

March 3, 2024

Dear Committee Members:

My name is Alan Bond. I am the former Municipal Clerk/Treasurer of the Municipality of the County of Antigonish and served in that role for 31 years from 1983 to 2014.

As a Municipal Administrator I learned at an early stage in my career that administrators are not lawyers or politicians. Having said that, it is not my intention to provide my opinion on matters before the court or policy decisions made by the Town and County Councils regarding the process that has resulted in the Antigonish Consolidation Act before the Provincial Legislature. The courts will decide on the legal issues and residents will ultimately decide on whether or not the consolidation process approved by both councils has been in their best interest.

From my experience, I feel consolidation would be of tremendous benefit to the long-term viability of the Antigonish community. It will make better use of limited tax dollars and help Antigonish meet the challenges of an ever-changing role that Municipal Governments face. It will, in my opinion, result in better decision making, more efficient use of human resources and more cost-effective delivery of services.

The opportunity to engage other levels of government in funding of infrastructure and other related community projects will definitely be enhanced. There will be less duplication of services and undoubtedly some economies of scale and yes, there will be growing pains.

Revising Municipal polling districts, managing transition costs, developing a new administrative structure, preparing for the election of a new council and eventually the preparation of budgets and tax rates will be a daunting task. However, I am confident if consolidation is the end result of this process, in whatever form it takes, residents will remain engaged and continue to provide their support in the development and growth of our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my views on the Antigonish Consolidation Act.

Kind regards,

Alan J. Bond