

Update from Teale: Summer Action and Updates!

1 message

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17 August 2023 at 13:52



Summer Update and Call to Action

Friends,

Wow, it's hot out there, I hope everyone is keeping cool. I wanted to share a few updates from Saanich Council and get your help on a few issues. If you don't have a chance to read through the whole update, please [take a minute to sign the national petition](#) for free prescription contraception!

While we have fewer Council meetings in August, we still managed to get a lot done, and notably approving some much-needed housing. We recently [approved nine townhouses](#) on Freeman Ave. just off

Shelbourne St. And just this week, Council also [unanimously approved](#) a 58-unit project on Tyndall Ave.

This week's public hearing also resulted in another decision, this one concerning car dealerships in the Douglas Corridor. You can [read more about the issue here](#).



Saanich Council members and community leaders breaking ground for the new splash pad in Rutledge Park!

I was very excited to attend my first ground breaking. On August 10, community leaders and members of Saanich Council gathered in Rutledge Park to break ground for a new splash pad. I know neighbours can't wait for this project to be completed, especially on hot weeks like this one. Read more in the [Saanich News](#), and [Times Colonist](#).



Music in the Park season is winding down. I was happy to volunteer to help with parking at this week's concert in Rutledge Park.

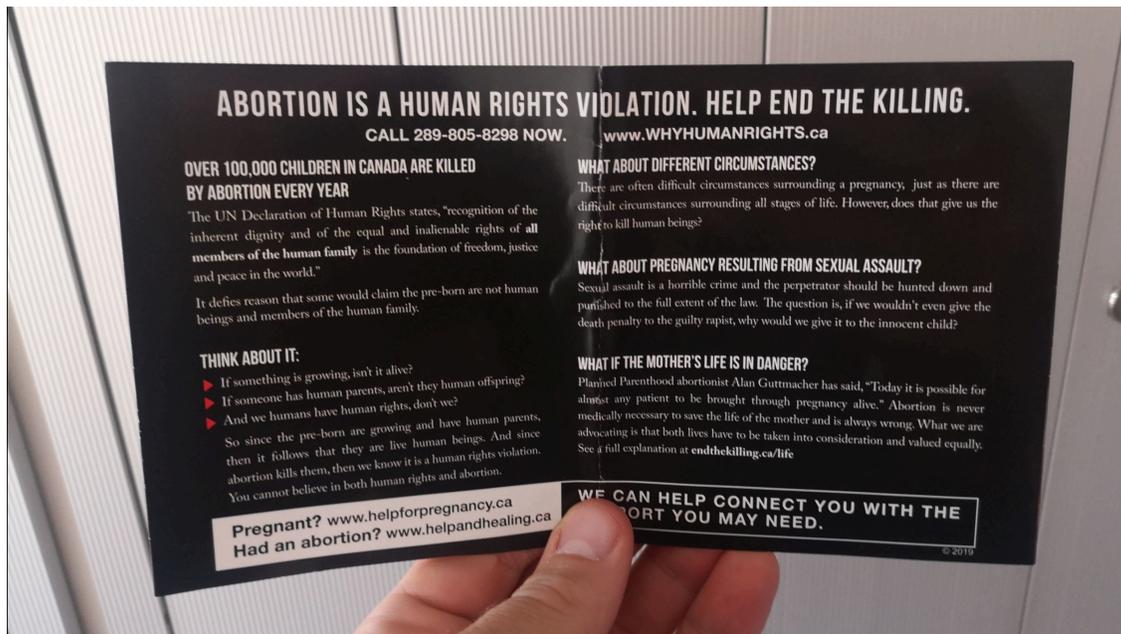
I've been attending a lot of community events this month. It's been a great opportunity to meet and chat with neighbours. Despite the heat, this week's Music in the Park at Rutledge Park was a big success ([check out this crowd!](#)). A big thank you to all of the volunteers and community associations who help make these events happen!

While Music in the Park season is winding down, there's still one more at Rudd Park on August 22nd. And you can find out about [more community events here](#).



I had a great time and learned a ton speaking with a wide range of community groups working to protect ecosystems here in the District at the Bowker Creek Biodiversity Day at the Kings Community Nature Space last week.

Update: Graphic Anti-Abortion Leaflets in Saanich



As I reported in my last update, neighbours in Saanich have been receiving graphic anti-abortion leaflets in their mailboxes. This was reported on in a [recent Capital Daily story](#), and another story in [Black Press](#).

These leaflets are being distributed to communities across Canada. For example, the City of Strathmore, Alberta just [adopted a bylaw](#) concerning these leaflets, and news stories report [recent incidents](#) in Vernon.

I have drafted a [report to Council on Graphic Leaflets](#), in response to concerns raised by residents, and will be presenting it at our August 21st meeting. I am looking forward to presenting my first report to Council.

I'm sure Council would love to hear your thoughts on this issue, as well as any other issues [on the agenda](#). As always, you can write to Council at: Council@Saanich.ca.

Project Updates

Reproductive Justice



Last month, friends at [Project EmpowHer](#) launched a national petition for free prescription contraception, and the [AccessBC Campaign](#) is working hard to support these efforts.

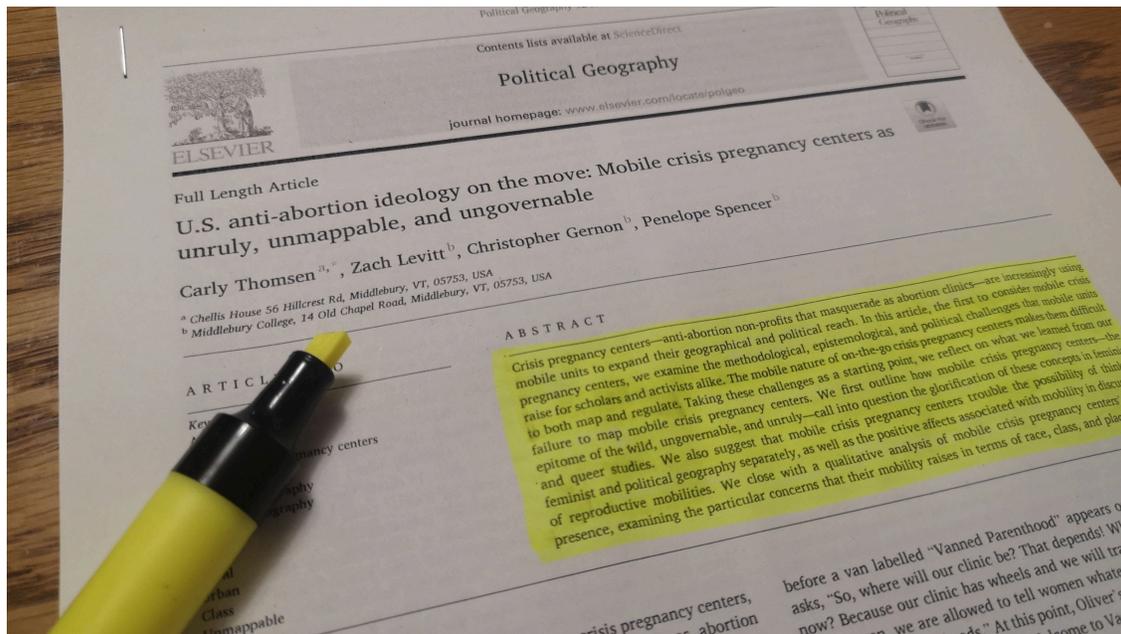
I just checked and [the petition](#) is currently at 4,965 signatures! A big thank you to everyone who has already signed. To those who haven't done so, the deadline is August 26th at 8:05 PST!

It takes less than a minute to sign and will go a long way to helping our efforts to make prescription contraception universally available at no cost across the country!

Sign the Petition!

AccessBC is also working to support campaigns in other provinces and we are currently looking to recruit volunteers in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario in particular. If you know anyone in these provinces, or you are interested in volunteering remotely, please get in touch!

I am so proud of [our sister campaigns](#) across the country, and would like to help bolster their numbers as they continue the fight for reproductive justice!



I'm continuing my research and advocacy around crisis pregnancy centres, and will be releasing a report on these 'fake clinics' in BC in the near future. This builds on my previous work on the subject, which you can find [here](#).

Little Free Libraries



Cutting the ribbon on the 700th little free library in the region on July 30th!

On July 30th, neighbours gathered on Wilson St. in Vic West to cut the ribbon on the 700th little free library in the region. It was a fantastic

event! I'm grateful to Kolby Gasko and his family for helping host the event and for setting up this delightful little free library dedicated to children's books!

The event was widely covered by local media, and you can read up more in the [Victoria News](#), [Victoria Now](#), [CHEK News](#), [Victoria Buzz](#), and [Capital Daily](#).

Now, it took us a few weeks to set up the ribbon cutting and people in the region love LFLs, so as of today, I'm excited to say that there are over 730 LFLs in the CRD. You can find all of the regions 700+ LFLs mapped out on the [Greater Victoria Placemaking Network's website](#). A friend just sent me a pile of previously unmapped LFLs on Salt Spring, so I think this number is going to climb rapidly.

Falaise Crescent Road Mural Repaint! 🖌️



This coming Sunday, August 20th, I'll be working with the good people of the Falaise Community Association, along with community volunteers and folks from the Greater Victoria Placemaking Network to touch up and expand the [road mural on Falaise Crescent](#).

We could use a few more volunteers. So if you are looking for something to do that gives back to the community this coming weekend, head over to Falaise Crescent between 9 am and early afternoon on August 20th, to help out. Wear work cloths. There will be refreshments and snacks.

I'm currently working on a number of additional reports and motions for Saanich Council, which I'll be presenting in the near future. I'll be sure to keep you in the loop.

As always, don't hesitate to get in touch about local issues, and please don't forget to take a minute to [sign the national petition](#) for free prescription contraception!

All the best,



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](#).

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