Welcome | Please sit at any table
Peter MacLeod, Chair

Duncan-North Cowichan Citizens’ Assembly on Municipal Amalgamation
Explain the Assembly mandate and process

Share highlights from our deliberations

Gain your perspective on amalgamation
Mayor Phil Kent
City of Duncan
What does what?

MUNICIPALITIES
Special Committee of both Councils
North Cowichan
Cllr MAEVE MAGUIRE
Cllr AL SIEBRING

Duncan
Cllr MICHELLE BELL
Cllr MICHELLE STAPLES

PETER DE VERTEUIL
Duncan CAO

MARK RUTTAN
Acting North Cowichan CAO

ASSEMBLY TEAM
PETER MACLEOD
Assembly Chair

RACHEL MAGNUSSON
JOANNA MASSIE
Assembly Coordinators

Facilitation Team:
MARK ZION
SUSAN KIM
FAY WELLER
REAGAN BURLES
DARREN LUCAS

TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS
Urban Systems Inc.
Representing Duncan and North Cowichan

- **Women:** 18
- **MEN:** 18
- **18-29:** 3
- **30-44:** 8
- **45-64:** 13
- **65+:** 12

- **Duncan East:** 4
- **Duncan Central:** 4
- **Duncan West:** 4
- **Chemainus:** 3
- **Crofton:** 1
- **Southend:** 12
- **North Rural:** 3
- **South Rural:** 2

Municipality of North Cowichan
Duncan
Our mandate

- Learn about local governance and services
- Consider the interests and preferences of local residents
- Understand the implications of greater service integration and amalgamation
- Weigh different options
- Recommend a course of action
Our mandate

Specifically, the Citizens’ Assembly on Municipal Amalgamation will develop:

- A set of values which describe their aspirations for good local governance;
- A list of issues which they believe need to be satisfactorily resolved for municipal amalgamation to merit consideration;
- A detailed recommendation concerning municipal amalgamation, including any conditions which would need to be satisfied if a merger was to proceed.
6 meetings...
52 hours...
20 speakers...
Academic, Business, Civic and Indigenous Perspectives
2 public meetings...

Speakers

Phil Kent, Mayor of Duncan
Jon Lefebure, Mayor of North Cowichan
Kyle Young, Assistant Manager of Planning and Subdivision, Municipality of North Cowichan
Kathryn Gagnon, Executive Director, Cowichan Valley Museum and Archives
Peter de Verteuil, CAO, Duncan
Gary Paget, Senior Policy Advisor - Local Government Division, Government of British Columbia
Marijke Edmondson, Director, Local Government Structure, Government of British Columbia
Patricia Ross, City Councillor, City of Abbotsford
Debra Oakman, CAO, Comox Valley Regional District
Brian Walliser, former senior advisor and local government expert

Jean Cardno, Owner, Cardino Shoes representing Downtown Duncan BIA
Blair Herbert, Broker/Owner, Royal LePage Duncan
Moira Hauk, First Vice President, Duncan Cowichan Chamber of Commerce
Don Hatton, President, Hatton Insurance
Bernie Jones, President, Chemainus Residents Association
Ray Carfantan, North Cowichan/Duncan RCMP
Mélie De Champlain, Director, Community Integration, Island Health
Scott Henning, North Cowichan Fire Department, (South End Hall)
Mike McKinlay, City of Duncan Fire Department
Maureen Tommy, General Manager, Cowichan Tribes
6 meetings...
52 hours...
20 speakers…
   Academic, Business, Civic
   and Indigenous Perspectives
2 public meetings…

1 final report
Our timeline


Tonight
Our website... dnc-cama.ca

Assembly Resources:
- Download the Assembly's Terms of Reference
- Download the slides from Session 1; January 21, 2017
- Download the slides from Session 1 - Cowichan Valley Museum and Archives; January 21, 2017
- Read the Press Release from the City of Duncan and Municipality of North Cowichan.
- Meet the members of the Assembly
- Download the slides from Session 2; February 4, 2017
- Download the slides from Session 3, February 25, 2017
- Read the Citizens' Assembly defined values for Local Government
- Download the Questions for the Technical Consultants posed during the third Assembly meeting
- Read the table notes from the Public Roundtable Meeting, February 2, 2017

Background Reading:
- Thinking Regionally: How to Improve Service Delivery in Canada’s Cities, C.D. Howe Institute, 2016
- Read the Councils of the City of Duncan and Municipality of North Cowichan public minutes and notes about the proposed amalgamation. Note that this is a comprehensive document but we anticipate further review.

Copies of all presentations and documents shared with the Assembly will be posted on this website
Only the second step in a long process

2015 Plebiscite → 2017 Citizens’ Assembly

2015 Plebiscite: No
2017 Citizens’ Assembly: Yes
Both Councils vote: Yes
2018 Referendum: No
2018 Referendum: Yes

Provincial approval

There will be many opportunities to help shape this decision.
The Assembly values local government that:

- Is efficient and cost-effective
- Provides quality services and infrastructure
- Promotes public engagement
- Exercises environmental stewardship
- Is collaborative
- Is accessible, accountable, and approachable
- Is respectful of local differences
Our issues and interests

1. Consistency of services
2. Governance and leadership
3. Economic development
4. Environment
5. Culture and identity
6. Land use and planning
7. Taxes
8. Efficiencies and savings
What we have learned

It is normal for municipalities to evolve and change

1873: District Municipality of North Cowichan was formed
1912: City of Duncan incorporated
1967: Cowichan Valley Regional Districts was formed
2017: DNC Citizens’ Assembly
What we have learned

Duncan and North Cowichan together spend what comparably-sized municipalities spend.
What we have learned

Initial estimates suggest that any potential savings from amalgamation would be minimal

There would also be modest one-time transition costs; ie, legal, labour, systems integration, etc.

There are few obvious efficiencies that would generate meaningful savings for taxpayers

A combined municipal government would still serve 30,000 residents and still need existing infrastructure and provide existing services
What we have learned

The impact on property taxes would be determined by a future council

At current rates harmonizing residential property taxes could potentially result in many property owners saving up to $20 a year or paying up to $100 a year more, based on an average home valuation of $240,000 in Duncan and $310,000 in North Cowichan.

Business property taxes could potentially fall by $600 for Duncan business properties valued at an average of $490,000, and increase approximately $1000 for North Cowichan business properties valued at an average of $760,000.
What we have learned

Greater service integration is an alternative to amalgamation

Regional districts like the CVRD are important structures through which municipalities can collaborate to coordinate services and share costs

Municipalities can also directly share services and costs, like water, roads and recreation
What we have learned

A single municipal council could bring greater consistency to planning, area priorities and policies

Bylaw harmonization and coordinated land use planning could bring benefits to businesses and residents

A single municipality could speak with one voice to the province
What we have learned

Regardless of the governance structure, community identity and voice is vitally important.

Community engagement should be enhanced and the distinct communities that make up the Cowichan Valley are a much loved asset.
What we have learned

Amalgamation is not a panacea

There are many issues that are unaffected by municipal structure

Whether amalgamated or separate, future municipal councils can still be either more or less responsive, effective and efficient.

The real question is whether the two communities want to make decisions about their future together
Discussion questions

• In your mind, what are the benefits and drawbacks of amalgamation?

• In your mind, how would Duncan residents and businesses benefit or not benefit from amalgamation?

• In your mind, how would North Cowichan residents and businesses benefit or not benefit from amalgamation?

• What would you like us to share or explain in our report? What do you need to know to have confidence in our recommendation?

Report back | Open mic | Wrap up
Thank you for coming!

Our report will be released in mid-May and we will notify you by email.

Watch our website for details: dnc-cama.ca
Duncan-North Cowichan Citizens’ Assembly Planner: Phase 2

Apr 1
9:00  Welcome back and recap
10:00 Presentation 11:
Report of the technical consultants
11:00 Break
1:00  Dialogue 9:
Amalgamation scenarios
2:00  Roundtable briefing
3:00
4:00

Apr 6
9:00
10:00 Recap
What we heard from the public roundtable
11:00 Break
1:00  Presentation 13:
Clarifications from the technical consultants
2:00  Dialogue 10:
Refining amalgamation scenarios
3:00
4:00

Apr 8
9:00  Recap
What we heard from the public roundtable
10:00 Break
11:00 Recap
1:00  Dialogue 11:
Draft recommendations
2:00
3:00

Apr 22
9:00  Recap
10:00 Break
11:00 Dialogue 12:
Revising recommendations
1:00  Dialogue 13:
Drafting report
2:00
3:00  Dialogue 13 cont’d:
Drafting report
4:00  Report presentation and recognition of public service
### Values

- Acknowledgement of territory:
  - Welcome from the mayor
  - Orientation

- Member introductions

- Presentation 1: Demographics and area
  - Regional perspective
  - Kathryn Gagnon

### Options

- Recap
- Presentation 4a: A history of municipal formations and mergers
- Gary Pidgeon

- Presentation 4b: Evaluating the case for municipal amalgamation
- Stan Turpel

- Presentation 5: Case studies:
  - Patricia Ross, Abbotsford
  - Debra Dugan
  - Colleen Weiler, Brian Walker, Shared Services

- Lunch

### Recommendations

- Dialogue 5: Reframing our values

- Presentation 6: Civic perspectives panel

- Dialogue 6: Prioritizing issues

- Presentation 7: Civic perspectives panel 2

- Dialogue 7: Framing research questions

- Dialogue 8: Observations and outstanding questions from the technical report

- Lunch

- Dialogue 9: Anomalies scenarios

- Dialogue 10: A second civic perspectives panel

- Dialogue 11: Draft recommendations

- Dialogue 12: Drafting report

- Dialogue 13: Final round table

- Report presentation and recognition of public service