



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (February 9, 2018)

Amalgamation Yes releases Report Card on regional services on government integration report.

On August 23rd, 2017 the NDP provincial government released the *Capital Integrated Services and Governance Initiative* (CISGI) report. The report, commissioned by the previous Liberal government in spring 2016, provides an analysis of 16 key services delivered by local governments in the Capital Region, such as police, fire, water, recreation and housing.

“Having 13 municipalities means that many of our services suffer due to unnecessary tradeoffs among municipalities,” said Shellie Gudgeon, Chair of Amalgamation Yes. *“It’s clear, as it has been in many other situations, that you cannot serve two masters – especially when only one of them is responsible for voting you back into office. Sadly, the current structure exacerbates self interest and does nothing to promote the best interests of the region as a whole,”*

The Amalgamation Yes Report Card evaluated services on the basis of Accountability, Efficiency, Co-ordination, Suitability and Quality. Mayors, local associations and businesses were given an opportunity to comment prior to this release.

“Amalgamation Yes believes that we can do better in this region through improvements in how we are governed,” Gudgeon added. *“To do so, we need the Province to fulfill its pre-election promise to conduct a full amalgamation study. Such a study will provide the public with comprehensive information and potential options. This knowledge will assist citizens in deciding how they wish to be governed in the future. Better is possible.”*

Amalgamation Yes continues to advocate for a comprehensive governance study in Greater Victoria to fulfill the mandate provided by the electorate in 2014.

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BETTER IS POSSIBLE

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Backgrounders

REPORT CARD ON REGIONAL MUNICIPAL SERVICES IN THE CAPITAL REGION

EVALUATION CRITERIA: Based on the CISGI report (July 2017)

- 1) Accountability: Are those delivering the service directly accountable to the taxpayer.
- 2) Efficiency: Is the service being provided in a timely manner at a reasonable cost?
- 3) Co-ordination: Are those delivering the service well co-ordinated
- 4) Suitability: Is the service meeting the expectations of the taxpayer?
- 5) Quality: Is the service meeting the delivery standards?

1) POLICING: Evaluation D

Fragmented. New 911 system will help.

2) FIRE PROTECTION: Evaluation E

17 Separate operations. No common dispatch centre. Full integrations required.

3) EMERGENCY PLANNING: Evaluation F

Hopeless fragmented. Totally fails to meet the needs of a region in a high earthquake risk zone.

4) EMERGENCY DISPATCH: Evaluation D

Recently implemented system covers only Police and 911 call response, but not fire protection.

5) TRANSPORTATION: Evaluation D

Transit Commission service adequate. No Regional Transportation Plan. No regional accountability or oversight.

6) WATER SUPPLY: Evaluation B

Good service, administered by CRD, but expensive. Decision makers not accountable to taxpayers.

7) SANITARY WASTEMANAGEMENT (Peninsula): Evaluation B

Good service but not directly accountable to the taxpayer

SANITARY WASTEMANAGEMENT (Core): Evaluation E

New treatment system being built but bio-wastes plan undecided. Very expensive. Source control fragmented.

8) STORM SEWER MANAGEMENT: Evaluation D

Many combined sewer systems exist resulting in storm water entering sewage treatment system. Age of pipelines a major concern.

9) RECREATION: Evaluation C

Community delivered. Better co-ordination required.

10) PARKS: Evaluation B

Good Service, but decision makers not always accountable to taxpayers.

11) SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT: Evaluation C

Wide variety of service delivery levels. Recycling poor in some areas. Landfill capacity a concern. Kitchen waste shipped out of region.

12) LIBRARIES: Evaluation C

Service provided by two Regional Districts

13) LAND USE PLANNING: Evaluation F

No Regional Growth Strategy. No consistency in zoning designations. There are 110 bylaws in the region dealing for land use and building codes.

14) HOUSING: Evaluation D

Regional affordable housing strategy in place but delivery not accountable. New Regional Housing First Program will improve this service.

15) BYLAW ADMINISTRATION: Evaluation F

Hopelessly fragmented. Wide range of variation in the 104 Building codes and Land Use Bylaws in the Region.

16) ADMINISTRATION: Evaluation F

Very expensive. Fragmented, duplicated, complex and inconsistent.

NOTE: The CISGI report paid scant attention to Arts and Culture, notwithstanding it is an area of focus of the CRD. It is a source of ongoing concern that not all 13 municipalities support CRD Arts and Culture financially. As a result, the CRD lacks the resources necessary to fund their operational initiatives which benefit the entire region. Furthermore, there is no unified body to advocate for cultural facilities appropriate to a Capital Region. For example, Greater Victoria lacks a performing arts centre worthy of its size and status. The region has a stable economy and educated population that would support such a facility, but due to the lack of cooperation and participation among local municipalities, it cannot gain the consensus or raise the capital necessary to build one. **Evaluation F**

CISGI Report (from Province of BC Media Release)

The report does not provide specific, detailed recommendations to enable the region to make decisions on greater service integration or amalgamation, but it highlights three key findings for local governments to consider:

- [Continuing to build on in-progress regional service initiatives.
- [Creating a regional framework for discussing services integration and governance.
- [Evaluating new opportunities for improving service integration and governance using tools provided in the report.

Local governments that want to pursue greater integration can use the report findings to stimulate discussion within their councils, boards and communities.

The Province will not impose any actions on local governments as result of the report, but will focus on working with the 13 municipal councils and the regional district to make services more available and affordable.

The Capital Integrated Services and Governance Initiative report is available online:

- [Executive summary: <http://ow.ly/dkli30eqJdH>
- [Full report: <http://ow.ly/T2v830eqJg5>