

Back to school / Funding for Community Events / Home care / Regenerative Agriculture / Affordable BC Hydro

Dear Constituents,

Back to K-12 school: What you need to know



[Back To School](#)

Last year, the BCCDC conducted research that noted the significant impact that interrupted and remote learning had on students here in BC, including increased stress, decreased connection, loneliness and other emotional side effects. This year, we are excited to get our kids back into a routine of a healthy, safe and exciting learning environment. We also learned last year that schools were not a significant source of transmission and that transmission rates in the community were much higher. In order to continue with this success in safely having our kids in school, the Public Health Officer has mandated that masks be worn indoors for all staff, visitors, and students in grade 4-12. Schools will continue with increased ventilation, cleaning, daily health checks and rapid responses to exposures. See the full details for back to school here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-safe-schools>

Funding for Community Events

Starting today, community events and festivals will be able to apply for grants up to 20% of their total event budget as part of the Events Recovery Fund. The Government of B.C. is providing up to \$12.9 million in one-time grants to eligible event organizers to support their efforts to resume safely. Eligible events include sport, arts and culture events, community celebrations, agricultural fairs, rodeos and exhibitions. Applications submitted by organizations will be required to demonstrate local or regional support and show the economic and social benefits for the community.

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021TACS0059-001687>

Home and Independent Living (HaIL)

HaIL is a free training program funded by the provincial government and BC Care Providers Association (BCCPA) to train students to become home-health companions or hospitality workers in independent living. This program was announced a little earlier in the summer in July and the first cohort here on Vancouver Island is in the works. In these roles, HaIL workers will help provide visitation for seniors, support with meals, perform light housekeeping and help with other day-to-day tasks.

If you would like to learn more, follow this link: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021AEST0047-001362>

Have you heard of Regenerative Agriculture?

The regenerative agricultural approach covers new and existing technologies that aim to restore soils, water and biodiversity health to improve overall ecosystem services and make farmland more resilient to climate change. Agritech, in support of regenerative agriculture, will also mitigate climate change by sequestering greenhouse gases and reducing on-farm outputs. The Government of B.C. is launching a Regenerative Agriculture and Agritech Network (RAAN) that will help farmers adopt the latest technology to increase profitability and environmental sustainability, while strengthening the provincial food system. Learn more about the upcoming conference:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021AFF0049-001493>

BC Hydro Recommendations

Did you know that B.C. is the cleanest electricity-generation jurisdiction in western North America, with an average of 98% of its electricity generation coming from clean or renewable resources? Electrification of B.C.'s economy helps customers reduce their carbon footprint and supports the Province's CleanBC

climate strategy, and is an important part of keeping electricity affordable. As more customers make the switch from fossil fuels to using clean electricity in their homes, vehicles and businesses, BC Hydro's electricity sales will increase, providing more revenue that helps keep rates affordable for everyone. The Province and BC Hydro have released recommendations from Phase 2 of the BC Hydro Review to keep rates affordable and encourage greater use of clean, renewable electricity to reduce emissions and achieve climate targets. See the full recommendations here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/electricity-alternative-energy/electricity/bc-hydro-review-phase-2>

My constituency office is available by phone and email. For assistance with provincial supports, temporary hours are: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10am-4pm, and Wednesday mornings.

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: Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 10 am to 4 pm, and Wednesday mornings

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](#).

