

# Gary Holman

**Your MLA,  
Standing Up  
for Saanich  
North and  
the Islands**

**Official  
Opposition  
Spokesperson  
Democratic  
Reform and  
Fisheries,  
and Deputy  
Spokesperson  
for Environment  
and BC Ferries**



# YOUR MLA, PROUDLY SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

It's been a busy summer for me and the constituency office, working on community issues and for individual constituents. This fall, I'm holding community meetings throughout the constituency, touring the province again as a member of the Legislative Finance Committee, and sitting in the legislature from October 6 till the end of November.

John Horgan, the new leader of the Official Opposition, has given me an exciting new mandate regarding my shadow cabinet responsibilities, including Democratic Reform and the addition of the Fisheries portfolio.

## **On the teachers' dispute...**

Thanks to all who contacted me on the teachers' dispute with the BC Liberal government. I am pleased an agreement has been reached, although in my view government's intransigence has led to unnecessary school closures. When I visited teachers on the picket lines, they made it clear that their primary concern has never been about wages and benefits – despite government claims to the contrary, the two sides were not that far apart on this issue.

The BC Supreme Court has twice rejected government attempts to strip class size and composition from the teachers' contract and even fined government for bargaining in bad faith. The government continues to defy these court rulings and another appeal will be heard this October.

## **On BC Ferries...**

A study just released by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) estimates the economic significance of BC Ferries to the provincial economy and the high costs of mismanaging our marine highway. The Official Opposition repeatedly requested government to undertake such an analysis

before implementing the latest series of service cuts and ferry fare increases. The Official Opposition will be urging government to rethink its damaging approach to BC Ferries in the fall sitting of the legislature. For a link to the study please visit my website.

## **On agriculture and the environment...**

In the spring legislative session, the BC Liberal government forced through Bill 24, which effectively opens up 90% of precious farmland to development, and moves decision-making to regional panels instead of the provincial Agricultural Land Commission. I attended one of the closed sessions in Nanaimo with Lana Popham, Official Opposition Spokesperson for Agriculture, and the feedback from community groups and local governments was "don't fix what's not broken".

On August 4, a huge tailings pond at the Mt. Polley mine was breached, spilling millions of tonnes of toxic sediments and waste water into Hazeltine Creek, which could ultimately impact one of the most important salmon spawning areas in BC. The Official Opposition immediately called for independent investigations into Mt. Polley and the safety of other tailings ponds throughout BC, and for appropriate redress for impacts on salmon habitat, tourism and communities. Credibility must be restored to a regulatory regime that has replaced independent oversight with industry self-regulation.

## **On First Nations issues...**

I was proud to attend the opening of the Tsartlip Service Station in Central Saanich. The Tsartlip Nation has been working on this important component of their economic development strategy for several years. I've supported the

extension of the BC Transit bus route further into the Tsawout First Nation Reserve and I am committed to work with local First Nations to address their economic and cultural aspirations.

This commitment is why I've opposed the construction of a luxury house on Grace Islet in Ganges Harbour, Salt Spring Island. Protecting this sacred burial islet is a small, but important step towards reconciliation with First Nations people. I will not remain silent in the face of Grace Islet's desecration and will continue to press the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources to protect this sacred site.

### **On some other local issues...**

I've proposed a housing needs assessment under the auspices of the CRD Housing Secretariat to help facilitate affordable housing projects on the Saanich peninsula. All three municipalities on the peninsula have now endorsed, and agreed to participate in this study.

The constituency of Saanich North and the Islands is blessed with remarkable marine and freshwater attributes that we must protect. I will continue to advocate for the establishment of a National Marine Conservation Area, better regulations to protect wildlife sanctuaries like Shoal Harbour, and the restoration of salmon streams. As an economist, I believe the protection of these environmental treasures is good for business.

The legislature will reconvene on October 6, and I need to hear from you. Please let me know on the back of this leaflet what issues you would like to see addressed and how can I help? For the latest updates on my work, upcoming events and links to documents and news please visit my website at [www.garyholman.ca](http://www.garyholman.ca).

Gary Holman  
MLA, Saanich North and the Islands



*Witnessing protectors of Grace Islet burial site.*

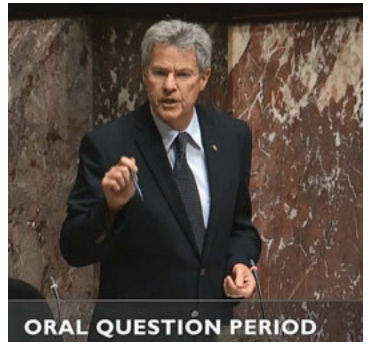


*Standing with teachers at Parkland Secondary.*



*Sandbox town hall at Mayne Island's St. Mary Magdalene Church Fair.*

# YOUR MLA, SERVING OUR COMMUNITY AT THE LEGISLATURE



What are your top priority issues that you believe I should be working on in the legislature this fall?

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**Please tell me what matters to you and your family. Here's how to reach me:**

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Monday to Thursday 10 am – 4 pm,  
and by appointment on Friday

*With friends, alerting Ruckle Park campers to dangers of Bill 4.*

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