



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (June 2, 2017)

Amalgamation Yes supports Victoria Councillor and calls on new Provincial coalition government to act

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Victoria Councillor Geoff Young recently proposed that, in addition to Provincial electoral reform, the next municipal ballot in 2018 should include a Provincial question on an amalgamation study for Greater Victoria. Councillor Young noted the inconsistent questions in 2014, and he wants to see that issue revisited.

“We completely understand Councillor Young's comments, along with the 75% who voted for local government reform” said John Vickers. *“Since the November 2014 municipal elections, insufficient steps have been taken by the previous Provincial government and local governments to move this issue along. The previous government met with local councils, but has not released any report or findings of that consultation, and it specifically excluded amalgamation from its scope.”*

A considerable segment of the Capital Region voted for local government reform, and the Province possesses requests from at least 6 mayors (representing municipalities totaling 256,000 population). Greater Victoria residents welcome boldness and leadership from the new Provincial government to open the door, let the sunshine in, and conduct a thorough amalgamation study. During the May Provincial election, all three Provincial political parties supported the need for a governance review.

“The people of Greater Victoria are now looking to the new Provincial coalition government”, said Vickers. *“The Liberal, NDP and Green party platforms recognized the problems we are experiencing in Greater Victoria. This is a non-partisan issue that profoundly affects the social and economic health of the region. Even*

the recent second attempt of the CRD to join the Big City Mayors' Caucus of the Canadian Federation of Municipalities was a de facto acknowledgment that Greater Victorians lose when we're not at that important table."

"The greater benefit of all will be served by investing in the information necessary to allow the Capital Region electorate to make informed future decisions, just as other British Columbians have been extended in recent times." concluded Vickers.

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

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