

## **TIMES COLONIST LETTERS, FEBRUARY 23, 2020**

### **'No' to amalgamating with Victoria**

Re: "Amalgamate now, get some fresh blood," letter, Feb. 5.

Only the citizens of Victoria can get rid of their mayor and council in their municipal election. As a lifelong citizen of Saanich, I would never vote to amalgamate with Victoria and all its problems.

Mike Wilson Saanich

### **The voters have spoken: Amalgamate**

It's somewhat ironic that Premier John Horgan had choice words for Victoria Coun. Ben Isitt when it is the premier who extends Isitt the ability to exist in his current capacity.

Like his predecessor's administration, Horgan's government refuses to respect the will of the people at the ballot box for a regional amalgamation review.

Using Esquimalt as just one example, more than 70 per cent of that community voted at the ballot box for an amalgamation review. The mayor, like other mayors, then wrote the province asking the then Liberals to respect the will of the people for such a review.

It remains shocking from a national context to see Esquimalt voters, as well as those in other municipalities, simply have their local governance vote aspirations ignored by the Horgan NDP.

Anywhere else the provincial role is to determine funding participation, not taking democracy out of the hands of people and doing nothing.

John Vickers

Miramichi, N.B.