

## Update from Teale: UBCM, Noise Pollution, Public Talks, and More!

1 message

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12 September 2023 at 17:34



## September Update!

Friends,

Happy start to the school year! For those who have kids or work at schools, I hope the school year got off to a smooth start. Here's a quick update about what I've been up to around the District, and about some of my other projects.

Next week, I'm heading off to the [Union of BC Municipalities 2023 Convention](#) in Vancouver next week. I'm excited to see a number of resolutions I helped draft and support on the agenda:

- EB25: 'Empowering Local Governments to use Traffic Enforcement Cameras.'
- EB42: 'ICBC Data.'
- NR46: 'BC Resources for Estimating Climate Costs.'
- NR82: 'Bringing Equity to Traffic Enforcement' (moved by New Westminster).

Saanich has a number of other important resolutions on the agenda, and there are a ton of other excellent ones as well. [You can find them all here](#). I will provide updates from the Convention over my social media channels when I can and report back at the end of the convention.

## Noise Cameras!



I have been working on tackling noise pollution for a number of years now. As you will likely recall, I've been working to [ban gas-powered leaf blowers](#) in the District. I am a big fan of exploring innovative solutions to problems like noise pollution, and previously worked to help develop a tool that [gathers data on urban noise](#).

This month, I announced that I will be pitching a noise camera pilot project to Saanich Council. [Noise cameras](#) are much like red light cameras, but they take a photo and audio recording when a vehicle with noise emissions that exceed regulations drives past them.

Noise cameras have been trialed in a number of jurisdictions in the [UK](#), [Australia](#), [USA](#), and [Canada](#). In October, I will be presenting a motion to Saanich Council asking staff to explore the feasibility of our running a noise camera pilot here in Saanich.

I know many of you share my concerns about noise pollution, and I would encourage you to write to [Saanich Council](#) to share your thoughts. You can always reach myself and all of my colleagues about any local issue at: [council@saanich.ca](mailto:council@saanich.ca).

You can learn more from this [Saanich News](#) story, or watch this [CHEK News](#) story. I'll share the full motion shortly.

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A couple of other bits of Saanich news. Our [Heat Pump Financing Program](#) has been re-opened! So if you live in the District and were looking to convert your fossil fuel heating system into a heat pump,



check out the program.

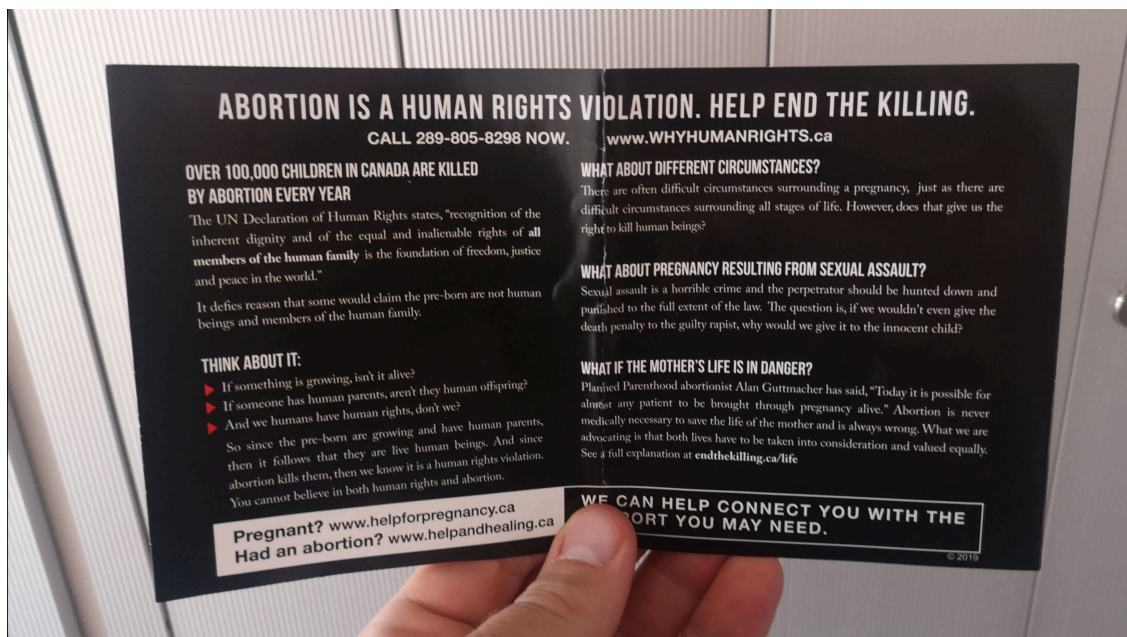
For those looking for something fun to do this weekend, Saanich Police and Fire Departments are hosting an [Open House](#) at Municipal Hall. There will be food, fun, and more!

Drop by 760 Vernon Avenue from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 16. I hear there will be a fire hose spray station, mascots, a bouncy castle, and more. [Find out more here.](#)

I've been receiving a considerable amount of correspondence relating to Saanich's [People, Pet's and Parks Strategy](#). A big thank you to everyone who wrote in and shared their views. We had a ton of in person feedback last night and went late last night, and so Council will pick up where we left off at our next meeting on the 25th of September.

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## Update: Graphic Anti-Abortion Leaflets in Saanich



On August 21, I presented a report to Saanich Council relating to the graphic anti-abortion leaflets that are being distributed in the District. The issue was previously reported on in the [Capital Daily](#) and by [Black Press](#).

Unfortunately, my [report to Council on these Graphic Leaflets](#) did not receive a seconder, and as such was not debated. You can read in this [Victoria News story](#). I am still concerned about this issue, and so if you receive one of these leaflets please [let me know](#).

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## Project Updates

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### Reproductive Justice



A huge thank you to everyone who signed [Project EmpowHer's](#) national petition for free prescription contraception. I am grateful to the 12,883 people who signed the petition!

Efforts to support free prescription contraception across Canada are ongoing. Project Empowher is encouraging people to [write to their](#)



[members of parliament.](#)

The AccessBC Campaign is working hard to support our sister campaigns across the country. We are currently [raising funds](#) to help our sister campaigns get off the ground. I hear there are a number of exciting announcements planned around World Contraception Day (September 26th). So stay tuned and [donate](#) if you can.

Speaking of World Contraception Day, I will be participating in an online panel discussion that is being hosted by the [Women's Legal Education & Action Fund](#) (LEAF) on September 26th. Stay tuned for more information and a link to register.

Support AccessBC

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## Falaise Crescent Road Mural Repaint! 🖌️



Volunteers repainting the Falaise Crescent Road Mural!

On Sunday, August 20, volunteers from the [Falaise Community Association](#), the [Greater Victoria Placemaking Network](#), and the neighbourhood threw a repainting party for the road mural on Falaise Crescent in Saanich.

A team of over 30 volunteers repainted and expanded the existing road mural. It was originally installed [last summer](#). I've put together a [full blog post](#), with plenty of pictures on the GVPN website, check it out.

A huge thank you to the Falaise Community Association who led this project and to the District of Saanich for providing the funding. I'm currently in the process of writing up a report, which I hope will help finalize Saanich's Road Mural Guidelines and encourage placemaking/road safety projects like this one across the District.

You can read news stories about the project from: [Victoria Buzz](#), [Radio Canada](#), and the [Saanich News](#),



Some of the amazing volunteer team that helped make this project happen!

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# Academic Research



As many of you will recall, I made a few visits to West Africa recently, where I conducted research on the collaboration between Sea Shepherd and the governments of Gabon and Benin. This is part of the [NGOs Securing Fisheries Environments](#) (N-SAFE) Project, a research project hosted by the Fridtjof Nansen Institute and funded by the Norwegian Research Council.

The project explores the evolving strategy of Sea Shepherd, and in particular, this marine conservation organization's cooperation with states to combat illegal fishing.

This past week, I travelled to Germany to meet with my colleagues on this project and to participate in a panel at the [European International Studies Association Pan-European Conference on International Relations](#). I was a very productive trip, and I got a chance to meet some of my colleagues in person for the first time, and to do a little exploring around Berlin.





I spent some time exploring Berlin, and nerded out around some of the city's transportation infrastructure.

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# It's Still Unconstitutional Speaking Event



Despite a 2015 Supreme Court of Canada ruling that prayers at municipal council meetings are unconstitutional, multiple communities across British Columbia still opened their 2022 inaugural council meetings with a prayer. I have been studying this issue for a number of years as part of my work as the Research Coordinator for the [BC Humanist Association](#).

For everyone in and around **Vancouver**, the BCHA is hosting an in-person event where I will give a talk about our work on this topic. On **Friday, September 22, at 4 pm**, join me and folks from across the lower mainland at the Roundhouse Community Centre ([181 Roundhouse Mews, Vancouver](#)) as I explore the findings of our recent work. The event is free, but [please register](#) to let us know you are coming.

You can also hear me talk about my work on unconstitutional legislative prayer on Episode 2 of [The Lifestances Podcast](#).

**Sign Up For The Event!**

I hope your week has gotten off to a great start. As always, don't hesitate to get in touch!

Il the best,





***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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