

Dear Constituent,

Last week we had the day of the sitting of the legislature in Victoria. It is great to have Premier Horgan back in the house. It is a testament to his leadership that even through cancer treatments, he has maintained his chair position of the Canadian Council of the Federation. On Friday Canadian Premiers came together to call for increased Federal Health transfers to the provinces. Our BC premier is working for BC even through his own personal battles, and for that we are grateful.

COVID

If you have been following the local covid situation – it's great to hear that the Senior's Village outbreak was declared over and social visits have resumed. There are specific parts of Glacier View that are however, currently affected. We know that Omicron is different than delta, but deaths and hospitalizations are the highest we've seen. As of February 10, there were 104 people in Island Health hospitals with COVID-19, 13 of them in critical care. The majority of patients in critical care are unvaccinated or only partially vaccinated. These are emergency situations for our health care system. The health care workers continue to work for the health of all. Getting vaccinated and boosted is the way forward out of this emergency. Kids 12-17 are now eligible for their booster. Let's finish all the hard work we've collectively put in to fighting this, and get vaccinated and boosted.

Local Representation at The Olympics

There are a lot of exciting events to follow in the Olympics – but make sure to catch our local athletes in Beijing: Cassie and Darcy Sharpe. <https://www.timescolonist.com/sports/dynamic-duos-islands-sharpe-siblings-part-of-canadian-olympic-tradition-5031454> These two are from the Comox Valley and their home mountain is Mt. Washington. We can be proud of our local talent!

Anti-discrimination

As last week was Lunar new year and this week we acknowledge Black History month, is important to remember to create space for diverse voices in our community. I encourage you to dig into the topics and learn. This is a great place to start: <https://bcblackhistory.ca/influencing-the-vision-of-canada/> I was very happy to hear that SD71 has adopted a new anti-discrimination policy too. There are no limits when we work together.

Ground water licences - DEADLINE

For those of you who use ground water – it is very important that you take note of the March 1st deadline to register your ground water. If you are a groundwater user, licensing clarifies how much

water you can legally use, and increases the security of your access to that water. Licensing establishes rights to groundwater based on the same priority scheme that currently exists for surface water, and will help to reduce conflicts between water users in times of scarcity. Read more here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/water-licensing-rights/water-licences-approvals/new-requirements-for-groundwater-users>

*Correction from last week's newsletter – it was with **John** Roe from The Dead Boats Disposal Society that I met with at Goose Spit – not Joe Rose.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about any provincial issue, please don't hesitate to reach out. We are here to help you. My office can be reached at 250.703.2410 or Ronna-Rae.Leonard.MLA@leg.bc.ca . Office hours are Monday-Thursday 10am-4pm.

Sincerely,

Ronna-Rae Leonard

Ronna-Rae Leonard MLA for Courtenay-Comox

437 5th 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



It is a privilege to live and work on the traditional lands of the K'omoks First Nations.

Helpful Resources:

- For medical info on COVID-19, visit covid-19.bccdc.ca or call 811
- For vaccination info and the BC vaccine card, [visit this page.](#)

- For financial supports for people and businesses, [visit this page](#).
- For PHO orders and guidance, [visit this page](#).
- For mental health and substance-use supports, visit wellbeing.gov.bc.ca

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