

CLR-INFO

Weather Alert

[Avalanche risk: Exercise extreme caution in the backcountry](#)



The Province is urging people to be prepared and extremely cautious in the backcountry, with continued high and considerable avalanche risk forecast in many areas of B.C.

Avalanche Canada continues to monitor a deep, persistent slab avalanche problem for many regions. This is causing very dangerous and highly unpredictable avalanche conditions.

Avalanche Canada continues to encourage people to stay away

from steep slopes and terrain, and to check: <https://www.avalanche.ca> - for avalanche conditions for forecasts.

Learn More: [PreparedBC's avalanche safety guidance](#)

Provincial & Federal News

[Lisa Helps appointed as Premier's adviser on housing to support the rollout of BC Builds](#)

Premier David Eby has appointed Lisa Helps, Victoria's former mayor, as the Premier's housing solutions adviser.

Helps will work with Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Housing, stakeholders and partners, to help design and develop the BC Builds program, an initiative to build housing for middle-income families, individuals and seniors.

Helps' appointment as a special adviser on housing comes after Dr. Penny Ballem was named the Premier's health systems specialist and Doug White was named the special counsel to the Premier on Indigenous reconciliation.

[New permitting strategy will help build homes faster](#)



**More homes for people,
built sooner**

StrongerBC
Province

The Province is taking another step to tackle the housing crisis by creating a one-stop-shop approach to provincial permitting to help speed up approvals and construction to build more homes.

The new Permitting Strategy for Housing will streamline the process and create a single, co-ordinated approach to housing-related permits and authorization. This will speed up the process and eliminate the need for multiple applications across ministries. While the single application window is being established over the

coming months, permit and authorization decisions will be expedited through a cross-ministry team focused solely on processing housing permits. The Housing Action Task Force includes decision-makers, information technology systems, project managers and policy support teams working together to speed up processing.

[Bank of Canada increases policy interest rate by 25 basis points, continues quantitative tightening](#)

On January 25, the Bank of Canada increased its target for the overnight rate to 4½%, with the Bank Rate at 4¾% and the deposit rate at 4½%. The Bank is also continuing its policy of quantitative tightening.

The Bank estimates Canada's economy grew by 3.6% in 2022, slightly stronger than was projected in October. Growth is expected to stall through the middle of 2023, picking up later in the year. The Bank expects GDP growth of about 1% in 2023 and about 2% in 2024.

Inflation is projected to come down significantly this year. Lower energy prices, improvements in global supply conditions, and the effects of higher interest rates on demand are expected to bring the Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation down to around 3% in the middle of this year and back to the 2% target in 2024.

The next scheduled date for announcing the overnight rate target is March 8, 2023. The Bank will publish its next full outlook for the economy and inflation, including risks to the projection, in the Monetary Policy Report on April 12, 2023.

Labour and Economy

[Okanagan College offers Women of Steel program](#)

Okanagan College (OC) is launching a new program designed specifically to encourage women to consider a career in welding.

The Women of Steel: Forging Forward Program, supported by the CWB Welding Foundation, is being offered in 14 locations across Canada.

This tuition-free pre-employment program includes practical theory, hands-on welding training, and skills development. The program will start on March 27 and run for 12 weeks, with in-person training provided at Okanagan College's Penticton campus.

[Skills Roadmap helps people in the mining sector](#)



More people will be able to pursue careers in mining through the Skills Roadmap Report, which identifies British Columbians' future skills and training needs within the mining sector.

The Skills Roadmap Report was recently completed by the B.C. Centre of Training Excellence in Mining. It fulfils a recommendation from the B.C. Mining Jobs Task Force to develop a cohesive roadmap for enhanced mining-sector training to meet the sector's future skills and labour needs through a collaborative, inclusive, innovative and

geographically focused approach.

Addressing skilled labour shortages is a part of StrongerBC's Future Ready Plan.

To view the Skills Roadmap Report, [visit](#).

Health and Safety

[New safety resources available to help reduce the risk of struck-by incidents at a worksite](#)

Reducing the risk of workers being struck by vehicles or mobile equipment: Guide to using the fillable template, along with the fillable template, will help employers identify where on a worksite vehicles or mobile equipment operate near workers, so you can eliminate or minimize the risks.

The fillable template has an area to draw a worksite layout and identify where vehicles or mobile equipment operate near workers on foot. Using the fillable template and guide together, you can work through factors that contribute to risk, and determine the most effective way to reduce the risk, as set out in the hierarchy of controls.

Visit WorkSafeBC [managing risk](#) webpage to learn more about managing risk.

Infrastructure

[Major breakthrough for Broadway Subway Project](#)



The first of two tunnel-boring machines (TBMs) that began excavating for the Broadway Subway Project last fall broke through to the future Mount Pleasant Station on the evening of Monday, Jan. 23, 2023.

Named Elsie, after notable B.C.-born aircraft designer Elizabeth (Elsie) MacGill, the custom-built 150-metre-long machine bored a six-metre-wide hole in the station's east wall. To view Elsie

breaking through Mount Pleasant Station wall, [visit](#).

Progress continues to be made on the project. The second TBM, named Phyllis after well-known B.C. naturalist and mountain climber Phyllis Munday began excavating on Nov. 29, 2022. Phyllis is expected to

arrive at Mount Pleasant Station this spring. Each machine will take approximately one year to journey from Great Northern Way-Emily Carr Station to Cypress Street near the future Arbutus Station.

Learn more: [Broadway Subway Project](#)

Safety improvements ahead for Highway 5A



New technology that monitors commercial vehicles will improve safety for local residents and drivers on Highway 5A.

Weigh-in-motion and automatic vehicle-identification systems will monitor commercial vehicles at highway speeds using sensors built into and above the highway. The sensors will measure real-time safety and vehicle data, such as weight, height and tire conditions, and compare the data against enforced standards.

Highway 5A is an important alternative route for the trucking industry as the higher elevations make the Coquihalla Highway more susceptible to extreme weather conditions. Commercial vehicles also use Highway 5A for local deliveries, forestry and agriculture.

Industry News

Crofton mill gets workers back on the job with provincial, federal funding



Supporting workers in Crofton

More than 100 jobs will resume at Paper Excellence's Crofton Mill facility, resulting from a partnership and funding from the provincial and federal governments, as the mill retools to manufacture new pulp products that reduce the need for single-use plastics.

The Government of British Columbia and the Government of Canada are contributing a combined \$18.8 million to join with

Paper Excellence's investment that will result in more than 100 people getting back to work at Crofton's paper line.

Earlier this week, the B.C. government announced up to \$90 million in funding for the B.C. Manufacturing Jobs Fund that will provide funding to forestry companies that require equipment to support new product lines, such as mass timber production or paper packaging, or smaller-diameter tree processing and manufacturing or a company that wants to build or expand a plastics-alternative manufacturing facility in a rural community.

Learn More:

To learn more about the Forest Worker Community Support programs, visit: <https://forestryworkersupport.gov.bc.ca/>

To learn more about the StrongerBC Economic Plan, visit: <https://strongerbc.gov.bc.ca/plan>

Third fine issued for Coastal GasLink project

The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) has issued an administrative penalty to Coastal GasLink Pipeline Ltd. (CGL) for non-compliance with the requirements of its environmental assessment certificate.

The \$213,600 fine was issued for continued deficiencies with erosion and sediment control measures identified by compliance and enforcement officers during inspections of pipeline construction in February 2022.

The Coastal GasLink pipeline will connect natural gas facilities west of Dawson Creek to the LNG Canada liquid natural gas export facility near Kitimat. For additional information on the Coastal GasLink pipeline project, search “Coastal GasLink” here: <https://projects.eao.gov.bc.ca/projects-list>

Learn More:

To view the documents related to the administrative penalty, [visit](#).

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



Stay safe,

Ken McCormack | President & CEO



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