

Compare executive pay with private sector

Re: "\$2.2 million," July 29.

The article published in Sunday's Times Colonist contains valuable information on the salaries of senior officials in Victoria-area municipalities and the Capital Regional District. However, important context was missing, notably the size of the budgets for which the officials are responsible and comparisons with salaries in the private sector.

article continues below

As a resident of Oak Bay, I note that its chief administrative officer is responsible for a budget with revenues of approximately \$42 million and expenses of \$37.4 million (2017 audited financial statements). Her annual salary was about \$184,000, which is not excessive when compared with private-sector organizations of similar size and complexity.

At present salary levels, the fundamental issue is not the magnitude of the salaries individually or in total, but the quality of service and value for money that the municipalities and their staffs provide to citizens. Economies of scale, which might be achieved by amalgamation, by no means ensure quality and timeliness of service.

That having been said, Victoria's municipalities and their staffs should continue to enhance collaboration and improve services within existing budgets.

Axel Meisen

Oak Bay

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