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West Shore Voice News v5

4 pages this issue

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Weekend news digest
Friday February 14, 2020
News to Sunday February 16, 2020

Long-standing cultural clash erupts Indigenous protests begin to hobble Canadian economy

Analysis by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will convene his Incident Response Group on Monday February 17 to address the current infrastructure disruptions across the country.

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Web / Randall Shoop

Trains taken out of service across Canada due to encampment and protest barriers on the tracks. [Above: at New Hazelton in northern BC, Feb 11.]

● In the past week most Canadians have had to fast-track their understanding of indigenous issues (specifically the difference between band governance and the role of hereditary chiefs) and also see more clearly the broad network of trains, planes, ships, trucks and small vehicles that comprise the transportation network which supplies and supports all levels of the economy.

Bringing these two seemingly disparate worlds together in a clash of values and economy has been now a steady enactment of repeated protests across the country since February 6 in support of a Wet'suwet'en blockade of a natural gas pipeline in northern BC, with hotspots in BC (including Vancouver and Victoria). And it's possible this is only the beginning.

As Canadians we respect the value of a pause -- including long weekends like this one for BC Family Day. But protestors have indicated that despite initial discussions with federal and BC leadership, there will be more on-the-ground protests to come. This past week there were blockades to government buildings, including the BC Legislature ahead of the Throne Speech February 11. That crossed a line, in that the people's business in the people's house was at least temporarily impeded. The bodily impact of not being able to enter one's place of work or public service was difficult to process for many people who were caught in the action. Perhaps his only is a hint of what it has felt like for indigenous people to be barred from full participation in Canadian society.

Both Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and BC Premier John Horgan have calmly but firmly commented that in this country and province we are proud of the right to undertake peaceful civil disobedience. But the blockades on train tracks and into places of work is essentially illegal. While RCMP have been said by some to be slow to take action, they also seem to be respecting the right for

peaceful civil disobedience in the hope things would just calm down and sort themselves out. The fact that both the federal Minister of Indigenous Services Marc Miller and Premier Horgan agreed to speak with indigenous leaders so long as blockades were disassembled is, in a way, giving in to the blockade technique. But that openness to dialogue has released some steam, at least for the short term.

Many questions come forward at this juncture, such as 'why now'? The LNG project at Kitimat was approved in October 2018 with the agreement of local first nations local band leaders (the Shell Canada-led LNG Canada consortium announced it would proceed with its \$40-billion, 14-million-tonne-per-year project, to be built near Kitimat, expected to be in service by 2024). However, right after the December 5, 2019 National Energy Board approval of an expanded Kitimat LNG gas export licence as requested by Chevron for a nearby project (despite environmental opposition), five days later Chevron Canada Limited announced their intention to exit its entire 50% working interest in their Kitimat LNG Project in BC.

Raw product extraction and production at Kitimat has huge economic implications for Canada and BC (both of which are banking on tax revenues from LNG sales in the future, to pay for societal improvements today that are taking country and province deep into deficit). The local indigenous elected band leadership who signed on with agreement for the project (despite its inherent environmental risks, such as pipeline leaks) did so for the economic benefits to their impoverished regions, despite protest from hereditary chiefs.

Whereas for many people over many years the discussion about indigenous rights and reconciliation has been a political debate or intellectual consideration, now the mud has hit the fan and has made it real. Even if trains get back up and running within a week, there will be

Continued on pg 2 .../

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ONLINE GARAGE SALE

Canada vs Trinidad & Tobago soccer game coming to Westhills Stadium March 27

www.westshorevoicenews.com

Canada Soccer announces men's team match vs Trinidad & Tobago: Westhills March 27

by Mary P Brooke
West Shore Voice News

● Westhills Stadium in Langford will be hosting an professional men's exhibition soccer game on Friday March 27, with the match-up being Canada vs Trinidad & Tobago.

About 60 people of the Langford business and organized sport communities packed into the City of Langford VIP lounge for the first major 2020 sporting announcement for the stadium as spring approaches.

The game on March 27 could help the Canadian men's team build up points to help qualify for their first world cup since 1986, said the Canada Soccer coach.

Tickets go on sale February 20 at 10 am (prices start at \$20). There will be a special pre-sale on February 19 for Canada Soccer insiders. **WSV**

Full article: <https://westshorevoicenews.com/canada-vs-trinidad-tobago-soccer-game-coming-to-westhills-stadium-march-27/>



West Shore Voice News / M Brooke

City of Langford Mayor Stew Young, Canada Soccer Head Coach John Herdman, and Pacific FC CEO Rob Friend announced the March 27 match between Canada and Trinidad & Tobago during a media event February 14 at Westhills Stadium.

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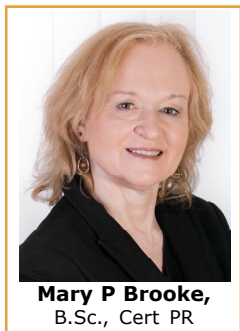
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Mary P Brooke,
B.Sc., Cert PR

A coronavirus by any other name is still an infectious thing

by Mary P Brooke

● For a few weeks now the World Health Organization (WHO) has been on the leading edge of the daily news cycle (7 am Pacific Time), issuing reports featuring tallies of persons infected and dead from the Wuhan Coronavirus. This past week they insisted on a new name for the new 2019-nCoV virus, anointing it with some fanfare as COVID-19. They said it is an attempt to deter racism.

It has been public health protocol for decades to name a virus after the location where it originated (e.g. long ago the 1918–1920 Spanish flu pandemic or Brisbane B which originated in Australia in 2008), or the type of animal from which it sprang (e.g. H1N1 in 2008/2009 *aka* Swine Flu). Not that it was right or evident of great public relations sense, but neither did it ever really catch on to discriminate against Spain or Australia or pigs just because an infection bore its name.

WHO is admirably working slavishly hard to inform the world about the evolution of the current coronavirus epidemic, including a continual effort to put the brakes on panic by resisting a full-on declaration of pandemic. But they are fraying at the edges for their attempts to advise on economic impacts and now trying to doctor a perceived trend to the sociocultural phenomenon of perceived racism. The phrase 'stick to your lane' comes to mind. Changing the name of the virus hasn't really cut muster with mainstream media. We are using the new COVID-19 term, but are not unaware of the contrivance of it all. ■

Indigenous protests

[... Continued from pg 1

impacts to some areas of the food supply chain and delivery of products we don't always think about (like chemicals used to chill indoor ice rinks that make possible the professional and amateur sporting communities and economies they support, for water sanitation, and propane used in some parts of the country to heat homes).

This entire happening has unleashed First Nations pent-up frustration after 150 years of colonialism. It looks like that wound will now bleed raw -- the civilized pace of reconciliation that has suited the stability of mainstream Canadian culture is now significantly disrupted. Likely the permission to be enraged that has been made possible through the force and participation of the various protests in both rural and urban areas will grow, in a similar fashion to how the *#MeToo* movement 'authorized' women to finally speak about a sexually abusive corporate culture that has pervaded women in their careers for decades. Case in point, this weekend on CTV's *Question Period*: Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde seemed to almost lose sight of the pipeline protest aspect and went right to essentially (paraphrasing): 'all indigenous troubles for over 150 years need to be sorted out now'.

This week Canada has witnessed a 'bloodless coup'. Leadership by Trudeau (first rather skillfully by Miller) and Horgan to fast-track into dialogue and discussion has been appropriate and will likely stave off more immediate interruptions to daily business in communities. But any thought of moderate, boardroom style steady progress to reconciliation is probably not realistic.

Injunctions have been necessary by railways, businesses and government to ensure access to places of operation. In at least one case back east the injunction paperwork was burned on the spot by protestors.

The heat is on for full participation by all areas of society to now focus on normalization for indigenous peoples. Like any person or group that has been sidelined for far too long, the road to inclusion or shared agreement will be bumpy and will take time. One never really knows the day a dam will burst, but now this one has. Managing the torrent of feelings and demands toward achievable solutions is now the work of conscientious and responsible leaders in all camps.

In observing the TV news coverage of the many protests across the country, the support base is largely X-Gen and Z-Gen -- including many young women both indigenous and not. That generation's frustration over incomplete inclusion in today's economy (forced into 'gig economy', the enormous costs of post-secondary, housing, and child care) has mounted, and organizers of recent protests have been clever to tap into that group whose rights and opportunities have been badly squeezed if not trampled upon.

COURTESY Watermarked EDITION

Watching the media coverage of Minister Miller and Premier Horgan it's clear they grasp the complexity of the issues. It's mainstream Canada that needs to catch up as to how systematic the exclusion of indigenous peoples has been over many decades. It's also going to be a steep learning curve for non-indigenous Canadians to really grasp what indigenous leaders mean when they talk about the sacred aspects of land and heritage. Most people regardless of heritage have some sort of spiritual belief system and hold certain things sacred. It does seem like entitlement for indigenous leaders to somehow claim their way is better or of a higher standard; there was even a flavour of that in the resistance of former Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould (rightly proud of her indigenous heritage) to merge into the Canadian mainstream. Her own culturally-based belief system hit a brick wall in the mainstream Ottawa political system, and look at the havoc that caused... leading in part to Trudeau's bumpy ride to re-election in 2019.

The forces behind the indigenous uprising coupled with and supported by young adults who have been economically sidelined produce a huge tidal wave for social change. The communication skill and social insight by all leaders in this



Coronavirus Update

CoronaVirus tally

as of 12 noon on February 15, 2020

Stats from the World Health Organization (WHO)

● There are 50,580 laboratory-confirmed confirmed cases of the 2019-nCoV Coronavirus globally (1,527 new) in the 24 hours leading up to the World Health Organization's (WHO) February 15 report. Of those cases, 50,054 cases (98.96%) have occurred in China (down from 99.18% on February 9 as more cases occur in other countries). WHO reports that of the known cases in China, 6,188 are severe (87 new), and there have been 812 deaths (89 new).

Outside of China there are 526 lab-confirmed cases (21 new) in 25 countries (1 new) which includes two deaths. On February 14, BC announced one new presumed case of COVID-19 (a woman in her 30s who arrived back to the BC Interior region from a trip to China; she is self-isolating at home and contacts are being sought and informed by public health officials). **WSV**

BC Health coronavirus news releases: <https://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/diseases-conditions/novel-coronavirus-information>



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Words are not enough?

by Mary P Brooke, West Shore Voice News

● As modern Canadian society continues to explore itself in response to various crises and disasters in recent years, there has been a growing debate over the best way to express one's support or condolences in such times.

One view is that 'words are not enough' to support a grieving process. Indeed, it is important to have the physical surrounding of family or community in difficult times. Maybe it's more so the trendy 'thoughts and prayers' phrase that people object to, as if that's too easy and is not necessarily accompanied by real conviction.

But the power of words -- how they are phrased and when they are delivered -- is something never to be underestimated. Not to get too biblical for some readers, but for billions of people on this planet everything started with 'the Word' (an idea that speaks reality into existence). Words have inspired people to love, to hate, to join, to fight, to endure, to create new societies, and to pursue peace. Words convey our stories, build our cultures, and record our histories.

Words as the building blocks of language are the tools by which humanity may stand apart from our baser instincts. Words well crafted are of course what underlie the adage 'the pen is mightier than the sword' (meaning that discussion and discourse is preferred and more

COURTESY Watermarked EDITION

scenario that has quickly become monstrous in proportion to other current issues are what we are relying upon to maintain social and economic stability in these initial heated weeks. This is now likely leading into the months and years that it will take to homogenize the Canadian culture and its governance structures in a way that finally embraces indigenous needs into the mainstream.

No one is dismissing any value of indigenous ways, beliefs or cultural ways, but the modern economy that can bring most people a reasonable standard of living and range of life opportunities is well in place and it makes no sense to damage it. Improvements yes, but not dismantling. How does any disenfranchised group in society find its way into the fold? Step by step, through open doors. Distinct cultures can exist side by side (we see a wide range of cultural diversity in Canada, with newcomers from many parts of the world); cultures are maintained and respected and celebrated. But for overall societal success it is necessary for everyone to have participation in the economy and in the systems of governance. Celebrating distinctiveness while still being operational within the mainstream is the way for everyone to move forward.

Within the indigenous communities themselves is the debate about elected leadership versus hereditary chiefs (which may not exactly be from a descended line but are chosen through ceremony by their community). While that seemed to have sparked this current flame, ironically that will probably sort out separately on the side (a sort of 'separation of church and state' within the indigenous governance structure) as Canada deals with the bigger reality of its entire identity under siege.

Standing up to longstanding oppression of one group in society by another is never easy, and can be violent. Back this weekend from a week-long trip to Africa and Europe, Trudeau will be convening his Incident Response Group on Monday February 17 (forgoing his planned government trip to the Caribbean).

From a human rights perspective, this upsurge in support of indigenous rights (or more specifically finally a palpable recognition of their plight as a disenfranchised sector of society) is inevitable. In that respect this building turmoil comes with a sense of relief that issues will finally be addressed.

But the work to sort out this long-developing crisis that seems to now be coming to a head could -- in the long haul -- take decades. The presumed goal will be to achieve balance between honouring the ways of a people who protected the land for thousands of years and their desire to benefit by the economies of the modern world, without in the meantime damaging the Canadian economy upon which everyone depends. **WSV**

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successful than violence). A few well-chosen and well-spoken words can heal a person, a community or a nation, sometimes in a sweeping instant or over time by way of the reverberation of their intent. ■

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Your Voice in the Legislature

Premier's message on BC Family Day

Premier John Horgan, for BC Family Day on Monday February 17, 2020

"Family Day is an opportunity to spend some extra time with loved ones – whether that means family or friends – to do fun activities together, relax and recharge.

Our government wants Family Day events to be accessible to everyone. We're supporting dozens of free events at parks and recreation centres, museums, galleries and heritage organizations in communities throughout BC over the holiday weekend. This is all part of our work to make life better and more affordable for families in BC.

From my family to yours, I wish you a happy and safe Family Day!"

Randall Garrison, MP delivers bill to remove self-harm as punishable offence

West Shore Voice News

● **Randall Garrison, MP (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke)** tabled legislation in the House of Commons on February 6 that would remove the clause that designates self-harm as a punishable offence from the Military Code. That condition is considered to be a barrier to Armed Forces members who are facing mental health struggles but do not want to come forward and potentially face punishment.

Garrison explained: "The problem of death by suicide of Canadian Forces members is not going away. We are still losing more than one serving member per month to death by suicide, 17 in 2019 alone." Surviving family members have supported Garrison in this work.

This is the third time Garrison is attempting to make this change. He first tabled this Private Members' Bill in 2019, seeking to remove the archaic section of the National Defence Act that designates self-harm as a disciplinary offence for members of the Armed Forces. The bill was blocked by the Liberals and did not pass prior to the dissolution of the previous Parliament, but Garrison says he is hopeful



Livestream

Randall Garrison, MP (Esquimalt-Saanich-Sooke) speaking in the House of Commons.

<https://randallgarrison.ndp.ca/>

"that all MPs will now work together to pass Bill C-203 and ensure that Armed Forces members can finally access the mental health care they need without fear of reprisal".

"This section of the National Defence Act is a clear barrier to Canadian Forces members who have mental health issues from seeking the help they need," said Garrison. **WSV**

Dean slams comments by BC Liberal leader about domestic violence

● **BC Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity, Mitzi Dean**, called BC Liberal Leader Andrew Wilkinson's description of domestic violence as "a tough marriage" as "very disturbing, it shows how out of touch he is".

Discussion of the topic was in the wake of the NDP government Throne Speech February 11 wherein support for women fleeing domestic violence will be reduced to five days from 10 days of unpaid job-protected leave.

WSV

Working for our community

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Women in Journalism: Remembering Christie Blatchford and Anne Kingston

by Mary P Brooke, editor ~ West Shore Voice News

● **The coincidence of two prominent women** who were stars of the Canadian journalism world dying of aggressive forms of cancer within days of each other, and both only in their 60s, caught the attention of media across the country this week.

Both Christie Blatchford, 68, and Anne Kingston, 62, were trendsetters for women in journalism. Both with long strident careers, neither was married or had children. Blatchford was the first woman to report on professional sports news with locker room access and Kingston took on society as her muse.

While known more so in Ontario but with a national following, these journalists set a high bar for their untiring observation, review and analysis of leading issues of the day.

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Christie Blatchford took on tough assignments in crime, war and politics and wrote riveting pieces that developed huge followings enjoyed by her publishers. Her mission was to speak truth to power.

"She was magnificent: unshakeable integrity, generous-hearted, completely unpretentious, the perfect journalist," said media mogul Conrad Black in a column in *The National Post* on February 14. "She distinguished reporting from comment, never over-wrote stories," commented her one-time employer, saying she was "uninterested in indulging in any kind of deception, or guile, or anyone more professional".

"Her perspective was unswayed by popular opinion and unvarnished. Sometimes you liked it, sometimes you didn't. But the one thing you could not do is ignore it," said criminal defence lawyer Marie Henein.

Her final column was right after the October 2019 federal election, marveling (though not necessarily pleased) at how an embattled Trudeau had been re-elected and how Scheer's performance was unremarkable to the other degree.

At about the time of her cancer diagnosis, Blatchford was inducted into the Canadian News Hall of Fame in November 2019.



Christie Blatchford (1951-2020)

Anne Kingston's writing was "clear-eyed, unsentimental and startlingly original", as described by *Maclean's Magazine* on February 14. And Kingston simply worked until the job was done: "I will never forget listening to Anne on the phone with someone who didn't want to give her a straight answer. By the time she hung up, she usually had what she was looking for," said one colleague this week.

Kingston's own words of just last summer speak volumes about the overview and breadth of her thinking: "How do we foster compassion within systems designed to reward those who aren't compassionate?"

She covered politics with a bent for women's issues, including the Bill Cosby and Jian Ghomeshi trials, Hillary Clinton's candidacy for US president, and Justin Trudeau's feminist record.

Kingston scaled the realms of social justice issues, but with nuance and original contributions to thinking of the day. In *The National Post* on February 13 she was described as "a passionate writer who skewered modern culture and highlighted violence against women".

"She was determined that she add intelligence and subtlety to the conversation, simply writing what everyone else was writing was of absolutely no interest to her," wrote Alison Uncles, editor-in-chief of *Maclean's*.

Kingston was the author of *The Meaning of Wife: A Provocative Look at Women and Marriage in the 21st Century*, and also penned an insight piece into corporate influence called *The Edible Man: Dave Nichol, President's Choice and the Making of Popular Taste*. **WSV**



Anne Kingston (1957-2020)

Maggie Naylor

News media in further danger of losing autonomy in Canada

by Mary P Brooke

West Shore Voice News

WEST SHORE VOICE

● **In response to news media alarm** over the final report of the federal Broadcasting and Telecommunications Legislative Review Panel last week, Minister of Heritage Steven Guilbeault seemed to feel it was necessary last week to justify if not downplay any idea that Ottawa aims to regulate the news media.

"Let me be clear," said Guilbeault. "Our government has no intention to impose licensing requirements on news organizations, nor will we try to regulate news content." But then he followed with this: "We are committed to a free and independent press, which is essential to our democracy. Our focus will be and always has been to ensure that Canadians have access to a diversity of high-quality and credible news sources." To create such assurances, their hand will need to be in the pot.

The Trudeau government says they won't require the licensing of journalists and media, but seems strangely intent on overseeing the free and independent media to make sure news is of "high quality and diverse".

As Terence Corcoran wrote in *The Financial Post*, February 5: "That's no assurance of media freedom, especially in the context of the 235-page panel monstrosity that calls for major extensions of political and regulatory power over Canada's communications systems."

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Virtually all of the panel report's 97 recommendations call for expanded government authority. The panel seeks to "empower" the CRTC and "empower the Minister" to effectively "meddle, interfere, overturn, establish, ensure, exempt and compel action throughout the Canadian communication system," wrote Corcoran. Legislation is expected to come by June 2020.

A \$595 million fund (over five years) that was announced in the previous parliamentary session favours big corporate media over the financial well-being of small independent news services, using the guise of 'supporting local media' but providing meaningful support only through tax deductions that only large media outlets can afford to carry in advance. The lure of suggesting that media outlets become non-profits ultimately fell with a thud amongst those who needed the support most. **WSV**



BC Family Day long weekend includes Mon Feb 17. Statutory holiday. BC Finance Minister at Family Arts Festival, Cedar Hill Rec Centre, 11-3.
BC Family Day Activities at SEAPARC Leisure Complex in Sooke Mon Feb 17. www.seaparc.ca
BC Budget. Tues Feb 18.

City of Langford Council meeting. Tues Feb 18. 5:30 pm. www.langford.ca

City of Colwood Special Committee of the Whole Budget Meeting. Tues Feb 18. 6 pm. www.colwood.ca

Outdoor storytime. Sat Feb 22 by Sooke Library at Sooke Region Museum. 10:30-11 am. For up to age 5.

Juan de Fuca Performing Arts Centre Society AGM. Sun Feb 23. JdF Library, 1759 Island Hwy. 2 pm.

SD62 Board Meeting. Tues Feb 25. 7 pm. www.sd62.bc.ca

Leap Year. There is Feb 29 in 2020!

Pan Am Cross Country Cup 5 km course on the Bear Mountain Valley Golf Course in Langford Sat Feb 29. Organized by Vancouver Island Runners Assoc. <https://panamxcup2020.com/news/>

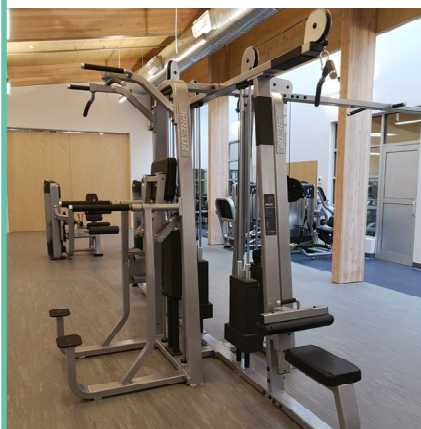
Beer and Burger Night with karaoke. 'Leap Year Fun' fundraiser for Sooke Community Choir. Sat Feb 29. 6:30pm at Sooke Legion. Tx \$20 at Shoppers Drug Mart or at the door. www.sookecommunitychoir.com

Wounded Warriors Run BC. Sun Mar 1. Grand Finale after 600 km run, event behind BC Legislature. 4:30 pm. www.woundedwarriors.ca/events/

Drop off Branches at Colwood Public Works Yard. Sat Mar 7. 8:30 am to 4 pm. 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month. Behind city hall, 3300 Wishart Rd. www.colwood.ca

New West Langford Schools information open house (designs, names, catchment areas). Thurs Mar 12. Belmont Secondary, 3041 Langford Lake Rd. 6:30 pm. www.sd62.bc.ca

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School Spring Break SD62. Mar 14-29. www.sd62.bc.ca

CRD Committee of the Whole. Wed Mar 18. Final 2020 budget plan. www.crd.bc.ca/budget

Canada Soccer Event: Men's Canada Soccer vs Trinidad & Tobago. Fri Mar 27 at Westhills Stadium, Langford. Tickets \$20. [Possibly a second game on March 31 if the March 27 game sells out].

Bear Mountain Bike Festival. March 28 & 29. <https://www.bearmountainbikefest.com/>

Lobsterfest 2020 fundraiser. Sat Apr 4 at Langford Legion. www.westshorerotary.org

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Easter Long Weekend. Good Friday Apr 10 through Easter Monday Apr 13.

Out of School Care for 2020/2021. Registration starts Wed Apr 15. West Shore Parks & Recreation. www.westshorererecreation.ca

Family Arts Fair. Sat Apr 18 9:30 am to 12 noon. Family activities including music, dance, crafts and visual arts. Interactive demos and workshops. In partnership with Sooke Arts Council. www.seaparc.ca

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High school students invited to suggest ideas for new legislation

West Shore Voice News



Alistair MacGregor, MP (Cowichan-Malahat-Langford) has announced the "Create Your Canada" contest for 2020. The contest gives students in Grades 11 and 12 in his south Vancouver Island riding the opportunity to win a trip to Ottawa

by submitting their ideas on how to make Canada a better place. The winning student(s) will have the opportunity to watch MacGregor present their idea to the House of Commons as a Private Member's Bill. <https://westshorevoicenews.com/teens-asked-for-ideas-on-federal-legislation/>

"I am very excited to give students in my riding the opportunity to learn about and participate in the legislative process firsthand," stated MacGregor. "The young people of this country are our future, and I want to encourage them to get involved and think about how we can create a better Canada."

The deadline for submissions to "Create your Canada" is March 31, 2020. Students may enter individually or in groups of two. More information and submission forms: <https://alistairmacgregor.ndp.ca/news/create-your-canada-contest> **WSV**

ICBC: lower rates, more care for injured

West Shore Voice News

Transforming the Insurance Corporation of BC (ICBC) was the BC government's stated goal on February 6 as they announced sweeping changes to how ICBC will serve the public. Their leading point was about removing lawyers and legal costs from the system to reduce rates and substantially increase care benefits. This is to "make public auto insurance work for British Columbians again", it was stated in a release. It's similar to programs in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Legislation will lower ICBC premiums by about 20% (an average of \$400 in savings per driver). Maximum care and treatment benefits for anyone injured in a crash will increase to at least \$7.5 million, and new benefits will provide care for those most seriously injured, for as long as they need it. These benefits will be available to every British Columbian without having to hire a lawyer.

Wage loss coverage will be 60% higher than today. And with evidence of really examining the realities for individuals, families, and ICBC procedural strangleholds, there will be new benefits -- such as benefits for full-time students, caregivers, those working in the family business or those approaching retirement, who suffer income loss following a crash (replacing lump-sum payments that were previously awarded only through lengthy and expensive litigation).

ICBC links:

2020 basic insurance rates: <https://www.icbc.com/insurance/costs/Documents/Basic-insurance-rates-2020-looking-ahead.pdf>
Government's intended changes at ICBC: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/organizational-structure/crown-corporations/enhanced-care-coverage-intentions-paper.pdf> **WSV**

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New business, new baby

West Shore Voice News

This BC Family Day weekend will be the first for two local optometrists as an expanded family. Baby Clark was born to Dr Nicole Hewitt and Dr Chris Hewitt last fall.

Last year in addition to expanding their family they expanded their world by purchasing the optometry clinic in Sooke from Dr Brian Joslin and Dr Louise Morin. As they settled into new business ownership they also settled into new parenthood.

Nicole Hewitt had worked at the Sooke clinic for almost four years before she and her husband bought it as their family business. "We like the casual feeling of the Sooke clinic. The clients are friendly. It makes our day enjoyable," says Nicole.

Over 25 years an optometrist, Dr Morin still works at the clinic serving her long time clientele, but it's future-forward for the optometry office as Sooke Eyecare under the Hewitts. Many of the same staff have stayed on.

This month Sooke Eyecare is offering a February special. Buy one pair of glasses at the regular price and get the second pair at half price.

Sooke Optometry is at 5-6726 West Coast Road in Sooke, open Monday to Saturday. www.SookeOptometrists.com **WSV**

The new care-based insurance model will be implemented for May 2021. Meanwhile, there will be no basic insurance rate change for 2020.

Premier John Horgan says the changes focus on improving care for people who have been injured in a crash. He said the BC Liberal government "ignored ICBC's problems, allowing it to become a system that made lawyers rich, while drivers paid too much for insurance".

Other benefits were itemized as longer more available coverage for physiotherapy and an increased level of medical care and supports for recovery in the medical system. Those injured by dangerous drivers convicted of certain Criminal Code offences, such as impaired driving, will still be able to sue for additional compensation. **WSV**

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