

CLR-INFO

[CLR Members,](#)

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

Provincial News

[COVID-19 Update](#)

B.C. appears to be past the peak of its second Omicron variant-driven wave of COVID-19, according to an independent report. Omicron variant BA.2 currently accounts for 98% of cases in the province.

The report states hospital admissions have begun dropping in May and are expected to continue to decline through June. The model projects the number of people with COVID-19 in hospitals to fall below 400 by mid-June. However, with 596 people in hospital as of B.C.'s last weekly report, hospitalizations continue to exceed the peak recorded in any pre-Omicron wave of 515 on April 28, 2021. [Learn more](#)

[Trade mission will showcase B.C.'s strong reputation](#)



As the next step in the StrongerBC Economic Plan, Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation, will embark on a 10-day trade mission to Europe.

Starting May 22, the mission will see the minister meet with the key public- and private-sector partners in five European countries, building on B.C.'s reputation as a leader in ESG (environmental, social, governance) standards.

The minister will meet with partners, investors and members of the government in the Netherlands, England, Ireland, Germany and Finland. Topics will include mutual areas of interest, such as agri-tech, mass timber, life sciences and biomanufacturing, the emerging hydrogen sector, clean-energy solutions and new technologies to improve supply chains.

Learn more about the [StrongerBC Economic Plan](#).

[B.C. launches new program to accelerate local climate action](#)



Through Budget 2022, the Province provided \$76 million over three years for the Local Government Climate Action Program. Funds will be distributed to eligible governments based on each community's population and a base amount. Participating governments will be required to show funds have been invested in projects that support the objectives of the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 or the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy.

The Local Government Climate Action Program was designed considering input from local governments, the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM), Modern Treaty Nations and the independent Climate Solutions Council.

To be eligible, participating governments are required to sign on to the B.C. Climate Action Charter, complete a number of reporting requirements and demonstrate matching funding or in-kind contributions for local climate initiatives equal to 20% of their provincial allocation. [Learn more](#)

[Forest employment program provides jobs, supports communities](#)



Forestry workers and communities in the Thompson Okanagan region are benefiting from economic opportunities created through the Province's Forest Employment Program (FEP).

In the past year, the Province has invested \$1.87 million in 22 projects in the B.C. Interior, employing local contractors and workers and focusing on wildfire risk reduction and improving outdoor safety and accessibility.

Budget 2022 provides a further \$185 million over three years to provide coordinated support for forestry workers, industry, communities and First Nations who may be affected by new restrictions on old-growth logging. This includes funding for short-term employment opportunities for contractors and their workers, rural economic diversification and infrastructure projects, bridging to retirement for older workers, education and skills training, and on-the-ground economic-development and community-support services. [Learn more](#)

[Province launches Surrey Langley SkyTrain engagement](#)



The public is invited to have their say on the first rapid transit project south of the Fraser River in 30 years.

The new Surrey Langley Skytrain public engagement began Monday, May 9, 2022, and will run until June 9. Open houses for members of the public are scheduled for May 25 in Surrey and for May 31 in Langley.

For more information and to take part in this public consultation, visit the project website [here](#).

Federal News

[Canada and FCM support strengthened asset management in British Columbia communities](#)

The Government of Canada is investing \$441,200 in ten British Columbia communities through the Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP), delivered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). These initiatives will help communities make data-driven decisions about key infrastructure and ensure long-term infrastructure performance.

MAMP provides asset management training, funding and information sharing to enable municipalities to access the data needed to plan effectively. The \$110-million program, funded by the Government of Canada and delivered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, has invested in more than 1,259 municipal asset management projects.

Through the Investing in Canada Plan, the federal government is investing more than \$180 billion over 12 years in public transit projects, green infrastructure, social infrastructure, trade and transportation routes, and Canada's rural and northern communities.

Associated links

[Municipal Asset Management Program](#)

[Infrastructure in your Community](#)

[Investing in Canada: Canada's Long-Term Infrastructure Plan](#)

[Investing in Canada plan project map](#)

Industry and Infrastructure

[Fine issued for Coastal GasLink project](#)

The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) has issued a second administrative penalty to Coastal GasLink Pipeline Ltd. (CGL) for non-compliance with conditions and orders related to erosion and sediment control under its environmental assessment certificate.

The fine of \$170,100 was issued following several inspections by compliance and enforcement officers with the EAO. Inspections have found repeated issues with erosion and sediment control.

A first administrative penalty of \$72,500 was issued to CGL in February 2022.

The Coastal GasLink Pipeline project is a natural gas pipeline approximately 650 kilometres long. It will connect natural gas facilities west of Dawson Creek to the LNG Canada liquefied natural gas export facility near Kitimat that is also under construction.

For more information about the environmental assessment process, [visit](#).

Road resurfacing season underway in the southern Interior



Approximately 60 kilometres of highways 1 and 97B, and side roads in the North Okanagan area will be repaved this summer. Okanagan Aggregates Ltd. has been awarded an \$11.3-million contract and work is expected to be complete this fall.

Next month, the \$7.1-million hot-in-place resurfacing of approximately 66 kilometres of Likely Road in the Cariboo district will begin. This project will provide safer driving conditions for all users and is scheduled to be completed in October 2022. In July, approximately 105 kilometres of Highway 20 east of Anahim Lake will be seal coated. Victoria-based Arrowsmith Road Maintenance Ltd. will complete the work, which is expected to finish by September 2022.

The 2022 season will see approximately \$113 million invested into resurfacing southern Interior highways and local roads. Updates on delays and closures are available online: <https://www.drivebc.ca/>



Stay safe,

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