

Re-Election Campaign Launch July 11th - 1 pm - Rutledge Park!

1 message

Teale Phelps Bondaroff via ActionNetwork.org <hello@teale.ca> 3 July 2026 at 18:40

Reply-To: hello@teale.ca

To: tealepb@gmail.com



Campaign Launch July 11th!

Friends,

It's just one week until my official campaign launch! Please join me in Rutledge Park on **Saturday July 11 from 1:00pm to 2:30pm** to mark the official start of my re-election campaign for Saanich council and CRD!

The event will feature:

- Remarks from yours truly
- A group photo
- A make-your-own-Teale-button station
- An opportunity to give an endorsement by video or text
- A book swap at the Rutledge Park LFL (of course!)
- A chance to learn more about how you can support the campaign

If you haven't RSVP'ed yet, now is the time! Give us an idea of numbers to expect by [RSVP'ing on Eventbrite](#).

We are looking for a few more volunteers to help make this event a success! See the roles we need to fill and [sign up here](#). Please reach out to my campaign coordinator Stephanie Ferguson at slaferguson@gmail.com if you have any questions. Training will be provided!

If you can't make it to the launch, but would still like to contribute to the campaign, you can [make a donation](#) or sign up for [campaign updates](#), [to volunteer](#) or [to take a sign](#).



Canvassing with amazing campaign volunteers!

Student Youth Council

I am passionate about youth engagement, and when I was unsuccessful at setting up a formal youth advisory committee through the District, I worked with friends to set up a pilot project to explore how we might better engage with young people in Saanich. Since last November, I have been working with Claremont student Gus Kirby, Claremont teacher Mark Neufeld, and a group of fantastic teacher sponsors to set up and run a Student Youth Council (SYC).

This amazing group of 14 students representing Claremont, Reynolds, Spectrum, Mt. Doug, SMUS, and St. Andrew's schools, was meeting monthly until they voted to meet more often in order to get more work done! The SYC was created by community volunteers, acting independently, as a pilot project to explore ways of giving young people in Saanich a dedicated space to learn about local government, discuss issues affecting their lives and communities, and bring their concerns and solutions forward to government.

During the 2025–2026 term, SYC members learned about local government, Council procedure, advisory committees, survey design, policy development, media relations, advocacy, and public communication. Members reviewed Saanich Council's strategic priorities, discussed issues affecting youth, heard from guest speakers, circulated a student engagement survey, reviewed survey results, and developed policy motions focused on transportation.



The Student Youth Council with myself and Mayor Murdock at out final meeting last month.

This group worked hard, and I am very excited to be presenting three motions they drafted, along with a lengthy end of term report, to Saanich Council this Monday, July 6th. The first motion asks Saanich Council to receive the SYC's end-of-term report for information, and also asks Saanich Council to consider establishing a permanent youth advisory committee. [The report](#) documents the work completed by the SYC during its pilot term, including meetings, learning activities, peer engagement, survey work, policy discussions, advocacy training, correspondence, and the development of motions (a shorter [summary report can be found here](#)). The report flags the need for greater youth engagement in the District of Saanich, and proposes a permanent youth advisory committee as one solution. Current [Saanich advisory committees](#) have spots reserved for youth, but the structure is not set up to encourage youth participation, and the District often struggles to fill these positions as a result.

[The second motion](#) calls on Saanich Council to endorse, in principle, the Reconciliation Corridor Initiative process, without predetermining the final outcome of that process. The Reconciliation Corridor Initiative is exploring the potential for passenger rail service on the Island Corridor between Vic West and Westshore Parkway in Langford through a process focused on due diligence, reconciliation, mutual benefit, and evidence-based decision-making. Although the portion of the corridor currently being considered does not travel directly through Saanich, SYC members identified the issue as regionally relevant because young people in Saanich travel across municipal boundaries for school, work, recreation, family, appointments, and community life.



Working with the Student Youth Council members on issue prioritization.

[The third motion](#) asks Saanich Council to direct the Mayor to write to the Premier and relevant provincial ministers, to call on the Province to expand the Get On Board Program to cover young people up to and including the age of 18, and to explore working with the Ministry of Education and Child Care to add curriculum elements that train young people on how to safely and confidently use public transit. This builds on [previous Saanich Council advocacy](#) around transit access for young people.

If you support any of these items and would like to see a permanent youth advisory committee, I would encourage you to write to Saanich Council before noon on Monday (council@saanich.ca), or [come to the meeting](#) and share your thoughts with Council in person or over teams. And read about the work of the SYC from this [Saanich News](#) article.

Saanich Updates

Here are some rapid-fire Saanich updates!

- **Annual Report:** Saanich Council endorsed the 2025 Annual Report at the June 22, 2026 Council meeting. The Annual Report provides a synopsis of the previous year's strategic, financial and operational progress. You can view the full report and previous reports on the [Annual Report page](#).
- **New EV Chargers:** The District of Saanich, in-partnership with the Capital Regional District (CRD), are unveiling 14 new EV charging stations to complement the existing public charging network located at Saanich parks and facilities. The new stations are part of the CRD's Public Electric Vehicle Charging Network Project, which will see up to 576 Level 2 chargers installed across the region by 2028. Funding was provided by the provincial and federal governments through the CleanBC Communities Fund and the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Fund. [Learn more here](#).



Celebrating Pride Month at Saanich's Pride in the Park, in Beckwith Park. Happy Pride friends!

- **Victoria-Saanich Amalgamation Question:** Saanich Council has authorized staff to place a non-binding public opinion question on the ballot for the 2026 General Local Election. The approved question will ask electors: “do you support Saanich and Victoria becoming one municipality?” The question is intended to gauge elector support for pursuing amalgamation further. The question is non-binding, meaning the results will not have legal or statutory effect and will not by themselves create an amalgamated municipality. Instead, the vote will indicate whether there is public support for newly elected councils to continue exploring the issue.

As you will recall, during the 2018 General Local Election, electors in both Saanich and Victoria supported funding for a Citizens’ Assembly on the question of amalgamation. The Assembly was mandated to explore the costs, benefits and disadvantages of amalgamation between the two municipalities. Its [final report](#) included analysis and recommendations on governance, service delivery, transportation, climate resilience, housing, public safety and other key issues. However, the Citizens’ Assembly report did not include a comprehensive analysis of the cost of amalgamation or the impact amalgamation could have on property tax rates. The Province advised that a binding referendum could not be authorized for 2026 because more detailed analysis would still be needed to understand the financial impacts, transition considerations and service impacts.

While I support the will of Council, I voted against use of a non-binding ballot question on the basis of procedural fairness: If the results of the non-binding question are negative, the matter is put to rest. Whereas if they are affirmative, then we will have to repeat the entire process again in 2030, but this time with a binding question. It seemed unfair to me that

one side of the issue would have to jump through more hoops than the other.

A few folks have reached out to ask me my position on amalgamation, and I thought it might be helpful to clarify it here. Amalgamation is not a major priority for me, and I have previously expressed concerns about the lack of details and numbers around potential costs and/or savings in the Citizen's Assembly report. Given the nature of the issue and the fact that it will be on the ballot this fall, my position is that I am leaving it up to the electorate, and I commit to dutifully working to implement the will of the electorate, whichever way it might go. Learn more from [CBC News](#), [CTV News](#), [Victoria Buzz](#), the [Times Colonist](#), and the [Saanich News](#).



Hanging with colleagues at Saanich's Pride in the Park. Hope to see many of you at Victoria Pride this year!

- **Saanich Climate Plan:** The District has been making steady progress towards our corporate climate targets, and recently adopted a [new 5-year plan \(full plan here\)](#). The 2026 Climate Plan builds on the extensive work completed since the 2020 Climate Plan, years of successful climate action by the District, and extensive engagement with key stakeholders, youth, equity-deserving groups and the public, with input from First Nations. It sets a clear, practical and cost-effective pathway to reach our climate goals; aiming to maximize co-benefits such as cost savings, emissions reductions, improved health and wellbeing and local economic development. It focuses on collaboration with other local governments, the CRD, the provincial and federal governments as well as other partners, organizations and businesses. There is still much work to be done, especially around our community targets, but I was pleased to see us getting very close to our corporate targets. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the public engagement on this plan. Read more in the [Times Colonist](#), and find [all relevant documents here](#).
- **Budget Guidelines Set:** Council approved the guidelines for the 2027 financial plan, which included no increase from 2026 levels in department spending, a 1.5% tax increase

to cover infrastructure replacement, reinstating \$500,000 in active transportation funding, and asking staff to consider cuts between 1% and 4%. Learn more from the [Times Colonist](#).



The Saanich Fire Fighters' Charitable Foundation, who were flipping pancakes at the Gorge Canada Day Picnic, with Councillor De Vries, and MLA Nina Krieger.

Ongoing Saanich Engagement

- **Draft Tillicum Burnside Plan Survey:** In response to community requests for additional in-person engagement activities this summer, the District of Saanich offering residents more opportunities to share their thoughts on the [Draft Tillicum Burnside Plan](#) (TBP). The [online survey](#) is open until July 30th, and there are a number of other pop ups and talks taking place. [Learn more here](#).
- **Uptown Douglas Pre-Zoning & Network Design Project Survey:** The Uptown Douglas Pre-Zoning and Transportation Network Design Project is the next step in putting the Uptown Douglas Plan (UDP) into action. This project is the next step in transforming the area into the complete, people-oriented 'heart' of Saanich. Learn more and share your views [here](#), engagement is open until July 6. [Learn more here](#).



Members of Saanich Council dressed up for the Canada Day Parade as part of the Gorge Canada Day Picnic. A huge thank you to all of the volunteers who helped make this year's event a massive success!

Upcoming Events!

- **Saanich Strawberry Festival** - The 59th annual Saanich Strawberry Festival is returning Sunday, July 5, 2026 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Beaver Beach in Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park. Admission is free and all residents, community members and visitors are invited. [Learn more here.](#)
- **Victoria Pride Events** - You can find a full list of Pride [events here](#). I am excited about marching in the parade and come look for me and say hi at the festival grounds!
- **Music in the Park** - Join Saanich neighbours every for fantastic live music, food trucks, and more, every Tuesday, from 6 to 8 pm, at a different Saanich park each week. Find the [full schedule here](#).
- **Other Summer Events** - You can find more exciting summer events hosted by the District of Saanich [here](#).

Family Doctors for Saanich



Family Doctors for Saanich volunteers tabling at Saanich Commonwealth Place.

The [Family Doctors for Saanich](#) campaign has been getting out into the community as part of our Health Connect Registry registration drive! If you do not have a family doctor or nurse practitioner, and are not already on the list, please sign up to the [Health Connect Registry](#).

I am also happy to announce that the draft resolution that I present to Council on June 8th, asking UBCM to call on the Province to develop sustainable funding, governance, and operational models that enable the widespread implementation and long-term sustainability of team-based primary care in BC was adopted by Saanich Council, and by Central Saanich Council on June 15th. It's now off to the 2026 UBCM Convention, taking place September 14 to 18 in Vancouver.

I was pleased to work on this resolution with Central Saanich Councillor Sarah Riddell, and friends from Shoreline Medical. You can learn more about this draft resolution in this piece from the [Times Colonist](#). I also recently spoke to [CHEK News](#) about the importance of clinic space.

We are always looking for folks to get involved, especially as we get our new welcome wagon rolling. [Learn more, take action, and get involved here!](#)

Reproductive Justice Advocacy



This month, AccessBC has presented our case for improved pain management for IUD insertions in BC to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services, as part of the provincial budget consultations. We are also ramping up our outreach efforts for our '[Not Just A Pinch](#)' campaign. If you have not yet had a chance to participate in our ongoing letter writing campaign, please take few seconds to take action [here](#).

Stay tuned for the launch of a new national campaign to save pharmacare. Our team is always looking for volunteers, particularly volunteers to help with outreach and social media. If you are interested in getting involved, please [sign up here](#).

I hope to see you out at my official campaign launch on the 11th of July, and you can sign up to volunteer for my re-election campaign at [teale.ca](#).

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.



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