

Subject: BC Restart funding allocations - Primary Care Network - Old Growth - State of Emergency

We are not through the pandemic yet but together we are making progress. I hope you find these weekly updates help keep you informed on new programs our government has introduced that may positively impact your health, business, family, and wellbeing. Together we are moving forward and this week we made some announcements that will have long lasting positive impacts.

Stronger BC for Everyone: BC's Economic Recovery Plan

After a broad and robust engagement with British Columbians and careful review of the input, our Premier John Horgan, and Minister of Finance Carole James announced the full details of the \$1.5 Billion BC Recovery. It is designed to strengthen our health care, create good jobs and opportunities for people, and help BC businesses come back stronger #StrongerBC. We are helping businesses grow and rehire staff with a 15% refundable tax credit based on eligible new payroll. Small and medium businesses will have access to new grants and will support 15,000 hard-hit businesses. Tourism operators will be eligible for a special top up. In health care, we are hiring 7000 frontline health care workers and creating a new Hospital at Home program.

There is still a lot of work to be done but these are the piece that will set our province in motion to a healthy recovery for all. For more info and access to the full report follow this link:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020PREM0052-001780>

Primary Care Network

I am also very pleased to have announced this week that we will be implementing a new primary care network in our community. These new networks will see community partners, local health-care providers and Indigenous partners work together to ensure patients have access to a full range of team-based primary care services, from maternity to end of life, for all of their day-to-day health-care needs.

For people and families, it means getting faster, better access to their primary care team or provider, including evenings and weekends, as well as being connected to appropriate services and supports in the community. The team of health-care providers will include family physicians, nurse practitioners and health-care professionals, ranging from registered nurses, traditional wellness coordinators and cultural safety facilitators to allied health-care professionals, social workers and clinical pharmacists. In addition, they have been designed to address primary care priorities of individual communities such as: providing better access to chronic disease and chronic pain management; improving access to mental-health and substance-use services; culturally safe and appropriate care for Indigenous peoples; helping to co-ordinate services for vulnerable people with complex health issues; and providing comprehensive services for people living in poverty. I am very proud of our government for giving this work the priority it deserves. For the full press releases: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0280-001735?fbclid=IwAR1gr5ykNL6joSUz7JC74xy1ebLsQja9ccYEOlnvkfkit65M6Co40Ubul8M>

Old Growth News

After 200 meetings in 45 communities, 300 written submissions, 400 articles, 9000 emails and 18,500 surveys, the Old Growth Strategic Review has had one of the highest ever EngageBC responses. The

expert panel's final report included 14 recommendations. Our government is committed to Indigenous partnership in new policies and direction, recognizing the panel's first recommendation. Initial steps see the protection of 352,739 hectares of old growth (defined by trees more than 250 years old) in 9 areas in BC – 5 of which are of interest for Vancouver Island. Clayquot Sound (260,578 hectares), H'Kusam (1050 hectares), McKelvie Creek (2,231 hectares), Central Walban Valley, and Upper Southgate River (17,321) are all in immediate development deferral. Find the full report here:

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/oldgrowth>

State of Emergency

As we carefully watch the COVID-19 numbers here in BC, it serves as a reminder that the B.C. government has formally extended the provincial state of emergency, allowing Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, to continue to use extraordinary powers under the Emergency Program Act to support the Province's COVID-19 pandemic response. Under this state of emergency, for example, provincial enforcement officers were given the ability to issue \$2,000 violation tickets for owners or organizers contravening the provincial health officer's (PHO) order on gatherings and events.

We are all in this together! Every day that we are 100% committed to preventing the transmission of COVID19 we are saving lives and helping each other thrive, not just survive this pandemic. Stay safe and have a fabulous last weekend of the summer.

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
- 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
- [Learn about eligibility for all covid-related programs provincial and federal benefits:](#)

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