



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY of BRITISH COLUMBIA

IN OUR COMMUNITY

This week in the Comox Valley we have had some amazing news and events. I hope that you too are having a great June-uary connecting, reaching out, and helping out. Here's what I'm excited about these days.

DEMENTIA VILLAGE

Yesterday was a wonderful day in the Comox Valley...the groundbreaking of Providence Living Place, Together by the Sea. It will consist of 55 publicly funded beds and one private pay bed. The concept was inspired by the dementia village in De Hogeweyk, Netherlands. The concept focuses on creating home-like environments that maximize the opportunities for residents to engage, as fully as possible, in familiar and meaningful roles.



The facility will also feature a child care centre consisting of 56 spaces, to foster intergeneration connection at the new care village. Thank you to Minister of Health, Adrian Dix and Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors, Mable Elmore for helping us celebrate the day!

The Government of BC funds BC Farmers Market Coupon program

Access to fresh, locally grown food is important for people's health and wellbeing, but sometimes costs can be a barrier. The BC Farmers Markets Nutrition Coupon Program helps lower income British Columbians, people who are pregnant, and seniors, purchase healthy food from their local farmer's market. The Comox Valley Farmer's Market also uses this coupon program and will receive funding. We have invested \$12 million into supporting the coupon program to support good food for everyone! [Find the full story here](#)



WE HAVE A FOUNDRY IN THE COMOX VALLEY!!!

We know that youth are dealing with a lot of issues and health challenges from climate change to toxic drug supplies and coming of age during a global pandemic. The Foundry is now open to help. This facility provides young people between the ages of 12 and 24, with health, wellness, and substance use services that are specific for the Comox Valley. Youth and their families can access this supportive, confidential, and free service at 575 10 St, Courtenay.

Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Sheila Malcomson was in town to help celebrate.

[To learn more about the Foundry Comox Valley, click here](#)

[Learn more about the news here](#)

Speculation and Vacancy Tax shown to improve affordability in areas where is it enforced

Minister of Finance, Selina Robinson shared some news about the effectiveness of the Speculation and Vacancy Tax that I'd like to share.

"Two leading researchers in housing affordability have highlighted how the SVT turned thousands of empty units into homes for people and kept prices lower than they would have been without the tax. The tax is working to keep homes available in the middle of a housing crisis instead of them being left empty by speculators." Selina Robinson

More funding to prevent infection in long-term care

The Province is providing \$8 million through the BC Care Providers Association (BCCPA) for EquipCare BC to continue supporting publicly funded seniors long-term care homes and assisted living residences. The funding will help purchase items to enhance infection prevention and control and improve safety and quality of life. This may include additional outbreak carts, medical screening devices, mobile hand-hygiene sinks, touchless towel and soap dispensers, environmental cleaning products, safe-handling equipment for food, waste and laundry, lifts, beds, urgent-response systems, sensory equipment, lighting and visual aids, music therapy and ergonomic furniture.

[Read more here](#)

It's been so great to be back in the community these weeks.

Here are a few highlights:

Very happy to be at the delicious BC Seafood Festival gala in Comox at the Filberg. People are hungry to gather and enjoy all BC's fruits of the sea prepared by amazing visiting chefs. We are all so very excited to have these festivals back and, like the BC Seafood Festival, the province is supporting many of them!



Last Sunday morning, I joined in the fundraiser Walk for Alzheimer's, along with my friend Lisa Paine and others who bear witness to the challenges of dementia in all its forms. Thanks to IG Wealth Management for your continuing support to the Alzheimer's Society of BC.

First Link is a good place to start when you or someone you know may be experiencing memory loss. 1-800-936-6033



Before that, I had the chance to celebrate early childhood educators and childcare providers in the "Three Cheers For Childcare Walk". We had a great turnout which really shows how much we appreciate their most valuable contributions wrapping our littlest people in kind care and safety as parents get on with their tasks like going to work or school or running businesses. Hip Hip Hooray! Hip Hip Hooray! Hip Hip Hooray!

[Find the video on facebook](#)

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

Is someone in your life, your workplace, or church celebrating a Milestone birthday or anniversary? Make sure to put in a request for a letter from your MLA. [Requests are made online here.](#)

SEEKING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Would you like to lend your perspective on **The Great Bear Rainforest**? This public engagement project is open for the next 2 months. [Click here.](#)

We are also looking for engagement on our **consumer protection legislation**, which hasn't been updated since 2004. Take a minute to let us know where the gaps are in this increasingly digital world. [Click here.](#)

GET IN TOUCH

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 OUR OFFICE HOURS ARE MONDAY TO THURSDAY 10AM-4PM. IF THE DOOR IS LOCKED, SIMPLY KNOCK OR CALL 250.703.2410 TO GET OUR ATTENTION. FRIDAYS ARE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

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