



# **CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT**

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## ***DRAFT***

### **CAPITAL REGION AMALGAMATION STUDY - GUIDELINES**

- 1) The study team must report to the Minister and must be instructed to carry out its task in a timely manner.
- 2) The study must be inclusive and engage all the municipal agencies in the Capital Region and the First Nations.
- 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 participation, accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness.
- 4) The study process must include opportunities for the public to interface with the study team during the preparation of the report, and the study must begin with a public participation opportunity to determine the public's preferred criteria for evaluating municipal governance options.
- 5) The study must consider at least three options for municipal boundaries in the Capital Region, and the reports on those options clearly show what data has been used to evaluate options or recommend a course of action.
- 6) When evaluating each option, consideration must be given to providing consideration of commercial, urban, residential and rural interests.
- 7) The study must evaluate the economic, social, environmental and cultural merits of each option.
- 8) The study must include a plan for public meetings to discuss the recommendations of the report, and the final report must go back to the residents for final approval prior to implementation.
- 9) The study must prescribe timelines for implementation of the study.
- 10) The study must identify implementation issues that need to be resolved.
- 11) The study must include an analysis of other amalgamated communities and include pros and cons (for areas such as Toronto, Halifax and Montreal) and review whether amalgamation has been effective.
- 12) The study must be unbiased and objective.
- 13) The study should include options for increased shared services as an alternative to amalgamation, in order to obtain increased efficiencies.
- 14) The study must be guided by the IAP2 principles of public participation, following best practices for "consult" to develop criteria for evaluating options for municipal governance and best practices for "involve" to actually evaluate and select a recommendation.