

## CLR-INFO

### [CLR Members,](#)

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

## Provincial News

### [Investments help B.C. prepare for wildfire season](#)



To support wildfire prevention, preparedness and resilient communities, Budget 2022 provided \$359 million in new funding to protect British Columbians from wildfires.

This is the largest investment in the history of the wildfire service and is helping transform the organization into a year-round service and shift from its current reactive model to a more proactive approach. This includes \$145 million to strengthen the

BC Wildfire Service and Emergency Management BC.

The Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) administers the FireSmart Community Funding and Supports program. It processes grant applications in partnership with the Ministry of Forests and the First Nations' Emergency Services Society of B.C.

#### **Learn More:**

June Wildfire Seasonal Outlook: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/wildfire-situation/fire-weather>

FireSmart program: <https://firesmartbc.ca/>

Community Resiliency Investment program: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/funding-for-wildfire-prevention/crip>

Information about Community Resiliency Investment grants is available on the Union of B.C. Municipalities website:

<https://www.ubcm.ca/funding-programs/local-government-program-services/community-resiliency-investment>

## [Province provides funding to reduce community wildfire risks, enhance forest health](#)

To reduce wildfires in higher-risk communities, the B.C. government is providing \$25 million in new funding to the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC).

This investment will support community projects that reduce wildfire risk and enhance wildlife habitat, greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction, forest recreation and ecological resiliency. Applications for this funding will open on Monday, June 20, 2022.

### **Learn More:**

Forest Enhancement Society of BC: <https://www.fesbc.ca/>

## [WorkSafeBC reminds employers to prepare for flooding and have evacuation plans in place](#)



Due to recent flood warnings for parts of B.C., WorkSafeBC is reminding employers of their responsibility to prepare for the risk of flooding – including planning for evacuation and rescue.

B.C.'s cold and wet spring season has caused a notable spike in the flood risk for the province, the B.C. River Forecast Centre reported in its May snow survey. Delayed snowmelt, increased rainfall, and a sudden change to warmer weather have increased the risk of flooding

around the province.

To help employers prepare for emergency evacuations, including from floods, WorkSafeBC has developed a new resource for employers, called [Emergency evacuation planning for your workplace](#). This publication is designed to help employers develop effective procedures for evacuating a workplace.

### **Learn More:**

[Floodplain Maps by Region - Province of British Columbia](#)

[Be prepared for floods - Province of British Columbia](#)

[Flood Warnings and Advisories - River Forecast Centre - Province of British Columbia](#)

[Recovering after a flood - Province of British Columbia](#)

## **Federal News**

### [Suspension of the mandatory vaccination requirement for domestic travellers and federally regulated transportation workers](#)

The Government of Canada announced that, as of June 20, it will suspend vaccination requirements for domestic and outbound travel, federally regulated transportation sectors and federal government employees.

While the suspension of vaccine mandates reflects an improved public health situation in Canada, the COVID-19 virus continues to evolve and circulate in Canada and globally. Given this context, and because

vaccination rates and virus control in other countries vary significantly, current vaccination requirements at the border will remain in effect.

## Labour and Economy

### Minister's statement on May's Labour Force Survey results



Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation, has issued the statement on the release of Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey for May 2022.

According to the survey, the unemployment rate in B.C. has dropped to a three-year low of 4.5%, which is an improvement from 5.4% in April 2022 and 7.0% a year ago in May 2021. There are now nearly 100,000 more people working in B.C. than prior to the pandemic.

“With more than one million jobs forecast over the next decade, we remain laser-focused on meeting our generational commitment to close the skills gap and train more people for the jobs of the future.

“And we're getting the word out of our skilled labour force internationally. On my recent 10-day trade mission to Europe, we signed agreements with the Netherlands and Finland to help create opportunities and jobs for British Columbians in fields such as agritech and mass timber”, the minister said.

#### **Learn More:**

To read more about the European trade mission: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2022JERI0027-000878>

StrongerBC For Everyone: B.C.'s Economic Recovery Plan: <https://strongerbc.gov.bc.ca/>

## Transportation and Infrastructure

### Significant partnership with Japan to better support transportation infrastructure



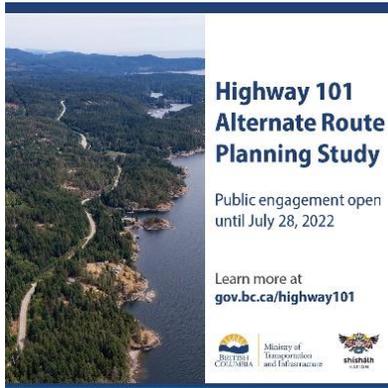
A new agreement signed between the Province of B.C. and the group Japan Overseas Infrastructure Investment Corporation for Transport and Urban Development (JOIN) will help deliver innovative and clean solutions for future transportation projects and priorities.

Ravi Kahlon co-signed the new memorandum of co-operation with Tatsuhiko Takesada, president and CEO of JOIN, in Vancouver. The focus of the memorandum of cooperation is to increase information sharing, discussions, and coordination with Japan on transportation infrastructure projects and solutions.

#### **Learn More:**

For more information on JOIN, visit: <https://www.join-future.co.jp/english/>

## Long-term Highway 101 planning open to public feedback



People living on the Sunshine Coast can provide input on long-term solutions to improve travel on the Highway 101 corridor between Sechelt and Gibsons, with public consultation underway on the Highway 101 Alternate Route Planning Study.

People are invited to attend the virtual open house, which runs from June 16 to July 28, 2022, and connect to one of two virtual information sessions on June 23 or June 29. To view the online engagement materials and complete an online survey, visit: [www.gov.bc.ca/Highway101](http://www.gov.bc.ca/Highway101)

Feedback received will be considered in shortlisting the options, with the preferred long-term solution identified by early 2023.

## Permanent repairs begin soon to Coquihalla and Highway 1



Permanent repairs to flood-damaged sections of the Coquihalla (Highway 5) and Highway 1 will soon be underway. The contract for development and early construction work on sections of the Coquihalla between Hope and Merritt has been awarded to KEA5, a joint venture between Peter Kiewit & Sons and Emil Anderson Construction.

The ministry has also issued a request for proposals (RFP) for damaged sections along Highway 1 through the Fraser Canyon. The RFP process invites select contractors who qualified through the Highway Reinstatement Program request for qualifications (RFQ) process to take part in the competitive selection process to design and construct the permanent repairs needed at three sections of the highway. The RFP for the repair project will close Sept. 14, 2022, with the contract awarded shortly after.

### **Learn More:**

For updated highway information, visit: [DriveBC.ca](http://DriveBC.ca)

For more information on the highway flood recovery projects: [gov.bc.ca/highwayfloodrecovery.com](http://gov.bc.ca/highwayfloodrecovery.com)

## Faster travel along Highway 4 this summer



Daytime travel along Highway 4 will be faster and easier this summer now that top-of-the-hour closures have been eliminated on Kennedy Hill.

From June 30 until Sept. 5, 2022, single-lane alternating traffic will be implemented seven days a week between 5 a.m. and 7 p.m. Top-of-the-hour closures will take place from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. and nightly closures will continue to take place from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m.

with a release to clear queued traffic at 2 a.m.

The project is expected to be substantially complete by the end of summer 2022 with finishing touches continuing throughout the fall.

Once complete, the Highway 4-Kennedy Hill Safety Improvement Project will create a safer and more reliable connection between Port Alberni and the west coast of Vancouver Island.

## Mental Health & Substance Use

### [Toxic drug supply continues to devastate communities throughout B.C.](#)

At least 161 lives were lost to toxic illicit drugs in B.C. in April 2022, which is a figure that equates to approximately 5.4 deaths per day. While men have historically accounted for nearly 80% of illicit drug-related deaths, more than 26% of those who died in April were female, continuing a shifting trend that began earlier in the year. Illicit drug toxicity is the leading cause of unnatural death in British Columbia.

#### Learn More:

Illicit drug overdose death report (Data to April 30, 2022):

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/birth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce/deaths/coroners-service/statistical/illicit-drug.pdf>



Stay safe,

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