

Safety indoors / Resources for seniors / Help accessing vaccine card / Funding for Substance-use treatment

Dear Constituent,

I hope that your Thanksgiving celebrations were warm, friendly and safe. With the winter weather beginning to set in, it's great to hear that how people are pushing through to keep everyone safe. We got through last winter, and the measures that we need to take for indoor weather to keep each other safe has become like second nature to us. Until we have higher vaccination numbers and vaccines ready for children, the steps of using masks indoors, washing your hands, keeping gatherings small, and protecting yourself by being vaccinated, is how we can keep our hospitals functioning.

#### Masks in Schools protect those who are unvaccinated

Two realities of COVID-19 that have become clear is that indoor settings are riskier and unvaccinated people are at the highest risk for being hospitalized. For students K-12, it is now required for all to wear masks at school. In-person learning is so important and we can do it safely if everyone wears masks. These are the measures that must be taken until more adults get vaccinated.

#### Resources for Seniors

We have received the new BC Senior's Guide in our office and are ready for distribution. These are printed and bound hardcopy booklets full of phone numbers, website addresses and info around issues like lifestyle, health, housing, getting around, finances, safety and security. It's like a phone book for the things that are most pressing for our community elders.

If you would like to pick one up or live in a community that would benefit from these books, please contact my office so that we can connect to get these guides next to phones and computers in the homes of our seniors.

#### Vaccination card support

Did you know that our office can help you obtain hard copies of your vaccination card? By October 24<sup>th</sup> proof of 2 doses of vaccination will be required for entry to specific events and venues. These proof of vaccination cards can be downloaded onto your smart phone OR you can also print it out! This is where our office can help. If you do not have a computer, smart phone or do not have a printer, we have the resources to help you out here at our office. We also have access to a laminator to protect a printed out vaccination card. Please contact my office if you would like to use this service. Conversely if you live or work in a community that would benefit from a location visit for this service contact my office to set up a time.

### Historic support for Substance-use treatment, recovery and care

This week our government announced a \$132 Million investment over the next three year for treatment and recovery services. This historical investment will ensure that when a person living with addiction is ready to move forward, the services will be there to support them every step of the way. This is a part of the half-billion-dollar investment for mental health and addictions care in the 2021 Budget. It is our commitment to putting people first.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about COVID-19 or any other provincial issue, please don't hesitate to reach out. We are here to help you, Monday – Thursday 10am-4pm (closed Fridays).

Sincerely,

Ronna-Rae Leonard

MLA Courtenay-Comox

COVID Resources:

- For medical info, visit [bccdc.ca](https://www.bccdc.ca) or call 811
- For seniors looking for additional support, or for those looking to support seniors, call 2-1-1 or visit [bc211.ca](https://www.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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