

# Housing strategy needed for region

It appears Mayor Lisa Helps is in full electioneering mode with her parking-lot affordable-housing solution beside the proposed new Crystal Pool. Why such a good idea so close to the election?

Why is our affordable-housing strategy always Victoria-focused? Why are we trying to build affordable housing on some of the most expensive real estate in the country in one of 13 municipalities?

## ***article continues below***

It doesn't make sense. How can you create affordable housing when a single-housing lot is valued at almost \$1 million in Victoria? Where are the other mayors? What are Esquimalt, Saanich and Oak Bay doing to resolve the housing crisis in the capital region?

The United Church in Oak Bay has a good solution to assist with the problem, but some will have none of it.

When I lived in Perth, Australia, the affordable-housing policy implemented by the government stated that all initiatives had to be equally spread across all municipalities. This kept ghettos from forming, unlike what we are starting to see in Victoria (Quadra and Johnson and Burnside-Ellice Street corridors). I'm sure not all people seeking affordable housing want to live in downtown Victoria, Fairfield, Fernwood or Vic West.

Where are the other municipal strategies? To what extent is there an affordable-housing strategy across the CRD?

Our lack of amalgamation means we will have a disorganized and incohesive solution to this problem.

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Esquimalt

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