR22.pdf>

To participate in the public engagement until 4 p.m. (Pacific time) on April 20, 2022, visit:

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/consultation/covid-19-lessons-learned-review/>

COVID-19 pandemic update

As of Wednesday, March 23, 2022, 90.8% (4,526,085) of eligible people five and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 87.1% (4,341,506) have received their second dose.

B.C. is reporting 269 new cases of COVID-19, for a total of 354,603 cases in the province. There are 258 individuals hospitalized with COVID-19, and 49 are in intensive care.

Since December 2020, the Province has administered 11,458,133 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Pfizer Pediatric COVID-19 vaccines.

Learn More:

For rapid tests for people 18+ at pharmacies, visit: <http://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2022HLTH0095-000409>

For the March 10, 2022, announcement on lifting COVID-19 restrictions, visit: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2022HLTH0081-000324>

For information on when to get a COVID-19 test: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing/when-to-get-a-covid-19-test>

For information on COVID-19 treatments including Paxlovid: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/treatments>

Rapid tests for people 18+ available at pharmacies



Starting Wednesday, March 23, rapid antigen test kits are available to people aged 18 years and older through community pharmacies.

Eligible individuals can pick up one kit containing five tests every 28 days from participating pharmacies at no cost. Individuals should pick up a test kit when not having symptoms of illness to use at a future time when they have symptoms of illness. Guidelines for testing continue to indicate tests should be used for symptomatic individuals.

Learn More:

For more information on the government's distribution of rapid tests: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/testing>

For information on rapid antigen testing for COVID-19:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing/rapid-antigen-testing>

For information on when to get a COVID-19 test at a collection centre:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing/when-to-get-a-covid-19-test>

Recovery and Resiliency Fund provides new support for B.C.'s non-profit sector



A new \$34-million fund for non-profit groups in British Columbia will provide support for organizations that were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to struggle during recovery.

The investment of \$30 million from Budget 2022 includes an additional \$4 million from Vancouver Foundation. The non-profit sector contributes \$6.7 billion to the provincial economy and employs more than 86,000 British Columbians at approximately

29,000 non-profit organizations throughout the province.

The fund is anticipated to launch in June 2022. To stay up to date on the fund, interested organizations can subscribe to Vancouver Foundation at:

<https://www.vancouverfoundation.ca/grants/recovery-and-resiliency-fund>

Outstanding people recognized for service during the pandemic



Thirty-one people from throughout B.C. and one group are being honoured with the Medal of Good Citizenship, recognizing outstanding contributions to the well-being of their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The virtual medal presentation is taking place on Thursday, March 24, 2022.

In addition to the Medal of Good Citizenship, people may be nominated for the Province's other honour, the Order of British Columbia, which recognizes those who have served with the greatest distinction and excelled in any field of endeavour, benefiting British Columbians and others throughout Canada and beyond. The deadline for nominations for the Order

of B.C. this year is April 4, 2022.

Learn More:

2021 medal recipient biographies: https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/MGC_Recipients.pdf

Medal of Good Citizenship information, including how to nominate generous and kind role models in your community: www.gov.bc.ca/medalofgoodcitizenship

Order of B.C.: www.orderofbc.gov.bc.ca

COVID Recovery

UN Research Roadmap guides investments in research to support global recovery from COVID-19 pandemic

In November 2020, the United Nations released the *UN Roadmap for the COVID-19 Recovery* to coordinate and inspire global investments in research that supports a science-based recovery from the pandemic. The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) led the development of the *Roadmap* with 37 other funding agencies in Canada and other countries.

Earlier this year, to further strengthen Canada's research capability, the Government of Canada announced the creation of the Centre for Research on Pandemic Preparedness and Health Emergencies. The Research Centre, which is housed within CIHR, collaborates with other federal departments and agencies, as well as stakeholders domestically and internationally.

CIHR and its partners will support two new research initiatives that align with the *Roadmap*: a \$20M investment in Women RISE: Research to support women's health and economic empowerment for an equitable COVID-19 recovery, led by Canada's International Development Research Centre; and a \$24 million investment in a New Frontiers in Research Fund 2022 Special Call: Research for Postpandemic Recovery.

Associated links

[UN Research Roadmap for the COVID-19 Recovery](#)

[Canada leads development of new UN Research Roadmap for the COVID-19 Recovery](#)

[COVID-19 Research Project Tracker](#)

[CIHR Centre for Research on Pandemic Preparedness and Health Emergencies](#)

Work Safety



The memorial honouring the victims of asbestos exposure – a leading cause of workplace deaths in North America, will be installed on the north-west corner of the waterfront path of the Vancouver Convention Centre. The official unveiling ceremony will take place on **Monday, June 22, 2022, at 10 am.**

The provincial government recently introduced Bill 5 – 2022: Workers Compensation Amendment Act, 2022, which proposes new protections to help keep workers safe from the danger of asbestos.

The bill is currently being considered by the Legislative Assembly. Upon passage of the bill, WorkSafeBC will implement the new requirements.

Learn More:

[Asbestos health and safety information](#)

[Asbestos inspectional initiative \(commercial\)](#)

[Asbestos inspectional initiative \(residential\)](#)

Transportation and Infrastructure

[Permanent repairs coming for flood-damaged sections of Coquihalla Highway](#)



The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is moving forward on permanent repairs to the Coquihalla (Highway 5). The ministry has issued a request for proposals (RFP) to select contractors who qualified through the Highway Reinstatement Program request for qualifications (RFQ) process, inviting these companies to take part in the competitive selection process to design and construct permanent repairs needed at three sites.

The RFP for the repair project closes in mid-April with the contract expected to be awarded in late April or early May. Construction is expected to begin in summer and be completed by the end of this year.

Learn More: For updated highway information, visit: [DriveBC.ca](#)

[Key Kaleden intersection to receive safety upgrade](#)

After receiving community input, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is moving forward on building a protected left-turn lane at the junction of Highway 97 and Highway 3A, which will improve safety for residents and travellers through the region.

The design for the protected left-turn lane is complete, and a tender will be issued in the coming days. Construction on the project could begin as early as summer 2022.

Climate Action

[Government announces Climate Action Incentive Payments for 2022-23](#)

Mar 23, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Chrystia Freeland, announced the 2022-23 Climate Action Incentive (CAI) payment amounts. To ensure that carbon pollution pricing remains affordable for Canadians, the federal government returns all proceeds to the jurisdictions where they were collected, with the majority of proceeds from the federal pollution pricing system returned directly to Canadians through CAI payments.

In 2022-23, the increased CAI payments mean a family of four will receive \$745 in Ontario, \$832 in Manitoba, \$1,101 in Saskatchewan, and \$1,079 in Alberta. Families in rural and small communities are eligible to receive an extra 10%. Full details on payment amounts for individuals and families in 2022-23 are specified in the [backgrounder](#).

Associated links

[Canada Revenue Agency: Climate action incentive payment](#)

[Economic and Fiscal Update 2021](#)

[Government of Canada Releases Economic and Fiscal Update 2021](#)



Stay safe,

Ken McCormack | President & CEO



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