



January 7, 2015

Mayor and Council,
District of Highlands,
1980 Millstream Rd,
Victoria, BC, V9B 6H1

Dear Mayor and Council,

Congratulations on your election November 15th, 2014.

The Premier and the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development have committed to a governance study in news releases and announcements – a study endorsed by the majority at the ballot box throughout the Capital Region. 75% of Greater Victorians who cast referendum ballots in the November municipal elections voted in favour. Despite the varied questions, they provided clear direction that they wanted a governance review.

It is in the best interests of your municipality to be part of a Provincially-led study, even though you did not have a question on the ballot.

In anticipation of the work to be undertaken, our Board has developed a draft set of guidelines (attached) for the Provincially-led study. The overarching framework of the guidelines is that it must be unbiased, inclusive and timely.

These guidelines have been submitted to the Province and we invite your comments.

It is clear that the public has expressed a strong desire for a governance review and is expecting full cooperation from municipalities as work gets underway. As the Premier has noted “There is only one taxpayer”.

We look forward to hearing of your actions in this regard and request notification of when Council will be discussing this action item.

Yours truly,

Tony Heemskerk
Chair, Amalgamation Yes
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cc: Premier Christy Clark
Coralee Oakes, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
Becky Denlinger, Deputy Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Attachment: Study Guidelines

CAPITAL REGION AMALGAMATION STUDY

GUIDELINES

- 1) The study team must report to the Minister and must be instructed to carry out its task in a timely manner.
- 2) The study must be inclusive and engage all the municipal agencies in the Capital Region and the First Nations.
- 3) The study must examine the existing municipal structure (including the CRD) in the Capital Region and recommend changes to achieve good municipal governance across the region, including efficiency, effectiveness and accountability
- 4) The study process must include opportunities for the public to interface with the study team during the preparation of the report.
- 5) The study must consider at least three options for municipal boundaries in the Capital Region.
- 6) When evaluating each option, consideration must be given to providing consideration of commercial, urban, residential and rural interests.
- 7) The study must evaluate the economic, social and environmental merits of each option.
- 8) The study must include a plan for public meetings to discuss the recommendations of the report.
- 9) The study must prescribe timelines for implementation of the study.
- 10) The study must identify implementation issues that need to be resolved.