

Vaccinations – Tourism Ahead – New Child Care spaces – Plastics -

Dear Community Members,

As the weather heats up and the long weekend launches us on our way to a new season, Dr. Henry and Premier Horgan have asked us to continue to persevere through this last little stretch of the circuit breaker constraints. Everyone wants to enjoy the summer and put this pandemic behind us. With 1st dose vaccinations rates being over 58% (as of May 21, 2021) in BC, we have to make sure that we are extra vigilant this weekend – to save our summer. Consider having those conversations that will encourage people to register and get vaccinated – it's the only way that we'll be able to get back to normal. Do it for your yourself, your family and friends, and your community.

Vaccinations

Starting Thursday, May 20, youth 12-17 can register online or by phone and start booking their appointments to get vaccinated. **Youth in this age group can also accompany an adult to an already-booked appointment and get vaccinated with the Pfizer vaccine at the same time as their family member.** This means that every person 12+ in B.C. is now able to get their first dose. If you haven't already, please make sure you are registered. It just takes a couple of minutes to register at getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca or by phone at 1-833-838-2323. Once you have registered, you'll receive a text or email shortly with a link to book your appointment. Click here for more info: [British Columbians aged 12+ invited to book COVID-19 vaccine appointments](#)

Tourism ahead!

Our province is home to some of the world's finest tourist attractions. This week, our government announced \$50 million on the way to support B.C.'s major tourist attractions. The BC Major Anchor Attractions Program offers up to \$1 million per attraction through one-time grants. Businesses can apply until June 7th, with the funds coming in July. We're taking strong action to ensure these treasured attractions can continue to draw people to B.C., enrich our local experiences and keep people employed. This funding will ensure that Butchart Gardens, the Capilano Suspension Bridge, or the MacMillan Space Centre, will be there for all to enjoy and contribute to our employment and economy. Eligibility criteria for urban and rural areas (which may include whale watching, museums and heritage sites) can be found here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/economic-recovery/attractions-program>

[Families to benefit from new child care spaces](#)

The pandemic has made it clear that having access to affordable child care is not simply good social policy, it's vital to B.C.'s economy. We've invested over \$2 billion in Childcare BC, our 10-year plan to deliver universal child care to B.C. families and we are announcing new child care spaces across the province. These new child care spaces provide parents with the option to return to work, go back to school or pursue other opportunities while knowing their children are safe. Here in North Island we've just funded 190 new childcare spaces, 75 of which are in Courtenay at North Island College. View my childcare provider appreciation day speech in the legislature here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hEjEm_QV6_0

[Turning Plastic into Opportunity](#)

Turning plastics from old car batteries into new ones, developing artificial intelligence to sort plastics for recycling and supporting local micro-recycling facilities are among nine projects being funded under the CleanBC Plastics Action Fund. The funding is an important part of the CleanBC Plastics Action Plan and its goal to address plastic waste. The initiative is also part of B.C.'s \$10-billion COVID-19 response, which includes StrongerBC: BC's Economic Recovery Plan to protect people's health and livelihoods, while supporting businesses and communities.

To date, more than 2.74 million vaccine doses have been administered in B.C. As this number keeps increasing with every passing day, there is so much to be hopeful about. On Tuesday, the Premier and Dr. Bonnie Henry will be laying out our way forward, in light of our collective success here in BC to bring cases down from over 1000, which instigated the circuit breaker restrictions, to the recent numbers of around 400.

Have a great Victoria Day Long Weekend. Thanks for doing your part to stay safe! 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](#).