



**John Horgan MLA Juan de Fuca**

# Community Report APRIL 2010

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## BC's energy plan must put the public interest first

**B**ritish Columbia's natural resources should benefit the public good and be used in the best public interest. For generations these principles have been at the cornerstone of our province's growth and development. Successive governments of all political stripes have worked to manage resources to create jobs, pay for social programs and build strong communities.

Nowhere have these principles been more important than in the development of hydroelectric power.

Public investment in our hydro resources has provided us with thousands of jobs, an affordable and reliable energy supply and a clean, green competitive advantage. In the future, we have the potential to harness wind, tidal, solar, bioenergy and other green energy sources.

British Columbia's green energy advantage is one of our most important economic and social assets. With the reality of climate change and the rush to new energy alternatives, that advantage could provide us with huge economic and social

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return for communities across BC

It could also contribute to the lowering of greenhouse gas emissions. But to meet these goals, we must manage our resources wisely and be guided by the public interest.

I believe that any energy plan must be based on the following key principles:

1. Conservation and environmental protection: Since 2001, the BC Liberals have dramatically scaled back environmental protection and conservation measures. BC must establish tough standards that look at cumulative impacts and build on programs such as Power-Smart, expand green retrofits and utilize tariffs to encourage small-scale innovation to reduce energy consumption.

2. Maximizing the public benefit: As owners of this public resource, we rightly expect a return in the form of jobs,

economic development and revenue for social programs. Local communities and First Nations must not only be consulted, but should benefit directly through the development of community energy trusts such as the Columbia Basin Trust. Handing over public resources with no control or accountability will cost jobs and weaken BC's long-term competitive advantage.

3. Enhancing BC's hydro advantage: BC Hydro must be at the centre of renewable energy development and generation, and ensure that before implementing future projects, we determine our needs, our capacity to meet them, and the full impact of the proposed projects.

4. Keeping rates affordable: Industry and consumers should be the first to benefit from affordable renewable energy. A successful energy plan must work to keep BC's competitive cost edge over our competitors.

Rather than harnessing the power of our public utility to lead the production of new green energy, the BC Liberals have

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### COMMUNITY EVENTS

**April 14** *Cycling race* on Millstream Road/Caleb Pike Road, hosted by the Schwalbe Cycling club. 5 - 7:30 pm, continuing every second Wednesday until July 28. For more info, www.schwalbecycling.com

**April 17** *Join us in Celebrating Earth Day's 40th Anniversary* at Westshore Earth Day 2010. Explore themes of nature, energy conservation, waste management and sustainable local living. Visit displays, listen to entertainment and take the 2010 Tomato Challenge. 10 am - 3 pm at the Westshore Town Centre Mall.

**April 19** *Yoga to fit your life style* whether you are a beginner or seasoned practitioner. The classes combine elements of Hatha Yoga with therapeutic benefits of pilates. Drop in by donation, 5 - 7 pm. Metchosin Community House at 4430 Happy Valley Rd.

**April 24** *Earth Walk 2010.* An annual fun family event that invites everyone to join in. Meet at the Legislature grounds at noon and make your way up Government St to Centennial Square, where local musicians will entertain.

**April 24** *4th Annual Family Arts Fair.* Free activities for the whole family including music, dance, acting, writing and visual arts. 10am - 3pm at the SEAPARC Leisure Complex, 2168 Phillips Rd in Sooke. 250-642-8000.

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B.C.'s energy plan (continued from page 1)

taken a chaotic and ideological approach to energy development.

They've sidelined BC Hydro, picked fights with communities, imposed double-digit rate increases and risked permanent environmental damage to

hundreds of rivers and streams.

The economic leaders of the future will be those who take a prudent and long-term approach to resource management to grow the economy, create jobs and provide a return to strengthen vital programs

such as health and education.

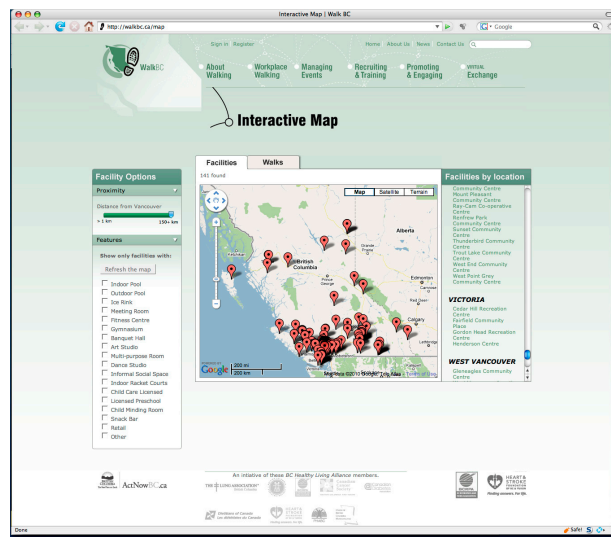
In the coming days the BC Liberals have promised to introduce their new energy plan. If the government puts the principles outlined above at its core, then I will support it.

If it doesn't, I will offer amendments and fight for a plan that creates jobs, protects the environment, prioritizes conservation, and maximizes a fair return to British Columbians.

Online local walking tours at WalkBC.com

Walk BC has just added a new feature to their website – an online map that provides information on walking routes across the province, including a description of each route, distance, level of difficulty, safety and access to amenities.

It's a great resource for people who want to explore our region and the many trails. Walking is a great form of exercise and is a fun way for families to get fit together. The map can be found at www.walkbc.ca.



Town Hall Meeting on the #61 Bus

Some of you, who take the #61 bus, may have seen me on board in the last couple of months. I have been riding the bus from downtown Victoria out to Sooke as a way to connect with people living in Juan de Fuca. I know a lot of you have things you'd like me to know about but don't always have time to attend a meeting, make a phone call or even write an email. Riding the bus allows me to hear directly about what's concerning you. And it gives me a break from the gridlock I usually experience on the drive home! Watch for my ads in the Gazette and News Mirror, letting you know when I'll be on the #61 next.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

April 29 Teatime with Pearson students. Drop in 2:30pm – 4:30pm to enjoy a cup of tea and conversation with international students from Pearson College. Metchosin Community House, 4430 Happy Valley Rd.

May 1 Rotary Auction and Spring Fair. 20th anniversary of this very successful event which raises funds to support various community programs in Sooke. 10am – 10pm at the SEAPARC Leisure Complex.

May 1 7th Annual Galloping Goose Linear Walk in support of the BC Lions Society for Children with Disabilities or a charity of your choice. Hosted by the Sooke and Westshore Lions and Sooke District Lioness Clubs. Walk the 32 km from Colwood to Sooke. For more info contact Dave Nash at 250-642-4515 or email gglinearwalk@hotmail.com

May 10 Move for Health Day Challenge. All recreation centres in Greater Victoria will be offering drop in admissions at facilities for \$2.

Every Monday Karate for all ages from 6:30 to 7:30 pm at Shirley Community Hall. Contact Alida Long at 250-642-4631 for more info.

Anytime Langford's ShelterBox fundraiser for Haiti. Alpine recycling depot manager Craig Black is accepting bottles, cans and other recyclables to raise money for Langford's ShelterBox fundraiser for Haiti. The recycling centre is at 1045 Dunford Ave. For more on ShelterBox see www.shelterbox.ca.