



District of Metchosin

Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee

Agenda

Wednesday, September 23, 2026 at 2:00 PM
Council Chambers, Metchosin Municipal Hall
4450 Happy Valley Road
[Teams Meeting Link](#)

PLEASE NOTE: The meeting is being recorded and live streamed at www.metchosin.ca. Participants may join the meeting via [Teams](#). Written and verbal submissions will become part of the public record and are subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. **(Please turn off your cellphones in the Council Chambers during the meeting).**

Page

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

- Member Roll Call/ Introductions.

2. **INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

THAT the September 23, 2026, Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting agenda be adopted as presented/amended.

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- a. **May 27, 2026, Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting**

3 - 6

[Minutes](#)

THAT the May 27, 2026, Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting minutes be adopted as presented.

5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

6. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

- a. **The Right Fit Program**

7 - 17

- (Teams) Presentation by Isabelle Groc, Program Manager, The Right Fit Program | Disability Alliance BC.

[Request to Present](#)

[Fact Sheet for Housing Providers](#)

- b. **District of Esquimalt - Accessible Voting - 2026 General Election - Request for Feedback**

19 - 35

[Report](#)

FEEDBACK REQUESTED

The Township is seeking the Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee's input on how to raise awareness for accessible voting options, make them welcoming, and easy to use without causing

electors to feel as though they are treated differently from any other voters or otherwise required to disclose a disability or personal circumstance.

Specific feedback is requested on the following questions:

- *How should election officials offer information about accessible voting options in the voting place so that all voters feel respected and included?*
- *What wording, signage, icons or scripts would help staff communicate available supports without making assumptions about a voter's needs?*
- *Are there additional accessibility measures the Township should consider for voting places, staff training, elector communications, or voting from home?*

- c. **District of Metchosin - Request for Letter of Support for Local Community Accessibility Grant to Install an Auracast broadcast audio system in the Council Chambers.** 37 - 38

[Report](#)

THAT the Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee prepare a letter of support for the District of Metchosin's Local Community Accessibility Grant application to the Social Planning and Review Council of BC for the installation of a Auracast broadcast audio system in their Council Chambers.

- d. **Township of Esquimalt, Correspondence Received** 39 - 41
[Correspondence Received](#)

- e. **Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee Administration 2027**

- Host municipality for 2027

THAT ____ take on the responsibilities of host municipality for the Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee for 2027.

7. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
8. **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS**
9. **ADJOURNMENT**

THAT the September 23, 2026, Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting be adjourned.

All recommendations as presented are for discussion purposes only, and should not be considered as the opinion or direction of council.

MINUTES

**Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 27, 2026, 2:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, District of Metchosin**

The Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

PRESENT:

District of Sooke	Susan Dyble (Chair), Citizen Representative
Township of Esquimalt	Madison Sutcliffe, Citizen Representative (Teams)
Town of View Royal	Elena Bolster, Corporate Officer (Teams)
City of Colwood	Marcy Lalande, Corporate Officer
City of Langford	Marie Watmough, Corporate Officer
District of Metchosin	Tina Hansen, Deputy Corporate Officer

REGRETS:

District of Highlands	Amanda Irving, Corporate Officer
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ATTENDING:

Township of Esquimalt	Deb Hopkins, Corporate officer and Victoria McKean, Committee Coordinator (Teams)
District of Metchosin	Thomasina Barnes, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

THE Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

- All Committee representatives and staff in attendance gave a brief introduction.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

- No new agenda items were brought forward.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved and Seconded by: Marie Watmough, City of Langford and Tina Hansen, District of Metchosin

THAT the May 27, 2026, Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting agenda be adopted as presented.

Carried

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**a. February 25, 2026, Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting**

Moved and Seconded by: Marie Watmough, City of Langford, and Madison Sutcliffe, Township of Esquimalt

THAT the February 25, 2026, Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting minutes be adopted as presented.

Carried

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**a. Westsong Sensory Garden Club**

Maria Hendrikx, Michael Moore, Jeremy Hendrikx, and Laurie Ponsford, of the Westsong Sensory Garden Club, presented the Committee with information on a proposed sensory garden at the entrance to the Songhees Walkway in Esquimalt. Their presentation included information on:

- Inclusive garden design, for people with vision loss and to encourage others to discover their surroundings with a different perspective;
- Showcase of native botanicals;
- Creation of a tourist destination;
- Phase one of construction to include:
 - Accessible hardscaping;
 - Raised garden beds;
 - Bog/bubble garden with touching stones;
 - Mint garden; and
 - Shade cloth.
- Creation of a wayfinding experience;
- Grant opportunities;
- Lived experience in park space and need for accessibility; and
- Inclusion.

Committee Discussion:

- Westsong Sensory Garden Club presented to the Esquimalt Parks Committee without concern; and
- Clarification was sought on municipal awareness and possible replication.

Moved and seconded by: Madison Sutcliffe, Township of Esquimalt, and Marie Watmough, City of Langford

THAT the Committee provide a letter to the Council of the Township of Esquimalt stating that the Capital West Advisory Committee supports the proposed sensory garden in its proposed location.

AND THAT the Committee provide a letter of support for any grant applications made by the West Song Sensory Garden Club in furtherance of this garden.

Carried

6. BUSINESS ITEMS**a. Joint Accessibility Plan**

- Marie Watmough, Corporate Officer, Langford, outlined the background of the Joint Accessibility Plan.

Committee Discussion:

- Acknowledgment for the work done;
- Joint training opportunities; and
- Public awareness and Committee recruitment strategy.

b. Membership Update

- Marie Watmough, Corporate Officer, was appointed as the City of Langford Committee Representative for 2026.
- Elena Bolster, Corporate Officer, was appointed as the Town of View Royal Committee Representative for 2026.

c. District of Metchosin Accessibility, Correspondence received

- Tina Hansen, Deputy Corporate Officer, District of Metchosin, summarised the received correspondence regarding updates to Accessibility Standards Canada.

d. City of Langford Accessibility, Feedback Received

- Marie Watmough, Corporate Officer, Langford, summarised the received feedback regarding a Memory Keepers Event, Starlight Stadium Seating Accessibility, and City Centre Park Accessibility Concerns. All correspondence has received staff response.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**a. Vice Chair Appointment**

- The Chair called for nominations for Vice-Chair.
- Madison Sutcliffe, Citizen Representative for Esquimalt, put her name forward.
- No other nominations came forward.

Moved and Seconded by: Marie Watmough, City of Langford, and Marcy Lalande, City of Colwood

THAT the Committee appoint Madison Sutcliffe as the Vice-Chair of the Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee for 2026.

Carried

b. Marie Watmough, Director of Legislative and Protective Services, City of Langford, Accessibility for Municipal Elections

At the February 25, 2026, Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting, Marie Watmough, Director of Legislative and Protective Services, City of Langford, made a request for Committee feedback on accessibility barriers to municipal elections.

- The Committee had no feedback, and no other feedback was received.

8. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

- **Marie Watmough, Langford, reported on:**

- Hearing Loop activation in the City of Langford Council Chambers;
- Accessible washroom and bandshell upgrades to Veterans Memorial Park.
- Installation of accessible washroom at Landing Lane;
- Accessibility upgrades to Bear Mountain and Millstream Stream intersection; and
- Peat and Hawksley intersection, accessible button, has been fixed.

- **Susan Dyble, Sooke reported on:**

- Lived experience at a municipal facility where accessibility tools are available, but staff training is needed.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Moved and Seconded by: Marcy Lalande, City of Colwood, and Marie Watmough, City of Langford

THAT the May 27, 2026, Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting be adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Certified Correct

Mayor

Corporate Officer

Hello,

My name is Lindsay Simpson, and I am the Housing Coordinator and Client Navigator for the Right Fit Program which is launching in the Capital Regional District. The Right Fit was started by Disability Alliance BC (DABC) and is a multi-partner service designed to address the crisis in wheelchair accessible housing by matching affordable, accessible homes and independent living supports with people who need them in the Vancouver region of British Columbia.

In partnership with the Victoria Disability Resource Centre, DABC is expanding the program to the Capital Regional District to address the need for matching wheelchair users to accessible homes. As we work on identifying available accessible units in the region, we want to share with communities that this service is now available. I have attached a facts sheet that provides further details about the program and its history.

In reaching out today, I am hoping that DABC will have the opportunity to speak to the Accessibility Advisory Committee at their next meeting. This will allow us to share more details about the program so that Board members can decide the best course of action for marketing The Right Fit to their communities. I am happy to further discuss this by phone or over Zoom to see what next steps are needed to present this program to the Committee.

Thank you,

Lindsay Simpson (she/her)

Housing Coordinator

The Right Fit Program | Disability Alliance BC

817A Fort St. Victoria, BC. V6W 1H6

Traditional territory of the of the Lekwungen-speaking peoples of the Songhees Nation and Xwsepsem Nation, and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples, whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Phone: (604) 872.1278 Ext. 149 | Direct: +1(236) 479-8640 | Fax: (604) 875-9227

M-F | 8:30-4:30



[Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Bluesky](#)



**THE
RIGHTFIT**

MATCHING WHEELCHAIR USERS
TO ACCESSIBLE HOUSING

MAKING EVERY UNIT COUNT

**How the Right Fit Program
helps housing providers
find the right tenants for
accessible homes.**



WHO WE ARE



In British Columbia, the demand for affordable, accessible housing far exceeds the available supply. To make matters worse, when existing accessible housing units do become available, there is no coordinated system for ensuring they are occupied by those who need them most.

Wheelchair users often wait years to find housing that meets their accessibility needs. Many live in homes that are unsafe or inaccessible — without the ability to cook, bathe, or move freely in their own space. As a result of these structural barriers, wheelchair users in BC are at a disproportionately high risk of homelessness.

Since 2017, The Right Fit Program (RFP) has worked to address this crisis by matching wheelchair users with accessible housing providers. We support people to live independent and dignified lives, while helping housing providers find tenants that are the best fit for accessible units.

The Right Fit program is led by Disability Alliance BC (DABC), in partnership with the Individualized Funding Resource Centre Society (IFRC) and the Victoria Disability Resource Centre (VDRC).



WHAT WE DO



The Right Fit program works with wheelchair users and housing providers to match homes with people who need it most.

We support a range of housing types, including **accessible**, **adaptable**, and **universally designed** units.

Accessible Housing includes permanent features that allow people with disabilities to live independently – wider doorways, open turning spaces for mobility devices, roll-in shower stalls, grab bars, and counters or sinks with knee clearance.

Adaptable Housing refers to units that are designed and constructed with future low-cost adaptations in mind. Elements which typically cannot be easily renovated, like plumbing or electrical systems, are built in to allow for later improvements to accommodate occupants' needs as they change over time.

Universal Design is an approach to designing homes that accommodate the needs of a wide range of users, both with and without disabilities. This can include people with mobility issues, limited vision, hearing loss, or the varying heights of household members.

Every person's needs are different. If you are unsure whether a unit may be a good fit, we encourage you to reach out — it may be exactly what someone needs!

BENEFITS TO HOUSING PROVIDERS

The Right Fit helps housing providers find suitable matches for accessible housing units. Housing providers retain control over tenant selection.

Working with us helps:

- ✓ Ensure that accessible units are filled by those who need them most
- ✓ Fill vacancies more efficiently
- ✓ Support stable, long-term tenancies

The Right Fit can help identify applicants for:

- Subsidized housing
- Cooperative housing
- Lower-end market rentals
- Market rental housing

“Partnering with the Right Fit program has been an absolute game-changer... We are immensely grateful for the invaluable support they continue to provide and wholeheartedly recommend them to any organization seeking to make a positive impact in the lives of individuals with disabilities”
- Glenn Hocking, CEO, Affordable Housing Societies

“Before partnering with the RFP, it was difficult to find suitable applicants, and accessible units were sometimes rented to those without accessibility needs. The RFP has changed this by efficiently connecting us with qualified tenants and providing ongoing support to ensure successful tenancies.”
- Sue Satterthwaite, Housing Manager, Kin Village Association

OUR MATCHING PROCESS

1

Site Visit & Accessibility Checklist

Accessible Housing Coordinators conduct a site visit to gather information about your unit using an Accessibility Checklist to better understand and document its accessibility features. The unit is then added to our inventory of available units.

2

Applicant Matching with Accessible Units

Our Client Navigators search through our database and find applicants whose accessibility needs are the best match for your available unit.

3

Referral & Application Support

Once suitable applicants are identified, we share their details with you, answer any questions about the referral, and support both parties throughout the application process, including housing interviews, documentation, and more.



BEYOND THE MATCH: ADDITIONAL SUPPORTS

In addition to facilitating housing matches, The Right Fit program improves outcomes for tenants and housing providers by:

Supporting Independent Living: We connect tenants with the supports they may need to thrive in their new homes, such as home care, assistive equipment, and technology to help ensure long-term success.

Advising on Accessibility Features: We provide guidance on adapting, modifying and retaining accessible units — whether or not you currently have a vacancy.

Advocating for Accessible Housing: We work with government and community partners to address systemic barriers and increase the supply of accessible housing.

FAQ'S:



What kinds of units are the Right Fit clients looking for?

The people we work with have accessibility needs that vary significantly and can benefit from a wide array of housing types. If you're unsure whether an available unit might meet someone's needs, please don't hesitate to reach out!

How long does it take to find an applicant?

Timelines vary depending on how well a unit's features match applicants' needs. Our goal is to ensure the best possible match.

Do applicants receive support with the application process?

Yes, our Client Navigators are here to support applicants with applications, documentation, interview preparation, and attending interviews if requested. Our Navigators can also connect applicants with additional supports as needed.



FAQ'S:



What information does the Right Fit need from housing providers?

We collect details about available units through a site visit and our Accessibility Checklist. Our Accessible Housing Coordinators will guide you through the process.

What information is included in the Accessibility Checklist?

The checklist documents accessibility features like:

- door widths
- knee clearance
- bathroom features (such as roll-in showers or bathtubs)
- turning space in key areas of the home

We also gather information about rent, eligibility, policies, and nearby amenities. Photos will be taken or requested from the housing provider to facilitate the matching process.

What if we don't find a match?

If we don't find the right person for your available unit right away, we will promote it on the Right Fit website where it will reach a broader audience of applicants who may not be on our wait list.



CONNECT WITH US



Accessible housing is a critical and limited resource. Together, we can ensure that it is available for those who need it most.

If you have an available unit, or are planning for future vacancies, don't wait – get in touch at housing@dabc.ca to get started.

For general inquiries about the Right Fit program, contact us at rightfit@dabc.ca or visit therightfitbc.org



TO: CAPITAL WEST ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FROM: SARAH HOLLOWAY, CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

DATE: SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

SUBJECT: ACCESSIBLE VOTING – 2026 GENERAL LOCAL ELECTION

INFORMATION

This report provides the Capital West Accessibility Committee with an overview of accessible voting features planned for the Township of Esquimalt's 2026 General Local Election and requests the Committee's feedback on how these services should be promoted and delivered in a way that supports voter independence, dignity, privacy and choice.

BACKGROUND

The Township is committed to ensuring that voting is accessible to all eligible voters. Accessible voting options are intended to remove barriers, provide voters with meaningful choice, and support participation by people with disabilities, voters who experience mobility or other access barriers, voters who require assistance, and voters who may be unable to attend a voting place in person.

CURRENT ACCESSIBLE VOTING FEATURES

Ballot Marking Device

The ballot marking device is available to voters who may be unable to mark a paper ballot with a pen or who wish to use an accessible interface to independently mark their ballot. The device includes an audio-tactile interface, headphones, a paddle button, and a sip-and-puff port to help voters navigate ballot marking options.

Curbside Voting

Designated accessible parking will be available. Upon request, election officials can bring a ballot to the elector's vehicle while protecting voter privacy and ballot secrecy.

Personal Assistance

Assistance can be requested from an election official, or an elector may be accompanied by a support person if they require assistance or accommodation.

Voting from Home by Mail Ballot

Mail ballot voting provides an option for electors who prefer to vote from home or who experience barriers attending a voting place. This option supports voter choice by allowing eligible electors to receive, complete, and return a ballot without attending in person.

Additional Resources

Magnifying glasses and CNIB signature guides will be available at the voting location on each voting day for voters who may benefit from these supports.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

The Township will use a range of communication tools to promote the 2026 General Local Election and ensure electors are aware of accessible voting options. Outreach will include social media, flyers, facility display screens, exterior message boards, e-newsletters, media releases, postcards, direct outreach to community partners, and information on the Township website. Communications will emphasize plain language, respectful wording, multiple formats, and early, repeated messaging so that electors have information well in advance and can make informed choices about how they wish to vote.

Communications to residents began early through articles in the spring and summer editions of Esquimalt's community newsletter "The Current", which are distributed by letter mail and email (Attachment 1). These articles introduced key election dates and voting options, including accessible voting supports.

A flyer promoting mail ballot voting was emailed to senior residences, community centres, and other community contacts to support electors who may prefer or need to vote from home (Attachment 2). The mail ballot application posted on the Township website was also reviewed and updated to improve accessibility.

A media release highlighting mail ballot voting and accessible in-person voting options was issued and posted on the Township website in mid-August (Attachment 3). This generated broader media attention in the Victoria News, Island Social Trends, and Victoria Buzz as of the date of preparation of this report.

Election information postcards are scheduled to be mailed to Esquimalt residences through Canada Post at the beginning of September (Attachment 4). The postcards highlight the three ways to vote in the election: by mail, in advance, and on election day, and further direct electors to the Township website and other contact points for additional information.

In mid-September, the Township plans to send an informational email to disability-serving organizations, seniors' residences, community centres, and other relevant partners outlining accessible voting options for the 2026 General Local Election and requesting that the information be shared with their members and networks (Attachment 5). This direct outreach will be supported by social media posts and website updates to reinforce the availability of accessible voting options and encourage electors to contact the Township if they have questions about available supports.

FEEDBACK REQUESTED

The Township is seeking the Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee's input on how to raise awareness for accessible voting options, make them welcoming, and easy to use without causing electors to feel as though they are treated differently from any other voters or otherwise required to disclose a disability or personal circumstance.

Specific feedback is requested on the following questions:

- How should election officials offer information about accessible voting options in the voting place so that all voters feel respected and included?
- What wording, signage, icons or scripts would help staff communicate available supports without making assumptions about a voter's needs?
- Are there additional accessibility measures the Township should consider for voting places, staff training, elector communications, or voting from home?

ATTACHMENTS

1. Current Newsletter cover pages
2. Mail ballot flyer
3. Media release
4. Postcard
5. Accessible information distribution

Township of ESQUIMALT

Current

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER: SPRING 2026

IN THIS ISSUE: **2** Community survey **3** Project updates **4** Upcoming events

2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION



Your vote matters.

This fall, residents of the Township of Esquimalt will have the opportunity to help shape the future of our community by participating in the 2026 General Local Election. Local government decisions affect everyday life, from parks, roads, and long-term planning and development to recreation, community services and licensing. Voting is one of the most direct ways to have your say.

During the General Local Election, eligible electors will cast their votes for six (6) members of Council and one (1) Mayor. Council will be responsible for setting the community priorities and guiding the strategic direction of the Township over the next four years.

There are multiple voting opportunities. Eligible electors are encouraged to take advantage of mail ballot and advance voting options to avoid lineups on General voting day. No special requirements are needed

to vote in advance, other than being an eligible elector.

Every ballot, whether received by mail or cast in person, will be counted, provided it is received by the Chief Election officer by 8 p.m. on October 17, 2026.

Voter registration

The Township uses the Provincial Voters List. Eligible electors who are not on the list may register at the voting place with appropriate identification. For voter eligibility information visit esquimalt.ca/elections

Stay informed

For questions about the 2026 General Local Election contact:

✉ elections@esquimalt.ca

☎ 250-414-7177

Regular updates will also be posted on the Township's elections webpage at esquimalt.ca/elections

How to vote

2026 VOTING OPPORTUNITIES

Mail ballots:

Make voting easy! Mail ballots are available to all qualified electors.

Applications to vote by mail ballot will be available on August 17th.

Details on mail ballots distribution and return deadlines will be available closer to the date at esquimalt.ca/elections

Advance voting:

- October 7, 8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m.
Esquimalt Recreation Centre Gym
(527 Fraser St)
- October 14, 8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m.
Esquimalt Recreation Centre Gym
(527 Fraser St)

General Voting Day:

October 17, 8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m.
Esquimalt Recreation Centre Gym
(527 Fraser St)

TOWNSHIP CONTACTS

Emergency 9-1-1

Esquimalt Municipal Hall

1229 Esquimalt Road
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3P1

Municipal Hall reception	250-414-7100
Building Inspections	250-414-7103
Bylaw Enforcement	250-414-7161
Corporate Services	250-414-7177
Development Services	250-414-7103
Engineering/Public Works	250-414-7108
Finance	250-414-7100
Parks and Recreation	250-412-8500

Esquimalt Municipal Archives

103-1249 Esquimalt Rd
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3P2 250-412-8540
Tues (1-4:30 p.m.);
Wed/ Thurs (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

Esquimalt Recreation Centre

527 Fraser Street
Esquimalt, BC V9A 6H6 250-412-8500

Archie Browning Sports Centre

1151 Esquimalt Road
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3N6 250-412-8510

Public library—Esquimalt branch

501 Park Place 250-940-4875

Fire Rescue Services

#101-1151 Esquimalt Road 250-414-7126

Police Department

250-995-7500
1229 Esquimalt Road

The Esquimalt Current is published three times a year by the Township of Esquimalt and distributed to 8,000 homes and local businesses.

If you have a community event you would like included in The Current, call 250-414-7122 or email communications@esquimalt.ca.

Sign up for email notification at esquimalt.ca to receive this newsletter by email and for updates on Township news, events and more.

We are committed to environmental sustainability. This newsletter is printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.



TownshipofEsquimalt



EsquimaltBC



EsquimaltBC

AGENDA ITEM #6.b.

Council meeting schedule

Council meetings

June 22, July 6, July 20, September 21

Committee of the Whole meetings

June 15, July 13

* Unless otherwise noted, council meetings take place at 7 p.m. and Committee of the Whole at 6 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers at 1229 Esquimalt Road. Please check the website or call 250-414-7177 to confirm meeting times.

The Esquimalt Municipal Hall and Esquimalt Archives are closed on statutory holidays. Check Esquimalt.ca for updated service schedules.

Financial planning & 2026 budget

Staff present a draft budget to Council and the public for feedback and adjustments in the spring. The budget was adopted by council this May.

The annual budget outlines both operational needs and capital projects. The resulting Five-Year Financial Plan provides funding for core services as well as the Council Priorities Plan. Details about planned spending, including capital projects and department plans can be found in the 2026 Budget Book. This report gives an overview of township financials and a detailed list of revenues and expenditures.

Check Esquimalt.ca/budget for budget reports and information.

Community Satisfaction Survey & results

In early 2026, the Township launched its first community satisfaction survey in recent memory.

Community satisfaction surveys, especially when created to be randomized and statistically significant, aim to allow municipalities to hear from residents in a meaningful way, to make data-driven decisions, to prioritize projects and to build more effective communication mechanisms that reflect the needs of the community.

Surveys, when done on a regular basis, also help with benchmarking. Council and staff can see how the preferences and priorities of the community evolve and adjust over time.

The 2026 survey addressed large themes as well as service-specific questions to help inform Council and staff in decision-making and shaping service priorities.

Read the full survey and see the results on Esquimalt.ca.

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

- » **96% Quality of life in Esquimalt is good or very good**
- » **97% Esquimalt is a good place to raise children**
- » **89% Esquimalt is a good place to retire**
- » **19% The most important issue facing Esquimalt is the traffic, transportation and parking**
- » **12% The most important issue is housing affordability**
- » **11% Traffic, idling and vehicle emissions were the most important environmental concerns facing Esquimalt**
- » **45% Nature, parks and the waterfront are the most desirable things about living in Esquimalt**
- » **93% Satisfied with the services and program provided**
- » **77% They receive good value for the municipal taxes paid**

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Souvenir plate crafted from Esquimalt clay has deep history

The Souvenir Plate, presented to Mr. Alfred Charles Wurtele, Reeve of the Township of Esquimalt upon his retirement in 1965, was donated to the Esquimalt Archives (026-001-001) by his daughter Betty Sherwood. He graduated from the Royal Canadian Naval College and was captain of HMCS Stadacona in Halifax, NS. Mr. Wurtele served as Reeve for 14 years (1952-65) and was a member of Council from 1946 to 1981. In 1987, he was the first to be awarded the Freeman of Esquimalt.

The plate's center shows the engraved Township of Esquimalt Municipal Coat of Arms, introduced during Alfred's Reeve era, with the motto 'ES WHOY MALTH'. "CH Victoria 1965, Esquimalt Clay, from the Sea, and (E Mare [sic] Merces)" is marked on the back of the plate. 'CH' at the top, along with 'Victoria,' could indicate the artist's identity as a clay artist from Victoria. The year '1965' probably indicates when the plate was made, as it was presented on December 30, 1965. The intriguing aspect of the inscription is the Latin phrase "E Mari Merces," which is commonly seen on ceramic objects in Halifax, NS, as it is the motto of the Halifax Regional Municipality (E Mari Merces). Both phrases symbolize wealth from the sea. The clay plate also bears the inscription 'From the sea,' suggesting Esquimalt's identity with maritime history.

This 60-year-old plate remains in excellent condition and is crafted from Esquimalt clay, showcasing local craftsmanship and sourced natural resources. It emphasizes local craft traditions and the importance of regional natural materials.



WE'RE LOOKING FOR DONATIONS

Esquimalt Municipal Archives would be happy to preserve your memories and include your history in the municipal history of Esquimalt. Archives preserve materials so we can continue to educate, inspire, and serve the community. **Please reach out to archives@esquimalt.ca or 250-412-8540 for details.**

Development Capacity Study & June 11 open house

The township is analyzing a number of variables including land use, sanitary sewer, water, electricity, traffic, transit, recreation and parks, tree canopy, and emergency services in order to provide Council, committees, residents, businesses, and staff with a clear understanding of the development capacity of the township. This study looks at how these variables may constrain future residential development both temporarily and spatially.

Identifying these constraints will help Council in its decision-making processes and will help guide the spatial distribution of residential land uses in the new Official Community Plan.

The open house is June 11 from 3-7PM at the Esquimalt Recreation Centre. More at [EngagingEsquimalt.ca](https://engagingesquimalt.ca)

2025 Annual Report and Financials

The 2025 Annual Report was published June 1. The full-colour report contains highlights from all departments, project progress updates and audited financial statements.

Find it at Esquimalt.ca/reports

Esquimalt Road Active Transportation

Thank you to those who took our survey and joined the Esquimalt Road Active Transportation & Underground Improvement open house this spring. You can view the staff report, including the results of the public engagement work, at esquimalt.ca/projects. **Questions? Contact engineering@esquimalt.ca**

Property tax payments can be done online by going to Esquimalt.ca/MyEsquimalt

Upcoming events in Esquimalt

TWO NIGHTS OF FARMERS MARKETS EACH WEEK!

MONDAYS & THURSDAYS

Esquimalt Farmers Market 4:30-7:30PM on Thursdays at Memorial Park

Peruse an amazing selection of local businesses, pick up a delicious dinner from one of our hot food vendors and enjoy twice nightly musical performances while the kids run wild in the onsite playground. Stay for the fantastic selection of artisans and crafters yielding everything from soap to jewelry and more. esquimaltmarket.com



June 11: Development Capacity Study open house 3-7PM

Esquimalt Recreation Centre

Learn about the results of our Development Capacity Study and discuss the findings with the project team. We want to hear your questions, what you think is missing and any concerns you may have.

Mayor's Open Door

June 12, 9-11AM

Esquimalt Municipal Hall

Chat with Mayor Desjardins at our open door event! Stop by the municipal hall to discuss what's important to you. No appointment necessary, first come, first served.

June 13: Neighbourhood Party

11AM-2PM at Bullen Park

Esquimalt's biggest block party is back! The rec centre parking lot is taken over for the afternoon and filled with local vendors, music, and games for kids. Don't leave without stopping by Bullen Park for the bouncy castle and other kid-friendly activities.

Gorge Farmers Market

June 15-Sept 7 on Mondays (4:30-7:30PM) at Esquimalt Gorge Park

Often referred to as Victoria's most picturesque farmers market customers can enjoy shopping, twice nightly musical performances and a rotating selection of food trucks each night. There is plenty of space to spread out on the field on a picnic blanket with the whole family. Well-behaved dogs are welcome. esquimaltmarket.com

July & August: Memorial Park Music Fest

6-8PM on Tuesdays

Outdoor live music at Memorial Park is a summer staple. Bring a chair or blanket to enjoy this free event. Food trucks will be available! More at townshiparts.org for the musical lineup.

July 4: Urban Arts Tour

11AM-4PM in Esquimalt

This annual self-guided tour brings together local artists and garden hosts to celebrate creativity, connection, and the beauty of Esquimalt's outdoor spaces. Visitors stroll through neighbourhood gardens discovering art in unexpected and inspiring settings.

AGENDA ITEM #6.b.

OUTDOOR MOVIES THIS AUGUST

Aug 07-Brave

Aug 14-Kung Fu Panda

Aug 21-How to Train your Dragon

Aug 28-Shrek

BULLEN PARK STARTING AT SUNSET!

July 13: Teddy Bear Picnic

11AM-12:30PM

Captain Jacobson Park

Grab your favourite stuffed animal and picnic blanket and join us for some crafts and story time! Parent/caregiver supervision is required.

August 10: Play Time!

11AM - 12:30PM

Memorial Park

Join us at the park for some fun outdoor activities. We will have lawn games, light sports equipment, etc. Come spend some time with us in the fresh air and sun! Parent/caregiver supervision is required.

Sept 11-13: Ribfest

Bullen Field

Ribfest is a three-day event packed with fun for people of all ages and abilities. Our mission is to host a fun, family event and raise charitable money for Esquimalt. Free entry into Esquimalt Ribfest for the whole family.

We respectfully acknowledge that we are gathered on Lekwungen territory.

View our up-to-date online calendar



or go to esquimalt.ca/events

District of Esquimalt - Accessible Voting - 2026 General Election - Requ.



Township of
ESQUIMALT

The Current

AGENDA ITEM #6.b.

Reeve Alfred Wurtele congratulating re-elected Councillor James "Jimmy" Bryant on his fifth consecutive win, along with newly elected Councillor Edward "Ed" DeCosta and re-elected Councillor Vince Rush at the 1958 municipal election.

ESQUIMALT VOTES 2026

Your vote matters

In this fall's General Local Election, residents will choose local leaders to direct the decisions that affect daily life across Esquimalt—from parks, roads, and recreation to community services and long-term planning. You'll vote for one (1) Mayor and six (6) Councillors to guide Township priorities over the next four years. Check online after September 11 to see who's running.

Are you registered to vote?

The Township uses the Provincial Voters List. If you're not already registered, don't worry, you can register at the voting location by showing appropriate identification.

Accessible voting options

We're committed to making voting accessible for everyone.

1. Ballot marking device

Available for voters who cannot mark paper ballots. Features audio-tactile interface, headphones, paddle button, and sip-and-puff port.

2. Curbside voting

Designated accessible parking available. Election officials bring the ballot to your vehicle and will protect voter secrecy.

3. Personal assistance

Assistance can be requested from an election official, or you may be accompanied by an aid for any required accommodations.

District of Esquimalt - Accessible Voting - 2026 General Election Regs.
Accessibility services are available for all in-person voting options.

THREE WAYS TO VOTE

1. Mail ballots:

Make voting easy!

If you're a qualified elector, you can vote by mail.

Applications to vote by mail ballot are available at Municipal Hall (1229 Esquimalt Rd) and online.

Deadlines and details at esquimalt.ca/elections

2. Advance voting:

- October 7, 8 a.m.–8 p.m.
- October 14, 8 a.m.–8 p.m.

3. General Voting Day:

October 17, 8 a.m.–8 p.m.

ALL IN-PERSON VOTING takes place at Esquimalt Recreation Centre Gym (527 Fraser St).

TOWNSHIP CONTACTS

Emergency 9-1-1

Esquimalt Municipal Hall

1229 Esquimalt Road
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3P1

Municipal Hall reception	250-414-7100
Building Inspections	250-414-7103
Bylaw Enforcement	250-414-7161
Corporate Services	250-414-7177
Development Services	250-414-7103
Engineering/Public Works	250-414-7108
Finance	250-414-7107
Parks and Recreation	250-412-8500

Esquimalt Municipal Archives

103-1249 Esquimalt Rd
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3P2 250-412-8540
Tues (1-4:30 p.m.);
Wed/ Thurs (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

Esquimalt Recreation Centre

527 Fraser Street
Esquimalt, BC V9A 6H6 250-412-8500

Archie Browning Sports Centre

1151 Esquimalt Road
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3N6 250-412-8510

Public library—Esquimalt branch

501 Park Place 250-940-4875

Fire Rescue Services

#101-1151 Esquimalt Road 250-414-7126

Police Department

250-995-7500
1229 Esquimalt Road

The Esquimalt Current is published three times a year by the Township of Esquimalt and distributed to 8,000 homes and local businesses.

If you have a community event you would like included in The Current, call 250-414-7122 or email communications@esquimalt.ca.

Sign up for email notification at esquimalt.ca to receive this newsletter by email and for updates on Township news, events and more.

We are committed to environmental sustainability. This newsletter is printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.



TownshipofEsquimalt



EsquimaltBC



EsquimaltBC

AGENDA ITEM #6.b.

Changes to bylaw enforcement & payments

In late June, Esquimalt council voted to update Esquimalt's Bylaw Offence Notice (BON) penalty structure and applicable bylaws and policies.

The changes include updates to fees for a range of bylaw offences, including parking violations, building and zoning infractions, illegal dumping, property maintenance, and other infractions.

Bylaw officers will also be scheduled for Saturdays and during large events to help ensure parking regulations are observed—this encourages spaces to turn over in their designated times and ensures accessible parking is used by those who need it.

Later this fall, the township will introduce online payment options, making it easier and more convenient to pay tickets before additional fees or collection notices are issued.

The Township of Esquimalt's Bylaw Offence Notice (BON) penalties have largely not been updated since the system was adopted in 2014.

These updates are intended to better align penalties with current enforcement practices and regional norms, strengthen deterrence and compliance, and improve payment options for residents and visitors. The bylaw is scheduled for adoption at the September 14 council meeting.

Infrastructure upgrades coming to Esquimalt Road

Construction of **Phase 2 of the Esquimalt Road Active Transportation and Infrastructure Project** has begun. Work will take place from Lampson-Fraser and Admirals-Can-teen. Water works will run between Admirals and Lampson.

The project includes sanitary and storm utility upgrades, refreshed pavement, new crosswalk flashing lights (pictured right), traffic signal upgrades, protected bike lanes and water infrastructure improvements in partnership with the City of Victoria. ([more at EngagingEsquimalt.ca](http://moreatEngagingEsquimalt.ca))

Building on previous public engagement, the focus of Phase 2 was to upgrade important aging underground infrastructure while enhancing comfort and accessibility for those traveling along the corridor. Pairing utility and pavement work with transportation infrastructure upgrades helps save on costs, minimizes future disruptions, and streamlines construction work.

The budget for Phase 2 includes \$3.75M of capital budget which will be offset with \$500,000 from development contributions and \$484,000 from the City of Victoria for their



water infrastructure upgrades. Paving accounts for 50 per cent of the costs, utility upgrades at 15 per cent, crossings/ signals at 22 per cent, bike infrastructure at 8 per cent and pedestrian improvements at 5 per cent (% split excludes water infrastructure costs). Construction will take place until fall with periodic travel disruptions. Stay up to date with significant traffic notifications by signing up to Esquimalt Alert (Esquimalt.ca/alert)

Questions? Contact engineering@esquimalt.ca



POLICING UPDATE

AGENDA ITEM #6.b.

In 2022, residents told Council that they wanted the Township to explore different models of policing

for two reasons: first, to seek a cost reduction in order to get Esquimalt's costs in line with comparable municipalities, and secondly to support a review of policing governance and service delivery in Esquimalt.

In 2024, Council voted unanimously for staff to evaluate what would be needed to establish an Esquimalt

Police Department with contracted services. This would be similar to other municipal community policing models where some services were contracted out. Work undertaken by staff and consultants over the next year identified major operational, governance and financial challenges with the various models. This review provides Council with valuable information to help with decision-making about the next potential steps in assessing police service delivery for Esquimalt residents.

In addition, the new leadership team at VicPD and the Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board have been col-

laborating on improving governance matters, Esquimalt-focused performance measures, and the budget process.

At the July 20, 2026 Council meeting, Council directed staff to include a comprehensive orientation and strategic discussion about policing with the 2026-2030 Mayor and Council.

The Township will continue working toward Council's long-term goal of regional policing while improving the current service model.

[Read the staff report and learn more about the project at Esquimalt.ca/police.](#)

What's economic nutrition?



What if your customers could see the local impact of every dollar they spend?

The Economic Nutrition initiative helps businesses measure and share how spending supports local jobs, suppliers, services, and community prosperity.

Similar to a nutrition label on food, it provides a simple way to communicate the economic value created through local purchasing.

The Township of Esquimalt is participating in a regional cohort to explore this approach and help businesses showcase their contribution to a stronger, more resilient local economy.

Info: email terese.finegan@esquimalt.ca

Council meeting schedule

Council meetings

September 21; Sept 28 (with 6PM Special COTW); Nov 2 (inaugural); Nov 16

Committee of the Whole (COTW) meetings:

November 9

* Unless otherwise noted, Council meetings take place at 7 p.m. and Committee of the Whole at 6 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers at 1229 Esquimalt Road. Please check the website or call 250-414-7177 to confirm meeting times.

Spirit Awards- thank you to our volunteers Mike Miller and Carolyn McIsaac!



Spirit Awards are given to those showing exemplary volunteer spirit in Esquimalt.

Learn more about our award recipients and how to nominate someone from the community at Esquimalt.ca.

We respectfully acknowledge that we are gathered on Lekwungen territory.

Upcoming events in Esquimalt

Gorge Farmers Market

Mondays (4:30-7:30PM)

Often referred to as Victoria's most picturesque farmers market customers can enjoy shopping, twice nightly musical performances and a rotating selection of food trucks each night. Well-behaved dogs are welcome. Full dates at esquimaltmarket.com

Ribfest

Sept 11-13: Bullen Field

Ribfest is a three-day event packed with fun for people of all ages and abilities. Our mission is to host a fun, family event and raise charitable money for Esquimalt. Free entry into Esquimalt Ribfest for the whole family. More at EsquimaltRibfest.com

Social Saturday: Pub Quiz w/ Benji Duke

Sept 26; 6:30-10:30pm

Archie Browning Lounge

Benji Duke breaks the mold of everyday trivia nights and provides an evening of excitement and high energy with great showmanship, engaging visuals and a soundtrack that keeps the audience rocking. This isn't your typical trivia night! 19+ event.

August: Memorial Park Music Fest

6-8PM on Tuesdays

Outdoor live music at Memorial Park is a summer staple. Bring a chair or blanket to enjoy this free event. Food trucks will be available! More at townshiparts.org for the musical lineup.

Esquimalt Lantern Festival

Sept 18; 5:30-9:30PM

Esquimalt Gorge Park

Bring a lantern, dress up, and join us to experience a unique, magical evening unlike anything else in the township. There will be music by local musicians, handmade lanterns, large scale puppets, and interactive art installations through the park. Come celebrate all things weird and wonderful!

2026 LOCAL ELECTIONS

ADVANCE VOTING

- October 7 8AM-8PM
- October 14 8AM-8PM

GENERAL VOTING DAY

- October 17 8AM-8PM

Vote at the Esquimalt Rec Centre

Esquimalt Farmers Market

Thursdays (4:30-7:30PM)

Pick up a delicious dinner from one of our hot food vendors and enjoy twice nightly musical performances while the kids run wild in the onsite playground. Stay for the fantastic selection of artisans and crafters yielding everything from soap to jewelry and more. Full dates at esquimaltmarket.com

Esquimalt Story Festival

Sept 19; 12:00-2:30pm

Memorial Park

Help us celebrate the 21st year of Esquimalt's Story Festival with another awesome line-up of great story tellers. The Lion's club will be serving a by-donation lunch, sponsored by the generous Country Grocer. All donations go to help fund the Macaulay literacy program

Social Saturday: Paint & Wine Night

Oct 17; 6:30-9:30pm

Archie Browning Lounge

Prepare to be led through a fun and creative painting experience of a Glow in the Dark Octopus while enjoying a glass of wine. Dive into the neon colors that shine by day and glow by night! No experience needed-just bring your creativity and have a blast. Pre-registration is required. *19yrs +

OUTDOOR MOVIES

Aug 14-Kung Fu Panda

Aug 21-How to Train your Dragon

Aug 28-Shrek

FREE! JOIN US AT BULLEN PARK STARTING AT SUNSET.

Mayor's Open Door

September 25, 9-11AM

Esquimalt Municipal Hall

Chat with Mayor Desjardins at her final open door event!

Stop by the municipal hall to discuss what's important to you. No appointment necessary, first come, first served.

Senior's Appreciation Tea

Oct 21; 12:00-1:30pm

Jubilee Hall

Join us for complimentary coffee, tea and light snacks to celebrate the wonderful seniors in our community. This event is reserved for our guests who are 50 yrs+ and pre-registration is required.

View our up-to-date online calendar



or go to esquimalt.ca/events

District of Esquimalt - Accessible Voting - 2026 General Election - Requ.



2026
GENERAL
LOCAL
ELECTION
INFORMATION

Township of
ESQUIMALT



**DID YOU KNOW
THAT ANY ELIGIBLE
VOTER CAN APPLY
TO VOTE BY MAIL?**

Save time this election— **VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT**



Skip the line and vote from the comfort of your own home by requesting your mail ballot package by Tuesday, October 13, before 4:00 p.m.

VOTE BY MAIL

Application available August 17

Request your mail ballot online, in person, by phone or email.

BALLOT DUE

**Must be received by the
Chief Election Officer by
October 17 at 8:00pm**

There are no special requirements needed to request a mail ballot.

Applications can be found at esquimalt.ca/election, requested by phone or email or picked up at Esquimalt Municipal Hall - 1229 Esquimalt Road.



elections@esquimalt.ca | esquimalt.ca/elections | 250-414-7177

21 AUGUST 2026

MAIL BALLOTS AND ADVANCE VOTING MAKE VOTING EASIER FOR ESQUIMALT ELECTORS

ESQUIMALT, BC—The Township of Esquimalt is preparing for the 2026 General Local Election, taking place on Saturday, October 17, 2026, and reminds residents that mail ballot voting is available to every eligible elector. This expanded option ensures that voting is accessible, convenient, and inclusive for all.

Mail ballot voting is not limited to specific groups—any eligible resident elector or non-resident property elector may request one. All mail ballots that are properly completed and returned by 8 p.m. on October 17 will be securely processed and fully included in the official ballot count on election day.

“We want to make it absolutely clear: mail ballots are for everyone,” said the Township’s Chief Election Officer. “Whether you’re travelling, have mobility considerations, prefer to vote from home, or simply appreciate the convenience, you can vote by mail—and your vote will be counted.”

Mayor Desjardins emphasized the importance of broad and inclusive access to voting.

“Our community thrives when more voices are heard”, said Mayor Barbara Desjardins. “By making mail ballots available to every voter, we’re ensuring that participation in our local democracy is as easy and flexible as possible. Your vote matters and no matter how you vote, in person or by mail, it will be counted.”

Voters who need assistance or accommodation will also have options at the voting place to mark and cast their ballot privately and securely. The options include a purpose-designed ballot marking device, curbside voting or personal assistance from a voting official.

Mail ballot applications can be found on Esquimalt.ca/elections or at the Esquimalt Municipal Hall (1229 Esquimalt Road).

There are two advance voting days, October 7 and 14, in addition to General Voting Day on October 17. All polls are from 8am to 8pm at the Esquimalt Recreation Centre (527 Esquimalt Road).



The candidate nomination period closes at 4:00 p.m. on September 11, 2026. The official list of candidates will be posted on the township's website shortly thereafter.

Questions about the 2026 General Local Election may be directed to: elections@esquimalt.ca or 250-414-7177.

-30-

Media contact

Tara Zajac
Manager of Communications
tara.zajac@esquimalt.ca



GENERAL VOTING DAY

Saturday, October 17, 2026



3 WAYS TO VOTE - your choice !

Option 1



Vote by Mail

Option 2



Vote in Advance

Option 3



Vote on Election Day

See reverse side for full voting details



elections@esquimalt.ca | esquimalt.ca/elections | 250-414-7177



Scan for full election info | Mail ballot application
Voting locations & more



Esquimalt - Accessible Voting - 2026 General Election Page 33 of 41

This is not a Voter Card



3 WAYS TO VOTE - your choice !



Option 1

VOTE BY MAIL

Application available August 17

Request your mail ballot online or by phone

BALLOT DUE:

Must be received by the Chief Election Officer by Oct. 17 at 8:00pm

Apply at esquimalt.ca/election - no special requirements needed to request a mail ballot
Or pickup at Esquimalt Municipal Hall - 1229 Esquimalt Road



Option 2

ADVANCE VOTING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

8:00 am - 8:00 pm

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

8:00 am - 8:00 pm

Esquimalt Recreation Centre Gym — 527 Fraser Street, Esquimalt, BC
No special requirements — any eligible elector may vote early. Skip the Election Day line!



Option 3

GENERAL VOTING DAY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

8:00 am - 8:00 pm

Esquimalt Recreation Centre Gym — 527 Fraser Street, Esquimalt, BC
All ballots — mail or in-person — must be received by 8:00 p.m. on October 17

KEY DATES: Mail ballot applications available August 17 Advance voting: Oct 7 & Oct 14
All ballots due October 17 by 8:00 pm

AM I ELIGIBLE TO VOTE?

- ✓ Canadian citizen, 18 years of age or older
- ✓ Resident of Esquimalt (or property owner/tenant)
- ✓ Not disqualified under the *Local Government Act*
- ✓ Resident of BC for 6 months or more

NOT ON THE VOTERS LIST?

- ✓ The Township uses the Provincial Voters List
- ✓ Register in person at any voting location or when requesting a mail ballot
- ✓ Bring appropriate government-issued ID

VOTING LOCATION

Esquimalt Recreation Centre Gym
527 Fraser Street, Esquimalt, BC
District of Esquimalt, accessible for Voting - Advance & General Voting Day

QUESTIONS ?

We are here to help !

elections@esquimalt.ca
esquimalt.ca/elections
250-414-7177



Scan for full election info

- ✓ Mail ballot application
- ✓ Voting locations
- ...& more

ACCESSIBLE VOTING OPTIONS FOR THE 2026 GENERAL LOCAL ELECTION

The Township of Esquimalt is committed to making voting accessible, inclusive, and supportive for all eligible electors. Voters who need assistance or accommodation at the voting location can access options to help them read, mark, and cast their ballot privately and securely.

IN-PERSON ACCESSIBILITY SUPPORTS

Ballot marking device: A ballot marking device will be available for voters who are unable to mark a paper ballot with a pen. The device includes an audio-tactile interface, headphones, a paddle button, and a sip-and-puff port to help voters navigate the ballot marking process. Once selections are confirmed, the device will print a marked paper ballot for the voter to take to the tabulator.

Curbside voting: Designated accessible parking stalls will be available at the voting location. Voters who need curbside assistance can park in a designated stall and call the phone number provided on-site to reach an election official.

An election official will bring the ballot and any required forms to the voter's vehicle and return the completed ballot to the voting location for tabulation while maintaining ballot secrecy.

Assistance with voting: Voters may ask an election official or a companion for help to read, mark, or cast their ballot. If a companion assists, they must take an oath at the voting place to maintain the secrecy of the ballot. Assistance can be given for accessibility needs, language support, or other barriers to voting.

VOTE BY MAIL

Alternatively, eligible voters may apply for a mail ballot and vote from home. Mail ballot applications are available until October 13, 2026.

Information about accessible voting options and mail ballots is available on the Township's elections webpage: <https://www.esquimalt.ca/government-bylaws/elections> or staff can be contacted by email at elections@esquimalt.ca or phone at 250-414-7177.



REPORT TO CAPITAL WEST ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

To: Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee

From: District of Metchosin

Date: September 21, 2026

Re: Request for Letter of Support for Local Community Accessibility Grant to Install an Auracast broadcast audio system in the Council Chambers.

OBJECTIVE:

The District of Metchosin will be applying for a Social Planning and Review Council of BC (SPARC BC), Local Community Accessibility Grant for the installation of a Auracast System (Bluetooth LE) in the municipal Council Chambers.

SPARC BC provides up to \$25,000 in funding to assist local governments in the implementation of initiatives identified within their Accessibility Plan or by their Accessibility Committee.

A key priority identified in Section 5.3 of the District of Metchosin's Accessibility Plan is improving accessibility within the Council Chambers, the primary venue for Council and Committee meetings, public hearings, and community engagement events.

The installation of an Auracast broadcast audio system in the Council Chambers will help improve accessibility for residents with hearing loss and increase equitable participation in civic life.

A letter of support from the Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee for the District of Metchosin's application for a Local Community Accessibility Grant is requested to strengthen its chances of approval.

BACKGROUND:

Residents, staff, and Council members who experience hearing loss or auditory processing challenges currently face barriers when attending Council meetings, public hearings, and other municipal events held in the Council Chambers. Background noise, room acoustics, distance from speakers, and competing sounds can make it difficult to clearly hear and follow discussions.

These barriers can limit meaningful participation in local government processes and decision-making.

The need for improved assistive listening technology has been identified through feedback from residents, staff and council members, and local seniors' groups.

In December 2025, the District of Metchosin Council resolved to direct staff to explore grant funding possibilities for a Hearing Loop System, and cost estimates for improving audio acoustics in Council Chambers.

Alternative audio systems and hearing loops require expensive, disruptive installations. In contrast, the Auracast system offers Council Chambers a simple, rapid connection that delivers immediate support to users.

The installation of an Auracast broadcast audio system offers a diverse option to improve access to spoken information and discussion, by transmitting clear, direct audio from the Council Chambers sound system to compatible personal hearing devices and assistive listening receivers. This will improve speech clarity, reduce communication barriers, and support equal access to information and participation in municipal activities.

REQUEST:

THAT the Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee prepare a letter of support for the District of Metchosin's Local Community Accessibility Grant application to the Social Planning and Review Council of BC for the installation of a Auracast broadcast audio system in their Council Chambers.

Victoria McKean

From: Deb Hopkins
Sent: July-06-26 3:54 PM
To: Accessibility
Subject: For the Sept CWAAC Agenda - Correspondence

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

New bench at Denniston Park

We've recently installed a new accessible picnic bench at Denniston Park off Grafton Road. This small park offers sweeping views of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, from Saxe Point Park to the West Shore. A great spot for a picnic!

Learn more about our accessibility

planning: <https://www.esquimalt.ca/inclusivity/accessibility>



Deb Hopkins, (She/Her)
Director of Corporate Services/Corporate Officer
Township of Esquimalt | Corporate Services
Tel: 250-414-7135 | www.esquimalt.ca

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Victoria McKean

From: Joel Clary
Sent: June-02-26 2:51 PM
To: Deb Hopkins; Accessibility
Cc: Charles Davie
Subject: FW: Accessible Safety at Crosswalks

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

FYI – see response below for reference.

Joel Clary, P. Eng, PMP, (He/Him)
Director of Engineering and Public Works
Township of Esquimalt | Engineering & Public Works
Tel: 1-250-414-7130 | www.esquimalt.ca

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From: Joel Clary
Sent: June-02-26 2:50 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Accessible Safety at Crosswalks

Hi Patsy,

Thank you for your feedback and for drawing our attention to this matter.

The Township currently utilizes scorelines at new curb ramps that are aligned with the direction of travel, consistent with the associated crosswalk and receiving curb ramp. Township staff inspect new installations completed by contractors to confirm they meet design standards and are constructed in accordance with approved drawings.

We appreciate the reminder to continue ensuring accessibility and safety in the community.

Thanks,

Joel Clary, P. Eng, PMP, (He/Him)
Director of Engineering and Public Works
Township of Esquimalt | Engineering & Public Works
Tel: 1-250-414-7130 | www.esquimalt.ca

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From: Patsy Hamilton [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2026 10:17 AM
To: Mayor Goodman <mayor@langford.ca>; Marie-Térèse Little <mtlittle@metchosin.ca>; Barbara Desjardins <Barbara.Desjardins@esquimalt.ca>; dkobayashi@colwood.ca <dkobayashi@colwood.ca>; kwilliams@highlands.ca <kwilliams@highlands.ca>; Sid Tobias <mayortobias@viewroyal.ca>; mtait@sooke.ca <mtait@sooke.ca>
Subject: Accessible Safety at Crosswalks

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Township of Esquimalt Network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Morning,

An article in this morning's Times Colonist has prompted me to write to you. According to the article if it is not installed properly it could lead someone into traffic.

Is there a process in place that after installation they are inspected to ensure that they have been placed correctly.

The name of the article is "Sidewalk pad in Sidney could lead people right into traffic"

I feel this should be a reminder to all municipalities to double check to ensure safety for persons with disabilities.

Although I have taken a step back from Accessibility at the municipal level, this is an area of importance and education for those staff members who make up the CWAAC.

Given that we are entering an election cycle and I don't mean to sound an alarm bell but please consider that there has been an increase in the aging population and increase in persons with visible and invisible disabilities.

I spend time in each one of your municipalities, supporting local, using your libraries, going to your markets, I am not the only one.

I still look forward to a reply or a simple acknowledgment that you have read my emails.

Thanks for reading.

Sincerely
Patsy Hamilton
Langford

"Always think: Who is in this room? Whose voices are heard? Whose voices are missing? Why?" - Per Axbom