



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

## LEADERS, DOCTORS , REPORT ON TOXIC DRUGS, OLD GROWTH

### John Horgan's last days as Premier

This week we saw range of excitement and emotions. Halloween with our out-going Premier 'Captain' John Horgan reminded us of the fun teamwork and united goals to explore 'new galaxies' of putting people at the front of legislation. We are forever grateful to John Horgan for leading our team and all of BC through a global pandemic, through complicated economic times, and during a time of transition and climate change. John's warm and straight forward approach always oozed empathy and the health and wellbeing of everyone! If you had the chance to meet him you already knew that. Thanks John for your dedication to the people of BC!



## WELCOME DAVID EBY



Our NDP caucus team is excited to continue the work with David Eby at our helm. On November 18, he will be officially sworn in as Premier, and will be starting his first week in the Legislature as the province's leader on November 21.

David will be getting to work right away to continue addressing the housing crisis, and rising cost of living, to improve health care services and make our communities safer, while building a strong sustainable economy. We are so grateful to David for stepping up and continuing to guide our government with strong leadership.

## Doctor's pay

In talking with doctors and constituents about how to support family doctors in our community, one thing has been clear: the current fee-for-service payment model hasn't been working for everyone, and needed to be updated to address the needs of patients in B.C. That's why our government has been working hard and consulting with Doctors of BC to come up with a new model that will help doctors better support the health needs of British Columbians.

This new opt-in model will take effect in February, and instead of being paid only based on the number of patients seen each day, the new system will also take into account a number of factors:

- the time a doctor spends with a patient
- the number of patients a doctor sees in a day
- the number of patients a doctor supports through their office
- the complexity of the issues a patient is facing
- and administrative costs currently paid directly by family doctors.

This will raise the average wage for a family doctor in B.C., and ensure doctors can give patients the care and time they deserve. You can read more about the model and agreement here:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2022HLTH0212-001619>

This model will help retain existing family doctors, and make family practice a more appealing option to new doctors who are starting their careers. This means those who have a family doctor can continue to count on them, and those without a family doctor can look forward to new family doctors taking up practice in their community. To learn more about this fits in to the Province's Health Human Resource Strategy, visit: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2022HLTH0059-001464>



# Health report overdose - toxic drugs

The toxic drug crisis has impacted families across North America, and BC has been at the forefront of the struggle to save lives and build a continuum of care that meets people where they are at. There is so much more to do; and bringing together an all-party committee brought all sides of the legislature together to further address this unprecedented crisis. I was privileged to be a member of this committee as we spent the last 6 months hearing from Health leaders, law enforcement, mental health and substance use experts, other jurisdictions, researchers, organizations, people who are on the ground every day working to keep people alive, and people who use drugs.

The recommendations follow through from over 100 presentations and nearly 900 submissions and it is our hope that they can build on the work the province has done already. The name of the report says it well - Closing Gaps, Reducing Barriers: Expanding the Response to the Toxic Drug and Overdose Crisis. The toxic drug crisis is not and should not be a partisan issue. We are all in this together, as people from all walks of life and in every corner of the province are impacted by a dynamic, ever-changing landscape that is called the illicit toxic drug supply.

I encourage you to read the full report and recommendations here:

[https://www.leg.bc.ca/content/CommitteeDocuments/42nd-parliament/3rd-session/health/report/SSC-Health-Report\\_42-3\\_2022-11-01\\_Final.pdf](https://www.leg.bc.ca/content/CommitteeDocuments/42nd-parliament/3rd-session/health/report/SSC-Health-Report_42-3_2022-11-01_Final.pdf)





## Progress on taking better care of our old growth forests:

Logging of old growth has declined by 42%, from an estimated 65,500 hectares in 2015 to 38,300 hectares in 2021. The area logged in 2021 represents 0.3% of the estimated 11.1 million hectares of old growth in the province. These old growth logging numbers are the lowest on record.

The essential benefits that old growth forest provides, such as clean air, clean water, carbon storage, wildlife habitat, recreation and conservation of biodiversity, are important to BC and future British Columbians. We are engaging in a new approach, one that works in partnership with First Nations and has full engagement of local governments, stakeholders and the public.

Read the full story: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2022FOR0075-001636>

### 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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