

View Royal By-Election Questionnaire

Capital Region Municipal Amalgamation Society (Amalgamation Yes)

<http://www.amalgamationyes.ca>

TO EACH CANDIDATE STANDING FOR ELECTION TO PUBLIC OFFICE TO FILL THE VACANT COUNCIL SEAT IN VIEW ROYAL MUNICIPALITY:

Thank you for participating in the November 18, 2017 by-election. We look forward to receiving your views on local governance reform. Please complete and return to amalgamateyes@gmail.com by November 8, 2017. Candidate responses will be posted on the <http://www.amalgamationyes.ca> website.

Candidate name: DAMIAN KOWALEWICH

Candidate for: Councillor

Municipality: Town of View Royal

1. Are you in favour of the Provincially-funded, citizen-led, unbiased study of the current system of local government in the Capital Region District, to include municipalities and CRD? Yes or no. Please explain.

Recent public feedback has shown that residents of the Capital Regional District are interested in seeing what options are available for the region. An unbiased study only enhances the transparency of local government(s) and I would support that.

2. Do you believe that View Royal residents should have the opportunity to state an opinion on the subject of an governance study on a common binding referendum question on the next (2018) municipal ballot? Yes or no. Please explain.

View Royal citizens should have an opportunity to voice their opinions in a way that Mayor and Council can effectively review and interpret the data. That is democracy.

3. After the November 2014 election, and the 75% YES vote for reform, the (then) Premier of BC, Christy Clark, and the (then) Minister of Communities, Coralee Oakes both promised an study into amalgamation. To date, no such study has been initiated. Leading up to the May 2017 Provincial election, the NDP promised: *"You can count on BC New Democrats to follow through on our commitment to commission a study"*. But on August 13, the new Minister of Municipal Affairs, Selina Robinson said she had no plans to commission an amalgamation study. As an elected councillor, what steps will you take with the Minister of Municipal Affairs to reinforce the will of the electorate and the Provincially-promised study?

Holding governments accountable is something I would not be afraid to do. I would encourage that the study be completed as promised.

4. Do you believe that the Capital Region District Board has been effective in dealing with regional service issues, such as waste water treatment (sewage), public safety (police, fire, 911), regional growth strategy, transportation and transit planning, etc? Yes or no. Please explain.

I believe we are in need of a Regional Transportation Authority. Now is the time to lobby the Federal and Provincial governments for transportation monies. I think they have made great strides with the integration of Police and Fire services (specialty units, dispatch centres), but I think there is room for improvement in many other areas

5. What would you do to improve regional governance in Greater Victoria?

During my year as Councillor I would be hard pressed to effect major change, however if re-elected I would love to see an independent unbiased review of the CRD and its services to ensure we are avoiding duplications across the region and operating at our maximum efficiency.