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B.C. SECURES LANDMARK AGREEMENT TO POWER DECADES OF JOBS, PROSPERITY, GROWTH

Premier David Eby has secured a multi-billion-dollar agreement with Prime Minister Mark Carney that sets British Columbia on a generational path to prosperity, unlocking jobs for workers, support for vital public services and infrastructure, and protecting the tanker ban and British Columbia's pristine northern coast.

"This agreement is about building B.C.'s future - not just for this year, but for generations to come. It means more good jobs for workers and more opportunities to train for better pay, all while protecting the beautiful places that make our province so remarkable," said Premier Eby. "This deal will deliver faster commutes as we build critical infrastructure, less pollution as we power growth with clean electricity, and the kind of shared prosperity that funds strong public services. I want to thank the Prime Minister for recognizing the key role B.C. is playing in building a stronger, more independent Canada."

The Canada-British Columbia Cooperative Prosperity Agreement



creates a new long-term partnership between the federal and provincial government - built around B.C.'s unique position as Canada's Pacific gateway and its world-class strengths in clean energy, natural resources, critical minerals and trade infrastructure. It also confirms that the North Coast tanker ban will be fully maintained with-

out modification, and it ensures British Columbia is compensated for environmental risk if the federal government imposes a pipeline on the province. The agreement secures new commitments on watershed protection and does not require the Government of B.C. to support any pipeline proposal from Alberta. Central to this new

partnership is a multi-billion-dollar investment from the federal government to support major projects in B.C. - led by up to \$3 billion toward the cost of the Fraser River Tunnel Project, as well as commitments to the Red Chris mine expansion and the North Coast Transmission Line (NCTL). Support for NCTL will mean a

\$3.9-billion net benefit to rate payers. The agreement also advances shared commitments to workforce training and child care, helping ensure B.C. has the skilled workers needed to build critical infrastructure and seize new economic opportunities.

"British Columbians have always known how to build big and

how to build well. Today, Canada and British Columbia are building on that legacy by further accelerating major energy projects and trade corridors, protecting our land and waters, and giving workers the support they need to help build Canada strong," said Prime Minister Carney. "Together, we're turning British Columbia's enormous economic potential into lasting prosperity. We're building British Columbia strong to build Canada strong for all."

Canada and B.C. will continue discussions on federal support to build on B.C.'s natural resource strengths. This includes a new federal commitment to delivering on port infrastructure and additional support for the forest and steel sectors in the face of U.S. tariffs. In an increasingly uncertain world, B.C. can help provide the critical minerals, energy and resources that trusted allies need from a stable, reliable partner - with some of the lowest-carbon LNG in the world, helping support energy security, while reducing global emissions.



Chal Chaliye
SABZI MANDI
Chal Chaliye ...

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ਸਬਜ਼ੀ ਮੰਡੀ ਨੂੰ ਯਾਦ ਰਖੋ

Adding trades training certification for B.C. crane operators

The Province is expanding skilled trades certification to tower and mobile crane operators to ensure consistent training and certification standards, improve crane safety and strengthen B.C.'s skilled trades workforce.

"Today we're delivering on our commitment to crane operators and worker safety in British Columbia," said Jessie Sunner, Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills. "By expanding skilled trades certification to crane operators, we're formally recognizing the skills these workers already demonstrate every day while strengthening safety and training standards across the industry. This will create clearer pathways to well-paying careers and help build the workforce major projects across our province depend on."



Transition to certification Beginning Monday, July 6, 2026, people working as tower or mobile crane operators will have one year to register as an apprentice with SkilledTradesBC or take the skilled trades certification

exam and become a journeyperson before the new requirements take effect on July 5, 2027. During the transition period, experienced workers can continue working while pursuing skilled trades certification. Provincial and federal supports will be

available to help cover certain training costs, including tuition, travel and child care. Workers will have access to SkilledTradesBC apprenticeship advisers to support them in the transition to skilled trades certification, including navigating the registration process,

accessing supports or preparing to take the exam.

"Today's announcement is an important milestone for crane operators and for all British Columbians who depend on safe, skilled work on our job sites," said Bryan Railton, business manager, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 115. "Restoring skilled trades certification reinforces the high standards of training, professionalism and safety that our industry demands. I thank the Province of British Columbia and SkilledTradesBC for working with industry and labour to strengthen public safety and recognize the vital role of certified tradespeople in building our province."

British Columbia has a record 50,000 registered apprentices. With major projects underway

and proposed throughout the province, demand for skilled trades workers continues to grow. Certification helps connect workers to stable, well-paying careers while helping employers access a skilled workforce.

Tower and mobile crane operators become the latest trades to require skilled trades certification, joining seven designated electrical and mechanical trades. Skilled trades certification formally recognizes the specialized skills required to operate cranes and supports consistent training standards throughout the industry. Workers will benefit from standardized training, nationally recognized Red Seal credentials, better wages, greater career mobility and clearer pathways to careers in the skilled trades.

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Construction continues on Fraser River Tunnel Project with federal partnership

The Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada are partnering on the Fraser River Tunnel Project, with confirmation that the federal government will contribute up to \$3 billion in capital costs toward construction of the new toll-free, eight-lane tunnel.

The updated total project budget is \$8.5 billion, reflecting current market conditions, the most recent information on project scope, inflation and the delivery schedule required for a project of this scale and complexity. This estimate has been validated by an independent third party.

"With a committed federal funding partner and a clear path forward, we are continuing to deliver one of the most important nation-building transportation projects in British Columbia's – and Canada's – history," said Mike Farnworth, Minister of Transportation and Transit. "This investment will get people and goods moving faster throughout the Lower Mainland, strengthen Canada's trade infrastructure and support long-term economic growth and jobs. The revised procurement approach we announced earlier this month will help ensure we secure the best value for taxpayers and jobs for local workers while maintaining momentum on this critical project."

Funding agreement provides boost for major transportation investment. The Fraser River Tunnel



Project will replace the aging George Massey Tunnel with a modern immersed-tube tunnel that improves safety, reliability and goods movement throughout the region while strengthening connections to the Port of Vancouver, border crossings and key trade corridors, and reducing B.C.'s reliance on the United States.

The Government of Canada has committed to funding up to \$3 billion in capital costs as part of the Canada-BC Cooperative Prosperity Agreement while the Province of British Columbia will contribute the remaining amount. The Province announced on June 15, 2026, that it would move forward with a revised procurement strategy for the project after concluding the design and early works agreement phase.

The new procurement model divides the remaining work into multiple packages, increasing competition and creating more opportunities for local Canadian and British Columbia-based contractors. "BC Building Trades members have been proud to be a part of the early work on the Fraser River Crossing under a project labour agreement," said Brynn Bourke, executive director, BC Building Trades. "We're pleased to see the federal contribution to this critical infrastructure and look forward to continuing to provide the highly skilled local workforce to complete this significant connection for the Lower Mainland."

The Province successfully used a similar approach on the Surrey Langley SkyTrain project and

the Fraser Valley Highway 1 Corridor Improvement Program, where breaking work into multiple contracts helped strengthen competition, improve flexibility and support local companies, creating more opportunities for local and regional contractors to participate. Even with the new procurement model, no work has been lost. The tunnel's design will remain unchanged, including the anticipated tunnel depth, the length of ramps and the location, from the concept designed in 2023. Rigorous studies were undertaken before determining the approach for the new tunnel and there will be no impacts to the existing tunnel during construction of the new one.

Requests for

qualifications for the first two work packages were posted on June 16, 2026. The requests for proposals are expected to be issued in early August 2026, with successful companies selected by early 2027. Procurement of the remaining three work packages will occur in 2027.

Work continues toward tunnel construction. Construction activity continues while procurement advances. Early construction work started in January 2026, including tree clearing, utility relocations and preparation for the construction of a casting basin. Temporary infrastructure construction is also underway, including the construction of three jetties for the delivery of materials, a trestle bridge onto Deas Island, access roads and retaining walls for the casting basin on

Deas Island, creating approximately 200 jobs in 2026 alone.

The Province expects the Environmental Assessment Office review process to conclude before the end of 2026, with major construction anticipated to begin in 2027. The original estimated completion date for the Fraser River Tunnel Project was December 2030. The new estimated completion timelines have shifted slightly to September 2031.

"While the project schedule has shifted slightly, the timeline still remains broadly in line with what we originally anticipated for a project of this scale and complexity," Farnworth added. "The updated timeline is not the result of the revised procurement approach, but the schedule reflects the time required to complete key planning and approvals processes, while ensuring we continue to deliver the best value for taxpayers. Our focus remains on delivering this critical infrastructure project safely, responsibly and successfully for the region."

The Fraser River Tunnel Project is a key component of British Columbia's efforts to strengthen trade infrastructure, improve transportation reliability and support a growing population. The project will get people and commercial carriers where they're going faster, while enhancing transit connections throughout the region.

Funding local governments to speed up delivery of homes

Fifty-six local governments will receive funding to fast-track development approvals and accelerate the delivery of homes.

"Our focus from the start has been on helping people across B.C. find housing that fits their needs and budgets. That can look very different in different communities," said Christine Boyle, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs. "With the Local Government Development Approvals Program, local governments can improve their internal processes and development approvals, so that we can speed up the delivery of homes for people living and working in B.C."

The Local Government Development Approvals Program, administered through the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM), helps local governments develop innovative ways to improve development-approval processes to help non-profit housing organizations, developers and other



stakeholders deliver homes quicker and increase housing supply.

"The Province is building the housing people in B.C. need, with more than 99,000 homes built or underway," said Brittny Anderson, Minister of State for Local Governments and Rural Communities. "We're going to continue our strong partnerships to build so British Columbians are able to afford to rent, to own and stay in the communities they work in,

where their families are and where they call home."

Cori Ramsay, president, UBCM, said: "Getting the homes British Columbians need approved, built and available requires all orders of government and industry to work together to improve development approvals processes. Across B.C., local governments are investing in practical solutions to streamline approvals, including digitizing permitting systems, adopting standard-

ized housing designs, and modernizing processes. UBCM is pleased to partner with the Province to deliver the Local Government Development Approvals Program, helping communities strengthen their capacity to support the timely delivery of much-needed housing."

Innovative solutions to fast-track housing The \$9-million grant programs will support streamlining local government development approv-

als processes for a variety of projects, such as prefabricated, modular or standardized housing designs.

The City of Fernie will make enhancements to improve record retrieval speed, ensure compatibility with the BC Building Permit Hub and build alignment with future provincial systems.

The District of Lake Country will identify opportunities to support the adoption of modern methods of construction, review the zoning bylaw and make recommendations to improve development approval processes.

The City of Burnaby will implement targeted development approvals process improvements to support housing delivery, with a focus on small-scale multi-unit housing, standardized housing designs and modern construction methods.

Quotes:
Blair Ireland, mayor of Lake Country -

"As Lake Country continues to grow, we need to keep finding smarter and more efficient ways to support new housing while maintaining the high quality of service residents expect. This funding will help us review our zoning and development approval processes and explore innovative approaches, including modern methods of construction that can help support housing delivery in our community."

Mike Hurley, mayor of Burnaby -

"Burnaby is growing quickly, and we need to make it easier to deliver the homes people need, while maintaining the thoughtful planning that makes our city livable. This funding will help us modernize and strengthen our approvals process by utilizing technology so we can support more housing, more certainty for applicants and better outcomes for our community."

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Minister's statement about opioid class-action lawsuits moving forward

Niki Sharma, Attorney General, has released the following statement about the B.C. Court of Appeal decision confirming British Columbia's class-action lawsuits can proceed against opioid manufacturers and distributors, and their consultants:

"Too many people in British Columbia have lost loved ones or continue to struggle because of the opioid crisis. That is why our government launched a class-action lawsuit against opioid manufacturers, distributors and their consultants.

"Time and again, we have taken on these companies in court on behalf of people in British Columbia. At every stage, we have won the fight to move this case for-



ward.

"The B.C. Court of Appeal has dismissed the final appeals that were challenging these class-action lawsuits. With these decisions, the last barriers have been

cleared, and the trial will proceed as scheduled in early 2028.

"In 2018, British Columbia took the unprecedented step of launching this lawsuit on behalf of

governments across Canada, and we passed the Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act. Our goal was to recover the public health-care costs of treating opioid-re-

lated harms, and to hold opioid manufacturers, distributors and the consultants who advised them accountable for their alleged use of deceptive marketing to drive opioid

sales, contributing to addiction and overdose.

"These decisions are two more wins in a long fight to hold these companies accountable for their part in a crisis that was declared a public-health emergency in 2016, and has devastated families in B.C. and across Canada.

"Our government remains committed to supporting people affected by this crisis and strengthening mental-health and addictions care, while continuing to advance this case through the courts.

"We will keep fighting for people in British Columbia and across Canada, because seeking justice for people harmed by this crisis is the right thing to do."

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Face is it drooping?

Arms can you raise both?

Speech is it slurred or jumbled?

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ਸਟ੍ਰੋਕ ਦੇ ਸੰਕੇਤਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਜਾਣੋ

Face ਚਿਹਰਾ: ਕੀ ਚਿਹਰਾ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਢਿਲਕ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ?

Arms ਬਾਹਵਾਂ: ਕੀ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਆਪਣੀਆਂ ਬਾਹਵਾਂ ਉੱਪਰ ਨੂੰ ਚੁੱਕ ਸਕਦੇ ਹੋ?

Speech ਗੱਲ-ਬਾਤ: ਕੀ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਗੱਲ-ਬਾਤ ਅਸਪਸ਼ਟ ਹੋ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ?

Time ਸਮੇਂ: ਸਮੇਂ ਦੀ ਅਹਿਮੀਅਤ ਸਮਝੋ - ਬਟਪਟ 9-1-1 'ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

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Adding trades training certification for B.C. crane operators

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"Today we're delivering on our commitment to crane operators and worker safety in British Columbia," said Jessie Sunner, Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills. "By expanding skilled trades certification to crane operators, we're formally recognizing the skills these workers already demonstrate every day while strengthening safety and training standards across the industry. This will create clearer pathways to well-paying careers and help build the workforce major projects across our province depend on."

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Improving crane safety

The introduction of skilled trades certification for tower and mobile crane operators is part of a broader provincial strategy

to strengthen crane safety, standards and accountability throughout British Columbia. The crane industry nominated these two trades for skilled trades certification as part of an application process. SkilledTradesBC established in 2023 to determine trades that will benefit from additional certification.

The new requirement also responds to recommendations from the Province's Crane Safety Table, convened by the Minister of Labour with industry, labour and technical experts to co-ordinate and accelerate safety improvements. It complements recent actions to strengthen crane oversight in B.C., including WorkSafeBC's work with industry partners to improve licensing, permitting and safety practices for crane operations.

SkilledTradesBC has worked closely with the International Union of Operating Engineers local 115, WorkSafeBC and other industry partners to strengthen training pathways and support crane operators pursuing certification.

"B.C. is undergoing unprecedented growth, but that growth cannot come at the expense of

worker safety," said Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Labour. "Through skilled trades certification and our work with partners, we are establishing a higher standard of accountability and safety. We will continue delivering improvements that protect workers and strengthen the construction industry."

The expansion of skilled trades certification to tower and mobile crane operators is part of the Province's Look West strategy to strengthen B.C.'s economy and support long-term economic growth and resilience.

Quotes:

Lisa Beare, MLA for Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows -

"Expanding the skilled trades certification to include crane operators reflects government's recognition of the highly skilled and challenging work they perform every day. This expansion enhances training, certification and safety standards across the industry, creating more well-paying, rewarding careers for workers throughout B.C."

Shelley Gray, CEO, SkilledTradesBC -

"Crane operators do highly skilled, safety-critical work every day. Expanding skilled trades certification to these trades helps recognize that expertise, strengthen training and certification standards, and support the skilled workforce B.C. needs. SkilledTradesBC will work closely with crane operators, employers, industry partners and training providers to help them understand the new requirements, access supports and move through the certification pathway."

Ken Schubert, Red Seal mobile crane operator -

"I served my mobile crane apprenticeship from 1999 to 2003. At that time, certification wasn't required, but I chose the apprenticeship route because I believed proper training was the right path. The theory and classroom instruction that comes with an apprenticeship provides knowledge and skills that simply can't be learned in the field alone. This is a positive step for an industry that needed change, and one that will strengthen both training and safety for future crane operators."

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(PG) ***

Should Mates!

Dangerous. Perhaps that best describes the problems plaguing some youth in the original and mysterious *Leviticus*. One could also use the word shocking to describe the goings on that confound and bewilder a group of teens. See all the muted horror unfold brilliantly in this unique and original thriller from Elevation Pictures now generating fear at select Cineplex Cinemas and Landmark Theatres across B.C.

My oh my we lead an eventful life. Boys will be boys. Or will they? Settle in for a bumpy ride as some weird evil engulfs school boys Naim and Ryan. Superb acting by Joe Bird and Stacy Clausen reveal the demons inside as some weird "thing" manages to tear their lives apart as well as those of their families and friends in a

closed knit community where religion reigns supreme. Shades of *The Exorcist* come back to haunt one's soul.

Once upon a time taboo subject matter is raised as religion and morality are on a collision course. Director and writer Adrian Chiarella knows just how to push all the right buttons and succeeds in elevating what could have been an insane story into a first class thrill ride. You'll become totally immersed in the evil just itching to get out in this high stakes drama where you just won't know what's coming next. Scary indeed!

Dark and brooding *Leviticus* will make your blood curl and leave you questioning the turmoil surrounding some teens looking for a way out. No escape.



NEHA DHUPIA'S DEBUT INTERNATIONAL FILM 52 BLUE TO OPEN LONDON INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL

Actor Neha Dhupia is all set to mark a major milestone in her career as her first international feature film, *52 Blue*, gears up to open the prestigious London Indian Film Festival with its European premiere at BFI Southbank on July 9. The film has received an overwhelmingly positive response for Neha's striking transformation and powerful performance. Audiences and critics alike have praised the emotional depth of the film, making *52 Blue* one of the most anticipated showcases at the festival this year. Adding to the excitement, globally cele-

brated football icon Lionel Messi is also associated with the film, further amplifying international attention around the project. The film's global appeal, coupled with its emotionally rich storytelling, has made it a standout title on the festival circuit. Neha Dhupia will be attending the grand premiere in London alongside acclaimed actor Adil Hussain and the ensemble cast of the film. The premiere is expected to draw international cinema lovers, industry veterans, and members of the South Asian film community from across the globe.



JIOSTAR BREAKS SILENCE ON QUEEN 2 LAWSUIT, SAYS KANGANA RANAUT FILM IS 'AN ORIGINAL, INDEPENDENT STORY'

JioStar has responded to Phantom Studios' Rs 250 crore lawsuit over *Queen 2*, denying allegations that the upcoming Kangana Ranaut-starrer infringes upon the intellectual property rights of the 2014 hit *Queen*. The production house maintained that the film is an original

project and has no creative connection with the National Award-winning drama. The statement comes days after Phantom Studios approached the Bombay High Court, alleging that JioStar had used the *Queen* intellectual property



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2026 Nissan Rogue Platinum PHEV Review

Review by Veenoo De-
wan.

New for 2026 is the Nissan Rogue PHEV (Plug in Hybrid Electric vehicle.) A few interesting points about the Rogue PHEV; It is Nissan's first plug-in hybrid for the U.S. and Canada and is actually based on the popular Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV. The Mitsubishi underpinnings for the Rogue are a stop-gap measure until the upcoming Rogue hybrid e-Power arrives later.

Only a few cosmetic differences identify the Nissan. For instance, the front grille is modified Nissan V-Motions affair and the skid plate and lower intake area is gloss black painted. The Rogue PHEV does thankfully keep the versatile three-row seating feature of the Mitsubishi Outlander. The Rogue PHEV Platinum AWD (As tested) arrives with premium 20-inch wheels and exterior Nissan badging.

The Nissan Rogue PHEV powertrain is available only on the top tier Platinum trim. The engine is a 2.4 Litre 4-Cylinder mill combined with a 185-kW and 20-kWh battery and electric motor that can produce up to 248 hp horsepower. Maximum torque is 332 lb-ft. The transmission is an automatic unit with all-wheel drive. The Nissan Rogue PHEV can deliver an impressive 61 kilometres of pure electric driving range before the gasoline engine kicks in.

In terms of electric charging, Level 3



charging can juice the PHEV to an 80 percent state of charge in just 38 minutes at 50 kW. The onboard gasoline engine charges the battery. Total range combined with gasoline and hybrid sources is 687 km.

Our top of the line fully loaded Platinum AWD tester came in at a base price of \$58,698. With only \$500 added on for the pearl paint finish. The final tally came to \$59,198 plus \$20095 for freight and PDE.

Cabin wise, the premium Outlander cabin is still present although it is now Nissan branded. General ergonomics are good,

and entry and exit is great throughout with the large doors. Apple CarPlay and Android Auto compatibility is present with a 12.3-inch digital gauge unit and 9-inch touchscreen front and center. There is Gloss-black trim around the center, while silver accents add contrast. The cabin does look nice with a premium air. Soft-touch surfaces, different textures and raised stitched details abound and the front seats are roomy. The second-row offers excellent room in all quarters as well as reclining seatbacks with fore-aft sliding adjust-

ment. There are also adjustable headrests, sun blinds, and a fold-down center armrest with cupholders. The easy-to-access third row is really only suitable for small shorter adults or children.

On the road, the Rogue PHEV drives impressively thanks to its twin-motor AWD set up. Acceleration is fast and power delivery smooth. The transition from hybrid electric power to the gas engine is seamless. Seven drive modes can be selected depending on road surface conditions and driving style. Drivers also have modes such as Power

mode, which delivers more urgent acceleration when needed, and Eco mode which emphasizes economy and green driving. Battery modes include an EV Select button, EV Priority mode, for just battery power, plus Battery Save mode, which maintains the current battery charge while driving. Meanwhile Battery Charge mode actually charges the battery as long as the gas engine is working whether on the move or stationary. Overall, the driving experience is good with an extremely quiet feel in EV mode and a nice one pedal brake feature for

driver convenience.

To sum up, the 2026 Nissan Rogue PHEV arrives as an excellent addition to the Rogue lineup – it is the most versatile model with three row seating and that excellent hybrid system. It fills the needs for drivers who need both family-friendly practicality and excellent EV driving range. Highly recommended.

2026 Nissan Rogue Platinum AWD PHEV: Priced as tested: \$61,293 including options, Freight and PDI. More info at www.nissan.ca



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2⁴⁹ ea

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