

Amalgamation rejection ignores citizens' wishes

Re: "Service-sharing study out at last, B.C. moving on," Aug. 23.

It's a sad day for capital region residents when the provincial government sells out to the region's many fiefdoms and ignores amalgamation aspirations expressed at the ballot box by a majority of the regional population.

Of course, our many mayors are going to sing the government's high praises, particularly when they can now avoid the scrutiny of an in-depth review examining benefits and efficiencies of consolidation.

When you consider, for example, the Angus Reid survey showing more than 80 per cent of Langford voters favouring amalgamation and Mayor Stew Young sabotaging the vote with his use of Oak Bay's "do you want to disappear?" question, you can conclude the NDP have no respect whatsoever for the electorate that put them in power through the exercise of what is called democracy.

Who would believe there is a place in Canada where such a thing could happen? It is like political rot has burrowed into the bones of the patient with a complete capitulation of provincial responsibility to citizens on the ground.

I wonder whether there could be a judicial path where citizens could somehow force the province to act? I refuse to believe, in the Canada that I know, that the overwhelming desire of the people can be dismissed so egregiously.

John Vickers

Toronto