

Report Card Spring 2016: Capital Region District Major Regional Municipal Services

⇒ Transportation: Grade E

This service combines transit and transportation network planning. The transit management body is flawed, as large municipalities dominate it. Current plans for improvement of highway interchange traffic will only succeed in moving the congestion down the road to the next intersection. Alternative transportation options (cycling, pedestrian and future rail) are uncoordinated. Full integration of transit and regional arterial road planning is required.

⇒ Water Supply: Grade B

The rating of this service would improve to an “A” if the oversight agency were elected and accountable.

⇒ Garbage Collection and Disposal: Grade D

This service is made up of general garbage and table scraps. The former is rated as “C” because capacity at Hartland landfill is rapidly diminishing and establishing a new site will be almost impossible for the current regional structure. The disposal program for table scraps has been unsuccessful (Grade E).

⇒ Land Use and Development: Grade E

The 104 zoning and building code bylaws in the region create a massive excessive costs for those involved in construction and maintenance of buildings in the Capital Region. There is no technical reason for more than one building code in the region, or for why there should be more than three zoning bylaws (rural, urban, residential).

⇒ Policing: Grade D

Six police chiefs serve a population of 350,000. Communications among police services is poor and attempts at a regional crime-fighting agency recently collapsed. (Regional police boards met in June 2015 to confirm municipalities can opt out of integrated units, and rejected unified forces.) A recent study by the former Legislative Secretary to the Attorney General recommended unification of all police forces in the Capital Region.

⇒ Emergency Preparedness: Grade E

There are 13 separate emergency response plans in the region. In the event of a shoreline emergency, environmental crisis, or a major earthquake in this region, marine life and/or hundreds or thousands of people may suffer needlessly because of the inability to marshal and deploy response resources on a regional basis.

⇒ Homelessness: Grade D

The City of Victoria has borne the social and economic burden of regional homelessness. Recent involvement of the Province and the CRD has improved the rating of this service from “E” to “D”. This is a matter that requires effective and accountable regional oversight.

⇒ Sewage Treatment and Storm Drain Systems: Grade F

Ten years of futility and \$65+ million spent in attempting to provide sewage treatment to the regional core and the inability of at least one municipality to adequately separate sanitary and storm drains demonstrates the glaring inadequacy of the existing municipal governance structures.