

## CLR-INFO

### [CLR Members,](#)

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

## Provincial News

### [Drought level increased in B.C.'s west coast region](#)

Dry and hot conditions on British Columbia's west coast have prompted the government to increase the drought level in the region to Level 3.

The areas that have risen to Drought Level 3 conditions are eastern Vancouver Island, western Vancouver Island and Haida Gwaii. The high temperatures, consistent sunshine and lack of recent rain have increased water temperatures in numerous Vancouver Island and Haida Gwaii streams.

British Columbia ranks drought levels from 0 to 5, with Drought Level 5 being the most severe with adverse effects to socioeconomic or ecosystem values being almost certain.

#### **Learn More:**

For the B.C. Drought Information Portal, including maps and tables,

view: <https://governmentofbc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=838d533d8062411c820eef50b08f7ebc>

### [B.C.'s economy recovered faster than expected in 2021-22](#)

The Province's year-end Public Accounts show B.C. had a strong financial result last year: B.C. ended the 2021-22 fiscal year with a \$1.3-billion surplus as the province's economy outperformed both public- and private-sector forecasts.

The improvement from last year's forecasts can be attributed to a reopening economy where more people were able to participate, which resulted in increased taxation revenue; one-time federal contributions for COVID-19 and disaster events; higher natural resource revenues; and higher net earnings from self-supported Crown corporations.

#### **Learn More:**

To access Public Accounts online, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/finances/public-accounts>

The technical PowerPoint presentation is available at: [https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/Public\\_Accounts\\_2021-22.pdf](https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/Public_Accounts_2021-22.pdf)

### [City of New Westminster receives funding to upgrade Riverside Adventure Park](#)

Today, Harjit S. Sajjan, Minister of International Development and Minister responsible for the Pacific Economic Development Agency of Canada (PacifiCan), announced an investment of \$209,652 through the Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF) for the City of New Westminster.

This support has allowed the City of New Westminster to revitalize Riverside Adventure Park by modernizing the playground, and adding park furniture and paved multiuse pathways. These are the first upgrades to the park since 1995.

The Canada Community Revitalization Fund was launched in June 2021. The Fund provides \$500 million over two years to Canada's regional development agencies to invest in shared and inclusive public spaces.

#### Associated links

- [Pacific Economic Development Canada](#)
- [Canada Community Revitalization Fund](#)
- [City of New Westminster](#)

## Industry News

### [Government of Canada invests in training equipment to help more workers across Canada become certified in the skilled trades](#)

Aug 31, federal Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, Carla Qualtrough, announced a call for proposals under Stream 1: Investments in Training Equipment of the Union Training and Innovation Program (UTIP). Up to \$10 million in 2022–2023 is being invested by the Government of Canada for projects that provide unions with up to 50% of the cost of new training equipment and materials.

Selected projects will help unions across Canada improve the quality of training in Red Seal trades that registered apprentices and pre-apprentices (non-registered apprentices) receive. These projects will also support the development of environmental skills for Canada's transition to a clean economy.

The call for proposals opened on August 31, 2022 and closes on October 12, 2022.

Eligible organizations are unions representing workers in the Red Seal trades.

#### Associated links

- [Apply for funding for the Investments in Training Equipment Stream](#)
- [Apply for funding for the Innovation in Apprenticeship Stream](#)
- [Union Training and Innovation Program](#)
- [Support for Apprentices](#)
- [Budget 2022](#)

### [Investing in mass timber education supports clean growth](#)

A new program is helping experienced carpenters, ironworkers and builders gain the in-demand skills needed to succeed in the growing field of mass timber innovation. Investing in mass timber education supports B.C.'s workers through expanding the mass timber sector. It strengthens the StrongerBC Economic Plan and the Province's climate goals by supporting clean growth and renewable resources.

The mass timber sector will promote new technologies and approaches to further support existing jobs, with a projected worth of \$403 million by 2035.

#### **Learn More:**

For more information about B.C.'s mass timber sector, visit: <https://gov.bc.ca/masstimber>

To read the Mass Timber Action Plan, visit: [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/business/construction-industry/bc\\_masstimber\\_action\\_plan\\_2022.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/business/construction-industry/bc_masstimber_action_plan_2022.pdf)

For more information about the Mass Timber Demonstration Program, visit: <https://www.masstimberbc.ca/>

## **Workplace Safety**

### **[WorkSafeBC amends rules on the refusal of unsafe work so workers can make more informed decisions](#)**

Amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation (OHSR) came into effect on Aug. 22, 2022.

Under the new rules, employers are required to notify workers in writing of any unresolved work refusal due to safety concerns. It also requires employers to tell the subsequent worker the specific reasons the first worker felt the task was unsafe. The employer must also explain why the task would not create an undue hazard to their health and safety.

Workers or employers with questions about the right to refuse unsafe work can contact WorkSafeBC's prevention information line toll-free at 1-888-621-7233.

#### **Resources:**

- [Media Backgrounder: The Right to Refuse Unsafe Work](#)
- [Regulatory amendment: A primer on refusing unsafe work](#)
- [WorkSafeBC and Government Action Review: Crossing the Rubicon](#)

## **COVID Response**

### **[Health Canada authorizes first bivalent COVID-19 booster for adults 18 years and older](#)**

Today, Health Canada authorized an adapted version of the Moderna Spikevax COVID-19 vaccine. This vaccine (known as a "bivalent" vaccine) targets the original SARS-CoV-2 virus from 2019 and the Omicron (BA.1) variant, and is authorized for use as a booster dose in individuals 18 years of age or older.

This is the first bivalent COVID-19 vaccine authorized in Canada.

This adapted vaccine has a similar safety profile to the previously approved Moderna Spikevax booster, with the same mild adverse reactions that resolved quickly.

#### **Related links**

- [Moderna vaccine product page](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccines and treatments portal](#)



Stay safe,

Ken McCormack | President & CEO



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