



LABOUR DAY

Last weekend we observed Labour Day. On Monday we celebrated workers and the achievements in improving working conditions in BC. We were also reminded of tasks ahead of us. This year the Government of BC increased minimum wage to \$16.75 an hour, the highest among Canadian provinces; specified a minimum age of 16 or 18 for certain types of work that are too hazardous for younger workers; improved B.C.'s workers' compensation system to better support injured workers; and increased funding for the Employment Standards Branch in response to the growing demand for its services.



Happy Labour Day!

FROM PREMIER DAVID EBY
AND YOUR BC NEW DEMOCRAT CAUCUS

NEW DEMOCRAT
BC GOVERNMENT CAUCUS

As we continue to fight for workers, I hope you enjoyed the fruits of your labour before the start of school.

BACK TO SCHOOL

As families work through the return to school, they may be feeling the pressure of back-to-school costs. I know that some people in our community are facing higher costs that are more difficult to afford, especially families with young children. I'm working with my colleagues in government to help make life more affordable for those who need it in B.C., which is why this week we were excited to share that we're expanding our Child Care Fee Reduction Program so families with kids in school can benefit from these savings too!

Starting September 1st, families with children in eligible half-day preschool and before- and after-school childcare saw their monthly fees drop by as much as \$145 per child. This means for families sending kids back to school, many can have more money in their pockets every month to help make life more affordable and help pay for things like school supplies, sports and extracurricular fees, and new clothes for growing, active kids!



**Child care savings
expanded to more families**

This reduction for eligible childcare programs is in addition to other affordability measures for parents and families, like the Affordable Childcare Benefit, and our \$10-a-Day Childcare program, as well as enhanced payments for Early Childhood Educators and childcare providers. With this new reduction, thousands more children will be able to get the care they need while their families will be more able to afford it on a monthly basis. Learn more about this initiative and participating providers [here](#), and try out our child care savings estimator tool for families [here](#)!

TOXIC DRUG CRISIS



On a different note, I attended a strong, compassionate gathering in the Comox Valley in Simms Park on August 31st, to mark International Day of Awareness, in recognition of the public health crisis of the great many deaths and damage caused by the unregulated, toxic drug supply. It is hard to find someone whose life has not been touched by these preventable deaths, including my own.

August 31st was a reminder for us to keep respectful conversation alive, to be open-minded and take bold action to end the stigma and separate people from the illegal toxic drug supply.

Special thanks to the many leaders, organizations and people who care, who are taking this path right here in our community. See comments below for the links to the statements of Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, and Dr. Bonnie Henry, provincial health officer.



We know that when people and families are supported to get the care that they and their kids need, we increase quality of life, save lives and value people. I'm committed to working with our government team to continue to make life more affordable for British Columbians. Best of luck this back to school season.

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

Is someone in your life, your workplace, or your church celebrating a Milestone birthday or anniversary? Make sure to put in a request for a letter from your MLA.

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

The province of BC wants to hear from you. There are a number of topics that you will find on [engageBC](#).

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. Our office is currently open for appointments only. You can reach us at 250.703.2410 or Ronna-Rae.Leonard.MLA@leg.bc.ca.

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