

Dear Community Member,

Happy BC Day this weekend!!! Whatever this weekend brings, I hope you spend the time enjoying our wonderful shared land and water. While enjoying your visits with friends and family, make sure to stay cool too. There is a heat advisory for this weekend. Take a swim, drink water remember that there are cooling centres available:

- COURTENAY CONNECT – 685 Cliffe Avenue - Drop in Centre space open Monday to Saturday from 10am to 5pm <https://cvts.ca/connect-warming-centre/>
- LEWIS CENTRE – 489 Old Island Highway Showers are available Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am to 1pm

This week we've got some great news of new opportunities, BC's economic health, marine clean-ups and funding for sports for you to browse.

#### [Vax for BC launches to get more people vaccinated, recognize pandemic heroes](#)

Beginning on Tuesday, July 27, 2021, and lasting throughout the month of August, community events, vax vans and mobile clinics will be up and running in dozens of communities in B.C. to get more people vaccinated with their first and second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. The Vax van will be in; [Cumberland at Village Square on Wednesday, Aug. 4](#) and [Courtenay at Lewis Park on Thursday, Aug. 5](#). Beginning on Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup> the Filberg Centre will begin walk-in vaccinations for all first doses and second doses for anyone who received their first dose before June 16<sup>th</sup>. This means that you need NO booking on Wednesdays – you can just show up! While registration and booking using the provincial Get Vaccinated system is still encouraged, these events will allow eligible people to walk-in and receive a vaccine without a scheduled appointment.

#### [British Columbians help reduce COVID-19 impacts on Province's finances](#)

The resilience of British Columbians and the strength of B.C.'s economy has helped to keep provincial finances on more stable ground during one of the most challenging times in the province's history. Throughout the pandemic we've responded to people's need for income support, business grants, tax breaks and crucial services. B.C. ended the 2020-21 fiscal year with continued strong credit ratings and a lower-than-projected deficit of \$5.5 billion. In BC we were able to keep the economy open because of the diligence of British Columbians. The strong recovery in many sectors means that the province could shift targeted supports to people and sectors who were feel the greatest effects of the pandemic. Because of the strong recovery the deficit is \$2.7B lower than the 2021 budget projected. Learn more about how helping people and sectors hard-hit, and economic recovery work together: [British Columbians help reduce COVID-19 impacts on Province's finances | BC Gov News](#)

#### [Shoreline cleanup nets 425 tonnes of trash](#)

As a part of the CleanBC strategy, Marine shore clean-ups have helped restore our shoreline, get rid of ocean plastics and employ small boat operators. Through our Clean Coast, Clean Waters initiative (whose mandate is to reduce ocean plastics) we've helped protect and restore B.C.'s marine and shoreline environment by removing more than 425 tonnes of debris such as plastics and other items harmful to both marine life and the communities along B.C.'s coast. The initiative also is part of B.C.'s \$10-billion COVID-19 response, which includes StrongerBC: BC's Economic Recovery Plan. StrongerBC protects people's health and livelihoods, while supporting businesses and communities.

#### [Municipalities empowered to ban single-use plastics](#)

Municipalities throughout the province can now move more quickly to prevent plastics from polluting their communities. Under new rules, local governments can institute bans on plastic bags and certain single-use plastics without provincial approval. Our government has amended a regulation under the Community Charter to allow local governments to ban single-use plastics, allowing municipalities to quickly prevent plastics from polluting their communities. This means that the 20 municipalities throughout BC that are considering this bylaw, will have the ability to enforce it that much faster.

#### [Funding to get sports back into full swing](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic took a huge toll on sports organizations in our province. We are very much looking forward to getting our sport organization back into full swing. Through the Local Sport Relief Fund, we're helping more than 4,100 sports organizations in B.C. that have faced financial challenges to assist with expenses such as insurance, administrative costs, rents, and more. Here in Courtenay, The Comox Valley Wheelchair Sports Society – specifically Wheelchair Basketball – received funding to make sure that the sport can thrive in our pandemic recovery.

My constituency office is available by phone or email. The office is open 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](https://bccdc.ca) or call 811
- For provincial supports and BC's Restart Plan, visit [gov.bc.ca/covid19](https://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](https://www.worksafebc.com)
- Take the self-assessment at [covid19.thrive.health](https://covid19.thrive.health)
- For seniors looking for additional support, or for those looking to support seniors, call 2-1-1 or visit [bc211.ca](https://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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Ronna-Rae Leonard MLA for Courtenay-Comox  
437 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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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