

CAPITAL REGION MUNICIPAL AMALGAMATION SOCIETY
 CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
 TO REVIEW GOVERNANCE IN THE 13 CRD MUNICIPALITIES
 To Date

January 30, 2020	Terms of Reference for Joint Citizens' Assembly approved by Victoria and Saanich Councils.
October 20, 2018	Saanich and Victoria electorate vote 56% and 66% respectively to establish a joint Citizens' Assembly to study the advantages and disadvantages of amalgamating their municipalities.
June 26, 2018	Planned Joint Committee of the Whole meeting of Victoria and Saanich Councils to formulate a ballot question on initiating a Citizens' Assembly on Amalgamation, to be put to voters on October 20, 2018.
April 25, 2018	Core City Town Hall on citizens' assemblies held at Victoria High School. Speakers included Mayors of Saanich and Victoria, MASS LBP on citizen assembly process, and councillor from BC amalgamated city.
April 23 & 26, 2018	Councils of District of Saanich and City of Victoria agree to joint meeting to craft common referendum question on citizens' assembly to study amalgamation
March 7, 2018	Municipal Affairs Minister Selina Robinson responds to Victoria/Saanich joint request for citizens' assembly on amalgamation
March 3, 2018	Saanich Peninsula Town Hall presentation by members of the Duncan – North Cowichan Citizens' Assembly
January 26, 2018	Victoria Times Colonist Editorial points out failures of fragmented regional emergency response to recent tsunami warning
January 22, 2018	Mayors of Victoria and Saanich jointly request Municipal Affairs Minister Selina Robinson to create a citizens' assembly on amalgamation
January 16, 2018	Victoria Times Colonist Editorial criticizes CRD for yet another sewage controversy amongst Board members
January 11, 2018	City of Victoria approves establishing regional policing discussions with other municipalities and the creation of a citizens' assembly on governance
January 8, 2018	District of Saanich approves establishing regional policing discussions with other municipalities and the creation of citizens' assembly on governance
December 28, 2017	Victoria Times Colonist Editorial lauds Saanich for initiating call for regional police service, citizens' assembly on amalgamation
November 2017	Victoria Residential Builders Association calls for Province to amalgamate municipalities in best interests of proper regional transportation and infrastructure
October 26, 2017	Victoria Times Colonist Editorial: Need new mass transit ideas to solve traffic congestion harmful to economy, quality of life
October 23, 2017	<i>Saanich Governance Review</i> report recommends improving service efficiencies by amalgamation and/or regional service integration; Saanich to take larger regional leadership role.
October 18, 2017	Victoria Times Colonist Editorial calls for regional transportation plan, local government in region must cooperate to solve traffic gridlock
September 15, 2017	Victoria Times Colonist Editorial urges transportation body badly needed, regional voice is necessary, and go-it-alone municipal projects contributing to problem.
September 1, 2017	Victoria Times Colonist Editorial calls for regional transportation authority, cites lack of coordination at regional and local government level for problem.
August 25, 2017	Victoria Times Colonist Editorial criticizes lack of substance in CISGI report, failure of BC NDP to fulfill election promise and do study.
August 23, 2017	Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce says local governance “badly broken”.
August 23, 2017	BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing releases CISGI report after public pressure.
August 13, 2017	Minister Robinson declines to release CISGI report, says she has no plans to pursue amalgamation-specific study
July 18, 2017	Premier John Horgan appoints new Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Honourable Selina Robinson and issues mandate letter
May 31, 2017	NDP - Green Party government pending
May 9, 2017	BC Provincial Election. Final outcome pending. (Minister) Peter Fassbender not re-elected.

April 15, 2017	NDP promises: “New Democrats believe that the people have spoken and their government should respect that.” “You can count on BC New Democrats to follow through on our commitment to commission a study”.
April 2017	BC Provincial election set for May 9
Spring 2017	Minister Fassbender declines to release CISGI report
Fall 2016	CISGI report concluded, but not released by Minister Fassbender
July 31, 2016	Amalgamation Yes makes submission to Province of BC CISGI project.
June 3, 2016	Victoria Times Colonist Editorial urges direct approach on amalgamation
June 1, 2016	Urban Systems and Circle Square Solutions consultants selected for CISGI project.
Mar 24, 2016	Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development issues a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the <i>Capital Integrated Services and Governance Initiative</i> (CISGI) project to gather information from Greater Victoria mayors.
Feb 11, 2016	Minister Fassbender extends deadline to February 23, 2016 for mayors to submit comments (below).
Jan 29, 2016	Minister Fassbender sends draft <i>Capital Integrated Services and Governance Initiative, Terms of Reference and Framework</i> , to mayors for feedback by February 5, 2016. No information released to public..
Dec 3, 2015	Minister Fassbender meets with 13 regional mayors. No information released to public.
Nov 19, 2015	Victoria Times Colonist Editorial proclaims amalgamation leadership vital
Nov 17, 2015	Minister Fassbender addresses Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce on local governance
Nov 5, 2015	Minister Fassbender sends letters to regional mayors requesting meeting late November – early December to discuss governance
Sept 2015	Minister Fassbender meets with Colwood and Oak Bay mayors at UBCM Annual Meeting (final two mayors pending from previous minister Oakes mid-July meetings).
July 30, 2015	Premier Christy Clark appoints new Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development and Minister Responsible for TransLink, Honorable Peter Fassbender. Premier delivers mandate to Minister.
Mid July, 2015	Minister Oakes hosts series of introductory meetings with 11 municipal mayors and councillors. Oak Bay and Colwood deferred to September due to mayoral absences
July 10, 2015	Minister Oakes issues series of letters to municipalities for separate meetings in mid July
June 22, 2015	Oak Bay Council rejects motion to participate in regional governance study
June 12, 2015	BC Premier Christy Clark delivers mandate to Coralee Oakes, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development to develop options to Cabinet for processes under which municipalities could amalgamate or integrate services. Deadline: June 30, 2016.
May 29, 2015	BC Chamber of Commerce policy calls for more Provincial role in municipal restructuring.
May 26, 2015	Metchosin sends letter to Province regarding governance review
May 25, 2015	Saanich approves motion to send letter to Province regarding governance review
May 11, 2015	Langford Mayor Stu Young commits to writing Province regarding study participation
May 9, 2015	Victoria Times Colonist Editorial calls for restoration of regional crime unit
May 1, 2015	Township of Esquimalt sends letter to Province for participation in governance review
Apr 21, 2015	2 nd Greatest Greater Victoria Conversation group organizes forum at Victoria Convention Centre
Apr 14, 2015	Central Saanich sends letter to Province for participation in governance review
Mar 24, 2015	Victoria Salon hosts first debate on amalgamation
Mar 10, 2015	Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development hosts breakfast meeting to discuss amalgamation
Mar 9, 2015	Town of Sidney sends letter to Province regarding participation in governance review
Feb 26, 2015	Victoria Times Colonist Editorial calls for Provincial leadership on amalgamation
Feb 26, 2015	Amalgamation Yes develops and sends a draft study methodology to municipalities and Province to initiate planning/thinking around process for study.
Feb 24, 2015	1 st Greatest Greater Victoria Conversation group holds resident forum at SJ Willis School.

Feb 19, 2015	Colwood sends letter to Province requesting governance review
Feb 19, 2015	City of Victoria sends letters to all CRD municipalities urging them to join in a governance review
Feb 17, 2015	City of Victoria sends letter to Province requesting governance review
Feb 8, 2015	Victoria Times Colonist Editorial says listen to the electorate on amalgamation
Feb 1, 2015	Victoria Times Colonist Editorial says Province should nail down amalgamation costs
Jan 29, 2015	Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce identifies amalgamation and regional services as top 2015 priorities.
Jan 23, 2015	Langford Mayor calls for new regional governance model
Jan 20, 2015	North Saanich sends letter to Province requesting governance review
Jan 7, 2014	Amalgamation Yes develops and sends draft guidelines to municipalities and Province to initiate planning/thinking around process for governance study.
Dec 2014	Petition concludes with thousands of signatures from all municipalities.
Dec 3, 2014	BC Premier Christy Clark proclaims support for Greater Victoria amalgamation, merged police services
Nov 20, 2014	Victoria Times Colonist Editorial supports Provincially-led governance review
Nov 19, 2014	Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce proclaims support for amalgamation election results
Nov 17, 2014	Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development issues post-election statement acknowledging referendum results.
Nov 15, 2014	75% of electorate vote YES to various amalgamation questions during BC Municipal Election. Non-binding referendum questions on 8 of 13 Greater Victoria municipalities.
Oct 28, 2014	Victoria Times Colonist Editorial criticizes Province's approach to Greater Victoria policing.
Oct 8, 2014	BC Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural development issues press release congratulating municipalities that have placed a non-binding question on November municipal ballot.
Oct 6, 2014	North Saanich and Saanich pass motions to place non-binding questions on November municipal ballot.
Oct 4, 2014	Victoria Times Colonist Editorial criticizes Saanich Mayor Frank Leonard; urges non-binding question on Saanich November municipal ballot.
Oct 3, 2014	Oak Bay News Editorial (Black Press) endorses placing non-binding question on November municipal ballot.
Sept 30, 2014	Oak Bay passes motion to place non-binding question on November municipal ballot. Esquimalt Council passes motion to place two questions to November municipal ballot.
Sept 28, 2014	Times Colonist Editorial criticizes multiple municipal salaries
Sept 17, 2014	Oak Bay News Editorial (Black Press) calls on Oak Bay to place a non-binding question on the November municipal ballot.
Sept 11, 2014	Victoria Times Colonist Editorial criticizes regional emergency response radio system
Sept 11, 2014	Saanich News Editorial (Black Press) calls for Saanich municipality to place a non-binding question on the November municipal ballot
Sept 10, 2014	Peninsula News Review Editorial (Black Press) calls for peninsula communities to place non-binding question on November municipal ballot
Sept 10, 2014	Victoria Times Colonist Editorial states municipalities shouldn't fear vote on amalgamation
Sept 9, 2014	Sidney and Esquimalt pass motions to place non-binding questions on November municipal ballot.
Sept 5, 2014	Amalgamation Yes invited as panelist at Alberta Municipal Governance Symposium in Grande Prairie, Alberta
Sept 4, 2014	Goldstream News Gazette Editorial (Black Press) calls for west shore communities to place non-binding question on November municipal ballot
Sept 3, 2014	Central Saanich and Langford pass motions to place non-binding questions on November municipal ballot
Sept 2, 2014	Amalgamation Yes publishes open letter in Times Colonist to Saanich Mayor Frank Leonard calling for inclusion of non-binding referendum question on November municipal ballot.
Sept 2, 2014	Over 500 people sign amalgamation petition in 3 days at Saanich Fair
Sept, 2014	Fraser Institute issues national report on policing, ranking Greater Victoria policing near bottom of efficiency rating (3 on scale of 10).

Aug 7, 2014	Victoria Times Colonist Editorial criticizes lack of merger option in Provincial review of Greater Victoria Police services
July 30, 2014	Victoria Times Colonist Editorial calls for vote on amalgamation study
July 29, 2014	Angus Reid poll released, showing residents favoured study/vote on amalgamation
June 21, 2014	Victoria Times Colonist Editorial states region has too many police services
June 13, 2014	Victoria Times Colonist Editorial states Province created sewage mess
May 27, 2014	BC Minister of Environment declines to intervene in municipal/CRD sewage dispute.
May 22, 2014	Victoria Times Colonist Editorial criticizes disbanding of Regional Crime Unit
May 17, 2014	Victoria Times Colonist Editorial calls on Province to take leading role in sewage issue
Apr 12, 2014	Victoria Times Colonist Editorial criticizes lack of regional emergency response
Aug 29, 2013	Almost 700 people sign amalgamation peititon in 3 days at Saanich Fair
Jan 2013, ongoing	Amalgamation Yes meets with Greater Victoria municipal councils to urge placing non-binding referendum question on November municipal ballot. Amalgamation Yes urges Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development to review region governance
June 25, 2013	Amalgamation Yes calls on municipalities to place non-binding question on November 2014 municipal ballot
May, 2013	Petition launched to reduce the number of municipalities in the CRD
Apr 16, 2013	Victoria News Editorial (Black Press) supports vote on amalgamation
Apr 5, 2013	Capital Region Municipal Amalgamation Society (Amalgamation Yes) incorporated under the <i>BC Societies Act</i>
Dec 16, 2012	Former Attorney General Wally Oppal calls for regional policing
Feb 7, 2012	Initial community forum on amalgamation, SJ Willis
Oct 16, 2011	Victoria Times Colonist Editorial finds that amalgamation and sewage are top of mind for electorate in 2011 municipal elections
1998	Victoria Times Colonist Editorial cartoon depicts regional municipal fiefdoms
1949	Victoria Colonist Editorial criticizes avoidance of amalgamation plebescite
Pre 2012	Decades of various ruminations on amalgamating the region.