

# Do full review of municipal powers

Re: “Municipalities lack powers of enforcement,” editorial, Aug. 26.

Well said in the editorial, but as it acknowledges, the issue is far broader than enforcement.

## ***article continues below***

Municipal governments lack financial authority and taxing powers to carry out their responsibilities, and regional districts as established seem to complicate rather than facilitate the solutions to these and other related issues. Especially in this region, the 13 municipalities have no means to plan and execute vital regional services — transportation and emergency services, to mention two.

The Capital Integrated Service and Governance Initiative report was designed not to achieve results, but to get the previous government through the election cycle, and succeeded in that objective. The fact that it has never been tabled for serious discussion by the Capital Regional District or any of the 13 municipalities is as disappointing as it is a cynical disregard for the interests of taxpayers.

The logic of the editorial cries out for a full review of provincial legislation under which municipalities and regional districts operate. If the first 50 years of the CRD taught us anything, it is that the next 50 must be very different if this community is to achieve its full potential. This is equally true in municipalities across the province.

The municipal elections are the perfect time to be certain our past is not our future.

Keep up the pressure.

John Treleaven

Grumpy Taxpayer\$ of Greater Victoria

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