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ENVIROFOR NEWS:

Parliament Set to Resume March 1st

BC parliamentarians will not return to the legislature until March 1, 2021. The late start was announced in December 2020. It is expected that the first month will be used to tie up loose ends from the previous session with the speech from the throne not scheduled until April 12 and the Budget to be unveiled April 20. You can view the newly published [Parliamentary Calendar](#) for further details.

PGA Amendments – February 5th

On June 1, 2019, [Bill 49](#), the *Professional Governance Act* was partially brought into force. The *Professional Governance Act* (PGA) provides a consistent governance framework for self-regulating professions that incorporates best practices of professional governance. The PGA initially governs the five professional regulators overseeing agrologists, applied biologists, applied science technologists and technicians, engineers and geoscientists, and forest professionals. Professional regulators governed by the PGA will be referred to as "regulatory bodies". The PGA also strengthens government oversight by establishing a statutory Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance (OSPG) in the Ministry of Attorney General. On February 5th, [B.C. Reg. 11/2021](#) brings into force a significant number of sections of the Bill that were not yet law; however, this Reporter was published on February 4th and will not therefore include these amendments. You can expect to see these amendments published live to Quickscribe on the Friday, February 5th. You may view these amendments via the "Recent Changes" tab on the home page at that time. This is also a good reminder to take advantage of some the other customizable alerts Quickscribe has to offer via the My Alerts tab on the top menu bar.

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ENERGY AND MINES NEWS

First Nation Calls for Release of Site C Report in Open Letter to Premier

A First Nations leader is calling on the B.C. government to release several reports on the Site C dam, claiming details of escalating costs and safety concerns have been "shrouded in secrecy." In an open letter to Premier John Horgan, Chief Roland Willson of the West Moberly First Nations says work on the hydroelectric dam in northeastern B.C. should be suspended immediately until cabinet makes a decision on the project. Read the

Vancouver Sun [article](#).

Adding (Less Intense) Fuel to the Fire: Proposed Canadian Clean Fuel Regulations Will Reduce the Carbon Intensity of Liquid Fuels

Last month, Canada's Climate Plan made headlines for its pledges to accelerate the national carbon price to \$170/tonne by 2030 and to invest heavily in low-carbon technologies and projects. While setting ambitious emissions targets, the Climate Plan also recognizes that many sectors of the economy will continue to rely on fossil fuels for many years to come, even under the most rapid decarbonisation scenarios. Accordingly, the Climate Plan is complemented by the federal Clean Fuel Standard ("CFS") – a policy proposal for reducing the carbon intensity of liquid fuels that are produced and used in Canada, as well as liquid fuels that are imported into Canada. Read the [full article](#) by Alex Sadvari, Chris Hummel and Graham Reeder with Gowling WLG.

Alaska Demanding Action on BC Mining Oversight

The United States government has approved \$3.6 million in spending to help Alaska pressure BC's government into reforming [mining](#) regulations they claim are lax and present an imminent threat to fish and habitat in transboundary watersheds. On Dec. 21, U.S. Congress approved the Consolidated Appropriations Act for 2021 that included \$3.1 million for the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to expand a 2019 baseline water-quality monitoring program on rivers downstream from BC mines. Read the Global News [article](#).

Banner Year for Exploration in BC, Despite Pandemic

Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, BC recorded one of its best years in nearly a decade in terms of mineral exploration spending in 2020. It was a year that also saw several acquisitions, the advancement of what promises to be one of the largest gold mining districts in Canada (the Barkerville-Cariboo Gold project), and most mines continuing to operate and keep thousands of workers employed, despite a pandemic. Read the BIV [article](#).

Recent BCOGC Bulletins

The BCOGC has recently issued the following bulletin:

- [INDB 2021-01](#) – Online Submissions for Corporate Financial and Reserves Information Launched
- [INDB 2021-02](#) – Pre-engagement with Halfway River First Nation
- [INDB 2021-03](#) – Changes to the EMA and CSR

Visit the [BCOGC website](#) to view this and other bulletins.

ENERGY AND MINES

Act or Regulation Affected	Effective Date	Amendment Information
Administrative Penalties (Mines) Regulation (47/2017)	Jan. 25/21	by Reg 6/2021
Exemption Regulation (No. 2) (285/2019)	Jan. 8/21	by Reg 2/2021
Gas Utility Act	Feb. 1/21	by 2010 Bill 20, c. 21, section 9 (a) and (c) only (in force by Reg 20/2021), Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act (No. 3), 2010
Mines Fee Regulation (54/2015)	Jan. 25/21	by Reg 6/2021
Oil and Gas Activities Act	Feb. 1/21	by 2019 Bill 17, c. 19, sections 45 and 46 only (in force by Reg 161/2020), Environmental Management Amendment Act, 2019
Permit Regulation (99/2013)	Jan. 25/21	by Reg 6/2021

FORESTRY AND ENVIRONMENT NEWS

BC Forestry Companies Agree to Abide by Cedar Protocols Drafted by Indigenous Council

Forestry companies Western Forest Products Inc. and Interfor Corporation have agreed to follow Indigenous protocols pertaining to large cultural cedars set by an Indigenous Council in BC. Several other forestry companies and BC Timber Sales have also indicated their intention to abide by traditional laws outlined in "Large Cultural Cedar (LCC) Operation Protocol," according to a statement from the Nanwakolas Council. The council consists of five First Nations members – Mamalilikulla, Tlowitsis, Da'naxda'xw Awaetlala, Wei Wai Kum, and K'ómoks – with traditional territories on northern Vancouver Island and the adjacent mainland. Read the [full article](#) in posted in the *Campbell River Mirror*.

PGA Sections Come Into Force February 5th

[Bill 49](#), the [Professional Governance Act](#) was partially brought into force on June 1, 2019. The *Professional Governance Act* (PGA) provides a consistent governance framework for self-regulating professions that incorporates best practices of professional governance. The PGA initially governs the five professional regulators overseeing agrologists, applied biologists, applied science technologists and technicians, engineers and geoscientists, and forest professionals. Professional regulators governed by the PGA will be referred to as "regulatory bodies". The PGA also strengthens government oversight by establishing a statutory Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance (OSPG) in the Ministry of Attorney General. On February 5th, [B.C. Reg. 11/2021](#) brings into force a significant number of sections of the Bill that were not yet law.

"Digitizing the Forest or Mill" a Key Part of BC Industry's Future

BC's forest industry has been buoyed by high construction demand and prices during the COVID-19 recession, and public health restrictions have pushed the industry into new areas of innovation. "Remote sensing" is a term familiar to the mining industry, where [Geoscience BC](#) has a long-standing program to scan vast areas from aircraft to look for magnetic signatures of mineral deposits. At this week's virtual B.C. Natural Resources Forum, participants heard about the growth of virtual forestry using drones. Mike Wilcox, president of a Vancouver startup called FYBR Inc., told a forest industry panel about the growth of his company that accelerated as pandemic restrictions forced new ways of doing business. Read the *Penticton Western News* [article](#).

FORESTRY AND ENVIRONMENT

Act or Regulation Affected	Effective Date	Amendment Information
Administrative Penalties Regulation (Environmental Management Act) (133/2014)	Feb. 1/21	by Reg 161/2020 and Reg /2021
Contaminated Sites Regulation (375/96)	Feb. 1/21	by Reg 131/2020 and Reg 161/2020
Environmental Management Act	Feb. 1/21	by 2019 Bill 17, c. 19, sections 1 to 10 and 26 only (in force by Reg 161/2020), Environmental Management Amendment Act, 2019
Permit Regulation (253/2000)	Jan. 28/21	by Reg 19/2021

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS

WorkSafeBC Opens Consultation on Proposed Changes

WorkSafeBC recently released a discussion paper with options on Consultation on *Workers Compensation*

Amendment Act, 2020 ([Bill 23](#)) for [Permanent partial disability benefits](#) and [Retirement Age Determination](#). The options provided are whether further policy changes are required or if the status quo is preferable. Stakeholders are welcome to provide feedback through until Friday, April 16, 2021. For more information on these and law and policy announcements visit [WorkSafeBC](#).

New Public Health Orders

The Public Health Office (PHO) recently issued the following orders:

- [Industrial Projects Restart](#) – January 12, 2021 (PDF, 313KB)
- [Resource Sector Worksites and Industrial Camps in the Region of the Northern Health Authority](#) – January 12, 2021 (PDF, 393KB)
- [Gatherings and Events](#) – January 8, 2021 (PDF, 447KB)
 - Read related [Public Health guidelines](#)

Visit the [PHO website](#) to view these and other related orders and notices.

BC Invests for Training of Healthcare Assistants

British Columbia is investing \$8.4 million to train people to become healthcare assistants caring for seniors in the province. "We're moving forward with our plan to expand the number of healthcare assistants working in B.C. to strengthen the level of care for people in long-term care homes and assisted-living residences," said Adrian Dix, minister of health. "The Health Career Access Program is underway and is already helping train workers for some of the most important jobs in B.C." The funding will create the first 600 new training seats at public post-secondary institutions for healthcare assistants as part of the Health Career Access Program. The program was announced in September 2020 to meet the demand for healthcare assistants in B.C.'s long-term care and assisted-living residences. Read the [full article](#) published by *Canadian Occupational Safety*.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Act or Regulation Affected	Effective Date	Amendment Information
Workers Compensation Act	Jan. 1/21	by 2020 Bill 23, c. 20, sections 17 and 18 only (in force by Royal Assent), Workers Compensation Amendment Act, 2020

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