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From: CLRInfo
Sent: October 1, 2021 7:54 AM
To: Ken McCormack
Cc: Maria Sushkova
Subject: CLR Info - Weekly Update - Oct 1

Importance: High

[CLR Members,](#)

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

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

September 30, 2021 marked the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The day honours the lost children and survivors of residential schools, their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process.

The creation of this federal statutory holiday was through legislative amendments made by Parliament. On June 3, 2021, Bill C-5, *An Act to amend the Bills of Exchange Act, the Interpretation Act and the Canada Labour Code* (National Day for Truth and Reconciliation) received Royal Assent.



This National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, people were invited to explore the rich and diverse cultures, voices, experiences and stories of the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. To start your learning journey, [visit](#).

COVID Updates and Vaccination News

[Reminder: People need the BC Vaccine Card to access certain settings](#)

Starting Monday, Sept. 27, the **BC Vaccine Card** is the only acceptable proof of vaccination for British Columbians to enjoy certain businesses and recreational events safely.

The transition period, which allowed people to present their paper record of immunization received at the time of their vaccination appointment, ended on Sept. 26.

The BC Vaccine Card requirement is applied in certain discretionary settings, including most restaurants and indoor events, through provincial health officer orders.

People can get their BC Vaccine Card online at gov.bc.ca/vaccinecard and keep a digital copy on their mobile device by taking a screen shot or saving the digital copy to the device's photo album or downloads folder, or they can print a hard copy to present when entering designated businesses and events.

Businesses can download the BC Vaccine Card Verifier App from the Google Play and Apple App stores and use the app to verify customers' BC Vaccine Card, or visually verify the person's proof of vaccination. Government-issued photo is required for those 19 and older.

Learn More:

To learn more about the vaccine card and how to access yours, visit: gov.bc.ca/vaccinecard

Information for businesses, including step-by-step instructions, can be found at: gov.bc.ca/vaccinecard-businesses

B.C. COVID-19 pandemic update

As of Wednesday, Sept. 29, 87.9% (4,074,112) of eligible people 12 and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 80.8% (3,745,457) have received their second dose.

In addition, 88.4% (3,823,614) of all eligible adults in B.C. have received their first dose and 81.6% (3,529,426) received their second dose.

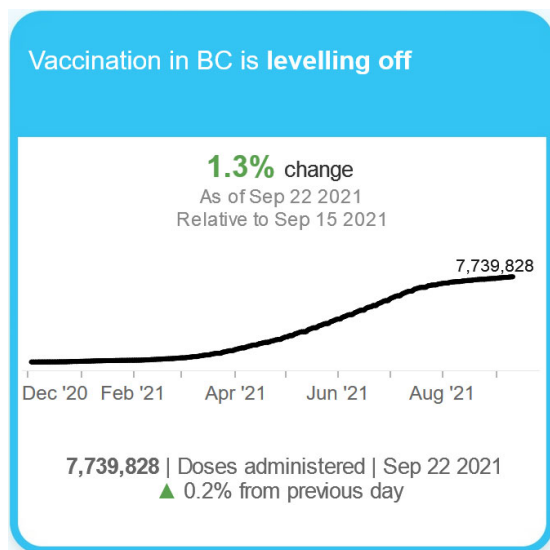
B.C. is reporting 813 new cases of COVID-19, for a total of 186,245 cases in the province. There are 6,185 active cases of COVID-19 in the province, and 177,729 people who tested positive have recovered. Of the active cases, 340 individuals are in hospital and 146 are in intensive care. The remaining people are recovering at home in self-isolation.

From Sept. 21-27, people not fully vaccinated accounted for 71.9% of cases and from Sept. 14-27 they accounted for 80.8% of hospitalizations.

Learn More:

For the Sept. 28, 2021, modelling presentation, visit: https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/9-28_PHO_modelling.pdf

Immunization dashboard



Economic Recovery and Innovation

PST refund extension saves businesses more money

A StrongerBC program that refunds businesses the PST paid on select machinery and equipment will be extended for an additional six months.

This extension will give businesses another chance to reduce costs and make new investments to adapt to the changes the pandemic has required, and to set them up to take advantage of future opportunities.

Businesses will have until March 31, 2022 – an additional six months – to purchase qualifying items like tools, furniture, computers, software and zero-emission vehicles and charging equipment.

Almost 2,000 businesses have received millions in rebates on more than \$100 million in qualifying equipment and machinery so far, with most applications still expected in the coming months. Most applicants are small and medium-sized businesses. The construction industry is the largest recipient by sector, followed by the transportation and retail sectors.

Quick Facts:

- This funding is part of B.C.'s \$10-billion COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.
- An estimated 110,000 incorporated B.C. businesses are eligible for the rebate.
- Rebate eligibility is based on the Capital Cost Allowance classes used under the federal income tax system.
- The PST savings on a new zero-emission vehicle can be more than \$3,000.

Learn More:

Apply for the PST Rebate on Select Machinery and Equipment online: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/sales-taxes/pst/rebate-machinery-equipment>

Micro-credentials a gateway to support B.C. workers

A total investment of \$5 million will support the development and implementation of additional micro-credentials at public post-secondary institutions for British Columbians who want to take advantage of employment opportunities in growing sectors throughout the province. This funding will support the development and implementation of an additional 35 micro-credentials aligned with government and labour market priorities to be delivered to 7,500 learners over a three-year period.

Micro-credentials recognize stand-alone, short-duration learning experiences that are competency-based, align with industry, employer and community and Indigenous community needs, and can be assessed and recognized for employment or learning purposes.

A new micro-credential framework established through ongoing consultation with key industry and educational partners has been developed to provide guidance and clarity about how micro-credentials fit within the current post-secondary system. The framework promotes communication between industry and post-secondary institutions, re-skilling and up-skilling for the future economy and workforce and encourages consistent and co-ordinated development of micro-credentials across the public post-secondary system.

Learn more: [Download \(745 KB\)](#) | bcgovnews.azureedge.net

New opportunities for more people coming to B.C.'s tech sector

More than 3,000 people from under-represented groups throughout the province will have more opportunities to join B.C.'s booming tech sector with the expansion of the Innovator Skills Initiative program.

The program will see the B.C. government partnering with Innovate BC, Mitacs and the Information and Communications Technology Council (ICTC) to provide grants to businesses and non-profits to help under-represented people get their first job in the tech sector or in a tech-enabled role.

This initiative also helps businesses and non-profits facing skill shortages to grow.

The Province's investment of \$15 million is being supplemented by the partners, bringing the total investment into the Innovator Skills Initiative program to \$29 million.

The Innovator Skills Initiative program provides B.C. companies with grants up to \$10,000 per employee hired for technology jobs and tech-enabled roles. The grant covers a new employee's salary for four months. There are 3,000 grants available. Organizations can apply for as many as 10 positions.

The program has been redesigned to provide employers with access to larger grants, doubling the previous maximum grant amount from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per employee to hire workers who are either students or who already have industry-recognized credentials. The redesign also makes the program more inclusive by prioritizing placements for people who have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic and historically under-represented in the technology sector. Preference is given to employers hiring candidates who self-identify as Indigenous, Black, people of colour, women and non-binary people, 2SLGBTQ+ and people from under-represented communities.

Applications are open until spring 2022 or until the funds are disbursed. Positions may be available throughout British Columbia and are dependent on the businesses that apply for the grants.

Learn More:

Businesses interested in applying for the Innovator Skills program can apply here:

<https://www.innovatebc.ca/programs/hiring-grants/innovator-skills-initiative/>

To learn more about the Innovator Skills Initiative, eligibility criteria and to apply, visit:

<https://www.innovatebc.ca/programs/hiring-grants/innovator-skills-initiative/>

To learn more about Innovate BC, visit: <https://www.innovatebc.ca/>

To learn more about Mitacs, visit: <https://www.mitacs.ca/en>

To learn more about the Information and Communications Technology Council, visit: <https://www.ictc-ctic.ca/>

To learn more about Information and Communications Technology Council's WIL Digital program, visit:

<https://www.wil-ait.digital/en/>

Stay safe.

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

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