

Hello Community Members,

Today we heard from Dr. Henry. Though we are very much on the right track we need to wait a little more time to ensure that our vaccination plan gets back on track, that we understand and account for the new strains, and bend the curve further before we begin socializing again.

I am so grateful to everyone old, young and everyone in between who has taken public health seriously and continue to do the things that saves lives; staying in your community, socializing only with your household, and taking all the cleaning precautions. With that said, this week we are highlighting both the safety measures and supports that this government continues to provide during this time – for a recovery that includes everyone.

#### **[Enhanced safety measures for K-12 schools](#)**

As the global pandemic evolves, we're making sure schools continue to be as safe as possible. This week the government announced new protective measures for school that include; New protective measures include, increased mask-wearing, stricter cleaning guidelines for shared equipment, and a daily health-check app. Teachers, admins and staff have done a great job helping adapt our schools to make them safe. We're making these updates today so students, their families and staff can continue to feel confident with the safety measures in place. Click here for more info: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021EDUC0011-000201>

#### **ICBC Rebate**

One interesting outcome from when the pandemic took hold was a decrease in auto accidents. \$600 million was saved during this time and so ICBC customers will receive a one-time rebate of \$190 on average this spring. This is another way in which this government is making life a little more affordable – especially during these difficult times. <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021PREM0008-000191>

#### **Funding supports businesses to launch online**

As we've seen an increased demand for online products and services, we know that BC businesses too must pivot in order to remain competitive. This is why our government is investing \$12 million to help over 1,500 eligible businesses launch or upgrade an online store. The new Launch Online Grant Program will provide

up to \$7,500 for businesses to build or strengthen their online store to increase their sales revenues and become more competitive and grow. Find all the details here: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021JERI0009-000194>

### **[B.C. charging ahead with EV fleet supports](#)**

We're adding a number of supports for light-duty EV fleets to help B.C. communities and businesses install chargers on site so drivers can conveniently charge up. This move furthers our CleanBC goals and supports the climate change targets of municipalities and businesses. Learn more by clicking here:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021EMLI0006-000176>

My constituency office is available by phone or email. The office is open 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](mailto: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 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](https://www.instagram.com/ronnaraeleonard)

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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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