

**More Provincial Parks – Rebate for heavy duty electric vehicles – Arts funding – Land for food security  
– Stand up against racism – Child Care awards**

Dear Community Member,

Being halfway through our first month of 2021, we are well on our way to creating positive changes in our community. Over 87,000 vaccines have been administered in BC, most people continue to follow the health guidelines, and the BC Government continues to support all peoples and sectors to promote a strong recovery.

**Creating more space to love the outdoors**

Sixteen new provincial parks and 2 more protected area are on their way in BC including Octopus Islands off Quadra Island. Over 650 hectares of land will protect our natural areas and allow access to learn and appreciate our natural surrounding. As more and more people have acquired a love of outdoor spaces this accomplishment seems fitting this year. Learn more here:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021ENV0001-000029>

**CleanBC rebate for heavy duty electric vehicles**

As part of our climate strategy, CleanBC, our government is making it easier for B.C. businesses to purchase electric vehicles, so they can save on fuel costs and contribute to our transition to a low carbon economy. With \$31 million from the Stronger BC Economic Recovery Plan, businesses can access double the rebates for medium and heavy-duty electric vehicles like passenger buses, airport & port service vehicles and transport trucks. Making the green choice has become easier still! For info on the program click here: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021EMLI0002-000037>

**Helping the Arts adapt through the pandemic**

The Comox Valley is fortunate to have a vibrant cultural scene that includes painters, performers, writers, dancers, theatre, film, multi-media specialists and arts administrators that bring it all together. Our government wants to keep it this way and so artists can now apply for a new art grant program through the BC Arts Council for artists who are finding ways to accept the pivot challenge that the arts face during these times. The new \$500,000 Pivot for Individuals program is accessed through BC Arts Council's where people can apply for up to \$12,000 to learn new skills or adapt their practices. For more info click here: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021TACS0001-000036>

Deadline to apply February 16, 2021

**Land matching program adds to our food security**

With the popularity of local food consumption, we are happy that the B.C. Land Matching Program marks its 100th match since 2016. This means that over 2023 hectares (5000 acres) of farmland are now raising livestock and growing crops. The 46 land matches finalized in 2020 will help improve food security, create economic growth, and bring more local food options to communities in B.C. following COVID-19. If you'd like to learn more about the program click here: [B.C. Land Matching Program - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/land/land-matching-program) or if you know someone who would like to be in touch with the young agrarians, click here: <https://youngagrarians.org/tools/land/>

### **Standing up against racism**

We stand alongside every person who has faced – and continues to face – racism today and every day, but we also recognize there is more work to be done to combat racism, both in schools and in our day to day interactions. We would ask that EVERYONE in B.C. stand together in this fight and to show that discrimination in any form will not be tolerated. Read the full statement on Black shirt day here: [https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021AG0002-000051?fbclid=IwAR1qIkUw-Vf\\_8L2qA2lJmWZGystYHj4WnsIrVc614fjyO0DfkL7CF1sBOus](https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021AG0002-000051?fbclid=IwAR1qIkUw-Vf_8L2qA2lJmWZGystYHj4WnsIrVc614fjyO0DfkL7CF1sBOus)

### **2021 Child Care Awards of Excellence**

Recognize an individual, organization or local government who is providing outstanding ECL (early care and learning) in Courtenay-Comox, by nominating them for the 2021 Child Care Awards of Excellence. Workers and organizations have adapted throughout this last year and yet dedication to the care and learning for kids has certainly shone through. If you'd like to nominate a child care provider for excellence in supporting children's development and their commitment to improving and enhancing relationships with children, families and their community, learn more by following this link: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content?id=FB36F11E5A8B4AB8B6A8070910B9CBDB> You can find the nomination guidelines here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content?id=C35ED79D71B647E8AC4AFBB9827B99C0>

My constituency office is available by phone or email. 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](https://bccdc.ca) or call 811

- For provincial supports and BC's Restart Plan, visit [gov.bc.ca/covid19](https://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](https://covid19.thrive.health)
- For seniors looking for additional support, or for those looking to support seniors, call 2-1-1 or visit [bc211.ca](https://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](http://www.ronnaraeleonard.ca)



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