

March 29, 2021

The Honourable Randy Delorey
Chair, Standing Committee on Law Amendments
c/o Office of the Legislative Counsel
CIBC Building, Suite 802
1809 Barrington Street
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Halifax, NS
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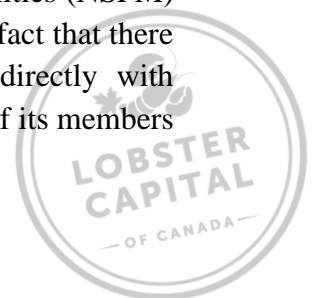
Re: Bill 47

Dear Chair,

On behalf of the Municipality of the District of Barrington, I am writing to you in opposition of Bill 47, which amends the Municipal Government Act and the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter to allow municipalities to provide direct financial assistance to businesses for the purpose of improving accessibility for people with disabilities.

While the Municipality recognizes accessibility as a human right and fully supports the Province's goal of an accessible Nova Scotia by 2030, Bill 47 will impose a significant financial and administrative burden on municipalities and will add to the competing responsibilities we currently have. Should the Province download this responsibility onto municipalities, we are greatly concerned that this will also generate unfair and unrealistic expectations towards municipalities from the private sector and from people with disabilities.

As for consultation, we acknowledge that the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) made a statement in support of the Bill but we have serious concerns regarding the fact that there was no consultation specific to Bill 47 by the Federation or the Province directly with municipalities. While NSFM's mandate is to advocate for and to defend the rights of its members this action does the opposite.

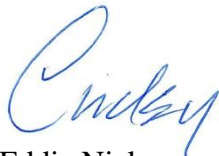


2447 Highway 3, P.O. Box 100, Barrington, Nova Scotia B0W 1E0

We respectfully request that the Department of Municipal Affairs consult directly with the municipalities before proceeding with the passing of Bill 47 in order to get a clear perspective of the Bill's implications for all parties involved.

Thank you for considering our request. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Eddie Nickerson
Warden

cc: The Honourable Brendan Maguire, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Mr. Colton Leblanc, M.L.A. for Argyle-Barrington
Mayor Amanda McDougall, Acting President, NSF
Nova Scotia Municipalities and Towns

