



MLA UPDATES, OCTOBER 21, 2022

Dear Community member,

The legislature is sitting and once again the BC Government focuses its efforts on improving the lives of people. There are a number of initiatives happening in Victoria and our community that keep me energized in taking the necessary steps towards a better BC for British Columbians. Please see the updates below that relate to your personal interests.



B.C. secures national commitment on addressing repeat offending

Everyone deserves to feel safe in their communities. The federal government is responsible for legislation on bail & sentencing, and these challenges are tied to recent changes to federal law. We're taking action right now, including bringing back the repeat offender management program cut by the previous government.

Rent supplements available for youth from care

We are committed to supporting youth in government care to help them reach their full potential. We announced this week new rent supplements for youth in care. This \$600-a-month rent supplement will help with rental costs in the private market as young people transition to adulthood.

Patients the focus of new health legislation

We announced new legislation that will enhance patient safety and improve oversight of regulated health professionals. This sets a path forward to modernize the way health professions are regulated in B.C. by replacing the former Health Professions Act. These comprehensive changes will help ensure health professions are regulated more consistently and transparently in the public interest, moving away from a system that is decades old.

New council to help build more resilient forestry communities

A new advisory council in support of forestry workers and communities was announced this week. The Forestry Worker Supports and Community Resiliency Council will advise the Province on improvements to existing programs and the development of new, forward-looking initiatives aimed at supporting forestry workers & the economic resiliency of rural communities. The council will assist government in ensuring programs are targeted, effective and responsive to community needs and priorities.

New research, funding to support complex mental-health, substance-use challenges

It's important that we fund research to find the best ways to support people who have complex overlapping mental-health, substance-use challenges and brain injuries. We're investing \$345,000 in the Constable Gerald Breese Centre for Traumatic Losses to support ongoing research into brain injury and mental health and addictions.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Engagement and Opportunities:

This past summer the **Select Standing Committee on Children and Youth** accepted written input from British Columbians. For the next part of its review, the Committee has issued an online survey to invite input from additional stakeholders, particularly children, youth, young adults, and parents or caregivers. The survey is available until 3:00 pm (Pacific) on November 30, 2022 through this link, which is also available on the Committee's website: www.leg.bc.ca/cmt/cay_

There are thousands of dollars available to community organizations to support important projects. These grants, which use the profits from civil forfeiture to reinvest in community safety and crime prevention, help support projects under four categories - crime prevention, gender-based violence, Indigenous healing, and restorative justice. Learn more about the grants and how to apply here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/crime-prevention/community-crime-prevention/grants>

Input wanted to strengthen flood planning, response With climate change and extreme weather becoming more frequent, people are encouraged to provide feedback about how best to prepare for future flooding in B.C.

Protect you, your loved ones and our whole community

As the weather gets colder and we spend more time indoors, we need to prepare for respiratory illness season. This new bivalent vaccine offers enhanced protection against COVID-19 by targeting the original virus strain, as well as Omicron subvariants. This vaccine is available to all adults over the age of 18, and youth from 12 to 17 years who are at risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19. You can also book your flu vaccine online as well now.

To register with the Get Vaccinated system, visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/register>



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. WE CAN HELP YOU FIND THE APPROPRIATE RESOURCES, HELP WITH QUESTIONS AROUND YOUR SPECIFIC SITUATION, LISTEN TO THE ISSUES THAT YOU ARE CURRENTLY FACING THAT FALL UNDER PROVINCIAL JURISDICTION.

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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