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## A Back to School Update from Teale

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### A Back to School Update from Teale

Friends,

I hope that back to school season is treating you well. I wanted to share an August update and let you know about some exciting things coming up in the near future. Let's start with Saanich news and a longer section about the upcoming UBCM conference. Scroll down to read some exciting reproductive justice and little free library news.

While August tends to be a quieter month for Saanich Council, with fewer meetings, the month has been jam-packed with exciting community events. I enjoyed getting out to a number of Music in the Parks, an fantastic annual Saanich summer tradition. If you didn't see me at the Rutledge Park event, that's because I moonlighting as Rutley, the pink elephant mascot.



I'll share shots from other events, including [National Peacekeepers' Day](#), CFB Esquimalt Base Commander Captain Kevin Whiteside's summer garden party, Greek Fest, and the Saanich Fair!



I was also delighted to attend the ribbon cutting at Linwood Court, where 97 new affordable rental units for seniors are now open. You can learn more about this exciting project from [CHEK News](#), the [Saanich News](#), and I also put together a [TikTok to celebrate](#). I live just around the corner and can't wait to welcome new neighbours to the community.



## Saanich Updates

There's always a ton going on, so here's a bit of rapid-fire updates for the District of Saanich:

- **Urban Forest Strategy** - Our urban forest is very important, and this update will provide guidance to staff, Council, and residents on managing Saanich's urban forest into the next 10 to 50 years. We ran out of time at our most recent Committee of the Whole meeting, and will be exploring this important strategy at our upcoming Monday meeting (September 9th). I wanted to encourage folks to check out the [draft strategy](#).
- **Expediting affordable housing** - Saanich is making significant improvements to create more affordable housing more quickly, so that more people in our community will be able to find a home that meets their needs and their budget. [Learn more here](#).



- ***Nellie McClung Update*** - As you likely have heard, Saanich is redeveloping Nellie McClung Library to build a much needed new library and affordable rental housing. You can learn more about the [full redevelopment here](#). I am pleased to say that the project continues to move forward, with the District of Saanich acquiring a [temporary library space](#) at [3561 Shelbourne Street](#) that will serve the community while the current library location is redeveloped. I will be touring the new site soon and can't wait for the next steps in this project.
- ***Provincial public engagement for the Uptown transit-oriented development*** - The first round of public engagement for a transit-oriented development near Uptown Shopping Centre is running up to September 18, 2024. This is an opportunity for folks to provide input about the type of development they would like to see at this location. You can learn more about this exciting project and [share your thoughts here](#).



## Noise Pollution

There is a growing call for increased attention to vehicular noise pollution across the province. Kelowna City council will soon be exploring the possibility of [deploying noise cameras](#), and folks in Parksville are also [calling for](#) the use of this technology. There is also a draft resolution calling for a provincial noise camera pilot at this month's UBCM conference (see below). I'm pleased to be supporting these efforts and would very much like to see the results of a pilot, wherever it may be run. Stay tuned for updates about progress on this front and news about some of my other efforts to tackle noise pollution in the District.



UBCM 2024

The [Union of BC Municipalities \(UBCM\) annual conference](#) takes place in Vancouver from September 16 to 20, 2024. This gathering of municipal council members from across BC e Un UBCM is the main forum for UBCM policy-making. It provides an opportunity for local governments of all sizes and from all areas of the province to come together, share their experiences and take a united position.

Positions developed by members are carried to other levels of government and other organizations involved in local affairs, and serve as an important way in which municipalities can highlight important issues and make recommendations to the provincial government. The conference also includes numerous presentations, panels and other learning opportunities, a tradeshow, opportunities to meet with members of Cabinet, and more.



Saanich has submitted ten draft resolutions this year exploring a wide range of issues. I'm proud to say I had a hand in drafting a good number of them, along with several submitted by other municipalities. Here, I'll share Saanich's contribution to [the UBCM agenda](#) this year and include a brief summary of the resolution/the operative clause:

- **EB14 – Seniors' Support Assisted Living:** Calls on the provincial government to increase the number of supportive assisted living units across British Columbia in a manner aligned with the demographic data to ensure that all seniors can be housed in dignity as they age and to reduce the pressures of the hospital system by so doing.
- **EB86 – Provincial E-Bike Rebate Program Continued Funding:** Request that the Province commit sufficient funding for the continuation of the successful BC E-Bike Rebate Program for middle and low income households in BC in 2025 and beyond. The provincial program is modeled on [Saanich's very successful program](#).



- **NEB11 – Wellbeing of Future Generations Act:** Calls on the provincial government to develop a “Wellbeing of Future Generations Act” that requires public bodies to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other, and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.
- **NR17 – Barrier Free Hearing Health:** Asks the provincial government for improved access to hearing health care, including funding support for hearing aids for vulnerable populations most adversely affected by hearing loss: children and seniors.
- **NR54 Ban on Rodent Glue Traps (with View Royal):** Calls on the Province of British Columbia to implement a province-wide ban on the sale, purchase, and use of glue traps.
- **NR56 BC Hydro Projects - Establishment of Funding for Climate Action Ecosystem Restoration:** Recommends that the provincial government mandate an amendment to the Hydro Power and Authority Act to incorporate a budget for Climate Change Ecosystem Restoration as well as technologies that support tree retention and/or re-planting in all its projects, thus demonstrating the provincial government’s commitment to its Nature-Based 2030 Climate Change targets.



- **NR79 Traffic Count Systems Improvements:** Requests that the provincial government support local governments to improve traffic count systems for evaluating Vehicle Kilometre Traveled reduction interventions and measuring progress towards the CleanBC Vehicle Kilometres Traveled reduction targets. This resolution emerged from discussion at the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), which I'm proud to chair.
- **RR18 Intersection Safety Camera Process Transparency:** Calls on the provincial government to develop a more transparent process for municipalities to be involved in the identification and installation of new intersection safety cameras. This resolution emerged from discussion at TAC.
- **RR31 – Free Transit for Young People in BC (Saanich, Langford, Metchosin, Vernon, Sunshine Coast):** Calls for an expansion of the Get on Board Program to include all youth up to the age of 18. Or in other words, proposed free transit for all young people. This resolution emerged from discussion at TAC.



- **RR34 Free Transit for Seniors:** Calls on the provincial government to make all public transit free for seniors aged 65 years or older. This builds off the [very successful program in Montreal](#). This resolution emerged from discussion at Council around the previous resolution.



I've also worked with colleagues in other municipalities to move forward on a number of important draft resolutions, and these include:

- ***NR13 Fighting Period Poverty and Endorsing the Period Promise Campaign (Cowichan Valley RD, Radium Hot Springs, and others)***: Calls for UBCM endorse the Period Promise Campaign, and work with menstrual equity advocates and community partners to facilitate the development of, and help disseminate, a Period Promise Local Government Toolkit that will help provide local governments with the tools necessary to make menstrual products freely available in their washrooms and beyond.
- ***NR47 Noise Camera Pilot Project (Port Moody)***: Asks that the province of British Columbia explore the feasibility of using noise cameras to effectively enforce vehicular noise regulations through the creation of a noise camera pilot project for municipalities to opt into.

There are a ton of resolutions on the agenda. I'll report back after UBCM and I'd encourage folks to check out the full [agenda](#). I'm also incredibly grateful to all of the members of our community, TAC members, and colleagues from other municipalities who helped develop these important draft resolutions and more!

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## Reproductive Justice Advocacy



Last week, the [Government of Manitoba](#) announced that it would be rolling out free prescription contraception starting October 1st! The Manitoba Pharmacare Program will cover the full cost of about 60 commonly used birth-control methods including the pill, intrauterine devices, hormone injections and others.

The AccessBC Campaign put out this [celebratory press release](#), and you can learn more from news stories from the [CBC](#), [Global News](#), the [Free Press](#), [CTV News](#), the [Winnipeg Sun](#), and the [Globe and Mail](#).

I am so proud of our amazing sister campaign Birth Control Access Manitoba, and grateful to Premier Wab Kinew, Minister Uzoma Asagwara, Nahanni Fontaine, and the Manitoba NDP for stepping up and supporting reproductive justice in Manitoba.



I am hoping for many more announcements like this one in the new year, but more advocacy is needed to make sure this happens. If you haven't done so already, please take a few seconds to participate in AccessBC's [letter writing campaign](#).

We are asking folks to write to Senators for their region or province to urge them to adopt Bill C-64 swiftly and without amendments. This is the national Pharmacare plan that's going to make free prescription contraception and diabetes medicine a reality across the country. A huge thank you to everyone who has stepped up and already written letters.

# Flow of Change.

## Solving period poverty

Movie  
Coming  
Soon.

I wanted to share a very cool project that some of my friends are working on. As you likely know, many Canadians experience [period poverty](#) and struggle to access menstrual products. Activists have been working on this issue for a long time and have been making outstanding progress. If you've visited the washrooms on board a BC Ferries vessel, for example, you might have noticed that they now offer free menstrual products. See also the draft UBCM resolution on menstrual equity.

Friends at [Kahani Pictures](#) are putting together a documentary exploring menstrual equity advocacy in BC. Check out [this sizzle reel](#), and give their [Instagram account](#) a follow for more updates. And if you are ever interested in doing menstrual equity advocacy and don't know where to start, get in touch with your local United Way Period Promise Campaign!

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**Little Free Libraries**



This month, our region's growing network of little free libraries hit another big milestone. On Saturday, August 24th, I joined neighbours at Piedmont Gardens, in Saanich, to unveil the 850th little free library (LFL) in the Capital Regional District.

The LFL, aptly named "Put A Bird On It", was installed by the Honourable Lana Popham, BC Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport and MLA for Saanich South and her partner Dr. Rob Sealey. It was built by local folk artist Michael Sheane using upcycled materials and features an adorable hand-carved crow and eggs.

You can read more about this exciting event from this [Greater Victoria Placemaking Network blog post](#), as well as pieces in the [Victoria News](#), [Island Social Trends](#), or the [Victoria Buzz](#), or tune into this [interview on CFX 1070](#).

Check out this [great piece in the Martlet](#), which celebrates the Pocket Places Project's deliver of our 100,000<sup>th</sup> book.

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**BC Humanist Research Team**



While summer is reaching an end, the BC Humanist Association's summer drop-in research program is still in full swing and will be running into the fall. We are working on everything from unconstitutional prayer in municipal council meetings, tax policy, school district policy, reproductive justice advocacy and more! If you are interested in learning more, check out [this video exploring our work](#).

And some of this work was recently featured on the [Non-Prophets Podcast](#).

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## Marine Conservation



A couple of summers ago I spent some time conducting fieldwork in Gabon, continuing my ongoing research into the strategy of Sea Shepherd. A journalist from [Outside Magazine](#) who was also examining Sea Shepherd's work partnering with West African states to help combat illegal fishing, wrote a piece about the campaign. I wanted to let all my Portuguese-speaking friends know that the article is now out [in Portuguese](#).

I also recently sat down with [Voice of America](#) to speak about the ongoing situation regarding the arrest of Captain Paul Watson. For those who are unaware, Watson was arrested in Nuuk,

Greenland and faces possible extradition to Japan. You can learn more from this [Voice of America article](#), also available in [Indonesian](#), [Italian](#), and [Portuguese](#).

I just submitted a couple of papers exploring marine wildlife crime to academic journals this month. One exploring crime in Canadian sea cucumber fisheries and the other looking at sea horse-related crime around the globe. Stay tuned for more on the next steps with these papers.

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I'm looking forward to a jam-packed month. As always, get in touch to chat about local issues.

Warm regards,



Dr. Teale Phelps Bondaroff



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