

Paying fair share for Victoria policing

Re: "Region shouldn't pay for Victoria's policing costs," letter, Sept. 10.

The letter-writer contends that the people who come to work in Victoria from other municipalities shouldn't pay for Victoria's policing costs because it's not them who are causing the problems police respond to. This is a very narrow view of the realities.

Thousands of people come in to Victoria every day from other municipalities not only to work, but also to enjoy the services, entertainment, arts and yes, bars. As a result of its vibrant life, which attracts these people, Victoria incurs not only the policing needs around bars, but especially the needs associated with the homeless and addicted.

Don't the people of the other municipalities need the jobs and cultural things that bring them to Victoria? If all those jobs, bars, restaurants and theatres were in Metchosin, doesn't the writer realize that Metchosin would be drastically changed and have all the crime, addiction and homelessness to take care of? Or if those jobs disappeared, how would the writer pay for his life in Metchosin? The writer and others like him are members of a larger community who benefit greatly in all spheres of their lives from what Victoria has to offer. Shouldn't paying for that be part of their responsibility?

Richard Volet
Victoria

