

Online vaccination launched

Funding for circuit breaker shut down

Mental health help

[More than 190 organizations receive grant funding to tackle racism | BC Gov News](#)

Arts funding

Dear Community Member,

I know that this last week has come with a lot of change and flux – and with that, our government is responding to the continuing impact of COVID-19. This is such a key time for people to dig deep down, to find the patience, perseverance, and kindness in order to allow our vaccination specialists to continue what is the largest vaccination campaign BC has ever seen. We are all anxious to get our vaccination. This past week, our government has introduced many measures to get there during this extremely critical time.

#### Online registration for Vaccinations

This week, our government launched an online process to register for your vaccination.

Online registration is now open at [gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated](https://gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated). You can follow an easy three-step process to get your vaccine:

#### **Step 1: Register online when it is your turn to get a confirmation code.**

Those aged 65+, Indigenous people aged 18+ (both on and off Reserve), or those who are [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) can register. Make sure to check [gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated](https://gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated) for the current eligibility.

#### **Step 2: Book an appointment.**

When your age group is eligible you will be notified by email or text. Remember to keep your confirmation code.

#### **Step 3: Get the vaccine.**

Visit the vaccine clinic to get your first dose. People who get their first vaccine dose will be notified by email, text, or phone call when they are eligible to book an appointment for their second dose.

**Remember that when your age group is eligible, if you prefer, phone access is still available at: 1-833-838-2323**

#### Support for businesses during circuit breaker restrictions

Some businesses are affected more than others during these times when it is critical to have less public interaction, with the increasingly transmissible variants of concern. This is why those businesses that were most affected by new public health orders announced last week, will be eligible for one-time relief funding. The new Circuit Breaker Business Relief Grant will provide up

to \$10,000 one-time funding for businesses in the fitness or hospitality sectors who were impacted by the March 30<sup>th</sup> public health orders. Applications for the Circuit Breaker Business Relief Grant will be streamlined and are expected to open the week of April 12, 2021. We encourage all eligible business to apply and learn more here: [Relief funding coming for hard-hit businesses](#)

### Funding for Anti-racism

People and communities throughout B.C. will have increased capacity to address racism and discrimination, while building intercultural trust and understanding as more than 190 new projects have received support through the BC Multiculturalism Grants program. Here in Courtenay-Comox, we have a number of recipients, including Comox Valley Child Development Association's Resilience and Recovery for racialized groups Indigenous Advisory Committee Project: \$5,000.00; North Island College's Anti-Asian Racism "From Mio": Fighting Anti-Asian Racism Through Education \$10,000.00. Sid Williams Theatre Society's BIPOC / LGBTQ2SQ+ Youth Create Space, Hold Space, Grow Space: The Create Space, Hold Space, Grow Space \$5,000. Funding for the Multiculturalism Grants Program was increased fourfold to more than \$1.2 million in 2020-21 to deliver more anti-racism initiatives. Priority for these recent grants was given to projects addressing anti-Indigenous, anti-Asian and anti-Black racism.

### For post Secondary Students

Students attending post-secondary institutions on northern Vancouver Island have access to emergency assistance funding to help them cope with financial pressures caused by COVID-19. This is emergency financial assistance which will give students the supports they need to continue with their post-secondary studies. Since March 2020, post-secondary institutions on Northern Vancouver Island have received a combined total of \$916,000 to assist students, including Indigenous students, who are experiencing an unexpected financial emergency that may affect their ability to complete their studies and handle expenses, especially those related to COVID-19. Our very own North Island College is receiving \$324,500 of non-repayable emergency assistance can be used to help with a broad range of costs, including living expenses, food, travel, portable computers and other supports for students who are returning to campuses for 2021-22.

### It's not just about funding - it's also about supports

Employers and employees throughout B.C. who work in the tourism, hospitality and community social services sectors now have access to vital mental health resources with the creation of a digital resource hub. The online hub offers a range of tools to help address common workplace concerns, such as bullying, harassment, COVID-19 exposure, coping with stress and more.

To date, we have administered over a million doses of vaccine. Every person who gets vaccinated makes us all safer. However, we cannot let down our guards just yet, and we need to keep saying no to indoor gatherings and non-essential travel. I hope we will all continue to help our loved ones and community stay safe.

Everyone has thoughts on what we need to move forward. Please feel free to share your thought in this survey: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-survey>

My constituency office is available by phone or email. Available hours are Monday to Thursday 10am-4pm, and Fridays by appointment only. You can reach us at 250.703.2410 or Ronna-Rae.Leonard.MLA@leg.bc.ca if you have any questions or need assistance with provincial supports.

Sincerely,

Ronna-Rae Leonard  
MLA Courtenay-Comox

**COVID Resources:**

For medical info, visit [bccdc.ca](http://bccdc.ca) or call 811

For vaccination info, visit [gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated](http://gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated)

For provincial supports and BC's Restart Plan, visit [gov.bc.ca/covid19](http://gov.bc.ca/covid19) or call 1-888-COVID-19 (1-888-268-4319) or text 604-630-0300

For employer guidelines on returning to work safely, visit [WorkSafeBC](http://WorkSafeBC)

Take the self-assessment at [covid19.thrive.health](http://covid19.thrive.health)

For seniors looking for additional support, or for those looking to support seniors, call 2-1-1 or visit [bc211.ca](http://bc211.ca)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RonnaRaeLeonard/>

Instagram: @ronnaraeleonard

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYLQfuaKQV-itCluryo2hQg>

Website: <http://ronnaraeleonard.ca/>

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Ronna-Rae Leonard MLA for Courtenay-Comox

437 5<sup>th</sup> St, Courtenay BC

Ph: 250-703-2410

Community Office Hours: Monday to Thursday, 10 am to 4 pm

MY OFFICE REMAINS OPEN TO ASSIST BY PHONE OR EMAIL

[www.ronnaraeleonard.ca](http://www.ronnaraeleonard.ca)



*It is a privilege to live and work on the traditional lands of the K'omoks First Nations.*

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**COVID Resources:**

- For medical info, visit [covid-19.bccdc.ca](https://covid-19.bccdc.ca) or call 811
- For the BC Recovery Benefit, visit [gov.bc.ca/recoverybenefit](https://gov.bc.ca/recoverybenefit) or call 1-833-882-002
- For financial supports for people and businesses, [visit this page](#).
- For PHO orders and guidance, [visit this page](#).
- For seniors looking for additional support, or for those looking to support seniors, call 2-1-1 or visit [bc211.ca](https://bc211.ca)
- For virtual mental health resources, [click here](#).