

Our local Saanich election is underway!

1 message

Teale Phelps Bondaroff via ActionNetwork.org

23 September 2026 at
17:20

<hello@teale.ca>

Reply-To: hello@teale.ca

To: hello@teale.ca



Friends,

Over the weekend, our team of volunteers spread out through the streets of Saanich and distributed Teale signs throughout the District. Thank you so much to each and every person who made deliveries, hammered in stakes, and got our signs where they needed to go.

If you requested a sign recently, we might still be getting to yours! Please bear with us as we work through our list of new requests.

There's still time to [request a sign](#), and if you don't have a spot for a lawn sign, we can mail you a window sign instead or you can pick one up at an upcoming All Candidates Meetings (more info below).

And if you're not so much a sign person, but still want to show your support, [how about a donation](#) to help make sure we can get one to everyone who requests one? 😊



Liveable CRD Survey

Liveable CRD survey grades are now out! I am pleased to have received top marks on topics such as housing, transit and climate. You can read [my responses in full here](#).

I also want to recognize the tremendous amount of work by volunteers put into creating and grading this survey. Their efforts will help people across the region make a choice about their vote, and I appreciate their efforts.

As candidates, we receive and complete a lot of surveys. I will be posting the results of all of the surveys I complete on my website shortly.



Capital Region Candidate Scorecard

See where candidates stand before you vote

ABCF

[View the scorecard at livablecrd.ca](https://livablecrd.ca) →

Local Election FAQs

There are a number of questions I'm hearing often on the doorstep and online, and I hope the following will help connect you to some relevant local elections information for Saanich. If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to reach out and my campaign team will help connect you with the information you need.



When are All Candidates Meetings?

We have five All Candidates Meetings scheduled thus far, with the first one taking place on Tuesday, September 29. You can see the official schedule on the [District of Saanich website](#).

How do I vote by mail?

To vote by mail in Saanich, you must request a mail-in ballot by 4pm on Thursday, October 15, 2026. If you request a mail-in ballot please note you will not be able to vote in person. To be counted, your ballot must be received by 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 17, 2026. Learn more and apply for a mail-in ballot on the [District of Saanich website](#).

When and where can I vote?

Advance polls for Saanich's local elections will be open on October 7, 13 and 14 at select locations. General voting day is October 17, and there will be many locations open for voting. You can find all the details that will help you make your plan to vote on the [District of Saanich website](#).



Saanich Updates

The current council will have one final post-election meeting in October before the new council takes over, but this past Monday was our last meeting where we could expect a substantial agenda, and there were a couple of highlights:

- **New housing on Cloverdale and Alder:** Council adopted, and I was pleased to support, a new development at corner of Cloverdale Avenue and Alder Street. This project will include 249 rental units, ground-floor commercial space, and childcare space. I live around the corner and am looking forward to welcoming new neighbours to the community. Learn more about the project from this article in the [Times Colonist](#).
- **Missed housing opportunity near UVic:** In my previous newsletter I reported on my efforts to support a 349 unit purpose built rental project near UVic (part of a seven lot assembly along Edgelow St. and Finnerty Rd.). If you are interested in learning more about this project and how members of Saanich Council voted, check out this article from [The Martlet](#). While I support the will of council, this was a huge missed opportunity not just to deliver much needed rental housing near UVic, but also to help alleviate traffic on McKenzie, along with other co-benefits.



Standing in solidarity with transit drivers and workers from Unifor 333 as they fight for a fair deal! Here's a [snippet of my speech](#).

- Shelbourne Street Improvements Project Ribbon Cutting:** I was excited to join members of the community, Saanich staff and Council members, and local advocates to cut the ribbon on the Shelbourne Street Improvements Project. This project delivered short-term improvements identified through the Shelbourne Valley Action Plan, which reflects extensive community consultation and supports the Districts Official Community Plan objectives. The project has delivered meaningful infrastructure improvements that benefit residents, businesses, and visitors for years to come.

The Shelbourne Street Improvements Project was delivered through a combination of District capital funding and external funding contributions, including support from the Province of British Columbia's Active Transportation program, the federal Active Transportation Fund, ICBC, and the community stream of the Build Communities Strong Fund administered through UBCM. The total investment across all three phases of the project was approximately \$72.3 million and included significant infrastructure upgrades, including approximately 4.3 kilometres of water infrastructure, 3.8 kilometres of sanitary sewer, 3.1 kilometres of storm sewer, 4 kilometres of sidewalk, and 6.7 kilometres of cycling infrastructure.

Learn more from these pieces in the [Saanich News](#), [Victoria Buzz](#), [CHEK News](#), and this [Saanich Press Release](#).



Managed to get a hold of the giant leftie scissors at the Shelbourne Improvements Project Ribbon Cutting.

Rapid fire Saanich news:

- **Saanich residents asked to limit water usage during CRD watermain repairs:** All Saanich residents are asked to voluntarily limit non-essential water use, including outdoor watering, washing vehicles and other high-water-use activities, until repair work is completed on a CRD water supply main near Thetis Lake. [Learn more here.](#)
- **Saanich is on Instagram:** Followers of [@Saanich.BC](#) will receive updates on Council news, department initiatives, traffic advisories, Greener Garbage service updates, public events, and reminders to participate in community conversations through [HelloSaanich](#). [Learn more here.](#)
- **District of Saanich presented with Climate & Energy Action Awards:** The District of Saanich received two awards at the Climate & Energy Action Awards this past week at the annual Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) convention in Vancouver.

The Community Energy Association awarded the District of Saanich an Action Award for infrastructure improvements made as part of the Tillicum Green Infrastructure Project. Saanich's Manager of Sustainability Rebecca Newlove was also awarded a Champion Award for the dedication and commitment to climate action displayed over her ten years with the District. [Learn more here.](#)



Saanich's Climate & Energy Action Award was presented by Community Energy Association CEO Megan Lohmann (far right), accompanied by Adrian Dix (far left), BC Minister of Energy and Climate Solutions. Saanich Mayor Dean Murdock (middle left) is holding the award alongside the District's Manager of Sustainability Rebecca Newlove.

UBCM 2026

The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) met in Vancouver last week (September 14-18). While I was unable to attend due to the ongoing municipal election, there were a number of resolutions I helped draft and advance on the agenda. Chief among these was a resolution calling for the province to reinstate the Community Housing Fund (CHF).

I am pleased to say that UBCM strongly endorsed Special Resolution SR1, "Reinstatement of Community Housing Fund," was sponsored by the UBCM Executive. This resolution consolidated calls from Vancouver, Saanich, Radium Hot Springs, Victoria, and the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments (AKBLG) Executive. These submissions were referred to SR1 rather than debated separately.

The resolution calls for reinstatement of the Community Housing Fund, funding to support cancelled or stalled projects, and predictable, ongoing capital investment in non-market and affordable housing. It also calls on the Province to align housing target orders with available provincial funding and refrain from penalizing municipalities for unmet targets arising from the suspension or withdrawal of provincial funding, or other factors beyond municipal control.

The Community Housing Fund was created by the Province in 2018 and is administered through BC Housing as part of the Building BC suite of programs. The fund supports rental homes for low- and moderate-income households, including seniors, families, people with disabilities, and

others who cannot afford secure housing in the private market. [BC Housing](#) describes the fund as a \$3.3-billion program intended to help build more than 20,000 affordable rental homes across British Columbia.

In May 2025, the Province opened the latest [Community Housing Fund intake](#), offering more than \$775 million to support more than 4,600 rental homes. That intake included mixed-income housing, with 70 per cent of homes intended for residents paying rent geared to income, including 20 per cent for very low-income households, and 30 per cent available at or below market rent for moderate-income households.

Following Budget 2026, however, UBCM confirmed that the Province had cancelled the current funding intake and indefinitely postponed future intakes, leaving affordable housing projects without anticipated provincial support.

In Saanich, the Garth Homer Society's Centre for Belonging illustrates what is at stake. Part of the Nigel Valley redevelopment, the project is planned to include 90 homes: 30 for people with developmental disabilities, 30 low-income homes, and 30 market homes, alongside accessible program and community spaces. The Society had anticipated a \$16-million provincial grant and \$44 million in financing for the housing component, support placed in jeopardy by the funding pause.

Learn more from these articles in the [Saanich News](#), [BIV News](#), and the [Squamish Chief](#).



An illuminating experience at the Autumn Lantern Festival at Lambrick Park.

There were a number of other resolutions I helped advance to UBCM that I wanted to report back on. You can find all of the resolutions in the [UBCM agenda package here](#):

- **Assorted Resolutions on Primary Care:** While they were relegated to the appendix of UBCM's agenda, 13 health-care-related resolutions were submitted to UBCM this year. Although these resolutions were not admitted for debate, their number and breadth highlighted concerns that warrant continued provincial attention regardless of where they appeared in the convention agenda. The resolutions addressed physician recruitment and retention, rural health services, mental health care, nursing and long-term care staffing.

Among them were parallel resolutions from Radium Hot Springs, Saanich and Central Saanich calling for the removal of barriers to team-based primary care, adding to broader calls for the Province to work with local governments and community health organizations to connect more people with reliable, ongoing care. This included APX12 – Enabling team-based care in British Columbia, which I drafted and submitted through Saanich.

- **Local Government Climate Change Action Program (RR10):** This resolution calls on the Province of British Columbia to renew and maintain the Local Government Climate Action Program as a long-term, predictable, and non-competitive funding program at no less than current funding levels. It was similar to resolution EB12, which was endorsed by delegates.
- **Wheelchairs and Mobility Scooters in Bike-and-Roll Mobility Lanes and Routes (RR22):** I attempted to advance this resolution through Saanich Council but was unsuccessful, however, a similar version was submitted by Victoria (RR22) and Langley City (EB26), with the latter being endorsed by delegates. The resolution calls on the province to update the Motor Vehicle Act and regulations to allow the use of wheelchairs and 3 and 4 wheel mobility scooters on bike lanes and traffic calmed bike routes across BC.
- **Student Food Security Grant (APX53):** When I attempted to advance this resolution through Saanich Council it was procedurally blocked, however, it was successfully advanced by Oak Bay Council, though it was relegated to the appendices of the agenda and not debated. This resolution calls on the province to provide funding support to BC post-secondary student unions, by establishing a food security grant, equivalent to \$1.50 per student, to address student food insecurity as evidenced by the increased use of post secondary campus food banks.
- **Student Ferry Fares (APX67):** Another resolution I attempted to advance through Saanich Council, but which was procedurally blocked. Fortunately, it was also advanced by Oak Bay Council, but was also relegated to the appendices. This resolution calls on the province to implement a \$10/day flat rate ferry fare pilot program, during non-peak hours, for postsecondary students.

Primary Care in Saanich



In addition to knocking on doors for my re-election campaign, I'm also been helping with the [Family Doctors for Saanich](#) Health Connect Registry registration drive. Our [Health Connect Registry](#) registration drive is about encouraging people who do not have a family doctor or nurse practitioner to sign up for the provincial waiting list.

Now I've been on the HCR for over five years, so I can't guarantee signing up will help get you connected to primary care right away, but the province is connecting people from the list daily and uses the list to inform funding decisions. If you or someone you know does not have a family doctor or nurse practitioner and is not already on the list, please encourage them to sign up. They can use the link above or call 811 with their MSP card.

Family Doctors for Saanich will continue to attend community events into the fall and winter and are looking for people to help with our fall welcome wagon. If you have some time post-election to volunteer, please [sign up to get involved!](#)

Little Free Libraries



The winners of the [Second Annual Greater Victoria Little Free Library Awards](#) were announced at a community picnic this Sunday, September 13th, held in Oswald Park!

This year, 59 little free libraries (LFLs) were nominated by community members across ten categories. Members of the community were then invited to vote on their favourites, and a total of 1,964 votes were cast. Eleven awards were presented by Teale Phelps Bondaroff, Saanich Councillor and lead of the Pocket Places Project, at a community picnic that also featured a book exchange, crafts, live music, and other activities.

You can watch the full awards ceremony on [YouTube](#), [Instagram](#), or [TikTok](#), and for those looking for a shorter summary, check out these videos on [TikTok](#) or [Instagram](#).



Award Winners:

- **Best Plant/Seed LFL:** “Stormont Seed and Read” – Stormont Road, View Royal.
- **Best Puzzle/board game LFL:** “Piece by Piece” – 2400 Block of Tanner Rd., Central Saanich.
- **Most Verdant Green Roof:** “Sedum Read’um” – 2800 Block of Dewdney Rd. Oak Bay.
- **Best Children’s LFL:** “Cheri’s LFL” – Woodlands Rd., Sooke.
- **Most Creative LFL (tie):**
 - “Baba Yaga Library” – Monterey St., Oak Bay.
 - “Queen Mary LFL” – Dallas Rd., Victoria.
- **Best LFL with a Fish On It:** “Boats on the Roof” – Clarence St., Victoria.
- **Best LFL That Looks Like Another Thing:** “The Light House Library” – Winston Crescent, Saanich.
- **Best LFL built from Upcycled/Reused Materials:** “Always Open for Your Reading Pleasure” - Caribbean Village, Quadra St., Victoria. Built from an old cabinet.
- **Best Gulf Islands LFL:** “Emergency Book Box” – South Island Fire Hall, Galiano Island.
- **Coral Reef LFL - Best Associated Placemaking Element(s):** “Dragon’s Lair” – Harriett Rd., Saanich. Featuring a reading bench, the Gates of Moria, Smaug, the Eye of Sauron,

Hobbiton, and other scenes from the Lord of the Rings.

Winners received a certificate and brass plaque they can mount on their LFL. If you see your LFL listed above, please email me your mailing address so I can pop your plaque in the mail! The event was made possible thanks to the support of a My Great Neighbourhoods Grant from the City of Victoria, and support from the Oaklands Community Association, and the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.



In other exciting LFL news, **on Tuesday, September 29, at noon, the Pocket Places Project will be delivering our 150,000th book to a LFL!** You are most welcome to join us for this huge milestone. I will be delivering the book to the Queen Mary LFL on Dallas Rd. (near the Helijet terminal, at [79 Dallas Rd.](#)) at noon.

Reproductive Justice Advocacy



On World Contraception Day (September 26th), the AccessBC Campaign will be celebrating one of BC's most successful reproductive health policies and calling on governments across Canada to ensure that everyone in the country can benefit from universal, no-cost prescription contraception.

On April 1, 2023, BC became the first province in Canada to make most prescription contraceptives free, covering a wide range of options including most oral contraceptive pills, injections, hormonal rings, copper and hormonal intrauterine devices (IUDs), implants, and emergency contraception (i.e. Plan B).

[Read our full press statement here.](#)



The BC Ministry of Health confirmed to AccessBC that as of July 31, 2026, approximately 441,000 people had accessed free contraception since the inception of BC's program on April 1, 2023. This includes approximately:

- 250,000 people who accessed oral contraceptive pills;
- 120,000 who accessed hormonal IUDs;
- 19,000 who accessed contraceptive implants;
- 18,000 who accessed copper IUDs;
- 15,000 who accessed hormonal injections;
- 8,000 who accessed vaginal rings; and
- 110,000 who accessed emergency contraceptive pills.

The Ministry notes that someone may have accessed more than one contraceptive type during this period, so these figures cannot be added together to calculate the total number of people who benefited.

Marine Conservation



My work investigating crime in sea cucumber fisheries is currently making headlines in Brazil! My work was recently featured on an [article in DW](#), exploring sea cucumber wildlife crime in the Indian Ocean. It's been translated into a few languages:

- Spanish: Para mis amigos de habla hispana, pueden leer el mismo artículo en [DW](#), or [Tenemos Noticias](#), [Col Global](#), and [La Gaceta Online](#).
- Portuguese: E para os meus amigos que falam português, confirmam estes artigos com títulos bastante interessantes em [DW](#), [Nexo Econômico](#), e [Horizonte do Dia](#).
- Indonesian: Dan bagi teman-teman saya yang berbahasa Indonesia, silakan baca artikel-artikel ini di [Detik News](#) dan [Info Benua](#).

For those who are new to my work on this type of marine wildlife crime, check out [this excellent documentay by Undercover Asia](#), which explored my work investigating sea cucumber crime in India and Sri Lanka.

BC Humanist Research Team



The BC Humanist Research team has a new report out, hot off the press! Our new report, '[Amen, Again! Revisiting Unconstitutional Prayer in Ontario Municipalities](#),' is the second time the BCHA has audited Ontario municipalities as part of the [Saguenay Project](#). This is an ongoing project that promotes compliance with the Supreme Court of Canada's 2015 decision in [MLQ v Saguenay](#), which found that prayers in municipal council meetings violated the state's duty of religious neutrality.

Consistent with [our previous study](#), we limited our scope to those municipalities with a population over 1,000 according to the 2021 Census (n=360). Of the 359 municipalities for which data were available, 62 (17.3%) included prayers in their 2022 inaugural meetings. While this is a sharp decline since 2018, it remains the highest percentage across all provinces. We additionally identified two (0.6% of 356 municipalities for which data were available) municipalities - Laurentian Valley and Pembroke - that routinely included prayer in their regular council meetings.

The report further delves into the variety of secular practices, like moments of silence, and Indigenous content and practices being used to solemnize municipal council meetings. We document the impacts of advocacy since our last foray into Ontario practices, and urge municipalities to ensure the inaugural council meetings after the upcoming 2026 local elections are secular and consistent with the legal duty of religious neutrality.

[Read the full report here.](#)

Thank you to everyone who is helping with my re-election campaign and if you can, [please donate](#) to make sure we can reach everyone in Saanich!

Warm regards,

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.



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