

## CLR INFO

CLR Members,

CLR is launching a survey to celebrate companies leading inclusive initiatives, focusing on opportunities for women, immigrants, indigenous communities, and underrepresented groups. We will use the survey findings to select member companies for a special feature in a video profile. Complete the survey [here](#).

Sincerely,

Your CLR Team

## Support & Funding

### **B.C. Employer Training Grant**

Funding may cover 80% of training costs up to \$10,000 per employee, this program is pivotal for adapting to evolving job demands and fostering job security. [READ MORE](#)

### **Training Tax Credit for Apprentices**

Apprentices may receive refundable income tax credits when enrolled in eligible programs managed by SkilledTradesBC. The credit is available until December 31, 2024. [READ MORE](#)

## Industry News



### **Join JAplan as an Executive Director: Apply by February 2**

The Jurisdictional Assignment Plan (JAplan) of the BC Construction Industry is looking for a part-time, primarily remote Executive Director (ED) to lead its operations. Applications must be received by email at [japlan@telus.net](mailto:japlan@telus.net) by February 2, 2024.

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### **Top 10 Major Construction Projects Kickstarting in Canada**

These major projects are emphasized due to their significant media coverage, impact on job creation, geographical importance, and their substantial influence on overall construction market forecasts due to their size and timing.

[READ MORE](#)

## **Wesgroup Properties unveils Inlet District: A Vibrant Community with Towering Ambitions in Port Moody**

The project is aiming to create a complete community with a park and transit access. It will have 2,486 market condos, 101 market rentals, two-day care centres, an office building, a supermarket, a drug store, and other retail amenities.

[READ MORE](#)

## **Labour & Economy**



### **Bank of Canada Holds Steady at 5% Rate: Economists Eye Potential Rate Cuts**

Economists anticipate that the central bank may start reducing interest rates by summer, with projections suggesting inflation will slow to 2.5 percent by year's end and economic growth hovering near zero percent, though the exact timeline for rate cuts remains uncertain.

[READ MORE](#)

## **Surge in Canadian Industrial Construction: Record Growth Driven by Consumer Demand and New Industry Investments**

Canada's industrial construction sector experienced record growth in the fourth quarter of 2023, fueled by strong consumer demand, population growth, and investments in emerging industries like battery and electric vehicle manufacturing. Despite challenges such as high-interest rates and inflation, the sector has maintained strong momentum and is poised for continued growth.

[READ MORE](#)

## **Pioneering Critical Mineral Strategy to Boost Clean Tech and Drive Economic Growth**

The British Columbia government has initiated the first phase of its critical mineral strategy, focusing on 11 actions to promote minerals vital for clean technologies.

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## **Health & Safety**

### **Promoting Mental Health in Construction: Bell Let's Talk Campaign Action**

The Bell Let's Talk campaign urges meaningful action to create change in mental health practices, featuring 25 mental health organizations and services, including Canada's new suicide crisis helpline 9-8-8, and encourages involvement in mental health initiatives and conversations to combat stigma in the workplace.

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### **WorkSafeBC Proposes Amendments for Assessing Work-Related Soft Tissue Disorders of the Limbs**

WorkSafeBC's Policy, Regulation and Research Department is proposing amendments to the policy on activity-related soft tissue disorders (ASTDs) of the limbs, aiming to clarify the criteria for work-relatedness of these injuries. The amendments, which are open for public feedback until April 26, 2024.

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**BCD&A  
Drug &  
Alcohol  
Program  
Society**

### **BCD&A Drug & Alcohol Program Training for CLR Members**

CLR is excited to introduce two new training programs in collaboration with the BCD&A Drug & Alcohol Program Society and SkillPlan. The Level 1 program provides an online overview of the policy, while Level 2 offers in-person training on reasonable suspicion and post-accident testing investigations. For more information or to schedule training, contact Glen Williams, Director of Health & Safety at [glenw@clra-bc.com](mailto:glenw@clra-bc.com).

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## **Infrastructure & Transportation**



### **BC Hydro Sets a New Course with \$36 Billion Power Pathway Plan**

BC Hydro is embarking on an ambitious 10-year capital plan, which marks a 50% increase over the previous capital plan. The aim is to support growing electricity demand and the transition to clean energy while creating thousands of jobs annually.

[READ MORE](#)

### **Metro Vancouver's Transit Strike Spurs Debate on the Essential Role of Public Transport and Union Negotiations**

The strike action led to a bus shutdown and SeaBus cancellation, with transit users urging B.C. officials to recognize the critical role of buses, especially as a recent court ruling declared Toronto's TTC workers have the right to strike, and a mediator is now involved in negotiations to resolve the dispute in Vancouver.

[READ MORE](#)

## **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**



## **CMHC Launches RFP for Indigenous-Led National Housing Center to Address Indigenous Housing Needs**

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) has initiated a Request for Proposal (RFP) to create an Indigenous-led National Indigenous Housing Centre, with submissions accepted until March 4, 2024.

[READ MORE](#)

## **Vancouver Approves Indigenous-Led Jericho Lands Development**

The project, which will more than double the neighbourhood's population over 30 years, is a collaboration between the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations and the Canada Lands Company, and includes significant provisions for social and below-market housing.

[READ MORE](#)

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Best Regards and Stay Safe,

Ken McCormack | President & CEO