



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (June 10, 2019)

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## **Amalgamation Yes Annual General Meeting: Ongoing Mission, 2019 Leadership**

The Capital Region Municipal Amalgamation Society (a.k.a. Amalgamation Yes) held its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting on June 8, 2019.

James (Jim) D. Anderson of Saanich will serve as Chair, and Colin Nielsen of Oak Bay will continue as Vice-Chair of the *2019 Board*. The Board is grateful to members for their past and valued service to lead the way to improved municipal governance.

Our organization is pleased that the residents of Victoria and Saanich voted to support the establishment of a *Citizens Assembly* in the 2018 municipal elections.

We continue to endorse this type of *civic reference panel* as a means to undertake a deliberative public process led by citizen residents that will assess the complex topic of a possible civic merger and provide fair, balanced and independent advice to elected officials.

Since then, Victoria and Saanich Councils have made progress towards developing a mutual plan. They will meet soon to confirm a joint approach for submission to the Province as the next step in this process. We expect that an independent facilitator will be selected to conduct a *citizen lottery*, which would then solicit public participation and membership in the joint Saanich - Victoria *Citizens' Assembly* to be underway in early fall of 2019.

We look forward to the deliberations of the Assembly to assess options for future municipal governance for the 2/3 majority residents of the Greater Victoria region.

We assert the basic position that "13 is too many", municipal reform is necessary, and that **Better is Possible.**

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