

Flooding, Supply Chain, emergency service, keeping kids safe

Dear Community Member,

The last few days have been difficult for people in B.C. We saw incredible amounts of rainfall and wind that led to damaging floods across many parts of our Province. Here on the Island, the Malahat has reopened for essential travel only and a sink hole developed on the Inland Highway forcing more near Lantzville. My heart goes out to everyone who has been affected by flooding, displacement, and loss.

We are working day and night to get people to safety and provide the support they need. Our government has declared a [State of Emergency](#) to mitigate impacts on transportation and support the provincewide response and recovery. We've requested federal assistance and Canadian Air Force assets are already operational, with more resources on the way. Our very own 422 Squadron helped out with evacuation of people in the Fraser Valley. Emergency Support Services and Search and Rescue teams are providing emergency shelter, food and other supports to thousands of evacuees and stranded travellers. The B.C. Wildfire service has also been supporting efforts to rescue people and clear roads. The Ministry of Agriculture is working directly with farmers and farmers associations to help in any way possible, including using helicopters to drop containers with food and water for animals on farms that have been cut off.

I want to reassure everyone that our supplies of food and goods are secure. There may be temporary disruptions, but we are working quickly to re-route shipments through alternate routes to ensure people can get the essential supplies they need. **You can play a role by shopping as you normally would, and buying only what you need. Remember, your neighbours need supplies too** In Courtenay-Comox I know that we can ride out any ripple effects we see here, as long as we buy only what we need.

I'd like to share a few digital resources that may be of use to you or someone who you know is affected by our emergency here in BC:

- Before travelling check road closures, re-openings, and the status of repairs at [DriveBC.ca](#)
- Disaster financial assistance is available for those affected by flooding. [See more info here](#).
- See all current evacuation orders, alerts, and list of reception centres at [emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca](#).
- People who have evacuated and need assistance should register with [Emergency Support Services](#).
- To donate funds or supplies to relief efforts, please contact donations@gov.bc.ca.

Response to the 19 Wing Explosion

I am very proud work that our 422 squadron carried out both in the flood rescues and in response to the explosion at Comox 19 Wing this week. Whether we learned about it on social media or heard it ourselves, the explosion that happened at about 9am on Thursday, was large and many people were taken to hospital. As the morning progressed and I made contact with the Mayor of Comox and other

key contacts, I was reassured that our community was in the good hands of our search and rescue and support services. Thank-you to all those who stepped up during this local emergency.

Protection for kids

To finish with some good news, we are so happy to hear that Health Canada has approved Pfizer's Covid-19 pediatric vaccine for kids 5-11. Though children have had less severe affects from COVID-19, the ability for the 360,000+ children to gain protection from the novel corona virus, adds to our collective ability to overcome the shock that COVID-19 has had on our health care system, and our lives over the last (close to) two years. Outbreaks in high density situations like schools now have one more tool that we can use against it. We are excited to add this too in the arsenal of steps required to get us to the level of safety that we have all been apart of during these difficult years of the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021HLTH0204-002205>

Don't forget, if you would like help printing and laminating your vaccine card – we can do that here at the office during regular office hours. Please bring your MSP card and your original vaccination card or know the date when you received at least one of your shots.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about COVID-19 or any other provincial issue, please don't hesitate to reach out. We are here to help you, Monday – Thursday 10am-4pm (closed Fridays).

Sincerely,

Ronna-Rae Leonard

MLA Courtenay-Comox

COVID Resources:

- For medical info, visit bccdc.ca or call 811
- 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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