
A special 40th birthday update from Teale!

1 message

Teale Phelps Bondaroff via ActionNetwork.org

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7 February 2026 at
05:46



A Special 40th Birthday Update!

Friends,

Where did January go? February is already here, and today happens to be my 40th birthday! Before I jump into my usual updates, I wanted to share a quick birthday message.

You may already know, in lieu of a celebration, I'm asking folks if they would make a contribution to my campaign for re-election to Saanich council. While the local elections on October 17 may seem far off, as we all know, time really does fly and the election will be here before we know it!

That's why we want to be ready, and why I'm asking folks for help. If you haven't had a chance to donate yet, now is the moment! Can you [contribute \\$40, \\$100 or \\$400](#) to the campaign before the end of the weekend?

For those of you who have donated — thank you! It's incredible how much the donations add up when people chip in what they can. Please know that your contributions will make a HUGE difference to our campaign!

If you're local to the Victoria area and you'd like to **volunteer** on the campaign, we would love to have you. Please [sign up with our volunteer form](#).



I was honoured to welcome the Wounded Warriors Canada runners to the District of Saanich as they was through as part of their 1 Day Sooke-to-Sidney run, in my capacity as Acting Mayor for February.

It has been a very busy January for Saanich Council, with much of our time being devoted to exploring the most recent draft of the [Quadra-McKenzie Plan](#). This iteration of the plan that we considered this month incorporated additional input from Phase 4 engagement. You can find a [summary of these changes here](#).

Council considered this updated iteration of the plan at our most recent February 2nd Committee of the Whole meeting, where a five-hour debate resulted in additional changes being made to the plan. These include:

- Removing the Quadra Street cross-sections and lane reductions from the Plan, anticipating this corridor will be examined as part of a future process on the broader regional transportation network;*
- Eliminating the Chatterton and Beckwith Hubs;*
- Re-designating areas in Quadra North, north of Saanich Road on the west and Ian Road/Tuxedo Drive on the east to a maximum of 4 storeys;*
- Applying an Urban Townhome designation to the area designated as Corridor between Nicholson Street, Borden Street, Willow Street and the Lochside Trail;
- Removing the Corridor designation from the Greenridge “Hump” and replacing it with the Urban Townhome designation unless properties are directly facing Saanich Road or Annie Street;
- Directing staff to consider stronger incorporation of climate-related content and Bowker Creek directions for inclusion in the implementation plan; and
- Evaluating the Centre, Corridor and Village (CCV) planning process to determine what is working well and what is in need of improvement.

While I always support the will of Council, I have indicated the amendments that I voted against with an asterisk (*). Learn more from articles in the [Victoria News](#), [Victoria Buzz](#), [Canadian Cycling Magazine](#), and the [Goldstream Gazette](#). These changes will be incorporated into the plan, which will be presented to a future committee of the whole meeting.

Thank you to everyone who has shared their views about this plan with Council! I would also like to thank those who attended our February 2nd meeting in order to speak to the Shelbourne Valley Plan. We did not get to this item, and it has been rescheduled to a forthcoming meeting.



Panama Flats at sunset.

Saanich recently adopted [Panama Flats Concept Plan](#). This month, in addition to the flats to P5 and P4N, the District's highest conservation protections for parks, we also explored pet leashing rules for the flats. After thoughtful consideration of the 'leash optional' and 'on leash' options presented by staff, Council decided that keeping dogs leashed in designated areas of Panama Flats is the best way to allow them to enjoy the park while offering better protection for migratory and nesting birds. This was also the most cost-effective option for the District, eliminating the need for fencing along the main trail. I was happy to second my colleague Councillor Harper's motion that allowed this change to occur.

You can learn more from this [Saanich press release](#), as well as stories from [CHEK News](#), the [Squamish Chief](#), [Victoria News](#), and I also spoke about the decision in a [recent CFX interview](#).



Visiting Panama Flats!

Saanich News

- **Saanich balances water utility fees to ensure more sustainable funding:** The District of Saanich is shifting a larger share of water utility fees to a fixed rate. This approach minimizes the risk of the water and sewer budgets going into a deficit and stabilizes rate increases. [Learn more here.](#)
- **Saanich acquires property for future parkland:** The District of Saanich has finalized the purchase of 1539 Church Avenue in the heart of the Shelbourne Valley, with a long-term goal of turning it into park space for the community. [Learn more here](#), and from this [Times Colonist article](#).
- **Progress on changing elevator standards:** This winter, the UBCM executive held its [first full quarterly meeting](#) with its new 2025-2026 Executive Board members. At this meeting, executive members made decisions on all of the 57 resolutions that did not make it to the floor at the 2025 UBCM Convention (September 22-26, 2025). I am pleased to announce that among the resolutions endorsed was NR121, which calls on the province to legalize smaller and more affordable elevators. This resolution aims to boost accessibility and affordability of housing, while simultaneously increasing Canadian independence by allowing BC builders to access non-American elevators and parts. I was proud to have led the effort to get this resolution to UBCM.

Right now, it costs three times more to build an elevator in Canada as it does to build one in Europe. This drives up the cost of building housing and disincentives developers from installing elevators in low- and mid-rise buildings. By adopting European elevator

standards, we can make it easier and more affordable to install elevators in low- and mid-rise buildings, which means more accessible homes for more people. I hope the province will give serious consideration to this proposal, as it not only promises to help increase accessibility in our built environment, but also to help reduce housing costs, thereby increasing affordability. Learn more from the [Halifax Examiner](#), [Saanich News](#), and [Island Social Trends](#).



Teale at UBCM.

- **BC Hydro fast chargers coming to Pearkes:** BC Hydro is installing eight new DC Fast Charging (DCFC) ports at Pearkes. [Learn more here](#), and from this [CHEK News piece](#).
- **Saanich opens Heat Pump Financing Program for seventh intake:** The popular Heat Pump Financing Program is once again accepting applications from residents. Launched in partnership with the District of Central Saanich in April 2022, this is the seventh intake for the innovative program that provides interest-free financing up to \$12,000, helping residents upgrade their oil, natural gas, or propane heating systems to electric heat pumps. Homeowners repay the financing over ten years through an additional levy on their property tax payments, making these sustainable energy updates more accessible. [Learn more here](#).
- **Saanich Operations Centre Redevelopment Project:** Saanich is moving ahead with redevelopment of our aging operations centre, and Council recently gave the first three readings of a bylaw authorizing borrowing the \$93.4 million necessary for the first phase of this project. [Learn more here](#).
- **Extreme weather response:** A few folks were asking about shelter opportunities for people experiencing homelessness in our community in the face of some of the recent cold weather we have been experiencing. The extreme cold we experienced towards the

end of January triggered emergency weather protocols, which include the opening of more bed spaces in the District. Learn more from [CHEK News](#) and [Victoria News](#). I am grateful to the Native Friendship Centre and Broad View United Church for providing beds to folks in need.



Dropping off zines to local little free libraries

Ongoing Engagement Opportunities and Community Events

- **Have your say! Participate in Saanich's budget engagement process:** The District is making some enhancements to our public engagement process around the budget to better capture the sentiments of residents who care deeply about the future of their community. You can complete a survey on the [HelloSaanich platform](#), which features some new questions this year, as well as some modifications to existing questions – both made in response to citizen feedback.
- **Applications open to serve with Saanich Advisory Design Panel or Board of Variance:** The District of Saanich is accepting applications for two vacant positions: one with the Advisory Design Panel and one with the Board of Variance. If you are interested in serving your community, I would encourage you to apply. [Learn more here](#). The deadline to apply is February 20th.
- **Transit service at the airport:** BC Transit and the Victoria Regional Transit Commission are asking the public to weigh in on the future of transit service to Victoria International Airport. [Learn more and take the survey here](#). The deadline to complete the survey is February 15th.

- **Celebrate Family Day at Saanich's Family Arts Festival:** This Family Day, join the District of Saanich at the [Family Arts Festival](#), held at the Cedar Hill Recreation and Arts Centre. [Learn more here.](#)

Family Doctors for Saanich!



Family Doctors for Saanich volunteers tabling at Saanich Commonwealth Pool!

Following our campaign launch late last year, [Family Doctors for Saanich](#) has been hard at work. The team is tabling regularly out in the community and I've been hitting the doorstep to talk to Saanich neighbours about our ongoing Health Connect Registry registration drive.

This volunteer-led initiative aims to help more residents get attached to primary care providers and encourage participation in local efforts to bring additional doctors to the region. Family Doctors for Saanich is encouraging anyone who does not have a family doctor or nurse practitioner, and who is not already on the list, to sign up with the [Health Connect Registry](#). This is the provincial system used to help match patients with available primary care providers in their community. Signing up only takes a few minutes, and doing so helps both individuals and the health system as a whole.

[Learn more, take action, and get involved here!](#)

We are also building an [update list](#), which we will use to let people know about relevant items coming up in front of Saanich Council!



This month, Family Doctors for Saanich made the news as we applauded Saanich Council's support for a motion aimed at supporting clinics in the District. At our January 26 meeting, Saanich Council adopted a motion brought forward by Councillor Karen Harper, and which I was proud, directing staff to refer the issue of permissive tax exemptions for non-profit medical clinics to both the Arts, Culture and Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee and the Finance and Governance Standing Committee for consideration.

Permissive tax exemptions are a tool available to municipalities under provincial legislation to reduce or eliminate property taxes for organizations that provide a clear public benefit. In Saanich, this tool is already used to support a range of non-profit and community-serving organizations. Extending this approach to non-profit medical clinics could help lower operating costs, stabilize existing clinics, and reduce barriers for new clinics seeking to establish themselves in the community.

You can learn more from this [Family Doctors for Saanich press release](#), as well as stories in the [Victoria Buzz](#), the [Times Colonist](#), and [Victoria News](#). I also spoke about the motion in a [recent CFX interview](#).

Reproductive Justice Advocacy



Pain Relief Is Not a Luxury, It's a Right!

Call on your MLA to improve pain management for IUD insertions:



 [AccessBC.org](https://www.accessbc.org)

 [AccessBC](https://www.facebook.com/AccessBC)

 [access.bc](https://www.instagram.com/access.bc)

 [AccessBC](https://twitter.com/AccessBC)

The AccessBC team has been hard at work on our campaign to improve access to effective pain management during intrauterine device (IUD) insertions. This past month, we had the pleasure of meeting with Jennifer Blatherwick, the Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity. We are now in the process of refining our asks based on this highly productive meeting.

If you haven't had a chance to do so already, please take 30 seconds to participate in our ongoing [letter writing campaign](#). **Please take a moment to learn more and [write your MLA and the Minister of Health today!](#)**

We are also ramping up our outreach efforts, and are looking for volunteers to help with tabling at community events and with our social media efforts. If you are interested in helping out, [please fill in our volunteer intake form](#), and thank you for stepping up!

I hope you had a most excellent start to 2026. I am looking forward to sharing more updates with you, and if you can, [please chip in](#) to help me celebrate my 40th and support my re-election campaign!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Teale Phelps Bondaroff".

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.



Sent via Action Network, a free online toolset anyone can use to organize. [Click here to sign up](#) and get started building an email list and creating online actions today.

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