

---

## A January Update from Teale!

---

**Teale** <hello@teale.ca>

27 January 2024 at 19:44

Reply-To: Teale <hello@teale.ca>

To: hello@teale.ca

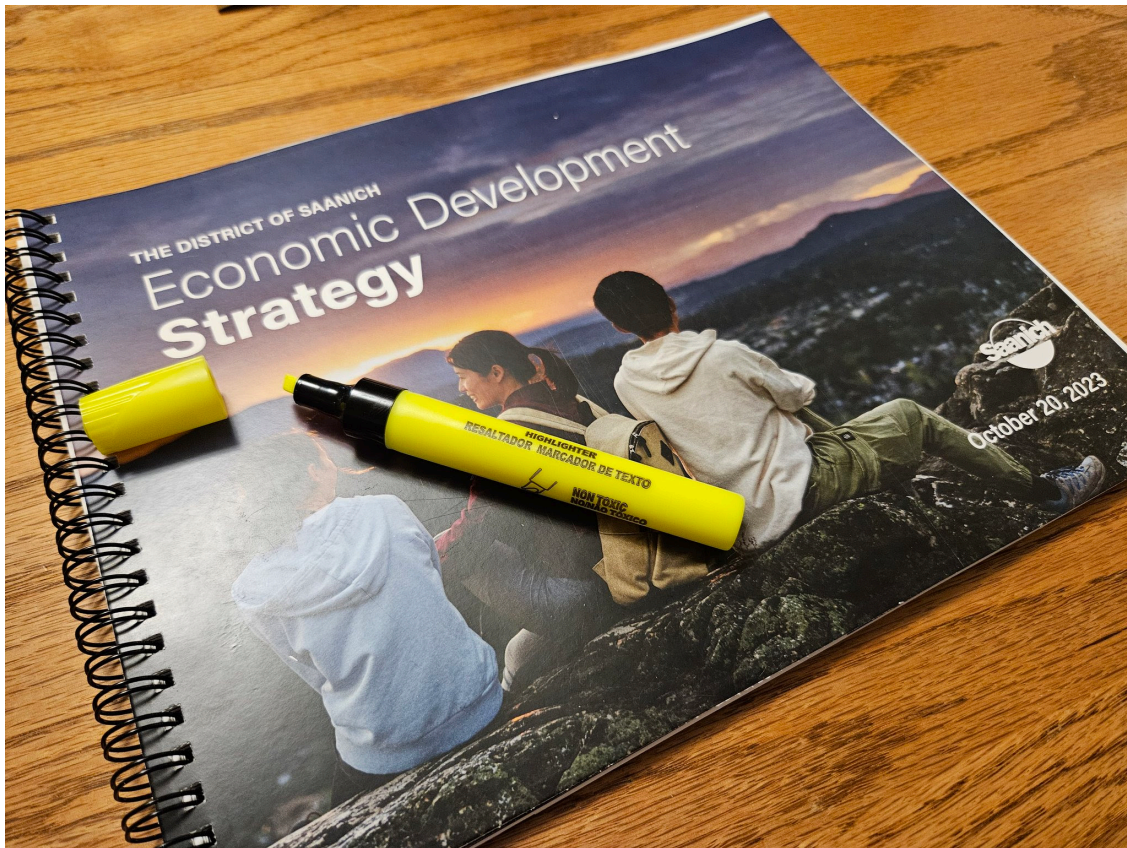


## Winter in Saanich!

Friends,

I hope the year starting off well for you. As the snow and rain arrives, I find that I've been spending more time at my computer working on research and policy, and a less time than I'd like outdoors exploring our beautiful district. I'm looking forward to slightly drier weather so I can get out and top up some little free libraries with a bike trailer full of books.

Here's an update of some of the things that have transpired here in Saanich in the past month, and a few updates relating to some of my other projects.



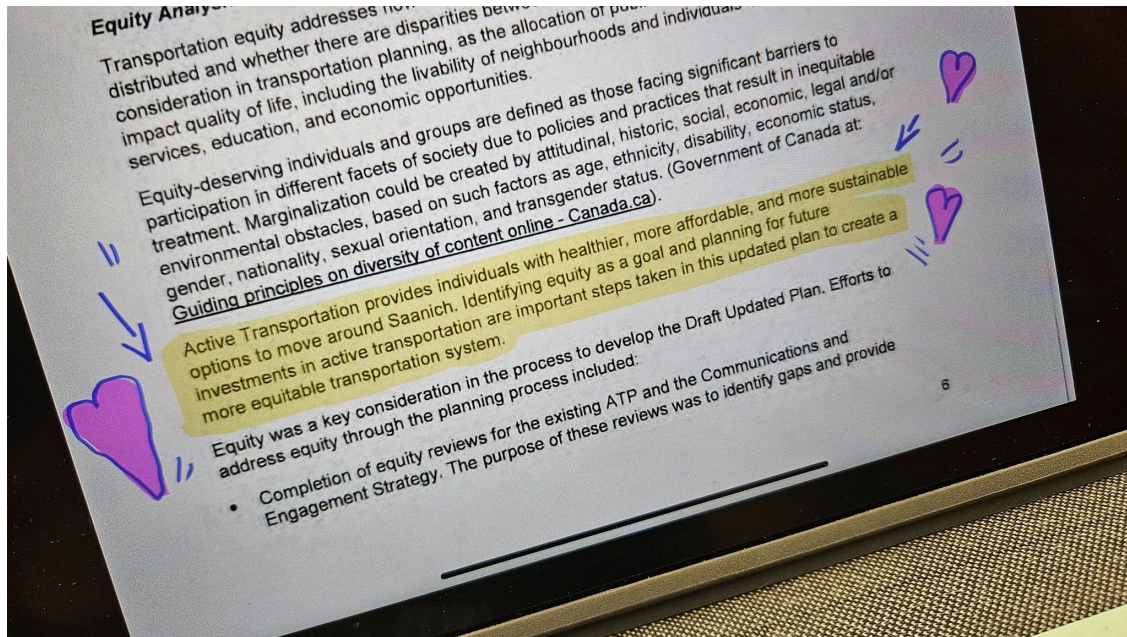
A rapid fire of a number of recent local Saanich news items:

- We [asked staff](#) to look at the implications of dropping the charges for non-profit housing providers focused on affordable homeownership. The goal here is to explore ways of increasing affordable housing in the District.
- We voted to send the proposed updated [Official Community Plan](#) (OCP) to a [public hearing](#). Stay tuned for more information about



when the timing of the public hearing, but you are always welcome to write to Council and share your thoughts.

- We voted to [rename softball diamond No. 2](#) at Rosedale Park the Wes Jantzen and Pam Schon Field, recognizing the work of these two amazing local volunteers.
- We adopted Saanich's first [Economic Development Strategy](#)!



My favourite sentence from the staff report on our Active Transportation Plan Update!  
I've uploaded my speech supporting the plan [here](#).

I am pleased to say that Council approved the updated [Active Transportation Plan](#). This will hopefully join a host of current and forthcoming measures that will improve road safety in the District and encourage active transportation. These include our [Speed Limit Establishment Policy](#), our [Road Safety Action Plan](#), and our Traffic Calming Policy.

By increasing safety, convenience, connectivity, and user experience, these measures will help encourage more folks to choose active modes of transportation for getting around the District. This will improve health, help build community, and increase affordability, all the while helping us reach our climate targets and protect our environment.



A bollard is there to deal with the hypothetical possibility of a vehicle entering the trail, but it presents a real and tangible impact and risk to trail users.

I used the word 'bollards' more this month, than I have over the rest of my life. Earlier this month, [a motion](#) that originated in the Transportation Advisory Committee (which I chair) arrived at Saanich Council. The motion asked Council to request that the CRD remove bollards from our regional trails.

Saanich has already removed many bollards from our trails, and follows the BC Active Transportation Design Guide recommendation that they only be used as a last resort. Unfortunately, their use continues on most CRD trails and these bollards pose a risk to trail users.

You can learn more from these stories from CHEK News, the Times Colonist, Victoria Buzz, Victoria News, and CFAX. If you would like to learn more or have any questions about the motion, I put together a couple of video explainers on TikTok here and here.

---





There are a number of engagement opportunities that I wanted to share with you:

- HelloSaanich: Saanich has launched a [new public engagement platform](#)! The platform is designed to be a central hub to share information and receive input and feedback.
- We have launched a new [budget simulation tool](#), which I'd encourage folks to check out as we move forward with the budgeting process.
- Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) is gathering input to help inform a new, comprehensive Direction and Action Plan (DAP) to guide the department's work over the next ten years. [Share your thoughts here](#).

And as usual, you can reach out to Council at [Council@Saanich.ca](mailto:Council@Saanich.ca), [attend and participate in a Council meeting](#) online or in person, or drop me a line if you'd like to chat.



At the [retirement celebration](#) for Saanich Fire Chief Michael Burgess. I am looking forward to welcoming our [new Fire Chief](#), Michael Kaye next week.

I have two motions on the agenda for the February 5th Saanich Council meeting. These are both resolutions that I am hoping to send off to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) via the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities.

The first proposes that AVICC and UBCM "ask the Province of British Columbia to implement a province-wide ban on the sale, purchase, and use of glue traps."

The second resolution proposes that the AVICC and UBCM "executives work with menstrual equity advocates and community partners to develop and distribute a Period Promise Municipal Toolkit that will help provide municipalities with the tools necessary to make menstrual products freely available in their washrooms and beyond."

Full texts of these motions, along with backgrounds providing more detail, will be included in the agenda for our February 5th meeting, which will be available [here shortly](#).

I am also working on a couple of other UBCM resolutions relating to transportation, and hope to have these in front of council at some point in the near future.





My resolution on menstrual equity builds off of the work that Saanich is already doing around period poverty. The tool kit will help other municipalities also provide free menstrual products in their washrooms.

---

## Project Updates

---

## Reproductive Justice



Our efforts to see free prescription contraception rolled out across the country continue. this past month, I helped organized a national gathering for reproductive justice advocates, and in addition to supporting [active campaigns across the country](#), we are working on setting up campaigns in Alberta and Quebec. These efforts are certainly putting my French to the test.

If you know anyone who is interested in getting involved in any of these efforts, please put them in touch! We are working hard to recruit volunteers for our sister campaigns!

In other related news, the BC Government announced that it would be [increasing compensation](#) for doctors for IUD insertions. This is excellent news and will help increase access and address issues relating to pain management (see also [CBC](#)).

Our work was also mentioned in articles in [The Breach](#), [Best Health](#), and a recent [Black Press podcast](#).

---

## International Relations Research





On board the Bob Barker, and preparing to depart on a inspection of a fishing vessel.  
A classic picture from the field, where I'm in the background taking notes.

As you may know, for the past several years, I have been part of an international research team studying the evolving strategy of Sea Shepherd. The project is housed at the [Fridtjof Nansen Institute](#), and funded by the Research Council of Norway.

The fieldwork component of this project took me to Gabon in 2022, and Benin this past summer. I am in the process of writing up the findings from these trips. For those who were interested in in some of what I got up to in Gabon, you can check out this recent piece in [Outside Magazine](#). It was written by Tristram Korten, who was onboard the Bob Barker with me, as the vessel patrolled to Gulf of Guinea off the coast of Gabon.



An inspection team returns to the Bob Barker, while she is on patrol off the coast of Gabon, in the Gulf of Guinea.

---

## BC Humanist Research Team



This past month, I had three new publications relating to my work with the BC Humanist Association (BCHA) Research Team, which I coordinate.



The first was an update of our survey of [legislative prayer across Canada](#), there have been a few minor changes. I also had two short pieces published in Eurel (EUrope - RELigion) which provides sociological and legal data on religions in Europe and beyond. These pieces explores [prayer in Canadian legislatures](#), and [municipal prayer](#).

Our advocacy around unconstitutional prayer in municipalities in BC has continued, and to date, all but two municipalities (Vancouver and Parksville) have committed to follow the law. Our team is currently working on reports for Ontario, Alberta, Saskatchewan. We are looking for volunteers to help with transcription. If you are interested in helping out, please get in touch!

Our team also has active projects on tax policy, crisis pregnancy centres, and school board policy, and I'm looking forward to continuing to explore these issues as the year unfolds.

Pour mes amis francophones, j'ai parlé à [Radio Canada](#) de mes espoirs pour la nouvelle année en tant qu'humaniste.

---

## Little Free Libraries



In late December, neighbours gathered on Pembroke Street in Fernwood to celebrate and cut the ribbon on the 800th little free library in the CRD!

The LFL is an adorable replica of the house at 1215 Pembroke St.. It was built by Ray Young, a former management consultant whose company, [I Used To Be A Pallet](#), upcycles old pallets into beautiful LFLs.

You can read more about the event from stories in [Victoria Now](#), [Saanich News](#), the [Victoria News](#), the [Victoria Buzz](#), and a Greater Victoria Placemaking Network [blog post](#) I authored.

I am excited to say that as of today, there are 816 LFLs in the CRD, as well as 26 seed and plant libraries, and 16 puzzle and board game LFLs. You can find them all [mapped out here](#), and let me know if I've missed any!

---

Wishing you all the best as we move into February!



Warm regards,



*Dr. Teale Phelps Bondaroff*

Saanich Councillor

P.S. If you know a neighbour who might like to receive these updates, please let them know they can sign up [here](#).

---

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

---