

## CLR-INFO

### Weather Alert

#### Heavy rain, strong winds spike flood and avalanche risk across B.C. south coast



Rain and wind warnings cover much of Vancouver Island and the inner south coast as the remnants of a storm that brought flooding to California now hit southern B.C.

Environment Canada estimates total rainfall of 50 to 100 millimetres before conditions ease Friday.

The weather office warns heavy downpours can spawn flash floods, while winds gusting to 90 km per hour over northern Vancouver Island and the Greater Victoria region could cause damage or power outages.

[Public Weather Alerts for British Columbia](#)

### Provincial & Federal News

#### COVID-19 cases in B.C. hospitals hit a nine-week low

The number of patients with COVID-19 in B.C. hospitals fell to its lowest point this week since early November, as province-wide test positivity held steady.

As of Jan.12, there were 302 cases in the hospital, down from 352 the week prior. The number of cases in critical care remained unchanged at 25.

#### Nominate an exceptional citizen for B.C.'s highest honour



Nominations are being accepted for the Order of British Columbia, the Province's highest honour.

British Columbians who have demonstrated outstanding achievement, excellence or distinction in a field of endeavour benefiting people in the province or elsewhere are eligible for nomination.

In addition to the Order of B.C., people may nominate individuals for the Province's other honour, the Medal of Good Citizenship. The

medal recognizes citizens for their exceptional service and contributions to their communities without the expectation of remuneration or reward. Nominations for the Medal of Good Citizenship are accepted year-round.

**Learn More:**

The Order of B.C.: <http://www.orderofbc.gov.bc.ca>

Medal of Good Citizenship: [www.gov.bc.ca/medalofgoodcitizenship](http://www.gov.bc.ca/medalofgoodcitizenship)

## Labour and Economy

### B.C. adds 62,900 jobs in 2022, construction industry grows: Statistics Canada



The Province of British Columbia saw substantial job growth throughout 2022, with Statistics Canada reporting 62,900 jobs added.

people.

More than 16,000 jobs were added in December, offsetting a net loss in November. Unemployment remains near historic lows at 4.2%, reports Statistics Canada. It also reported a 2.3% increase in the number of construction workers across the country in December, a gain of 35,000

### Strong Immigration Belies Canada's Hostile Economic Outlook



Following a gain of 285,000 individuals in the second quarter of 2022, Canada's population increased by an unprecedented 362,000 in the third quarter. This gain was driven primarily by a record inflow of 225,000 non-permanent residents. These are individuals legally granted the right to live in Canada for a limited period under the authority of a temporary resident permit. They include individuals holding work permits, visitor permits, student permits, special temporary resident permits, and individuals

seeking refugee status.

However, most of the gain was driven by immigrants with work permits. In an article titled *Just how temporary were temporary foreign workers?*, Statistics Canada reports that although the majority of temporary foreign workers traditionally leave within two years of obtaining their first work permit, a growing number of them are staying longer and obtaining permanent resident status.

## Industry News

### Canfor closing its pulp operations at P.G. pulp and paper mill

One of the biggest employers in Prince George, B.C., is shutting down a large part of its operation.

Canfor said it's permanently closing its pulp operations at its P.G. pulp and paper mill by the end of the month. Around 300 people are expected to lose their jobs.

The company said the decision comes after an extensive analysis of its operations and the long-term supply of fibre for pulp. Canfor said the mill's specialty paper facility will stay open.

### West Fraser Timber to indefinitely curtail Florida sawmill



West Fraser Timber Co. Ltd. says it will indefinitely curtail its Perry Sawmill in Florida later this month due to high fibre costs and softening lumber markets.

The Vancouver-based company said in a press release that the indefinite curtailment will affect around 126 employees.

However, West Fraser says it will try to mitigate the effect on workers by providing work opportunities at other West Fraser operations.

### Lafarge and TransAlta invest in low-carbon concrete



Lafarge Canada and TransAlta Corporation are working together to produce low-carbon concrete from waste.

The partnership will repurpose landfilled fly ash, waste produced from TransAlta's coal-fired electricity operations near Edmonton, states a news release.

The coal-fired operations ended in 2021 and the ash will be used to replace cement in concrete manufacturing.

Geocycle, a Canadian subsidiary of Lafarge, will be part of the project as they have experience managing fly ash in the U.S., adds the release.

## Infrastructure

### B.C. completes 213 seismic upgrading projects at schools across the province



British Columbia is the most seismically active area in Canada. Every year, the province experiences thousands of earthquakes that threaten infrastructure such as schools.

In 2022, roughly 2,500 earthquakes shook the province. Most occurred off the west coast of Vancouver Island and Haida Gwaii.

To mitigate the risk, the province is working through a comprehensive seismic upgrading program of schools across Vancouver and the rest of B.C. to minimize the possibility of a structural collapse if a big one hits.

To date, work has been completed on 213 elementary and secondary schools across the province. Another 13 are under construction and four are proceeding to construction. The plan is to upgrade 496 schools.



Stay safe,

Ken McCormack | President & CEO