

Signs of September

1 message

Teale Phelps Bondaroff via ActionNetwork.org

<hello@teale.ca>

Reply-To: hello@teale.ca

To: hello@teale.ca

7 September 2026 at
17:07



Happy Labour Day!

Friends,

When you give your time, energy, and skill to an employer, you should be paid well enough to afford a good life, and your mental and physical health should never be compromised. Labour Day reminds us that the rights and conditions we have as workers didn't happen by themselves. They were hard won by people who stood up for safe working conditions, fairer pay, better hours, and more.

And the fight to make the lives of workers better is never finished. Today, I was proud to stand in solidarity with transit workers from Unifor 333 as they fight for fair wages and respectable working conditions. There's much work to be done, and I remain hopeful, because history shows us that when we come together and fight together, we win.

I'm extremely proud and grateful to have the endorsement of the Victoria Labour Council as a candidate in the upcoming local election. One thing I will never stop advocating for is the rights of workers. Solidarity!



Sign, sign, everywhere a sign!

September not only means Labour Day, back to school, and the leaves starting to change colours — in an election year, it also means election signs will soon be popping up all over the region! Signs are allowed to be displayed at the start of the campaign period, which starts on September 19.

Which brings me to two questions:

1. **Would you like to host an election sign? (Lawn sign or window sign)**
1. **Can you help us drop off signs in your area?**

If your answer to either question is yes, **please fill in our [supporter form](#)!**

And if your answer to those questions is no, you absolutely **can still help by [making a donation](#) today**, to help ensure everyone who wants to host a sign can get one!



We need your help!

Campaigns run on donations and volunteer hours. We have made excellent progress towards our fundraising goals, but we are not quite there yet! Every donation matters, and will help us cover critical costs that must be incurred before the election begins. If you can, [please make a donation today](#).

Over the coming weeks, our campaign will also need help with the following roles:

- Canvassing with me (I'll be out pretty much every afternoon and evening and it's a blast!)
- Putting up signs
- Building ambassador (help us canvass in your condo/apartment building)
- Attending a roadside rally
- Phone calling
- Dropping off leaflets
- Tabling at All Candidates Meetings
- Driving
- Cooking (making and delivering meals for our campaign team)

If you can give a few hours of your time in one or more of these tasks, it will make all the difference! **Sign up using our [supporter form](#)!**



Saanich Updates

Saanich Council met only once since my last update, but we had a very full agenda for our August 17th meeting. Council approved a number of new mid-rise developments that will bring over 250 new homes to the District. This included two projects on Quadra and one on Finnerty. I was particularly pleased to support the project at the corner of Quadra and Tattersall, as in addition to 88 much-needed homes, the project also includes a small cafe! Learn more about these projects from this detailed piece in the [Business Examiner](#).



Celebrating our community's newest mural! You can find this beautiful new mural by Kay Gallivan on the side of Fairway near the corner of Tillicum and Burnside Rd.

I fought hard for Council to approve another project also on the agenda of our August 17th meeting, but Council ultimately voted it down. The proposal was for 349 purpose built rental units, of a variety of sizes, as part of a seven lot assembly along Edgelow St. and Finnerty Rd. I saw this project as an opportunity to provide much needed rental housing in close proximity to UVic, particularly given that two of the lots were within the university's Transit-Oriented Area (TOA). Learn more from [this piece in the Saanich News](#).

A couple of other salient pieces of Saanich news:

- Council adopted a motion calling on the province to increase library funding, which has not seen an increase since 2010! [Learn more here](#).
- Saanich has a new pilot reservation system for new Fowler Park pickleball courts. [Learn more here](#).

Council has a reduced meeting schedule, given the ongoing municipal election, but we are scheduled to meet for the last time before the election on Monday, September 21st.

Saanich Events



Having a blast at the Falaise Community Association Annual Neighbourhood Picnic!

- **Autumn Lantern Festival** - A de-light-ful fall tradition held on September 12, 2026 (5:00 pm - 8:30 pm) in Lambrick Park. Bring your own lantern, or make one at the event! For \$5, you'll get a kit with everything you need to make your own festive lantern. Purchase your kit at the Gordon Head Recreation reception desk and assemble it in our lantern workshop space inside the rec centre. Staff and volunteers will be on-hand to help. [Learn more here](#).
- **Shelbourne Street Improvements Project Ribbon Cutting Celebration** - Join the District of Saanich as we celebrate the completion of the Shelbourne Street Improvements Project. On Monday, September 14, 2026, from 2:00-3:30 p.m. at Browning Park. The event will include welcome remarks, a ribbon cutting, project information, and a celebratory bike ride led by Capital Bike. [Learn more here](#).
- **Important Municipal Election Dates and Events** - You can find all the [important election dates here](#), and you can learn more about who is running, all candidates debates, and [more here](#).



A couple of neighbours mentioned they didn't see me at Music in the Park in Rutledge Park this year, but I was pretty hard to miss as Rutley!

Primary Care in Saanich 🏥



The [Family Doctors for Saanich](#) campaign wrapped up a successful season of attending [Music in the Park](#) events all summer. We've been running our [Health Connect Registry](#) registration drive working, circulating a petition supporting team based care, and running fun children's activities and crafts. A huge thank you to the amazing team of pink-shirted volunteers for all their hard work.

We 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 deadline to vote in the Second Annual Greater Victoria Little Free Library Awards is **Tuesday, September 8th at 10 pm!**

[Vote for your favourite LFL here!](#)

You are cordially invited to attend the annual Little Free Library Community Picnic, where the winners of the 2026 GVPN LFL Awards will be announced. Please join us in celebrating our region's Little Free Libraries and the stewards who take care of these Pocket Places of connection within our communities.

The free event is open to everyone and will include a large book exchange and book pick-up, crafts, live music, and activities for those gathered to enjoy. Attendees are encouraged to bring picnic food, chairs or blankets, and books to contribute to the exchange. We will have a Porta Potty on site.

Date: Sunday, September 13, 2026

Time: 3:00 to 7:00 pm

Awards announcement: 4:00 pm, between music sets

Location: Oswald Park, [3031 Cedar Hill Road, Victoria](#)

Hope to see you there, and learn more about the awards from this [GVPN blog post](#), [Victoria Buzz](#), [CHEK News](#), [Nexo Radar](#), [Times Colonist](#), and [Victoria News](#).

Reproductive Justice Advocacy



AccessBC team has been hard at work fighting to see the national pharmacare plan implemented across Canada and improving pain management for IUD insertions here in BC. We are gearing up for World Contraception Day (September 26), when I'm excited to share updated numbers from the Ministry of Health on the number of people who have accessed prescription contraception at no cost here in BC since the policy was implemented in April 2023.

If you haven't had a chance to participate in our pain management letter writing campaign, please take a second to [write your MLA](#), the Minister of Health, and the Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity to ask them to make a few small changes to our healthcare system to improve pain management for IUD insertions.

And be sure to check out [this great article in The Tyee](#), reporting on a recent survey of young people exploring access to sexual and reproductive care in rural and remote communities in BC.

Marine Conservation



My work investigating crime in sea cucumber fisheries was recently covered in an [article in DW](#), exploring sea cucumber wildlife crime in the Indian Ocean. It's a great piece and it comes along side news of the arrest of seven sea cucumber poachers [in Japan](#) a couple of days ago, and the arrest of two poachers in [the Solomon Islands](#).

Para mis amigos de habla hispana, pueden leer el mismo artículo en [DW](#), or [Tenemos Noticias](#), [Col Global](#), and [La Gaceta Online](#). And you can also read versions of the article in [Indonesian](#). 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



It has been a busy summer for the BC Humanist Research Team. I was honoured to work with three summer research students, supported in part by a Canada Summer Jobs Grant, and the team got a lot done. I'm very much looking forward to sharing some of the reports we were working on with you. Stay tuned for our deep dive into unconstitutional prayer in Ontario municipal council meetings coming out very soon.

For the past several years, I have been the liaison between the BCHA and the Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada (ARCC) on issues relating to reproductive justice and have been conducting research into unregulated pregnancy centres (also known as crisis pregnancy centres). These 'fake clinics' engage in motivated counselling, and attempt to dissuade people experiencing an unplanned pregnancy from choosing an abortion, often through the misinformation and manipulation. To learn more, check out [this review we conducted of their websites](#).

Unregulated pregnancy centres (UPCs) were in the news this past week, as Kamloops City Council considered granting one of their local UPCs a \$35,000 permissive tax exemption over three years. We were alerted by a member of the community and sprang into action, attempting to mobilize residents against the tax exemption. You can learn more about our efforts from the [BCHA](#) and from articles in [InfoNews](#), the [Business Examiner](#), and [Castanet](#). While Kamloops ultimately voted to grant the tax exemption, we will be taking the lessons we learned and incorporating them into a handbook and informative website I've been developing to help local activists counter the harms of UPCs in their communities. Stay tuned for more!

If you are interested in learning more about my work with the BC Humanist Association, I recently sat down with Kathleen Johnson from the Kreactivators Podcast to talk about my research advocacy work around the separation of religion and government in Canada. [Check it out!](#)

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,

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

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.



Sent via Action Network, a free online toolset anyone can use to organize. [Click here to sign up](#) and get started building an email list and creating online actions today.

Action Network is an open platform that empowers individuals and groups to organize for progressive causes. We encourage responsible activism, and do not support using the platform to take unlawful or other improper action. We do not control or endorse the conduct of users and make no representations of any kind about them.

You can unsubscribe or update your email address or change your name and address by [changing your subscription preferences here](#).