

**Transcript**



**Story 1 Winter Pedestrian safety tips from Transit Police**

The winter months in Vancouver can be dark and rainy. During these months, pedestrians need to remember the following safety tips:

- Try to make eye contact with drivers before crossing the road – never assume that a driver has seen you.
- Wear reflective gear or lights to make it easier for drivers to see you in wet weather, at dusk, and at night.
- Cross at designated crosswalks only and follow pedestrian lights. Always check the road before stepping into a crosswalk. You may also extend your arm to indicate your intention to enter the crosswalk.
- Don't use electronic devices while crossing a street, and if wearing headphones, consider lowering the volume, or wearing only one earbud, so you can still hear street noise.

You can visit the Transit Police headquarters to receive your own Transit Police reflective slap-on wristband. Front desk hours are 8am-4pm, Mon-Fri, excluding holidays. Follow the signs from Sapperton Sky Train Station.

**Story 2 Mind your manners: Etiquette tips for a shifting business landscape**

Job hunters beware: many employers are interviewing potential employees over meals. They want to see how candidates handle themselves in social situations. Although Vancouver is famous for its laid back vibe, business etiquette is increasing in profile.



Here are some tips for your interview over a meal. First, make sure to arrive on time. At lunch, don't talk business until after you've ordered. At dinner, don't talk business until after the main course. Never put your cellphone on the table. Whatever you do, don't order spaghetti. Order something you can eat discreetly with minimal fuss and mess. Don't order an expensive menu item. Avoid overloading your plate. The employer is hosting you, so follow their lead. Sit down when you're queued. When they remove their napkin, you should do the same. Don't worry about the bill. That's the potential employer's responsibility. Realize you may be observed both before and after the interview itself. They watch your body language when you leave. They want to see how you carry yourself.

Good luck at your next job interview over a meal! Hope these tips will help you be successful.



**Story 3 Visit 5 Vancouver Museums for \$5 Jan 23, 2016**

Museum hopping is a favourite Vancouver past time during the rainy winter months ... but it isn't necessarily cheap. Full-price admission to the city's top museums and galleries can run from \$15 to \$25 and up. Except for one magical day of the year when you can visit five of the city's cultural attractions for \$5. Winter Wander returns this Saturday, Jan. 23, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Located in Kitsilano, at the edge of English Bay, Vanier Park is a favourite with sun worshippers, dog walkers and kite flyers during the summer months. But tucked away in this idyllic setting are some of the city's largest museums and cultural attractions. In the space of a short walk, you can: learn about the downtown's neon era at the Museum of Vancouver; explore the first ship to circumnavigate North America at the Vancouver Maritime Museum; stare deep into the night sky at the planetarium inside the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre; and browse through endless stockpiles of old photos at the City of Vancouver Archives.

The \$5 admission price gets you access to all five cultural attractions: Museum of Vancouver, H.R. MacMillan Space Centre, Vancouver Maritime Museum, City of Vancouver Archives and Vancouver Academy of Music. If you have time that day, you can learn a lot about Vancouver and have fun with your family.

## Story 4      **The incredible shrinking dollar and you: B.C. consumers hit harder at the grocery store**



The Canadian dollar has dropped below 70 cents US for the first time in 13 years, and according to a number of forecasts it will continue to drop. The shrinking of loonie will be a benefit for tourism and film production, but it will drive prices higher for many consumer goods -- especially food.

Grocery prices rose 40 per cent more in B.C. than in the rest of Canada last year, largely due to heavy dependence on California fresh fruit and vegetables -- especially organics. The price of fresh vegetables rose by 18 per cent between November 2014 and November 2015 in B.C., nearly double the price hike felt across the country, according to Statistics Canada. Fresh fruit was up by 12 per cent over the same period in B.C. 81 per cent of fruits and vegetables consumed in Canada are imported, drought in California also factors into prices here. The shrinking dollar is also having an effect on the price of processed foods as vast majority are imported from the United States. Ready-to-eat foods from the middle of the grocery store, including jams, cookies and crackers, have gone up substantially.

Soft drinks and potato chips are generally protected from price instability because they tend to be produced in Canada for the domestic market. The price of eggs and dairy products, which are also produced in Canada, have been stable. The real question is how long will this situation continue.

## Story 5      **Why Vancouver house prices could trigger a labour shortage**



A new report warns that, by 2025, only individuals working in senior business, construction and engineering positions will be able to afford a house in Vancouver. The report, released by Vancouver-based credit union Vancity, says that the rising cost of housing will drive millennials away from the city in search of better opportunities. In 10 years' time, the report predicts that just three of 88 in-demand jobs will earn enough to afford to live in Metro Vancouver. A labour crisis might occur. The report indicates that most professionals will not be able to afford living in the city. Other highlights from the report include:

- Between 2001 and 2014, the cost of housing in the Metro Vancouver region increased by 63 per cent, while salaries only increased by 36.2 per cent;
- On average, the salary required to maintain the average mortgage in the region is \$78,088;
- By 2025, a household will need an income of \$125,692 to afford an average mortgage;
- Vancouver housing is projected to rise by 4.87 per cent a year, but wage rate growth for in-demand occupations will rise only between 0.6 per cent and 3.2 per cent.

The report suggested that we must keep millennials working and living in the city. The government needs to take steps to address the problem, including changing zoning bylaws so developers are required to make a certain amount of below-market housing units, providing rental housing tax incentives, and repurposing public and community-owned land to create affordable residential units. It also calls on businesses to adjust wages to meet the cost of living.