



## EARLY FEBRUARY 2023

2023 is well on its way as we find ourselves in February. For those celebrated, Happy Lunar New Year to you. All the best in this year of the Rabbit!



I'm happy to share with you some important news points as the BC Government continues to support British Columbians. As you stay informed on provincial initiatives, you may be interested in catching up on the listed issues below.

**Happy Lunar New Year**

### Resilient Environments - Resilient Economies

**BC valley of ancient trees, rare animals preserved in deal with forest firm**

We're committed to protecting BC's rich biodiversity. Known for its wildlife and old-growth forests, the Incomappleux Valley is a biologically unique place that will now be preserved. With more than 58,000 ha of remote wilderness supporting rare species of lichen & old-growth forests, the Incomappleux Valley is being made into a conservancy. This is one of the most significant new protected areas established in the past decade, and was made possible by working with First Nations, Interfor and the Nature Conservancy of Canada.



## New forestry program will support manufacturing employment, resilient economies

British Columbians expect that we get the most value from our forests and create more jobs for every tree harvested. This is why now, secondary manufacturers have access to the timber they need to keep and create jobs for people here in B.C. With the need to transition from high volume to high value in our forestry sector, this is the right thing for the environment, our economy & our forests. We are working to create more good-paying jobs for people in rural British Columbia with the \$90 million BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund. This investment will help diversify local economies, promote value-added innovation in the forestry sector, and create thousands of good-paying jobs for people.

## B.C. provides funding to expand use of fibre and support forestry workers

We know that access to fibre is one of the most critical challenges facing the forestry industry. Forestry workers and communities throughout the province will benefit from new funding for the Forest Enhancement Society of BC. This funding will increase fibre supply aimed at keeping people working and local mills running, while also mitigating wildfire risks and reducing climate emissions.



# Expanding value-added manufacturing in BC

## Reconciliation and empowerment

### Province, Blueberry River First Nations reach agreement

We're taking steps to right past wrongs, and uphold the legally protected treaty rights of Blueberry River First Nations. The agreement balances Treaty rights and healing of the environment with a sustainable regional economy, ensuring we can build a positive future for everyone in the Northeast.

## B.C. launches anti-racism action plan for K-12 students

Empowering students and educators to identify and take action against racism and discrimination in British Columbia schools is the aim of a new provincial K-12 Anti-Racism Action Plan launched on Monday, Jan. 23, 2023. The action plan will create change in B.C. schools by raising awareness and creating resources to improve the school experience for racialized students, staff and families so that everyone feels a strong sense of belonging.

## Decriminalization small amounts of drugs and fighting stigma

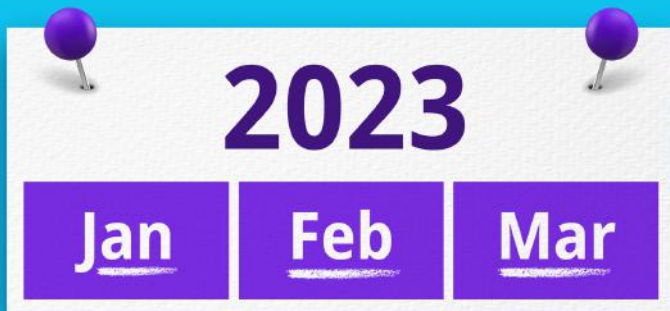
The toxic drug supply crisis is a public health matter - not a criminal justice one.

We are decriminalizing people who use drugs, to break down the fear and stigma that keeps people from getting much-needed help. We are also building new connections to care, so more people have access to the mental and substance use supports and services they need. Decriminalizing people does not mean legalizing drugs. Trafficking or selling drugs remains illegal.



# Addiction is not a crime

StrongerBC



StrongerBC

## Extra \$175 per child with the BC Family Benefit

## Cost-of-living help the way for B.C. families with kids

We know that many families are struggling to manage expenses in the face of rising prices. As of Jan. 20, the enhance BC Family Benefit will be showing up in the bank accounts of eligible low and middle income families with children under 18.

We're hoping this money will help take some pressure off the family budget for parents who need it most.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Would you like to lend your voice on important topics in BC? There are many topics on which the government of BC would like hear from you.

Take some time to lend your voice: [Click here](#)

## 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.](#)



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
*of* BRITISH COLUMBIA

### 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.**

**IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO RECEIVE THESE UPDATES PLEASE REPLY TO THIS EMAIL WITH: UNSUBSCRIBE**