

---

## Update from Teale: Back from Fieldwork!

1 message

---

**Teale** <hello@teale.ca>

19 May 2023 at 13:58

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

To: tealepb@gmail.com



## Back from the Field!

Friends,

This past month I've been abroad conducting fieldwork as part of the [NGOs Securing Fisheries Environments \(N-SAFE\)](#) research project. This project is housed at the Fridhof Nansen Institute in Norway, and funded by the Norwegian Research Council.

The project examines the evolving strategy of Sea Shepherd, and specifically looks at this marine conservation organization's collaborative efforts with states to combat illegal fishing. It's been an exciting extension of my PhD research, which examined the Sea Shepherd's anti-whaling strategy in the Southern Ocean.

Among other things and similar to my PhD research, this project includes fieldwork on board a Sea Shepherd vessel, observing their operations.



Last summer the project took me to Gabon, in West Africa, where a colleague and I observed [Operation Albacore](#) on board the Bob Barker.

Prior to departure for this most recent fieldwork I was unable to reveal the location for operational security reasons — if illegal fishers knew where the vessels was patrolling, they could avoid patrols, thereby significantly reducing the effectiveness of the operation. Now that the operation is over, I can reveal the where I've been and share some pictures and stories from the field.

I was once again in West Africa, conducting fieldwork in Benin, observing [Operation Guegou](#). My colleague and I joined the Age of Union for a 10 day patrol, where we observed the operation, and spoke with the crew and members of the Beninese Navy participating in the operation.





After completing our time on the ship, we were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to explore a bit of the country. It was a fantastic and very productive trip. We conducted a considerable number of formal and informal interviews, and were given a rare opportunity to observe Sea Shepherd operations up close.

I put my French to good use conducting interviews and helping out with translation on board the ship as well. Benin is a wonderful country, and a few additional trip highlights included:

🐍 Visiting a Vodun [Python Temple](#) in Ouidah, along with other sites, and learning all about this fascinating faith tradition.

🚤 Exploring [Ganvie](#), a town of 35,000 mostly on stilts in the middle of a lake.



🌳 Seeing a baobab tree! I've wanted to do since I read Le Petit Prince in jr. high. I also had a chance to taste baobab fruit!

🛍 Visiting the massive Dantokpa Market in Cotonou, the largest



open-air market West Africa. It was huge!

💛 Meeting some amazing, kind, and fascinating people, from the Benin Navy personnel on board the ship, the Sea Shepherd crews, officials who generously took time to speak with us, to every day folks we met while exploring the country.

I'm looking forward to diving into the over 540 pages of notes I took in the field and get cracking on a few research papers 📄



---

## Saanich Updates



While I was on leave, Saanich Council was hard, and I wanted to flag a few decisions:

- Saanich adopted a new [Tenant Assistance Policy](#), which applies to rezoning applications that would permanently displace 5 or more households, and requires that property owners provide relocation assistance and compensation for moving expenses, rent and support for tenants needing additional help. I am pleased to see this adopted.
- Council also adopted [a new small-apartment zone](#) that will allow developers to build three-storey apartments on certain single-family lots.





This past Monday I was able to attend the Committee of the Whole meeting where we adopted a definition of affordable housing. This is an important step towards our pushing for more affordable housing in the district, but [was also chilling](#). The prices for different housing types that were determined to be affordable are far lower than actual housing prices in the District, and home ownership is out of reach for most folks. We clearly have work to do!

Saanich has launched the [public consultation](#) phase of our [Road Safety Action Plan](#), and I wanted to encourage people to participate in the process and share your thoughts. I know many of you share my passion for improving road safety in the district. Complete the survey, attend some of the events, and let us know what you think!

And finally, [Pop Up Dog Parks are back](#), or should I say, bark!

---

## Project Updates

---

# Reproductive Justice



The [AccessBC Campaign](#) is wrapping up our thank you letter campaign. If you haven't done so already, and wanted to thank the provincial government for making most prescription contraception in the province free, you have until May 23rd to use the easy to use tool on the AccessBC website.

There's still work to be done! News stories this week report [long wait times to get IUDs inserted](#). It seems as though the evidence and lived experience of folks was accurate, that cost was preventing many people from accessing the contraception of their choice. I'm hoping that these issues can be resolved quickly.

We are also working to support our growing roster of sister campaigns across the country. If you would like to support these campaigns, we are currently fundraising to help our friends in Saskatchewan get their campaign rolling! Please [donate if you can](#).

Finally, the election in Alberta is fast approaching and I'm pleased to see that free prescription contraception is becoming an election issue on the prairies! This [excellent Op Ed piece](#) was recently published in the Calgary Herald. Alberta friends, please remember to vote!

---



Next week I'm off to Toronto for the [Federation of Canadian Municipalities \(FCM\) Annual Conference](#). I'm looking forward to connecting with colleagues from across the country.

After that, I'll be out east for a short while, attending a couple of academic conferences, where I'll be presenting some of the work on unconstitutional municipal prayer that I've done with the BC Humanist Association.

Wishing you a fantastic long weekend, and please keep in touch!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Teale Phelps Bondaroff', written in a cursive style.

***Dr. Teale Phelps Bondaroff***  
Saanich Councillor

---

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

---