

## CLR-INFO

### Provincial News

#### [David Eby to be sworn in at Musqueam Community Centre on Nov. 18](#)



David Eby will be sworn in as B.C.'s next premier by Lt. Gov. Janet Austin on Nov. 18, 2022, at the Musqueam Community Centre in Vancouver.

Eby's cabinet will be sworn in on Dec. 7, 2022, at Government House in Victoria. Media details and timing will be provided in the coming weeks.

**Event date:** Friday, Nov. 18, 2022

**Time:** 10 a.m. (Pacific time)

**Location:**

Musqueam Community Centre, 6735 Salish Dr. Vancouver

### Apprenticeship & Training

#### [B.C. Recognizes Apprentices in November](#)



The B.C. government has proclaimed November 2022 as Apprenticeship Recognition Month for the fourth year in a row.

Throughout November, the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training and the Industry Training Authority ([ITA](#)) will be celebrating and acknowledging the contribution and value of apprentices, employer sponsors, youth program participants throughout B.C., and raising awareness of the benefits of a career in the skilled trades.

The Skilled Trades BC Act, passed in spring 2022, establishes a made-in-B.C. system to support and train apprentices and modernize the Crown agency responsible for trades training. Skilled trades certification will require people to register as an apprentice or be a certified journeyman to work in one of the 10 initial mechanical, electrical and automotive trades.

## [In The Trades Apprenticeship Services Program](#)



We previously notified our members of the apprenticeship services program available through the BC Construction Association (BCCA), but here is another option you may choose to participate in:

**In The Trades** is a federally funded program administered by Canada's Building Trades Unions (CBTU) that will help first-year red seal apprentices get started in the skilled trades.

Similar programs using the Apprenticeship Services Program (ASP) funds are being administered by other intermediaries, however, In The Trades is the ASP grant provider that is focused on delivering funds and training incentives exclusively to the *unionized* contractor community.

CBTU has partnered with BC-based SkillPlan to ensure that first-year apprentices have the wrap-around training and support to not only start an apprenticeship but complete it.

Unionized contractors can hire up to two apprentices for each year of the program and receive between \$20,000 - \$40,000 after signing a sub-agreement with the CBTU.

To learn more about the **In The Trades** program or to reserve access to the grant funding, please contact CBTU directly: Joe Bagri, Project Manager, at [jbagri@inthetrades.ca](mailto:jbagri@inthetrades.ca) or 613-889-0047.

## Health & Safety

### [B.C. Introduces Bill 41 – Workers Compensation Act \(No. 2\), 2022](#)



The stage is set for more changes to the Workers Compensation system in B.C.

On October 31<sup>st</sup>, Harry Bains, the B.C. Minister of Labour, announced Bill 41 – the *Workers Compensation Act (No. 2), 2022*. The Bill is still in the early stages, but the context is of particular interest to CLR members.

Most significantly, Bill 41 introduces an obligation on employers to accommodate an injured worker who is receiving WorkSafeBC payments, to the point of undue hardship and to reintegrate them into the workplace. The proposed legal obligation for employers to return workers injured at the workplace includes specific duties to cooperate and maintain employment.

If you have any questions regarding Bill 41, please contact Glen Williams, CLR Director, Health & Safety.

**Resources:** View amendments to the Workers Compensation Act (Bill 41), [here](#).

## Industry News

### [New report outlines tough times ahead for B.C. construction](#)



The statistics reported in the Fall 2022 BC Construction Association (BCCA) Industry Stat Pack, combined with findings from a new economic and policy report paint a gloomy picture for B.C. contractors.

Investment in B.C.'s industrial, commercial, and institutional (ICI) construction sectors is down 10.9% since February 2020, while the non-residential building price index spiked 19.6%.

Contractors are struggling to balance declining commercial demand with rising costs of materials and labour, even as waning procurement standards on public sector projects add to project risk.

Despite a sustained increase in the number of ICI construction companies in BC (now 26,262), the number of tradespeople in the industry has dropped 5% over three years. The average company size has decreased by 7% over the last three years to an average of 6.53 workers.

Women comprise 5.7% of tradespeople, an increase of 24% since 2017 but a year-over-year decrease of 8%.

The complete Stat Pack, Economic Report from Sage Policy Group, and more information regarding the value of the construction industry to B.C.'s economy can be found [here](#).

### [Review of Canada's National Model Codes begins](#)



The Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes (CCBFC) is inviting code users, stakeholders, and the broader public to take part in the public review of the first set of proposed changes to the 2020 editions of Canada's National Model Codes, including the National Building Code of Canada, the National Fire Code of Canada, the National Plumbing Code of Canada, and the National Energy Code of Canada for Buildings.

The first set of proposed changes to the 2020 codes can be viewed on the CCBFC's [website](#). Participants can provide their feedback on proposed changes from October 24 to December 23, 2022.

Following the public review, all comments received will be considered by the relevant code development committees, and recommendations on the proposed changes will be made. If approved, the changes will be included in the 2025 editions of the National Model Codes.

Canada's National Model Codes are developed on a five-year cycle. The 2020 editions of the codes were released in March 2022. The next editions are currently expected to be published in 2025.

## Transportation and Infrastructure

### [Highway 8 reopens to the public](#)

Highway 8 between Merritt and Spences Bridge is now open to all vehicle traffic, restoring connectivity to residents, Indigenous communities and the local forestry and mining industries.

Highway 8 was closed for 361 days following the atmospheric river event on Nov. 14, 2021.

**Learn More:** Updated highway information: [www.DriveBC.ca](http://www.DriveBC.ca)

### [Construction begins on the new Phibbs transit exchange](#)



Construction has started on a major upgrade of the Phibbs Exchange in North Vancouver that will increase capacity, enhance safety and security, improve active transportation connections and support the evolution of transit service on the North Shore.

The first six months of work will involve relocating existing transit operations to make space for the construction of the new exchange, which is expected to begin in spring 2023.

The project was put out to tender in June 2022, and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure awarded the contract to Conwest Contracting Ltd. in September.

**Learn More:**

Job opportunities for Phibbs Exchange project: <https://bcib.ca/>



Stay safe,

Ken McCormack | President & CEO



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