

Update from Teale: Happy Thanksgiving!

1 message

Teale <hello@teale.ca>

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

To: hello@teale.ca



October Update!

Friends,

The leaves are changing, gardens are being harvested, and Thanksgiving is just around the corner. I hope you are having a marvelous fall. It's been a very busy time since my last update. Here's some of what I've been up to!

In mid-September, I attended the [Union of BC Municipalities 2023 Convention](#) in Vancouver. It was a fantastic opportunity to attend learning sessions and panels, connect with fellow municipal council members across the province, speak with Ministers and MLAs, and

debate and adopt resolutions.

It don't think it would be possible to summarize the full conference, so I will focus on resolutions. I was impressed, and a little surprised, that we managed to debate and vote on all 93 resolutions in the [Resolution Book](#).



Celebrating at UBCM after delegates voted in favour of adopting New Westminster's resolution on means tested traffic fines.

Saanich submitted 8 resolutions to UBCM and almost all of them were adopted. I put together a summary video of all of [Saanich's resolutions on TikTok](#). But for those who prefer text, I'll provide a short summary. Note that all resolutions can be found in the [Resolution Book](#).

Resolutions were in three major categories, the Endorsed Block (EB), No Recommendation (NR), and Referred Resolutions (RR):

- EB21: 'Enhanced Retrofit Programs for Part 3 Buildings.'
- EB25: 'Empowering Local Governments to use Traffic Enforcement Cameras.'

- EB31: 'Increased Funding for Climate Change Adaptation.'
- EB42: 'ICBC Data.'
- NR46: 'BC Resources for Estimating Climate Costs.'
- NR82: 'Bringing Equity to Traffic Enforcement' (moved by New Westminster).
- NR93: 'Well-being of Future Generations Act,' unfortunately this resolution did not pass.



I had the chance to catch up with Kelli Paddon, MLA for Chilliwack-Kent and Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity at UBCM.

Note that the RR resolutions were not debated due to their similarity with other resolutions, but the alternative versions of all of Saanich's RR resolutions were adopted. These were:

- RR18: 'Protection and Restoration of Biological Diversity in Local Communities.'
- RR21: 'Enabling property Assessed Clean Energy Financing Legislation.'

For those who are wondering about next steps, most of these resolutions will be sent along to the provincial government, which will

respond in due time. I'll be sure to keep people in the loop.



Saanich Council being awarded a [Climate & Energy Action Award](#) from the Community Energy Association for our Community E-bike Incentive Pilot Program

A big thank you to members of the community, and members of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee who helped me draft resolutions EB42 and NR46, and to colleagues in New Westminster for sending NR82 along to UBCM.

It seems as though means tested traffic fines are proving to be a popular policy proposal. A recent poll by [Research Co.](#) found that 69% of British Columbians support progressive traffic fines. I recently got the chance to speak with a few journalists from [Global News](#) and [City News](#) about the policy.

A few other Saanich-related news stories and press releases that may be of interest and which help spotlight recent work by council:

- [Saanich Fusion secures \\$300,000 loan to replace turf at Tyndall Park.](#)
- [Saanich council softens planned restrictions on where dogs can be off leash in parks.](#)
- [Saanich Council adopts new Strategic Plan.](#)
- [Saanich fire chief bids farewell.](#)

A big thank you to retiring Fire Chief Michael Burgess for his years of service to our community!



I had the pleasure of touring Newman Farm in Central Saanich with Mayor Murdock.
The farm and the [Farmlands Trust Society](#) is doing some amazing work!

Housing Targets!



As you likely know, the provincial government announced housing targets for 10 municipalities across the province, including Saanich (see [CTV News](#) and the [Times Colonist](#)).

Specifically, the Province has provided the District of Saanich with mandated housing targets, including tripling the volume of permits over the next five years to 4,610 units. This is the total minimum number of net new completed housing units required to comply with this Provincial Housing Target Order.

You can read more about the details from our [Housing Division here](#). We will be working hard to achieve these ambitious targets, but will need ongoing and expanded cooperation with higher levels of government. As I said to [Radio Canada](#) (translated), "we need to work with the different levels of government and the different partners to ensure that we have housing below market price, because it is not just a question of building new housing, they must be affordable."

Among other things, Saanich has hired a new Strategic Housing Advisor, and we will be working on tackling this challenge in a number of different ways.

Get Involved!

Saanich is currently seeking input on our [draft Accessibility Plan](#), and we are [looking for folks to participate in focus groups](#), and provide feedback in writing. Please get involved to help shape our communities first accessibility plan!

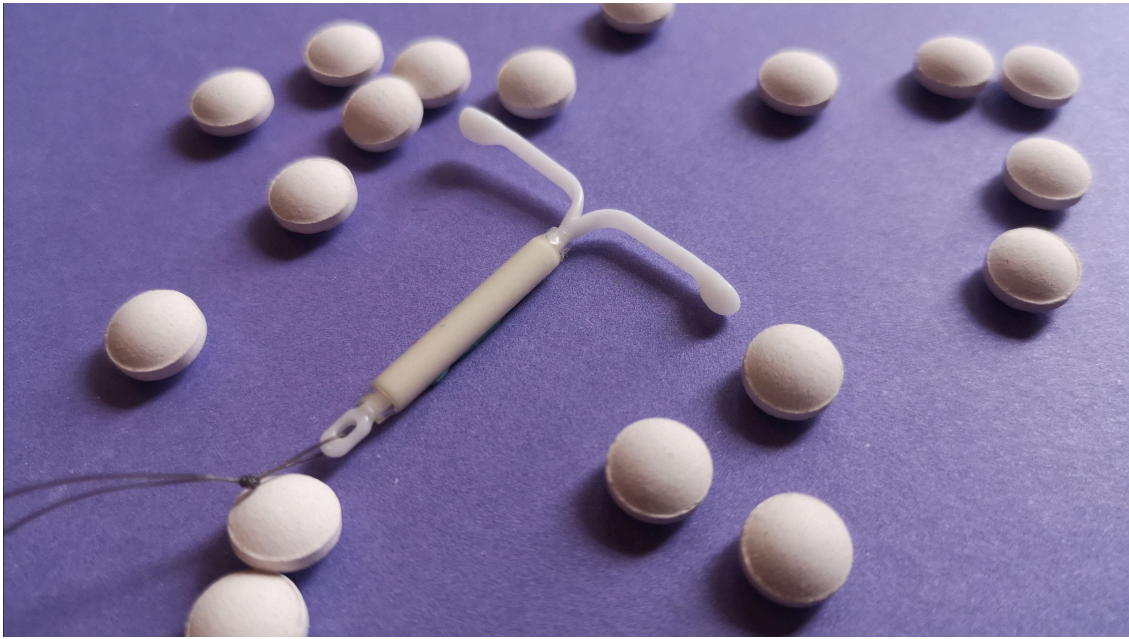
Applications for [2024 Advisory Committees](#) are now open! These committees meet monthly and are an opportunity for neighbours to share their thoughts on Saanich policies and practices. Committees include:

- Accessibility, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Arts, Culture and Community Wellbeing
- Board of Variance (3-year term)
- Economic Development
- Natural Areas, Parks and Trails
- Sustainability and Climate Change
- Transportation (I'm proud to chair this committee)

Applications are due November 10th, by 4:30 pm! Please get in touch if you have any questions and please reach out and share this with friends and neighbours.

We never have enough youth applicants. If you have any young people in your life who you think might be interested, please connect them and I'd be happy to answer any questions and offer encouragement.

Actualités françaises



Et pour mes amis francophones, j'ai donné quelques entrevues à Radio Canada ce mois-ci. J'ai discuté des [nouveaux objectifs de logement de la province](#) et j'ai parlé de justice reproductive lors de la [Journée mondiale de la contraception](#).

Comme je l'ai dit au sujet des objectifs de logement provinciaux, "on a besoin de travailler avec les différents paliers du gouvernement et les différents partenaires pour s'assurer qu'on a des logements inférieurs au prix du marché, parce que ce n'est pas seulement une question de construire des nouveaux logements, ils doivent être abordables."

Project Updates

It's Still Unconstitutional Podcast Episode



For those who missed my talk with the BC Humanist Association around unconstitutional prayer in municipal council meetings in BC, you can tune into the full talk on the [BC Humanists Podcast](#).

I am putting the finishing touches on a report upon which this presentation was based, and I'll let you know when it is out, which should be in early November.

Little Free Libraries



This month, the City of Victoria recognized my work promoting, mapping, stocking, and helping set up little free libraries with a Certificate of Appreciation. For the past several years, I have been leading the Greater Victoria Placemaking Network's [Pocket Places Project](#).

This project has helped set up over a hundred LFLs, distributed over 85,000 books, and has seen the number of these little book boxes grow to more than 786 (I just updated the map this week). I am constantly impressed by our regions passion for placemaking and am delighted to stumble across a new LFL as I'm cycling about dropping off books.

And to put a smile on your face, Stephanie and I were lucky enough to spot [a pod of orcas in the Inner Harbour](#) a few weekends ago! It was the closest I've ever been to an orca here on the west coast!

A happy Thanksgiving to you all and as always, don't hesitate to get in touch!

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](#).
