

Rent Bank / Groundwater licensing / Red Cross Donations / Fossil Fuels / Vaccinations

Dear Constituent,

As we move into the last month of 2021, the anticipation for the holiday season approaches. This year has already been one of monumental achievements in how we have come together to help one another through pandemics and climate crises, protect one another through social distancing and getting vaccinated, and through legislating changes that help people make all those things possible.

Rent Bank

Now, regardless of where you live in the province, you can access a [rent bank](#) and its support services to help stabilize your rental housing during unanticipated short-term financial challenges. Rent banks help to provide housing stability for low- to moderate-income renters who are unable to pay rent or essential utilities due to job loss or other short-term or temporary emergencies that compromise their ability to pay. Rent banks provide financial assistance to tenants, support for tenants, and provide critical supports that can lead to more stabilized and sustainable housing. Click here to learn more about this important resource: <https://bcrentbank.ca/>

Groundwater Licensing Deadline

Groundwater users licence deadline is approaching. March 1, 2022, is the deadline to apply for a water licence for those who were using groundwater from a well or dugout on or before Feb. 29, 2016, for non-domestic purposes, such as irrigation or industrial use. A water licence is not required for a household well or groundwater used for domestic purposes, such as watering lawns and gardens. Existing groundwater users who have not applied by the deadline must stop using groundwater and will lose recognition of their historical date of first use. That historical date is important because, during water shortages, older licences get priority access to water. Licensing groundwater helps protect aquifers and streams, along with businesses and livelihoods that depend on reliable access to water. Domestic well owners are encouraged to register their groundwater well, at no cost, to ensure their well use will be considered in new licensing decisions and during times of water scarcity. To learn more about water licences:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/air-land-water/water/gwlicensingqas-2020.pdf>

Red Cross donations

The Province is teaming up with the Canadian Red Cross to provide additional financial assistance to help people meet the immediate needs associated with being evacuated due to flooding. Financial assistance will be provided by the Red Cross to people whose primary residences have been placed on evacuation orders due to the flooding and extreme weather event that occurred Nov. 14-16, 2021. Eligible households will receive \$2,000. To access these supports, evacuated British Columbians need to register with the Red Cross by calling 1 800 863-6582, between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. (Pacific time). Financial assistance provided through the Red Cross will not affect eligibility for supports through the provincial Emergency Support Services (ESS) program.

To donate to the Canadian Red Cross's British Columbia Floods & Extreme Weather Appeal, visit:
<https://donate.redcross.ca/page/94172/donate/1?locale=en-CA>
Or by calling (toll-free) 1 800 418-1111; or texting BCFLOODS to 30333.

For more on the Province's response to flooding and the supports available, visit:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/natural-disaster/support/home>

Minister Ralston's op-ed about the fossil fuel subsidy

Have you had the chance to read Minister Ralston's op-ed? If you are interested in gaining more perspective on the challenges and progress around fossil fuel subsidies, this article in the *Tyee* will provide some great info. He said: "The work underway to overhaul B.C.'s broken royalty system is essential to meeting B.C.'s climate targets and building a more sustainable economy. Let's hope the Green Party will focus on facts over hyperbole as we take on this important work." To read the full article follow this link: <https://thetyee.ca/Opinion/2021/11/29/Fossil-Fuel-Subsidies-BC/>

B.C. kids aged 5 to 11 can now get vaccinated. Here's what you need to know

Need a bit more info on getting your child 5-11 vaccinated?

- Vaccinating children is the best way to protect them from getting sick with COVID-19.
- Vaccinating your child helps protect EVERYONE in the community
- The most important thing parents can do now is register their children at www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca or by calling 1-833-838-2323.
- Community vaccination clinics will be child-friendly, with staff trained to work with children and appointments available during after-school hours.

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.

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/>

To unsubscribe from the email list respond to this email with "UNSUBSCRIBE" in the subject header.

Ronna-Rae Leonard MLA for Courtenay-Comox

437 5th St, Courtenay BC

Ph: 250-703-2410

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.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The above message contains confidential information intended for a specified individual and purpose. The information is private and protected by law. Any copying or disclosure of this transmission by anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately and delete this message and any attachments from your system. Thank you.