
November Update from Teale!

Teale <hello@teale.ca>

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

To: hello@teale.ca



November Update!

Friends,

I hope this finds you well, and that you've been having a wonderful fall. Things have been busy and I wanted to share another update, so let's jump in!

An amendment to our procedures bylaws, which I have been working on for the past several months. reached Council. Our bylaws currently require someone speaking to Council to give their full name and address. Unfortunately, this requirement serve as a barrier to participation to some folks, as it has the potential to open would be participants to harassment, doxing, or identity theft, among other

things.

As I said in Council, "We want to encourage public participation. We don't want people to be afraid to share their views with us here in council, so we know what's going on in our community... And the requirement to share your full residential address has a stifling effect on people's participation."

The motion was adopted and we should see a draft of amendments to the procedures bylaw in front of Council in the near future. You can read more in the [Times Colonist](#) or [Victoria News](#).

Council recently approved a [new townhouse project](#) near Shelbourne.



The sunset at Swan Lake. Watch a video from the boardwalk [here](#).

For the past several months, Council has been exploring how we share space in our public parks through the People, Pets, and Parks Strategy. This week, we adopted [amendments to the Districts Animals Bylaw](#), which constitutes an important component of this strategy.

It has been a rollercoaster of a process, to say the least, and it was a challenging decision that required Council to weigh a number of competing interests and visions for how we share space in our parks.

I wanted to start off by thanking everyone who took the time to share their thoughts with Council, whether it was through the formal consultation process that was a component of the [People, Pets, and Parks Strategy](#), or directly with Council via email, phone call, or at one of our meetings.

I always appreciate folks taking the time to engage with local government and I found the numerous opinions and suggestions thought-provoking. Council considered all of this information and we decided to make a few minor adjustments to the initial strategy as a result. These adjustments included such things as establishing a maximum leash length and type, adding leash-optional times in the mornings for a number of parks, permitting off-leash dogs on beaches outside of the Migratory Bird Sanctuary, and an additional off-leash trail to the top of PKOLS.

This was a policy that elicited some strong feelings and opinions in the community. I appreciate that many people have different preferences when it comes to how we share our public parks, and may wish to have seen certain components of the strategy modified. I see the strategy as a good starting point, and one upon which we can iterate in the future after proper evaluation.

One thing I did want to flag was that I have been hearing reports of unneighbourly communication and behaviour around the policy. As I said in Council, *“we’ve had people talking about harassment, threats, property destruction. That has no place in a friendly and welcoming Saanich”* ([Saanich News](#)). I hope that folks, regardless of their opinions around various components of the strategy, will treat each other with respect and compassion.

Recent Saanich-Related News and Events



Amalgamation Citizen's Assembly: Victoria and Saanich announced this week the appointment of MASS LBP, a Canadian democracy organization, to lead their Citizens' Assembly on Municipal Amalgamation. [Learn more here.](#)

Remembrance Day Ceremony: This Saturday, November 11th, neighbours are welcomed to gather at the Saanich Cenotaph for a [Remembrance Day Ceremony](#). The event will be held between 10:45 and 11:45 am at Saanich Municipal Hall ([770 Vernon Avenue](#)). Please join us in remembering the men and women who have served, and continue to serve, our country during times of war, conflict, and peace.

Honouring Hitch the Police Dog: Unfortunately, Hitch, who served with the Saanich Police since 2016, died of medical complications this week. [He served his community well](#) and worked on a number of high-profile cases, 17/10, a very good boy.

You can learn about other forthcoming Saanich events [here](#).

Get Involved!

The deadline for applications for [2024 Advisory Committees](#) is November 10th! So this is your last chance to apply to sit on a committee. Don't worry, the application process is very straightforward and Saanich residents can apply for more than one committee, though you can only sit on one (you can rank your preferences as there are a lot of great committees from which to choose). 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 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.

The commitment is generally one meeting a month, with most meetings occurring in the afternoon. They are a ton of fun and give you the opportunity to share your thoughts about District policies, projects, and more!



Stephanie and I exploring Swan Lake on Halloween (hence the antlers).

Accessibility: Saanich is currently seeking input on our [draft Accessibility Plan](#). Please review the draft plan and get in touch if you have any feedback! [Learn more about the plan here](#).

Nellie McClung Library: There are some exciting new plans that will help shape the future of the Nellie McClung Branch Library, and Saanich is holding an open house to share these plans with the community. There will be an in-person [open house](#) on Tuesday, November 14th from 5 to 7 pm at the library (3950 Cedar Hill Road), and an online open house on Thursday, November 16th from 5 to 7 pm held over Zoom.

I am proud to represent Saanich Council on the board of the Greater Victoria Public Library and I am very excited about the future of this library! [Learn more about the open houses here](#).

Local Hero Award



I was honoured to receive a '[2023 Local Hero Award](#)' from the Saanich News for my volunteer work in the community, advocacy for reproductive justice, and efforts to combat transnational wildlife crime.

You can [read more about my work and the award here](#). And for my [Italian-speaking friends](#).

Project Updates

Reproductive Justice

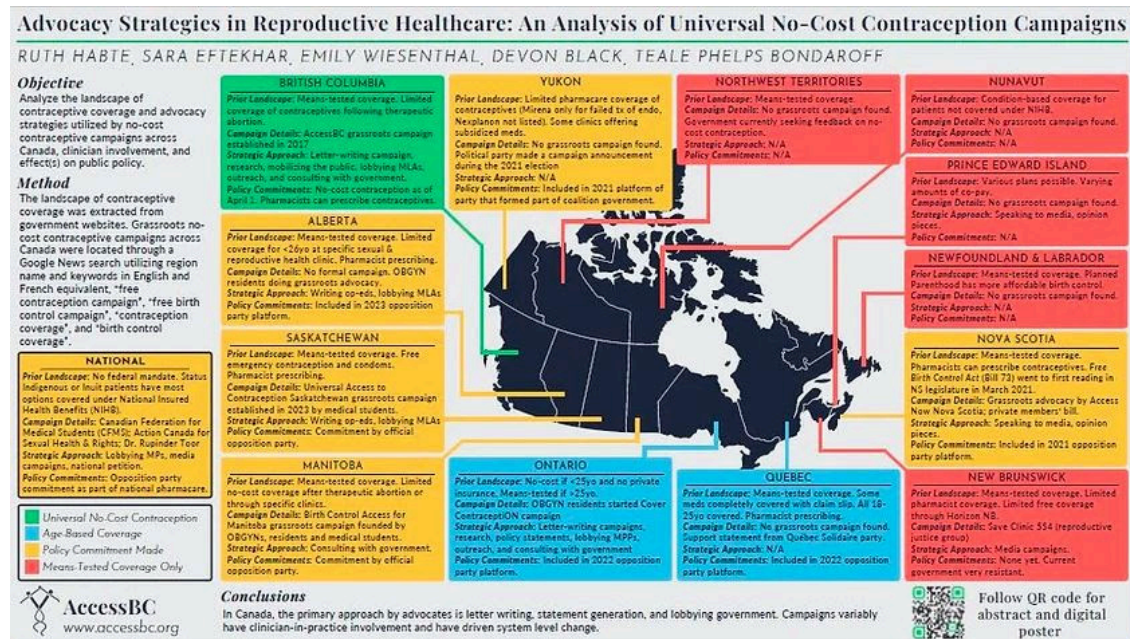


My amazing friend, and AccessBC Campaign Co-Founder Devon Black was awarded a [2023 Local Hero Award](#) by the Saanich News for her tireless work for reproductive justice!

It has been a busy month for the AccessBC Campaign! My long-time friend and AccessBC Campaign Co-Founder Devon Black was awarded a [Local Hero Award by the Saanich News](#) for her work on the campaign.

The AccessBC Campaign's role in fueling a national movement calling for free prescription contraception was also recognized. You can read more in this story from the [Victoria News](#) and this piece in the [Saanich](#)

[News](#). I'm very proud of the fact that this national movement was started right here in Saanich!



Some of my amazing AccessBC Campaign colleagues presented a poster at the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) [World Congress of Gynecology and Obstetrics](#), in Paris, in early October. The Poster was entitled Advocacy Strategies in Reproductive Healthcare: A Cross Sectional Analysis of Canadian Universal No-Cost Prescription Contraceptive Campaigns. You can find the poster and [learn more here](#).

Free prescription contraception is a fantastic policy, it is one that improves health outcomes for infants and mothers, makes life more affordable, increases equality, and saves government money. The policy is already benefitting thousands of people across BC.

Just today, [CTV News released a story](#) that explores how 166,000 people have access contraception since the policy was rolled out in April of this year. That's 166,000 people who did not need to reach for their wallets when trying to exercise reproductive autonomy and access necessary medicine!

This is fantastic news and we will continue to push for the implementation of this policy across the country. The election of Wab Kinew in Manitoba is very promising, as the MB [NDP promised free contraception in their platform](#).

BC Humanist Research Team



This month, I sat down with Leslie Rosenblood, from the Centre for Inquiry Canada, to talk about some of my research with the BC Humanist Association Research Team on the [Podcast for Inquiry](#).

For the past several years, I have been investigating prayer in municipal council meetings across the country. The Supreme Court ruled that this practice was unconstitutional in its 2015 decision in *Saguenay*, and yet the practice persists. [Tune in](#) to learn more.

I am in the process of putting the finishing touches on a report on prayer in 2022 inaugural council meetings in BC, which updates [our previous report](#) on the subject. Stay tuned for more!

You can find more podcast episodes that I have recorded on a wide range of subjects [here](#).

Little Free Libraries



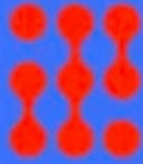
For the past several years, Bruce More has been building little free libraries for the region. It started off as one for his front lawn, and soon expanded. This month, [Bruce completed his 50th little free library!](#)

This amazing volunteer has more than earned the title of 'Little Free Library Builder Extraordinaire, and he's still building LFLs!

We celebrated Bruce's amazing work with a [blog post](#) and he was lauded by the local and provincial media, see the [Victoria Buzz](#), [CHEK News](#), [the Williams Lake Tribune](#), and the [Saanich New](#).

Incidentally, the Greater Victoria Placemaking Network is holding their [AGM on November 14th](#). If you are interested in placemaking, I'd strongly encourage you to check it out and get involved!

**ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING**



**GREATER VICTORIA
PLACEMAKING
NETWORK**

**+ a conversation: Why active public spaces and
quality urban design matters - now, more than ever.**
With special guests: Mikaila Montgomery + Hayley Johnson

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 14, 6:00-8:30 PM

St Matthias Parish Hall, 600 Richmond Ave. Victoria

www.victoriaplacemaking.ca

I hope folks are having a lovely week, and do please consider applying for one of Saanich's Community Advisory Committees.

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](#).

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