



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY of BRITISH COLUMBIA

## JUNE PREPARATIONS - CELEBRATIONS

Today, our Premier, John Horgan, has announced he is stepping down, but will stay on as Premier until a new leader is chosen. He has been the best leader of our times, navigating our province through so many crises, inspiring confidence to persevere and build back better. I have always admired his particularly strong brand of leadership, as he has built an amazing diverse team of leaders in our Cabinet and the entire Caucus. John is the leader I needed to step into the provincial realm back in 2017 and it's meant the world to me to be the best I can be for you, the people of Courtenay-Comox and to do my part for the people of British Columbia. Even this past weekend, as I took a big step, he was there, demonstrating what inclusive leadership looks and feels like.

### I made a change this weekend!

After being diagnosed with Alopecia a number of years ago I chose to wear a wig. I had been dreading the thought of taking it off, but it was time. This weekend, while with my colleagues, I took my wig off. And I am so glad that I did.

I am endlessly thankful to be part of such a supportive team. My colleagues hugged me, cried, and even told me that they felt honoured to have witnessed the moment. To be a part of a team that embraces people regardless of how they present themselves to the world is invaluable and empowering.

So here I am, as a proud and bare-headed woman. I am so much more than my hair.

If you feel embarrassed or ashamed by a medical condition or the way you look, please know that I, and countless others, support you. You never have to hide who you are.



### Vancouver named FIFA World Cup 2026 official host city.

Vancouver will be one of two Canadian host cities for the 2026 FIFA World Cup Tournament! This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to support the tourism sector, put the global spotlight on British Columbia, and inspire the next generation of players.

## National Indigenous Peoples Day

On June 21st we celebrated National Indigenous People's Day when we celebrate the resilience and strength of Indigenous peoples in Canada. Together, we are working towards a more equitable future for everyone. This year for the first time in a long time people were able to come together for National Indigenous Peoples Day- find ways to celebrate and honour Indigenous people in communities.



National Indigenous Day celebration at K'ómoks First Nation Big House, June 21st, 2022

## B.C. INVESTS IN FIRST NATIONS LANGUAGE, ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE REVITALIZATION

B.C. has incredible language diversity and is home to 34 First Nations languages, which make up more than half of all First Nations languages in Canada. Past colonial policy and the residential school system tried to extinguish Indigenous languages and cultures. That's why we are providing \$34.75 million to the First Peoples Cultural Council (FPCC) to support First Nations communities to revitalize their languages, cultures, arts and heritage.

## Minister's statement on Cullen Commission's final report

Under the BC Liberals, there was a serious, decade-long problem of organized crime laundering hundreds of millions of dollars in BC casinos. When we took over in 2017, our government made different choices. We put a stop to that activity in our casinos and have been taking important actions to fight money laundering elsewhere. This report will help us build on that work. We'll continue taking important actions to fight this illegal activity, and we'll keep building a stronger, more fair economy that works for people.

## PRIDE MONTH!!

June is Pride month here in Courtenay-Comox! Join me in celebrating Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning (2SLGBTQ+) people with our community. The reality is that 2SLGBTQ+ people continue to face stigma and discrimination, which puts people at risk for much higher rates of violence, poverty, mental health issues and other complex challenges. And this discrimination is compounded for Indigenous people and people of colour.

A more inclusive society leads to a higher quality of life for everyone, and I encourage you join me in standing against hate and bigotry.



## Preparing for summer heat events

Last summer's unprecedented heat dome impacted all of us in some way, and for some it was tragic. It made it clear we need to do more as a province to be better prepared for extreme heat events. We've taken a number of steps to implement the lessons learned from last year's events to make sure B.C., and our healthcare system, is prepared and resilient during extreme weather events.



Thanks to our new BC Heat Alert and Response System, we will be ready to issue Broadcast Intrusive alerts for extreme heat emergencies to make sure people are aware and can take steps to protect themselves and their loved ones. This new system also includes a framework on when health and community agencies should enact wellness checks - for those people who may not have anyone close by to check on them.

## Minister Blair announces over \$200 million to support disaster recovery and climate resilience in B.C

Last year's wildfires and floods demonstrated how important it is to prepare our communities against future extreme weather events. Public Safety Canada is delivering an advance payment of \$207 million to the Government of British Columbia through the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) to support 2021 wildfire recovery efforts in British Columbia.

## Agriculture advisory group to help create more resilient food supply

Together, regenerative agriculture and agritechnology can help us strengthen B.C.'s food system and food economy. This new Minister's Advisory group consisting of food production experts will help B.C. farmers access the latest technology, create more resilient farms, and increase sustainability.

## CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

Is someone in your life, your workplace, or church celebrating a Milestone birthday or anniversary? Make sure to put in a request for a letter from your MLA. [Requests are made online here.](#)

## SEEKING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Would you like to lend your perspective on **The Great Bear Rainforest**? This public engagement project is open for the next 2 months. [Click here.](#)

We are also looking for engagement on our **consumer protection legislation**, which hasn't been updated since 2004. Take a minute to let us know where the gaps are in this increasingly digital world. [Click here.](#)

## GET IN TOUCH

**AS ALWAYS, IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT ANY PROVINCIAL ISSUE, PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO REACH OUT. WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU. MY OFFICE CAN BE REACHED AT 250.703.2410 OR RONNA-RAE.LEONARD.MLA@LEG.BC.CA OUR OFFICE HOURS ARE MONDAY TO THURSDAY 10AM-4PM. IF THE DOOR IS LOCKED, SIMPLY KNOCK OR CALL 250.703.2410 TO GET OUR ATTENTION. FRIDAYS ARE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.**

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