

CLR-INFO

CLR Members,

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

Provincial News

Stay safe on the road during the B.C. Day long weekend



As the B.C. Day long weekend approaches, travellers are encouraged to stay safe on the road by planning ahead, using extra caution and being prepared for higher-than-normal traffic volumes.

Drivers can expect delays on Coquihalla Highway 5 as portions of the highway are one lane in each direction, due to damage from the November 2021 atmospheric river and ongoing reconstruction work. The heaviest traffic volumes on the Coquihalla are

anticipated from noon until 8 p.m. daily.

For the most up-to-date highway travel information check: www.DriveBC.ca

B.C. encourages parents to register children under 5 for COVID-19 vaccine



Approximately 208,000 eligible infants and children in British Columbia between six months and four years of age will soon be able to receive vaccine protection against COVID-19.

Following Health Canada's approval of the Moderna vaccine, and the National Advisory Committee on Immunization's (NACI) recommendation on its use, for those aged six months to four years, regional health authorities will start offering this vaccine at clinics throughout the province on Aug. 2, 2022.

To learn more about COVID-19 vaccines for young children, [visit](#).

[Agreement with Korean sister province will bring more investment to B.C.](#)



Trade Diversification:
BC-South Korean Province
Sign Action Plan

As a part of the StrongerBC Economic Plan and the next step in B.C.'s Trade Diversification Strategy, the Province has signed an action plan with Gyeonggi Province in South Korea.

The action plan will better support mutual economic growth to create more opportunities for businesses and people in British Columbia.

Learn More:

For more information about trading and investing with British Columbia, visit: <https://www.britishcolumbia.ca/>

For more about the Canada-Korea Free Trade Agreement, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/international-investment-and-trade/trade-policy-negotiations/international-trade/ckfta>

[Province seeks nominees for Medal of Good Citizenship](#)



British Columbians are encouraged to nominate their fellow citizens who have made outstanding contributions through exceptional service to their communities for this year's Medal of Good Citizenship.

Nominations for this year's Medal of Good Citizenship are being accepted until Sept. 6, 2022. Nominations received after that date will be considered for the 2023 cycle. British Columbians can

nominate individuals, organizations or youth in their communities.

Learn More:

For more information about the Medal of Good Citizenship, including how to nominate people, visit: www.gov.bc.ca/medalofgoodcitizenship

Medal recipients from 2021: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/celebrating-british-columbia/honours-and-awards/medal-good-citizenship/latest-recipients>

Federal News

[Monkeypox: Outbreak update](#)

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is working with provincial and territorial public health partners to investigate cases of monkeypox in Canada. As the investigation evolves, it is anticipated that additional cases will be reported in Canada. Provinces and territories have publicly reported 745 cases of monkeypox as of July 27, 2022 at 12:00 pm EDT.

PHAC is continuing to collect and analyze epidemiological information reported by the provinces and territories to help define the national scope of the investigation and to determine if there are any increased health risks to people in Canada.

Latest announcements

[Remarks from the Chief Public Health Officer, July 27, 2022](#)

[Update on monkeypox in Canada – July 23, 2022](#)

[Backgrounder: Funding to help community-based organizations address monkeypox](#)

Health & Safety



[WorkSafeBC reminds employers to keep both indoor and outdoor workers safe from heat stress](#)

Last year, B.C. was impacted by a record-setting heat dome with extreme temperatures throughout the province. As a result, WorkSafeBC accepted 115 claims from workers related to heat stress in 2021, a 180% increase over the average of 41 claims in the previous three years.

To prevent heat-stress injuries, WorkSafeBC requires employers to conduct heat stress assessments. As appropriate, employers must have a heat stress mitigation plan that provides education and training in recognizing the symptoms of heat-related injuries.

WorkSafeBC encourages employers to engage their workers early in the process so they understand the risks, and participate in the assessment and control of those risks.

Find more heat stress resources and information [here](#).

Industry News

[Canada's Building Trades Unions \(CBTU\) selected as an intermediary for the Apprenticeship Service Program](#)

Canada's Building Trades Unions (CBTU) have been selected as an intermediary for the Apprenticeship Service Program – a federally-funded program that will help apprentices get started in the skilled trades. CBTU will connect first-year apprentices in eligible Red Seal Trades with job opportunities with small and medium-sized employers (SMEs) with the goal of hiring 4,000 first-year apprentices including 20 per cent participation from equity-deserving groups over the course of the next two years.

SMEs will receive \$5,000 for each first-year apprentice they hire in an eligible Red Seal Trade and \$10,000 if the apprentice is hired from an equity-deserving group. Additional employer supports will also be available.

The project has started, and will continue to March 2024 in four regions: Eastern Canada, Central Canada, the Prairies, and Western Canada. CBTU has partnered with SkillPlan and SRDC and will work with the CBTU National Advisory Committee to guide the project.

Ed Byrne has taken on the role of the National Director of the Apprenticeship Services Project. Ed's background includes extensive experience with both the unionized skilled trades and employers including as the Industrial Relations Manager with Trades NL, the adult educator and Executive Director of the Labourers International Training and Rehabilitation Trust Fund, Local 1208, Infrastructure and Trade

Superintendent with Aecon Mining, and Labrador and Industrial/Indigenous and External Relations Manager with Astaldi Canada.

Ed can be contacted at 613-447-8266 or by email at ebyrne@buildingtrades.ca.

Skilled Trades Awareness and Readiness program

The Skilled Trades Awareness and Readiness (STAR) program encourages Canadians to explore and prepare for careers in the skilled trades. The program has a budget of \$10 million per year and targets groups that face barriers entering the trades, for example, youth, women, indigenous people, newcomers, persons with disabilities, visible minorities.

List of organizations receiving funding under the Skilled Trades Awareness and Readiness program can be found [here](#).

Transportation & Infrastructure

Improved transit, connected communities on the way with Surrey Langley SkyTrain



The first rapid transit project south of the Fraser River in 30 years reached a new milestone with the release of the business case and formal approval of provincial funding for the project.

The business case estimate for the capital cost of Surrey Langley SkyTrain is \$3.94 billion, including \$2.4 billion for the Province's share of the project, and a federal commitment of up to \$1.3 billion, with the remainder coming from local government.

Learn More:

The business case and other documents related to this project can be found in the Surrey Langley SkyTrain [resource library](#).

Highway 7 four-lane upgrade goes to tender



Work will begin this fall to upgrade the final undivided two-lane section of Highway 7 to four lanes between Maple Ridge and Mission.

The project is now out to tender and will improve safety and capacity for all road users in the region.

Learn More:

More information is available [online](#).

[Lower Lynn Improvements Project wraps](#)



All four phases of the Lower Lynn Improvements Project are complete, providing improved traffic flow and better active transportation options for more than 120,000 daily commuters.

The series of roadwork improvements improve safety, reduce congestion and provide better connectivity for local people, commercial drivers and active-transportation commuters.

Learn More: [Highway 1 Lower Lynn Improvements Project](#)



Stay safe,

Ken McCormack | President & CEO



97 Sixth Street,
New Westminster, BC V3L 5H8

O 604-524-4911

F 604-524-3925 **C** 604-968-4911

E kenm@clra-bc.com **W** www.clra-bc.com