

## CLR-INFO

### Provincial & Federal News

#### [New cabinet ready to take action](#)



Wednesday, December 7, Premier David Eby announced a new cabinet.

Two new ministries are being created to devote more attention and resources to major issues that impact British Columbians: the Ministry of Housing, and the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness.

The new cabinet includes 23 ministers and four ministers of state.

Gender representation remains balanced. The cabinet will be supported in its work by 14 parliamentary secretaries.

To learn more, [visit](#).

#### [B.C.'s economy is forecast to remain steady, despite slower near-term economic growth](#)

Like other jurisdictions, B.C. is expected to see slower economic growth through 2023 because of global inflation and higher interest rates, before steady growth resumes in the medium term, according to projections from private-sector forecasters.

Each year, B.C.'s finance minister meets with the Economic Forecast Council (EFC), a 13-member council of private-sector forecasters from throughout Canada, in preparation for the next year's budget.

The EFC anticipates the province's economy will grow by 2.9% in 2022 and 0.4% in 2023; slower than their January 2022 forecasts of 4.2% and 2.7%, respectively. The updated figures are similar to what was presented in the Province's Second Quarterly Report. Real gross domestic product (GDP) growth is then expected to pick up, with an increase of 1.6% in 2024, followed by gains of 2.3%, 2.3% and 2.1% in 2025, 2026 and 2027, respectively.

#### **Learn More:**

To read B.C.'s Second Quarterly Report, [visit](#).

#### [Review highlights B.C.'s strong pandemic response, opportunities for enhancement](#)

The Province has released the results of the independent review and public consultation of the government's operational response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The review looked at preparations for the

pandemic, the processes used to make decisions, government communication related to the pandemic response, and the implementation of response measures.

The independent project team engaged with government agencies, First Nations and Indigenous organizations, local governments, stakeholders, and partners, and included an online survey for public participation. The project team spoke with more than 200 people representing about 145 organizations over 70 sessions and received more than 15,000 responses to the public survey.

**Learn More:**

COVID-19 Lessons Learned Review – [Final Report](#).

**[Fifteen British Columbians honoured for their dedication to service](#)**



The Government of B.C. has selected 15 British Columbians to receive the Medal of Good Citizenship for their dedication and selfless service to their communities.

The recipients will be presented with medals at in-person ceremonies throughout the province in 2023. Established in 2015, the medal acknowledges people's remarkable service to community life.

**Learn More:**

2022 medal recipient [biographies](#)

Medal of Good Citizenship information, including how to nominate generous and kind role models in your community: [www.gov.bc.ca/medalofgoodcitizenship](http://www.gov.bc.ca/medalofgoodcitizenship)

Order of B.C.: [www.orderofbc.gov.bc.ca](http://www.orderofbc.gov.bc.ca)

**[Government of Canada invests \\$2.25M for project to support mental health in Métis communities across British Columbia](#)**

December 8, Carolyn Bennett, Federal Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health, announced \$2.25M in funding to Métis Nation British Columbia for their project to provide Métis community members with information and resources to improve mental health and well-being. In partnership with LivingWorks, this project will implement an evidence-based suicide prevention program to promote mental wellness and create a Network of Safety within Métis communities across British Columbia.

This announcement is part of a \$100 million investment provided in Budget 2021 to support projects that promote mental health and prevent mental illness in populations disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. These include youth, seniors, First Nations, Inuit and Métis, Black and other racialized people in Canada, front-line and other essential workers, and others whose mental health has been and continues to be impacted by the pandemic.

## Health & Safety

**[Amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation](#)**

At its October 2022 meeting, WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors approved amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation (OHSR). These amendments will affect Part 14: Cranes and Hoists, Part 19: Electrical Safety, and Item R19.25.1 of the Prevention Manual.

To learn more, please visit <https://www.clra-bc.com/news-events/bulletins/> or contact Glen Williams, CLR, if you have any questions about the amendments to Health and Safety (OHS) Regulations.

### [Recovery procedures for overpayments](#)

On October 26, 2022, WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors approved changes to the policy on recovery procedures for overpayments.

The amended policy applies to all decisions made on or after December 1, 2022.

You may also review the complete [Resolution](#).

### [Other matters \(alcoholism\)](#)

On October 26, 2022, WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors approved policy changes to Item C4-32.00, Other matters, of the Rehabilitation Services & Claims Manual, Volume II to replace outdated terminology referring to the worker as an "alcoholic" and language which describes the pattern of behaviours associated with alcoholism.

The amended policy applies to all decisions made on or after December 1, 2022.

The complete Resolution can be found [here](#).

### [Measurement of Earnings Loss — Wage Inflation Adjustment Factor](#)

On November 23, 2022, WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors approved an amendment to policy in Item C6-40.00, Section 196 Permanent Partial Disability Benefits, of the Rehabilitation Services & Claims Manual, Volume II, to clarify the factor used to adjust earnings for inflation in calculating a loss of earnings award is based on the change in an annual average of wages and salaries in B.C.

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

## Industry News

### [B.C. making changes to support trades jobs, tackle labour shortages](#)



The province is advancing a made-in-B.C. solution to attract more people to trades careers and boost prestige for the sector by moving forward with skilled trades certification.

The change will formally recognize the skills of trades workers, helping them receive standardized training, and better navigate evolving industry needs. Based on recommendations from a stakeholder advisory working group, there are seven initial trades

designated for skilled trades certification and three more will be added in 2024.

#### **Learn More:**

Visit SkilledTradesBC to learn about the skilled trades certification process and the supports available to tradespeople: <https://skilledtradesbc.ca/skilledtradescertification>

For information about how skilled trades certification was developed, visit: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/skilledtrades/about-mandatory-certification/>

### **Technical Safety BC – Skilled Trades Updates**

The Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training, along with SkilledTradesBC (formerly ITA), [recently introduced new regulations](#) that may impact safety partners in gas and electrical.

Any certificates issued by Technical Safety BC remain valid and individuals can continue to work within their current scope, though individuals may have to meet additional requirements with SkilledTradesBC within the next year. It is our understanding that there will be a one-year transition period to provide time for impacted individuals to ensure compliance with the new SkilledTradesBC regulation.

We recommend consulting with SkilledTradesBC directly for any questions related to the new requirements.

## **Transportation and Infrastructure**

### **Province partners with YVR to produce ‘world’s greenest airport’**



The Province of British Columbia will partner with the Vancouver airport (YVR) to help make it the “world’s greenest airport” as part of its new Integrated Marketplace Initiative.

The initiative will focus on supporting B.C. clean energy companies who are looking to develop and sell clean solutions locally, states a news release.

The initiative’s pilot project will be linking YVR with B.C. companies to “help electrify its operations and to meet its net-zero by 2030 commitment”.

The government is spending \$11.5 million to create a new marketplace to match B.C.’s clean-tech companies with industry buyers.

The airport will be focused on transitioning many of its ground-handling airfield vehicles from diesel to electric.

### **Feds announce funding for new Cultus Lake wastewater treatment plant**



The Government of Canada has announced \$9.9 million in joint funding for a new wastewater treatment plant in Cultus Lake.

The federal government will invest \$5.4 million in the project with the Government of British Columbia and the Regional District of Fraser Valley providing \$4.5 million and \$3.6 million respectively, reads a news release.

Along with the construction of a new facility to provide secondary wastewater treatment, control algae growth and protect aquatic habitats, the project will include piping and rapid infiltration basin installations and provide odour control.

A pressurized sewer pipe will service the lands of the Soowahlie First Nations.



Stay safe,

Ken McCormack | President & CEO



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