

CLR-INFO

Industry News

[Vancouver's tallest residential tower launches](#)



Brivia Group has officially launched the Cury, a 60-storey tall residential tower in Vancouver. It is being touted as the tallest residential tower in downtown and the world's tallest passive house building, establishing a new benchmark for design and environmental performance as Vancouver marks a significant milestone in the pathway to net zero.

The tower is expected to break ground in 2024. According to Brivia, it will be the most energy-efficient structure of its kind, developed with 50% less carbon pollution for rezoned developments, and up to 90% less carbon pollution compared to towers built in 2014.

The team behind the project includes world-renowned British architect, Tom Wright of WKK Architects, best known for his design of the iconic Burj al Arab in Dubai.

[Portion of Coastal GasLink construction paused over erosion, sediment control issues](#)



TC Energy Corp. says it has proactively halted construction on a 20-km stretch of its Coastal GasLink project over concerns about erosion and sediment control.

The Calgary-based pipeline company says the affected section of pipeline is located near the Little Anzac River north of Prince George, B.C.

TC Energy says the region has been affected by challenging spring melt conditions caused by an abundance of snow this winter, a quick spike in temperatures, and heavy rainfall.

The Coastal GasLink pipeline construction project has encountered recurring issues with erosion and sediment control over the past year that have resulted in ongoing compliance and enforcement actions by the B.C. Environmental Assessment Office (EAO).

TC Energy says it made the precautionary decision to pause construction prior to the EAO issuing new stop-work orders on May 4 and 5. The company says it has also launched a third-party review of its erosion and sediment control plans for the area.

The pipeline company says construction is safely progressing along other sections of the 670-km project route, and Coastal GasLink remains on track to be completed by the end of this year.

Health & Safety

[WorkSafeBC urges employers on the North Coast to protect workers from heat-related illnesses](#)



WorkSafeBC is reminding North Coast employers to keep their workers safe as temperatures rise. With increased temperatures come higher risks of heat-related illnesses, including sunstroke and heat stress, the latter potentially affecting both indoor and outdoor workers.

In 2022, WorkSafeBC accepted 81 claims related to heat injuries, 28% of which were from indoor workers.

Please refer to healthlinkbc.ca for more information and refer to your local weather provider for updates on temperatures.

Many municipalities also offer cooling facilities. Contact your local municipality or check out [Emergency Info BC](#) for the latest updates.

Resources:

OHS Guideline [G7.29-1, Heat stress assessment](#)

WorkSafeBC [Heat stress](#) webpage

WorkSafeBC publication [Preventing Heat Stress at Work](#)

[Consultation on proposed amendments to Part 5 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation](#)

WorkSafeBC's Policy, Regulation and Research Department is requesting feedback on proposed amendments to Part 5, Chemical Agents and Biological Agents, sections 5.97 to 5.105, of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation.

The consultation phase gives stakeholders an opportunity to share feedback before the proposed amendments are taken to public hearing.

View the [proposed regulatory amendments](#) and information on how to provide feedback.

Please provide your feedback by **4:30 p.m. on Monday, June 19, 2023**.

[Update on Kelowna crane collapse investigations by the Kelowna RCMP and WorkSafeBC](#)

Almost two years ago, the Kelowna RCMP and WorkSafeBC launched independent, parallel investigations into the Kelowna crane collapse incident.

As the two-year mark of this tragic event nears, the Kelowna RCMP and WorkSafeBC are providing an update on the status of their respective investigations.

To learn about the status of both investigations, [visit](#).

Additional resources:

Media backgrounder: [WorkSafeBC Investigations](#)

Media backgrounder: [Tower Crane Safety](#)

Labour & Economy

[Survey: Barriers to Foreign Credential Recognition](#)



The Province is seeking input from internationally trained professionals, immigrant-serving organizations, and the public on foreign credential recognition processes in B.C.

Foreign credential recognition refers to the process of having education, skills, and work experience from outside of Canada assessed against Canadian standards. People seeking to have their international credentials recognized in B.C. continue to face regulatory barriers that limit their full participation in the labour market. Some of these barriers may be the result of risk aversion,

lack of clear guidance and transparency, or systemic bias. Our goal is to establish B.C. as the province with the strongest foreign credential recognition processes in Canada.

You are invited to provide input via the online survey: [click here](#).

The survey is open to the public until 4:00 pm on **May 26, 2023**.

For any questions about this initiative, please contact Marcelina Iverson, Senior Program Advisor (Marcelina.Iverson@gov.bc.ca), Credential Recognition Improvement Branch.

[SkilledTradesBC looks to stakeholders to choose which trades should require certification](#)



SkilledTradesBC has opened up applications for stakeholders to recommend what trades should be the next to require certification.

Following consultation with stakeholders and partners, SkilledTradesBC is accepting applications from B.C. businesses, labour organizations, industry associations, Indigenous organizations, and communities that are related to trades to apply for their trade to be designated.

Applications are open now and close on **June 30**, according to a news release. Chosen trades will be announced in spring 2024.

Applications will be evaluated on specific criteria that align with existing regulatory frameworks and similarities to existing certified trades.

Skilled trades certification is underway for seven electrical and mechanical trades with three automotive trades beginning in 2024.

Transportation & Infrastructure

[Safety upgrades coming to Chemainus River bridges](#)



Rehabilitation of the Chemainus River bridges on Highway 1 will improve safety for more than 27,000 drivers that cross the bridges every day.

A \$10.4-million contract for the project has been awarded to **Kingston Construction Limited**. Work is anticipated to begin in the coming weeks and be completed in winter 2024.

Work includes seismic upgrades to the northbound Arch Bridge and southbound Truss Bridge, as well as deck and joint replacements and recoating of the Truss Bridge. The upgrades are the final phase of the Chemainus bridges renewal and will extend the service life and reliability of the bridges.

[\\$120 million resurfacing of 485 kilometres of roads in B.C.'s southern interior begins](#)



The resurfacing of 485 kilometres of highways and sideroads in British Columbia's south interior is underway and expected to be completed by Sept. 29.

The roads will be resurfaced in groupings. The first chunk of resurfacing will focus on 38 kilometres of Canim-Hendrix Lake Road, 2.8 kilometres of Canim Lake South Road, 8.5 kilometres of Horse Lake Road and other roads in the area. This project will be delivered

by Keywest Asphalt (333) Ltd. who were awarded an \$8 million contract. Overall, the resurfacing of roads in the southern interior is expected to cost \$120 million in 2023, states a news release.

[Canada invests in active transportation improvements on Vancouver Island](#)

May 17, Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Natural Resources and Member of Parliament for North Vancouver, announced a federal investment of more than \$10.9 million to improve active transportation infrastructure on Vancouver Island.

In Victoria, this investment will enable the construction of new protected bike lanes, as well as the installation of transit shelters, new accessibility enhancements, upgraded crossings, and improved landscaping along Fort Street as part of the City's All Ages and Abilities priority cycling network.

A second project in Greater Victoria will complete a number of active transportation improvements identified within the University of Victoria's Campus Cycling Plan. This investment will support new pedestrian and bicycle pathways, improve lighting and signage, and integrate traffic calming measures to improve safety at road crossings.

Provincial & Federal News

Alberta warns of increased risk of wildfires over the long weekend



As wildfires continue to rage across Alberta, the province is warning of the heightened risk of new fires igniting over the Victoria Day long weekend.

Unseasonably high temperatures are expected to return to Alberta this weekend, threatening to fuel wildfires burning across the province.

As of Thursday morning, 98 wildfires are burning in Alberta. Of the 92 wildfires burning inside forest protection areas, 26 are considered out of control.

According to Alberta Wildfire, it's believed that around 47% of the fires were sparked by human activity, while 45% remain under investigation.

WestJet cancels 100-plus flights as pilot strike looms



Some 1,800 pilots at the carrier and its Swoop subsidiary are poised to walk off the job as of 3 a.m. MT after the Air Line Pilots Association served a strike notice on Monday.

WestJet issued a statement early Thursday saying negotiations were stuck “in a stalemate.”

As of early Thursday afternoon, the carrier had cancelled 111 flights, or 31% of those scheduled for the day, according to tracking service FlightAware. The vast majority are out of Calgary or Toronto's Pearson Airport.

So far, 29 flights or 8% of those scheduled on Friday have been cancelled. Passengers are now unable to make online bookings for WestJet flights on major routes such as Calgary-Vancouver and Toronto-Calgary until Tuesday.

The federal labour minister and the government's head mediator, as well as WestJet's CEO and the pilots' union leaders, have descended on a hotel near the Toronto airport to work toward a deal.

Business Council appoints new President & CEO



The Business Council of British Columbia (BCBC) announced on May 18 that Laura Jones will assume the position of President and Chief Executive Officer.

For the past twenty years, Laura has been advocating for a competitive business climate across Canada in various roles at the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB), most recently as Chief Strategic Officer and Executive Vice-President.

Laura succeeds Greg D'Avignon who served in the role for 12 years before joining the Canadian Strategy Group earlier this year. Laura will be working with the team on the transition and fully in the position on August 10, 2023.

Learn more: <https://bcbc.com/media/business-council-appoints-new-president-ceo>

Government announces lower credit card transaction fees for small businesses

The Government of Canada announced on May 18 that it is delivering on the Budget 2023 commitment to lower credit card transaction fees for small businesses by finalizing new agreements with Visa and Mastercard.

Small businesses pay fees to process credit card transactions, with the largest component being the interchange fee paid to credit card-issuing financial institutions, such as banks. These new agreements will help more than 90% of credit card-accepting businesses in Canada qualify for lower rates and see their interchange fees reduced by up to 27% from the existing weighted average rate. These reductions are expected to save eligible Canadian small businesses about \$1 billion over five years.

Unregulated drugs claim the lives of 206 British Columbians in April 2023

Preliminary data from the BC Coroners Service shows that communities throughout the province continue to be devastated by deaths due to unregulated drugs, with 814 lives lost in the first four months of 2023.

Fentanyl is present in about eight of every 10 deaths, almost always in combination with other substances.

April 2023 was the 31st consecutive month in which at least 150 lives were lost to unregulated drugs in B.C., and the 13th month in which more than 200 deaths were reported.

At least 12,046 British Columbians have been lost to toxic, unregulated drugs in the seven years since the public-health emergency was first declared in April 2016.

Learn More:

Unregulated drug death report (Data to April 30, 2023):

<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoizWMzMjA4MTQtZDZmZS00MzIxLWE2NDQtNTNmZjkzOTY4NlImlwiwCI6IjZmZ>

Stop Overdose BC: <https://www.stopoverdose.gov.bc.ca>

BC Centre on Substance Use: <http://www.bccsu.ca>

B.C. enhances access to addictions support for women and girls



Women and girls in British Columbia living with addiction challenges will benefit from continued treatment and recovery services, thanks to provincial funding.

The Province has provided \$272,000 to the Westminster House Society which offers services and supports for women and girls living with mental health and addiction challenges.

Enhancing these supports is an integral part of A Pathway to Hope, B.C.'s roadmap for building a comprehensive system of mental health and addiction care for British Columbians.

Learn More:

Learn about A Pathway to Hope, the government's vision for mental health and addictions care in B.C.: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021MMHA0049-001787>

Westminster House Society: <https://www.westminsterhouse.ca/>



Stay safe,

Ken McCormack | President & CEO



97 Sixth Street,

New Westminster, BC V3L 5H8

O 604-524-4911

F 604-524-3925 **C** 604-968-4911

E kenm@clra-bc.com **W** www.clra-bc.com