



John Horgan MLA Juan de Fuca

Community Report

SUMMER 2014

pg 1 of 2

Concerns: education, jobs, environment, accountability

June was another busy month. Your emails have been pouring in, and our phones are ringing off the hook. Thank you for sharing your ideas and concerns. It's important that I hear from you about how I can help make life easier for you and your family.

This month I have been out and about travelling in the constituency and around the province. During my travels I've heard a lot of concerns about education and affordability, as well as fears for our natural environment and anger over the BC Liberal government's lack of integrity.

For 12 years this government's cuts have made it harder to learn and harder to teach in our schools. Teachers have struggled to give our kids the best education and the best resources, but the BC Liberal government has failed to be a partner in making our schools better.

Twice, the BC Supreme Court has ruled that the government's actions on class size and composition were unconstitutional, and directed the government to resolve these issues at the bargaining table. The BC Liberal government refuses to comply.

As a result, teachers are now locked in a dispute with the government, and our

kids are locked out of their classrooms. My colleagues and I have joined teachers and parents calling for an independent mediator to step in and help reach an agreement that puts kids first. Teachers deserve a fair and sustainable settlement, and children deserve a world class education.

Wherever I go, I also hear from families and businesses who are struggling thanks to the BC Liberal government's decisions to hike their costs. Hydro rates are rising 28% on top of yet another round of ferry fare and MSP increases. Families deserve a break, and my colleagues and I will continue to hold the government accountable for these harmful choices.

Another significant concern I have heard has arisen from the recent federal decision to approve the Enbridge pipeline. This is a bad decision for British Columbians who believe, as I do, that BC needs to create more jobs through resource development that benefits our communities and protects our land, air and water.

Unlike the Premier, my colleagues and I have consistently opposed the plan to transport Alberta bitumen to tankers on BC's north coast. The federal government's decision to green-light the Enbridge pipeline

puts BC jobs and BC's natural beauty at enormous risk for very little benefit.

The drawbacks of the Enbridge project stand in stark contrast to a made-in-BC opportunity for liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports. If managed properly, with protection of our land, air and water, LNG exports will create good new jobs in BC, respect and include First Nations and benefit BC communities.

But, the BC Liberal government is putting this opportunity at risk by mismanaging the file. The Premier is jeopardizing key partnerships with First Nations, and her proposed tax framework will come a year too late. Her government is not working effectively to gain social license for LNG exports. She's refused to conduct a scientific review of fracking, lead an honest public discussion about her government's greenhouse gas targets, or take action to mitigate risks to our natural environment.

The BC Liberal government's failures on Enbridge and LNG are hurting investors, First Nations and the public's confidence in the economy, and are harming BC's ability

continued on page 2

Community Office

WEST SHORE OFFICE
Monday-Friday
10am-4pm

NEW LOCATION
122-2806 Jacklin Rd
Victoria, BC

T: 250-391-2801

john.horgan.mla
@leg.bc.ca

www.johnhorganmla.ca

Follow John on
Facebook - become
a 'friend' today!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

July 1 Canada Day in Sooke.

Celebrate Canada Day with an afternoon and evening of activities including logging sports, games for all ages, adult bingo, food, craft booths and a giant birthday cake. Bring your own chair and blanket. Please note no pets allowed. Music until 10 pm, fireworks at dusk. Info: [CLICK HERE](#).

July 10 Future of Our CRD Regional Trails.

If you have ideas about the future of our Regional Trails this is your chance to have some input on the decisions being made now. You'll help guide decision-making, priority setting and budget planning for the next ten years. The deadline is July 10. Info: [CLICK HERE](#).

July 6 - Aug 31 Langford's Music in the Park with JackFM.

Free family entertainment! Bring a lawn chair or blanket, perch on a park bench, enjoy the fresh air and this series of free family concerts. Sundays 2pm-4pm. Veterans Memorial Park. Info: [CLICK HERE](#).

July 12 & Aug 9 Highlands Folk Coffee House.

The Coffee House is held on the 2nd Saturday night of the month and held in the Caleb Pike House, 1589 Millstream Road. Doors open at 7pm, entertainment starts at 7:30pm. There is an "open mic" that begins the evening. Donation of \$5 at the door, youth under 15 are free. Tea/Coffee and goodies are served. Info: [CLICK HERE](#).

continued on page 2

Concerns *from page 1*

to create more jobs through resource development.

Lastly, I want to highlight my ongoing concern that this government is failing to meet the standards of integrity expected by British Columbians. Recently, my colleague, David Eby, exposed that Advanced Education Minister Amrik Virk, a former RCMP officer, broke the rules governing salaries at public universities at least twice when he was chair of Kwantlen Polytechnic University's human resources committee. Mr. Virk approved a \$50,000 contract without any deliverables and then did not properly disclose it to government.

Mr. Virk cannot now be the minister responsible for ensuring others follow those same rules. Yet, despite claiming "I will always strive to maintain the highest standard of integrity," the Premier has not only failed to remove the Minister, she says he has her "absolute confidence." The BC Liberal government's lack of accountability continues to astound!

As your MLA and the Leader of the Official Opposition, I will continue to push the government on these and many, many more issues.

Have a safe and happy summer!

John Horgan, MLA Juan de Fuca
www.johnhorganmla.ca



← On June 25th John was honoured to be the guest speaker at the WestShore Chamber's inaugural Leader's Luncheon at Darcy's Pub in Langford. John is pictured here with Chamber President, Doug Kobayashi.

→ John with friends Wendy Milne and Bill and John Wilson, enjoying a great afternoon at the June 22nd Sooke Region Museum's annual Open House and Salmon BBQ.



→ John recently met with local Korean War Veteran Fred MacDonald and Mr. Chong T. Lee of the Korean Veteran's Association.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

July 13 Metchosin Art Festival.

The theme of the art festival is "Vision of Metchosin". The day-long event will have music and demonstrations. The month of July will also feature Art on the Walls. 11am-4pm. Hosted by the Metchosin Community House, 4430 Happy Valley Rd. Info: [CLICK HERE](#).

July 19 150th Leechtown Day. The Sooke Regional Museum is commemorating the 150th anniversary of discovery of gold on the Leech River. Sponsored by Spinnakers Brewpub, this event will have traditional kid games, gold panning, musical entertainment, skits by the Sooke Harbour Players, refreshments and traditional pit cooked "Leechtown Beef". 2070 Phillips Rd, 12pm-4pm. Info: [CLICK HERE](#).

July 25 – Aug 4 Sooke Fine Arts Show and Sale. Now in its 28th year, this is the Island's premier adjudicated art show and sale. It features 375 fabulous pieces of investment quality Canadian artwork from Vancouver Island and BC's coastal islands artists. SEAPARC Leisure Centre, 2168 Phillips Road. Tickets: \$8 for one day or \$15 for a pass. More ticket prices and info: [CLICK HERE](#).

July 25 Select Standing Committee on Children and Youth is undertaking a special examination of youth mental health in British Columbia. To learn about the work of the Committee or to submit a written submission, [CLICK HERE](#). The deadline for written submissions is Friday, July 25, 2014.

Aug 17 Show and Shine. The 4th annual show and shine is a really fun family event featuring classic and muscle cars. 10am – 3pm at the Fountain on Goldstream Ave. BBQ and Beer Garden on the avenue. Info: [CLICK HERE](#)

Do you have an upcoming community event?

Send full event information to John.Horgan.MLA@leg.bc.ca and we'll do our best to fit it in!