

The good fight: paying the price for human rights

E Editorial

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MPB

● **This week's** most far-reaching news story has been how Canada is seemingly now in the tight clamp of Saudi Arabia. Economically we're a small country, figuratively now very publicly twisting and squirming to the delight of a middle-eastern country built strong by the luck of having oil underfoot. **In the 21st century** the idea of human rights should not in any way be novel, new or at worst ignored. Yet in Saudi Arabia we see human rights activists and journalists rounded up and jailed -- for trying to modify the livability of their country; some of those people are lashed in public, or even publicly executed. It's an iron fist of a garish kind that an ocean away can seem remote.

It could be debated that the backlash against Canada became a house on fire over a tweet. Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland perhaps caught the 'Trump tweet bug'... last week she used the 280-character social media platform to criticize Saudi Arabia for arresting some civil rights activists. It's not as if Canada or Prime Minister Justin Trudeau woke up one day and decided to pick a fight with the Saudis. Canada speaks up about human rights wherever and whenever it can.

However, this firestorm bolted down on Canada will come at a price all of us will pay in various ways. And while it might bite some or even all of us, there seems to be an instinctive response in Canadians that we'll hunker down and take this one. This speaks well of the Canadian collective soul, and Canada is fortunate to have a Prime Minister who will bear up to this.

Directly or indirectly, many of us may feel the pinch through some loss of wheat sales to the Saudis. Also through 8,300 fewer of their students in the university system (they've all been told by their country to leave for the USA or UK by September). And in the medical delivery system -- foreign students pay much higher tuition rates than Canadian students. In medical schools, Saudi students have been training in large number then serving here a few years at no cost to Canada, but then returning home (to eventually expel foreign doctors from their country).

Challenges to the wheat economy could mean higher baked goods prices. Fewer foreign students hurts university budgets (cramping the post-secondary system at least in the short term). Pulling out free medical services might produce longer wait times for surgeries and advanced medical care. Canada also has seen our ambassador turfed out of Saudi Arabia; that's dramatic, but has workarounds. New trade with Canada has been banned. Saudi Arabia's state airline is apparently



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going to suspend flights in and out of Toronto. **Musing on this**, however, we might even be witnessing a covert attempt by Canada to get out of the \$15 billion deal that in 2014 (under the Conservative government, through an Ontario-based manufacturer) Canada agreed to for supplying heavy assault vehicles to Saudi Arabia that would be used at least in part to oppress their own people. Maybe, just maybe, this has been a very clever setup to irritate the Saudis enough so Canada can sidestep out that deal.

Kudos to *The New Yorker* (August 8, 2018) for publishing that Saudi Arabia "is daring to confront Western nations, including countries that are important to Saudi security and economic development". Quite right, they need us.

Again, we're not hearing a significant ruckus domestically against Trudeau or the federal government over this. This is Canadians quietly standing their ground. ■

BC NEWS

ICBC rates: good drivers to pay less

● **Modernizing the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) rate design** is about making vehicle insurance fairer, said the BC Government this week. Essentially the emphasis shifts from insuring the vehicle to insuring the driver, and incentivizing crash-free driving and overall good driving habits.

"The provincial government wants to make sure BC drivers pay ICBC premiums that more fairly and accurately reflect the risk they represent on the roads," it was stated in a news release August 9.

ICBC's current rate structure is over 30 years old. It was built around insuring the vehicle rather than the driver, and allows discounts to drivers despite multiple crashes. Combined, the NDP government says this has resulted in British Columbians with crash-free, clean driving records subsidizing bad drivers, including those with multiple accidents.

Attorney General David Eby said the ICBC submission to the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) will include revenue-neutral proposals aimed at levelling that playing field. If the recommendations for changes are accepted (proposal due by August 15), rates would change in BC effective September 2019.

"We want to modernize ICBC so that British Columbians pay according to their crash history, driving records and level of risk, and take responsibility for their driving habits. It's only fair," said Eby.

The proposed changes align with feedback from almost 35,000 British Columbians on how to make insurance fairer. Key proposed changes to basic insurance include: moving to a driver-based model, with at-fault crashes tied to the driver and not the person who owns the vehicle; increasing insurance discounts for drivers with up to 40 years of driving experience, up from the current limit of nine years; and new discounts for vehicles with original, manufacturer-installed automatic emergency braking technology and for vehicles driven less than 5,000 km/year.

If approved by the BCUC, these changes will benefit an estimated two-thirds of ICBC's customers. The total funds that ICBC collects through basic policies would not increase, but instead will rebalance individual driver premiums



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Setting up for retail cannabis

● **As of August 10**, the BC government is accepting private cannabis retail store licence applications to allow for the sale of non-medical cannabis in BC. The Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) has posted a complete suite of application materials and guidelines online: www.gov.bc.ca/cannabisregulationandlicensing

In July, the LCRB posted detailed information at the above link regarding applicant eligibility requirements and the rules that will govern future private non-medical cannabis retail stores. "Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to carefully review all of this material prior to applying," it was stated in a news release from the Ministry of the Attorney General. **WSV**

and reset the way rates are determined. Most customers will fully transition to their new basic premium within three years under the proposed changes.

Other proposed changes include: Basic insurance discounts for inexperienced drivers will be higher -- adjusted to better reflect their risk; at-fault crashes will have a larger impact on the premium a driver pays; rate classes and territories data will be updated for the first time in over 10 years to reflect significant changes in traffic density, population growth and changes in the urban infrastructure; and, an increase to the Driver Penalty Point (DPP) and Driver Risk Premium (DRP) programs of 20% in fall 2018 and 20% in fall 2019, as previously announced.

ICBC also proposes a "transition cap" to limit how much the premium can change annually based on a customer's driving record and at-fault crash history.

ICBC has been directed to move the timing of its basic insurance rate application to the BCUC from late August to December to align any rate change with the other product changes already announced.

ICBC basic insurance is mandatory for drivers operating a vehicle in BC. It helps ensure that people who own and drive a motor vehicle in BC are protected with a basic level of coverage.

Changes: under the model ICBC currently uses to determine premiums:

- * A customer at the highest level and receiving the top discount can have up to three crashes in one year and still pay the same basic premium as a driver who is crash free.
- * Over 40% of claims are forgiven each year, which means the cost of those claims is borne by everyone, including drivers who do not cause crashes.
- * At-fault crashes affect the vehicle not the driver, allowing some drivers to hide their true risk and avoid paying a fair rate.

Based on today's rates, in the first year of this transition, an estimated 67% of customers would see basic insurance premiums that reflect a lower risk:

- * 39% of all drivers - up to \$50 reduction
- * 13% of all drivers - 50 to \$100 reduction
- * 15% of all drivers - \$100+ reduction

Based on today's rates, in the first year, an estimated 33% of customers would see basic insurance premiums go up to reflect a higher risk:

- * 11% of all drivers - up to a \$50 increase
- * 5% of all drivers - \$50 to \$100 increase
- * 17% of all drivers - \$100+ increase **WSV**

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Sooke Music & Art Festival Rocked the park, August 4

● The 4th Annual Sooke Music & Art Festival was held last Saturday, August 4 on the BC Day long weekend. Hundreds of people turned out in the warm dry weather to hear 14 live bands on stage all day and into the evening, enjoy the food, art activities, and being outdoors in summer.

This shows an increasing use of John Phillips Memorial Park by the broader community. Most of the year it's a quiet patch of mid-Sooke enjoyed for trails and dog-walking.

Organizers this year: Peter Janassen, Jill Schultz, Jerry Peregudow, and Linda Gordon. **WSV**

West Shore Voice News

Family art moment, learning from artist Linda Gordon, Aug 4 at the outdoor festival. >>



Linda Gordon



Sooke Music & Arts Festival - Facebook page

Bringing Sooke together in the park!



4th Annual Sooke Music & Arts Festival at John Phillips Memorial Park, Aug 4.

Sooke municipality busy with meetings in August

West Shore Voice News

● While things are pretty quiet in most municipalities of the west shore during the summer months, the District of Sooke has an active slate of meetings scheduled in this last half of August:

- Regular Council | Mon Aug 13, 7pm
- Development & Land Use Cttee | Wed Aug 15, 10 am
- Affordable Housing Cttee | Thurs Aug 23, 1 pm
- Sooke Program of the Arts Cttee | Wed Aug 29, 5:30 pm

A candidate information session was held in Sooke on August 1. Nominations for the positions of Mayor and Councillor (six seats) officially open with Elections BC on September 4. **WSV**

Safe youth spaces

● August 12 is International Youth Day. This year's 'Safe Spaces for Youth' theme encourages youth coming together to actively participate in society without fear or intimidation. "When young people have access to safe and welcoming spaces, they are more engaged in their communities," says Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in a statement, as part of a new phase of recruitment for his government's youth council (third round since 2015).

Of the 10 newest members of the 21-member youth council, from BC is Jack Campbell who developed an app with instructions on how to treat a fentanyl overdose. **WSV**

NDP leader to run in Burnaby South

● With the benefit of access to a strong NDP organizational base in BC (both federally and provincially), NDP leader Jagmeet Singh announced this week he will relocate from Toronto to run in an upcoming by-election in the lower mainland riding of Burnaby South. The current MP there, Kennedy Stewart, will be resigning soon to run in the fall 2018 Vancouver mayoralty race. Singh presently has no seat in Parliament. Former NDP leader Tom Mulcair lost the leadership to Singh in Oct 2017 but only officially resigned July 21. **WSV**

Brain health

West Shore Voice News

● Whether it's about back to school or aging well, improving the brain's oxygen supply and stimulating nerve growth are ways to increase 'brain power' by protecting against physical and chemical injury, including oxidation.

Neurotransmitters, enzymes, and hormones help boost brain neurochemicals. Antioxidants from natural foods (e.g. blueberries and blackberries) and supplements (e.g. Coenzyme Q10, Vitamins C & E) can help.

Other products at health supply stores include Docosahexanoic acid (DHA) to help improve learning-rate, Vinpocetine to increase brain blood flow, Pyrroloquinoline Quinone (PQQ) for enhanced mitochondria-related function, Bacopa Monnieri herbal extract to reduce brain plaque, and Alpha GPC to help strengthen cell membranes.

Visit House of Nutrition in Colwood (open daily at #6-310 Goldstream Ave) for more information on product options. **WSV**

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TRAFFIC INFO

LANGFORD ON THE MOVE

8th Annual Show 'n Shine coming up
Sunday, August 19, 2018



City of Langford
www.cityoflangford.ca

West Shore Voice News

Sat August 11. Jenkins Ave to Brittany - paving, all day into early evening.

Sunday, August 19. Langford Show and Shine car show. 10 am to 3 pm. Road Closures: Goldstream Ave, from Peatt Rd to Veterans Memorial Pkwy, portions of both Bryn Maur Rd and Claude Rd will be closed to all through traffic from 7 am to 4 pm. Peatt Rd will be congested and it is recommended to use an alternate route. Event Preparation: Overnight and early morning street parking for the roads affected by Show n' Shine will be unavailable on the night before the event.

Mid-August into Sept. Jacklin Rd (Jenkins Ave through to Sooke Rd) following several months of upgrades. Still some traffic delays for sidewalk, signalized light installations, and final layer of road asphalt. Detour on Division Ave through Belmont Market construction site. **August into Sept 2018.** Along Langford Pkwy near Westhills Stadium and arena. Completion of Leigh Rd Railway Crossing over to Langford Pkwy.

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

Wheels: helmet-smart

● Wearing the right helmet for outdoor sporting activity is a smart thing to do for your safety when cycling, inline skating and skateboarding. Additional cushioning in a helmet could save your life.

In bicycle mishaps, the forehead usually makes first contact with the ground. With skateboarding, falls can be frequent and helmets are specifically designed to protect more of the back of the head. Unlike bicycle helmets, skateboard headgear is also designed to protect against multiple falls, whereas bicycle helmets should be replaced after one crash.

Make sure skateboards, bicycles and skates are in good condition. With bicycles, preventative maintenance includes all nuts and bolts tightened, wheels filled with

Wear your helmet while cycling, pay attention to the road.



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air if necessary, and no visible safety concerns.

When cycling on the road, predictability is essential. Leave no doubt in a driver's mind as to what you're about to do. Ride in a straight line, signal your intentions and check before making any turns or coming to a stop.

www.canadasafetycouncil.org **WSV**

Alistair MacGregor, MP has two community offices in the large Cowichan-Malahat-Langford riding

West Shore Voice News

● The current hours for Alistair MacGregor, MP's (Cowichan-Malahat-Langford) constituency office in Langford are Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 10 am to 3 pm. Or by appointment.

The office location enjoys high visibility at 3202B Happy Valley Road -- that's at the busy corner of Happy Valley Road and Sooke Road (Highway 14). There is a handy parking lot alongside the office (access from Happy Valley Road).

For information or to set up an appointment with the MP or his staff, here is the contact info: Email alistair.macgregor@parl.gc.ca and Tel: 1-866-609-9998.

When the Langford constituency office opened a few years ago (after the 2015 federal election), the official office opening for the first-time MP was attended by dozens of people including Randall Garrison, MP (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke) and now-Premier John Horgan (MLA for Langford-Juan de Fuca) who articulated the importance of having a presence for the Cowichan-Malahat-Langford MP on this side of the Malahat in the large riding.

MacGregor presently serves as the NDP's Critic for Justice and Attorney-General and is the Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights. www.alistairmacgregor.ndp.ca

Alistair MacGregor's main constituency office is in Duncan. MacGregor and his family reside in the Duncan area where they operate a small farm. **WSV**



Community
Office

3202B Happy Valley Rd

Hours:

Tuesday and Wednesday:

10:00am-3:00pm

Or by Appointment



Alistair MacGregor

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
COWICHAN-MALAHAT-LANGFORD

Email: alistair.macgregor@parl.gc.ca

Phone: 1-866-609-9998

WHAT'S GOING ON

National Band of the Naval Reserve concert, Sun Aug 12, Ed MacGregor Park, 6700-block of Sooke. 2 pm. Free.

Blood donor clinic. Mon Aug 13. 12 to 6:45 pm. Church of the Advent, 510 Mount View Ave, Colwood. www.blood.ca

Free Golf for Kids. At DeMamie Creek Golf Course in Sooke (age 8-16) Tues Aug 14 when accompanied by a paying adult. Some clubs available. www.seaparc.ca

E&N Rail Trail – Humpback Connector Open House. Wed Aug 15. Proposed design for next 1km phase Atkins Ave to Savory Elementary, Langford. 3:30 to 6:30pm. Westshore Parks & Rec fieldhouse (in lower field area, 1767 Island Hwy).

Sooke Night Market. Thurs Aug 16. Thurs 5 to 8 pm to Sept, Sooke Region Museum. www.sookeregionmuseum.ca

Movies on the Hill. Thurs Aug 16 behind the JdF library, 1767 Island Hwy. 8:45 pm. www.westshorerecreation.ca

Beach Food Fridays & Saturdays on Colwood Waterfront. Ocean Blvd at Lagoon Rd. Fri Aug 17 & Sat Aug 18. 11 am to 7 pm. Weekly to Sept 15. www.colwood.ca

RCMP Musical Ride. Sat Aug 18 & Sun Aug 19. Hosted by Sooke Lions Club. Matinee on Saturday, sunset ride on Sunday. www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/musical-ride

Langford Show and Shine. Sun Aug 19. 10am to 3 pm. Car show along Goldstream Ave from Peatt Rd to Veterans Memorial Pkwy. Free, walkabout. Supporting the food bank and Wounded Warriors. www.langford.ca

Island-wide Campfire Ban in Effect

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John Horgan's annual summer BBQ in Sooke. Sun Aug 19. 12 noon to 2 pm at Sooke Flats. Members of the local Langford-Juan de Fuca community welcome. Free to attend.

Coast Collective Art Centre. *Galloping Goats, Urban & Rural Landscapes* exhibit. Aug 22 - Sept 9. Meet the artists Sat Aug 25, 1-3 pm. www.coastcollective.ca

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WEST SHORE VOICE

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Mid-August WEATHER Hot & dry: Aug 14&15

	Sun 12 Mainly sunny	Mon 13 Sunny	Tue 14 Sunny	Wed 15 Sunny	Thu 16 Sunny	Fri 17 Sunny	Sat 18 Sunny
LANGFORD / similar for most of the West Shore							
HIGH	20°	24°	27°	25°	23°	24°	24°
Night	14°	17°	18°	16°	16°	16°	16°
Feels Like	23	28	30	28	27	27	27

After a cooler weekend (Aug 11 & 12) with 30% probability of rain, another stretch of hot dry weather is coming for the west shore in the week of Aug 13 to 18. Notably, Tuesday and Wednesday will approach 30°C with zero rain. **WSV**

Trail development: Open House August 15

West Shore Voice News

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is hosting an open house to highlight the proposed design for the next phase of construction on the E&N Rail Trail – Humpback Connector. The construction of this 1 km section of trail from Atkins Avenue to Savory Elementary School in Langford is planned for Fall 2018 to Fall 2019.

Staff will be on hand at the drop-in open house from 3:30 to 6:30 pm on Wednesday, August 15 (in the fieldhouse behind Westshore Parks & Rec, 1767 Island Hwy) to talk about the project and overall progress on the pedestrian and cycling trail.

The regional trail is being constructed largely within the E&N rail corridor, in phases over a number of years. It's set to be 17 km when complete (about 10 km done to date).

"This newest addition to the regional trail system will provide an important non-motorized transportation and recreation link between Victoria and the western communities," said CRD in an event release this week.

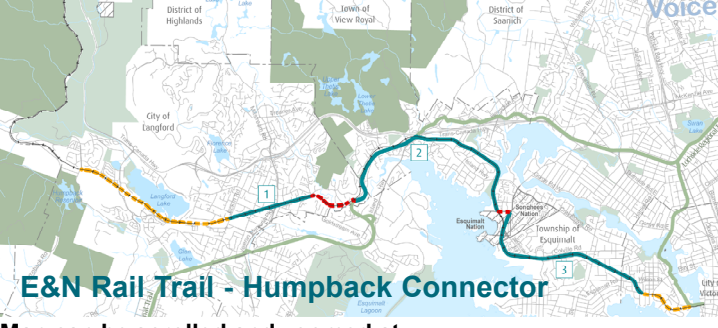
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E&N Rail Trail - Humpback Connector

Map can be scrolled and zoomed at <https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/capital-projects/e-n-rail-trail>

In combination with the completion of the trail between Maplebank Road and Hollowell Road, scheduled for Fall 2018, the Atkins Avenue to Savory School segment will complete the trail between Jacklin Road and Esquimalt Road.

June 7 to September 6, 2018

Sooke NIGHT MARKET

Thursdays 5 - 8

Sooke Region Museum Grounds
Corner of Sooke Rd & Phillips Rd

www.sookeregionmuseum.ca

Although the full trail is not complete, three sections are open to public use: Jacklin Road to Savory School; Atkins Avenue to Hollowell Road; Maplebank Road to Esquimalt Road. Where gaps exist, local roads or sidewalks connect users to the next section of trail.

Trail construction began in 2009 and will further time to complete in phases, subject to staff and funding availability.

The overall project cost is estimated at \$36 million, with about \$18 million spent so far. CRD says the overall project has been strongly supported by the federal government through the Regionally Significant Projects, Strategic Priorities Gas Tax funding (\$14 million), and the Western Economic Diversification Fund (\$1 million), and by the Province of BC through Bike BC (\$2.7 million) and Local Motion funding (\$275,000). The CRD says it has covered all costs that are not encompassed by grant funding (\$2.2 million). **WSV**

Municipal Election Watch 2018

West Shore Voice News

Voting for school board trustees: in View Royal that's both SD61 & SD62

In the upcoming municipal election cycle, voters in View Royal are eligible to elect a mayor and four councillors. Their votes for school trustees take place for two school boards: SD62 (Sooke School District) and SD61 (Victoria).

In most other parts of the west shore (covering Langford, Colwood, Sooke, Metchosin, Highlands, and Juan de Fuca up to Port Renfrew), the school trustee vote -- held in the same election cycle as for municipal councils -- is for electing seven trustees to the SD62 (Sooke School District) board of education. Within the SD62 board composition there are two zones: Belmont Zone covers Langford, Colwood, Metchosin and Highlands while the Milne's Landing Zone covers Sooke and Juan de Fuca (including East Sooke).

Municipal councils in Langford, Colwood and Sooke are comprised of a mayor plus six councillors. The councils in Metchosin and Highlands are comprised of a mayor and four councillors. Juan de Fuca is an unincorporated area and has one director.

The nomination period for all municipalities and school boards runs September 4 to 14. The official campaign period begins September 22, with General Voting Day on October 20. Advanced voting is also available; municipal websites generally post this information. Voting info centralized at www.elections.bc.ca

Election campaign news updates, insights and editorials throughout the September 4 to October 20, 2018 active municipal election period will be posted on the **West Shore Voice News Municipal Election Watch 2018** page at https://westshorevoicenews.com/?page_id=11011

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