

[B.C. tackles marine fishing debris with \\$9.5 million in funding for cleanup projects](#)

Investment of \$56 million for mental health of children, youth

Non-essential travel barriers

Accessible BC ACT

\$500 Million inBC

37.8% of the adult population of Vancouver Island is vaccinated and ages 56+ are now booking their vaccine

Dear Community Member,

As Dr. Henry has said, in BC, especially on the lower mainland, we are in a tug of war right now between vaccine supply and high case numbers due to the high transmissibility of the variants. But we can be optimistic for the large vaccine supply that we know is coming in the following weeks and that as of April 28, 37.8% of the adult population in Island Health have received their first dose. The case numbers have declined here on the island, which is where we have to stay in order to get our vaccine distribution to a higher level. I'm so proud that as a community has always stepped up to challenge of bending the curve. Just a short while longer.

As the community does their part, this government continues to do our part in supporting people through this difficult time:

1. This week, our government announced that [we're expanding mental health and substance use services in communities throughout the province](#). As part of the largest mental health investment in B.C.'s history, our government is providing over \$56 million to deliver supports for children, youth and their families.
2. \$9.5 million for marine fishing debris clean-up projects. In order to ensure that our valuable coastline will be clean and healthy for years to come, this government has committed funding towards marine clean up. Working with Tourism operators and First Nations, we will create new jobs, provide local opportunities and help keep our beaches beautiful!
<https://vancouver.sun.com/news/b-c-sinks-9-5-million-into-marine-debris-clean-up-projects>
3. BC Accessibility Act. This government has introduced a bill that will allow the government to establish accessibility standards aimed at identifying, removing and preventing barriers to accessibility and inclusion. Standards will be developed in a range of areas such as employment, the delivery of services and the built environment. Read more about it here:
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021SDPR0033-000771>
4. inBC \$500 million investment fund. This week our minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation, Ravi Kahlon, announced the development of a new fund that will ensure that BC becomes a global leader in our recovery. The inBC fund is meant to provide a source of capital to build a more innovative, low-carbon economy by investing in high potential businesses to help them to scale and grow in B.C. It will invest in businesses that will support the social, economic and environmental goals of BC.

We are in the last stretch of this pandemic, and we must all keep our communities safe by following BC's travel restrictions. Non-essential travel is prohibited between three regional zones in the province:

1. Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley

2. Vancouver Island
3. Northern and Interior (this includes Hope and the Bella Coola Valley and Central Coast)

We need everyone to do all they can to prevent the spread of the virus. Please visit www.gov.bc.ca/covidtravel to see the full details of the travel restrictions.

It is also crucial to get vaccinated as soon as you are eligible. I encourage every British Columbian aged 18+ to register. Booking invitations are now going out to those 58+, Indigenous people aged 18+, and clinically extremely vulnerable people, and new age groups are being added as our vaccine supply increases. For more information, [please visit this page](#).

Everyone has thoughts on what we need to move forward. Please feel free to share your thought in this survey: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-survey>

My constituency office is available by phone or email. Available hours are Monday to Thursday 10am-4pm, and Fridays by appointment only. You can reach us at 250.703.2410 or 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 or call 811

For vaccination info, visit gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated

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

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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COVID Resources:

- For medical info, visit covid-19.bccdc.ca or call 811
- For the BC Recovery Benefit, visit gov.bc.ca/recoverybenefit or call 1-833-882-002
- For financial supports for people and businesses, [visit this page](#).
- For PHO orders and guidance, [visit this page](#).
- For seniors looking for additional support, or for those looking to support seniors, call 2-1-1 or visit bc211.ca
- For virtual mental health resources, [click here](#).