

Here we GROW again!

CATCH 62

Two new schools in West Langford

OPEN HOUSE ● Thursday March 12

In the Belmont Secondary Theatre
3041 Langford Lake Rd
6 to 8 pm ● Light refreshments

Announcing the new school names!
We welcome your input on
catchment boundaries.

www.sd62.bc.ca

West Shore Voice News

v3

4 pages this issue

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INSIDE:

- Coronavirus communications [Editorial] & pandemic stats ... 2
- SD62 looks to 2020-2021: more than 11,500 students ... 3

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6.5 LANGFORD CA THURSDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2020

West Shore Voice News

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Langford
where it all happens.

Langford rolls out multiple new amenities at party-style council meeting

Maritime museum, conference centre and performing arts theatre underway in Langford

West Shore Voice News

www.westshorevoicenews.com

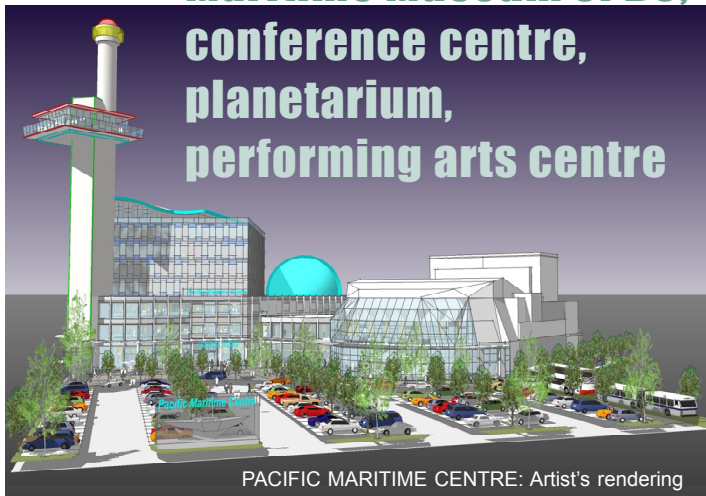
Langford city growth: phase 3

by Mary P Brooke

● A two-part launch for the Maritime Museum of BC took place in Langford this week. On Monday the breathtaking oceanside setting at the city's Finlayson Arm property was the backdrop for the maritime aspect of the deal. That was followed on Tuesday evening at the City Centre Grille (next to Westhills Stadium) with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between museum and city, which as part of a formal City of Langford Council meeting officially launched the venture that is the flagship of Mayor Stew Young's third chapter for municipal growth.

Based on the success of wooing big-box stores to Langford in the mid-2000s, Stew Young's vision was to then use that commercial tax base to embark on developing housing that was more affordable than in the Greater Victoria core. With that plan well in motion, last decade he and his Council then set about fashioning Langford into phase two -- a national sports capital. Now Pacific FC leads with professional

Maritime Museum of BC, conference centre, planetarium, performing arts centre



Maritime Museum of BC Chair Capt John Clarkson (left) and Langford Mayor Stew Young announced the new partnership between museum and city, at the Finlayson Arm oceanfront in Langford on February 24.

soccer league and indoor training centre, Rugby Canada calls Langford home, Westhills Stadium continues to expand, Bear Mountain Resort hosts pro golf, tennis and cycling, and wrapping up by next year will be the new Boxing BC building and a climbing wall near the stadium, plus the new Jordie Lunn bike park in the Humpback area.

Now phase three reaches into the realm of arts, culture and education, says Mayor Young. After achieving federal and provincial funding and other funding initiatives to build the Pacific Maritime Centre (at a cost of \$57 million), the venture's economic base will be the commercial leasing of office space and conference centre within the PMC at 790 McCallum Road where land levelling is already underway. Located across the street from Costco and Staples, the PMC will have access to additional parking for evening events at the planetarium and performing arts centre (\$30 million to build the arts centre). A new SD62 high school will be built nearby.

Attending the Tuesday evening MOU event was a wide range of Langford who's who from business, sports, government, education and media. **WSV**

NEW LANGFORD BRANDING: <https://westshorevoicenews.com/langford-rolls-out-multiple-new-amenities-at-party-style-council-meeting/> ● <https://westshorevoicenews.com/maritime-museum-conference-centre-and-performing-arts-theatre-underway-in-langford/>

Sales centre now open for 85 more condos Belmont Residences East

by Mary P Brooke ~ West Shore Voice News



Touring a remaining unit at Belmont Residences West (from left): Langford Councillor Norma Stewart; Westshore Chamber of Commerce President Mike Reilly; Eric Gerlach, Vice President Development for Belmont Residences East; and Peter Gaby, Partner, DFH Realty.

● Developer and sales team were joined by City of Langford and media at the official launch of Belmont Residences East on Thursday morning February 27.

The event included speeches, a tour of the updated sales center (now featuring Belmont Residences East, after a 97% sell-out of Belmont Residences West which launched in 2018), and a tour of completed West condo units.

East has 85 units, up from the 80 units now almost entirely sold in West. Interior designs lean to cooler tones (black, white and greys) and more efficient use of floorspace (inset shelves and desks instead of a full flex room), with the types of units now including a "junior 2-bedroom" (with one shared bathroom) at a lower price-point than 2-bdrm, 2-bath.

The common areas for two apartment buildings called "Crossing at Belmont" were also on Thursday's tour. Those buildings are now 85% occupied,



Director of Development Marcela Corzo, Belmont Residences East, reviews condo floorplans in Langford this week.

with a rent-to-own option for moving into West or East.

Langford Mayor Stew Young addressed the crowd about how his city helps people achieve home ownership, joined for the event by Councillors Lillian Szpak and Norma Stewart as well as CAO Darren Kiedyk and Director of Engineering Michelle Mahovich. Director of Development for Belmont Residences East **Marcela Corzo** said Ledcor Developments aims to help make home ownership attainable including for young first-time buyers. She appreciates the support and engagement of the community. **Scott Brown**, president of Fifth Avenue Real Estate Marketing Ltd said 75% of Belmont East is priced under \$499,000.

Priority viewing is open to registered potential buyers, by signing up at www.BelmontResidencesEast.com **WSV**

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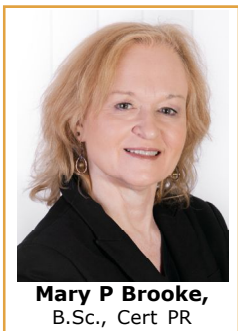
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Mary P Brooke,
B.Sc., Cert PR

Timely communication about COVID-19 pandemic is essential

● On one of our usual topics about the importance of communications and the role of media, people have seen in the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation a recurring theme over the past few weeks from a number of directions.

Public health officials and government have so far mostly taken the stance of saying generally enough and no more -- evidently out of an abundance of caution and to 'avoid panic'. Which is, however, a little insulting to operate from the premise that minimal information prevents over-reaction. Knowledge is power. Being informed allows for preparation and resilience.

In that context it was refreshing this week to hear federal Health Minister Patty Hajdu quite directly say that people should be prepared for a long stay at home in the event that self-quarantine is necessary. And it was both appropriate and effective for media to respond with curiosity as to the difference in tone of Hajdu's messaging compared to the pulled-back remarks from other political leaders and health officials.

As seen in social media and news reports, the public seems to want more information to help set aside any undue concerns. They don't need science lessons, but probably hope to be equipped with the best tool kit for managing the coronavirus situation in their own lives at home, work or school, and in the community.

Emergency preparedness by most British Columbians has until now (and probably still minimally by most households) centered around making do during power outages and here on Vancouver Island for the greater premise of dealing with the supply chain disruption aftermath of a major earthquake. The official recommendation for years now has been for seven days preparedness to manage without ready access to stores, reliable transportation, or cash-machine banking services.

The main difference about the COVID-19 situation is that preparedness is about intentionally sheltering in place without leaving your home. That's probably what is most disconcerting to most people who are commuters or active in their community. Something as simple as dashing out for milk or infant needs at the local store or grabbing coffee with a friend would be off limits during a 14-day COVID-19 quarantine. This 'isolate at home' strategy as health advisories call it is perhaps only psychologically softened for most by the knowledge of having smartphone and Internet at one's fingertips (probably uninterrupted compared to an earthquake scenario). Still, a solitary fortnight could feel onerous for many, and health services, workplaces and schools will rightfully not be surprised at the impact of imposed social isolation.

Forewarned is forearmed: prior knowledge of possible dangers or problems allows for tactical advantage. If people are not properly advised to prepare for in-home quarantine, and ultimately must indeed self-isolate, on a practical level they are greatly disserved by a lack of information in advance. Inadequate or ill-timed information about quarantine preparedness -- for which many people likely need time and budget management to accommodate -- is inconsiderate at best, and could be seen as micromanagement at its worst. And on the communications theme of this editorial, it shows once again how low on the totem pole are the important functions of well-composed and effectively strategized communications delivery by many levels of government and smaller organizations. The role of media was in fact highlighted this week by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a critical one, which is refreshing to see. It is not inflammatory or sensational to give people various scientific, socio-economic and political points of fact by which to participate in public analysis.

Across the country it's evident that people are generally frustrated with what feels like a lack of communications strategy and/or lack of coordinated response on what individuals and households should do. Yes the messaging about handwashing, sneeze/cough etiquette, and staying home if you feel unwell is getting through -- it's almost a mantra now (a good result of repetitive messaging). But the variation in public health or political leadership messaging about whether or not to truly and thoroughly prepare one's home, work/school situation, and family arrangements -- and how soon -- is beginning to be disruptive to people. Leaving people in the lurch for knowing what to do -- and more importantly -- how quickly to do it, is bordering on unprofessional for the lack of readiness and coordination on the part of levels of government that people look to at times such as these. The public consternation and even backlash might be excused away by leadership as an 'expected' public response during stressful times. But the lack of a good communications and public relations strategy as a pandemic digs in cannot be excused, and various levels of community leadership and government will be rightly challenged to explain any lack of appropriate performance (types and depth of information, and timing of delivery).

Thanks to modern education and the Internet, today's populace is far more educated and self-reliant when it comes to being informed. While the WHO has been understandably walking on political eggshells in their ultimate rollout of 'Very High' as their global risk rating for COVID-19 and their use of the word pandemic, all one needs is a dictionary (or Wikipedia) to clarify the difference between epidemic and pandemic. A pandemic is by definition already underway with COVID-19 and it's not fear-mongering to say so, in fact it's responsible to say so (any reluctance is more a reflection of leadership short-changing attitude about the community's capacity to deal with the information and/or a realization that effective information packaging of that level of information is not ready yet).

All health officials and political leaders are aware -- and many stating -- that the public health containment strategy developed after SARS in 2003 (i.e. tracking travel and contact history of people with confirmed cases, and asking those people to self-isolate) will ultimately lose containment as community-spread of COVID-19 emerges in Canada (as it has in other countries such as Iran, France, UK, and the USA). This is evidence based, as the science has already shown that the COVID-19 virus can survive in moisture on various surfaces (both human and objects) for varying lengths of time (a few hours or longer).

COVID-19

DEFINITIONS:

Epidemic: An outbreak of disease that attacks many peoples at about the same time and may spread through one or several communities. **Pandemic:** When an epidemic spreads throughout the world. **Infectious diseases:** Diseases that you can catch. They are communicable. **WSV**

ROLE OF MEDIA:

"Yours is a critical role. This is the time for accurate reporting from official sources. Your role in an outbreak is not simply to chase the story; it is to perform a public service. Your actions are public health actions in every respect. You play a significant part in protecting the health and well-being of your fellow citizens." ~ Dr Hans Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe (February 27, 2020) **WSV**

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Public health delivery management is one of those 'under the radar' functions of modern society that most people don't think about until it comes up at times like this. Of course it's a complex set of systems, protocols and (in this case) laboratory exercises under relative duress (for aspects of time, funding and available expertise). But hopefully going forward the communications component is given as much priority as the science and containment strategy. After all, it is *public* health... the intended recipients are hopefully served with best-practice in communications, including a more complex media strategy that recognizes the various levels of media formats and editorial competency. It also behooves media to have in-house or access to science-based expertise for times such as these; this can be a tall order in lean newsrooms.

A component of local community communications will be about events. Municipalities and groups will no doubt have decision-making angst over whether to hold various community events if the prevalence of COVID-19 in the Greater Victoria area ends up warranting those sorts of decisions. Cancellations of fundraisers and larger events at arenas and stadiums will mean revenue

disruptions with a trickle-down effect at least in the short term. ■

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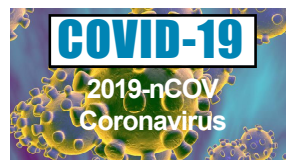
Coronavirus Update

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

2019-nCoV [COVID-19]

As of Sunday March 1, 2020

Stats from the World Health Organization (WHO)



● As of March 1, 2020 (1 am Pacific Standard Time) there are 87,137 cases of COVID-19 globally, with 7,169 of those (104 deaths) occurring outside China in 58 countries (now including Ireland and Monaco). The risk assessment globally is now Very High. WHO has published updated recommendations for international traffic in relation to COVID-19 outbreak. In light of the rapidly evolving situation, WHO still advises against travel or trade restrictions to countries experiencing COVID-19 outbreaks, even though all new cases in Canada so far have been from people arriving from or returning from visits to affected areas.

"Travel measures that significantly interfere with international traffic may only be justified at the beginning of an outbreak, as they may allow countries to gain time, even if only a few days, to rapidly implement effective preparedness measures," says WHO. "Such restrictions must be based on a careful risk assessment, be proportionate to the public health risk, be short in duration, and be reconsidered regularly as the situation evolves." Yesterday the USA blocked travel from high-incidence countries such as Iran and affected areas of South Korea and Italy, despite that WHO says: "Travel bans to affected areas or denial of entry to passengers coming from affected areas are usually not effective in preventing the importation of cases but may have a significant economic and social impact."

In Canada there have been 24 confirmed COVID-19 cases (Ont 15, BC 8, and Que 1). <https://westshorevoicenews.com/8th-case-of-covid-19-in-bc-as-us-restricts-travel-to-affected-areas-and-people-seem-ready-for-more-information/>

Public health officials continue to remind people to wash their hands, observe proper cough/sneeze etiquette, and stay home if feeling unwell so as to minimize transmission of flu or COVID-19 to others. People over age 60 and anyone with a compromised immune system or underlying health disorder is more vulnerable to COVID-19 complications. **WSV**

BC Center for Disease Control:
<http://www.bccdc.ca>

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

Daily news posts at
www.westshorevoicenews.com

West Shore Voice News

The Sooke Voice News

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SD62 looks to 2020-2021: budget, more students, building new schools



The Board of Education of Sooke School District 62 (SD62) held their monthly public board meeting on Tuesday evening, February 25.

FEBRUARY 25 SD62 BOARD MEETING NOTES - by Mary P Brooke, editor, West Shore Voice News

- Superintendent Scott Stinson provided this month’s update on the community-wide public consultation about the two new schools (elementary and middle) in West Langford and a catchment boundary review, set for Thursday March 12 at Belmont Secondary School. Stinson said that vice principals have been hired for elementary, middle and secondary for 2020-2021. He will attend an Island Leadership Coalition meeting in Nanaimo on March 6. The superintendent carefully outlined how SD62 as a matter of good practice is reviewing its policies and procedures to discover if there is any bias as relates to indigenous students and education. He noted Pink Shirt Day which takes place on the last Wednesday of February each year to provide anti-bullying awareness. Stinson acknowledged how it takes an incredible amount of work to get accurate enrolment numbers -- especially as the school district student population grows -- so that all students in the district (with schools in Langford, Colwood and Sooke) can start school on the same day at the same time.
- The preliminary budget for 2020-2021 was presented by Secretary-Treasurer Harold Cull, showing an estimated revenue of \$119 million (mostly provincial government funding, plus international student fees, and some facility rental revenue). Most years, about 85% of the SD62 budget is spent on salaries for teachers and support staff and related benefits.
- Preliminary student population numbers are rolling out for the 2020-2021 academic year, which will impact virtually all areas of school operations and budget decision-making. So far, figures presented by Associate Superintendent Paul Block indicate an increase of 412 students this coming September, for a total enrolled student population of at least 11,500 (there’s been a steady enrolment climb from 9,075 in 2013-2014); that includes the largest-ever Kindergarten registration in SD62 (presently 861). SD62 opened two new highschools in September 2015, will open the new elementary and middle schools on Constellation Avenue in Westhills for September 2022, and another high school to be located on McCallum Road near the new Pacific Maritime Centre was announced by the City of Langford this week.
- SD62 Board Chair Ravi Parmar noted that the Ministry of Education has budgeted \$2.8 billion in capital expenditures on expansion and replacement of schools for Kindergarten to Grade 12, with \$925 million on seismic upgrades. To cover growth across the province, the province’s education budget is up by \$128 million in 2020-2021 said Parmar, within a total operations budget of \$6.697 billion for public education province-wide.
- Also: Superintendent Scott Stinson told West Shore Voice News on February 28, in light of the coronavirus situation: “We continue to monitor the situation closely and will be meeting with the field trip leads on Monday to discuss our options and plans moving forward. The situation is quite dynamic at the moment.” WSV

Wounded Warriors 2020 Run raises \$155,000 in eight days

West Shore Voice News



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Youth programming at new Pacific Maritime Centre >>

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- The Pacific Maritime Centre announced this week by the City of Langford and Maritime Museum of BC includes “several new iconic attractions for the City and will further enhance our commitment for providing family-based entertainment, youth training initiatives, educational programming and exciting new public events that help support our local economy,” said Mayor Stew Young. The museum, planetarium and performing arts center venues will enable this new cultural and educational venture. There will be partnerships with First Nations, school districts, post-secondary institutions, NGOs, federal and provincial departments, youth and daycare programs, other private sector entities, and community based arts and cultural organizations.

WSV

City of Langford www.cityoflangford.ca

LANGFORD ON THE MOVE

TRAFFIC INFO

- Traffic advisories
- Scheduled roadworks

www.langford.ca

<https://westshorevoicenews.com/events>

Sooke Arts Council. General meeting Tues Mar 3. Submissions for Art & Word, Vol 2 to Mar 4. www.sookearts.com

Canadian youths taking court action on the climate crisis. Thurs Mar 5. Speaker presentations at the Max Bell Centre, Pearson College UWC, Metchosin. 2:45 p.m. www.PearsonCollege.ca

Cabaret the Musical. Presented by Royal Bay Secondary. Thurs Mar 5. 7 pm to 9:30 pm. Tickets available at the Royal Bay school office, 250-474-2377

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

Cowichan Valley International Women's Day Committee 4th annual festival, with Rally at Charles Hoey Park. Sat Mar 7. 11 am to 12:30 pm. Info 416-532-2702

Pacific Salmon Foundation 25th Gala Dinner. Sat Mar 7. Victoria Conference Centre. 1x \$125. www.psf.ca

International Women's Day. Sun Mar 8.

SD62 Board Meeting. Tues Mar 10. 7 pm. www.sd62.bc.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

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

National 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]. www.canadasoccer.com

Bear Mountain Bike Festival. March 28 & 29. www.bearmountainbikefest.com

Earth Hour. Sat Mar 28. 8:30 to 9:30 pm. www.earthhour.org

Create Your Canada. Suggest legislation ideas to Alistair MacGregor, MP. Deadline Tues Mar 31. Open to students in Cowichan-Malahat-Langford who are in Grades 11 and 12. <https://alistairmacgregor.ndp.ca/news/create-your-canada-contest>

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

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

Pacific FC home game 2020 season opener vs Edmonton FC. Sat Apr 11 at Westhills Stadium. <https://canpl.ca/schedule>

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. Also garage sale. www.seaparc.ca

Earth Day. Wed Apr 22.

Rugby Canada Womens Sevens. Sat May 2 & Sun May 3 at Westhills Stadium. www.rugby.ca

Mother's Day Paint-In. Hatley Castle Park, RRU, Colwood. Sun May 10. 11 am to 4 pm.

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Alistair MacGregor delivers on Business Risk Management for Canadian farmers

West Shore Voice News



Alistair MacGregor, MP

● **On February 25**, NDP Agriculture and Agri-Food Critic Alistair MacGregor, MP (Cowichan-Malahat-Langford), was successful in having his motion adopted at the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food, to perform a study of the Business Risk Management (BRM) suite of programs Canadian farmers can access for risk mitigation of issues beyond their control.

"Since the early 2000s, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has a suite of programs in place to help farmers mitigate risk and support farm business," stated MacGregor. "But I have been hearing from many agricultural stakeholders that the BRMs are not keeping pace with the challenges faced by farmers in the 21st century."

As the only New Democrat Member on the committee, MacGregor managed to gain support for his motion, making the BRM review the first study undertaken by the Agriculture Committee in the new Parliament.

"Having just one NDP voice on the committee, it's remarkable what we can achieve when we work together," MacGregor continued. "There's no doubt some of the programs are not meeting the needs of farmers. Hearing their first-hand account before the committee will inform our recommendations to the government for much-needed improvements."

The study will last for six meetings, hearing from agricultural stakeholders from across Canada. It got underway in Ottawa right away on February 27. **WSV**

Tax tips for seniors

West Shore Voice News

● **This week** as many people are focused on tax season, the Chartered Professional Accountants of British Columbia (CPABC) issued this list for people over age 65, toward maximizing tax savings:

1. Get your benefits. If you'll soon be turning 65, make sure you have applied to receive your Old Age Security and, if you haven't done so already, consider applying to Canadian Pension Plan (CPP). The default age to claim CPP pension benefits is 65, but you can choose to begin receiving your pension benefits as early as age 60, at a cost of reduced monthly benefits, or you can choose to delay receiving your pension benefits until after age 70 to receive increased monthly benefits.

2. Start making plans for your RRSP funds. You must wind up your RRSP by December 31 of the year you turn 71. However, a complete withdrawal at that time is usually not the best option, because your entire RRSP balance will be taxed in the one year. Instead, consider transferring your RRSP funds on a tax-deferred basis to a Registered Retirement Income Fund (RRIF), or use your RRSP funds to purchase an annuity. Either of these options will pay you a taxable income stream over time. Note: There are significant differences between a RRIF and an annuity — you should consult with a chartered professional accountant or investment advisor before making your decision.

3. Divide and conquer (your pension income). Consider splitting your pension income with your spouse to allow the higher-earning individual to share up to half of their pension income (excluding the Canada Pension Plan) with their lower-earning spouse. This will help level your income so one person isn't taxed significantly more than the other. Consider consulting a chartered professional accountant early in the year to make sure pension splitting won't affect your income tax brackets.

4. Retain your medical expense records. In certain circumstances, you can claim a tax credit for medical expenses. For 2019, the tax credit is available only on the portion of the medical expenses that exceeds the lesser of 3% of your net income or \$2,352 for federal tax purposes, and \$2,221 for BC tax purposes. Medical expenses can include: • payments to private health insurance plans (e.g. medical insurance for a trip); • fees to optometrists, dentists, and chiropractors; • the cost of prescription glasses and contact lenses, medical lab tests, hospital services and treatments, prescription medication; and • medical devices such as artificial limbs and dentures. **WSV**

65+

Local governments must produce housing needs reports every 5 years starting April 2022

West Shore Voice News



The Belmont Residences condo project in Langford this week, with Victor Chen Memorial Park under construction toward spring 2020 opening.

● **The Province is investing \$1.7 million** to help communities collect and analyze data on their housing needs so governments can deliver the right kind of homes for people in BC.

The data will inform housing needs reports, which will identify community housing needs, such as affordable housing, rental housing, seniors' housing, as well as housing for people at risk of homelessness, families and people with special needs. The reports will also help local governments support local economic growth by assessing future employment-housing needs.

"Housing needs reports are a way to gather important information as we partner with local governments to create the right housing for people in communities of all sizes around the province," said Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "The wave of enthusiasm and interest in applying for this grant tells us that local governments are eager to collect this information to help them build vibrant, thriving communities."

Under new requirements, local governments must produce their first housing needs report by April 2022 and every five years after that. **WSV**
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/housing-tenancy/local-governments-and-housing/policy-and-planning-tools-for-housing/housing-needs-reports>

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Mid-March meetings: first ministers, First Nations

● **The next First Ministers' Meeting** will take place in Ottawa on March 13. This will be the sixth First Ministers' Meeting that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has hosted since 2015.

"During the meeting, First Ministers will focus on keeping our economy competitive and making progress on issues that matter to all Canadians," it was stated in a release this week. "They will discuss ways to create clean growth and mitigate climate change, while at the same time developing our natural resources sustainably and creating good, middle class jobs. They will also focus on health care and infrastructure needs, transfers to provinces and territories, and Northern priorities"

First Ministers will also meet with leaders of the Assembly of First Nations, the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and the Métis National Council on March 12. They will discuss how they can work together to advance the priorities of First Nations, Inuit, and the Métis Nation. "With cooperation, we can create new opportunities for all Canadians and continue to build a country that works for everyone," the Prime Minister stated. **WSV**