

2017 Provincial Election Questionnaire

Capital Region Municipal Amalgamation Society (Amalgamation Yes)

<http://www.amalgamationyes.ca>

TO EACH CANDIDATE STANDING FOR ELECTION TO PUBLIC OFFICE IN ONE OF THE PROVINCIAL ELECTORIAL RIDINGS COMPRISING CAPITAL REGION DISTRICT in MAY 2017.

Please complete and return this questionnaire to amalgamateyes@gmail.com by April 15, 2017
Responses will be posted on the <http://www.amalgamationyes.ca> website.

Candidate name: Carole James

Candidate for: BC NDP (name of provincial party: Liberal, NDP, Green, Other)

Provincial Electoral Riding of: Victoria-Beacon Hill

1. During the municipal election in November 2014, the majority electorate in the Capital Region District voted in favour of reducing the number of municipalities in the CRD and/or a study towards that end. In municipalities within your riding, the majority of voters were in favour of local government reform and rejection of the status quo. Both the Premier and the Minister responsible promised a fulsome amalgamation study. But since that time there has been scant movement toward that goal, and the current government has stated that the Capital Integrated Government and Services Initiative (CISGI) information gathering project will not look at amalgamation. There has been a failure of the current government to adequately respond to the will of the electorate. **If elected, what will you do to recognize the democratic will of the people of Greater Victoria?**

The BC Liberal government said they were committed to doing a governance study on amalgamation – it was a “top priority” for them. Yet years later there is no study and they have no

intention to undertake one. This is part of a clear pattern of Christy Clark and the BC Liberals misleading voters and neglecting the things that matter to people.

Amalgamation is a complex and costly endeavour with many reasonable arguments for and against. BC New Democrats believe the people have spoken and their government should respect that, so as government we would commission a study, and in collaboration all 13 municipalities, move this file forward.

2. The CRD is beset by controversy around its decision-making processes. The CRD Board is comprised of members appointed from the 13 municipalities who are not directly elected to represent regional interests. Rather, they are appointed to represent their municipality's interests and this results in costly failures to reach rational and prudent decisions on such matters as secondary sewage treatment, regional transportation, regional growth, public safety and other issues. If elected, what reforms or changes, if any, will you make to address pressing regional issues?

A study on amalgamation would inevitably bring forward recommendations on any reforms or changes needed to the CRD Board. You can count on BC New Democrats to follow through on our commitment to commission a study, in collaboration with all 13 municipalities, and move this forward.