2014 Municipal Election Issues

THE CHAMBER.
GREATER VICTORIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

In preparation for the upcoming municipal election, The Chamber wants to ensure issues that are important to our members are front and centre during the lead up to election day. We want to ensure focused discussions and have identified key issues below.

1. Pillars for Good Governance

The Chamber has previously developed *Four Pillars of Good Governance* that we advocate all levels of government adhere to.

Keep tax increases and spending within our means

- Cap municipal budget increases at the rate of real GDP growth plus a factor for population growth and inflation
- Fund new program spending out of current operational savings
- Create programs to examine service delivery models for new and existing programs

Build our quality of life and save for the future

- Clearly identify core and discretionary municipal services
- Focus operational spending on core municipal service priorities
- Allocate sufficient funds to address aging infrastructure

Actively communicate municipal business in a clear and understandable fashion

- Publish council's voting records in a timely and accessible fashion
- Work to ensure that all citizens have the opportunity to fully understand the nature and context of council discussions whether or not they are able to attend council meetings
- Adopt notification systems for agendas and minutes so citizens can sign up to automatically receive meeting notifications and meeting outcomes as they are published

Work individually and with regional stakeholders to deliver services in the most efficient and effective way

- Create a process to identify regional infrastructure priorities and regularly update the list
- Ensure there are cost-benefit reports for regional infrastructure priorities
- Support the creation of a regional transportation authority
- Institute joint service delivery reviews for core municipal services

2. Regional Cooperation

Recent surveys, both public and of The Chamber membership, show overwhelming support for amalgamation. The support for amalgamation points to a crisis in our regional governance cooperation. Our local leaders need to find opportunities to work together and work constructively to resolve disagreements. The Chamber is in favour of amalgamation but that path will take considerable time. In the interim, our local political leaders need to work together. We look to candidates to commit to pursue amalgamation and work constructively with their fellow elected officials.