

## CLR-INFO

### Provincial News

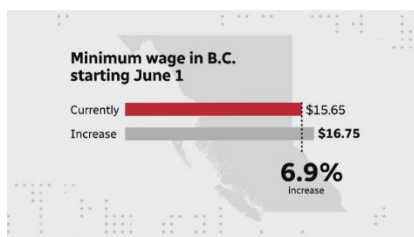
#### Wind and Dry Heat Fueling Wildfires Across B.C. as Forecast Offers Little Relief



Dry, warm weather and windy conditions in British Columbia are increasing the risk of wildfires this week. According to Environment Canada, minimal precipitation is expected throughout the province, and temperatures are projected to rise further in the coming days. In northeastern B.C., the Donnie Creek wildfire has expanded to 1,684 square kilometers, leading to additional evacuation orders from the Peace River Regional District. Another fire, known as the Newcastle Creek fire, is burning uncontrollably near Sayward on Vancouver Island, covering the area in smoke. While the wind is currently pushing the fire away from the community, residents with respiratory illnesses have been advised to either stay indoors or leave the area due to the smoke. The cause of the Newcastle Creek fire is believed to be human-related.

Learn more: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status>

#### B.C.'s minimum wage rises to \$16.75, the highest in Canada, as of June 1



Starting today, B.C.'s minimum wage increased from \$15.65 to \$16.75 per hour, a 7.0% raise. With this change, B.C. becomes the province with the highest minimum wage in Canada. The increase, implemented annually since 2018, aims to keep up with inflation and benefit approximately 150,000 workers earning less than \$16.75 per hour. The B.C. government plans to link future minimum-wage hikes to the inflation rate, aligning it with the federal government's approach. The living wage, which supports a family of four, has also risen in many B.C. communities, reaching over \$20 per hour.

#### West Coast Dockworker Negotiations Enter Cooling-Off Period as Focus Intensifies on Reaching New Agreement

Employer and union representatives in negotiations for a new long-term contract on B.C.'s waterfront have finished the federal government's conciliation process. The BC Maritime Employers Association (BCMEA) and the International Longshore & Warehouse Union Canada (ILWU) are now in a 21-day cooling-off period.



The previous collective agreements took 18 months to negotiate, making the quick notice of dispute from the ILWU unusual. The current contract expired on March 31, and during the cooling-off period until June 21, both sides have the right to strike or lockout, with negotiations scheduled throughout June.

**Learn more:** <https://biv.com/article/2023/06/west-coast-dockworker-negotiations-enter-cooling-period-pressure-ink-new-deal>

### [\\$13.5B bank buyout highlights the need for consideration of green agenda in Canadian banking](#)



Environmental groups warn that the Royal Bank of Canada's proposed takeover of HSBC Canada would limit sustainable banking choices and increase climate risks. RBC's financing of fossil fuel projects and HSBC Canada's rejection of such financing are cited as key concerns. The groups argue that the acquisition would remove sustainable options from the market and consolidate investments in a vulnerable sector. The Competition Bureau is investigating RBC for potential false representations related to climate commitments. The groups seek a broader assessment of the merger's impact on climate policy.

**Learn more:** <https://biv.com/article/2023/06/135b-buyout-wake-call-canadian-bankings-green-agenda>

## Labour & Economy

### [Construction activity remains strong despite challenges faced by the industry](#)



Despite ongoing concerns about inflation and workforce shortages across various sectors, the industrial, commercial, institutional, and civil (ICIC) construction industry emerged as a positive contributor to Canada's economy in 2022, and early indications suggest that this trend will continue throughout 2023.

According to the latest edition of [ICIC Construction Quarterly Insights for Q1 2023](#) by the CCA (Canadian Construction Association), Canada's GDP experienced a growth of 3.6% in 2022. Similarly, the construction sector witnessed a 1.2% increase during the same period. Although the residential sector faced a significant decline, the ICIC industry managed to counterbalance this setback through a notable 10% surge in engineering and heavy construction activities.

**Learn more:** <https://www.cca-acc.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/CCA-Quarterly-insights-Q1-2023-EN.pdf>

## Health & Safety

### [Changes to classification assignment policy relating to special hazard and labour supply exceptions](#)

On April 26, 2023, WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors approved amendments to policy in Item AP5-244-2, Classification – Assignment, of the Assessment Manual to remove the special hazard exception and clarify language in the labour supply firm exception.

The amended policy applies to all decisions made on or after June 1, 2023.

To learn more, review the complete [Resolution](#).

### [Decision on the New and Revised B.C. Exposure Limits based on the 2019 and 2020 ACGIH TLVs for Selected Chemical Substances](#)

At its April 2023 meeting, WorkSafeBC's [Board of Directors \(BOD\)](#) approved the adoption of the 2019 and 2020 new and revised American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists Threshold Limit Values (ACGIH TLVs) for the following selected chemical substances:

- Cyclohexene
- Methyl isobutyl carbinol

**Effective June 6, 2023**, these substances will be removed from the Table of Exposure Limits for Excluded Substances in [Policy R5.48-1](#) of the *Prevention Manual*.

To learn more, [visit](#).

## Infrastructure & Transportation

### [B.C. names 10 cities for faster development to help address housing crisis](#)



British Columbia's housing minister, Ravi Kahlon says more homes will be built sooner under a plan to set construction targets in 10 cities or municipalities in an effort to fast track development.

Ravi Kahlon announced housing targets will be set for Vancouver, West Vancouver, North Vancouver, Delta, Port Moody, Abbotsford, Victoria, Oak Bay, Saanich and Kamloops.

Kahlon says the government chose the first 10 communities based on the needs in the province and projected growth.

The targets won't be released to the public until this summer, but Kahlon says they'll be meeting with the cities in the next few weeks to allow them to assess the proposal.

### [Federal government, B.C. invest in water infrastructure improvements](#)



The governments of Canada and British Columbia have announced a joint investment of more than \$16.1 million to support four water infrastructure projects across B.C.

In Whistler, the investment will take the form of the construction of a new water treatment plant and enable the replacement of an

existing well pump, decommissioning of a well and two chlorine dosing systems, and construction of approximately 600 metres of new watermain.

The investment will also support water infrastructure projects in the District of Lantzville, Village of Kaslo and Village of New Denver.

The Government of Canada is investing \$5 million in these projects while B.C. is investing \$6.8 million and recipients are contributing \$4.3 million.

### **B.C. signs deal with Japan to support infrastructure and transportation resilience**



The Government of British Columbia has signed a three-year memorandum of cooperation (MOC) with a Japanese firm to improve infrastructure and transportation resilience.

The Japan Overseas Infrastructure Investment Corporation for Transport and Urban Development, also known as JOIN, acts under Japan's ministry of land, infrastructure, transport and tourism, according to a news release.

The deal was signed by Brenda Bailey, minister of jobs, economic development and innovation during a trade mission to Asia.

Under the agreement, the province and JOIN will explore transportation and technology investments in B.C., creating and optimizing infrastructure projects, urban development and transportation such as railways, ferries, ports and airports.

### **Phyllis the tunnel-boring machine breaks through at Broadway-City Hall Station**

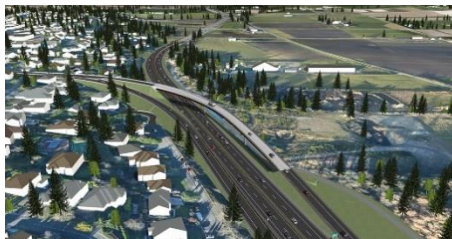


Phyllis the tunnel-boring machine carving out one of two tunnels to accommodate the Broadway Subway Project has broken through at the future Broadway-City Hall Station.

Since launching in November 2022, Phyllis has excavated 1,350 metres of tunnel and installed 884 liner rings, according to a news release.

The Broadway-City Hall Station is the deepest on the route at more than 20 metres underground and stretches 210 metres over two blocks between Alberta and Cambie streets.

### **Traffic patterns change ahead of Keating Cross Road overpass construction**



Traffic changes on Highway 17 near Keating Cross Road starting June 1 for construction of the Highway 17 Keating Cross overpass project. Martindale Road access from Highway 17 permanently closed from June 8. Southbound on-ramp from Keating Cross Road to Highway 17 closed from June 3. Nightly lane closures between Tanner Road and Island View Road with single-lane traffic from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. until summer 2024.

For up-to-date information, visit: <https://www.DriveBC.ca>.

## Industry News

### [A 13-storey tower in Vancouver built by women for women](#)



An all-female leadership team from the non-profit and design and development industries is behind a unique new housing project being built in Vancouver that will provide affordable, long-term housing for women.

Soroptimist International (SI) of Vancouver, a women-focused organization, intends to build a 13-storey concrete tower with 135 units on a 14,500-square-foot lot it owns at West 13th Avenue and

Cambie Street. There is an aging, two-storey rental building with 21 units on the property. It will be demolished and replaced.

Purpose Driven Development is the development lead on the innovative project. The company has been working on the venture since 2018.

The structure will be a net-zero-equivalent building, in line with new requirements set by the City of Vancouver.

Construction is expected to start in July and will take about 36 months, with occupancy of the building anticipated in July 2026.



Stay safe,

Ken McCormack | President & CEO



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