
A February Update from Teale!

1 message

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February in Saanich!

Friends,

The cherry blossoms and snowdrops have arrived in Saanich! As the weather hopefully gets warmer, I hope you get a chance to get out and see some spring flowers. It's been a busy month, and I wanted to share updates on my various projects and some of the work of Saanich Council.

First and foremost, I'm pleased to say that a draft of Saanich's [Road Safety Action Plan](#) is now public. We are currently gathering feedback on this plan, which will help improve road safety in the District and help

us achieve Vision Zero.

Please check it out, [complete the survey](#), share additional feedback with Engineering (and [myself](#)), visit one of our outreach pop ups, and help us get the best plan possible to ensure that our roads are safe. This plan has never been more important, given the recent news about a number of serious accidents on our roads.

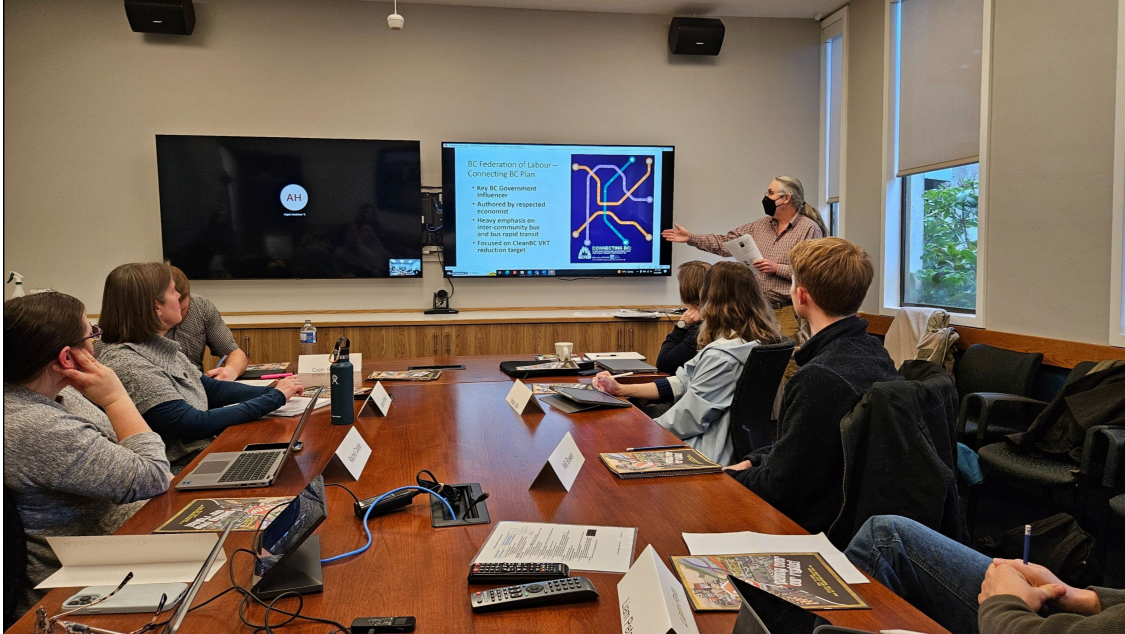
Road Safety Action Plan



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

- [The motion](#), that originated in the Transportation Advisory Committee asking the CRD to remove bollards from trails, [arrived at the CRD Transportation Committee](#). The use of bollards will be reviewed as part of the forthcoming trestle upgrades, trail widening and lighting project.
- Progress was made on re-zoning relating to a large [affordable housing project](#) on McCoy Road, up near UVic.

- We launched the Climate Action Tax Exemption Program, is the first of its kind in B.C., which will provide incentives to those managing larger buildings to replace fossil-fuel space heating and domestic hot-water delivery with electric systems. You can [read more here](#), and [here](#).



A recent meeting of Saanich's Transportation Advisory Committee exploring local transportation issues.

- The District of Saanich has once again been selected as one of BC's [Top Employers for 2024](#).
- We purchased a [1.2 hectare property](#), which will play an important role in development of the [new Saanich Operations Centre](#).
- We have made some minor adjustments to the draft Official Community Plan (OCP), which will be subject to a public hearing in the near future, including [one recent amendment](#) that will hopefully help support the creation of more affordable rental housing in the District. You can learn more about the OCP update process, and ways to get involved, [here](#).
- The Citizen's Assembly, which will explore the potential amalgamation of Victoria and Saanich, is getting off its feet. [Learn more here](#), and watch your mailboxes for invitation letters in the near future.



Attending the [Victoria Chinatown Lioness Lions Club](#) 'Light the Dragon Chinese New Year Dinner,' in my capacity as Acting Mayor.

This month, the [2023 Saanich Climate Plan Report Card](#) was released. We have been making progress implementing our Climate Change Plan, but more is needed.

The Plan Report Card shows community-wide territorial emissions have decreased by 16% and corporate emissions have decreased by 28%, since the 2007 baseline. However, in order to be on track, these should be at a 33% and 44% reduction respectively. Also of note, consumption based emissions have increased slightly since the 2015 baseline. It is clear that more work is needed, and I look forward to exploring additional ways in which we can achieve our goals ([read more here](#)).

A [recent report](#) from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities estimated that avoiding the worst impacts of climate change at the municipal level will cost ~\$5.3 billion per year shared amongst all three orders of government. Tackling climate change will require some spending.

Saanich recently [adopted a motion](#) asking staff to explore the potential for the District and region to join a class-action lawsuit against big oil companies. I am looking forward to the report back on this issue, as we need to explore innovative ways of funding our efforts to address and adapt to climate change ([read more here](#)). Folks who are interested in learning more can also check out the [Sue Big Oil Campaign](#).



Learning about the Greater Victoria Public Library's new TechPlay lab at a recent board meeting. TechPlay is an innovative service for young patrons, providing free access to educational toys and activities to explore STEM concepts: coding, basic electricity, engineering, math and science. I represent Saanich on the GVPL Board, and this month, I was elected to serve as the Vice-Chair of the Policy and Planning Committee.

An update on my two motions that were on the agenda for the February 5th Saanich Council meeting. These were both resolutions that were destined for the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM).

The first motion, proposing 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,**" was adopted unanimously. You can read more in this [Saanich News Story](#).

The second resolution proposed 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." Unfortunately, this resolution did not receive a seconder, and as such, it was not debated.

A huge thank you to all of the folks who shared their thoughts about these motions with Saanich Council.



This month, I had the honour of serving as the Acting Mayor, which afforded me the opportunity to chair our February 12th Committee of the Whole meeting. Of course I brought a gavel from my collection.

Noise pollution news! I know that like me, many of you are interested in efforts to reduce noise pollution in our District. I have been working

steadily on this issue and I am pleased to say that I have an update.

In January, the Transportation Advisory Committee, which I chair, adopted a [motion concerning noise cameras](#). This motion is on its way to Council and should appear on one of our agendas in the near future. The motion asks Council to request "that staff explore and report back on the feasibility of running a noise camera pilot project in the District of Saanich." You can read the full report that accompanies the motion [here](#).

I will be sure to let folks know when this report is in front of Council. In the meantime, I would encourage you to check it out, and to share your thoughts with Council, at council@saanich.ca.

Project Updates

Reproductive Justice



This past week we had some exciting reproductive justice news! As you may know, the federal Liberals and NDP have been negotiating the details of the national Pharmacare Plan, and last week they

announced that this plan will include contraception!

This is massive news. It means that everyone across Canada will enjoy improved access to contraception. And when it comes to how the program will work, it looks as though they will be looking to replicate the program that we fought hard to get implemented here in BC!

You can read more about the announcement in the [CBC](#), [Winnipeg Free Press](#), and [National Post](#). And you can read the [AccessBC Campaign press release here](#). We are calling for the program to be as expansive as possible and cover as many forms of prescription contraception as possible.



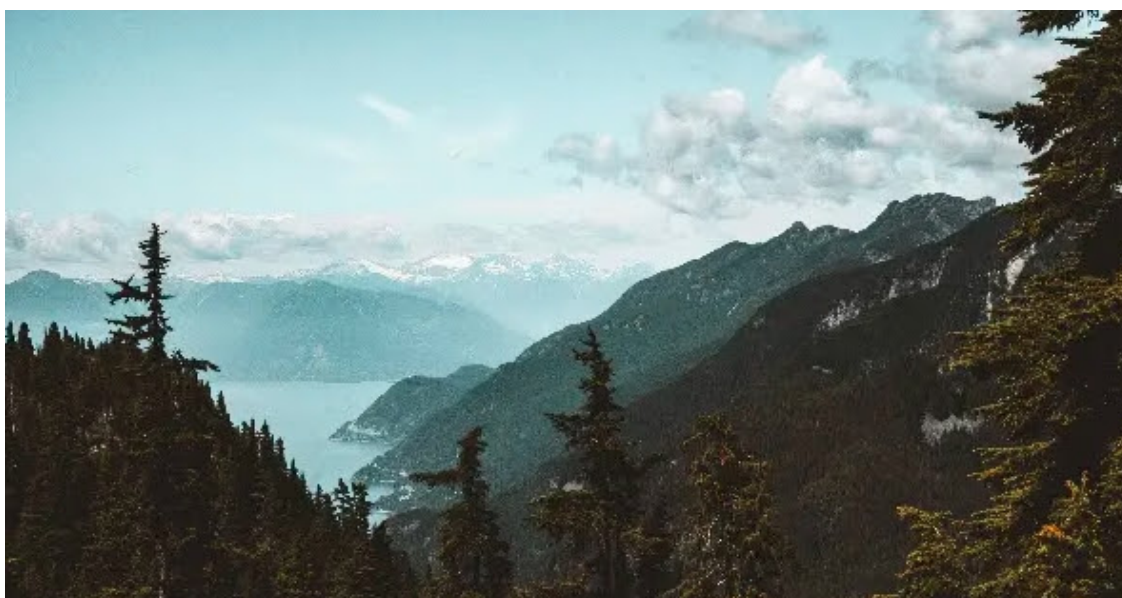
The first anniversary of free prescription contraception in BC is fast approaching. As part of our ongoing advocacy work to see the policy expanded and support the implementation of the policy across Canada, the AccessBC Campaign is gathering stories.

We are looking for stories from folks who have benefited from this policy. People who might not have been able to access contraception prior to it being made free, or folks who were able to access the contraception that worked best for them thanks to the policy. We are also looking to hear from folks whose preferred form of contraception might not have been covered by the policy and who would benefit from its expansion.

If you are comfortable doing so, please share your story on [this form](#) on the AccessBC Campaign website.

Share Your Story

BC Humanist Research Team



I recently sat down with Scott Douglas Jacobsen from the [Good Men Project](#), to talk about my ongoing work exploring unconstitutional prayer in Canadian municipal council meetings. This is part of my ongoing work with the BC Humanist Association's Research Team.

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!](#)

We have also launched a new project exploring BC School District policies on a wide range of topics. We are looking for volunteers to help gather policies. [Get in touch](#) if you are interested in getting involved.

Little Free Libraries



Last month, I sat down with Ray Young, a former management consultant whose company, [I Used To Be A Pallet](#), upcycles old pallets into beautiful little free libraries. We talked about his work, little free libraries, and the power of placemaking in this [Greater Victoria Placemaking Network Blog](#).

I am also excited to say that as of today, there are 828 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!

Planting season has started, and I wanted to encourage folks who might have extra seeds left over to consider dropping the off at one of our region's seed and plan LFLs. You can find these marked in green on the GVPN map. And as always, if you need books for your LFL, get in touch!

Wishing you all the best as the cherry blossoms bloom! 🌸

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](#).

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