

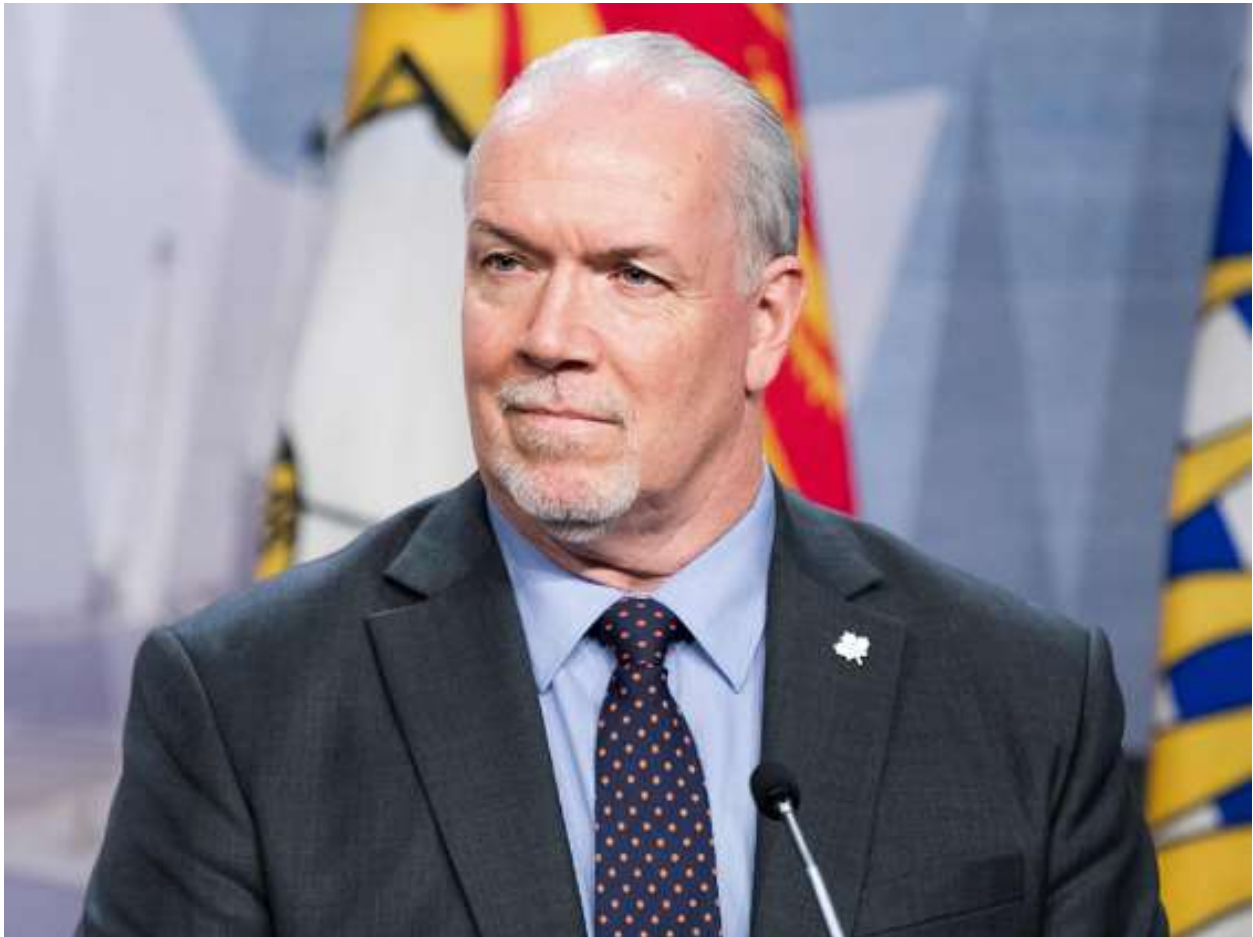
Subject: National Sick Leave Program – Businesses and Patio Season – Back to School – Developments in Health Care

Dear Community Member,

As we wrap up the second week of Phase 2, there have been a lot of positive signs that many things are *adapting to a new normal*. While we know this recovery won't happen overnight, and there are likely to be a few bumps along the road, we have a lot of progress to be proud of.

NATIONAL SICK LEAVE PROGRAM

Topping the list is Premier John Horgan's success in convincing the federal government to commit to implementing a [national sick leave program](#), which will give all workers in Canada 10 days of paid sick leave per year. To avoid a resurgence in new cases, it will be critical that people stay home if they are at all sick. Paid sick leave ensures that workers won't have to choose between not spreading illness and a paycheque.



B.C. Premier John Horgan has been pushing Ottawa for a national sick-pay program due to the COVID-19 pandemic. MARTIN OUELLET-DIOTTE/AFP/Getty Images

https://vancouversun.com/news/prime-minister-agrees-to-premier-john-horgans-push-for-national-sick-pay-program/?fbclid=IwAR31XZtKlfvYJM_P45h8zIMekg-53nwZCw_YsyWeV5iyfeSwZa8QMwpTXWo

BUSINESSES AND PATIO SEASON

More local businesses in our community are starting to open up with safety plans in place, and our government is making it easier for restaurants and pubs to [expand their patios and service areas](#) so we can practice physical distancing while enjoying meals and drinks. Supporting our local businesses safely will be a key part of restarting B.C.'s economy. Additionally, if you are a small business looking for PPE supply, check out this resources: <https://www.safecarebc.ca/covid19/alternative-suppliers/>

BACK TO SCHOOL

Parents who choose to do so will be able to send their kids [back to school part-time](#) starting next week, and child care centres are gradually re-opening and increasing their capacity. This transition is being done with the expert guidance of Dr. Bonnie Henry, and with the safety of children, families and staff as the top priority. This step will help a lot of parents get back to work and will give children more of that important learning and social time with their friends and teachers. This is especially important for children who need extra support, to help make sure they are not falling further behind.

HEALTHCARE NEWS

DEMENTIA VILLAGE

More good news as Island Health announced the development of the first Dementia Village on Vancouver Island here in the Comox Valley. This publicly funded, 156-bed facility will deliver a social model for providing care for people with dementia and it's very exciting to have this kind of progressive supportive community as a first in our Valley.



My cousin captured this special moment between my mom and dad. The family journey with my father's dementia had many chapters. I appreciate that people in the Comox Valley can look forward to the upcoming dementia village adding an innovative choice for long term and dementia care at the former St. Joe's Hospital site.

MYHEALTH

In addition, Island Health announced the MyHealth program which allows people to digitally access their health information online. This means that you will be able to access to laboratory results, medical imaging reports, and outpatient appointments. This is a great tool especially as elective surgeries have started up again. Sign up here. <https://www.islandhealth.ca/our-services/virtual-care-services/myhealth>

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION AS ENTERTAINMENT

Although Bike to Work Week has been postponed until September 2020, it has been great to see many people in the Comox Valley using bikes as a great commuting tool during the pandemic. Exercise and sunlight are great for your health and our environment. In lieu of entertainment news this week, maybe get out and support our local businesses, see how hard they are working to adapt their practices to keep our community safe. Enjoy the sunshine this weekend.

We have much more work to do, but we will get there together. If you have any questions or need assistance with COVID-19 financial supports or B.C.'s Restart Plan, I encourage you to reach out to my office. We remain open via phone and email to support you. You can reach us at 250.703.2410 or Ronna-Rae.Leonard.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Sincerely,

Ronna-Rae Leonard

COVID Resources:

- B.C. COVID-19 SURVEY: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-survey>
- For medical info, visit bccdc.ca or call 811
- For provincial supports and BC's Restart Plan, visit gov.bc.ca/covid19 or call 1-888-COVID-19 (1-888-268-4319) or text 604-630-0300
- For employer guidelines on returning to work safely, visit WorkSafeBC
- Take the self-assessment at covid19.thrive.health
- For seniors looking for additional support, or for those looking to support seniors, call 2-1-1 or visit bc211.ca

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RonnaRaeLeonard/>

Instagram: @ronnaraeleonard

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYLQfuaKQV-itCluryo2hQg>

Website: <http://ronnaraeleonard.ca/>

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