

March 3, 2024

Dear Law Amendments Committee Members:

RE: Antigonish Town and County Consolidation

I am writing to express my support for the consolidation of Antigonish Town and County, which I believe will best serve Town and County residents.

Understandably, this consolidation has been a divisive issue within our community. Change breeds fear and it is often our first instinct to reject that which challenges the status quo. However, if we turn our minds to the possibilities and benefits of consolidation, it is clear to see the respective democratically elected officials acted in the best interests their constituents when they voted in favour of consolidation.

The current fragmented service delivery to our community under two governing bodies demonstrates absurd inefficiencies. For example, garbage and snow plow services provided to one side of a street by the County and the other side by the Town. Consolidation will remove these inefficiencies by pooling administrative resources and service resources, i.e. waste management, policing, infrastructure and housing to benefit all residents.

Across our province, we have watched as municipalities waited to merge until it was the only remedy. The Town and County have made the sound and proactive decision to merge now instead of waiting until a financial crisis deems a merger the only available remedy. They made this decision as the democratically elected officials on behalf of their constituents.

It is time to set aside our differences and act as one entity to ensure the future of our great community.

Sincerely,

D.A. Kennedy