

Minister should honour campaign promise

Re: “Amalgamation page left blank,” editorial, Aug. 25.

August has not been a good month for Selina Robinson, recently appointed by Premier John Horgan to lead the new Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. In one of her first pronouncements as minister, she boldly declared that she had no intention of honouring a written NDP election promise to undertake a governance study in the capital region.

This must have been a disappointment to the premier who, during the televised election debates, promised to end the “Wild West” political practice in this province of newly elected governments blatantly ignoring campaign promises once in office.

Then last week, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing released the Service Integration and Governance Report. As pointed out in the editorial, this report documents in agonizing detail the gross inadequacies of the existing regional governance system.

The minister released the report at a time when she is unavailable for comment, thereby leaving her cabinet colleagues in the region struggling to explain the minister’s do-nothing position in the face of the damning report.

The minister of municipal affairs and housing has before her many difficult and complex issues that must be managed with courage and finesse. The premier and some of his cabinet colleagues must be wondering if Robinson has the integrity and fortitude necessary to do the job.

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