

From: Ben Isitt (Councillor)

Sent: Friday, January 09, 2015 11:48 AM

To: Amalgamation Yes

Cc: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Chris Coleman (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Margaret Lucas (Councillor); Pam Madoff (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor)

Subject: RE: Amalgamation study

Thanks for writing Tony and for your organization's assistance in formulating appropriate parameters for a governance review.

Generally, I think the guidelines you've identified are appropriate.

However, I wonder about the priority given to principles identified in two of the guidelines:

"3) The study must examine the existing municipal structure (including the CRD) in the Capital Region and recommend changes to achieve good municipal governance across the region, including efficiency, effectiveness and accountability."

Is efficiency the highest priority in achieving good governance? Many residents I have spoken with would place a higher priority on democracy, participation and accountability. One way of recognizing this could be to re-order the priorities you've identified as "participation, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness."

"6) When evaluating each option, consideration must be given to providing consideration of commercial, urban, residential and rural interests.

Why are commercial interests given priority in this list? Why not residents (since this would be consistent with our governance system in Canada, where residents are enfranchised in municipal elections, rather than businesses)?

Ben

Ben Isitt

Victoria City Councillor and CRD Director