

From: NISU Office <theoffice@nisu.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 11:29 AM

To: InfoAlias <info@courtenay.ca>

Subject: Meet the Mayor

Hello,

I apologize for the late request, I have just been alerted to the staff report upcoming to the Wednesday, March 11 council meeting regarding the Ryan Road Sidewalk Project. If it is at all possible to meet with the Mayor this Wednesday, I would be so grateful.

I am personally very thankful for this report, as well I speak on behalf of North Island Students' Union with appreciation for this ongoing work.

In the evening of September 16, 2025, our staff member, North Island College student Max Poley, was walking home from his shift at the Students' Union cafeteria. He was on the dark pathway on the north side of Ryan Road when he was struck by a cyclist. The cyclist, a young local man coming home from his shift at the Thrifty Foods complex, was trying to do the safest thing in the dark fall evening and was riding on the pathway. The impact was severe, and the cyclist was taken to North Island Hospital, while Max was airlifted to Victoria General Hospital. After several days in the Intensive Care Unit, he was moved to the Trauma Unit, where he was making progress. He suffered an intense head injury from the accident, and while talking with family earlier in the day, unfortunately, on September 29, he suffered an inoperable brain bleed and passed away.

The staff report highlights the complexities of cycle and pedestrian traffic in the section of road concerned. While the overall goal is to add a bicycle lane in the area, current barriers are prohibitive. Meanwhile, with students now living on campus, pedestrian traffic will continue to rise, and improvements need to be implemented.

We held funeral services for Max on February 28. In the eulogy I was honoured to share, I committed to working with the City of Courtenay and the Ministry of Transportation and Transit so that no other family has to fill the halls with remembrance for another life cut short on Ryan Road.

North Island Students' Union is in favour of option one in front of the council,

THAT Council direct staff to proceed with the sidewalk only, complete detailed design and begin construction as soon as possible within 2026.

If this email could be shared with the Mayor and the council, please do.

If I could join the Mayor for a Meet the Mayor chat tomorrow to help reiterate our support, please let me know.

Much appreciation for the work of staff, Mayor and Council,



Carissa Wilson, she/they
Executive Director
North Island Students' Union
Text/call 778-585-6478
Local 15 BC Federation of Students
Local 2020 Construction, Maintenance and Allied Workers

North Island Students' Union is honoured to acknowledge territories of the combined 35 First Nations; Nuu-chah-nulth, Kwakwaka'wakw and Coast Salish peoples, on whose unceded traditional lands we learn, live and play.

It is a small team at NISU, please expect up to five business days for a response.

In Loving Memory



MAXIMUS POLEY

May 16, 2001 – September 29, 2025

FUNERAL SERVICE:

February 28, 1:00 - 4:00

Cumberland Community Church - 2732 Penrith Ave
Christian fellowship followed by reception

CELEBRATION OF LIFE:

October 3, 1:00 - 4:00

North Island College, Courtenay
Everyone welcome