

## CLR-INFO

### [CLR Members,](#)

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

## Provincial Update

### [B.C. takes next steps in COVID-19 response](#)

## COVID-19 Update

[gov.bc.ca/covid19](https://gov.bc.ca/covid19)



The Province continues with previously announced plans to further lift COVID-19 restrictions, while protecting those most at risk with the launch of the spring booster vaccine program.

Starting on Friday, April 8, at 12:01 a.m., the following changes will take place:

- Showing the BC Vaccine Card proof of vaccination to access events, services and businesses will no longer be required.
- Individual businesses and organizations can choose to continue requiring the BC Vaccine Card on their premises.
- The remainder of the Workplace Safety Order will expire, which means that businesses are transitioning back to communicable disease plans to reduce risk of all communicable disease.
- The requirement for students residing in residence to be fully vaccinated under the Post-secondary Institution Housing COVID-19 Preventative Measures Order will be repealed.

B.C. has also increased the supply of rapid tests, helping people monitor and manage mild COVID-19 symptoms at home. Currently, rapid antigen tests, in kits of five tests, are available to people aged 18 years and older through community pharmacies. As of Monday, April 11, 2022, citizens can pick up rapid tests without needing to show their B.C. personal health number.

### [COVID-19 pandemic update](#)

As of Wednesday, April 6, 2022, 90.9% (4,530,329) of eligible people five and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 87.5% (4,359,332) have received their second dose.

B.C. is reporting 216 new cases of COVID-19, for a total of 357,974 cases in the province.

As of April 6, people not vaccinated accounted for 12% of the B.C. population, while they account for 19% of COVID-19 critical care patients in hospital.

**Learn More:**

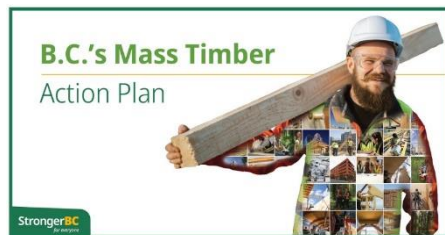
For the April 5, 2022, announcement on B.C.'s next steps in COVID-19 response, visit: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2022HLTH0112-000501>

For information on when to get a COVID-19 test: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing/when-to-get-a-covid-19-test>

For information on COVID-19 treatments including Paxlovid: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/treatments>

## Road to Recovery

### [Mass Timber Action Plan launched, four new projects announced](#)



The Province is launching the Mass Timber Action Plan and announcing funding for four new mass-timber housing and infrastructure projects as a key step in the StrongerBC Economic Plan.

Ravi Kahlon, the provincial Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation, along with several cabinet ministers, announced the action plan and \$1.2 million in funding on Thursday, April 7, at the University of Victoria, where a 783-bed mass-timber student housing and dining project is set to open in September.

The Mass Timber Action Plan demonstrates that B.C. could have as many as 10 new mass-timber manufacturers by 2035. In addition, boosting the sector's skills training through trades programs at post-secondary institutions will help fill an anticipated 4,400 additional job openings in manufacturing, construction and design.

**Learn More:**

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)

### [Province extends pandemic relief funding to strengthen public transit services](#)

BC Transit and TransLink will receive a combined \$204 million to help offset the revenue impact as operators rebuild ridership. This funding builds on the federal-provincial Safe Restart funding of more than \$1 billion announced in September 2020, which helped TransLink, BC Transit and BC Ferries.

Of the \$204 million, BC Transit will receive \$28 million and TransLink will receive \$176 million to help cover ongoing pandemic-related operating impacts as the agencies work through recovery.

TransLink reports its ridership has recovered to approximately 67% of pre-pandemic levels, while BC Transit is reporting its ridership levels recovered to approximately 70%.

## [Province provides recovery funding to hard-hit communities](#)

People living in Merritt and Princeton will benefit from rural development grants to help them recover from the effects of climate-related events.

These new funds supported:

- the Princeton Industrial Park Expansion & Marketing Recovery Strategy with a grant of \$500,000 to support projects that will target economic recovery through industrial business and resident attraction, and stimulation of the local tourism sector; and
- the City of Merritt with \$500,000 to complete a suite of economic development projects and initiatives to support long-term economic recovery, including sustainable tourism and business and investment attraction.

## Labour Market

### [B.C. welcomes more than 100,000 people, the most in 60 years](#)

New data released by Statistics Canada shows that British Columbia broke a record for the number of people moving to the province in 2021.

The year-end data shows that B.C.'s net migration reached 100,797 people in 2021, which is the highest annual total since 1961. This is an important step to expand the province's workforce and address labour shortages. Net migration is the number of people who moved to B.C. from another province or territory, or from another country, minus the number of people who left.

Of the people who moved to B.C. last year, 33,656 people came from other Canadian provinces or territories, which is the highest number seen since 1994 and the highest in Canada. The remaining 67,141 people who made B.C. home in 2021 came from abroad and last year marked the second-highest level of international immigration to B.C. on record.

#### **Learn More:**

Learn about B.C.'s Labour Market Outlook: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2022AEST0004-000172>

Learn more about migration to B.C.:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/91-002-x/91-002-x2021004-eng.htm>

## Transportation and Infrastructure

### [Province keeps eyes on the road with new Vision Zero funding](#)

People in rural, remote and Indigenous communities will benefit from safer roads through the Province's Vision Zero grant program.

Vision Zero provides total funding of up to \$575,000 to organizations to support local road safety improvements, with organizations receiving up to \$20,000 per project.

Vision Zero grants are provided by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) contributed \$84,000.

Vision Zero in road safety is an international best practice that originated in the Netherlands and Sweden in the 1990s to eliminate deaths and serious injuries from road transport.

**Learn More:**

Visit the Vision Zero Challenge web page for more details on this worldwide program: <https://visionzerochallenge.org/vision-zero?locale=en>

For more information about the grant applicants, visit: <https://injuryresearch.bc.ca/vision-zero-grant-program-successful-applicants/>

### **Highway 1 closed east of Golden between Easter, Victoria Day weekends**



Crews have made steady progress on Highway 1 improvements through the Kicking Horse Canyon.

To advance work at more challenging sites within the project, a full highway closure is required between the Easter and Victoria Day weekends. Updates on delays will be available online: [DriveBC.ca](http://DriveBC.ca)

**Learn More:**

For more information on this project, visit: [www.kickinghorsecanyon.ca](http://www.kickinghorsecanyon.ca)

For job opportunities for the Kicking Horse Canyon four-laning project, visit: <https://www.bcib.ca/>

## **Industry and Environment**

### **New mining reclamation policy expands environmental protection**

An interim reclamation security policy for B.C.'s mining industry requires that reclamation liability cost estimates include both conventional reclamation (such as re-sloping and re-vegetation) and environmental liabilities (such as water treatment). The policy also requires bonding for the operation and maintenance of any necessary water-treatment plants.

The Mines Act gives the chief permitting officer the authority to determine the amount and form of reclamation security required of mine permit holders.

The interim reclamation policy will be reviewed and updated as necessary following the completion of the Public Interest Bonding Strategy that is being led by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to improve bonding in the natural resource sector.

**Learn More:**

Interim Reclamation Security Policy for B.C.'s mining industry:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/mineral-exploration-mining/permitting/mine-reclamation-securities>

## Workplace Safety

### Scholarship Supports Women in Occupational Health and Safety

The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) is accepting applications for the 2022 Chad Bradley Scholarship Award.

The \$3,000 scholarship is open to women pursuing education in the field of occupational health and safety from an accredited college or university in Canada.

The entry deadline for the Chad Bradley Scholarship Award is August 31, 2022. Full details about the scholarship criteria and how to apply is available on the CCOHS website: [www.ccohs.ca/scholarships](http://www.ccohs.ca/scholarships).



Stay safe,

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