

## CLR-INFO

### [CLR Members,](#)

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

### **Provincial Update**

#### [COVID-19: Cases in B.C. hospitals up 33% in one week, ICU cases hold flat](#)

British Columbia's latest weekly data report shows the number of COVID-19 cases in hospitals has climbed more than 33% since last Thursday.

The B.C. Centre for Disease Control reported 485 cases in hospitals, up from 364. There are currently 38 patients in critical or intensive care.

The province also added another 2,036 confirmed cases over the past week, but only conducted 26,872 PCR tests, which means the number is likely an under-representation of the true case count.

According to the BCCDC, 238 people were admitted to hospital with COVID-19 between April 10 and April 16.

### **Pandemic Supports**

#### [Government of Canada issuing one-time grant payment this week for Guaranteed Income Supplement recipients who received pandemic benefits](#)

The Government of Canada is providing a one-time grant payment this week to Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) and Allowance recipients who received the Canada Emergency Response Benefit or the Canada Recovery Benefit in 2020. This measure was announced in the 2021 *Economic and Fiscal Update*.

Additionally, the Government has taken action to prevent future reductions in GIS or Allowance benefits for seniors who received pandemic benefits in 2021 by introducing Bill C-12. Bill C-12, which received Royal Assent on March 3, 2022, amends the Old Age Security Act to exclude any income received under the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, the Canada Recovery Benefit, the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit, the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit and the Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit for the purposes of calculating the amount of GIS and Allowance payable beginning in July 2022.

#### **Associated links**

[One-time grant for Guaranteed Income Supplement recipients who received pandemic benefits](#)

[Legislation to support low-income seniors who received pandemic benefits receives Royal Assent](#)

[Economic and Fiscal Update 2021](#)

## Industry and Environment

### [Minister's statement on Woodfibre LNG decision](#)

Bruce Ralston, Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, has released the statement in response to the decision of Woodfibre LNG to issue notice to proceed with major construction in 2023:

“Woodfibre’s decision to issue a notice to proceed to its prime contractor, McDermott International, is a strong indication that industrial companies see B.C. as a secure jurisdiction in which to invest.

“Woodfibre LNG was permitted in 2015 and recently announced a further \$600 million in its project this year.

If successful, Woodfibre will be the lowest-emission LNG facility in the world.

### [B.C. forestry industry to benefit from trade office in Vietnam](#)

A new Forestry Innovation Investment (FII) office in Vietnam will help drive trade opportunities and sustainable jobs in B.C.’s forestry sector while offering greater protection from market volatility and other global challenges.

The office is a key first step in developing B.C.’s Trade Diversification Strategy, part of the StrongerBC Economic Plan. The strategy will allow businesses to connect with more international partners, creating more jobs in B.C. and helping to protect B.C.’s trade network from supply-chain disruption, market instability and geographically specific trends and changes.

#### **Learn More:**

For more information on the StrongerBC Economic Plan, visit: <https://strongerbc.gov.bc.ca/plan>

For more information on Forestry Innovation Investment (FII), visit: <https://www.bcfii.ca/>

For more information on Canadian Wood Vietnam, visit: [www.canadianwood.com.vn](http://www.canadianwood.com.vn)

## Transportation and Infrastructure

### [Work on the new five-lane Steveston Interchange begins this year](#)

Flatiron Constructors Canada Limited has been confirmed as the contractor for the new Steveston Interchange Project, which is an important element of the Highway 99 Tunnel Program. Starting this year, the contractor will begin relocation of utilities around the Steveston Interchange in preparation for construction, while it refines the design of the new interchange. People will see major construction begin in 2023, after preliminary work and completion of the interchange design. The new interchange is expected to be in operation in 2025.

The value of the contract awarded to Flatiron Constructors Canada Limited is \$44.25 million. The contract includes design and construction of the new Steveston Interchange and removal of the existing structure.

#### **Learn More:**

More information on the Highway 99 Tunnel Program is available online: [www.highway99tunnel.ca](http://www.highway99tunnel.ca)

## Workplace Safety

### Pause, Reflect and Remember on the National Day of Mourning



On April 28, 2022, the National Day of Mourning, workplaces across Canada will pause, reflect, and remember those who lost their lives or suffered an injury or illness due to their work. The day also highlights the importance of safe work and preventing further tragedies. The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) encourages organizations to observe a minute of silence at 11:00 a.m. on this day.

To help commemorate the day with a moment of silence, CCOHS has made a video available for workplaces to share or watch whether they're working onsite or remotely.

### What jobs are too hazardous for young workers?

British Columbians are invited to provide feedback on what types of work are too hazardous to be done by youth under age 16, and in some cases, under 19.

The Province has launched a consultation site where stakeholders and the public can review and comment on a proposed framework that outlines the types of jobs that could be defined as hazardous and unsuitable for young workers. The consultation can be accessed through the government's engagement site at: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc>.

Based on an examination of WorkSafeBC injury data and other jurisdictions' labour laws relating to hazardous employment, a number of industries have been identified, and are being considered for B.C.'s hazardous work regulation for young people. These include areas within construction, forestry, food processing, oil/gas and power, asbestos abatement and others.



Stay safe,

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

