



January 7, 2015

Chair and Board of the Capital Region District,
625 Fisgard St.,
Victoria, BC, V8W 1R7

Dear Board Members,

We were very pleased to see the results of the November municipal referendum questions across the region where the electorate approved the concept of a Provincially funded study to investigate the issue of amalgamation. 75% of Greater Victorians voted in favour despite the varied questions, and provided clear direction that they want a governance review.

The Premier and the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development have committed to such a study in news releases and announcements.

The CRD Board Chair recently noted that you are community leaders involved in the many areas of service delivery to the region. Knowing the benefits of cooperative, cost-effective regional approaches, you are therefore perfectly positioned to champion major issues and to act in the best interests of the region. And as a democratic institution, we are anticipating your commitment to the regional greater good.

It is timely that you now communicate with the Province as the process begins to fulfill the mandate provided by CRD citizens.

In anticipation of the work to be undertaken, our Board has developed a draft set of guidelines (attached) for the Provincially-led study. The overarching framework of the guidelines is that it must be unbiased, inclusive and timely.

These guidelines have been submitted to the Province and we invite your comments.

We look forward to hearing of your actions in this regard and request notification of when the Board will be discussing this action item.

Yours truly,

Tony Heemskerk
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cc: Premier Christy Clark
Coralee Oakes, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
Becky Denlinger, Deputy Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Attachment: Study Guidelines

CAPITAL REGION AMALGAMATION STUDY

GUIDELINES

- 1) The study team must report to the Minister and must be instructed to carry out its task in a timely manner.
- 2) The study must be inclusive and engage all the municipal agencies in the Capital Region and the First Nations.
- 3) The study must examine the existing municipal structure (including the CRD) in the Capital Region and recommend changes to achieve good municipal governance across the region, including efficiency, effectiveness and accountability
- 4) The study process must include opportunities for the public to interface with the study team during the preparation of the report.
- 5) The study must consider at least three options for municipal boundaries in the Capital Region.
- 6) When evaluating each option, consideration must be given to providing consideration of commercial, urban, residential and rural interests.
- 7) The study must evaluate the economic, social and environmental merits of each option.
- 8) The study must include a plan for public meetings to discuss the recommendations of the report.
- 9) The study must prescribe timelines for implementation of the study.
- 10) The study must identify implementation issues that need to be resolved.