

Core needs regional police force

Re: "Police can bolster support," editorial, March 10.

Esquimalt is parochial? Esquimalt is simply looking out for itself. Saturday's editorial indicated that if the public had more facts, perhaps it would support the Victoria police chief's request for more funds.

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The Victoria police department's 2017 reports show that per capita, twice as many calls are received from Victoria as from Esquimalt and it receives three calls on theft from Victoria for every one from Esquimalt.

Clearly, the crime rate is much higher in Victoria than in Esquimalt. So it is puzzling to hear the chief insinuate that crime is more severe in Esquimalt. Where are the data to support this?

The department is asking for six new officers. Based on population and budgets, one of those officers should be assigned to Esquimalt. Why would Esquimalt council increase funding for police services that have little impact on its jurisdiction, especially when the crime rates indicate more police resources are not needed in Esquimalt?

Victoria and Esquimalt shoulder an unfair burden of policing in greater Victoria. I'm not in favour of municipal amalgamation, but a unified police service is needed for the core area. It was heartening to see the mayor of Saanich suggesting such a service.

Oak Bay is also part of the core, but will it rush to the table to assist with policing? Its police budget is half that of Esquimalt, and for the same population. Will it be labelled parochial or fiscally responsible to the interests of its citizens?

Clearly, a regional police force is needed.

Filippo Ferri

Esquimalt

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