

Supporting workers / EV Milestones / Cleaner Shores / Vaccine Everyday walk-in

Dear Community Member,

We know that the COVID-19 pandemic has prompted the need to move faster in directions that support workers, reskill the labour force, support transportation that is more sustainable, and clean up coastal waters.

Sick Leave

Staying at home when you are sick is a practice that significantly reduced COVID-19 transmission in our communities, and protected workplace productivity. But many people, especially those in lower-paying jobs without benefits, don't have that choice – they can't afford to lose wages by missing work. Our government introduced three days of paid sick leave during the pandemic, to bridge the gap for people accessing the federal sickness benefit. At the same time, we committed to putting in place a permanent paid sick leave program, so that everyone can access paid sick days and stay home when they need to. This permanent program will come into effect in January 2022, but we want you to tell us what it should look like.

We want to make sure this program reflects the needs and experiences of people in B.C., so we're inviting both workers and employers to participate in a short survey to help us shape the program. Go to engage.gov.bc.ca/paidsickleave/ to participate – the survey is open until September 14. Whether you currently have paid sick days at your workplace or not, we want to hear from you. The survey should only take a few minutes and doesn't ask for any personal information. All the responses will be kept confidential.

Skills Training Program

As our economy continues to recover, we also want to make sure that people whose employment was impacted are recovering as well. That's why we've announced an investment of \$95 million in [skills training programs](#) to support over 9,000 people across the province.

We're helping people to re-skill or up-skill so they can find the right job for them and support themselves and their families while also boosting our local economies. If you or someone you know is unemployed or under-employed and looking to learn new skills, [visit this link](#) to see programs that are available.

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

Recently there has been a lot of news around Electric Vehicles (EV) and the supporting infrastructure. There is an increase of number of car drivers in the Comox Valley that have already transitioned to electric vehicles. Last September, our government supported 10 charging stations throughout the Comox Valley. This week, thanks to a federal/provincial/BC Hydro partnership, another public charging station has been added in the Superstore parking lot on Ryan Rd, operated by BC Hydro. This fast creation of charging stations has put BC on track to reach our EV targets ahead of the 2040 deadline. The province already has 50% of the targeted charging stations completed or in process of being completed! This is not only a big win to reach BC's emission targets and transition to sustainable practices, but as a part of the CLEANBC plan, we are actively building a cleaner, and stronger economy for everyone. You can read the study that helps communities plan the infrastructure we need to get

there: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/electricity-alternative-energy/transportation-energies/clean-transportation-policies-programs/clean-energy-vehicle-program/dcfc-program>

Cleaner Shores!

Another 350km of local shoreline will be scrounged for plastic and marine debris from Comox to Campbell River. CCCW (Clean Coast, Clean Waters), a program of our CleanBC plan, further supported by BC's COVID19 Economic Recovery Plan, is a collaborative program with local tour operators and Indigenous people to retrieve ocean plastics and debris, while moving forward on reconciliation. Here in the Comox Valley the Campbell River Association of Tour Operators in partnership with the K'omoks First Nation will make this next clean up happen, creating 61 jobs. CCCW has already seen the removal of more than 550 tonnes of fishing gear, plastics and polystyrene foam from B.C.'s beaches. [Another 1,000 kilometres of shoreline slated for cleanup | BC Gov News](#)

Vaccination Walk-in EVERY DAY

It's easier than it's ever been to get your jab. The Filberg Centre is now accepting walk-in (no appointment required) for 1st doses and 2nd doses for those whose first dose was at least 49 days ago. Just bring your PHN card. Appointment are still available too.

WALK (in) THIS WAY...

To get your COVID-19 vaccine!

- 1st & 2nd doses
- 2nd doses available 49 days after 1st dose
- Anyone 12+ welcome

- No appointment needed
- Bring your PHN
- Bring your vaccine card
- Walk-ins are based on clinic capacity

island health

My constituency office remains open by phone or email. 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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RonnaRaeLeonard/>

Instagram: @ronnaraeleonard

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYLQfuaKQV-itCluryo2hQg>

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COVID Resources:

- For medical info, visit covid-19.bccdc.ca or call 811
- For vaccination info, [visit this page](#).
- For the Restart Plan, [visit this page](#).
- 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 the latest wildfire information, [visit this page](#).