

## CLR-INFO

### Provincial News

#### People encouraged to prepare for potential flooding



The Government of B.C. is helping communities prepare for flooding and is ready to assist in response to floods where necessary.

When fall rains return after prolonged dry weather or drought, the River Forecast Centre monitors conditions closely. Dry soils can increase runoff and river flows, but the ground quickly starts to absorb water again in

response to typical fall storms each year. As a result, the transition to moderate rainfall patterns does not normally cause extensive flooding. However, people living near streams and rivers that have flooded in previous fall seasons are encouraged to monitor weather and river conditions in their area closely during this transition.

#### **Learn More:**

Flood Preparedness Guide: [www.preparedbc.ca/floods](http://www.preparedbc.ca/floods)

For information on evacuation alerts and orders, visit: [www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca](http://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca); or follow on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/EmergencyInfoBC](https://www.twitter.com/EmergencyInfoBC)

River Forecast Centre: <http://bcrcfc.env.gov.bc.ca/>

#### Government of Canada to announce new funding to revitalize tourism and enhance visitor experiences across British Columbia



On Friday, October 14, Randy Boissonnault, federal Minister of Tourism and Associate Minister of Finance on behalf of Harjit S. Sajjan, federal Minister of International Development and Minister responsible for the Pacific Economic Development Agency of Canada will announce funding to support tourism organizations in British Columbia.

The remarks will be followed by a question and answer session with the media.

The news conference will take place at Vancouver Harbour Flight Centre.

**Learn More:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/pacific-economic-development/news/2022/10/government-of-canada-to-announce-new-funding-to-revitalize-tourism-and-enhance-visitor-experiences-across-british-columbia.html>

### **B.C. seeks input as it tests government website redesign**

To better meet British Columbians' need for easily accessible online information and services, the B.C. government is testing an updated website design and is welcoming feedback.

The test website has a more streamlined design, better organization and a layout that provides a better experience for the growing number of people who use mobile devices to access government programs, news and services.

The test site – known as Alpha – is the first step in modernizing the website's look and functionality. Feedback received will be used to help make further changes before the new design replaces the existing one in 2023.

#### **Learn More:**

For more information on the redesign, visit: [www.gov.bc.ca/alphagov](http://www.gov.bc.ca/alphagov)

To submit feedback via the online Alpha website, visit: <https://feedback.engage.gov.bc.ca/579564?lang=en>

## **Federal Update**

### **Canada's economy will 'slow considerably' in 2nd half of 2022, budget officer says**

The parliamentary budget officer (PBO) is projecting the economy will "slow considerably" in the second half of 2022 and remain weak next year as the Bank of Canada continues to raise interest rates.

Economists are anticipating an economic slowdown as higher interest rates slow spending by people and businesses.

Since March, the Bank of Canada has raised its key interest rate from 0.25% to 3.25% in an effort to combat inflation. Canada's annual inflation rate was 7% in August.

The PBO report also projects the unemployment rate will rise to 5.8% by late 2023 before falling again. Statistics Canada's September job report showed the labour market was still tight, with the unemployment rate at 5.2%.

The outlook also estimates the federal deficit will decline to \$25.8 billion, or 0.9% of GDP, for the 2022-23 fiscal year. The deficit was \$97 billion, or 3.9% of GDP, during the prior fiscal year.

## [Health Canada authorizes COVID-19 vaccine booster targeting the Omicron BA.4/BA.5 subvariants](#)



Health Canada authorized a second bivalent COVID-19 vaccine booster. This is an updated version of the Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine, targeting the Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants, and is authorized for use as a booster dose in individuals 12 years of age and older.

Health Canada has authorized this vaccine after a thorough and independent scientific review of the evidence that has determined that this booster is safe and effective. The booster is expected to trigger a strong immune response against both the original SARS-CoV-2 strain as well as the Omicron BA.4/BA.5 subvariants. It is expected to have a similar safety profile to the original Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine, with mostly mild side effects.

### **Associated links**

[Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine product page](#)

[COVID-19 vaccines and treatments portal](#)

## **Health & Safety**

### [B.C. changes employment standards to address the safety of young workers](#)



The Government of British Columbia is changing employment standards to better outline the types of work that are suitable for those aged 16 to 18.

B.C. Ministry of Labour staff developed the rules by examining WorkSafeBC injury data and labour laws in other jurisdictions related to hazardous employment. Based on that information, a B.C. government release stated, a number of jobs within several industries were identified as hazardous for young workers, including areas within construction, forestry, food processing, oil/gas and power and asbestos removal.

Consultations on the draft rules were held with industry, labour, safety and skills training groups and an online survey was released to the public.

Survey respondents said 18 years old was an appropriate minimum age requirement for most types of hazardous work, with some exceptions, the release stated. Construction work, fishing and some animal processing were deemed appropriate at age 16.

The age restrictions will not apply to industry training programs overseen by SkilledTradesBC. The regulations come into effect on Jan. 1, 2023. Current employees who are within six months of reaching the prescribed age will be excluded from the age requirements.

## [WorkSafeBC develops new safety resource for the manufacturing sector](#)

Manufacturing in B.C. has an injury rate that is 24% higher than the provincial average. In 2021, there were over 19,000 time-loss injuries in the manufacturing sector in B.C. and close to 4,000 of these were serious injuries.

To help prevent injuries in manufacturing, WorkSafeBC has established a multi-year Manufacturing High-Risk Strategy. As part of this strategy, WorkSafeBC develops health and safety resources to help employers better understand and address health and safety issues.

The latest resource is a new [self-evaluation](#) tool for manufacturing workplaces that includes a set of checklists to help employers and supervisors identify, control, and manage risks.

For more information visit [WorkSafeBC.com](http://WorkSafeBC.com).

## Transportation and Infrastructure

### [Tunnel boring marks a milestone for Broadway Subway project](#)



The Broadway Subway Project has reached a critical phase of construction with the start of tunnel excavation to connect six new underground stations on the 5.7 km extension of the Millennium Line.

The expanded line will transform the way people travel and live along the Broadway corridor and throughout Metro Vancouver and will provide faster, more convenient and more affordable travel options for workers and families.

### [B.C. to start permanent Highway 1 repairs](#)



The Government of British Columbia is set to start permanent repairs of flood-damaged sections of Highway 1 through the Fraser Canyon.

Contracts for development and early construction work have been awarded to Eurovia VINCI Team of Companies (ECV Group) for repairs to the Falls Creek Bridge, 55 kilometres south of Spences Bridge; Ledcor CMI Ltd. for repairs to the Tank Hill Crossing, 23 kilometres south of Spences Bridge; and Kiewit Infrastructure BC ULC for repairs

to the Nicomen River Bridge, 19 kilometres south of Spences Bridge.

Construction will begin this fall with substantial completion expected by 2024.

### [Nordel Way crossing opens over Highway 91](#)



The new Nordel Way crossing over Highway 91 leading into Delta, B.C. was open to traffic.

Improvements to the crossing include upgraded ramps to and from Delta, a new signalized intersection at the top of Highway 91

northbound, and a signalized intersection for traffic on Nordel Way westbound to access Highway 91 southbound.

The \$5.2 million 27B Avenue upgrades component of the project is also complete and was funded by the Tsawwassen First Nation and Infrastructure Canada and completed by the Province of British Columbia.



Stay safe,

Ken McCormack | President & CEO



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