



**RE: Letter Supporting Motion on Improving Regional Governance and Transparency, City of Victoria, Nov. 22, 2018**

Grumpy Taxpayer\$ of Greater Victoria welcomes the motion to **Improve Regional Governance and Transparency** put forward by Victoria Councillors Ben Isitt and Jeremy Loveday.

There's a sense of renewal in our community, never more so than after the 2018 municipal election resulted in a rebooted local government.

- Around the CRD board table today there are many new directors including three new mayors, a new chair and vice-chair.
- Between resignations and elected, 36 of 91 councillors and mayors across the region are new, a substantial 40 per cent churn in local government representatives.
- An unprecedented 40 of our representatives regionally are now women, about 40 per cent.
- Finally, all local representatives face a changed workplace that's characterized by higher interest rates that will make critical infrastructure renewal and other challenges even more costly. While interest rates are still comparatively low - despite five rate hikes since July 2017 - they are likely to continue rising in 2019.

Today, this motion presents an opportunity to renew the social contract with residents. It presents improvements in regional governance and transparency, and how better to conduct the public's business in concrete terms.

Hit refresh: We all want local government to be the best it can be for everyone.

**Stan Bartlett, chair and John Treleaven, vice-chair**

**Grumpy Taxpayer\$ of Greater Victoria**

[Grumpy Taxpayer\\$](#) is a non-profit, unaffiliated, non-partisan, citizen's advocacy group dedicated to lower taxes, less waste, and more accountable municipal government.