

CLR-INFO

Provincial News

Windstorm leaves thousands without power across B.C.



People living in the Lower Mainland, on Vancouver Island and on the North and Central Coast can expect stormy weather up until Oct. 31.

Environment Canada has issued several warnings for strong southeast winds gusting up to 80 km/h across much of the province Thursday.

Advisories are in effect for the Lower Mainland, the south and central coasts, east Vancouver Island, and several areas of the Interior and central and northern B.C. A "vigorous

frontal system" may cause tree branches to fall, power outages, and other damage.

As of 11 a.m. PT, BC Hydro reported around 43,000 customers were without power. Crews are still receiving reports of downed power lines around the province. BC Hydro is urging residents to report all downed power lines to its hotline at 1-800-224-9376 or to call 911.

Learn More:

Environment Canada – Weather Information: <https://weather.gc.ca/>

Flood Preparedness Guide: www.preparedbc.ca/floods

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

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

Federal Update

[Bank of Canada raises key interest rate by 0.5 percentage points](#)



Bank of Canada Governor Tiff Macklem said Wednesday the economy is “just about as likely” to fall into a short-lived recession as it is to keep growing over the coming quarters.

His comments came after the central bank raised its key interest rate by half a percentage point on Wednesday.

The move marks the sixth consecutive rate hike by the central bank this year. Since March, the Bank of Canada has raised its key interest rate to 3.75% from 0.25%, making it more expensive for citizens and businesses to borrow money.

The bank signaled more rate hikes are needed to get inflation back to its target of 2%. It expects inflation to come down to 3% by the end of next year and back to 2% by the end of 2024.

Learn more: <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2022/10/fad-press-release-2022-10-26/>

Health & Safety

[WorkSafeBC announces 2023 rates](#)

WorkSafeBC announces that the average base premium rate for 2023 is 1.55 percent of employers' assessable payroll, which has been maintained at the same level since 2018.

The Workers Compensation Act requires WorkSafeBC to set premium rates annually for employers in order to pay for the workers' compensation system.

To learn more, visit the WorkSafeBC website: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/insurance/know-coverage-costs/industry-premium-rates/2023-rates>

[Homeowners share responsibility for protecting workers from asbestos exposure](#)



While asbestos-related diseases are preventable, asbestos exposure remains the leading cause of work-related deaths in B.C. As such, WorkSafeBC is reminding homeowners of their responsibility to keep workers safe during demolition and renovation projects.

Prior to beginning demolition or renovation, homeowners must hire a qualified testing company or asbestos surveyor to identify if asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) will be disturbed during the work. If ACMs are found, homeowners must then hire a qualified asbestos abatement contractor to remove and dispose of the materials.

If a homeowner or renter is hiring worker(s) to work at their personal residence, they may also be required to register with WorkSafeBC, depending on the nature of work and the length of time a project will take. Information on registration requirements can be found on [worksafebc.com](https://www.worksafebc.com).

Resources

[Asbestos: Frequently Asked Questions \(For Homeowners\) | WorkSafeBC](#)

[Asbestos Hazards When Renovating Older Homes: For Homeowners](#)

[Potential Sources of Asbestos in the Home](#)

[December 2022 public hearing on proposed amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation](#)

WorkSafeBC will be holding a virtual public hearing on proposed amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Regulation. The virtual public hearing will be streamed live on December 16, 2022, in two sessions. The first will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the second from 3 to 5 p.m.

The virtual hearing will cover proposed changes to the following parts of the OHS Regulation: [Part 6, Hazardous Drugs \(formerly Cytotoxic Drugs\)](#).

[Building Trades support washroom dignity movement](#)



Ontario's Building Trades have joined a growing effort to bring dignity and improved hygiene to job sites by upgrading washroom facilities.

The campaign is building on the program initiated by the BC Building Trades under the banner Get Flushed. Delegates attending the Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council of Ontario's conference in Niagara Falls earlier this month approved a resolution calling for a Canada-wide

washroom improvement program and meetings with Ontario Minister of Labour Monte McNaughton.

The BC Building Trades published its Report on Washroom Facilities in the Construction Industry in spring 2021, commissioning the Harwood Safety Group. The report found using non-plumbed washroom facilities ran afoul of provincial occupational health and safety laws and was counter to worker recruitment and retention goals, particularly for women.

Recommendations included a commitment to the use of modern, plumbed washrooms on construction sites; following Health Canada and WorkSafeBC guidance on cleaning washrooms; ensuring washrooms are no more than 60 metres away from working spaces; and ensuring units have heating and lighting.

Industry News

[LNG Canada awards two new contracts to local First Nation companies](#)



The LNG Canada project in Kitimat has awarded contracts to Brock Kitamaat Services Limited Partnership and Gitga'at Waiward Industrial Ltd. Each contract has a term of six years.

Gitga'at Waiward Industrial will provide main industrial site services including mechanical, electrical, and instrumentation support to maintenance and auxiliary support to projects and construction.

Brock, in a joint venture with the Haisla Nation, will provide scaffolding, insulation, and painting support along with other maintenance.

[Largest Indigenous-led economic project in Canadian history underway in Vancouver](#)



Prep work has begun for a large project that will eventually see more than 6,000 homes and rental units built on traditional First Nations lands at the head of False Creek in the Kitsilano neighbourhood of Vancouver.

The new development will be the largest Indigenous-led economic project in Canadian history and the largest net-zero residential project in Canada, consisting of 11 towers

ranging in height from 12 to 58 storeys. Ten of the towers will be mainly for residential use. They will have commercial space on the ground floors.

[Vancouver Art Gallery receives more funding](#)



The B.C. provincial government has announced an additional \$50 million in funding to build a new Vancouver Art Gallery.

The new Vancouver Art Gallery will be a multifaceted facility featuring a theatre, library and research centre, artist studios, childcare, restaurants and retail space. There will be an Indigenous community space, along with five dedicated classrooms for specialized school programs and art instruction to serve more than 90,000 students annually. The project is expected to generate an estimated 3,000

construction jobs and 1,000 permanent jobs in the tourism sector.

This is the second investment by the province toward the new gallery. In 2008, the B.C. government provided \$50 million for a total investment of \$100 million. This project has received more than \$190

million in private donations, including \$100 million from the Audain Foundation in 2021 and \$40 million from the Chan Foundation in 2019.

Transportation and Infrastructure

Fraser Valley Highway 1 widening moves forward with new Glover Road crossing



Work to improve travel times on Highway 1 through the Township of Langley is moving ahead with the replacement of the Glover Road crossing.

This is a key component of the Province’s Highway 1 216th to 264th widening project.

A contract for the Glover Road replacement valued at \$19.5 million has been awarded to Tybo Contracting Ltd. of Langley.

Preparatory construction will begin this fall. Major construction will begin in early 2023. Completion is anticipated for the summer of 2024.



Stay safe,

Ken McCormack | President & CEO



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