

Getting Courtenay-Comox ready for the BC vaccine card / Rent cap / First Nation's Feedback / Labour force stats / Playgrounds /

Dear Community Member,

Vaccine Card

We all want to have the safest fall possible, and the majority of British Columbians are already doing their part by getting vaccinated. When the COVID numbers are increasing, the best way to keep people safe while keeping as much of the economy open as possible, is to temporarily use vaccination cards for accessing the fun stuff. Almost 80% of BC's eligible population is vaccinated, so the majority of British Columbians want to move beyond blanket lockdowns and stop-starting small businesses. Reopening public life is the bonus for those who have stepped outside of individual needs to protect those under 12 and those who cannot be vaccinated. The vaccination cards are temporary and limit the dangers of transmission in places that cannot afford the risk of exposure.

Starting Monday, September 13, you will need to show proof of one dose of COVID-19 vaccine to access places like bars, pubs, sit-down restaurants, concerts, casinos, movie theatres, gyms, indoor recreational classes, ticketed sports events, and organized indoor events with 50 people or more. Starting October 24, you will need to show proof that you are fully vaccinated – meaning seven days have passed since your second dose.

How to Get your Vaccine Card

The easiest way to display your proof of vaccination is to visit gov.bc.ca/vaccinecard and obtain your individual QR code. Simply download or screenshot this image and save it to your smartphone, to have it wherever you go.

You can also print your QR code and carry the paper copy in your wallet. If you don't have access to a smartphone or a printer, you can call [1-833-838-2323](tel:1-833-838-2323) and a representative will mail you a printed copy. If you or someone you know need information or assistance in a different language, the call centre can provide translation. The call centre is available every day from 7am to 7pm.

Maintaining Choices

As we've always said, getting vaccinated is a choice. By choosing to get vaccinated, you protect kids who can't get vaccinated, and those who have higher risk of severe illness or who may not develop as strong an immune response. By choosing to get vaccinated, you are also choosing to support local restaurants, attend a Canucks game, go to spin class or hot yoga, or take in a concert. Getting vaccinated is the best choice to protect yourself and the people you love, and to ensure you can continue to participate in the recreational activities and social events you love.

As a reminder, you won't need to show proof of vaccination to do essential things. This includes going to a grocery store, pharmacy, or coffee shop, or picking up fast food or take out. It also includes banks, retail or clothing stores, shelters and food banks, hairdressers or barbers, or places of worship. For the complete list of which places will and won't require proof of vaccine, visit gov.bc.ca/vaccinecard.

In other news.....

Maximum allowable rent increase capped at 1.5% for 2022

Many British Columbians who rent in our communities are challenged by high rents. Our government has made the maximum allowable rent increase amount for 2022 set at 1.5%, based on inflation. We know there's more to do to help people, but with these new changes we're making progress.

Seeking feedback from First Nation people

ONLY ONE WEEK LEFT! The BC Government is looking for input from First Nations and Indigenous peoples on a draft action plan to implement UNDRIP. Make sure you have your say, as the plan will guide the government's action on reconciliation over the next five years. It was developed in consultation with Indigenous peoples, and we want to confirm it hits the priorities before its finalized. Go to <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/declaration> by Sept. 15 to give your feedback. Please have a look.

BC Strong Labour Showing

The Labour Force Survey for August shows that B.C. is making great strides in our economic recovery, with another 14,400 jobs gained throughout the province – 13,600 of these jobs are among women, and all job gains were full-time. Our job recovery rate here on Vancouver Island was 104.1%. The vaccination card is inspiring consumer confidence, the BC government is also making childcare more accessible, and we are expanding affordable housing throughout BC. All this works together to get people integrated into the economy.

PLAYGROUNDS!!!

And as kids head back to school we are so happy to announce funding for over 60 new playgrounds in BC. In SD71 Huband Park Elementary has been approved for \$165,000 to help fund an accessible playground.

Feel free to connect with my office should you have any question or if there is a way we can help you out.

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](#).