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# West Shore Voice News

v2

**4 pages this issue**

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Friday, February 9, 2018

RELEASE DATE February 10, 2018

## Changes to BC Pharmacare starting 2019 will help low-income & seniors

● The BC government is eliminating PharmaCare deductibles for working families with the lowest incomes, helping to make sure they get the prescription medicines they need but currently are struggling to afford, Health Minister Adrian Dix announced on February 9.

"It helps low income people and seniors," said Dix.

"No parent should have to make the difficult decision between their family's health and putting food on the table," said Dix.

"The investment we're announcing today will make life more affordable for British Columbians, while making sure they get the care they need."

"I am unbelievably enthusiastic. I think this is fantastic news," said BC Health Minister Dix in a news teleconference on Friday. "There has been remarkable work by the Ministry of Health," he said.

Dix said the new changes are "consistent with our agreement with the Green Party", adding that BC Green MLA Sonia Furstenuu "contributed enormously to this project".

"The costs of prescription drugs prevents too many British Columbians from addressing treatable conditions, saddling them and our healthcare system with the effects of untreated illnesses down the road," said Furstenuu. "Our caucus is very pleased that the government is making this investment in the health of British Columbians. Especially with so many communities facing an affordability crisis, this will go a long way to improving the lives of the people of BC," she said.

The \$105 million being invested in Fair PharmaCare over three years will eliminate or reduce the deductibles for 240,000 BC families. All families with household net incomes under \$45,000 will benefit. Dix said the biggest impact will be felt by families with net annual incomes between \$15,000 and \$30,000. They will have no deductible, starting January 1, 2019.

"This is a crucial step forward in improving the health and lives of thousands of British Columbians," said Dix. "We know that in families earning under \$30,000 in net income, needed prescriptions go unfilled too often because PharmaCare deductibles are too high. The step we're taking today is a significant one." Deductibles did not change for 15 years under the BC Liberal government.

These will be the first changes to deductibles since 2003. Prior to these changes, Fair PharmaCare families faced relatively large jumps in their deductibles, as incomes increased beyond certain thresholds. Deductibles went from \$0 to \$300 when a family's income reached \$15,000 and jumped another \$300, from \$600 to \$900, when a family's net income reached \$30,000.

Ministry of Health analysis indicates that these jumps are often accompanied by decreases in drug spending, suggesting that families are not filling prescriptions due to affordability. The ministry recognizes that families earning under \$45,000 are also less likely to fill prescriptions, or make trade-offs with other essentials, like groceries, heat and housing. Not easily quantified is the consequential emotional and social impact on families and relationships.

Co-payments will also be eliminated for families with a family member age 79 years and older with net incomes below \$13,750, and lowered for all families with net incomes under \$45,000.

"Prescription drugs don't work if people can't afford them," said Dr Michael Law, Canada research chair in access to medicines at the University of British Columbia. "Research shows that many people in this province have not filled or skipped prescriptions because of the cost, and these changes being announced will improve health outcomes by significantly increasing access to important and effective medicines." **WSV**

## Cost-saving measures & different approaches at ICBC

by West Shore Voice News

● This week the BC NDP Government announced several changes to tackle both the financial challenges and service delivery model of the Insurance Corporation of BC (ICBC).

"Together, these changes will reduce the amount ICBC spends on legal fees and expenses, which have grown to consume 24% of ICBC's budget," said Attorney General David Eby in a media announcement February 6.

"The savings from this change, when coupled with other planned initiatives, will restore ICBC to financial sustainability and finance the planned accident benefit improvements."

The changes come in the wake of multiple



BC Attorney General David Eby

revelations about decisions and inaction by the previous government -- including not dealing with rampant fraudulent claims and a lack of attention to driving-improvement

education -- leading to ICBC projecting a 2017-2018 net loss of \$1.3 billion.

BC drivers could face premium increases averaging \$400 or more, if no action is taken, it was stated in a news release.

Disputes over certain motor vehicle injury claims, including the classification of an injury, will be adjudicated by BC's Civil Resolution Tribunal (CRT), an independent body that already adjudicates strata and small claims disputes.

"For too long, difficult decisions have been put off ..."

continued on pg 2 ... /

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**Views on successful living:** business & economy, health & wellness, youth, education, arts, politics, sustainability, Millennials & social trends.

## Horgan sidesteps Alberta provocation

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News

● In response to a stream of media questions on the topic, Premier John Horgan used up pretty much all of his 15-minute news conference on February 7 at the BC Legislature battling off questions about essentially what he is treating as pesky interference by Alberta Premier Rachel Notley in her impassioned guerrilla-style defense of the Alberta oil industry.

Horgan said he intends to continue maintaining his focus on the broad needs of British Columbians, particularly around ways to integrate affordability into the socioeconomics of this province.

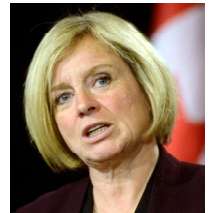
Horgan said Agriculture Minister Lana Popham has been in discussions with the BC wine industry growers in the Okanagan and that top officials in government are actively "exchanging notes and phone calls" to keep channels open. "I will defend our wine industry. I'm here for BC, not Alberta." But that the Premier himself will "not be distracted".

"I would hope we've seen the end of the back and forth. I deliberately wasn't available to you (media) yesterday because it's not in anyone's interest to having dueling premiers," said John Horgan.

He noted that BC and Alberta share



BC Premier John Horgan



Alberta Premier Rachel Notley

**DUELLING PREMIERS**

a political flag "but that's secondary to my obligations to the people of BC", Horgan said, adding: "What Alberta does is entirely up to them."

Horgan reiterated that BC will be engaging with stakeholders, First Nations, and the people of BC as part of establishing what the environmental protections are in the case of an oil spill. BC is still in federal court about the need to ensure environmental protections before twinning of the TransMountain pipeline proceeds.

Horgan said he didn't appreciate that one jurisdiction would goad another to take action against a third jurisdiction. And on the matter of defending BC getting organized to consult British Columbians: "Consulting is not provocative," he said, adding that it is his "right to consult with British Columbians about putting in place protections for environment and economy". **WSV**

## Langford asks developer for a new \$2 million recreation amenity

by West Shore Voice News

● In a last-minute amendment -- that when swiftly approved by Langford Council on Monday night February 5 elicited gasps from the room -- saw the developer of a new residential/commercial development within Langford's Millstream commercial area unexpectedly hit with an additional \$500,000 'ask' from the City. That brings the total required contribution from Seaclyff Properties to \$2 million, toward a recreational amenity of the city's choosing.

continued on page 3 ... /

## BC Family Day shifting to third week in 2019

West Shore Voice News

● Family Day in BC will be shifted to the third week of February starting 2019, it was announced by the NDP government this week. **WSV**



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## Editorial

SMARTER POLITICS

VIEWES & INSIGHTS  
FROM THE WEST COAST

WEST  
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## BC politics must roll forward with the rest of us



Mary P Brooke  
Editor &  
Publisher  
WEST SHORE  
VOICE NEWS

● **The BC Liberal Party membership** in definitively choosing Andrew Wilkinson, MLA as their new party leader last weekend seemed to somehow be making a desperate grasp to resurrect a train that has left the station. It's almost as if they were trying to recapture the Gordon Campbell style all over again. Mainstream, conservative, carping and likely bent on privatization... appealing party-inward to the most fundamental base of what used to work in politics. But all around us is a brand new world, changing fast.

Where political pundits thought that Todd Stone might have pulled off leadership success was in part due to his fluency in modern business and "let's get it done" operational style, but also his observation that the world of mainstream politics has changed.

In the lopsided socioeconomics of BC (so many have-nots greatly divided from the haves), there are many people who for basic life stability need a mix of government services. Today, economic survival and indeed prosperity no doubt relies on strident business diversity across many sectors. Nothing about this decade or the future beyond speaks to things staying the same.

Meanwhile, while trying to quickly open up new socioeconomic horizons, the BC NDP government is having to use up valuable time and political resource dealing with some pretty nasty stuff left behind by the BC Liberals. Calling the huge debt at ICBC "a dumpster fire", the government under Premier John Horgan is working hard not to load British Columbians too heavily with the outcome of ICBC having been mismanaged and abused as a cash cow by the previous government.

Horgan also mentioned last year that the process of dealing with the upcoming federal legalization of recreational cannabis is also taking a chunk of time and attention in his government's first term. But thorough diligence is being paid to that important transitional task, with Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General Mike Farnworth this week carefully rolling out the preliminaries about the business and safety models around recreational cannabis use.

On Valentine's Day the Kelowna West by-election will throw an interesting wild card into the political mix. Depending on which party pulls out a win, the power balance in the BC Legislative Assembly will deal with some level of disruption.

On February 20, Finance Minister Carole James will deliver Budget 2018, upon which many hopes are being hung. Supporters of the current government will be looking for advances in affordability and further educational funding as well as the economic benefits that come from providing adequate child care, timely health care, and affordable medications. If the BC Liberals will be looking for curveball opportunities, well, constructive critique will serve the people better. ■

## BC News



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## ICBC cost-saving measures [... can't from pg1]

and growing financial problems at ICBC hidden from the public. The changes we're initiating today will reduce ICBC's claims costs by more than \$1 billion every year, helping make it sustainable for decades to come," Eby said.

### Taking effect April 1, 2019, the changes include:

>> A new limit of \$5,500 on pain and suffering for minor injury claims. The cost of those claims has increased 265% since 2000. BC is the last province to take this kind of action.

>> The first major improvements in accident benefits in 25 years, dramatically increasing the care available for anyone injured in a crash, regardless of fault. The overall medical care and recovery cost allowance will be doubled to \$300,000 (retroactive to January 1, 2018).

>> An independent dispute resolution process for certain motor vehicle injury claims.

"British Columbians can no longer afford to keep paying more and more for their auto insurance every year, and this is the decisive and immediate action which is needed to relieve the pressure on ICBC's rates," said Joy MacPhail, chair, ICBC. "These changes make the injured customer our top priority, by redirecting payments away from legal costs into significantly enhancing the care and treatments for anyone who is injured in a crash."

### Accident benefit details:

>> Doubling the lifetime allowance for medical care and recovery costs for those catastrophically injured in a car accident, from \$150,000 to \$300,000. Legislation will be introduced to make this benefit retroactive to January 1, 2018.

>> Covering a greater variety of treatment services.

>> Significantly increasing the amount covered for treatments, so customers don't have to pay out-of-pocket.

>> More than doubling wage loss payments to \$740/week, almost doubling home support benefits to \$280/week, tripling funeral cost coverage to \$7,500, and increasing death benefits to \$30,000.

### Financial details:

>> In 2016, injury claims totalled \$2.7 billion, an increase of 80% in seven years. The average claim paid out for minor injuries rose from \$8,200 in 2000 to \$30,038 in 2016 (an increase of 265%). At the same time, the average pain and suffering

awards paid out for minor injuries increased from \$5,004 in 2000 to more than \$16,499 in 2016.

>> Vehicle damage claims costs have increased 30% in just two years, to a total of \$1.5 billion in 2016 alone.

>> Use of the Civil Resolution Tribunal (CRT) for minor injury dispute resolution means claimants who don't use a lawyer will get their entire settlement, rather than paying a portion of it toward lawyer's fees.

The use of the CRT for these disputes will also reduce ICBC's legal costs, which account for 24% of the corporation's total annual costs. These costs are greater than the regular operational costs of running ICBC, the government said. **WSV**



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## Natural food does it best

by Mary P Brooke, B.Sc. West Shore Voice News

● **This week** the federal government announced that it will soon require the identification of high sugar, salt and fat content on various packaged and processed foods that consumers find on grocery store shelves.

Our grandmothers would be quite surprised at the need for this. When the only food available to people was natural stuff -- 'the real McDeal' if you will -- there wasn't a need to educate people about which foods are more or less harmful to your health. And most people knew how to cook from scratch or lived with people who could.

Shop the outside aisles -- fresh produce, meats/fish, dairy and eggs, fresh oils and bulk unsalted nuts. Don't feel bad about disappointing the packaged-food manufacturers. Natural dietary habits (if not Paleo-style which includes avoiding baked goods) are your best fighting chance for stabilizing health in the modern age.

Reducing or eliminating intake of added fats, salt and sugars as well as artificial chemicals and alcohol is one of the best ways to avoid the many diseases known to be caused by those bodily insults (including diabetes, obesity, high blood pressure, heart disease and cancer). Add to that some fresh herbs daily and a well-crafted customized regimen of optimized natural nutri-

tional supplements, and you're really off to the races. What might seem like a more expensive way to shop will save you (and the health care system) more in the end. ■

## National News

● **Something new is coming soon** for the everyday realities at the House of Commons... a new baby.

Following the birth of her child, Karina Gould, 30, will take a leave of absence from her role as Minister of Democratic Institutions to go on parental leave, it was announced on February 9 by the Prime Minister's office. Scott Brison will serve as acting Minister of Democratic Institutions, in addition to his role as President of the Treasury Board. Andy Fillmore will continue as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Democratic Institutions.

"Our country is stronger when we empower decision-makers who reflect the diversity of Canada," said Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in a statement. "Part of encouraging the next generation of young women to run for office is demonstrating that our institutions are modern, family-friendly, and that the experiences they bring to the table will contribute to their success."

Trudeau said Minister Gould (whose home riding is in Burlington, Ontario) "makes Canadian history" as the first federal cabinet member to have a child while in office. "She and her family will be welcomed back to Ottawa when the time is right for them." **WSV**

## Federal cabinet minister to go on maternity leave

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## Recruiting more teachers for the west shore

by Mary P Brooke  
West Shore Voice News



SD62 Superintendent  
Jim Cambridge

West Shore Voice News

● **“Recruitment of teachers, vice-principals and principals** continues to be a challenge for SD62, as it is for every other district in the province,” said SD62 Superintendent Jim Cambridge this week.

“We are fortunate in that SD62 is seen as a very attractive place to work and live and the nature of a growing district, gives prospective educators a sense of job security,” said Cambridge.

Delivering public education within the fast-growing region on Vancouver Island (Langford, Colwood, Sooke and area), Sooke School District SD62 continues to struggle to find specialist teachers to help fill the trend towards technology and science careers. “And like other districts finding French Immersion teachers is a challenge,” says Cambridge.

Cambridge says that SD62 has been actively recruiting for the 2018-2019 academic year, with trips to colleges and universities outside of BC. In some ways it's not hard... as when explaining in cold snowy Edmonton about the mild winter weather on Vancouver Island's west shore.

The BC School Superintendents' Association and BC Public School Employers' Association will have a fund of \$100,000 to recruit and develop capacity in new leaders. “New leaders are progressing through the system more rapidly than in the past,” said Cambridge.

South Vancouver Island offers a desirable lifestyle in terms of weather and recreation, and within that the west shore (particularly Langford and Sooke) is seen as the most affordable area. In January 2018, 62.3% of Greater Victoria house sales occurred in Langford and Sooke combined. Housing affordability is relative, with the average actual house sale price in Langford at \$712,247 last month, and \$511,437 in Sooke (compared to \$925,715 for overall single family home sales recorded by the Victoria Real Estate Board in January).

About 500 students per year for five years is the expected enrollment increase in SD62, tracked closely by the school district in discussions with municipalities and developers. **WSV**

## BC supports more teacher hiring

WestShore  
Voice News

● **To make sure students are getting the support** they need in the classroom, government is taking action to assist school districts with recruitment and retention challenges. “School districts have successfully hired thousands of teachers to meet the needs of our students, and we need to ensure they can continue on that path,” said BC Education Minister Rob Fleming. “We are investing to train more than 100 new specialist teachers in the highest-demand fields, so students can continue to thrive and benefit from quality teaching.”

The actions are in response to recommendations made by an expert task force appointed by the Minister of Education to identify immediate actions that can be taken to help address teacher workforce challenges facing school districts, while long-term solutions are sought.

**Immediate actions government is taking include:**

■ Creating more than **100 additional spaces** in teacher education programs over the next two years. These spaces will produce qualified special education, French language, secondary math and physics teachers, and help meet some of the highest demand for teachers. Intake for 92 spaces is September 2018, while 15 will start in January 2019. (Total funding: \$571,000)

■ Creation of **37 additional spaces** in teacher education programs in French is co-funded by the Government of Canada through the Canada-British Columbia Agreement on Minority-Language Education and Second Official-Language Instruction 2013-2014 to 2017-2018.

■ Supporting initiatives aimed at **increasing the number of Indigenous teachers** throughout BC. The funding provides for curriculum development for new pathways for Indigenous students to enter teacher education programs, and will also enable the University of British Columbia to pilot community-based delivery of all four years of its Indigenous Teacher Education Program in Williams Lake, Quesnel to approximately 20 Indigenous students. (Total funding: \$260,000). **WSV**

## BC recreational cannabis rules getting firmed up

by Mary P Brooke  
WestShore  
Voice News

● **In BC, after July 1, 2018 when recreational cannabis becomes legal in Canada**, anyone age 19 or older can smoke or vape the stuff, or consume the edible cannabis products. An individual will be able to possess up to 30 g of dry cannabis in public. And at home you will be able to grow up to four plants (unless you live in rental/strata, in which case your landlord will have a say). As for retail, recreational cannabis won't be sold side-by-side in BC Liquor Stores but in separate public outlets. Private businesses will be able soon apply to set up shop as a recreational cannabis outlet; in urban areas they will be prohibited from selling food, gas, clothing and lottery. A 90-day driver's licence suspension will be available for police as part of impaired-driving regulation.

All this and more was unveiled February 5 by Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General Mike Farnworth. He reiterated the BC government's stance that the health and safety of people in this province are paramount. Farnworth said that tools for enforcement (such as technology for road-side testing by police) are a federal responsibility and not yet ready.

“July 2018 is only the beginning of our journey, and these changes will not happen overnight. We fully anticipate all levels of government will need to continue to assess and refine cannabis policy and regulation in the months and years to come,” said Farnworth in his Monday media teleconference. **WSV**

## LANGFORD: Division Avenue is open within the Belmont Market construction site

West Shore Voice News

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You can now drive through the Belmont Market construction site in Langford, on the new municipal road called Division Avenue which opened up this week. Division Avenue will serve as a detour while a section of Jacklin Road is closed for roadwork construction improvements February 13 to mid-summer.

Mary P Brooke - West Shore Voice News

## Langford looking ahead to a new \$2 million recreation amenity

West Shore Voice News

continued from page 1 .../

**The type of amenity** will be determined by Langford Council as the development gets rolling. “As the amenity is a bonus paid to the City for providing increased density through rezoning, it is due and payable to the City when the property owner develops (prior to issuance of a building permit). We do not know when that will be,” says Matthew Baldwin, Director of Planning and Subdivision, City of Langford.

The 790 McCallum Road lead development consultant, Jim Hartshorne of Keycorp Developments Ltd, explains that “this rezoning presents the City of Langford with a unique opportunity to address key housing, retail, employment, post-secondary education, and recreational aspirations.”

When asked about the discussion on the buffer line between the neighbouring properties and the future development, Hartshorne added that “we have worked with City parks and planning staff, our surveyors, and the community to create an average 12m parkland buffer with trail that will complement the existing neighbourhood and incorporate about 65% of the existing trail network and retain all the trees and vegetation between the trail and the neighbouring property. We recognize that not everybody in the neighbourhood supports this buffer, or the 4 acres of additional lands we are providing to the City for a future recreation space, but we believe our proposal is in the best interest of the current and future neighbours in Langford,” Hartshorne said this week.

This week, Hartshorne reflected on Monday night's Council decision. “While we were surprised that the City asked for the additional \$500,000 for amenity uses on the 790 McCallum site, we understand the rationale that Council would like these funds applied to enhance the parkland trail network and amenity package for the neighbours,” the seasoned developer said.

One of the things considered to be effective about the Langford growth management style is that the municipality makes the assessment of what amenities are needed for the population, not the individual developers.

The 790 McCallum location is across the road from the Costco/Staples retail landmark. The site has been in the past been pitched by Langford Mayor Stew Young as a possible location for various options including a post-secondary satellite campus.

Bylaws 1461 and 1749 that consider the 790 McCallum development passed third reading on February 5.

**WSV**

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**CORRECTION:** The housing prices published last week (Feb 2nd issue) with the header Jan 2017 were of course for Jan 2018. Sorry for the typo. Premium PDF subscribers and link visitors at [www.westshorevoicenews.com](http://www.westshorevoicenews.com) will find an updated version online.

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## WHAT'S GOING ON

Event postings: PRIORITY TO ADVERTISERS

### Family Day Weekend!

**BC Family Day.** Mon Feb 12.

**Blood Donor Clinic.** Mon Feb 12. Sooke Legion 6726 Eustace Rd. 11:30am-6:30pm. [www.blood.ca](http://www.blood.ca)

**Family Day at SEAPARC Leisure Complex** in Sooke. Mon Feb 12. Free admission all day. Pool open to all 12-6 pm. Family Fun skate 12-3pm, family & friends hockey 3:15 to 5pm. [www.seaparc.ca](http://www.seaparc.ca)

**Family Day Skate.** Mon Feb 12. 1 to 2:30 pm. JdF Arena. Regular admission. [www.westshorerecreation.ca](http://www.westshorerecreation.ca)

**BC Legislative Assembly** Throne Speech. Tues Feb 13. [www.leg.bc.ca](http://www.leg.bc.ca)

**District of Sooke Regular council.** Tues Feb 13. 7pm. [www.sooke.ca](http://www.sooke.ca)

**City of Colwood Special Council Meeting.** Tues Feb 13. Public input on portion of Ocean Blvd to be removed as highway dedication in favour of medical services development; means loss of park-and-ride at that location. 7 pm. [www.colwood.ca](http://www.colwood.ca)

**SD62 Education Committee of the Whole.** Tues Feb 13. 7 pm at Journey Middle School. [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)

**Valentine's Day.** Wed Feb 14.

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**Chinese New Year.** Fri Feb 16. Year of the Dog.

**Colwood Official Community Plan Steering Committee.** Thurs Feb 16. 7pm. [www.colwood.ca](http://www.colwood.ca)

**Victoria Seedy Saturday.** Sat Feb 17. 10-3:30. Victoria Conference Centre. \$7.

**International Rugby - Canada vs Brazil.** Westhills Stadium. Sat Feb 17. Kickoff 6:30 pm. Tickets: [events.rugbycanada.ca](http://events.rugbycanada.ca)

**BC Budget 2018.** Tues Feb 20. [www.leg.bc.ca](http://www.leg.bc.ca)

**District of Sooke Emergency Preparedness open house.** Tues Feb 20. 7-8:30pm, 2225 Otter Pt Rd.

**Pink Shirt Day.** Thurs Feb 22. Anti-bullying day.

## West Shore Voice News

**SD62 Non-Instructional Day.** Fri Feb 23.

**Sooke Seedy Saturday.** Sat Feb 24. 10-3. Sooke Community Hall. Free admission. [www.sookefoodchi.ca](http://www.sookefoodchi.ca)

**Rugby Canada Training Centre** official opening, Langford. Tues Feb 27.

**SD62 Public Board Meeting** Tues Feb 27. At the school board office. 7 pm. [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)

**West Shore Voice News Spring Break & Easter Issues - special 5-week ad package (weekly in March).** Advertising deadline Wed Feb 28. Call 250-217-5821

**Juan de Fuca 55+ Spring Craft Fair.** Sat & Sun March 10 & 11. 9-3. Free. JdF 55+ Activity Centre.

**Royal Bay Secondary School** student career day. Wed March 14. <http://royalbay.web.sd62.bc.ca>

**SD62 Spring Break** for schools in the west shore and Sooke. Sat March 17 through Easter Monday Apr 2. Schools re-open Tues Apr 3.

**Easter Long Weekend:** Fri Mar 30 - Mon Apr 2.

**'Seeking Salmon' exhibit**

Sooke Region Museum



Daily during regular museum hours to April 2018 [www.sookeregionmuseum.ca](http://www.sookeregionmuseum.ca)

Ad courtesy of West Shore Voice

**Have a grab-and-go bag ready in the event you have to evacuate and make sure you have an emergency plan.**



**Juan de Fuca Emergency Program**



Emergency alerts @jdfemerg [www.prepareyourself.ca](http://www.prepareyourself.ca)

## Metchosin earthquake debrief well-attended

● **About 90 people** packed Metchosin council chambers on the evening of Jan 29 for Metchosin Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop's debriefing of the how response to the Jan 23 tsunami alert rolled out in their rural community of about 5,000 people.

"It is the municipality's responsibility to notify you," said Dunlop about emergency announcements that are first received from Emergency Management BC (EMBC). Metchosin has an email advisory system that residents opt into. Easy to do, and many people do it.

In those wee hours after the Jan 23 tsunami alert that was issued at 1:38 am by

EMBC (six minutes after the 7.9 quake near Alaska), the Metchosin fire department and volunteer emergency workers went door-to-door in low-lying areas to warn residents. That included Pedder Bay and Pearson College, and the Rocky Point area, Beecher Bay, and William Head.

It was underplayed that tsunami waves bring debris along with them, which in addition to the flooding itself is the most significant source of damage to persons and property.

Metchosin Mayor John Ranns said people have to understand their threat level.

WSV

## Colwood giving up park & ride to get a wellness centre

● **A long-standing BC Transit Park & Ride** at Island Highway and Ocean Boulevard in Colwood -- used by many from the west shore including Sooke and Langford -- is up for absorption into the Colwood land base. Colwood Council has their eye on building a wellness centre in that location, considered a much-needed amenity on the west shore.

Public input on that land being removed as highway dedication will happen at Colwood Council on Tues Feb 13, 7 pm. [www.colwood.ca](http://www.colwood.ca) WSV

## BC affordable housing funding support delivered to Langford and Sooke

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News



**A building with 72 affordable apartment units is being constructed at the corner of Church Road and Wadams Way in Sooke.**

● **The construction of two affordable housing projects** that are already well underway was the packaged-up subject of a BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing news release this week.

The commonality is that both projects are in the fast-growing west shore (more specifically in Premier John Horgan's Langford-Juan de Fuca home riding) where affordable rentals are sorely needed, and that the BC government has provided funding support to both. This is along with the now oft-repeated message that the Province is developing "a comprehensive provincial housing strategy to make housing more affordable for British Columbians". And, since taking office in July 2017 Horgan has said that the BC government "has set a target to build, in partnership, 114,000 new units of affordable housing throughout BC".

Both projects are located on busy main roads near bus transit routes and within walking distance to retail and other services.

The Oak Park redevelopment project in **Langford** at 616 Goldstream Avenue received a provincial injection of \$7.5 million toward the two-phase construction of 73 rental units (61 apartments and 12 townhomes) to be operated by Pacifica Housing. The expected monthly rent levels are: studio \$800; 1 bdrm \$1,020; 2 bdrm \$1,200; 3 bdrm \$1,550; 4 bdrm \$1,700.

The project in **Sooke** at 2110 and 2120 Church Road (corner of Wadams Way) has received \$5.35 million in BC funding. This long-planned project was first designed by M'akola Housing in 2014 for seniors but the Knox Vision Society in 2016 opened up their parameters, intending to appeal to all low-income age groups and broaden their access to funding. The expected monthly rent levels are: 1 bdrm \$875; 2 bdrm \$1,100; 3 bdrm \$1,300. WSV



## BC minimum wage increases over 4 years

West Shore Voice News

● **BC's lowest-paid workers** will earn a \$15-an-hour minimum wage by June 2021, Premier John Horgan announced on February 8, endorsing recommendations of the Fair Wages Commission. "Regular, predictable increases to our minimum wage are one important way we can make life more affordable for people," said Premier Horgan.

- **June 1, 2018: \$12.65/ hr (\$1.30 increase)**
- **June 1, 2019: \$13.85 (\$1.20 increase)**
- **June 1, 2020: \$14.60 (\$0.75 increase)**
- **June 1, 2021: \$15.20 (\$0.60 increase)**

The plan to reach \$15 an hour provides for an immediate increase of \$1.30 an hour on June 1, 2018, to a new minimum wage of \$12.65 an hour. Additional increases will take place on June 1 of each year for three more years. By June 2021, BC's minimum wage will rise to at least \$15.20 an hour. The four increases between 2018 and 2021 represent a 34% increase over four years.

The next wage increase from \$11.35 to \$12.65/hour on June 1, 2018, will benefit 94,000 minimum-wage earners, while increasing the minimum wage to over \$15/hour on June 1, 2021 will benefit 400,000 workers throughout the province.

The commission's scaled approach will allow businesses and employers to plan for predictable and stable increases to wages over time.

"Freezing the minimum wage for 10 years hurt people, and then increasing it in a sporadic and unplanned way hurt businesses. We are taking a balanced approach that will work better for everyone, by bringing in measured and predictable increases over time," said Harry Bains, Minister of Labour.

Depending on economic conditions, the commission recommended that government consider of an additional hourly increase of up to \$0.20, to \$15.40 an hour in 2021.

### TRAFFIC INFO LANGFORD ON THE MOVE

**Feb 1 to Apr 30.** Construction of improvements to Millstream Overpass at Veterans Memorial Parkway. Some traffic closures/delays (except Fridays ahead of long weekends, and Mondays of long weekends).

**Feb 13 for about four months.** Jacklin Rd closed (Jenkins to Terlane) to facilitate nearby construction efficiencies. Detour through the Belmont Market construction site on the new Division Ave.

**Feb 13 to summer 2018.** Leigh Road at Langford Parkway Railway Crossing. Completion of Leigh Road Railway Crossing to Langford Parkway.

**Current, until mid-summer.** Traffic interruptions for sewer installation along Bray Ave, Carlow Rd, Linda Lane (west of Jacklin Rd & Goldstream Ave).

**For other short-term traffic advisories, visit [www.langford.ca](http://www.langford.ca)**

WSV



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