



John Horgan MLA Juan de Fuca

Community Report MAY 2014

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Legislature spring session brings contentious issues

Earlier this month, I was honoured to be named the new leader of BC's Official Opposition. Along with our strong, united team of dedicated MLAs, I am getting right to work fighting for BC families, jobs and the economy.

The BC Liberal government is making life less affordable for hard-working families, and they need a strong voice to stand up to them in the Legislature, in their communities, and across the province. That's what we're going to do under my leadership.

In my bid for the leadership, I've had amazing support from all across the province. Today I am especially grateful to the citizens of Juan de Fuca who have sent me to the Legislature as their representative for the last nine years. I want to assure you that standing up for our constituency will continue to be my top priority.

The spring session of the Legislature is coming to an end, and we've had a very busy time debating issues and legislation. One of the most contentious is Bill 24, which threatens to undermine BC's Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), established in 1973 by the New Democrat government of the day to

protect farmland from development.

The ALR was hotly debated at the time, and has been threatened many times in the years since. But over the last 40 years, it has provided a bumper crop of locally-grown food while protecting BC's very limited farmland from urban sprawl, resource extraction and other development.

Of the province's total land base, just five percent is suitable for agriculture. Yet under Bill 24, ALR holdings outside Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland and the Okanagan could be opened to development. Shockingly, this change will impact 90 per cent of the province's ALR land. My colleagues and I believe this is bad legislation, and we've been fighting it in the Legislature.

Attacking the integrity of the ALR or impairing its functioning was never mentioned as being under consideration during last year's election campaign. Even more astonishing is that Bill 24 was written and has been introduced with no opportunity for public consultation. Such a significant change to public policy and land use demands that the people have a say. But that just hasn't happened.

Sadly, that seems to be the way this government is operating. The sudden decision to close Victoria's Youth Custody Centre without consultation and without any community input is shocking and extremely short-sighted. I am joining with community representatives, First Nations leaders, and concerned citizens from all across Vancouver Island to call on Minister Stephanie Cadieux to reconsider and keep the Centre open.

The building that is home to the Victoria Youth Custody Centre is just 12 years old, and its value to the community is enormous. If the centre closes, youth will need to be sent to the detention facility in Burnaby — even further away from their families, friends and support systems. It makes no sense no matter which way you look at it.

That's not the only place the BC Liberal government is failing our kids. They should be working diligently towards getting an agreement with the province's teachers but instead are negotiating through the media, rather than at the bargaining table. It seems they haven't learned from the recent BC

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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

May 23 – Jun 1 *Ann of Green Gables.*

The Four Seasons Musical Theatre is producing this marvelous musical for all ages. Shows are both evening and matinees. Tickets \$18 for Adults/Seniors/Students, \$12 for those 12 and under, or a family pack (2 adults/2children) for \$54. Isabelle Reader Theatre, Spencer Middle School, 772 Goldstream Ave. Info: [CLICK HERE.](#)

May 24 & 25 *Metchosin Mighty Garage Sale.*

Clothing, antiques, furniture, small appliances and a special kids' sale – everything and anything. 9am–3pm, Metchosin Community House, 4430 Happy Valley Rd. Info: [CLICK HERE.](#)

May 25 *Honeybee Awareness Day.*

Visit Tugwell Creek Honey Farm and Meadery to learn all about Honeybees. This is a family friendly event with free educational tours on the hour, 12pm–5pm. 8750 West Coast Rd, Sooke. Info: [CLICK HERE.](#)

May 29 *CRD Septic Workshop.*

Learn how to care for your septic system and you could win \$75 off the price of your next pump. Pre-registration is required. 7pm–9pm, Caleb Pike Heritage Park – Little Red School House, 1589 Millstream Rd. Info: [CLICK HERE.](#)

Jun 1 *Balkan Babes Concert.*

This concert features nine women performing the folk music of Eastern Europe. Performed in Balkan languages, but with introductions to each song, the music promises unusual ornamentations and powerful emotions. Tickets at Metchosin House: \$15 Adults, \$5 Students/Children. Info: 250-478-5155.

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Supreme Court finding that they attempted to provoke a full scale strike during the last round of bargaining.

On May 5th, in my first Question Period as Leader of the Opposition, I asked the Minister of Jobs why it is that temporary foreign workers are being brought in to fill jobs where Canadians could be employed ([CLICK HERE](#) to watch).

As your MLA, I commit to continue to ask questions of the BC Liberal government and work for solutions to the many issues affecting our community and our province. I encourage you to send me your thoughts on how we can address the challenges, and build a BC that is more equitable for all its citizens.

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



↑ On May 7th John went to the shores of Beecher Bay to attend the launch of Spirit Bay, a Scia'new First Nation collaborative endeavour with the Trust for Sustainable Development. John is seen here with Ed Cooper of Metchosin and Chief Russell Chipps of Scia'new First Nation.



↑ John attended the Rotary Club of Sooke Spring Fair and Auction on May 3rd. John stopped by the Sooke Region Food CHI Society booth to see locals Phoebe Dunbar and Erika Rolston.



↑ On May 11th John spent Mothers' Day at the Paint-In at Royal Roads University, where he visited with constituents like Langford resident and farmer, Christina Willing.

Support Your Local Farmer!

Sooke Country Market

Saturdays, now through Oct, 10am to 2pm
2047 Otter Point Rd (across from Eustace Road)
Info: [CLICK HERE](#).

Goldstream Station Market

Saturdays, May 24 to Oct 25, 10am to 2pm
NEW LOCATION: Veteran's Memorial Park
(corner of Veteran's Memorial Parkway and Goldstream Rd).
Info: [CLICK HERE](#).

Metchosin Farmers' Market

Sundays to Oct 26, 11am to 2pm
Metchosin Municipal Grounds
(behind the Fire Hall)
Info: [CLICK HERE](#).

Highlands Farmers' Market

Last Sunday of the month
May to Sept
10am to 1pm, rain or shine
Caleb Pike Homestead
1589 Millstream Road
Info: [CLICK HERE](#).

Shirley Farmers' Market

Sundays to Sept 28
11am to 3pm
Pioneer Park (between the Shirley Community Hall and Shirley Delicious Café)
Info: [CLICK HERE](#).



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Jun 1 Third Annual Victoria Goddess Run. The Victoria Goddess Run is a woman's only run and walk, part of the weekend of fun and activities with proceeds benefitting Active Girls, an initiative of KidSport Victoria. 1pm at the Westin Bear Mountain Resort. Info: [CLICK HERE](#).

Jun 8 TELUS Walk – Greater Victoria. An outdoor celebration where families, friends and organizations raise funds and awareness to make a difference in the lives of those Canadians living with Type 1 diabetes. Registration at 8:30 am, start time 10am, Westhills Stadium, City Centre Park. Info: [CLICK HERE](#).

Jun 13 Canadian Cancer Society Relay for Life WestShore. Relay for Life is an inspirational 12-hour overnight fundraising event that brings you and your community together to celebrate life and fight cancer. This event will be hosted at City Centre Park in Westhills Stadium, 7pm–7am. Info: [CLICK HERE](#).

Jun 15 What Have You Seine Today? Join CRD Regional Parks' naturalists to use a seine net and see what creatures live in the deeper reaches of the ocean. Be prepared to get your feet wet (bring sandals or beach shoes). 10:30am–12pm. All Ages. Meet on the main beach. Witty Beach Rd access closed, so access from main park entrance off Metchosin Rd. Trail is 1.2km moderate hike, approximately 20 minutes. BC Transit #54 or #55. 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!