



For the Committee of the Whole Meeting February 28 2019

Date: February 22 2019

From: Mayor Helps

Subject: Citizens Assembly Council Committee

Background

In the October municipal election, residents of Saanich and Victoria voted in favour of exploring the costs, benefits, and disadvantages of the amalgamation of Saanich and Victoria through a Citizen's Assembly process.

The District of Saanich has formed a four-person committee comprised of the mayor and three councillors. The mandate of the committee is to develop a process for a Citizens Assembly that will be satisfactory to Saanich Council and Saanich citizens. Saanich's committee has no decision-making authority and reports with recommendations to Saanich Council. Saanich's committee also has a mandate to work with a similar committee from the City of Victoria to explore and share ideas and bring them back to Saanich Council for consideration. The joint committee formed by the council committees of Saanich and Victoria will also have no decision-making authority.

Following Saanich's lead, my recommendation is that the City of Victoria form a committee that mirrors the District's Committee. The proposed mandate of the Victoria's Citizen's Assembly Council Committee is to work with Victoria Council and with the joint council committee to develop terms of reference for a Citizens Assembly and related processes such as a technical assessment. The Committee is a recommending body to Council and has no decision-making authority. The Committee will report to Council within two-weeks of meeting and will bring written reports to Council with recommendations for decision as needed. The Committee will meet with the Saanich Council Citizens Assembly Committee as needed and will report back to Council within two weeks of any meeting with Saanich's Committee.

Recommendations

That Council:

1. Select three councillors to form a Citizens Assembly Council Committee with Mayor Helps as the Chair
2. Make any amendments to the mandate proposed in this report and adopt a finalized mandate.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Helps".

Mayor Helps