

2020 Provincial Election Candidate Questionnaire
Capital Region Municipal Amalgamation Society (Amalgamation Yes)
<http://www.amalgamationyes.ca>

**TO EACH CANDIDATE STANDING FOR ELECTION TO PUBLIC OFFICE on October 24, 2020
in one of the 7 Electoral Districts that form part of Greater Victoria (Capital Region District)**

Please complete and return to amalgamateyes@gmail.com no later than October 17, 2020. Responses will be posted on the website page: <http://www.amalgamationyes.ca/bc-provincial-election-2020.html>

Candidate Name: Adam Olsen

Political Party: BC Greens

Electoral District: Saanich North and the Islands

1. The implementations of an independent Citizens' Assembly (CA) review of potential amalgamation of Victoria and Saanich, approved by voters in 2018, is still in limbo and awaits contribution of funding support by the Province. Will you pro-actively support action by the Minister responsible to get the CA process underway?

I support regular governance reviews. The BC NDP, and the BC Liberals before them, have not had the political will to facilitate a mature discussion about governance. For example, it is long past time to reform the local government finance system, create and fund mechanisms to include the public in decisions about their local governance including citizens assemblies.

2. Do you agree reform is needed in Greater Victoria for such regional issues as transportation, governance, and the integration of emergency service providers (fire and police)?

Yes. We need to have regional coordination on important issues such as land use and protective services. The BC Greens support a governance body to better facilitate transportation planning across Greater Victoria.

3. The current Capital Region District Board (CRD) consists of municipal councillors and mayors who are appointed from the 13 municipalities to represent the interests of their home municipalities. Do you support a shift to have the CRD Board reflect and represent regional interests and priorities by having it directly elected by all voters?

I support a review of governance. I have always been wary of putting the solution ahead of the conversation. I don't think anyone can with any certainty say that any one solution or another is better than another. That is why having a comprehensive review of governance, costs, benefits, threats, strengths, weaknesses before rolling out solutions is really important to ensuring whatever the recommendations are they are informed and backed by evidence. Only after that work is done will the community be able to embrace the potential of transforming governance in the region.