

# Region suffers from benign neglect

Re: “Province could save the region from itself,” editorial, Dec. 28.

Thanks for the editorial highlighting costs and unintended consequences of the overlap and duplication of essential services for a city of 387,000 when left in the hands of 13 competing municipalities.

## ***article continues below***

The province is entirely to blame for decades of benign neglect by both major political parties.

Regional government structures might work well elsewhere in the province. Not here. Political establishments and municipal workers might be quite comfortable with the status quo. Taxpayers should not be.

Greater Victoria is unique in B.C. with 13 large, medium and tiny municipalities interacting every day. The Capital Integrated Services and Governance Initiative report is a matter of public record. Policing structures form only one chapter in a detailed and sad litany. The cumulative effect is to raise costs while putting public safety at considerable risk and weakening our shared economy.

What will it take for the province to step in, another sewer project impasse or a more serious governance failure lurking in our collective futures?

John Treleaven

Sidney

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