

Dear Community Member,

As we look towards our recovery from the pandemic, we have an opportunity to build our province back better. We must make sure our economy works for everyone, not just those at the top. We need to ensure that the care and services that people count on are available when and where they need them. And our recovery must support our climate action goals, in line with our CleanBC strategy. These values come through in the actions that our New Democrat government has taken these last weeks.

100 new publicly funded spaces

This week we announced that more than [100 new publicly funded spaces](#) will be available in addiction treatment and recovery programs, including 2 new beds here in the Comox Valley. The overdose crisis has impacted every community across B.C., and we have more to do to support people who are struggling with substance use issues. These new spaces in the Comox Valley will allow more women to start their path to recovery and get the care they need in a safe and supportive environment. Click here for the full info: <https://bcndpcaucus.ca/news/mla-leonard-says-comox-valley-treatment-and-recovery-beds-to-be-made-more-accessible/>

Supports for youth in care extended another year

Youth and young adults in our care deserve to feel supported and safe, especially as we continue to navigate this pandemic. We're extending emergency measures for another year — until March 31, 2022 — so that young adults, who would have otherwise transitioned into adulthood at age 19, will be able to stay in their living arrangement and continue to receive the supports they count on.

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021CFD0007-000233>

Funding Micro-credentials and Short-term Skills Training at NIC

The StrongerBC Economic Recovery Plan helps people who lost their jobs due to COVID (particularly women, youth and low-skilled worker) get trained in the areas of highest demand. Recently this government announced support for **North Island College** in offering **new micro credentials** like Skills for Film and Television and Medical Terminology Skills, allowing people to quickly gain qualifications that lead to employment in high-demand sector. The new courses are some of 24 new micro-credential programs being offered at 15 of B.C.'s public post-secondary institutions (including Keystone College), supported by a total investment of \$4 million from the Province of BC and the Canada-BC Workforce Development Agreement. This announcement is in addition to new **Short-term Skills Training** courses to be offered through NIC, supported by the province, including in subjects from warehousing skills, to carpentry foundations, to basic digital skills. Find out more here: <https://bcndpcaucus.ca/news/local-ndp-milas-welcome-new-courses-to-boost-career-opportunities-and-economic-recovery-in-the-north-and-mid-island/>

Dormant well clean-up program supports jobs, environment

Our dormant oil and gas well clean-up program has already proven itself as a critical part of B.C.'s economic recovery, supporting nearly 1,000 jobs. And so, a second round of funding of \$50 million for dormant well clean-up program is available, supporting jobs for B.C. workers in oil and gas service companies and reducing environmental impacts. This government is helping clean up the neglect of previous leadership because it's a good for both our environment and gets people working.

New funding for conservation, public safety boosts community programs

The NDP government is providing \$11 million to 53 not-for-profits for a variety of initiatives from public safety to environmental conservation through the Community Gaming Grants program, contributing to the vibrant, healthy communities we enjoy here in British Columbia. *In the Comox Valley, a number of public safety and conservation organizations have received Community Gaming Grant funds including; Ground Search & Rescue Association, Mt. Washington Ski Patrol Association, CV Land Trust, Project Watershed, Tsolum River Restoration Society, Community Justice Society, Kitty Cat PALs, MARS, Cat Advocated, and others, receiving funds to help in their effort to keep our community members safe especially when exploring the great outdoors.*

Investing in people's safety and livelihoods through flood mitigation funding

It was exciting to announce the provincial investment in K'omoks First Nation's foreshore nature-scaping project for an erosion protection project. This is a part of the \$8.5 Million investment made provincially that is an investment in people's safety and livelihoods. Read about it in the Record; <https://www.comoxvalleyrecord.com/news/komoks-first-nation-to-receive-472000-for-flood-mitigation-project/>

Community Homelessness Response

B.C.'s communities have been doing incredible work to keep their communities safe throughout the pandemic. That's why we're providing \$100 million in funding through our new Strengthening Communities program to help local leaders keep their communities strong. Our new \$100 million Strengthening Communities program is the next step in our government's ongoing support for communities to help them respond to the health and safety pressures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn more here: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021MUNI0014-000291>

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 or call 811
- For provincial supports and BC's Restart Plan, visit 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](https://www.worksafebc.com)
- Take the self-assessment at covid19.thrive.health
- For seniors looking for additional support, or for those looking to support seniors, call 2-1-1 or visit 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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Community Office Hours: Monday to Thursday, 10 am to 4 pm

MY OFFICE REMAINS OPEN TO ASSIST BY PHONE OR EMAIL

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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