

Updates from the Campaign Trail!

1 message

Teale Phelps Bondaroff via ActionNetwork.org

30 September 2026 at
21:37

<hello@teale.ca>

Reply-To: hello@teale.ca

To: hello@teale.ca



Friends,

I hope you were able to take time today to acknowledge the history and legacy of the residential school system and honour residential school survivors. We all must seek to understand how this terrible part of our history still impacts the lives of Indigenous peoples today. We all have a responsibility to recognize injustice, past and present, and ensure it is never repeated.

Denialism fails to listen to and respect survivors, and can not be tolerated. There is a deep cowardice in the heart of a person who denies the attempted cultural genocide and assimilation of the residential school system. We all have a responsibility to confront racism and this gross distortion of history.

In the spirit of healing and reconciliation, the [South Island Powwow](#) celebrates Indigenous culture and resiliency. It was an honour to attend this incredibly uplifting gathering today. I extend my thanks to Songhees Nation for hosting the event on the homelands of the Lək'wəŋən people. I also had the honour of joining hundreds of neighbours in [Capital Bike's Reconciliation Ride](#).

However you chose to mark this day, whether you attended an event, watched a ceremony in person or online, listened to or read the stories of survivors, I hope you carry these experiences with you for much longer than just one day.



Saanich Council members at the South Island Powwow for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Little Free Library News



Delivering the 150,000th book of the Pocket Places Project with local Indigenous author Trudy Spiller

I have big little free library news to share! The Pocket Places Project delivered its 150,000th book to a little free library (LFL) in the Greater Victoria region this week. The book, '[Trudy's Healing Rock](#),' was written by local Indigenous Gitksan author Trudy Spiller, illustrated by Jessika Von Innerebner, and published by Medicine Wheel Publishing, and it was delivered to the Queen Mary LFL in the 100 block of Dallas Rd.

Since 2017, I have had the pleasure of serving as the lead of the Greater Victoria Placemaking Network's (GVPNs) Pocket Places Project. This project promotes, maps, builds, and stocks LFLs across the region. I regularly cycle around the region with a bike trailer full of books, and organize irregular book pick up events. To date, the project has delivered 150,00 books to LFLs across the CRD, mapped out 1,061+ LFLs, and helped set up over 142 LFLs.

While the GVPN has distributed more than 150,000 books, but we are only one small part of what keeps our region's growing network of little free libraries well-stocked. The vast majority of little free libraries are stocked by the people who live around them. Someone brings a book along when they take the dog for a walk, or tucks a few books into a bag when they head out for coffee. It is these thousands of small acts of generosity and community building that keep books moving from neighbour to neighbour and make these libraries such a wonderful part of our communities.

Our region's growing network of little free libraries do so much more than simply share books, and I love when they can help us celebrate amazing local authors and help support the ongoing process of reconciliation. I asked Trudy to share a little more about her book and she shared the following:

"Our grandmother would tell us when your heart is heavy and you are really upset, to take a rock, put it in your hand. Tell the rock what's bothering you. And then when you are finished and feel like your heart is less heavy, you go and bury that rock back where you got it."

Read more in this piece in the [Victoria News](#).

All Candidates Meetings coming up

Our first all candidates meeting took place this past Tuesday. Thanks to the Gordon Head Community Association, Mount Tolmie Community Association, Cadboro Bay Residents Association and Camosun Community Association for hosting this meeting! For those who missed it, there's a [full livestream available here](#).



Responding to a question at this Tuesdays All Candidates Meeting.

There will be multiple events next week as well. We have a number of all candidate meetings taking place this week! I would love to see you there:

- Monday October 5, 7pm. The Ridge Playhouse, Claremont Secondary School, [4980 Wesley Rd.](#) Hosted by Broadmead Area Residents Association, Broadmead Area Residents Association, Falaise Community Association & Cordova Bay Association for Community Affairs.
- Tuesday October 6, 2pm. Victoria Church of the Nazarene, [4277 Quadra St.](#) Hosted by the Victoria Church of the Nazarene.
- Tuesday, October 6, 5pm. Vertigo, Student Union Building, University of Victoria. Hosted by University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS).
- Thursday, October 8, 6pm. Reynolds High School Theatre, 3963 Borden St. Hosted by Mount View Colquitz Community Association and the Quadra Cedar Hill Community Association.

For further information about these meetings, please see the host websites or [Saanich's website](#).

Join a Roadside Rally!

Over the next couple of weeks we'll be gathering with supporters at key locations to show support for Teale. We'll bring the signs and you bring your enthusiasm! Sign up now to be the first to find out when and where we'll be holding a rally. Fill in [our supporter form](#) and choose "roadside rally" under the volunteer section. Can't wait to see you there!



Stephanie and I at a roadside rally in the 2022 municipal elections.

Still time to grab a sign!

Election signs are all the rage these days. If you want a Teale sign to display outside your home, there is still time to get one! Fill in [our supporter form](#) to get on the list for our next round of deliveries. And a huge thank you to all of my amazing campaign volunteers who have been helping set up signs around the District!



How do I vote by mail?

To vote by mail in Saanich, you must request a mail-in ballot by 4pm on Thursday, October 15, 2026. If you request a mail-in ballot please note you will not be able to vote in person. To be counted, your ballot must be received by 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 17, 2026. Learn more and apply for a mail-in ballot on the [District of Saanich website](#).

When and where can I vote?

Advance polls for Saanich's local elections will be open on October 7, 13 and 14 at select locations. General voting day is October 17, and there will be many locations open for voting. You can find all the details that will help you make your plan to vote on the [District of Saanich website](#).

Reproductive Justice Advocacy



On World Contraception Day (September 26th), the AccessBC Campaign celebrated one of BC's most successful reproductive health policies and calling on governments across Canada to ensure that everyone in the country can benefit from universal, no-cost prescription contraception.

On April 1, 2023, BC became the first province in Canada to make most prescription contraceptives free, covering a wide range of options including most oral contraceptive pills, injections, hormonal rings, copper and hormonal intrauterine devices (IUDs), implants, and emergency contraception (i.e. Plan B). And a staggering **441,000 people have been able to access prescription contraception** at not cost in BC since this date!

[Read our full press statement here.](#)

BC Humanist Research Team



Throughout our work documenting prayers in the BC Legislature and in municipal council meetings across Canada, the BCHA has observed the increasing inclusion of land

acknowledgements and other Indigenous content as a way to solemnize the start of a meeting. Across the country, the practice is becoming routine with a majority of councils now opening with such practices.

To assist in our own understanding of the context and history of these practices, we commissioned historian, writer, consultant, entrepreneur (and more) Robert Jago to investigate the history of the practice. Jago is a member of the Kwantlen First Nation and Nooksack Indian Tribe.

His report, [The Origin and Meaning of Land Acknowledgements](#), challenges the contemporary understanding that land acknowledgements originated in Australia by documenting Coast Salish practices that date to pre-contact legal frameworks. Finally, he provides recommendations on how to draft an inclusive land acknowledgement that avoids misappropriating it. It is well worth the read, especially on Orange Shirt Day.

[Read the full report here.](#)

Thank you to everyone who is helping with my re-election campaign and if you can, [please donate](#) to make sure we can reach everyone in Saanich!

Warm regards,



Dr. Teale Phelps Bondaroff

P.S. - If you have Saanich friends and neighbours who might like to receive these newsletter, do please share [this link](#) with them.



Sent via Action Network, a free online toolset anyone can use to organize. [Click here to sign up](#) and get started building an email list and creating online actions today.

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