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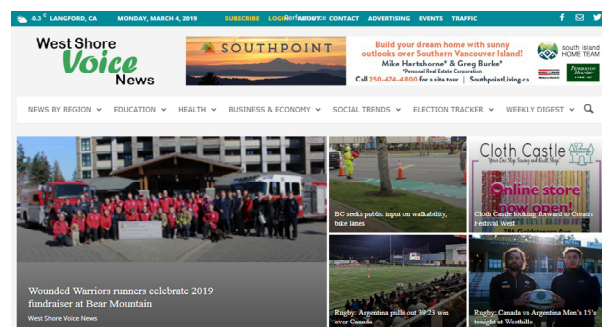
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# West Shore Voice News

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## Premier Horgan spices social initiatives with economic angles

by Mary P Brooke  
West Shore Voice News

● BC has the strongest economy in Canada and – together with three states south of the border – this province is part of the fifth-largest economy in the world.

In the first two minutes of this post-budget address to the Victoria Chamber of Commerce community, that broad economic profile delivered by Premier John Horgan set the tone for the rest of his 32-minute address: it's all about business.

The seasoned, upbeat speaking style of the premier that so many know simply as John was as casual as usual, yet with numerous hard-hitting points woven in.

Although for some reason he didn't get lunch that day at the Victoria Conference Centre, Horgan soldiered on, joking that he was looking for moments of applause so he could take a sip of water.

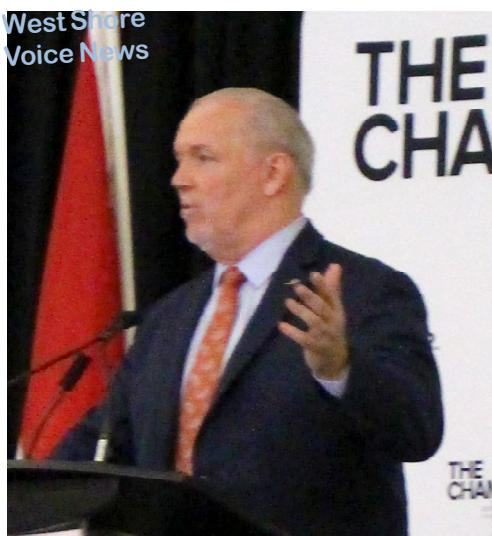
"Staying focussed on challenges that matter to people" was the premier's opening line. It's his mantra and the driving philosophy of his NDP government. From the podium he successfully reiterated that social policy is economic policy. Bottom line: healthy, stable persons who are the workers and caregivers in our society produce better results for businesses and families.

Compared to last year's talk, the audience seemed a bit more receptive to "social issues are economic issues". Broadly, that would be seen in the government's overall affordability mission. More specifically, that would be a good minimum wage as well as high-paying jobs in a range of sectors (with education and training underpinning those); child care (available, affordable, and delivered by qualified personnel); and housing (sufficient supply; affordable to a wide range of income levels including market, rental and assisted; and energy efficient).

In the past year the government has rolled out a lot of initiatives to help manage the price-point of housing (market and rental), and help families find child care to support participation in employment.

The evidence is clear that poverty contributes to health problems (including under-nourishment, addiction and mental health issues) as well as social dysfunction (such as domestic violence and crime).

Using tax dollars to help reduce the complex components of poverty doesn't usually sit well with all profit-makers. Nonetheless, the



**Premier John Horgan** addressed about 300 business and political leaders at a Victoria Chamber of Commerce luncheon, February 26.

belief that a few more taxpayer dollars going to the most disadvantaged will help shave the edges of poverty was floated into the business crowd.

On the delivery of broader services, Horgan reiterated that the ferries are an extension of the highway system and shall see restored services to remote and coastal communities while maintaining affordable fares (including seniors discounts) on major routes.

On the most broad of social services – 'free' health care (i.e. no walk-in user fee) – the premier avoided mentioning much about the shift of burden to larger businesses through the Employer Health Tax (EHT). But he did talk about improvements to the provincial health care delivery system. In particular Horgan noted how new family doctors and specialists are operating from a premise of wanting to focus on practising medicine instead of running a medical practice as a small business. That might seem like a foreign concept to business people, but ultimately it means more focussed medical attention by doctors which is good for all.

In the new primary care centers that have opened or are coming to various BC communities, it's about patients seeing the appropriate caregivers for their needs while business management teams operate the day-to-day aspects of the clinic. While a patient may be 'attached' to a doctor at a care centre (for the obvious long-term benefits of patient history), not every visit requires the time and expertise of a physician.

The training of health professionals takes time, and bringing in more doctors through immigration is another option, said Horgan. The new clinics in BC are expected to set up shop for new crops of doctors, nurse practitioners and clinical pharmacists in addition to on-site access to services like dietetics, physiotherapy and diagnostic labs.

Improving the health care system is part of addressing the root causes of poverty, said Horgan. Reducing poverty leads to

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a healthier more reliable work force which is good for business in that it contributes to finding employees "to get the job done".

In post-secondary institutions about 2,900 spaces are being created to educate and train people for an innovative economy in BC.

As if these challenges weren't tough enough, Horgan then declared that "climate change is the challenge of our time". He handily explained how it makes economic sense to not only sell LNG to developing countries but that helping interrupt the use of low-grade fuels like diesel in places like China, Korea and Japan is better for all on the planet. "That makes us part of the solution."

About \$23 billion in revenues will come to BC through the LNG plant being developed at Kitimat that can be used "toward the good society we want, and reduce (the socioeconomic) costs to you, the employers". About 10,000 jobs will be active in the construction phase, with 950 jobs after that to operate the facility.

Horgan quickly covered the need to reduce carbon emissions in transportation and housing, then jumped deeper into housing: "If you don't have an affordable home to live in, you don't have much going on". He emphasized the need to envision a range of housing types, with a vivid concept that 'single room boxes in the sky' are not going to get us there in meeting the needs of growing families. He listed off market-driven, co-op, not-for-profit and modular housing as coming from the \$7 billion investment in his government 10-year, 30-point housing plan.

Horgan is driven to address the scope and depth of steering BC in a new, healthier, more robust direction. In fact, now that he leads government instead of being in Opposition, he says he can be positive every day, with the opportunity to change the system rather than critiquing it with the hope that change will happen.

Part of this government's economic innovation strategy is to share \$3 billion in gaming revenue with indigenous communities over the next 25 years "so they can build the capacity to meet the needs that are coming in the door every day from investors coming in every day, who want to do business in BC," said Horgan.

Cognisant of a few south Vancouver Island mayors there in the room, Premier Horgan gave a notable shout-out to Langford Mayor Stew Young for his city's efforts to address commuter transportation challenges and Langford's continued development of a "community for the future". If more jobs are in the west shore there is less need to travel to core areas like Victoria and Saanich.

Horgan highlighted how the Royal BC Museum is a provincial asset that "houses relics of our past". Investment in the museum is an opportunity for tourism growth as well as "reimagining the Inner Harbour". While the harbour is a federal responsibility, Horgan explained that the City of Victoria "has to address the challenges of people coming from outside the region into downtown Victoria ... it's a burden on ratepayers here and we need to find a way to figure that out."

From there the Premier said the time is overdue for taking advantage of growth opportunities outside of the core, and in that context highlighted Langford, Colwood and Sooke. "I know that Langford and other communities are ready, willing and able to take on the challenges of building the infrastructure for today and tomorrow – and 10 and 20 years from now."

However, overall the region's 13 mayors got a bit of a kick: "The Regional Growth Strategy (of the Capital Regional District - CRD) as developed in 2003 is well and truly up for a reboot," the Premier came right out to say. "The CRD and the multitude of municipalities need to understand and recognize that as we grow on the south island that we're doing it in a rational way. Make those investment decisions outside of the core, and in the areas where there are growth opportunities like in Langford, Colwood, and Sooke. It makes good business sense."

And with a hopeful message for local governments: "I'm confident we can rationalize the delivery of services from the province to the municipalities and to industry if we focus on making the right decisions and the smart decisions," said Horgan.

The premier – who lives in Langford – singled out Langford Mayor Stew Young, with accolades for how for Young has tackled regional transportation issues and has built a community for the future. Horgan articulated how successful Langford has been in speeding up the development permit process. "I recommend you follow Langford on how quickly you can 'get to yes' on development permit applications," said Horgan.

"John has lived here a long time and as our MLA he gets how important these issues are to us," said Langford Mayor Stew Young after the speech. "He knows how hard Langford residents work. It's a tough balancing act for him, but (the premier) knows that Langford works hard for improvements for our residents and he does too. So let's hope the government can fill in the gaps of where the social services lack, especially doctors, emergency services, the opioid crisis and housing," said Young. "But we must not forget the small businesses that create our jobs especially in Langford where building safe affordable family housing for our residents accounts for 60% of our economy with good paying jobs."

John Horgan was pleased to remind the crowd that he's the first premier from the Victoria area in 70 years, and was not shy about saying he's paying attention to the arguably overdue needs of south Vancouver Island. **WSV**



**Talk about affordable housing:** Langford Mayor Stew Young (right) and M'akola Development Services CEO Kevin Albers after Horgan's talk at the Feb 26 Chamber event.

## How far will the SNC-Lavalin political mess go?

West Shore Voice News

Editorial



by Mary P Brooke  
Editor & Publisher

● **Not every political complication in Ottawa** makes its way to the coffee shops and living rooms of the nation. But the bombshell that one Liberal MP from the BC lower mainland – the former Minister of Justice and Attorney General Jody Wilson-Raybould – has ignited within the Liberal house in Ottawa has everyone talking.

Wilson-Raybould said she had felt pressured. She felt that 10 meetings and multiple emails and text messages about the ‘protecting jobs’ aspect of sending SNC-Lavalin to court were undue ‘inappropriate’ pressure. How much is too much? What is inappropriate? If a message is important enough, it will (and should be) be repeated until the message gets through. Here’s a pop-culture literary example: Harry Potter fans will recall the many many letters incessantly delivered by the wise white owl to young Harry Potter, inviting him to take action on a fate that would benefit both himself and the larger good.

Ms Wilson-Raybould has filtered her remarks through her being from a long line of indigenous matriarchs and ‘always a truth-teller’. A family or cultural tribe needs such power at its core. But the Liberal Party is also a tribe that she says she proudly belongs to. For now, she is still in the Liberal Caucus and says she wants to run again in the October 2019 election as a candidate in Vancouver Granville. What Canadians may be witnessing here is a culture clash with macro-cosmic implications. We are seeing in Wilson-Raybould’s defiance the rugby-style on-field clash of two teams, as indigenous peoples make room for themselves within the mainstream corporate/political structure that has prevailed and built the modern civil society. Who will push harder to move the ball forward?

This puts Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in a tough spot. He appeared slow in picking up on the deeper currents of this debacle that he now finds himself in (or thought that deflection would make it ‘go away’). After a few public attempts to smooth over the long-run approach by his (now former) Justice Minister and Attorney General, Trudeau is now grappling with the impact of having been seen to ‘demote’ her. That she is a woman and indigenous has complicated matters for the prime minister’s brand, when he was probably just doing what any corporate-style team-player leader would do, i.e. remove the wolf from the hen house.

A lot of this trouble does lie within the dual-role of Justice Minister and Attorney General. The ministerial role is intentionally partisan to support the government of the day, yet the Attorney General is to act without political interference. Wilson-Raybould has now made a strong by-the-book case for feeling “pressured” in her role as Attorney General. But she seems to have contained her thinking to wearing that hat, not realizing that as Justice Minister her Prime Minister, Cabinet and Caucus would have had and did exhibit different expectations of her.

The politics of this SNC-Lavalin controversy are important to those in the political world (how big must a company be so as not be allowed to fail), and the governance issues are a topic of fascination and debate for legal and professional communities (should the roles of Justice Minister and Attorney General be separated as they are in other Commonwealth countries).

What’s caught the interest of the broadest spectrum of Canadians are other aspects of this scenario, namely the power struggle between a woman in caucus and her prime minister, the complexities of that same MP being proudly indigenous, and the test of ‘team player’ versus independent stance. These dynamics can be applied in broader contexts throughout politics, communities, families, businesses and any collective that thrives by the strength of the team approach. How far does one test their leader? How important – at the end of the day – are the views of one individual on the team, and for that matter how that individual is treated?

“Speaking one’s truth” is a bit of lingo from new age and spiritualist-based cultures. Now it’s suddenly in everyone’s lexicon because of Wilson-Raybould’s declaration that she should “speak her truth”. Truth in the social and political (even legal) context can be found only by agreement; in other words, ‘her truth’ versus ‘his truth’ plus the ‘truth’ (viewpoint) of anyone else involved all have validity. That jumble gets sorted out by others charged with that authority, and a composite or final ‘truth’ is agreed upon. It’s an imperfect system – just look at how many innocent people have ended up in prison over the years. Years ago a wise friend told me “everyone thinks they are right”. It’s a matter of sorting out a truth or reality or way of moving forward that everyone can live with. Reality does change, people’s needs and interests change, situations evolve, and time moves us along. The stronger force will win, even if sometimes it’s not the more rightful or worthy force.

Who or what is the stronger force in the SNC-Lavalin mess? Does it matter that one MP felt pressured? We can empathize with the feelings, but does that need to disrupt everything? Does the Prime Minister have the right to keep order in the rank and file (and if yes, aren’t we glad for a strong person in that role to do so)? Do very large corporate entities need to be more clearly recognized as job-providers, which underlies the stability of families and the economy (but what reach is given to corporate power and influence over government in that regard)?

Finance Minister Bill Morneau seems to think that protecting the possible demise of about 9,000 SNC-Lavalin jobs across Canada (about half of those are in Quebec, and some are on Vancouver Island) is worth the shift from using the criminal system over to using a deferred prosecution agreement (DPA) option that was brought into Canadian law last year. He told media that he saw no fault in his staff approaching Wilson-Raybould and her staff on that point. An Attorney General may legitimately determine that use of a DPA is the right way to go, given the complex nature of corporations being job-providers and stabilizing economic forces. The law is mostly black-and-white, while politics has the fundamental function of taking socioeconomic factors into account for the benefit of all citizens and the operation of the country. Wilson-Raybould sticking to her ‘truth’ was the black-and-white aspect of the matter. Opening to a broader view of using available tools to manage a situation with less harm is what all that ‘pressure’ was about. Yes, the former Attorney General had said ‘no’ and that she “had made up her mind” and she felt all discussion of the matter should have stopped there. But the high-level politicians and staffers – in their persistence – can be seen to have been trying to get the attention of the engineer as the train was heading headlong toward a crash. Using a DPA would not mean that a company was not being held to account for the wrong-doings they were seen to have done; it is an alternative legal approach (also used in other countries) to avoid economic impact to persons (e.g. employees, pensioners) not directly involved with the wrong-doing.

Many were impressed with Wilson-Raybould’s articulate testimony. Yes, it

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Jody Wilson-Raybould, MP (Vancouver Granville) participating in the Justice Committee hearings, in Ottawa on Wednesday February 27.

was that. But what else would you expect from an accomplished and experienced prosecutor? People’s awe on this matter only reflects how little excellence we witness in the legal system when it comes to witness testimony.

This entire handling of the SNC-Lavalin scenario is deeply fraught with all this political, socioeconomic consequence, and cultural nuance. That’s why it has people’s attention. At the end of the day, Canada may wish to separate ‘church and state’ by splitting the Justice Minister role from that of Attorney General. And Canadians may wish to remember how important it is to keep order and teamwork humming for the benefit of us all in this economically precarious time of upheaval from many directions (including economic and political relations with the USA and China, massive shifts and losses in jobs due to technological advances, and the persistent economic struggle of workers and the middle class within a global economy that favours a few over the many others). Whatever pressure it took to try and keep a calamitous shift in jobs from happening in Canada showed concern of a higher nature by the Prime Minister’s and Finance Minister’s offices. That the Clerk of the Privy Council (Canada’s top civil servant) and the PMO’s senior staff got into the fray in a rather partisan matter is another thing; when senior civil servants start generating a high public profile, you know something is out of whack – at the very least that the politicians they serve were losing control of the situation.

With a federal election coming up (presumably still in October), Trudeau should be actively trying to diffuse all this political heat as quickly as possible. He had appointed a new combined Justice Minister and Attorney General (David Lametti) when he shifted Wilson-Raybould to being Veteran Affairs Minister in January, and last week made three cabinet portfolio adjustments after Wilson-Raybould quit cabinet altogether. But so far there hasn’t been any proactive explanatory leadership demonstrated directly to Canadians – a fire-side chat, if you will.

Stirring up all this mess puts re-election challenges upon Wilson-Raybould. Just because she wants to run again doesn’t mean her fellow party members and/or voters will support her. Philosophically she is not likely to ‘cross the floor’ to the Conservatives, though the depleted federal NDP might welcome her verve. Constituents who vote Liberal won’t want an MP who is sidelined in Ottawa.

In the longer term, Canadians should be left hoping that the roles of Justice Minister and Attorney General will be split into two. And as a society we’ll look back on this as a time where including MPs who are trained or enmeshed in other professions or cultures can be a source of some disruption for traditional politics.

Great news... gender has become a moot point. Being a woman has had little relevance to how Wilson-Raybould has handled herself or how the swirl of forces around her has responded. She is accomplished and articulate, but so should we all be, regardless of gender. The soft-side political legacy of this SNC-Lavalin matter is that all of us were impressed with how the bar has been raised for everyone in the government and parliament who’s had to respond to this event.

As a result of the SNC/Wilson-Raybould matter, many of us will probably now examine our view of party politics, women in politics, indigenous politics, the roles of politician versus staff, and the ethos of teamwork. The teamwork aspect will have a ripple effect among elected officials; how far will they go – by necessity or by loyalty to their beliefs and/or their party philosophy – to follow their leader and support their team and its brand? The few Liberal MPs who may waver in their commitment to their leader or party will contribute to what could be a big hit to the Liberals in this year’s election. Bringing down a government they worked hard to participate in is irrational, and disruptive to this country in fragile times.

Wilson-Raybould gets plenty of credit for stirring up the Ottawa apple cart in a way few others have done. Let’s see what stays on the cart and who falls by the wayside. ■

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# NEWS

## WEST SHORE & the ISLAND

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### Rugby Men's 15s stand proud

by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News

<< Rugby Canada Mens 15s sing O Canada on a chilly Friday night, March 1. Final score was 39:23 for Argentina. <https://westshorevoiceneews.com/rugby-argentina-pulls-out-39-23-win-over-canada/>



Rugby Canada

Sponsored by World Rugby, the America's Rugby Championship (ARC) series started in Uruguay, went to Brazil, played twice in Langford (February 22 & March 1), then wraps up in Seattle (March 8).

The Men's 15s Rugby match on Friday night March 1 saw Argentina's Men's 15s pull out an aggressive win against Canada's team at Westhills Stadium in Langford. Fans filled the under-construction stadium despite the temperature hovering at 0°C, although no wind and no rain helped ease the bite. The confident Argentinian team showed control and exercised muscle throughout the first half. In the first minute of the game Argentina scored their first of three goals of the first half. At half time the scoreboard screeched out 22 for the visiting team vs 6 for the home team. The game wrapped up with a 39:23 accomplishment by Argentina over Canada.

Canada's team captain Lucas Rumball had a "mixed bag of emotions" after the game. "I'm proud of the team and a lot of things we did. Lots of good came out of today," he said on-field after the game. But he added: "We made some mistakes and got punished for them."

Remarking on a field-long run: "We were capitalizing off a mistake by (the Argentina team). It's something we haven't seen in our game in the last few months, something that's starting to come out. We're definitely taking more of our opportunities and coming away with points," Rumball said.

"They dropped the ball and we pounced on it. We played what was in front of us. That's all we can ask from the guys," Rumball told West Shore Voice News. "You can't draw that up. You can't really practice that. It's the intuition, you're playing games over and over again, we start to pick up that skill."

Later Canada Coach Kingsley Jones told media: "We played against a very good team." He talked about the ability to take advantage of errors by the other team. But admitted: "We made a lot of errors and we got punished for it. A dropped ball can result in seven points. We got better as the game went on," said Jones. Canada's coach said he was pleased that all players got to be in active play this evening. "We used the whole bench tonight." But he was disappointed "with some of those decisions against us" though "by and large it was quite the scoreboard," said Jones. There was "a little bit of lack of composure, we need to be more composed."

The Man of the Match award from HSBC Canada Sevens was presented to Argentina XV's Matias Osadczuk on-field by Langford Mayor Stew Young.

About 600 local fans showed up (more than last week's also-cold February 22 night game). There was more courteous enthusiasm by Canadian fans for last week's Chilean team than tonight for the powerhouse Argentinians. The hometown advantage worked for Canada last week, but not as much this week.

Argentina XV had the lead in the ARC standings going into this game, and with their bonus point achieved, will maintain that and have won the championship, despite the one remaining game between Canada and the US in Seattle on Friday March 8. [www.rugby.ca](http://www.rugby.ca) WSV

### Westshore RCMP: ICE report update

West Shore Voice News

The number of investigations for child pornography underway at the West Shore RCMP detachment is now 20, up from the 17 first reported by West Shore Voice News on February 1 following the City of Langford Protective Services Committee meeting held on January 31 (chaired by Langford Councillor Lillian Szpak): <https://westshorevoiceneews.com/west-shore-rcmp-working-on-17-child-porn-investigations/>

The detachment reminds the community that investigations are about scenarios where child pornographic materials have been found on or transmitted onto or from a computer or specific IP address. It does not imply that original pornographic materials are being created (in some cases, the use of photo-management software has been used to adapt other images into illegal images).

West Shore RCMP Detachment Commander Todd Preston initially raised the topic at the January committee meeting in the context of demonstrating the workload it takes for his officers to fulfill the investigations; there's a lot of material to go through, some of it disturbing. Assigned by the BC Integrated Child Exploitation (ICE) unit, time must be found amidst all the other daily and investigative work of the detachment.

The detachment's General Investigation Section has been working diligently through the investigations, said Cst Nancy Saggar, media relations officer. In the last month they have executed three search warrants for three separate child pornography related offences. Two individuals have been arrested in connection with these investigations for child pornography related offences. These individuals were later released by police with extensive conditions. "The names of these individuals will not be released at this time," says Saggar. She adds: "We do not have any indication or reports of direct or active child abuse." The investigations are still on-going.

The number of investigations since January 2018 is a collective number. These investigations are in various stages. Some are in the court process and trials have been conducted and others are just starting. "We don't believe that the number of investigations being conducted in the West Shore is disproportionate compared to other jurisdictions of a similar size," says Cst Saggar. WSV

### Pacific FC warming up to inaugural launch 12th Player added to roster

#CanPL | @CPLsoccer

West Shore Voice News

Vancouver Island goalkeeper Nolan Wirth is the latest player brought on to the Pacific Football Club (Pacific FC). That brings the roster now to 12 signed players.

The Comox-raised goalkeeper has played for Canada's U20 team and the Phoenix Rising FC in United Soccer Championship (USL) and is the first true Islander to sign with the Island-based club.

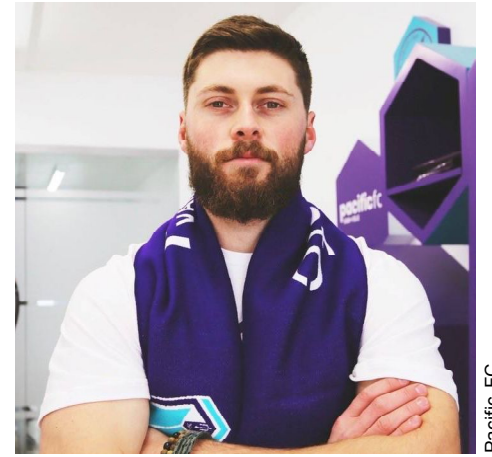
"Early on when the Canadian Premier League was just a possibility, I always had it in the back of my mind as my first choice of where to play," said Wirth. "Now that the opportunity has presented itself there is no place I'd rather play than Vancouver Island."

At 6'1", Wirth, 24, stands tall in net and has been a force in Vancouver Island's soccer scene where since he was 12 years old he has played at the top levels the Island has to offer. The shot-stopper played at the metro level in his young teens and was named Most Valuable Player with Upper Island Soccer Association (UISA) in the 2010-2011 season.

Wirth and fellow Pacific FC goalkeeper Mark Village met through the Whitecaps FC program several years ago and look forward to working alongside each other for the upcoming season.

"With the addition of Wirth we are adding another strong goal keeper to our roster," said Michael Silberbauer, Head Coach, Pacific FC "We are proud to welcome our first Island player."

Wirth joins 11 players who have been named to Pacific FC's roster, including Marcel de Jong, Marcus Haber, Kadin Chung, Mark Village, Ben Fisk, Victor Blasco, José Hernandez, Matthew Baldisimo, Terran Campbell, Noah Verhoeven and Alessandro Hojabrpour. WSV



Pacific FC

Goalkeeper Nolan Wirth signs on with Pacific FC.



### Horgan focussing on needs of south island

West Shore Voice News

>>

Premier John Horgan says he is paying attention to the long overdue needs of south Vancouver Island.



Mary P Brooke - WSV

Premier John Horgan at the opening of the new James Bay library in downtown Victoria. [July 2018 file photo]

Premier John Horgan reminded the crowd during a speech on Tuesday February 26 at a Victoria Chamber of Commerce luncheon, that he's the first BC Premier elected in the Victoria area in 70 years.

He's this province's 36th premier, and of all Victoria-area premiers, he's the first one on the progressive left.

Taking a look at the list, it's apparent that even if elected in Victoria, the noted accomplishments of those premiers did not focus on Vancouver Island. Horgan says he's paying attention to the needs of south Vancouver Island that are arguably overdue. WSV

### BC Premiers from the Victoria area

(years served in office):

John Horgan (July 2017 to present); NDP. Focussing on affordability, socioeconomic deliverables, and the needs of the South Vancouver Island area.

John Hart (1941-1947); Liberal. Undertook rural electrification, hydroelectric and highway construction including Hwy 97 to northern BC.

Simon Fraser Tolmie (1928-1933); last Conservative premier. Applied business principles to government, with sharp cuts to social services.

John Oliver (1918-1927); Liberal. Developed the Okanagan Valley produce industry.

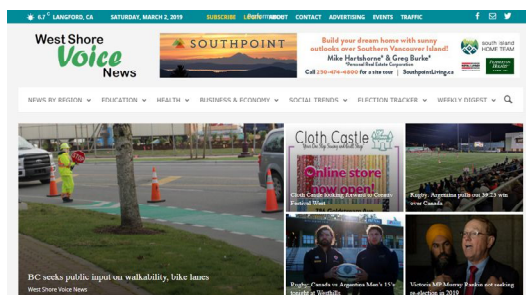
Harlan Carey Brewster (1916-1918); first Liberal premier. Brought in women's suffrage but instituted prohibition.

Sir Richard McBride (1903-1915); first Conservative premier. Two submarines defensed the BC coast during WWI. Created the province's first university (UBC).

Edward Gawler Prior (1902-1903); last non-partisan administration. Dismissed over conflict of interest for favouring his own business.

John Herbert Turner (1895-1898); appointed, no party affiliation. WSV

West Shore Voice News



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## Week of March 4 to 10

**City of Langford Regular Council.** Mon Mar 4 at 5:30 pm. [www.langford.ca](http://www.langford.ca)

**City of Colwood. Committee of the Whole.** Mon Mar 4 at 7:00 pm. [www.colwood.ca](http://www.colwood.ca)

**District of Sooke Special council meetings (budget).** Mon Mar 4 & Tues Mar 5 at council chambers. And **Area Transit Plan Workshop.** 6:30 pm at EMCS. 6218 Sooke Rd. [www.sooke.ca](http://www.sooke.ca)

**Town of View Royal Regular Council.** Tues Mar 5 at 7pm. [www.viewroyal.ca](http://www.viewroyal.ca)

**CRD Arts Grants Info.** Webinar 10 to 11pm. Thurs Mar 7. RSVP: [artsdevelopment@crd.bc.ca](mailto:artsdevelopment@crd.bc.ca) | 250-360-3007

**Sooke Region ElderConnect Community Launch.** Fri Mar 8. Everyone welcome. 12:30 to 3 pm at Sooke Baptist Church (7110 West Coast Rd). Info: 250-370-5664

**Creativ Festival West** at Pearkes Arena. Fri Mar 8 & Sat Mar 9. [www.creativfestival.ca](http://www.creativfestival.ca)

**Men's Rugby Sevens #Canada7s** at BC Place. Sat Mar 9 & Sun Mar 10. [www.canadasevens.com/tickets/](http://www.canadasevens.com/tickets/)

**Rugby Mens 15s.** Fri Mar 8. Canada vs USA in Seattle. 7 pm PT. Live [www.tsn.ca/TSNApp](http://www.tsn.ca/TSNApp) & tape 8 pm PT on TSN2.

**Juan de Fuca Skating Club Ice Show 'Imagine'** at Juan de Fuca Arena, 1767 Island Hwy. Sat Mar 9. 2 pm & 7 pm. Sun Mar 10 at 1 pm. Tx: 250-818-7151.

**Daylight Savings Time** "spring forward". Sun Mar 10 at 2 a.m.

## Week of March 11 to 17

**#BCTECH Summit.** Mon Mar 11 to Wed Mar 13. Vancouver. [www.bctechsummit.ca](http://www.bctechsummit.ca)

**District of Sooke Regular Council meeting.** 7 pm on Mon Mar 11. [www.sooke.ca](http://www.sooke.ca)

**SD62 Board Meeting.** Tues Mar 12. 7 pm. [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)

**SPEAC** (district PAC SD62) meeting at Dunsmuir school. Wed Mar 13. [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)

**SD62 Spring Break.** Sat Mar 16 thru Sun Mar 31. [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)

**Bloom 11. Opening reception.** Sat Mar 16. Coast Collective, 318 Wale Rd. 1 to 3 pm. [www.coastcollective.ca](http://www.coastcollective.ca)

**Juno Awards.** Sun Mar 17. Watch on CBC. [www.junoawards.ca](http://www.junoawards.ca)

<https://westshorevoicenews.com/events/>



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## Week of March 18 to 24

**SD62 Spring Break.** (Mar 16) to Sun Mar 31.

**Federal Budget.** Tues Mar 19.

**Oculus Rift Virtual Reality.** Thurs Mar 21. 4 to 5 pm. Age 10+. Sooke Library, 2065 Anna Marie Rd. 250-642-3022

**Capital City Comic Con 2019.** Mar 22 to 24. Victoria Conference Centre. [www.capitalcitycomiccon.ca](http://www.capitalcitycomiccon.ca)

## Week of March 25 to 31

**SD62 Spring Break.** (Mar 16) to Sun Mar 31.

**CleanBC Telephone Town Hall** (Vancouver Island). Mon Mar 25. 7 pm. Info & registration: [www.cleanbc.ca](http://www.cleanbc.ca)

**LEGO Block Party.** Wed Mar 27. 4 to 4:45 pm. Sooke Library, 2065 Anna Marie Rd, Sooke.

**Sheringham Point Lighthouse** | Winter hours 9 am to 4 pm | [www.sheringhamlighthouse.org](http://www.sheringhamlighthouse.org)

**Popsockets for Mobile Phones.** Make one at the Sooke Library. Sat Mar 30. 1:30 to 2:15 pm. Age 12-18 yr. 2065 Anna Marie Rd, Sooke.

**Earth Hour.** Sat Mar 30. 8:30 to 9:30 pm. [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org)

**PUBLIC INPUT- Changes to BC's Employment Standards Act** - first update since 1994. (From Feb 28) to Sun Mar 31. Submissions by email. More info & how to participate: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/consultation/modernizing-the-employment-standards-act/>

## Looking ahead to April

**SD62 Back to School.** Mon Apr 1. [www.sd62.bc.ca](http://www.sd62.bc.ca)

**SD62 Adolescent Health Survey** results workshop. Wed Apr 10. Dunsmuir Middle School. 4 to 5:30 pm.

**PUBLIC INPUT: Active Transportation** - bike lanes, walking paths, connections to transit. (From Mar 2) to Mon April 15 (4pm) online at: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/activetransportation/>

**DeMamiel Creek Golf Course** in Sooke. Season opens Wed Apr 17. [www.seaparc.ca](http://www.seaparc.ca)

**Easter Long Weekend.** Apr 19 thru Apr 22. Good Friday Apr 19 (Statutory holiday) | Easter Monday Apr 22

**Blood Donor Clinic.** Mon Apr 22. Church of the Advent, 510 Mount View Ave, Colwood. [www.blood.ca](http://www.blood.ca)

**Pacific FC. Inaugural game.** Sun Apr 28 at Westhills Stadium. 4 pm. Vancouver Island vs Halifax. [www.pacificfc.ca](http://www.pacificfc.ca)

Events can be posted in West Shore Voice News through the links on our Events page:



[www.westshorevoicenews.com/events](http://www.westshorevoicenews.com/events)

Or send details (event name, date, time, location, link) by email to [news@westshorevoicenews.com](mailto:news@westshorevoicenews.com)

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## February real estate: momentum & variable dynamics

● The volume of all property sales (single family homes, townhomes, condos, manufactured homes, lots and commercial) dropped by almost one-quarter from February 2018 to February this year, though sales volume was up 28% in February 2019 compared to this January. In February there were 204 single family home sales, 129 townhome sales, 46 condos sold, 14 manufactured homes sold, eight sales of lots, and two commercial property sales.

Condo sales volume across Greater Victoria was down 25% in February from one year previous, but up from January of this year by 16.2%.

The number of active property listings rose 3.6% from January to February; the listing tally at February month-end was 37.9% higher than a year ago.

The raw average sale price of a single family home in Greater Victoria was \$885,042 in February 2019. In the west shore Langford saw an average sale price under the \$700,000 mark at \$695,619, with Colwood higher than usual at \$914,042 and Sooke at \$548,548 and showing no sign of dropping below half a million. **WSV**

## BC public input: have your say on CleanBC, active transportation, & employment standards

● The BC Government invites a lot of public input as it continues to shape the future of this province. Right now you can contribute your ideas on: **CleanBC:** participate in a telephone town hall on Monday March 25 (Vancouver Island session) from 7 to 8:30 pm. Sign up at [www.cleanbc.gov.bc.ca](http://www.cleanbc.gov.bc.ca) **Active Transportation** (bike lanes, walking trails, access to transit): online to April 15, 2019 (4pm) at <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/activetransportation/> **Employment Standards:** by email to March 31 at <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/consultation/modernizing-the-employment-standards-act/>. **WSV**

## Island Corridor website update

● The Island Corridor Foundation (ICF) has launched a new web presentation at their same website address. Info sections include: Rail, Trails, Communities, and First Nations. [www.islandrail.ca](http://www.islandrail.ca)

ICF owns the E&N railbed that all mayors of the 13 capital region municipalities would like to see promptly re-instated with active commuter service. Premier John Horgan at a Victoria Chamber event last week reminded businesses and politicians that without rail tracks on the new Johnson Street bridge (that opened March 31, 2018), a commuter train cannot now get into downtown Victoria. Langford Mayor Stew Young continues to recommend the use of electric buses which can also run on a rail bed; electric buses would be flexible as to where they can travel and would be more environmentally-friendly than diesel-fuelled trains. **WSV**

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**FRIDAY MARCH 8 12:30 to 3 pm**

at Sooke Baptist Church, 7110 West Coast Rd, Sooke

**Sponsors:**  
BC Healthy Communities, Eldercare Foundation, Sooke Region Volunteer Centre, Sooke Region Communities Health Network.

## Sooke Region ElderConnect launch: this Friday, March 8

● Seniors in the Sooke region are welcome to attend a free event with the goal of contributing to the overall well-being of seniors through connectedness to community and services, including the use of online resources.

"Navigating the journey of aging" in successful ways is the key to this initiative. The event is set for Friday, March 8 from 12:30 to 3 pm at the Sooke Baptist Church, 7110 West Coast Rd. **WSV**

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## Measles UPDATE & CORRECTION

● **UPDATE:** There are now 15 confirmed cases in BC (as at February 27), all of those in the Vancouver Coastal Health region on the BC mainland.

● **CORRECTION** (from our article on the measles, February 22, 2019): According to Health Canada, people born before 1970 are likely immune to the disease by natural exposure. MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) 1-dose immunization became available in Canada starting 1963 for all infants and by 1970 was publicly funded across Canada. In 1996-1997 two-dose MMR immunization was introduced. Measles can be fatal. It's a viral disease that is now considered to be entirely preventable. **WSV**

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**LANGFORD ON THE MOVE**

**TRAFFIC INFO**

**Mon Mar 4 & Tues Mar 5.** Road repair work on Bear Mountain Parkway 8:30am to 5pm, near Ponds Landing building.

**Winter, and into Spring 2019.** Langford Pkwy adjacent to City Centre Park & Westhills Stadium (access to Langford Lanes & City Centre Park is open). Road construction and associated work continues, at the future signalized intersection with Leigh Road.

**Continuing in March 2019.** Various roadway adjustments continue around in and around the Belmont Market/Residences construction zone [Jacklin Road, Kelly Road, Jenkins Ave].

**More traffic advisories:**  
[www.langford.ca](http://www.langford.ca)

City of Langford  
[www.cityoflangford.ca](http://www.cityoflangford.ca)