



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY of BRITISH COLUMBIA

NOVEMBER 18TH UPDATE

This year's Remembrance Day ceremonies looked more like those in years past, before the COVID19 pandemic struck the world. In Courtenay-Comox, crowds are impressive on this day of overwhelming emotion, as people gather to remember and to reaffirm their commitment to honour and support those left behind and those who return with the scars of conflict. Thanks are due to our Legions who work so diligently throughout the year to honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice and to be there for those who remain.



This week, we find ourselves squarely in the winter season, continuing to improve people's lives. Every day, people are at the centre of our government's work, as we fund extreme weather shelter beds that opened this week, improve universal health care, help forestry workers and forestry dependant communities in the face of change, and support remote communities access stronger internet connections.

Provincial/territorial health ministers committed to continue improving and transforming Canada's health-care systems

Healthcare continues to be one of the most important issues for British Columbians. This is why we are working through the issues as a team with neighbours. Provincial and territorial health ministers met on Monday, November 7 to discuss priority work they are leading to improve and transform Canada's health-care systems for Canadians. Action plans for addressing health professionals and support staff shortages and innovative approaches to mental-health services, were shared. These are the steps we are taking to have a more collaborative approach to our shared issues.

New indoor shelter spaces open for winter weather

So far this season, the Province, through BC Housing, has funded approximately 2,080 temporary winter shelter spaces and more than 480 extreme weather response (EWR) shelters.

Most of these temporary spaces are open and the remainder will open in the coming weeks, giving people experiencing homelessness additional warm and safe indoor shelter options as winter settles across B.C.

[For local availability and dates check the Coalition to End Homelessness](#)

Nov 8, 2022 - Warm Spaces Comox Valley

Connect

685 Cliffe Ave
10 beds, first come, first serve
Opens- 8pm

Community Cares Warming Centre

St John the Divine Church
Corner of 5th St. and Harmston Ave
Drop in
Opens- 8pm

Pidcock Shelter

632 Pidcock Ave
24 hrs
First Come, First Serve



Faster internet going to 10 Indigenous, rural, remote island communities

More than 1,800 households in seven rural, remote and Indigenous communities on Vancouver Island - including our very own Forbidden Plateau - and three Gulf Island communities can look forward to high-speed broadband internet unlocking better, faster access to digital services and opportunities. Having internet access bridges the digital divide and provides personal, professional and public opportunities to connect. [Click here to see the full story.](#)

The second intake of the provincial connectivity funding program, Connecting Communities BC, will open for applications on December 16, 2022. [ClickTo learn more about Connecting Communities BC.](#)

Building rural capacity - funding

Local governments, First Nations and other organizations looking to strengthen their communities can apply for new funding to build capacity and diversify rural and remote economies in B.C. The Government of B.C. is investing as much as \$33 million in 2022-23 to create the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP), which will support projects that promote economic diversification, resilience, clean-growth opportunities and infrastructure development. There are 3 streams through which communities can receive funding: 1) Economic diversification, 2) Economic capacity, 3) Forest impact transition. [Learn more by clicking here.](#)



New employment opportunities support forestry workers

We know that changes and downturns can be hard on communities that rely on the forestry sector. That's why we're funding important local projects in collaboration with rural communities and First Nations to help forestry workers seeking alternative opportunities in their local community.

The Forest Employment Program provides employment opportunities for forestry contractors and workers affected by mill curtailments, old-growth deferrals and other impacts to the sector.

Camping reservations open for 2023

It's time to get out the calendar and start planning camping trips in more provincial parks next year! At 7 a.m. on January 3, 2023, many of BC Parks' campsites will open for reservations. People can book a site four months ahead of their desired arrival date instead of the previous two-month booking window. A list of campground operating and reservable dates can be found at: <https://bcparks.ca/operating-dates/>

Do you know someone who is celebrating a milestone birthday or anniversary? Send them a congratulatory greeting

<https://www.protocolapplications.gov.bc.ca/CMSForm>

Have your say!
Find topics to add your thoughts on - through EngageBC

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtongetherbc/>

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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