

Subject: In BC this week: BC's Collaborative, Safety-First Restart Plan, Business, Battling Racism, and Activities for this Long Weekend.

Dear Community Member,

As we begin a slow and careful recovery from COVID-19, B.C.'s Restart Plan will move into Phase 2 next week. I know a lot of people will have questions, including business owners who want to reopen safely.

BUSINESS

The province will be here for you throughout this process. Every business is unique, and it's important for business owners to start planning how to operate safely for both employees and customers. [WorkSafeBC](#) will be providing support for businesses and industry specific guidelines through an information line at 1-888-621-7233. [Small Business BC](#) (1-833—254-4357) is a great resource and can help businesses navigate provincial and federal programs. Remember, this isn't a return to normal, but it's a hopeful, careful step towards recovery.

Today, we heard that Island Health's Medical Health Officer will lift an order after the long weekend, so gyms, fitness centres, yoga studios, and similar personal training facilities will be permitted to re-open, provided they they can meet provincial requirements to protect staff and clients against the spread of COVID-19. This is yet another sign of the measured approach and dedication to safe re-opening.

A KIND AND CARING COMMUNITY – LET'S NOT COLOUR IT WITH RACISM

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, there are so many positive stories that have emerged around the province. Stories of neighbours helping each other with groceries, teachers and child care workers finding creative ways to support our kids, and communities joining together to support local businesses. These stories have given us all some much-needed inspiration and motivation to keep doing our part.

Unfortunately, there have also been deeply disturbing reports and incidents of race-based discrimination and violence in B.C. These incidents are absolutely unacceptable. To anyone who may feel unsafe, please know that I, and millions of British Columbians, are standing in solidarity with you. Just as we have all been doing our part to flatten the curve by staying home, washing our hands, and practicing physical distancing, we also need to do our part to stop the spread of hate.

Last week our government announced that more support will be available for communities to address racism and hate through Resilience BC. You can learn more about the program, including translations in traditional Chinese, French, Punjabi, Arabic, Farsi and Korean, [here](#).

ACTIVITIES FOR THE LONG WEEKEND

As the long weekend approaches, I would remind you to stay local and be thoughtful about our renewed opportunity to enjoy BC Parks for day use. Enjoy all our parks and be respectful of others' bubbles. Here's a video from our Park Rangers explaining how to be respectful and safe in BC Parks:

https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=BC%20Parks&epa=SEARCH_BOX

If you haven't already, please take some time this weekend to help with the fight against COVID-19, by completing the online survey about how this pandemic has affected you: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-survey>

You can also celebrate BC Museum Week by visiting the Royal BC Museums Online Exhibition:
<https://www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/visit/exhibitions/online-exhibitions>

My constituency office remains open by phone or email. You can reach us at 250.703.2410 or Ronna-Rae.Leonard.MLA@leg.bc.ca if you have any questions or need assistance with provincial supports. Now more than ever it's important to reach out as we navigate this time together.

Sincerely,

Ronna-Rae Leonard
MLA Courtenay – Comox

COVID Resources:

- For medical info, visit www.bccdc.ca or call 811
- For non-medical info and provincial supports visit www.gov.bc.ca/covid19 or call 1-888-COVID-19 (1-888-268-4319) or text 604-630-0300
- 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>

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