

AGENDA

JOINT CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE

MEETING Monday, April 3, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

To be Held at City of Victoria Municipal Hall,
1 Centennial Square, Council Chambers

The District of Saanich lies within the territories of the lək'wəŋən peoples represented by the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and the W̱SÁNEĆ peoples represented by the Tsartlip, Pauquachin, Tsawout, Tseycum and Malahat Nations.

We are committed to celebrating the rich diversity of people in our community. We are guided by the principle that embracing diversity enriches the lives of all people. We all share the responsibility for creating an equitable and inclusive community and for addressing discrimination in all forms.

1. Call to Order

- Mayor Murdock for Saanich
- Mayor Alto for Victoria

2. Approval of the Agenda

3. Introductory Remarks and Introductions

4. New Business

1. Briefing and next steps

Attachments

- Joint Citizens' Standing Committee - status PowerPoint 2023Apr03

5. Next Meeting

6. Adjournment



Saanich-Victoria Citizens' Assembly on Amalgamation

Joint Citizens' Assembly Standing Committee Meeting

April 3, 2023, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.

City of Victoria, Council Chambers

Background

2018

- Victoria and Saanich residents vote in favour of exploring the costs, benefits, and disadvantages of the amalgamation of Victoria and Saanich through a Citizens' Assembly process.
- Approximately 66 percent of Victoria voters and 56 percent of Saanich voters supported this process.

2019-20

- Both municipalities approve Terms of Reference for a Victoria-Saanich Citizens' Assembly.

2021

- After delays due to COVID-19, a joint application is made to the Province for a local government restructure grant.

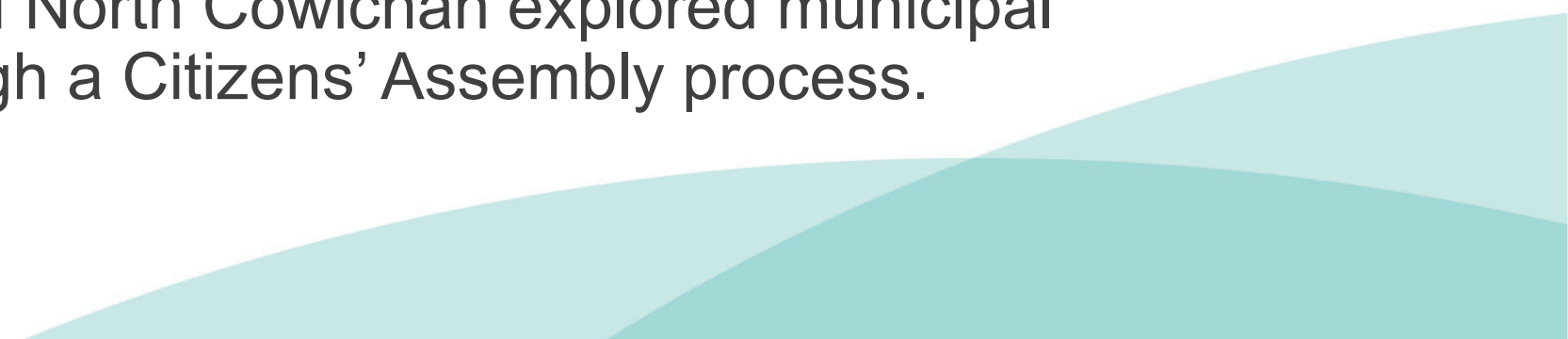
2022

- Victoria, Saanich, and the Province agree to contribute \$250,000 each for a total of \$750,000 toward the cost of a Citizens' Assembly.


2023

- The Minister of Municipal Affairs reconfirms the Province's commitment of \$250,000.

Citizens' Assembly

- A Citizens' Assembly is a body of citizens who come together to deliberate on a given issue and provide a set of recommendations, options, or a collective decision to the convening body.
 - The members are generally selected to reflect the variety of backgrounds and experience found in the wider population.
 - The typical Citizens' Assembly has three phases: Learning, Listening and Deliberation.
 - In 2017, Duncan and North Cowichan explored municipal amalgamation through a Citizens' Assembly process.
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Saanich-Victoria Citizens' Assembly

- The Saanich-Victoria Citizens' Assembly will be an impartial advisory body, free from political oversight.
 - The Assembly will work in partnership with an independent consultant and will exemplify standards of transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement.
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Saanich-Victoria Citizens' Assembly

Membership

- The Assembly will consist of 48 members:
 - A proportionate number of members from the two municipalities – 27 members from Saanich and 21 members from Victoria (based on BC Statistics population data).
 - An equal proportion of male and female members.
 - A proportionate number of:
 - members from different age cohorts;
 - renters and homeowners;
 - members of First Nations from the two municipalities; and
 - urban and rural residents.

Saanich-Victoria Citizens' Assembly

Table 1 – Citizens' Assembly Draft Work Plan


PHASES	SUMMARY
PHASE 1: Procurement	Victoria will initiate a procurement process for this initiative to seek a consultant for the Citizens' Assembly.
PHASE 2: Recruitment and Scheduling	The consultant will initiate a civic lottery to randomly select the Citizens' Assembly. As per Terms of Reference, the Assembly will convene for 6-12 Saturday sessions. The consultant will also issue an RFP to develop an independent Oversight Committee.
PHASE 3: Technical Analysis	The consultant will collaborate with the Assembly and municipal staff and another RFP will be issued to undertake a technical review. The technical team will gather information for the Assembly to review and deliberate on in making their final recommendations.
PHASE 4: Recommendations	Once the mandate of the Citizens' Assembly is complete, recommendations and final reports will be presented to both Councils.
PHASE 5: Implementation	Depending on the outcome of both Council deliberations, Saanich and Victoria may request the Minister of Municipal Affairs to approve a ballot question. This would then initiate a final RFP for an Implementation Plan.

Saanich-Victoria Citizens' Assembly

Table 2 – Citizens' Assembly Oversight and Responsibilities

PROCESS/RFP	PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY
Saanich and Victoria Citizens' Assembly Council Committees	Saanich and Victoria Council Members
Request for Proposal – Consultant/Facilitator of the Citizen's Assembly	Saanich and Victoria senior staff
Request for Proposal – Oversight Committee	Consultant/Facilitator
Request for Proposal – Technical Analysis for the District of Saanich and City of Victoria	Consultant/Facilitator
Request for Proposal – Consultant to develop Implementation Plan (pending outcome of Citizen's Assembly recommendations)	Saanich and Victoria senior staff

Next Steps

- The Saanich-Victoria Citizens' Assembly will be an impartial advisory body, free from political oversight.
 - The Assembly will work in partnership with an independent consultant and will exemplify standards of transparency, accountability and citizen engagement.
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Questions?

