
Motion Monday at Saanich Council!

1 message

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Motion Monday at Saanich Council

Friends,

I hope you are having a lovely weekend. I wanted to let you know that Monday night's meeting of Saanich Council will be exploring four motions that I have drafted. These motions all seek to send resolutions to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and cover a range of subjects.

I give a short summary of the motions on [this TikTok](#), and this [Capital](#)

[Daily](#) story summarizes the motions succinctly.

I wanted to share the motions with you and encourage you to write in to Saanich Council to share your thoughts. You can write council at: council@saanich.ca

Motion 1: [Means Tested Traffic Fines for Safer Roads](#)

This motion would ask the province to explore implementing a system whereby traffic fines would be calculated on the basis of income. This is a policy that has been used in places like Finland, Denmark, Sweden, and Switzerland, and it seeks to address two shortcomings with flat rate fines:

The current system disproportionately punishes lower income drivers, while failing to effectively deter high income individuals. This proposal has already garnered considerable media attention and you can learn more by reading motion's [backgrounder](#), or by checking out stories from [Global News](#), [City News](#), [Daily Hive](#), and [Sing Tao](#).



Motion 2: [Empowering Local Governments to Use Traffic Enforcement Cameras](#)

This motion asks the provincial government to grant municipalities the ability to deploy traffic cameras. This is a repeat of a previous motion from West Kelowna, from 2019. Traffic cameras are a cost-effective

way of enforcing traffic laws, which in turn increases compliance, thereby increasing road safety. Additionally, roadside stops are labour intensive and dangerous to law enforcement officers and those being stopped. Read more in the [backgrounder](#).



Motion 3: [Transition All Statutory Tax Exemptions for Places of Worship to Permissive Tax Exemptions](#)

This resolution seeks to increase municipal autonomy with respect to the allocation of tax exemptions. Governments allocate tax exemptions in order to support organizations that provide a public good. Statutory tax exemptions are granted to places of worship automatically, without any controls or oversight on the part of the municipality, and they can constitute a significant percentage of a municipal budget.

On the other hand, municipalities are given the leeway to develop their own bylaws and policies around how and when they grant PTEs – they may establish application processes, benefits tests, caps on amounts, and time limits.

Municipalities may choose to automatically apply a PTE to any recipient of a statutory tax exemption, or to a specific class of potential recipients, or they may subject applicants to appropriate levels of scrutiny.

Municipal governments have a duty to residents to ensure that tax dollars are spent in such a way as to maximize the benefit these funds provide to the community. The automatic nature of STEs granted to places of worship means that municipal governments cannot exercise this duty, despite being in the best position to evaluate the most effective allocation of tax dollars. Read more in the [backgrounder here](#).



Motion 4: [BC Resources on Estimating Climate Costs](#)

A lack of information about current and expected costs of climate change can undermine the ability of local governments to plan for the future, including in budgeting and in pressuring senior levels of government to ensure that financial resources are available.

Additional resources are required to allow local governments in BC, and especially smaller local governments, to better calculate and understand the financial costs that they are experiencing, or may experience, due to climate change and the need to prepare for climate impacts. This resolution proposed updating available resources for the BC context. [Read more here](#).

Project Updates

Reproductive Justice



The first AccessBC Campaign billboard is up! You can spot it along the Pat Bay Highway coming into town from the ferry and airport. The goal of the billboard is to remind MLAs and the Premier of their promise to make all prescription contraception free, and to mobilize members of the public to get them to write Premier Eby to ask him to include this important policy in the 2023 provincial budget.

We got amazing news coverage of the billboard, which was covered by [City News Vancouver](#), [Victoria Now](#), and [Victoria Buzz](#). I'm incredibly proud of the AccessBC Marketing Director Sophie Choong who knocked it out of the park in interviews with [Stephen Quinn](#), [Gregor Craigie](#), and [CTV News](#).

We've got ads going up around the lower mainland this week, so it's not too late to support the fundraising campaign!

Support the Billboard Campaign!

If you haven't done so already, please take a second this weekend to write to Premier Eby to ask him to include free prescription contraception in the 2023 budget. It only takes about 30 seconds at the link below:

Write Premier Eby!

I'm looking forward to Monday's Saanich Council meeting, and wanted to remind folks to write in with their comments on the motions (and [any other agenda items](#)) before noon on Monday.

Warm regards,



Teale Phelps Bondaroff
Saanich Councillor

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