

Region shouldn't pay for Victoria's policing costs

Re: "City fires volley at province for rejecting single police force," Sept. 6.

I have severe issues with the basic premise that Victoria city council believes that their police force enforces the laws for the "region's downtown."

The influx of workers who daily commute to Victoria are the cause of this delusion, as almost all of them go home daily without patronizing any of the establishments (business licences issued by the City of Victoria) which the police force often attends. Those same workers do not remain in the downtown to become part of the homeless population. Those same workers do not contribute to the police calls for mental-health issues. The most that can be said for policing the downtown during the business day is traffic issues, whether vehicle, bicycle or pedestrian.

In the evenings, the bars and restaurants thrive and while some of the police calls may be in response to folks from outside the city of Victoria, my guess is that does not constitute the majority of the police calls. My guess is that the overwhelming majority of the police responses are to address issues of Victoria residents, including domestic situations, property crimes, etc.

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