



Vol: XIX – Issue 2 – February 2026

EnviroFor News

Daylight Saving Time Made Permanent in BC

On March 9, the [Interpretation Amendment Act, 2019](#) comes into force. The Act amends the [Interpretation Act](#) to make Daylight Saving Time permanent, and after March 8, clocks will no longer be changed twice yearly. A new time zone for BC will be established, called Pacific Time, and will be set seven hours behind Coordinated Universal Time. The new time zone will align BC with the Yukon year round, and with Alberta and other regions observing mountain time from March until November each year. In the summer, the time zone will align with California, Washington, Oregon and other Pacific daylight jurisdictions. According to the BC government's [news release](#), local governments will retain the power to determine which time zone they observe.

New Keyword Alert Title Feature

A client recently asked us to enhance our popular [Keyword Alert](#) tool, and we're pleased to introduce a new feature in response!

For those unfamiliar with the tool, Keyword Alerts allow you to track legislative activity and related news based on keywords or phrases that you choose.

For example, suppose you would like to receive a notification whenever a new regulation or order is issued under a specific Act, such as the *Environmental Management Act*. Since all orders reference the authoritative statute, you can simply enter "Environmental Management Act" as your keyword and select the option to track Orders/Regulations. When a new Order containing the phrase "Environmental Management Act" is posted, you will automatically receive an alert with a direct link to the Order.

You can create multiple alerts, each tracking a specific word or phrase.

What's New?

You can now assign a custom subject header to each Keyword Alert you create.

This enhancement makes it much easier to:

- Quickly identify what the alert relates to,
- Distinguish between multiple alerts, and
- Forward alerts efficiently when managing them for colleagues.

If you haven't yet set up a Keyword Alert, we encourage you to give it a try via the [My Alerts](#) page.

New Bills

The following bills were recently introduced:

Government Bills

- [Bill 1](#) – An Act to Ensure the Supremacy of Parliament
- [i Bill 2](#) – Budget Measures Implementation Act, 2026
- [i Bill 3](#) – Budget Measures Implementation Act (No. 2), 2026
- [Bill 4](#) – Supply Act (No. 1), 2026
- [i Bill 5](#) – Trade Recognition Act
- [i Bill 6](#) – Motor Vehicle Amendment Act, 2026
- [i Bill 7](#) – Post-Secondary International Education (Designated Institutions) Act
- [i Bill 8](#) – Civil Forfeiture Amendment Act, 2026
- [i Bill 9](#) – Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Amendment Act, 2026

Members' Bills

- [Bill M231](#) – Veterans and First Responders Month Act
- [Bill M232](#) – Long Term Care Access and Transparency Act

For more information on the status of these or any other bills, visit our dedicated [Bills page](#), located on the left navigation. If you wish to be notified when these or other changes come into force, check out Quickscribe's customizable alerts via the [My Alerts](#) page. Quickscribe alerts are included with your subscription so feel free to select the alerts that work best for you!

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Quickscribe Alerts

Are you looking for a more custom notification that will advise you about important developments that impact your specific area of interest? Quickscribe offers numerous customizable alerts – visit the [My Alerts Page](#). Quickscribe alerts are included with your subscription, so feel free to select the alert that works best for you!

Want to Track Federal Laws?



For notification of federal amendments, we recommend using our Section Tracking tool to keep informed on changes to federal laws. Look for the paw icon adjacent to the sections you wish to track.

Looking for Previous Reporters?

We have archived the Quickscribe Reporter going back to 2004. Visit the historical [Reporter archives page](#).

EnviroFor Reporter Categories

[ENERGY & MINES](#)

[FOREST & ENVIRONMENT](#)

[OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY](#)



ENERGY & MINES NEWS

B.C. Launches Program to Test New Mining Technologies

B.C. is launching a new program aimed at accelerating the testing and deployment of technologies in the mining and critical minerals sector.

The initiative, part of the province's Integrated Marketplace program, is designed to help B.C. companies test, deploy and scale technologies in real-world environments while supporting commercialisation by linking technology providers with potential industrial buyers, according to the province. Read the [BIV article](#).

From Critical Minerals to EVs: Canada-Korea MOU Aims to Attract Investment and Build Supply Chain Resilience

As outlined in our [2025 Osler Legal Outlook article](#), the EV ecosystem in Canada has undergone a recalibration. While Canada's ambition of becoming a powerhouse in the global electric vehicle (EV) market and supply chain ecosystem has tempered, it remains intact. This point has been reinforced through the recently announced memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Canada and the Republic of Korea (South Korea) to strengthen bilateral cooperation in "future mobility."

The MOU establishes the Canada-Korea Industrial Cooperation Committee and focuses on growth in two closely related sectors. First, building up Canada's domestic EV manufacturing capabilities through collaboration with South Korean automotive companies. Second, reinforcing Canada's battery supply chain by attracting new investments in the areas of battery production and critical minerals processing. Through the collaboration anticipated to result from the MOU, Canada plans to grow its \$16.8 billion automotive manufacturing sector and facilitate supply chain resilience for both Canada and South Korea. Read the [full article](#) by Michael Fekete, Hugo-Pierre Gagnon, Jesse Goldman and Kevin Li (Articling Student) with Osler.

B.C. to Speed Up Three Critical Mineral Projects

B.C. is adding three critical mineral projects to the Critical Minerals Office to help speed up assessment and permitting.

The projects are Northisle Copper and Gold Inc.'s North Island Project, Surge Copper Corp.'s Berg Project and Defense Metals Corp.'s Wicheeda Project, announced Jagrup Brar, B.C. minister of mining and critical minerals Friday, Feb. 20 in Port Hardy where the Northisle project is.

"These are promising projects that are in early development. Each one represents a huge potential investment in B.C., bringing hundreds of jobs and economic growth," Brar said.

The Northisle project is expected to create 498 full-time permanent jobs during the mine operation, while the other two mines are estimated to create about 200 full-time jobs during operation and 400 during the mine's life cycle, according to Brar. Read the [BIV article](#).

Province Approves Copper Mountain Mine Expansion

Government has issued [Mines Act](#) and [Environmental Management Act](#) permits for the New Ingerbelle expansion at the Copper Mountain mine, an operating open-pit copper-gold mine located near Princeton.

The permits allow the mine to continue operations beyond 2040, supporting jobs and economic stability in the region. Read the BC government [news release](#).

BC Energy Regulator Announcements

The following BC Energy Regulator announcement was posted recently:

- [TU 2026-04](#) – Changes to Streamline Water Licence Withdrawal Volume Submissions
- [TU 2026-05](#) – Water Diversions for Ice Road Construction Related to Restoration Activities Now Exempt from *Water Sustainability Act* Authorization Requirements

Visit the BC-ER [website](#) for more information.



ENERGY & MINES

Act or Regulation Affected	Effective Date	Amendment Information
<i>There were no amendments this month.</i>		



FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Wuikinuxv Nation Sues B.C. Over Timber Licence Extension Amid Final Treaty Talks

A B.C. First Nation in the final stages of treaty negotiation is suing the province for allegedly breaching the "honour of the Crown" after an official extended an expiring timber licence in its traditional territory.

Filed in a B.C. Supreme Court last week, the application for judicial review from Wuikinuxv Nation seeks to overturn an August 2025 decision from an official with the Ministry of Forests that gave Interfor Corp. (TSX:IFP) a three-year extension to log an estimated 50,000 cubic metres of timber.

After more than 30 years of treaty negotiations, the court application argues that allowing a third party to continue harvesting on the nation's lands – without their consent and against their environmental concerns – is a step backward that the law no longer allows. Read the *BIV* [article](#).

Government of Canada Updates Prohibition of Certain Toxic Substances Regulations

The Government of Canada has introduced new regulations aimed at further reducing the presence of certain toxic substances in the environment, reflecting the federal government's ongoing shift towards a more stringent, risk-based regulatory approach. The [Prohibition of Certain Toxic Substances Regulations, 2025](#) (2025 Regulation), which will come into force on June 30, 2026, replaces the [Prohibition of Certain Toxic Substances, 2012](#) (2012 Regulation), both made under the authority of the [Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999](#) (CEPA). The 2025 Regulation narrows several existing exemptions and introduces new restrictions on a range of substances.

Under the 2012 Regulations (and prior versions), the federal government prohibits the manufacture, use, sale and import of certain toxic substances, as well as products containing them, subject to limited exemptions. The substances captured under the 2012 Regulations have been declared toxic to the environment under CEPA. Read the [full article](#) by Humna Wasim, Lana Finney and Ryan McNamara with Blakes.

An Introduction to Cost Recovery Claims in British Columbia

If you own, develop, or work on land in British Columbia, it's important to understand who is legally responsible for cleanup of contamination under the [Environmental Management Act](#), S.B.C. 2003, c. 53 (EMA) and the [Contaminated Sites Regulation](#) B.C. Reg. 375/96 (CSR). These rules define who must pay to investigate and remediate contamination, how responsibility is allocated, and what exceptions might apply.

1. The Core Principle: Polluter Pays

At the heart of BC's contaminated sites regime is the "polluter-pays" principle. This means that, as a general rule, those who caused contamination should shoulder the cost of the remediation. If contamination is found on a property, the legislation looks to identify a "responsible person", which in simple terms means someone with a legal duty to pay for the remediation. Such "responsible persons" (if there are more than one) are absolutely, retroactively, jointly and separately liable for all reasonably incurred remediation costs.

Read the [full article](#) by Caryna Miller with Harper Grey LLP.

Improving B.C.'s Permitting Processes Through Regulatory Changes

Four regulatory amendments will make it easier and more efficient for people and businesses to get the natural-resource permits needed to rebuild homes from wildfire, begin new home construction and restore ecosystems.

Changes to the [Water Sustainability Regulation](#) and the [Riparian Areas Protection Regulation](#) focus on improving clarity and supporting people and businesses to reduce project timelines. Read the government [news release](#).

Making Freshwater Fishing Licences Available Online in New System

For the first time, freshwater fishing licences and hunting licences are available through the same online system, fulfilling requests of the angling community for a streamlined system.

Recreational fishing licence pre-sales are available in the Wildlife Information and Licensing Data system (WILD) for the 2026–27 season, which starts April 1, 2026. WILD is government’s online service that provides a secure way to buy freshwater fishing and hunting licences. Read the government [news release](#).

Environmental Appeal Board Decisions

The following Environmental Appeal Board decisions were made recently:

[Environmental Management Act](#)

- [Ktunaxa Nation Council Society v. Director, Environmental Management Act](#) [Dismissal Order – Appeal Dismissed]
- [Deep Water Recovery Ltd. v. Director, Environmental Management Act](#) [Summary Dismissal Decision – Appeal Dismissed]
- [Canadian Natural Resources Limited v. Director, Environmental Management Act](#) [Consent Order – Stay Extended]

[Water Sustainability Act](#)

- [Stanley Walt and Sandra Walt v. Water Manager](#) [Dismissal Order – Appeal Dismissed]
- [Southtrac Holdings Ltd. v. Assistant Water Manager](#) [Dismissal Order – Appeal Dismissed]

[Wildlife Act](#)

- [Nicholas Weigelt v. Regional Manager, Wildlife Branch](#) Dismissal Order – Appeal Dismissed

Visit the Environmental Appeal Board [website](#) for more information.

Forest Appeals Commission Decisions

The following Forest Appeals Commission decision was made recently:

[Forest and Range Practices Act](#)

- [Cassiar Forest Corp. v. Government of British Columbia](#) [Settlement Order – Administrative Penalty Varied]

Visit the Forest Appeals Commission [website](#) for more information.



FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT

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OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS

Expanding Cancer Coverage for Firefighters

Firefighters will have improved access to workers' compensation benefits and support services, in recognition of their higher risk of developing work-related cancers. "People in British Columbia count on firefighters in moments of crisis," said Premier David Eby. "Whether battling house fires or wildfires, or responding to traumatic events, firefighters go above and beyond. We're making sure they have support when they need it most." Eight additional cancers will be added to the list of diseases presumed to be linked to the work done by firefighters. The changes will make B.C. the province with the most comprehensive coverage of presumptive cancers in Canada, applying to more than 15,000 career, volunteer and federal firefighters, provincial wildfire fighters, fire investigators and firefighters employed by First Nations and Indigenous organizations in the province. Read the government [news release](#).

WorkSafeBC Targets Musculoskeletal Injuries as Claim Costs Skyrocket

Between 2020 and 2024, WorkSafeBC accepted more than 88,000 time-loss claims for MSIs, representing about 30 per cent of all time-loss claims in the province and more than a quarter of overall claim costs. Over that period, MSI claim costs exceeded \$2.35 billion.

Complex injuries driving higher costs

The overall number of MSI claims has been relatively steady, but the financial impact is growing, said Sandeep Mangat, prevention field services manager at WorkSafeBC. MSIs can involve multiple body systems and often become chronic, leading to prolonged recovery times and higher claim costs.

Read the [full article](#) by Shane Mercer with *Canadian Occupational Safety*.

WorkSafeBC's Average Base Premium Rate Unchanged in 2026

In 2026, WorkSafeBC is returning an estimated \$570 million of surplus funds to employers by pricing premium rates below system costs. BC employers will see no change to the average base premium rate from WorkSafeBC in 2026. For the ninth consecutive year, WorkSafeBC has set the average base rate at \$1.55 per \$100 of assessable payroll. Each year, the costs in some industries go up, some go down, and others stay the same. In 2026, 39% percent of employers in BC will experience a decrease in their industry base rate, 47% will see their industry base rate increase, and 14% will see no change. Read the [full article](#) published in the March 2026 *Forest Safety Newsletter*.

Climate, Heat and Work: What Canada's New Thermal Stress Rules Mean for HR

Canada's new thermal stress rules are arriving as climate change makes heat and cold a daily operational concern in many workplaces, from warehouses and postal routes to commercial kitchens and transit yards. The [Canada Labour Code](#) amendments, updated on Feb. 12, 2026, set out detailed expectations under Part X of the [Canada Occupational Health and Safety Regulations](#) (COHSR), including the use of ACGIH Threshold Limit Values (TLVs) for heat and cold, monitoring tools like humidex and wind chill, and specific requirements for training, reporting and controls under Part II of the Code. Read the [full article](#) by Stacy Thomas with Canadian HRReporter. [Note: the Feb. 12 amendments were to the "[Thermal Stress in the Work Place](#)" guidelines.]

Better Crane Safety Protections Coming for Workers

The Province is taking action to strengthen protections for workers and enhance crane safety with legislation enabling a new WorkSafeBC crane licensing and permitting program. "Major nation-building projects are moving forward in B.C. and the people who build them must have the best level of safety we can provide," said Premier David Eby. "British Columbia will be a leader in crane safety – with the highest standards of training, certification, technology and oversight – to protect workers and the public on every project, every time." Read the government [news release](#).

OHS Policies/Guidelines – Updates Guidelines – Occupational Health and Safety Regulation

February 12, 2026

Editorial revisions were made to the following guideline on February 12, 2026:

- Part 11 – Fall Protection
[G11.5-4 Equipment standards – Prusik sling](#)

Policies – Workers Compensation Act

March 2, 2026

The following policy was updated as a result of changing the term "Personal Optional Protection" to "Personal Coverage" throughout WorkSafeBC's policy manuals. This change is effective March 2, 2026:

- [P2-21-1 Employer Duty Towards Other Workers](#)

Visit the [WorkSafeBC website](#) to explore this and previous updates.



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

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<i>There were no amendments this month.</i>		

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