

March 1, 2024

Reema Fuller
Antigonish, NS
[REDACTED]

The Hon. Brad Johns
Chair, Standing Committee on Law Amendments
Email: Legc.office@novascotia.ca

RE: Bill 407 - A written submission in support of the Antigonish Consolidation Act

Dear Min. Johns and Members of the Standing Committee on Law Amendments:

I am writing today in **support of Bill 407**, the Antigonish Consolidation Act.

I wholeheartedly support the consolidation of Antigonish Town and County as I firmly believe it is the most advantageous path for our community's future. I congratulate the Municipal Leaders and Officials in the Town of Antigonish and the Municipality of the County of Antigonish for their vision and resolve to inspire this Bill, and I commend your government for moving the legislation forward.

16 years ago, my husband and I moved here from Toronto and chose to make Antigonish our new home. We are proud to now be raising our two young children here. We serve on multiple volunteer boards, have worked hard to contribute to our community's vitality, and are optimistic about the future. Our home is located in what is known as the "fringe" region - accessing a combination of municipal services from both Town and County. We spend our time on a daily basis floating between the Town and the County, both physically and virtually, for a variety of everyday needs including work, shopping, schools, sports, recreation, leisure, volunteering, community events, cultural events, and more.

Antigonish is our home - not the Town, not the County, but the "Community of Antigonish" - and we want our children to thrive here and have access to opportunities close to home.

Thriving communities of the future will not come from small, under-resourced, and insulated municipalities. Rather, they will come from those who can think big, collaborate, and work together. Our Municipal Leaders understand this and they have put forward a vision for something bigger. They have inspired a move away from the "us vs. them" mentality of the past. They have led a process with thorough investigation and careful consideration and consultation, in favour of consolidation. The current inefficiencies stemming from maintaining two separate municipal units for a relatively small population are increasingly apparent. Now is the time to unite, modernize, build on the community's strengths, and create new opportunities for a new world.

To close, I express my unwavering support for the consolidation of Antigonish Town and County and for Bill 407, firmly believing it is in the best interest of our community's ongoing progress.

Let us seize this moment to come together, refine and streamline our operations, and work towards a more efficient and prosperous future.

Sincerely,
Reema Fuller

Cc:

Hon. John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Hon. Michelle Thompson, MLA Antigonish

Hon. Zach Churchill, Leader of the Opposition

Mayor Laurie Boucher, Town of Antigonish

Warden Owen McCarron, Municipality of the County of Antigonish