



July 17, 2015

Premier Christy Clark
Legislative Buildings
Victoria, BC

Dear Premier Clark,

This letter is in reference to your recent mandate direction dated June 12, 2015 to the Honourable Coralee Oakes, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development to “Develop and present options to Cabinet on potential processes under which local government could either amalgamate or integrate service delivery” by June 30th, 2016.

We are pleased to see that the Province, through the Ministry, will be reviewing the options currently available for local amalgamation. This should give greater clarity to local governments and the public on the mechanisms to accomplish improved governance in their jurisdictions.

We are further buoyed by the fact that the Minister has sent letters and has had initial meetings this week with some mayors in the Capital Region District to discuss governance for the region. We believe that the Province needs to show leadership by leading the discussion and by commissioning a study into governance in the region. The public expects and deserves action by the Province, given the promises made to the electorate prior to and following the November 2014 election by the Minister and yourself.

As you are aware, the electorate in 7 out of 8 municipalities voted in favour of some type of amalgamation, or study of amalgamation, or review of governance (depending on the question put before the electorate). While the questions were varied, they overwhelmingly indicated that the public has an appetite for some type of local government review and options for future governance. That outcome was further reinforced by an Angus Reid poll that clearly indicated the public are seeking change to the current state of affairs. The status quo does not seem to be the popular option, as residents are affected and frustrated by such matters as sewage treatment, transportation and public safety.

We congratulate you on the mandate to the Minister and we anticipate the Minister will provide the necessary leadership and courage to explore governance for the region.

Kind regards,

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cc: Minister Coralee Oakes