



2026/04/13

Sent via Email: Premier@gov.bc.ca
ECC.Minister@gov.bc.ca
TT.Minister@gov.bc.ca

David Eby, Premier of British Columbia
Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister of Education and Childcare
Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Transportation and Transit

Dear Premier Eby, Minister Beare, and Minister Farnworth:

RE: City of Langford - Permanent Daylight-Saving Time and the Impacts on Safe Routes to School

At its Special Meeting held March 30, 2026, City of Langford Council passed the attached resolution that forms part of this letter. For your reference, an excerpt has been included below:

THAT Council direct staff to prepare a letter to the Minister of Education and Childcare, the Minister of Transportation and Transit, and the Premier's Office, with a copy to all local governments in British Columbia, outlining Council's concerns regarding the impacts of adopting year-round Pacific Daylight Time on children who would be required to walk to school in the dark. AND THAT the letter from the City of Langford Mayor and Council advocate for:

- *the immediate reopening of BC's Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant Program for safe routes to school projects;*
- *the establishment of a program ensuring all students have access to visibility enhancing resources such as lights and reflective gear; and*
- *the expansion of The Society for Children and Youth of BC (SCY)'s Walking School Bus program.*

On behalf of the City of Langford Council, I am writing to express the collective concerns regarding the Province of British Columbia's adoption of permanent year-round Daylight-Saving Time (DST). While Council recognizes that the decision reflects changing regional and economic considerations and does not seek to reverse that decision, it is critical to address unintended safety impacts on children and their caregivers who commute to school by walking or rolling during the darkest months of the year.

Permanent DST will result in significantly later winter sunrises across southern British Columbia. In Langford and other communities served by Sooke School District 62 (SD62), it can be reasonably estimated that many elementary students begin their commute as early as 8:00 a.m. This new prolonged period of low-light conditions coincides with the wettest and foggiest season of the year, where heavy rainfall, poor visibility, and slick surfacing further increases risk for pedestrians and cyclists of all ages and abilities. Permanent DST results in a material increase in challenging travel conditions for school-aged children.

While the City recognizes that dark commutes are more common throughout other regions of the Province, the challenges noted above are compounded by the established characteristics of existing neighbourhoods in Langford and similar communities throughout the Province. Urban streets are busy with vehicular traffic, often containing parking and other barriers that can conceal pedestrians from drivers. Older residential areas and semi-rural roads are often wide with a very slim shoulders and often, there are no sidewalks paths, or adequate street lighting available.

Mitigating these risks requires targeted infrastructure improvements such as traffic calming, pedestrian lighting, sidewalk completion, protected crossings, and other safe-route-to-school measures. Langford has successfully partnered with the Province in the past through the BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant Program to advance such projects. However, we are concerned that the pausing of the 2025/2026 intake of this program, pending review of the CleanBC framework, significantly limits the ability of local governments to plan, design, and implement safety improvements in time for the 2026/2027 school year.

As growth continues throughout the region, new school sites are being selected that are outside current transportation networks requiring significant investment from local governments that are not financially viable without Provincial support. The City of Langford strongly requests that the BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant Program be reopened and that new applications featuring projects that support safe routes to school be given preference, or, at minimum, clear communication from the Province to all local governments regarding the status and anticipated timeline of this grant program.

To further support and encourage active transportation to commute to school, the Province is encouraged to develop a program in partnership with School Districts to ensure students have

access to visibility enhancing resources such as reflective gear and lights. As mentioned above, schools opening further from established transportation networks introduce further hazards for students navigating to school. Travelling in darkness may increase interactions with other road users, and without targeted support, permanent DST may exacerbate existing inequities and disproportionately affect children from lower-income households.

Council also wishes to acknowledge and commend the Province's recent support for the Walking School Bus Program, delivered in partnership with the Society for Children and Youth of BC (SCY). In addition to improving safety during school commutes, expanding Provincial support for this program may play a critical role in assisting students during their commute to school under low-light conditions.

City of Langford Council wishes to express that the intent of this letter is to encourage early dialogue regarding proactive, collaborative steps that can be taken to ensure this transition does not compromise the safety of young commuters. Active Transportation grants that support the creation and enhancement of safe routes to school help local governments respond thoughtfully, maximize the impact of limited resources, and provide safe, healthy, and sustainable school travel across British Columbia. Early consultation and discussions can identify needs and mitigate impacts, particularly on more vulnerable groups.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns. We would welcome the opportunity to engage further in discussions on how provincial and local governments can work together to mitigate impacts and improve outcomes for students and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Goodman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mayor Scott Goodmanson
City of Langford

Attached: Certified Resolution from the Special Meeting of Council held March 30, 2026.
CC: BC Municipalities

CITY OF LANGFORD

RESOLUTION

ITEM TITLE: Notice of Motion from March 16, 2026 - Permanent Daylight-Saving Time and the Impacts on Safe Routes to School

MOVED BY: GUIRY
SECONDED: HARDER

WHEREAS the adoption of permanent, year-round daylight-saving time means that many school age children, including those in the Victoria area who begin their commute around 8:00 a.m., will be travelling to school in darkness from early November until the end of February;

AND WHEREAS many communities have older neighbourhoods with wide roadways which may cause unintended speeding, limited or non-existent sidewalks or pathways, and limited street lighting. Mitigation of these neighbourhood conditions would require significant upgrades to ensure safe travel for children during dark winter mornings;

AND WHEREAS the BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant 2025/2026 intake was paused pending a review in the fall of 2026, thus limiting the ability of local governments to make meaningful change and prepare for the 2026/2027 school year.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to prepare a letter to the Minister of Education and Childcare, the Minister of Transportation and Transit, and the Premier's Office, with a copy to all local governments in British Columbia, outlining Council's concerns regarding the impacts of adopting year-round Pacific Daylight Time on children who would be required to walk to school in the dark. AND THAT the letter from the City of Langford Mayor and Council advocate for:

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- *the expansion of The Society for Children and Youth of BC (SCY)'s Walking School Bus program.*

Motion CARRIED.

This is a certified resolution passed by the City of Langford at their Special Meeting of Council held on March 30, 2026.



Marie Watmough
Corporate Officer