

Update from Teale: Conference Season and Summer Events!

1 message

Teale <hello@teale.ca>

14 June 2023 at 13:26

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

To: hello@teale.ca



Conference Season!

Friends,

Happy Pride Month! I hope your summer is off to a great start. I wanted to share an update as the past month has been jam-packed.

During the end of May and early June I was out in Ontario attending three conferences. The first conference was the **Federation of Canadian Municipalities** (FCM), which took place in Toronto. With around 1,500 municipal council members attending, this was the largest gathering of elected officials in the country.



The conference included seminars, talks, and panel discussions about important and emerging issues facing municipalities, a large tradeshow, tours of municipal facilities and infrastructure, and presentations by the Prime Minister and most of the Federal party leaders. FCM was also a fantastic opportunity to connect and network with municipal council colleagues from across the country.

Delegates debated and passed [three resolutions](#), which will help inform FCM's future lobbying of the federal government. I'm glad I attended as I was able to intervene and extend debate so that we had sufficient time to debate and pass the third motion calling for more supportive housing and urgent action to address homelessness.

The other resolutions called for the establishment of an urgent intergovernmental platform on mental health and a new growth framework for municipalities. I was proud to support all three resolutions, along with the vast majority of delegates.



While out east I also attended two academic conferences, where I presented a number of papers relating to my ongoing research work.

First up was the [Canadian Political Science Association Conference](#), part of the 2023 Congress of the Federation of Humanities and Social Sciences at York University. Here, I presented a paper on unconstitutional prayer in BC municipal council meetings. This paper will be public soon, and it builds on a [previous study](#) I co-authored in 2020.

As a preview, we identified six BC municipalities that included prayer in their 2022 inaugural meetings, which is a violation of the constitution and the state's duty of religious neutrality.



Then I headed off to Ottawa for the [Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network Conference](#) at the University of Ottawa. I chaired two panels at this conference, one on health and well-being and a practitioner panel, where three reports/papers I co-authored were also presented. These included a report on [misinformation on crisis pregnancy centre websites](#) published with the Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada (ARCC), the aforementioned paper on unconstitutional prayer in BC municipal council meetings, a report similar report examining [municipalities in Ontario](#).

Saanich Updates



I am happy to say that I will be serving as the Acting Mayor for the month of June. As a result, I've attended events on behalf of the Mayor and District (including [JDRF Walk for a Cure](#) and UVic Convocation), and had the pleasure of chairing Committee of the Whole on June 12th.

Saanich Council has been hard at work on a number of issues, and one of those issues is tackling [period poverty](#). One of the first emails I sent after getting elected was to my colleagues and staff to explore making free menstrual products available in all Saanich washrooms. I'm excited to say that this project is now underway – washrooms in the District Hall are now supplied and dispensers are in the process of being installed in parks and rec facilities!



This policy will help tackle [period poverty](#) in the District and attracted some media attention (see [CHEK News](#) and the [Times Colonist](#)). The policy follows on a good number of other municipalities that have similarly made menstrual products available in their washrooms, and most recently, the [Greater Victoria Public Library](#).

Council is also approved a number of new developments and adopted a new local area plan for [Cadboro Bay](#).

Share your thoughts!



Saanich is currently gathering feedback from neighbours around a number of important policies and strategies that will shape our community in the years to come.

We are in the process of updating our Official Community Plan (OCP). The OCP describes the long-term vision for our community. There are plenty of ways to get involved, including participating in workshops, taking the online survey, and more. [Learn more here](#), and please get involved and share your views!

We are currently gathering feedback on drafts of our [Road Safety Action Plan](#) and the [Active Transportation Plan Update](#). You can learn more and take the joint survey by clicking the hyperlinks above. There is also an Open House today (June 14th) at Saanich Commonwealth Place from 4:00-7:00 pm.

A draft of our [People, Pets, and Parks Strategy](#) has also been released, and while the online survey is now closed, neighbours can still share their thoughts with [Council](#).

We recently released a draft of the [2022 Annual Report](#). Give this a read through if you are interested in learning more about what the District has been up to over the past year.

Community Events!

A vibrant poster for the 'PRIDE IN THE PARK' event. The top left features the title 'PRIDE IN THE PARK' in large white letters on a blue background. Below it, the date 'Wednesday June 14' and time '4:30 - 9pm' are listed, followed by the location 'Beckwith Park'. The Saanich logo is at the bottom left. A central vertical strip of icons (bicycle, flag, splash pad, hand made, art station, community displays, live music, beach blanket, hydration, food trucks, family) is surrounded by text describing activities. To the right is a vertical rainbow flag. The background is a gradient of blue, green, and yellow.

PRIDE IN THE PARK
Wednesday June 14
4:30 - 9pm
Beckwith Park

Saanich
PARKS, RECREATION
& COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Bike parking
- Celebrate your Pride!
- Kids' splash pad is open
- Shop at youth crafter booths
- Get crafty at the Pride art station
- Engage with community displays
- Enjoy live music & performances
- Bring a beach blanket or chairs
- Stay hydrated & pack a snack ...
- OR money for the food trucks
- And bring your family & friends!

June is the [ParticipAction Community Challenge](#) where folks are encouraged to get out and build activity into their daily schedules. I'll be out with my bike trailer topping up little free libraries whenever I can, and I'd encourage people get out and about in our beautiful community!

This afternoon and evening, I'll be up at Beckwith Park at 'Pride in the Park.' Come on over and say hello and check out the event and celebrate Pride! 🏳️‍🌈

I'm also looking forward to seeing folks at the [Gorge Canada Day Picnic](#), at [Victoria Pride](#), and other community events as the summer unfolds. If you know of any great community events happening this summer, let me know!

Upcoming Lecture



Tomorrow evening, I'll be talking about all things sea cucumber at the BestCoast Outfitters 1st Anniversary Celebration. Come on down to [864 Yates Street](#) at 6 pm, on June 15th to learn more about echinoderms. More details about [the event here](#).

Project Updates

Reproductive Justice



Over the course of the AccessBC Campaign we sometimes had folks question whether or not there was a need for free prescription contraception. Extensive research indicated that when cost was removed as a barrier, people increasingly chose more reliable forms of contraception, like IUDs and implants, and we would typically share this research with naysayers.

Prescription contraception was made free in BC on April 1st and as it turns out, there was a massive increase in the number of people seeking out IUDs. While this has unfortunately led to wait times for insertions, it was validating to see that the policy is popular and that many people will no longer face cost as a barrier to their accessing the contraception of their choice.

The provincial government took further steps to remove barriers when it expanded the powers of pharmacists, allowing them to prescribe some contraceptives and medicine for various ailments. This policy is proving very popular and will hopefully take some pressure of our healthcare system.

Little Free Libraries

18. A City of Readers

Victoria loves those charming homemade “little free libraries” you see dotted around city streets — in fact, Greater Victoria has some 650 of them, with a map to help you find them (victoriaplacemaking.ca/little-free-libraries).

Looking for your next read? This city's got you covered.



Once again, our region's growing network of adorable little free libraries continues to spread whimsy and capture hearts. A recent article listing [25 reasons to love Victoria](#), in YAM Magazine, of course identified these cute book boxes!

We are getting close to cutting the ribbon on the 700th LFL in the region! Stay tuned for more. At my last count there were 694.

Have a great rest of the week and hope to bump into you at a community event this summer!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Teale Phelps Bondaroff'. The signature is stylized with long, sweeping lines.

Dr. Teale Phelps Bondaroff
Saanich Councillor

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.
