



THE TOWN OF WINDSOR
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

28 September 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL: legc.office@novascotia.ca

Honourable Minister Mark Furey,
Chair of Law Amendments

Dear Minister Furey and Members of the Law Amendments Committee:

Re: Bill 55 – Region of Windsor and West Hants Municipality Act

The Town of Windsor and the Municipality of the District of West Hants have jointly requested by motions of our respective councils on the 19th day of July 2018 to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Honourable Chuck Porter for consolidation of our two municipalities by December 31, 2020.

We hope Bill 55 will receive support at Law Amendments. The Town is making the application from a position of relative strength given its financial condition indicators and its governance record of sound management practices. Our council recognizes that consolidation will spell the demise of many Town councillors but it has not deterred them from making the decision that best serves our larger communities of Windsor and West Hants. We respectfully ask that the consolidation of these two units be considered without delay. Our desire is the creation of a new regional municipality with a new charter that embraces the differences and strengths we will bring in unison.

As evidence of how long this discussion has been going on we submit the following notations from Town Council minutes of 08 March 1966 (some 52 years ago) and the minutes reflect the following:

Entitled in the minutes margin "Proposal Regional Government" and it was submitted at that time by the Municipality of the District of West Hants and it reads as follows:

"Municipality of West Hants under date of February 8th, 1966 was read:

"At our Annual Session of Council, on January 31, 1966, the following resolution was passed:

*"Whereas as the administration costs of Municipal and Town Governments are increasing, And,
Whereas needless and wasteful duplication exists under our present form,*

Be it Resolved that this Council is in favour of amalgamation of the District of West Hants and Town of Windsor and Town of Hantsport into some form of Regional Government,

*AND THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Council shall appoint a committee of three,
together with similar committees in the Towns of Windsor and Hantsport, if and when*

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appointed, to fully investigate the feasibility of Regional Government for this area and such committee to report back to this council at the 1967 Annual Session."

The Council appointed Councillors Long, Crossley and Edwards to this Committee"

This matter was discussed and on motion of Town Councillors Hood and Campbell it was RESOLVED that a Committee be appointed to meet with the Committee appointed by the West Hants Council and the Town of Hantsport to investigate and report. Motion carried. One Councillor McLellan voting "Nay"

Councillors Stephens, Nott, Hood and Ross were nominated. A ballot was taken and Councillors Stephens, Nott and Hood were declared appointed by the Mayor".

This all took place 52 years ago when West Hants submitted the proposal for a Regional Government for discussion with Windsor. From our search of the minutes of the Town of Windsor since this date, there is no evidence of the former Town of Hantsport joining in this effort and no evidence that any meeting of the two willing Councils of Windsor-West Hants ever took place. Clearly, 52 years of waiting requires the kind of leadership being shown by our two Councils to move this agenda forward; and clearly it was recognized that far back that we are far too small to have such duplication and extra costs borne by our communities. The significant leadership of Warden Abraham Zebian and his Council and similarly of Windsor Town Council should not be overlooked in this important process. This process will succeed with new thinking and leadership taken by those who can affect change which will not only benefit our communities but will offer hope for other communities in the same position.

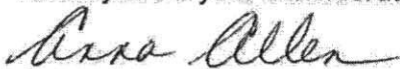
Town Council has made some statements pertaining to this Special Legislation for a Regional Municipality:

- We will work together on a consolidated regional government model for our communities in Windsor-West Hants
- We will actively engage and inform the communities in decisions that will shape the new regional government
- We will maintain ongoing and meaningful communications with the community and stakeholders throughout the transition process

Town Council has also passed a motion at its Council meeting on the 25th of September 2018 withdrawing and rescinding its application before the UARB for amalgamation through partnership with the Avon River Citizens Coalition (ARCC).

We look forward to the passing of this legislation as Nova Scotia moves towards more progressive governance models in addressing one of the observations stemming from the One Nova Scotia Report which points to the province being over governed and a challenge to everybody on what we can do to make a change. That time has arrived where our two Councils have united in a spirit that will ensure our communities are well served into the future.

Thank you for your consideration.


Anna Allen, Mayor



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