

Region's voters want study of amalgamation

Re: "Inertia deflected change on civic front," column, Aug. 15.

Les Leyne got it right when he said that amalgamation was stalled by inertia supported by intransigent councils that like things the way they are. He got it completely wrong when he said that voters like it this way.

Amalgamation Yes erred when the question it composed was weighted to favour a yes vote rather than a balanced one focused simply on getting a proper study done. This enabled various councils to reject that question and then compose their own, which emphasized different elements. Despite that, the vast majority of voters supported the concept, except in Oak Bay, where the question essentially asked taxpayers whether they wanted to disappear into the CRD swamp.

Every credible survey in the past has shown a strong and supportive interest in moving toward a better form of regional governance despite the fact that none of us, even the advocates, fully understand the political and economic implications. Hence the need for the study.

The new NDP government should read between the lines and then commission the study voters in the region clearly said they wanted.

Jim Jaarsma

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