

MEMORANDUM

February 8, 2022

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Maria Pontikis, Director, Civic Engagement and Communications
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office
Lon LaClaire, General Manager, Engineering Services
Sandra Singh, General Manager, Arts, Culture, and Community Services
Chris Robertson, Assistant Director, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability
Eleena Marley, CEO, Vancouver Economic Commission

FROM: Theresa O'Donnell
General Manager, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability

SUBJECT: Economic Impact of COVID-19 – Monthly Labour Force Data: December 2021

RTS #: N/A

Highlights: Monthly Labour Force Survey Data, December 2021

- Employment in the Metro Vancouver Region (Vancouver) increased from 1,518,300 in September to 1,520,900 for a gain of 2,600 (0.2%) jobs.
- The unemployment rate decreased by 1.0 percentage point to 5.0% in Vancouver between September and December.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate decreased by 1.0 percentage point, to 5.9%.
- Cumulatively, employment in the region increased by 32,500 (2.2%) jobs since February 2020.
- As the statistics have shown a sustained return of overall employment to pre-pandemic levels, this will be the final memo in the series issued by PDS. Staff will continue to monitor economic conditions and will report back to Council if there is a significant and sustained change in this trend.

This memo highlights Labour Force Survey (LFS) data published by Statistics Canada for the reference weeks from September to December 2021. The LFS provides estimates for the unemployment rate and employment totals by industry and occupation on a monthly basis. The

information presented in these memos illustrates the impact of COVID-19 on Vancouver's labour force and economy over the most recent 3-month period since the Pandemic began. This information is meant to be viewed in conjunction with other socio-economic and community statistics to form a cohesive picture of the City's current state and assist with recovery and resilience planning. This information is posted to the City's website and is shared with the business community.

Important notes about the data

The statistics presented in this memo are for the Metro Vancouver region as the Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) is the smallest geography level available for LFS data tables published by Statistics Canada. Throughout this memo, the term "Vancouver" refers to the Vancouver CMA. The LFS data used to create the statistics presented in this report are not seasonally adjusted¹.

Changes in employment totals and unemployment rate

Employment in Vancouver increased from 1,518,300 in September to 1,520,900 for a gain of 2,600 (0.2%) jobs. Between September and December, the unemployment rate decreased by 1.0 percentage point to 5.0% in Vancouver. In December 2021, the region had 32,500 (2.2%) more employed workers than in February 2020. This slight increase shows employment numbers have returned to pre-pandemic levels and are comparable to levels seen prior to February 2020. Peak job losses of 251,200 (-17.2%) were recorded between February and April 2020. Nationally, the unemployment rate decreased by 1.0 percentage point between September and December 2021 to 5.9%.

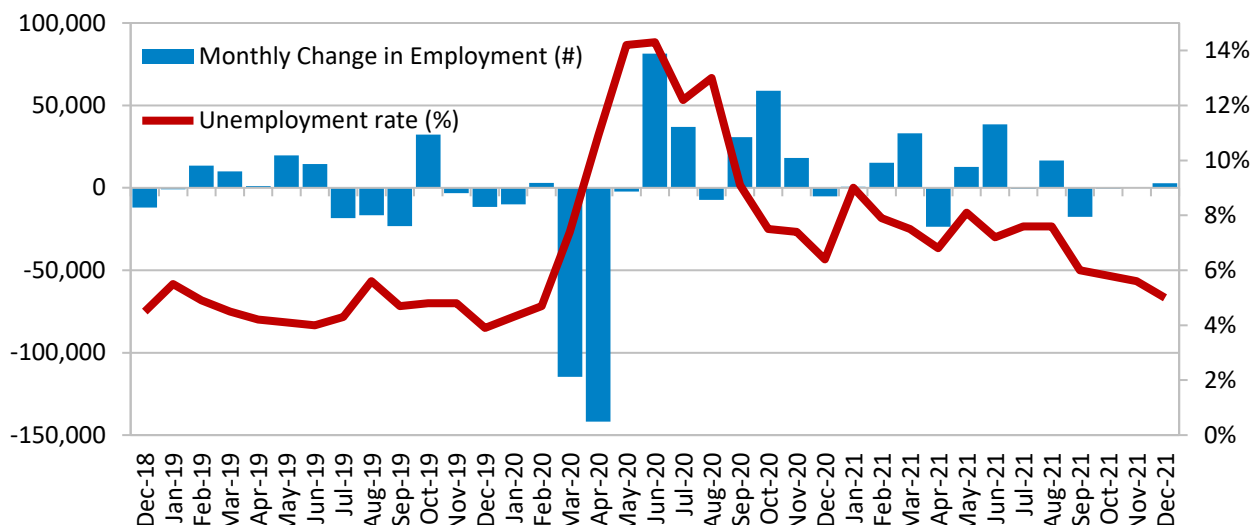
The fluctuations in employment levels from March 2020 to December 2021 reflect changes to public health restrictions and other measures, including increased limitations on some businesses under "circuit breaker" restrictions in late March 2021 followed by the gradual easing of some provincial restrictions May 25th and June 15th, 2021. The province moved to Step 3 of the Restart Plan on June 30, 2021, relaxing a number of major orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic preceding the reference weeks in July and August (July 11th to July 17th, 2021 and August 15th to August 21st, 2021). Subsequently, on September 13th, during the Census reference week (September 12th to September 18th, 2021), the province introduced proof of vaccination requirements at most indoor public spaces. It should be noted that the new restrictions the province brought in on December 19, 2021, to restrict the spread of the Omicron variant, and the subsequent tightening of these measures on December 22, 2021, occurred after the December census reference period (December 14th to December 18th, 2021).

Please see Figure 7 for a full list of announcements and orders made since the previous reference period. Appendix A shows all prior announcements and orders starting on March 12, 2020.

Regular Council reporting on regional employment trends was initiated at the onset of the pandemic. As the statistics have shown a sustained return of overall employment to pre-pandemic levels, this will be the final memo in the series issued by PDS. Staff will continue to monitor economic conditions and will report back to Council as needed.

¹ Seasonal adjustments to labour force data are done to eliminate the effect of seasonal and calendar influences (e.g. seasonal shopping or agricultural work).

Figure 1 – Unemployment rate and monthly employment change in Metro Vancouver

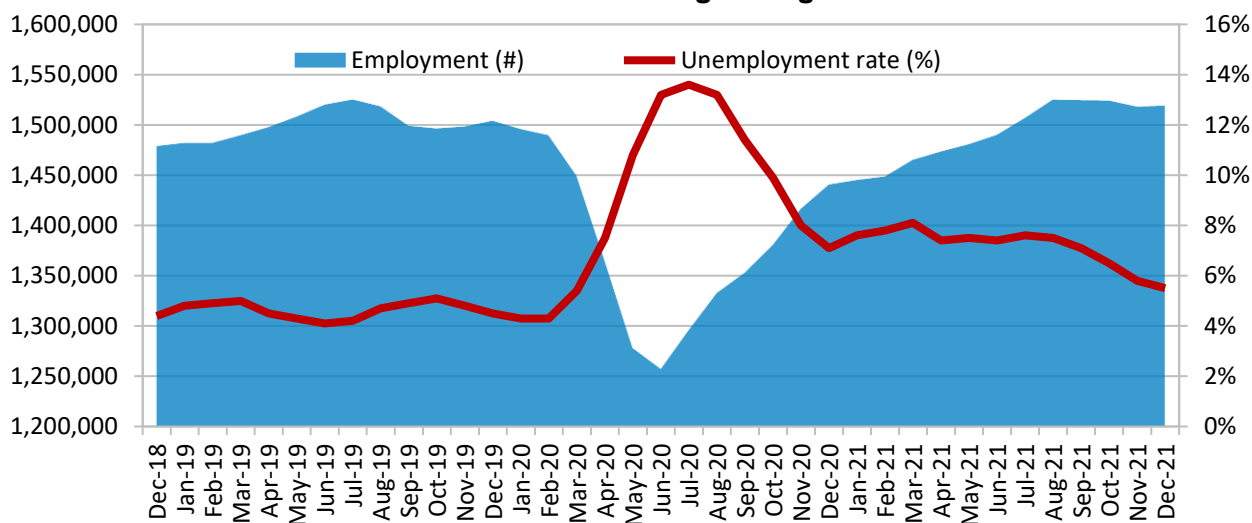


Source: Statistics Canada. [Table 14-10-0383-01](#) Labour force characteristics by census metropolitan areas, unadjusted for seasonality.

Changes in employment totals and unemployment rate – three-month moving average

The following sections highlight statistics related to employment change by industry and occupation that are published as a three-month moving average for Vancouver; therefore, data published for December is an average of October, November, and December. Using this three-month moving average data, employment in December was 1,519,000 and the unemployment rate was 5.5%. The following chart shows the monthly change of employment and the unemployment rate using three-month moving average employment data.

Figure 2 – Unemployment rate and total employment change in Metro Vancouver, three-month moving average



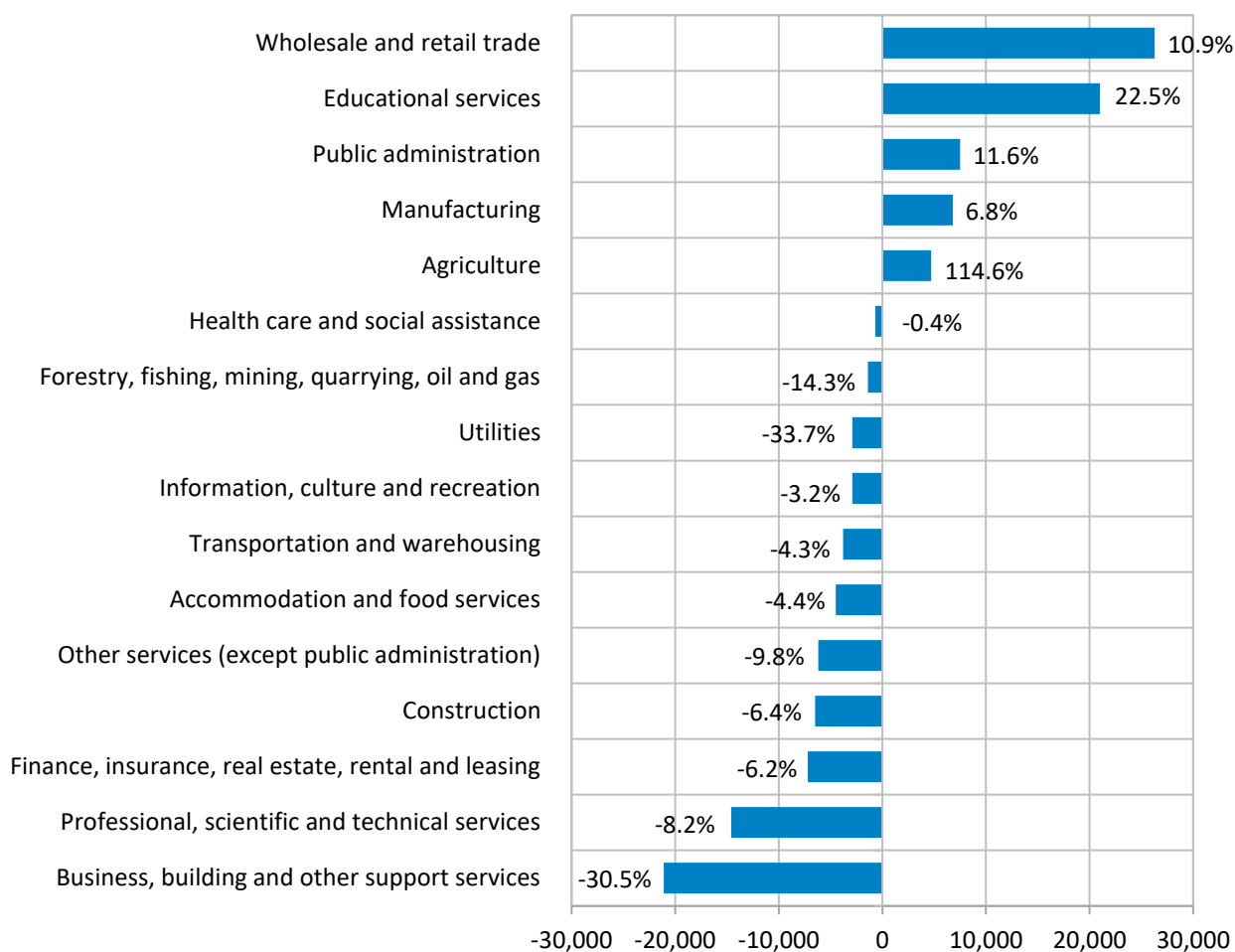
Source: Statistics Canada. [Table 14-10-0380-01](#) Labour force characteristics by census metropolitan area, three-month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality.

Industry overview

Employment in the wholesale and retail trade industry experienced the largest three-month gain in Metro Vancouver, increasing by 26,300 workers (10.9%). The second largest employment

sector increase was in education services, which gained 21,000 workers (22.5%). The third largest employment gain was in public administration, which increased by 7,500 jobs (11.6%). Between September and December, the largest employment decline was in the business, building and other support services sector, which declined by 21,100 people, a decrease of -30.5% of its workforce. The second most losses were seen in professional, scientific and technical services, which declined by an additional 14,600 workers (-8.2%) between September and December. The finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing sector declined by 7,200 workers (-6.2%) over the three month period.

Figure 3 – Employment change by industry in Metro Vancouver, September to December

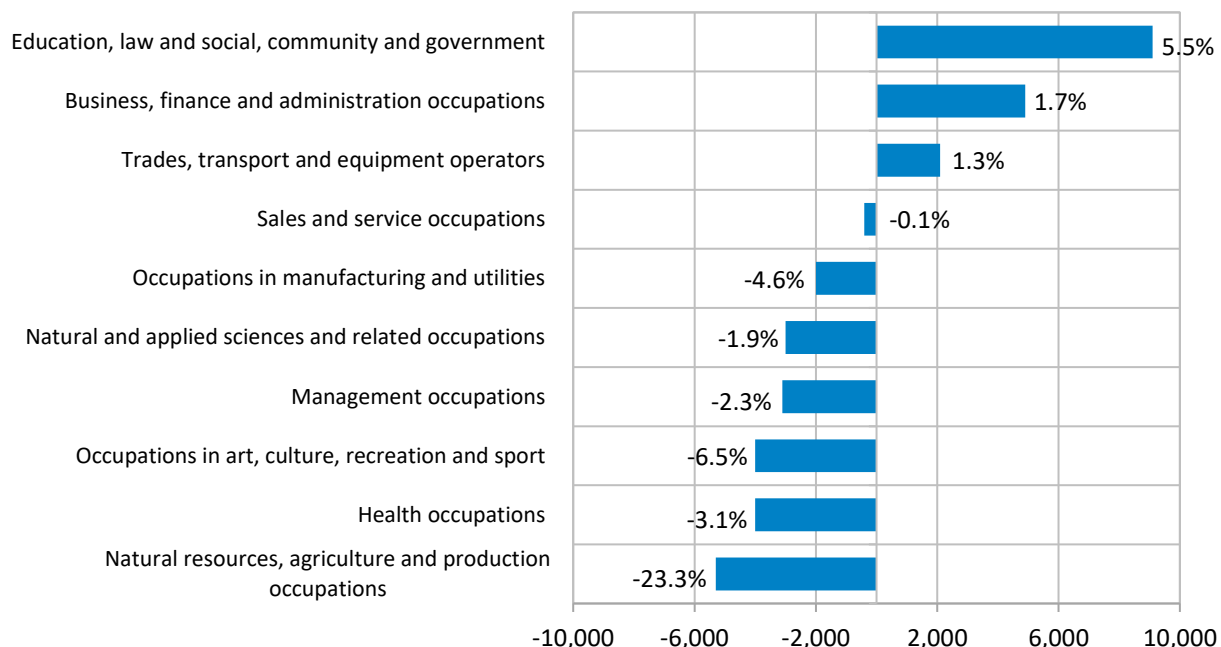


Source: Statistics Canada. [Table 14-10-0379-01](#) Employment by industry, three-month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality, census metropolitan areas.

Occupation overview

Occupation employment data for Vancouver is published as a three-month moving average; therefore, data published for December is an average of October, November, and December. Employment in education, law and social, community and government occupations experienced the largest three-month gain in Metro Vancouver, increasing by 9,100 jobs (5.5%) between September and December. The second largest increase was in business, finance and administration occupations, which gained 4,900 workers (1.7%). The third largest employment gain was in trades, transport and equipment operators occupations, which increased by 2,100 jobs (1.3%). Between September and December, employment in natural resources, agriculture and production occupations experienced the largest decrease with 5,300 less workers (-23.3%). The second largest loss was attributed to health occupations, which experienced a decrease of 4,000 jobs (-3.1%). Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport declined the third most, with a loss of 4,000 (-6.5%).

Figure 4 – Employment change by occupations in Metro Vancouver, June to September

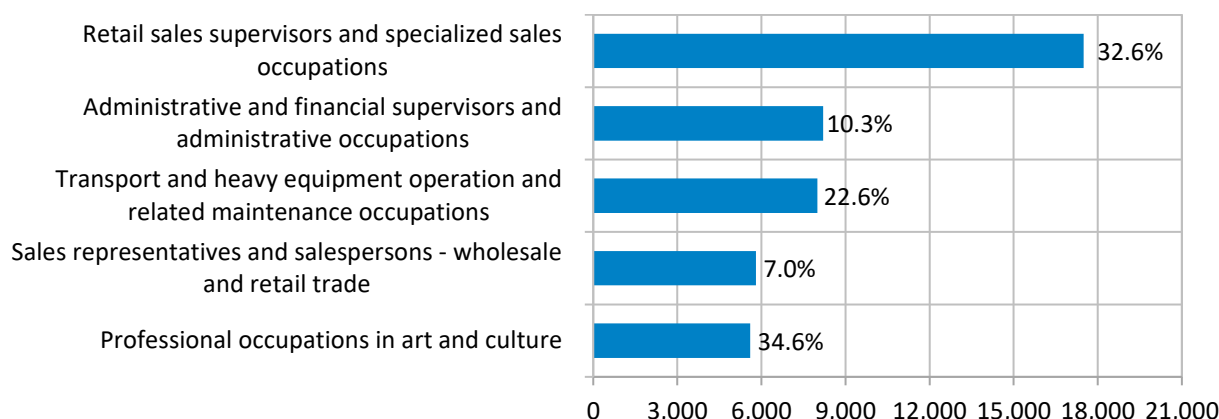


Source: Statistics Canada. [Table 14-10-0381-01](#) Employment by occupation, three-month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality, census metropolitan areas.

The largest increase in employment by detailed occupations was for retail sales supervisors and specialized sales occupations, which increased by 17,500 (+32.6%) workers between September and December. Other occupations with the most employment gains from September to December include:

- Administrative and financial supervisors and administrative occupations (+8,200; +10.3%)
- Transport and heavy equipment operation and related maintenance occupations (+8,000; +22.6%)
- Sales representatives and salespersons - wholesale and retail trade (+5,800; +7.0%)
- Professional occupations in art and culture (+5,600; +34.6%)

Figure 5 – Most employment gains by detailed occupation, September to December

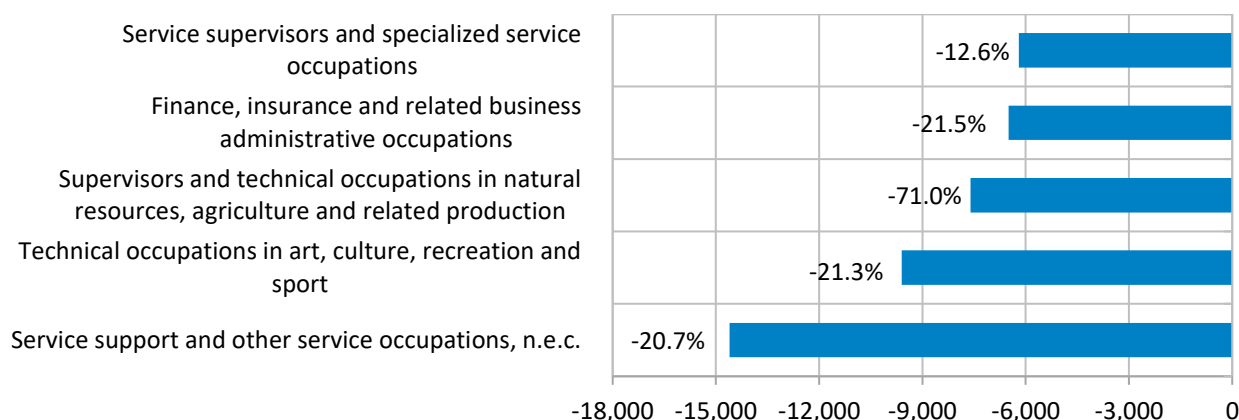


Source: Statistics Canada. [Table 14-10-0381-01](#) Employment by occupation, three-month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality, census metropolitan areas.

The largest decrease in employment by detailed occupations was for service support and other service occupations, n.e.c., which lost 14,600 (-20.7%) workers between September and December. Other occupations with significant employment losses include:

- Technical occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport (-9,600; -21.3%)
- Supervisors and technical occupations in natural resources, agriculture and related production (-7,600; -71%)
- Finance, insurance and related business administrative occupations (-6,500; -21.5%)
- Service supervisors and specialized service occupations (-6,200; -12.6%)

Figure 6 – Most employment loses by detailed occupation, September to December



Source: Statistics Canada. [Table 14-10-0381-01](#) Employment by occupation, three-month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality, census metropolitan areas.

***n.e.c. refers to "not elsewhere classified", primarily concerned with the provision of services.**

Government orders

A number of major orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic have been issued by various levels of government since March 2020. Figure 7 lists new orders and announcements that have been issued over a three-month period from September 19th to December 18th, 2021. A full list of orders and announcements since March 2020 is reported in Appendix A.

Figure 7 – New labour and business-related Government orders and announcements issued from September 19th to December 18th, 2021

Government	Date declared	Announcements/Orders
SINCE PREVIOUS Reference Week		
<i>Note: due to the September 20, 2021 federal election, the new Cabinet was sworn in October 26, 2021, and that Parliament did not return until November 22, 2021.</i>		
Province of British Columbia Canada	October 8, 2021	Joint \$270-million funding partnership between the provincial and federal governments for environmental infrastructure
Province of British Columbia	October 24, 2021	COVID-19 capacity limits lifted as two-dose vaccine requirements begin
Province of British Columbia	November 17, 2021	Provincial state of emergency declared
Province of British Columbia	November 18, 2021	Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) available for those with flood damage
Province of British Columbia	November 19, 2021	Fuel and travel restrictions introduced
Province of British Columbia	November 29, 2021	Provincial state of emergency, fuel order extended
Province of British Columbia	December 13, 2021	Provincial state of emergency extended
Province of British Columbia	December 17, 2021	New COVID-19 measures introduced
Canada	December 17, 2021	\$67 million for tourism and hospitality sector through Sectoral Initiatives Program (SIP)
Canada	December 17, 2021	Bill C-2 receives Royal Assent (enabling): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit • The Local Lockdown Program • Extending the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit and the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit • The Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program • The Hardest-Hit Business Recovery Program • Extending the Canada Recovery Hiring Program

Upcoming LFS data and memo releases

As the statistics have shown a sustained return of overall employment to pre-pandemic levels, this memo will be the final memo in the series that began with the first memo to Council in March of 2020. PDS Staff will continue to monitor economic conditions and will report back to Council as needed.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact me or Chris Robertson, Assistant Director, City-Wide & Regional Planning, at 604-873-7684 or chris.robertson@vancouver.ca.



Theresa O'Donnell
General Manager, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability

604.673.8434 | theresa.o'donnell@vancouver.ca

APPENDIX A – All labour and business-related Government orders and announcements up to the end of the previous reference week ending June 18th, 2021

Government	Date declared	Announcements/Orders
PRIOR TO Reference Week		
Province of British Columbia	March 12, 2020	Gatherings of over 250 people prohibited
Canada	March 13, 2020	Cruise ships with over 500 people prohibited from docking at any Canadian port
Province of British Columbia	March 16, 2020	Gatherings of over 50 people prohibited
Canada	March 17, 2020	Bank of Canada lowered the interest rate by 50 basis points to 0.75%
Canada		Canada closed its border to non-citizens (with some exceptions); inbound travelers must self-isolate
City of Vancouver / Parks Board		All VPL, Civic Theatre, and Park Board facilities closed
Province of British Columbia		State of emergency declared
Province of British Columbia		Those travelling on or after March 12 th must self-isolate
Province of British Columbia		Order to shut down all restaurant and bar dine-in service
Province of British Columbia		Notice to close casinos
Canada	March 18, 2020	Income tax payment deferral for business delayed to after August 31 st
Canada		10% wage subsidy for small employers and non-profits for three months
City of Vancouver	March 19, 2020	State of emergency declared
Canada	March 20, 2020	Canada-U.S. border closed to all non-essential travel starting March 20 th
City of Vancouver		Order to shut down all restaurant table service starting March 20 th
Province of British Columbia	March 21, 2020	Order to shut down personal service establishments (salons, spas, massage and tattoo parlors)
City of Vancouver	March 23, 2020	Order to shut down personal service establishments (salons, spas, massage and tattoo parlors)
Province of British Columbia		BC Emergency Benefit for Workers provides a tax-free \$1,000 payment starting May 1 st
Province of British Columbia	March 24, 2020	School Tax reduction for businesses in property classes 4, 5, 6
Canada	March 27, 2020	Deferral of GST and HST tax payment, and taxes and duties owed on imports until June
Canada		Bank of Canada lowered the interest rate by 25 basis points to 0.50%
Canada		Canada Emergency Business Account provides up to \$25 billion to eligible financial institutions to offer \$40,000 interest-free loans to small businesses guaranteed and funded by the Government of Canada with up to \$10K forgivable.
Canada	March 27, 2020 Implemented April 27, 2020	Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy: 75% wage subsidy up to \$847/week if applicant's business revenue has decreased by 30% because of Covid-19
Canada	March 30, 2020	Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Loan and Guarantee program that will enable up to \$40 billion in lending
Province of British Columbia	April 1, 2020	BC Hydro announces series of targeted bill relief programs across all customer types

Government	Date declared	Announcements/Orders
Province of British Columbia	April 2, 2020	\$300 monthly top-up for income assistance or disability assistance
City of Vancouver	April 3, 2020	COVID-19 Business Communications and Support Office launched to assist local businesses
Province of British Columbia	April 8, 2020	Emergency Relief Support Fund providing \$225 per month for parents of children with special needs
Province of British Columbia	April 9, 2020	Temporary rental supplement of \$300 per month for eligible households with no dependents (\$500 with dependents)
Province of British Columbia		Residential rental eviction ban
Province of British Columbia	April 14, 2020	Requirement for 14-day self-isolation for all temporary foreign workers arriving in BC for seasonal farm work
Province of British Columbia	April 15, 2020	Provincial state of emergency is extended to April 28 th
Province of British Columbia		Additional services for commercial truck drivers
Province of British Columbia	April 16, 2020	Further reduction to school property tax rate for commercial properties, enhancement to 50% reduction to provincial school property tax rate that was originally announced for classes 4, 5, and 6
Province of British Columbia		Postponing the date that late payment penalties apply for commercial properties in classes 4,5,6,7 and 8 to Oct. 1, 2020
Canada / Province of British Columbia		The Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance program (CECRA) to provide 75% commercial rent relief to tenants
Canada	April 17, 2020	\$675 million for small and medium-sized businesses through Canada's Regional Development Agencies
Canada		\$500 million in funding for Culture, Heritage and Sports
Canada	April 18, 2020	\$306.8 million in funding to help small and medium-sized Indigenous businesses
Translink	April 20, 2020	TransLink has announced almost 1,500 layoffs and reduced services to save costs.
Canada	April 21, 2020	\$350 million in emergency funds for community groups and national charities
Canada	April 23, 2020	Medical and Research Strategy announced including \$1.1 billion in funding for research into vaccines and treatments, and national testing and modelling.
City of Vancouver	April 29, 2020	Property tax payment deadline for both residential and commercial delayed from July 3 to October 30, 2020
Province of British Columbia	May 1, 2020	B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers provides a one-time, tax-free payment of \$1,000
Canada	May 5, 2020	\$252 million to support for agricultural-food industry with implementing measures to comply with sanitary requirements and maintain food supply
Province of British Columbia	May 6, 2020 Implemented May 19, 2020	B.C.'s Restart Plan announced to lift restrictions in phases, gradually allowing for more social and economic activity. Phase 2, which will begin in May 19, includes: opening regulated health services and more non-essential businesses
Canada	May 7, 2020	Up to \$3 billion in wage top-up for essential workers announced.

Government	Date declared	Announcements/Orders
Canada	May 11, 2020	Announced large employer emergency financing facility (LEEFF) providing bridge financing to employers with annual revenues of more than \$300 million
Canada		Expansion of the Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) to mid-sized companies with larger financing needs. Support for mid-market businesses includes loans up to \$60 million, and guarantees up to \$80 million
Canada	May 12, 2020	\$3 billion for infrastructure projects to make facilities more pandemic-resistant and encourage outdoor activities. Projects must be completed in 2021.
Canada	May 14, 2020	New Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF) devotes nearly \$962 million to help more businesses and organizations in sectors such as manufacturing, technology, tourism and others that are key regional and local economic drivers.
Canada	May 15, 2020	Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) will be extended by another 3 months (to end of August) to support businesses in re-opening plans
Canada		\$450 million to help researchers and research institutions impacted by the pandemic
Province of British Columbia	May 19, 2020	Pandemic pay for front line health and social workers.
Canada		Expansion to the eligibility criteria for the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) to include many owner-operated small businesses
Province of British Columbia	May 22, 2020	Authorize expansion of patio service area through simplified licensing process
Canada	May 25, 2020	Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) opens for applications
Province of British Columbia		\$10M grant for tourism marketing organization
Province of British Columbia	June 1, 2020	\$7.5M for music industry through Creative BC for Amplify BC.
Province of British Columbia		Commercial eviction ban extended through the month of July
City of Vancouver	June 1, 2020	Launched the Temporary Expedited Patio Program, which permits restaurants and liquor-serving establishments to set up temporary patios using street, on-street parking and sidewalk space in front or next to their business for free.
Province of British Columbia	June 2, 2020	In-class instruction re-opens
Province of British Columbia	June 5, 2020	Closed hospitality businesses allowed to sell stock
Province of British Columbia	June 10, 2020	State of Emergency extended through the end of the day on June 23, 2020
Canada	June 11, 2020	\$133M for Indigenous businesses
City of Vancouver	June 12, 2020	City to introduce pop-up plazas, parklets and issues 47 temporary expedited patio permits and expands program to patios on private property to support ongoing recovery efforts
Province of British Columbia		Better access to gaming grants program for non-profits
Province of British Columbia		BC Arts Council second half of operating grants released
Canada	June 16, 2020	CERB extended from 16 weeks to 24 weeks for workers

Government	Date declared	Announcements/Orders
Province of British Columbia		Temporary emergency funding program (TEF) for licensed child care centres is being extended until Aug 31, 2020
Province of British Columbia		Approval of temporary wholesale pricing for those with liquor licenses
Canada	June 17, 2020	\$500M additional R&D funding through Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada's (NSERC) Discovery Grant program.
Province of British Columbia	June 19, 2020	Extended the temporary rental supplement (TRS) until the end of August 2020 to support landlords and tenants
Province of British Columbia	June 20, 2020	Extension of electricity costs for industries that have been impacted by COVID-19
Province of British Columbia	June 24, 2020	BC enters Phase 3 of the Restart Plan, including the return of travel and tourism within the province.
Province of British Columbia	June 25, 2020	Applications open from local governments, community groups and First Nations for nearly \$160 million in infrastructure grants to help strengthen communities throughout British Columbia.
		Extension of the temporary layoffs provisions to a maximum of 24 weeks expiring on Aug. 30, 2020
Canada		Program launched to encourage students to volunteer in the fight against COVID-19. Post-secondary students will be eligible to earn up to \$5,000 this summer through a new volunteer service grant.
Canada	July 2, 2020	Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program extended for an additional month, through July
Province of British Columbia	July 2, 2020	Emergency order protecting eligible businesses from being evicted extended through July in alignment with federal CECRA extension
City of Vancouver	July 3, 2020	Over 180 temporary patio permits issued
Province of British Columbia	July 7, 2020	Extended State of Emergency to July 21
Canada	July 14, 2020	Travel restrictions at the Canada-U.S. border will be extended into August as the COVID-19 pandemic continues
Canada	July 16, 2020	Announced investment of over \$19 billion (was previously \$14 billion) through the Safe Restart Agreement with provinces and territories to protect health, get Canadians back to work and prep for possible second wave
Province of British Columbia		\$2 billion from the Safe Re-Start Agreement will be coming from the federal government to support the province's restart plan
Canada	July 17, 2020 Implemented: August 17, 2020	Announced changes to the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) that would extend the program until the end of the year and open it to employers who had any drop in revenue can now qualify.
City of Vancouver	July 24, 2020	Over 280 temporary patio permits issued
City of Vancouver	July 31, 2020	Community Centres set to open Sept 8th
Canada	July 31, 2020	Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) extended through August.
Province of British Columbia	July 16, 2020	Rental repayment framework protects renters by ensuring they cannot be evicted for a missed or late rent payment from March 18 to Aug. 17, unless a renter defaults on their repayment plan.

Government	Date declared	Announcements/Orders
Province of British Columbia	August 4, 2020	State of Emergency extended until August 18th
Province of British Columbia	August 5, 2020	Additional \$2 million in funding for the CleanBC Specialty-Use Vehicle Incentive (SUVI) program
City of Vancouver	August 6, 2020	Approves over \$4.85M of grants repurposed to help community organizations recover
Canada	August 13, 2020	Additional \$31 million for quick recovery actions in communities through the Canada Healthy Cities Initiative.
City of Vancouver	August 14, 2020	Over 360 temporary patio permits have been issued and expands public space on Robson Street
Province of British Columbia	August 17, 2020	The Province's temporary COVID-19 Crisis Supplement that has been provided since April will be extended for an additional four months
Province of British Columbia		\$2-million Arts Infrastructure Program for arts and culture venues
Province of British Columbia	August 18, 2020	Improvements to Workers Compensation Act
Province of British Columbia		State of emergency extended
Canada	August 20, 2020	The Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) has extended by four weeks for a total of 28 weeks
City of Vancouver	August 21, 2020	Vancouver Police Department (VPD) give authority to enforce provincial health orders
Province of British Columbia		\$2,000 violations can be issued for owners or organizers contravening the provincial health orders on gatherings and events
Canada	August 26, 2020	\$2 billion for Safe Return to Class initiative
Canada		Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) now applies to any revenue drop
City of Vancouver/ Parks Board	August 31, 2020	Vancouver Aquarium closing to public indefinitely and laying off 209 staff starting Sept 8 th
Province of British Columbia	September 1, 2020	State of emergency extended
Canada	September 2, 2020	The application deadline for CEBA has been extended until the end of November
Province of British Columbia	September 3, 2020	Broadway Subway design and build contract project awarded to the Broadway Subway Project Corporation
Province of British Columbia		Maximum allowable housing rent increase set at 1.4% for 2021
City of Vancouver	September 4, 2020	Announcing the opening of more than 50 recreation facilities over the next six weeks
Canada	September 9, 2020	The Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program extended for the final time into October
Canada		Black Entrepreneurship Program to support Black business owners and entrepreneurs
Province of British Columbia		\$1.6 billion fall and winter preparedness plan strengthen measures that respond to the health-care requirements of COVID-19
Province of British Columbia	September 14, 2020	\$2 million to launch the new Domestic Motion Picture Fund
Province of British Columbia	September 15, 2020	State of emergency extended
Province of British Columbia	September 17, 2020	Stronger BC for Everyone: BC's Economic Recovery Plan includes \$1.5 billion in economic recovery spending
Province of British Columbia	September 18, 2020	TransLink will receive \$644 million under the federal/provincial Safe Restart Agreement.

Government	Date declared	Announcements/Orders
Province of British Columbia	September 19, 2020	Community-based sports groups facing the risk of closing are encouraged to apply for support from the Province's \$1.5-million Local Sport Relief Fund
Province of British Columbia		The CleanBC Building Innovation Fund (CBBIF) to provide funding for 13 projects throughout the Province and an additional \$8 million for a second intake as part of British Columbia's Economic Recovery Plan
Canada	September 21, 2020	TransLink, BC Transit and BC Ferries will share more than \$1 billion under the federal/provincial Safe Restart Agreement
City of Vancouver	September 22, 2020	Employment Lands and Economy Review provides quick-start actions to support the City's COVID-19 Recovery Program, as well as emerging policy directions to help Vancouver support jobs, businesses, and the future growth of our economy
Canada	September 24, 2020	Announcement of the three new Recovery Benefits for workers not eligible for EI
Canada	September 25, 2020	Announcement of Canada-wide early learning and child care system
		More accessible and flexible EI system announced
		Extension of benefit of furloughed employees under the wage subsidy program for the upcoming four-week period, from October 27 to November 24, 2020.
City of Vancouver		Launching a new one-time grants program to provide financial and in-kind support to the arts and culture sector
Province of British Columbia	September 29, 2020	State of emergency extended
Canada	October 2, 2020	Additional \$600 million to support workers and businesses through RRRF. This means an additional \$263.7 million for Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD)
		border restrictions that remain in place and enhancing quarantine monitoring
Canada	October 5, 2020	Applications open for the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB), and the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB).
Canada	October 7, 2020	New interest relief measure to provide help to Canada Student Loan borrowers on medical or parental leave
Canada	October 9, 2020	CERS updated to provide rent and mortgage support directly to tenants until June 2021, with a 25% top up for organizations having to shut down due to public health orders
		CEBA expanded to an additional \$20,000 to eligible businesses and not-for-profits Application deadline extended to end of year
City of Vancouver		Temporary patios may continue to operate throughout winter until November 31, 2021
Canada	October 12, 2020	Applications for the Canada Recovery Benefit open
Province of British Columbia	October 13, 2020	State of emergency extended
Canada	October 20, 2020	\$12 million for the Canada United Small Business Relief Fund

Government	Date declared	Announcements/Orders
Canada	October 22, 2020	\$100 million over four years to support oil and gas sector job growth and reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF)
City of Vancouver		Employment Lands and Economy Review provides quick-start actions to support the City's COVID-19 Recovery Program, and policy direction to support jobs, businesses, and guide economic growth through the Vancouver Plan
City of Vancouver	October 23, 2020	City launches online application to extend temporary patios
Canada	October 26, 2020	Canada Emergency Business Account open to businesses using personal banking accounts
Canada	October 27, 2020	University of British Columbia's energy-efficiency initiative receives a boost through the Low Carbon Economy Fund
Province of British Columbia		State of emergency extended
Canada	October 30, 2020	2021–2023 Immigration Levels Plan sets out a path for increases to immigration targets to help the Canadian economy recover
		\$796,000 in funding from the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) through the Pandemic Response Challenge program
Canada	November 9, 2020	Connecting British Columbia to high-speed Internet with the Universal Broadband Fund
Province of British Columbia		Rent freeze extended until July 10, 2021 and pending increases cancelled under the powers of the Emergency Program Act and COVID-19 Related Measures Act.
Province of British Columbia	November 10, 2020	State of emergency extended
		New health orders to restrict gatherings and events
Canada	November 12, 2020	\$4 million to support 53 new projects under the EcoAction Community Funding Program.
Canada	November 13, 2020	\$1,560,000 in support will help two BC projects focused on audiovisual, interactive digital media, visual art and design
		Government of Canada moves forward on pay equity to help address wage gaps in federally regulated workplaces
		\$1.7 million for business ecosystem support in BC through the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF) for seven organizations.
Province of British Columbia	November 13, 2020	Province updates measures to enforce Lower Mainland COVID-19 public safety
City of Vancouver	November 24, 2020	\$2.05 million in critical support grants to more than a hundred arts and culture organizations that have been impacted by COVID-19.
City of Vancouver	November 25, 2020	Empty Homes Tax rate increased to 3% for 2021 tax year.
City of Vancouver	December 4, 2020	Interim safety and design upgrades to Beach Avenue to provide additional space during the pandemic.
Canada	December 18, 2020	Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) rate increase to 75 per cent to help businesses in the beginning of the new year.
Province of British Columbia	December 22, 2020	The Emergency Program Act (EPA) has capped fees on food delivery services at 15%

Government	Date declared	Announcements/Orders
Province of British Columbia	December 22, 2020	State of emergency extended
Canada	December 23, 2020	Health Canada authorizes Moderna COVID-19 vaccine
Canada	December 31, 2020	Pre-departure COVID-19 testing and negative results to be required for all air travellers coming to Canada
Province of British Columbia	January 5, 2021	State of emergency extended
Canada	January 8, 2021	New policy to help former international students live and work in Canada
Province of British Columbia	January 19, 2021	State of emergency extended
City of Vancouver	January 19, 2021	\$8,406,150 in grants approved to 144 cultural organizations to help them continue providing critical programs and services.
Province of British Columbia	January 22, 2021	26 arts and culture groups in the Lower Mainland to receive over \$1 million to improve space or buy equipment
Canada	January 22, 2021	Sectoral Initiatives Program to fund \$72 million over three years to support sector-specific projects to help workers gain skills and access resources
Canada	January 26, 2021	The Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) with Canadian financial institutions will offer guaranteed, low-interest loans up to \$1 million to businesses that have year-over-year revenue decline of at least 50%
Canada	January 29, 2021	All flights to and from Mexico and Caribbean countries are suspended until April 30, 2021
Province of British Columbia	February 2, 2021	State of emergency extended
Province of British Columbia	February 2, 2021	Broadway Subway Project kicks off with site preparations
Canada	February 3, 2021	Minister of Infrastructure and Communities sets five new priorities for the Canada Infrastructure Bank: public transit, green infrastructure, trade and transport, broadband, and clean power
Canada	February 4, 2021	Government of Canada announces one-year ban for pleasure craft and cruise vessels entering arctic waters until February 28, 2022
Canada	February 5, 2021	The Regional Relief and Recovery Fund offers an additional \$20,000 for eligible small businesses
Province of British Columbia	February 5, 2021	\$20 million towards reskilling program to help British Columbians return to work
City of Vancouver	February 9, 2021	\$2.1 million approved in funding for the City's Street Cleaning Grant program
Canada	February 11, 2021	Government of Canada invests in Canadian clean technology innovations
Canada	February 12, 2021	All travellers entering Canada will be required to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test result on arrival. Air travellers will be required to stay in a government-authorized hotel for 3-nights.
Province of British Columbia	February 16, 2021	State of emergency extended
City of Vancouver	March 1, 2021	City accepting applications for temporary patios on public property for the April 1 to October 31, 2021, patio season
City of Vancouver	March 3, 2021	City accepting applications for the second round of the Vancouver Music Fund providing support to Indigenous and underrepresented musicians, artists, and groups in Vancouver's music sector

Government	Date declared	Announcements/Orders
Canada	March 3, 2021	Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) and Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS) extended at current rates (75% for CEWS and 65% for CERS) until June 2021
Canada	March 3, 2021	Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI)'s Innovation Fund announced, supporting 40% of eligible infrastructure costs of an institution's research project; the funding will go to 35 post-secondary institutions
Province of British Columbia	March 4, 2021	B.C. government has extended the deadline for the Small and Medium Sized Business Recovery Grant program from March 31, 2021, to August 31, 2021
Province of British Columbia	March 8, 2021	Construction begins for new St. Paul's Hospital
City of Vancouver	March 9, 2021	Council approved \$9,000,730 of grants for funding social service organizations that support reconciliation, equity and inclusion, gender equity, housing stability, poverty reduction, childcare, and the overdose crisis
Province of British Columbia	March 12, 2021	Liquor-primary and food-primary licensees are permanently allowed to sell and deliver sealed, packaged liquor products alongside the purchase of a meal for off-site consumption
Province of British Columbia	March 16, 2021	B.C. state of emergency extended through the end of the day on March 30, 2021
Province of British Columbia	March 17, 2021	B.C. government is investing an additional \$30 million in the Launch Online Grant program
Province of British Columbia	March 18, 2021	Front-line workers prioritized as COVID-19 vaccine rollout accelerates
Canada	March 24, 2021	The Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) deadline for application extended to June
Province of British Columbia	March 24, 2021	B.C. government to provide \$14 million in new one-time supplements to 588 arts and culture organizations and an additional \$2 million to help 47 organizations improve their existing spaces
Province of British Columbia	March 29, 2021	Three week circuit-breaker restrictions announced, indoor dining and adult fitness activities prohibited among other regulations through April 19, 2021
Province of British Columbia	March 30, 2021	Commercial recreation operators that hold Land Act tenures or Park Act permits to have annual base rent paid to the Province waived for one year
Province of British Columbia	March 30, 2021	B.C. state of emergency is extended through the end of the day on April 13, 2021
Province of British Columbia	April 1, 2021	B.C. government has made regulatory improvements under the Employment Standards Act to quickly bring in a job-protected leave to allow part-time and full-time workers to take the time needed to travel and receive their COVID-19 vaccination or to take a dependent family member to receive the vaccine
Province of British Columbia	April 1, 2021	B.C. government launches Accelerating Manufacturing Scale-Up Grant program to provide funding to small and medium supply-chain and manufacturing businesses
Province of British Columbia	April 6, 2021	B.C.'s COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan to include a cross-government approach to help all aspects of the tourism industry recover, create jobs and grow the economy

Government	Date declared	Announcements/Orders
Province of British Columbia	April 7, 2021	B.C. government announces \$4.2-million investment in mass timber demonstration projects and research to promote adoption of mass timber building systems
Province of British Columbia	April 8, 2021	B.C. government will provide more than \$50 million to help 14,000 restaurants, bars, breweries, wineries, gyms and fitness centres affected by the March 30, 2021 provincial health orders.
Province of British Columbia	April 9, 2021	B.C. government announces that the lower liquor server minimum wage is to be replaced with the general minimum wage of \$15.20 an hour as of June 1, 2021
Province of British Columbia	April 10, 2021	Commercial producers in B.C. who grow vegetables, ornamental flowers and plants, forest seedlings and nursery plants in greenhouses are eligible to apply for the carbon tax relief grants until May 10, 2021
Province of British Columbia	April 13, 2021	B.C. government commits three years of funding for Amplify B.C. with \$22.5 million dedicated to the province's music industry to cover operating costs and adapt to the challenges of the pandemic
Province of British Columbia	April 13, 2021	B.C. state of emergency is extended through the end of the day on April 27, 2021
Province of British Columbia	April 13, 2021	B.C. government to provide more than 5,000 youth and young adults across the province with access to skills training and well-paid jobs through approximately \$45-million of funding for the StrongerBC Future Leaders Program
Canada	April 19, 2021	2021-2022 Federal budget announced including planned extensions to the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS), Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS), Lockdown Support for CERS, Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB), Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB) extensions and the addition of a new Canada Recovery Hiring Benefit.
Province of British Columbia	April 20, 2021	2021 B.C. budget tabled
Province of British Columbia	April 23, 2021	B.C. introduces provincial non-essential travel restrictions that prohibit non-essential travel between three regional zones in the province, using health authority boundaries.
Province of British Columbia	April 26, 2021	\$75 million to the Circuit Breaker Business Relief Grant
Province of British Columbia	April 27, 2021	\$500-million investment fund to support the operations of InBC Investment Corp. (InBC).
Province of British Columbia		State of emergency extended
Province of British Columbia	April 28, 2021	Amendments to the Employment Standards Act providing workers with up to three hours of paid leave to get each dose of their COVID-19 vaccine comes into effect, retroactive to April 19, 2021.
Province of British Columbia	May 11, 2021	State of emergency extended
Province of British Columbia	May 18, 2021	New \$50-million BC Major Anchor Attractions Program opens
City of Vancouver	May 21, 2021	Council waives 2021 patio permit fees
Province of British Columbia	May 25, 2021	B.C. launches restart plan to guide loosening of restrictions through four steps.
Province of British Columbia	May 27, 2021	B.C. launches a COVID-19 safety certificate program, called BSAFE, for workers in the tourism and hospitality sectors.

Government	Date declared	Announcements/Orders
Canada		Through Western Diversification Canada, \$8.3 million for tourism business support organizations including Destination BC, Metro Vancouver Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Tourism Industry Association of British Columbia
Province of British Columbia	June 4, 2021	B.C. expands and extends Small and Medium Sized Business Recovery Grant
Province of British Columbia	June 8, 2021	State of emergency extended
Government	Date declared	Announcements/Orders
Province of British Columbia	June 9, 2021	B.C. invests \$15 million in the Innovator Skills Initiative (ISI) to prioritize under-represented people in the technology sector.
Province of British Columbia	June 15, 2021	Step 2 of restart plan. Resumption of travel within B.C.
		Temporary patios may now be made permanent (must meet local bylaws).
Canada	June 18, 2021	Canada announces expansion of the Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot expediting the process for skilled refugees to become permanent residents.
Province of British Columbia	June 22, 2021	The Province extends BC Hydro's Customer Crisis Fund.
Canada	June 23, 2021	\$500 million Canada Community Revitalization Fund launches
Canada	June 24, 2021	\$5.5 million Shop Local investment benefiting small businesses in British Columbia
Province of British Columbia	June 29, 2021	Move to Phase 3 of Restart Plan will occur June 30, 2021. Includes the repeal or softening of many of the public health restrictions on businesses.
Province of British Columbia	June 29, 2021	Repeal of workplace safety plan order
Canada	July 7, 2021	The Pay Equity Act will come into force on August 31, 2021
Canada	July 20, 2021	Canada Child Benefit annual maximum will be increased for 2021-2022 benefit year
Canada	July 30, 2021	Canada Student Financial Assistance program begins August 1st
Canada	August 4, 2021	\$20 million investment in clean tech, digital economy, health sciences, and value-added agriculture
Canada	August 11, 2021	Federal-provincial partnership established with B.C. to advance an integrated cleantech market
Canada	August 13, 2021	Extension to Early Learning and Child Care Agreement: \$48.8 million in 2021–2022 to support early childhood educator recruitment and retention, and over \$272 million in funding over four years
Canada	August 15, 2021	Election called for September 20. Parliament dissolved. No new announcements during this period.
Province of British Columbia	August 17, 2021	Provincial state of emergency extended (due to fires)
Province of British Columbia	August 23, 2021	Repeal of travellers and employers order
Province of British Columbia	August 27, 2021	Fairs, Festivals and Events Recovery Fund launched.

Government	Date declared	Announcements/Orders
Province of British Columbia	September 10, 2021	Public Health Order for proof of vaccination for food and liquor serving premises, and gathering and event spaces.
Province of British Columbia	September 13, 2021	BC Vaccine Card in effect throughout British Columbia

APPENDIX B – Additional City of Vancouver Resources

Additional Data Sources: Employment Lands and Economy Review

The Employment Lands and Economy Review team has also prepared 30 fact sheets using a variety of data sources detailing the economic structure of the city of Vancouver and the role of the city within the regional economy. These fact sheets are available on the City's website here: <https://vancouver.ca/employment-lands>.

City of Vancouver business support webpage

On Friday, April 3rd, 2020, City staff established the COVID-19 Business Communications and Support Office (BCSO) to assist local businesses at this critical time. The office is a single point of contact for Vancouver's local business owners to get information from the City of Vancouver regarding business support programs, to learn what City-run business services are currently available, and to make suggestions to the City concerning business and the economy. The webpage is available here: <https://vancouver.ca/home-property-development/covid-19-coronavirus-support-for-local-businesses.aspx>.

Staff in the City-Wide & Regional Planning division of the Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability department are supporting the BCSO, ensuring that information for business remains current and accessible, responding directly to questions by e-mail as well as assisting with developing resources for responding to concerns raised by local business operators.

Theresa O'Donnell
General Manager, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability
604.673.8434 | theresa.o'donnell@vancouver.ca