

Dear community member,

This week as we move further down the restart phases here on Vancouver Island, we'd like to thank everyone for continuing to do their part in physically distancing, businesses as they develop and enforce their COVID-19 plans, and for people in balancing support for our local businesses and minimizing exposure time.

Addressing Racism in BC

This health crisis has illuminated the need for us to work together, and nowhere is this more relevant than working together to fight racism in our communities. We acknowledge that black, indigenous, and other people of colour, experience racism in Canada. This is why our government strengthened police oversight last year to improve the quality and timeliness of investigations by the Independent Investigations Office (IIO).

Additionally, this week the Hon. Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General met with Premier John Horgan to discuss BC's outdated Police Act, and incorporating harm-reduction and mental health approaches. The outcome from the meeting was to form an All-Party committee to modernize and focus on issues of systemic racism in the Police Act.

If you haven't already please make the Lieutenant Governors #differentTogether pledge and share: <https://ltgov.bc.ca/blog/equality-and-inclusion/differenttogether-join-me-in-opposing-racism/>

In creating space for silenced voices, the province of BC hosted a Virtual Town Hall on Anti-Racism today (Friday, June 12) from 3pm-4pm.

View it here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/3603243253026430/> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=06pIVv-r5iQ>

Return to Sport

Welcome news for young and old alike, amateur sports is 'back on' provided that they are able to comply with the public health orders and the provincial sport guidelines. These guidelines will ensure that the risk associated with organized sport will be minimized so that we can reap the benefits of organized sports.

More access to local Meat

Small farmers, consumers and retailers, including restaurants and meat shops, are the big winners in three smaller communities in BC, as locally-raised meat will become more available to them. Public consultations, that I led with the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture, revealed that there were real challenges in some communities to support livestock production and small scale meat processing. This week's change will allow small scale production with class D licenses, up to 25 animal units per year, in underserved areas of the Alberni Valley and two other communities in BC. Here in the Comox Valley, we are fortunate to have some local Class 'A' facilities that allow for a rich and continuous local supply in our "farm-loving" community. Our government has been working with ranchers, abattoir operators, and regional governments since 2017 to increase the amount of locally raised meat British Columbians in

rural and remote communities can enjoy, and we are starting to see the results of those collective efforts – a benefit not lost on us during the COVID-19 pandemic!

As always, you can find more information about our government’s COVID-19 response and Restart Plan at gov.bc.ca/COVID19. If you have any questions or need any assistance with provincial supports, please reach out. My office is currently open via phone and email to support you. You can reach us by phone at; 250.703.2410 or email at; Ronna-Rae.Leonard.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Sincerely,

Ronna-Rae Leonard

MLA Courtenay-Comox

COVID Resources:

- 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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