

JULY 26, 2022 MLA UPDATE

Last week marked five years since our New Democrat government was sworn in. For the last five years, our government has worked every day to make life better and more affordable for British Columbians. The progress we've made shows that we've always put people first.

Some of my favourite ways that we've made a difference for people in Courtenay-Comox are:

- Raising the MINIMUM WAGE to \$15/hr, with annual increases tied to inflation. (Remember the former government's training wage? \$6 bucks sucks!)
- 10 year plan for affordable, accessible, safe CHILDCARE well underway, with BC being the first province to see the feds finally playing in the sandbox with us
- 10-year 30-point Affordable HOUSING plan, rolling out historic investments with community and industry partners throughout BC, with more to come (And unlike the BC Liberals, we WILL KEEP the Spec & Vacancy Tax that has opened 20,000 homes for rent)

Across B.C., we have opened or are building record numbers of schools, hospitals, and homes after decades of neglect by past governments. We eliminated MSP premiums, slashed ICBC rates, and cracked down on real-estate speculation. We are fighting climate change, with the most progressive plan to reduce emissions in all of North America. And we are the first province in Canada to adopt the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples into law.

As a province, we've faced some big challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, and devastating floods and wildfires. Whenever crisis has struck, we have followed our values and acted quickly to keep people and families safe, protect workers, and support small businesses. But there is so much more to do.

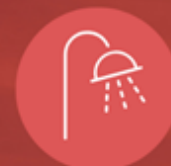
It is my great privilege to serve this community and our province and I am looking forward to the positive changes that we continue to make in the lives of all British Columbians. Please browse through this newsletter to learn more about how the government of BC is working for you.

STAYING COOL THIS WEEK

As the temperatures rise this week, please take a look at some of the tips to stay cool and safe. Please share this with your loved ones and those who may live on their own. Don't forget to put sunscreen and a hat on as we jump into summer. For cooling centre locations check in with your municipality websites.



Drink plenty of water



Take cool baths or showers



Find a cooling centre in your community



Open windows at night to let cool air in



Close blinds and curtains during the day



Sleep in the coolest room in your home



Ways to stay cool

Planning to buy a house?

Know your rights under the new Homebuyer Protection Period - starting January 1, 2023



You will have 3 protected days

You will have 3 business days of protected time after your offer on a home is accepted. This will give you more time to complete your due diligence - like securing financing or a home inspection.



You'll face less pressure

Too many people feel pressured to make offers without conditions. The protection period will help take that pressure off and protect you from potential costly risks in BC's real estate market.

3 extra days also means you have more time to make sure you have financing that works for you at a time when mortgage rates are going up.



If you need to back out, there's a fee.

Your offer is a big personal decision, and everyone is taking it seriously. If you decide you need to back out after you've done your due diligence, you'll be charged a fee of 0.25% of the purchase price, or \$250 for every \$100,000. You will be able to weigh the pros/cons.



New year, new rights

BC is the first province in Canada to offer people buying homes this kind of protection. It comes into effect on January 1, 2023.



BC GOVERNMENT ADDS MORE ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL TRAINING SEATS

For the government of BC strengthening our healthcare workforce is one of our biggest priorities. We're adding 322 more seats to train allied health professionals in B.C. - this includes anesthesia assistants, medical laboratory technologists, pharmacy technicians, and more key roles. We know there's still more that needs to be done, and we'll continue our work to grow BC's health care workforce. Click the title link for more details.

NEW PROGRAM HELPS BC FARMERS PREPARE FOR EXTREME WEATHER

Agriculture and food security for British Columbians are intricately tied to climate change. BC farmers and ranchers can reduce the risks for extreme weather through a new pilot program that will help improve their climate preparedness and resiliency to wildfires, flooding and extreme heat events.

The Extreme Weather Preparedness for Agriculture program will support as much as \$1.5 million in projects this year to help farmers conduct risk assessments and make infrastructure upgrades on their farms. Click on the title link to learn more.

HOW TO BECOME A \$10/DAY DAYCARE PROVIDER

It was such a pleasure to be at the opening of Aspen Grove Children's Centre last week. \$10/day childcare really changes the lives of parents while providing wonderful early childcare for our youngest British Columbians. It is such a gamechanger. That is why we are doubling the number of \$10 a day spaces!



BC is doubling \$10 a Day spaces: child care providers apply now

If you would like to learn more about how to become a \$10 child care provider, click here. Applications will be accepted until August 18, 2022

DIGITAL BOOT CAMP - LEARNING OPPORTUNITY FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Supporting BC's small business, shopping local and launching BC businesses into the digital world, continues to be important to the economic health of our communities and recovery in British Columbia. At the start of the pandemic the government of BC provided digital training for over 6000 people which has helped improve their businesses' digital reach, and respond to changing customer demands. It has been such a success, that a further 2040 students will have the chance to learn and apply these skills to their businesses as well. The Digital Marketing Bootcamp is open to small and medium-sized business with one to 149 employees, who are B.C.-based and registered to do business in B.C. Learn more by clicking on the title link.

RONNA-RAE - PODCAST STYLE!

As mentioned in a previous newsletter I have taken off my wig! After losing my hair due to Alopecia, I wore a wig for many years. But it was time for a change. I sat down with The CV Record's Erin Haluschak to discuss all the ins and outs of the decision.

[Check it out - 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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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA