

*Forward.
Board of Directors
number via email
JLS*

November 22, 2013

Regional District of North Okanagan
9848 Aberdeen Road
Coldstream, BC V1B 5E6



Dear Council,

RE: Regional Governance and Community Unification

The Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce urges the elected officials of the City of Vernon, District of Coldstream and electoral areas B & C to request that the Provincial government fund and prepare a study into governance of the area under a unified single entity.

In the past year, KPMG were engaged by the City of Vernon to conduct a review of Vernon's core services. KPMG noted that having multiple municipal governments within one community results in 'duplication of skills, effort and resources at the senior management level, complication of operations, and even misalignment of priorities and policies between the entities'.

Their recommendation was that 'amalgamation of the City [of Vernon], the District of Coldstream, and electoral areas B and C would be the most effective approach, allowing reduction of senior management positions, alignment of operations and consistent policy direction'.

There has subsequently been a great deal of speculation as to whether or not amalgamation would indeed result in the desired efficiency and cost improvements. Poorly informed speculation is not helpful.

This is a very important issue for our community. It deserves and requires further research to accurately predict the impact that amalgamation would have on the taxes and services of each municipality within our community. Such research would allow a properly informed debate and allow a fair referendum on the issue to occur.

A recent petition organized by the Greater Vernon Governance Society demonstrated that there is a great deal of support from the citizens of the effected municipalities for such a study to be undertaken.

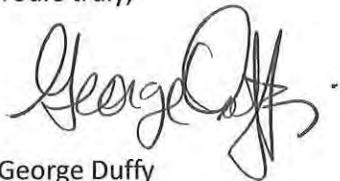
The Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce membership continues to be extremely concerned that multiple governance structures are impeding economic development and job growth in our area.

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Your leadership in requesting that the Provincial Government perform a study on the impact of amalgamation on our taxes and services will be a welcome acknowledgment to the significant number of citizens of our community (including the Chamber membership) who support this study being undertaken.

Most importantly, your leadership in this matter will make our community a better place to live.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Duffy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "G" and "D".

George Duffy
General Manager
Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce