

## **HOW MUCH IS A GOVERNANCE STUDY WORTH? A TALE OF TWO REGIONS**

**PROVINCIAL GRANT PER CAPITA – 13 CRD MUNICIPALITIES** **\$ 0.28**

**PROVINCIAL GRANT PER CAPITA – NORTH COWICHAN – DUNCAN** **\$1.39**

### **BACKGROUND:**

#### **CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT:**

On November 15, 2014, 8 of the 13 municipalities in the CRD asked various “governance/amalgamation and/or service sharing” question(s) on their respective ballots. Each of the 8 councils decided on the wording of their respective questions. Saanich’s question did not contain the word “amalgamation” – it related to “partnerships” with other municipalities. Of the remaining 7 municipalities that asked an amalgamation question, all but Oak Bay indicated an “interest” in amalgamation. The Ministry of Community, Sports & Cultural Development became involved in 2015 – the result has been the ongoing “Capital Integrated Services & Governance Initiative (CISGI) – **this initiative specifically excludes examining amalgamation** (see City of Colwood website making this quite clear)!

<http://www.colwood.ca/news-events/news/2016-11-15-000000/capital-integrated-services-governance-initiative>

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, the Ministry (CSCD) announced funding of **\$94,500** for the Capital Integrated Services & Governance Initiative. Based on 2011 Census Canada statistics indicating a combined population of 335,257 within the 13 CRD Municipalities, this works out to a commitment of **\$ 0.28 per resident**. See: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2016CSCD0028-000910>

#### **DISTRICT OF NORTH COWICHAN – CITY OF DUNCAN AMALGAMATION STUDY**

Also on November 15, 2014, residents of North Cowichan and Duncan voted in favour of a study to determine the merits (and disadvantages) of amalgamating their two municipalities. A joint committee was established as well as a “Citizens’ Assembly”. The two municipalities agreed to share the cost of the study and to solicit matching funding from the Province. On September 26, 2016, the two municipalities announced that the Province had agreed to provide funding for their joint study of up to **\$47,000.00**. Based on 2011 Census Canada statistics indicating a combined population 33,739 for the two Municipalities, this works out to a commitment of **\$1.39 per resident**. See:

<http://www.northcowichan.ca/custom/NcNewsFeedItem.aspx?ID=381>

**A reasonable question to ask: Why has the Province allocated up to \$1.39 per capita for a study into the pros and cons of amalgamation for North Cowichan and Duncan, yet for the far more populous and complex Capital region, only the equivalent of \$ 0.28 per capita has been allocated?**

**SEE FOLLOWING PAGE FOR CENSUS DATA:**

## **2011 Census Population Stats:**

### **Greater Victoria Municipalities:**

Victoria	80,017
Saanich	109,752
Esquimalt	16,209
Oak Bay	18,016
View Royal	9,381
Central Saanich	15,936
North Saanich	11,089
Sidney	11,178
Langford	29,228
Colwood	16,093
Metchosin	4,803
Highlands	2,120
Sooke	11,435
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>335,257</b>

### **City of Duncan, District of North Cowichan:**

City of Duncan	28,807
District of North Cowichan	4,932
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>33,739</b>