

Subject: **Vaccinations for children / 5 days of paid sick leave / 16 days of activism to end gender-based violence**

Dear Community Member,

This week, MLAs wrapped up the fall sitting of the legislature, where we brought forward and discussed legislation on many issues that matter to British Columbians. I am proud to say that we have had a very busy fall session and passed a range of legislation including, but not exclusively, key pieces that will allow us to take better care of our forests <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021FLNRO0092-002168>, uphold the human rights of Indigenous peoples <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021AG0073-002191>, and ban single-use plastics <https://cleanbc.gov.bc.ca/plastics/>.

We also made two big announcements this week:

COVID-19 vaccines for children aged 5 to 11

Last week, the pediatric COVID-19 vaccine was approved by Health Canada. Starting Monday, November 29, parents who have registered their kids will begin receiving invitations to book appointments for their kids. The most important thing parents can do now is **register their children to get vaccinated at www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca or by calling 1-833-838-2323**. Getting children vaccinated is the best way to protect them from the risks associated with COVID-19. And by increasing protection in our entire community, we can reduce the risk of the virus interfering with activities important for children, including school, choir, sports, and birthday parties.

Five days of paid sick leave for workers in B.C.

B.C. is the first province in Canada to implement a minimum standard of five days of paid sick leave for employees each year. No one should have to choose between going to work sick or losing wages; so beginning on January 1st 2022, employees in B.C. will be able to take a sick day when they need it. The pandemic taught us that when you go to work sick, it impacts you, your co-workers, and your employer. And over 60,000 employers and workers submitted feedback agreeing that people should not go into work when they are sick. This is a big deal for workers in B.C. and it is the right thing to do.

CORRECTION

Last week when we wrote about supports given by 19 Wing's search and rescue team for the mainland flooding and mud slides, there was a typo in the squadron number. It is 442 squadron that stepped up to the rescue calls – and locally we are all proud that they were able to help with the efforts.

16 days of Activism to End Gender-based Violence

Everyone deserves to live a life free from the threat of violence. Join with me in participating in the 16 days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence campaign to build a better future where people are treated with respect and dignity regardless of their gender. Check out our local Comox Valley Transition Society website www.cvts.ca/16days and www.comoxvalleyarts.com/16days and join their Community Stitch Project. Pick up a kit at your local library until December 4th. **Join the vigil in honour of the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, hosted by the Comox Valley Transition Society and the Comox Valley Art Gallery on Monday, Dec. 6, at 12pm on the plaza in front of the Art Gallery, downtown Courtenay.** This day honours the memory of the 14 women who were murdered at L'Ecole Polytechnique Montréal in 1989 because they were women and were perceived to be feminists.



Seniors Guides and Lamination

The Senior's Guides have been so popular that we will have to order more in. Feel free to pop into the office to get yours or to give one to a loved one. 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).

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MLA Courtenay-Comox

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MY OFFICE REMAINS OPEN TO ASSIST BY PHONE OR EMAIL
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It is a privilege to live and work on the traditional lands of the K'omoks First Nations.

People across B.C. are still experiencing the impacts of recent extreme weather and flooding. With more storms in the forecast, it's important to be informed and prepared. Here are some useful links:

- Latest updates and evacuation orders/alerts: <https://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca/>
- Supports for people and communities: <https://www.gov.bc.ca/FloodResponse>
- Donate to help people affected by flooding: <https://donate.redcross.ca/page/94172/donate/1>
- Know before you go with current travel advisories: <https://www.tranbc.ca/current-travel-advisories/>

Helpful Resources:

- For medical info on COVID-19, visit covid-19.bccdc.ca or call 811
- For vaccination info and the BC vaccine card, [visit this page](#).
- For financial supports for people and businesses, [visit this page](#).
- For PHO orders and guidance, [visit this page](#).
- For mental health and substance-use supports, visit wellbeing.gov.bc.ca

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